

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 6 October 1982

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

## QUESTION

The SPEAKER: I direct that the following written answer to a question asked in the Estimates Committee, as detailed in the schedule which I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*:

## PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS

In reply to Mr KENEALLY (28 September).

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: The reply is as follows:

	\$
Payments for the financial year ended 30 June 1982 .....	9 484 000
Payments for the financial year ended 30 June 1978 .....	14 395 000
(Escalated to 1981-82 costs)	

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer): I seek leave to make a statement.  
Leave granted.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I have to inform the House that I have today received a telex from the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs. The text of that telex is as follows:

In June 1981 the Prime Minister advised the State and Northern Territory Governments that the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA) would be conducting a full feasibility study on the establishment of a uranium enrichment industry in Australia. The Commonwealth has recently received a report from UEGA concerning the feasibility study. The report has been considered by the Commonwealth Government and a press statement will be shortly issued jointly by the Ministers for Trade and Resources and National Development and Energy announcing that the Government has accepted UEGA's recommendations concerning uranium enrichment technology and possible siting of any enrichment plant. The text of the statement is as follows:

It was announced today that the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA) has provided the Government with a further report on the group's continuing study of the feasibility of establishing a uranium enrichment industry in Australia. UEGA last reported to the Government on 30 April 1981. The report outlines UEGA's conclusions on choice of technology, site selection, market opportunities and the nature and timing of further work.

The Government has accepted UEGA's recommendation that the centrifuge technology offered by the European group Urenco-Centec (a consortium comprising the Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands and United Kingdom interests) be the basis for further study by UEGA in relation to the possible establishment of a uranium enrichment industry in Australia. Factors identified by UEGA in support of its conclusion included economic superiority, proven technical and commercial capability, and flexibility for modular growth of Urenco-Centec technology.

The Government has also accepted UEGA's recommendations that sites near Adelaide and Brisbane be further evaluated as UEGA advises they appear most likely to satisfy the requirements of a plant based on Urenco-Centec technology. In reaching this decision UEGA had also considered possible sites in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Other State Governments chose not to participate. The Government notes that the selection of a final site will require the involvement of the chosen technology holder during the next phase of the study. UEGA has advised the Government that the

choice of Urenco-Centec technology is subject to agreement of satisfactory terms and conditions with Urenco-Centec for the transfer of technology and to the satisfactory conclusion of all necessary inter-governmental agreements.

UEGA also advised that a decision to proceed with a detailed engineering and feasibility study, expected to take at least two years, would depend on the outcome of a market survey to be undertaken with Urenco-Centec. This detailed survey of potential markets for enrichment is expected to take at least six months. The Government has requested UEGA to report back to it on the outcome of the market survey and commercial arrangements proposed with Urenco-Centec before commencement of the detailed engineering and feasibility study by end of 1983.

The Government would like to express its appreciation of assistance given to Australia's enrichment studies by the six Governments of the four suppliers of enrichment technology under consideration by UEGA, namely, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Japan and the United States of America. Although Urenco-Centec enrichment technology will be the basis for further studies by UEGA on the feasibility of enrichment in Australia, this does not mean that Australia will co-operate only with the Urenco-Centec countries. UEGA has advised the Government that there is a greater compatibility between Urenco-Centec and Japanese centrifuge technologies than between Japanese and other technologies, and that the prospects for future technical and commercial co-operation with Japan appeared to be greater if Urenco-Centec technology were adopted.

Additionally, the Government is committed to the concept of multi-nation participation in an enrichment plant in Australia should such an industry proceed. There may thus be opportunities for countries meeting the requirements of the Government's nuclear safeguards policy to take some equity in the enterprise. The Government will continue to pay close attention to the nuclear non-proliferation and safeguards issues relating to uranium enrichment. I am sending a similar message to all Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.

That is the end of the telex. The decision of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia means that the choice is now clearly between Queensland and South Australia for the development of this multi-million dollar industry. What is also particularly important for South Australia is that UEGA has recommended the use of Urenco-Centec technology.

Honourable members will be aware of the very strong advantage that this gives to South Australia, because it was our State which first established strong links with Urenco-Centec during the 1970s, and my Government has taken all necessary action to ensure that this contact will bring major and long-term benefits to South Australia. The South Australian Uranium Enrichment Committee has always based its proposals for an enrichment industry on Urenco-Centec technology, ensuring that South Australia maintains a commanding lead in claims for the siting of an integrated uranium mining and processing industry.

My Government believes that there are very many advantages in locating the entire project in this State. We can offer access to major deposits of uranium at Honeymoon, Beverley and Roxby Downs, and a central location for the processing of uranium from other parts of Australia. We also have a construction industry ready and able to build the plant and manufacturing industry which could provide all necessary services.

Basically, uranium enrichment is a high technology industry already being undertaken in other parts of the world under conditions which ensure the safety, health and welfare of the workers involved and the protection of the environment. Enriched uranium produced in South Australia would also be marketed under the Commonwealth's strict safeguards policy to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes.

Throughout South Australia's history, we have always had to fight for every major development we have been able to achieve. This project has been and will be no exception. We have made major gains with this decision. Western Australia and the Northern Territory are no longer contenders and Urenco-Centec technology, first advocated by South Australia, has been preferred. My Government will continue

to do everything possible to secure this development for our State, to provide more investment, long-term job opportunities and greatly increase the value to Australia and South Australia of one of our major resources. I have already called for urgent discussions with Urenco-Centec.

#### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister of Education (Hon. H. Allison)—  
*Pursuant to Statute—*

- i. Classification of Publications Board—Report, 1981-82.
- ii. Legal Services Commission—Report, 1981-82.

#### QUESTION TIME

**The SPEAKER:** I indicate that questions relevant to transport or recreation and sport will be taken by the Deputy Premier. Questions on education will be taken by the Minister of Industrial Affairs.

#### MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

**Mr BANNON:** Can the Premier explain the notices appearing in the *Government Gazette* on Thursday 30 September 1982 which declared that the Public Service Act did not apply to 22 members of the Ministerial staff? In particular, can he inform the House whether any of the appointments referred to in that *Government Gazette* were to Public Service positions? That *Government Gazette* contained 22 separate notices declaring that the Public Service Act did not apply to various Ministerial assistants pursuant to appointments made on 30 August 1982? Today, the *Australian* has drawn attention to this extraordinary series of notices in the *Gazette*. In a column headed 'In defeat; prosperity' the *Australian* wrote:

David Tonkin and his South Australian Government are preparing for the worst as the probable election day moves closer. The *Government Gazette* of 30 September carries notices about nine press secretaries, six Ministerial assistants, three executive assistants, a principal Ministerial officer, a research assistant, a personal appointments secretary and a stenographer (both working in the Premier's office) exempting them from the Public Service Act. This will ensure that in defeat they will be eligible for large pay-outs under contracts signed in haste on 30 August instead of a bare two weeks notice.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** I do wish Mr Ward would come and talk to me at some time. He rarely does. On that matter, the Leader has obviously jumped into the trap that the writer, Mr Ward, has fallen into as he would know, if he had been longer in Government. The responsibility for appointing Ministerial officers is with the Premier. Contracts have been prepared and finally signed and those Ministerial officers have been appointed by contract. As the agreement points out, those contracts have been finalised and approved in Executive Council.

**The Hon. J.D. Wright:** For how long are they?

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** Up to three years. We have had many other things on our plates. I have drafted up the final legal documents and I refer the Deputy Leader to them, as he has been in Government and he would know what happened under Mr Corcoran's Government and under Mr Dunstan's Government. I do not think the Deputy Leader understands this. He had nothing to do with it. It was his Premier who was responsible for those appointments. The appointments have been processed and that is the proper course of action. I am not sure what the Leader is talking about.

#### SERVICE STATIONS

**Mr EVANS:** I ask the Chief Secretary why protesters have been allowed to stop B.P. service station operators and their customers in going about their lawful every-day business. In recent weekends it has been reported to me by some of my constituents (various operators and also customers) that they have been refused entry into B.P. service stations to fuel up their vehicles and in fact protesters have laid down in front of their vehicles, making it impossible for them to be moved, and the police have been, it appears, either unable or unwilling to remove those protesters, when, I believe, the law is quite clear on this matter and my constituents believe so, too. I ask the Chief Secretary why no action has been taken.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The Police Department policy is that, although people have the right to picket, picketers should make their cause known without affecting the rights of others, particularly when a small business enterprise is at stake. In the case of the incident to which the honourable member refers, the picketers at that service station should have made their cause known by their presence but should not have interfered with people entering the premises. In that case the police should have removed the picketers, as they were obstructing entrance to the service station property. The general departmental policy of the Police Department is that such persons will be removed in those circumstances. If occasions arise in the future where people going about their rightful business and people wanting to purchase products from those small business enterprises are restricted from doing so, the police will act in accordance with that policy and remove the picketers from that service station site to enable people to go about their lawful business.

#### NEW ZEALAND TIMBER

**Mr HEMMINGS:** Will the Premier give an assurance to the House that, in any building programme funded directly or subsidised by the South Australian Government, the contractors will be required to use South Australian timber rather than New Zealand dumped timber? A report in today's *News* under the heading 'Tonkin seeks Federal aid for wood firms', states:

Dumping of New Zealand timber on the Australian market is destroying the South Australian forestry industry.

The report also states:

Mr Tonkin told Mr Fraser that the subsidies, special assistance, more favourable wage structure, and exchange rate advantage enjoyed by the New Zealand timber industry had allowed it to sell products here 'in contravention of accepted principles of international trade and fair play'. Timber was being sold at prices local producers simply could not match.

The report, quoting the Premier, then states:

'Action short of what I have proposed will place at unacceptable risk one of South Australia's most valuable and decentralised industries,' he went on.

This morning I was given information from Mount Gambier that the contractors for the current construction programme being carried out by the South Australian Housing Trust are using New Zealand timber. This is causing great concern in the town, bearing in mind that most workers there have been laid off or are working on limited hours. It has been put to me by concerned people in Mount Gambier that, unless the Government insists on using the South Australian timber industry on all of its projects, the employment prospects of those in the South Australian timber industry will become worse than they are presently.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** I certainly share the honourable member's concern if the facts, as he has outlined them, are correct. I am aware that stories like that get around rapidly

in times of difficulty. I will check them to see what basis there is for them. I am sure the honourable member will agree that I should put on record my recent telex to the Prime Minister, because it sums up quite well what has happened. I remind honourable members that the question of economic relations with New Zealand was discussed vigorously at the last Premiers' Conference in June. It had been the Prime Minister's intention at that stage to go on with that agreement as soon as possible. Indeed, it was proposed that it would be signed at some time in July or early August.

As a result of representations I made, particularly on the timber industry, it was agreed that that decision would be deferred. We are still waiting, as I understand it, for the end results of a further investigation which will be delivered to the Federal Government hopefully within the next week or two. That was at least one stay of execution, because there is no doubt in my mind that, if the proposed C.E.R. arrangements went forward, the timber industry in South Australia and in other parts of Australia (particularly in the South-East) would be under very serious threat indeed. I wrote further to the Prime Minister, and I now quote a copy of the telex which I sent to him on 1 October 1982:

I wrote further to the Prime Minister, and I now quote a copy of the telex which I sent to him on 1 October 1982:

My dear Prime Minister,

I refer to my letter of 13 August 1982, earlier correspondence and personal representations I have had to the Commonwealth Government about the proposed Closer Economic Relationship (C.E.R.) with New Zealand.

I wish to draw your immediate attention to the points I made on 13 August 1982, concerning the serious and adverse effects on Australian forestry and forest products industries if more satisfactory arrangements are not negotiated with New Zealand. Under the C.E.R. proposals, New Zealand will retain export incentives until 1987, virtually a perpetuation of the existing unfair trading arrangements. The alleged dumping of timber products in Australia is the destruction of our timber industry. The subsidies, special assistance, more favourable wage structure, and exchange rate advantage enjoyed by the timber industry in New Zealand have allowed them to sell their products, in contravention of the accepted principles of international trade and fair play, at prices Australian producers simply cannot match.

An immediate reference to the temporary assistance authority together with short term assistance by import restriction or tariff protection should be implemented by the Commonwealth now. The situation is sufficiently serious to demand a complete review of the draft agreement on Closer Economic Relations where it relates to forest products.

Provision must be made for the immediate removal of performance based export incentives to allow free and fair trade across the Tasman in forest products. If necessary, the whole agreement should be delayed pending resolution of satisfactory transitional arrangements.

Action short of what I have proposed will place at unacceptable risk on one of South Australia's most valuable and decentralised industries. My Government is simply not prepared to let that happen and I believe the Commonwealth should be of the same view.

That sums up our view; it sums it up very well, and it seems to me that the attitude being taken by this Government is the only responsible one that could be taken. It is one that has been taken consistently over a time. The honourable member asserts that South Australian timber is not being used in the construction of Housing Trust homes in the South-East. I repeat that I do not know whether that is true. I will have steps taken to find out whether it is true and will report back to this House when I find out exactly what the situation is. Certainly at a time when the South-East timber industry is under such enormous threat because of the provisions of the C.E.R. and the dumping of cheap New Zealand timber, every effort that can be possibly taken to preserve our own industry should be taken.

## BANKRUPTCIES

**Mr SCHMIDT:** Can the Premier give a true picture to this House and to the residents of South Australia of the bankruptcy rate in South Australia? I refer to an article written by the candidate in my district on 25 August this year, in which she said that there were 57 bankruptcies in Mawson. She said that there were over 2 300 bankruptcies in our State, and that this is more than double the national rate; in fact, we are averaging nearly four bankruptcies for every working day. Then she went on to say that, if the Labor Party came to office, it would expand the Small Business Advisory Unit. I also found, much to my surprise, exactly a month later in the *North-East Leader* a similar article by the A.L.P. candidate stating that there had been 54 bankruptcies in the Newland electorate since January 1980, and more than 2 300 throughout the State, which is more than double the national rate. I believe that the Morphett A.L.P. candidate has said the same thing, giving similar figures to *The Guardian* for the seat of Morphett. It seems rather strange that we have almost identical numbers floating around through different electorates throughout the Adelaide metropolitan area. In response to the Mawson candidate, I wrote a letter to the Editor, pointing out that the A.L.P. candidate was in fact drawing a rather untrue picture in giving the figures that she gave. On checking with the Bankruptcy Administration I found that it does not break down the figures suburb by suburb or district by district; rather, it compiles the figures for the whole of the State average.

When I further checked with the Bankruptcy Administration, I found that in 1979-80 there were 959 bankruptcies and in 1980-81 there were 951, so in a two-year period there were 1 910, which is quite different to the 2 300 that the A.L.P. alleges. The A.L.P. claims that there was a record number of bankruptcies. However, when I checked back I found that, in 1978-79, the South Australian bankruptcy rate was 21 per cent of the national average, whereas in 1980-81, under a Liberal Government, our percentage declined to 18.5, which would indicate a vast improvement since this Government came to office.

**Mr Mathwin:** Even if you count downwards.

**Mr SCHMIDT:** They are Mr Economy's figures. I further stated in the article that the A.L.P. would do far better, instead of being negative and highlighting figures of that nature (particularly inaccurate figures), to promote the things that have been going on in the district.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is now tending to debate the issue. If I heard him correctly, he said, 'I said', meaning himself. I ask the honourable member to confine his information to matters of fact.

**Mr SCHMIDT:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The newspaper article went on to state that the figures in relation to South Australia show that, in line with the fact that bankruptcies had declined in 1980-81 to 18.5 per cent, investment in manufacturing development in South Australia increased by 19.5 per cent, which was a far better per capita rate than the rate of any other State in Australia, particularly when one considers that only 9 per cent of Australia's population lives in this State. The article further stated that ventures such as Roxby Downs and other developments in South Australia have helped to reduce the bankruptcy rate in this State.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** I thank the honourable member for his question. I am well aware of the very great interest that he and the member for Newland have shown in what appears to be yet another very sad chapter in the procession of misrepresentations put forward by the Opposition and its officers in an attempt to mislead the public of South Australia, and in particular the people in those areas. Obviously, this campaign was designed by the same minds

that designed some of the other misrepresentations that came out of the Leader's office.

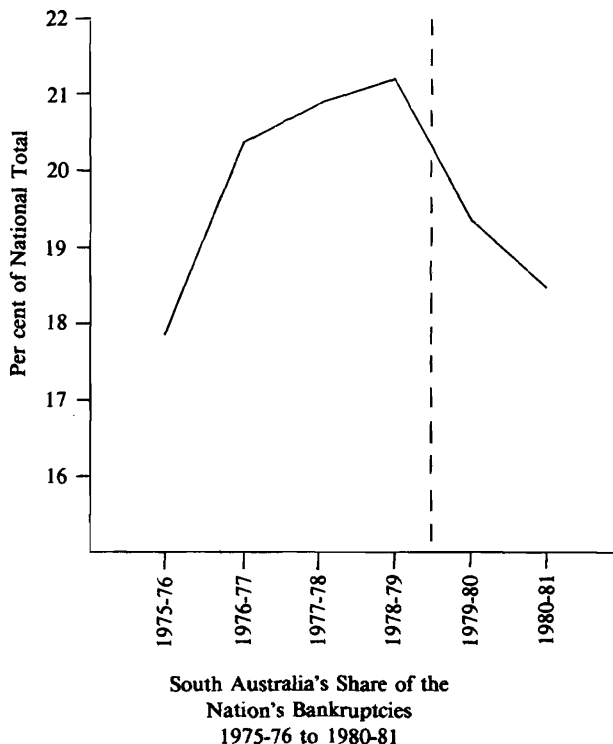
Indeed, I was quite surprised to read the story, but I was also struck by the fact that it read as though it had some authority, and it was quite convincing. There were two stories, both using much the same language and obviously written by the same person. I doubt very much whether either of the A.L.P. candidates in those two districts had much to do with the authorship.

**Mr Oswald:** And Morphett.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** There has been another of these spontaneous letters, couched in something of the same terms, I understand. In fact, the terms were almost identical. I suppose it claims that there have been record levels of bankruptcy in South Australia and quotes figures for that district. Let us examine the situation. I can see the member for Elizabeth shrugging his shoulders and saying, 'How inept', and I agree with him. Bankruptcies have not reached record levels in South Australia and let me put that misrepresentation to rest. In fact, the official figures for South Australia shown as a percentage of Australian total bankruptcies, are as follows: in 1975-76, 17.9 per cent; in 1976-77, 20.4 per cent; in 1977-78, 20.9 per cent; and in 1978-79, 21.2 per cent.

In fact, it reached that record level during the time of the former Government. In 1979-80 it was 19.4 per cent, and in 1980-81, 18.5 per cent. Those are the last available figures. There is no doubt that the trend of enormous increases in the bankruptcy rate in South Australia as a share of the nation's bankruptcies went up considerably until 1979 and has fallen since that time. I have a graph based on statistical information, which I seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.



**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** Let me take another factor: it has been said that some indication of the number of bankruptcies in any particular electorate can be given. That is the clear inference which comes from the correspondence received, just like the unemployment levels that were plucked out of the air by various Labor Party strategists recently. I

am informed that it is quite impossible to get reliable figures on this basis. Indeed, the Official Receiver informs me that any such figures which are given are not based on any reliable source at all. In other words, it is quite impossible for the Labor Party to take those figures and make any sort of specific allocations of bankruptcies to Mawson, Newland, Morphett or any other seat.

It is true that there has been a steep increase in the number of bankruptcies all over the Western world, and newspaper stories have made that quite clear. Steady increases in the number of bankruptcies have occurred throughout Australia. But, where the Labor Party strategists have fallen flat on their faces this time is that the share of bankruptcies in South Australia has fallen since 1979, when this Government came to office. That is the long and short of it. There is no way that the A.L.P. can monitor that sort of progress or location from the point of view of electorate by electorate. It is a matter of great regret that members of this House should be party to the misrepresentations which we are now seeing coming forth from the Labor Party with such monotonous regularity.

### CONVENTION COMPLEX

**Mr SLATER:** Is the Premier aware of the proposal to build a \$30 000 000 convention complex, without a casino, to be located in the Adelaide metropolitan area? If he is, will he indicate whether the former West End Brewery site in Hindley Street or the Samcor paddocks at Gepps Cross is being considered as a possible site for this complex?

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** Yes, Mr Speaker, and no.

### STATE HERITAGE LIST

**Mr RUSSACK:** Will the Minister of Environment and Planning say whether it is the practice for pressure to be applied to owners or trustees of buildings classified as having historic value for those buildings to be placed on the State heritage list? I have been approached by a concerned trustee of such a building who considers that the local council is using unnecessary coercion to have the building placed on the list.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am not sure of the particulars of this matter or of the council concerned. However, as far as the preservation of an item or building on the State heritage list is concerned, I would hope that it would be a responsible attitude to the preservation of a significant building or item, rather than through any pressure on the part of a council or any other organisation, that such building or item would be placed on the register. A general process is gone through when an item is registered. First, an application is made, and the item is assessed by both the Heritage Unit in my own department and the Heritage Committee. Once that has happened, a recommendation is made to me as Minister by the committee, and then a decision is made as to whether the item will be placed on the interim list of the State register for three months to enable comment to be made, and for support or opposition to that particular item being placed on the register to be considered.

I would hope that in this regard there is no pressure brought to bear by any organisation or council and that, rather, the individuals or trustees associated with the building referred to in the honourable member's question would recognise that if it is a building of significance they should be sympathetic towards registering it.

Unfortunately, there is a certain amount of fear on the part of people who own buildings that may appear on the register. That is regrettable, because there are many advantages to be gained by being the owner of such a building. Financial assistance can be provided through the heritage fund for any renovation that might take place. People are quite at liberty to redevelop a building in a sympathetic manner and architectural advice, as well as any other form of building advice, is available from people within my own department or from consultants we engage outside the department to provide this form of assistance. There are many positive advantages to be gained by those people who own buildings listed on the State register, and I hope that the people concerned are made aware of those circumstances.

#### AIRPORT SITE

**Mr PLUNKETT:** Will the Premier tell the House whether or not a new site for the Adelaide Airport has been determined and, if it has, will he reveal where that site will be? The Minister of Transport was reported in the *Westside* newspaper of 18 November 1981 as saying:

The State Government will announce a new site for the Adelaide Airport within 12 months.

This was in reply to a question put to him by the member for Morphett.

**Mr Gunn:** Are you sure? Who wrote that question for you?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr PLUNKETT:** I am getting used to the ignorance of members opposite. In view of this announcement, will the Premier advise the House of the stage of negotiations?

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** No, I suggest that the honourable member ask my colleague or, if he wishes, I shall obtain a report from him. The comment made by the Minister of Transport, which I have also made, is that it is expected that a decision on the siting of the new airport will be made before the end of this year.

#### QUARANTINE REGULATIONS

**Mr GLAZBROOK:** Will the Minister of Agriculture say whether the announcement of tighter quarantine regulations for the new Adelaide international airport means that South Australia will be subject to heavier controls, or whether this State will be adopting the same procedures as those used at other Australian international gateway airports? Yesterday's *News* contained an article headed 'Quarantine tighter at new airport', which states:

When Adelaide opens its doors to the world next month with the international airport, the State's rural sector will find itself at the mercy of travellers.

The article further states:

The department is so fearful of the State's new vulnerability it has produced a 20-minute color audio-visual to try to increase public awareness of the need for strict quarantine measures.

Can the Minister explain what tighter controls there will be?

**The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN:** The Commonwealth Department of Health determines the standards of quarantine that apply throughout Australia and therefore provides the standards for the respective States to carry out quarantine measures on behalf of the Commonwealth Government at those airports of international standard. When the Adelaide Airport reaches international standard later this year, the schedule of quarantine measures laid down by the Federal Government will be applied. Those standards will be consistent with the standards applied at all other international

airports in Australia, and officers of the Department of Agriculture in this State will be carrying out the agency quarantine work. It is anticipated that one animal quarantine officer, two plant quarantine officers and one health quarantine officer will be the staff contingent providing those quarantine services at the new Adelaide international airport.

The article referred to in the newspaper yesterday by my colleague the member for Brighton cited the importance of carrying out quarantine measures. I support the views expressed by my departmental officer, Mrs Sheila Morphett, in her efforts to bring to the attention of the public of South Australia not only the importance generally associated with quarantine in this country but in particular the importance of quarantine measures of this kind to our rural community in South Australia.

#### KIDS TIMES

**Mr GREGORY:** My question is directed to the Minister of Industrial Affairs, representing the Minister of Education.

(1) Does the Education Department allow free circulation of the publication known as *Kids Times* in South Australian primary schools? (2) What assistance does the department give to its distribution. (3) If the publication is in fact authorised and approved, what assurances did the Education Department receive from the publishers about inclusion of partisan-political material? (4) Does the Minister think that if *Kids Times*, if allowed into schools, failed to ensure either political neutrality or political balance as between South Australian political Parties it should be denied further access to schools? (5) Is the Minister aware, or has he been advised, that *Kids Times*, in a July 1982 issue, published a glowing full-page article on Roxby Downs containing a partisan attack on the Australian Labor Party members in this Parliament and subsequently, despite requests, failed to publish a suitable reply? (6) If the Minister checks and finds confirmation of the July Roxby Downs publication, will he contact *Kids Times* and insist on the publication of an appropriate reply? (7) Upon the refusal of *Kids Times* management to agree to this, will the Minister then order that the publication be no longer given privileged access to State primary schools? (8) Had *Kids Times* confined itself to an anti-uranium stance, would the Minister then have acted to bar it from schools?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before asking the Minister to respond to the honourable member's questions, I inform the honourable member that Standing Orders provide for one question to be asked and, when called for, two part questions. The type of question that the honourable member has asked would more properly be presented as a Question on Notice.

**The Hon. D.C. BROWN:** I will bring the honourable member's question to the attention of the Minister of Education and get a detailed reply on the specific points, or series of questions, that he raised.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTING

**Mr MATHWIN:** Has the Premier read the report in both the daily newspapers, the *News* and the *Advertiser*, that the State Labor Party will legislate for compulsory voting at all local council elections?

**Mr Hemmings:** I've won \$25 on that. I knew you'd ask that question.

**Mr MATHWIN:** The honourable member will need it to get over the shock that he is going to get at the next election.

Under the heading 'Council voting "must" under Labor', the report states:

Voting in council elections would become compulsory under a State Labor Government and elections would be held every three years.

Labor's spokesman on local government matters, Mr Terry Hemmings, said action could be taken to implement the Party's platform during its first term of office if it won the next State election.

'if it won' is a good point—it is most unlikely—due not later than March.

The honourable member went on to say:

I would hope electoral reforms could be tackled in our first term.

Again, that could be a long time. It could be 1990 before it ever came about. Will the Premier inform the House of the possible reaction and the effects of such a move—stupid as it may be?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Commenting is unnecessary.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** I accept your ruling, Sir, on that matter, although I totally and absolutely agree with the honourable member. I certainly did see the reports to which he referred. Indeed, if I had not seen them, they were rapidly brought to my attention by a wide variety of members of local government from many areas of the State. The Local Government Association may have made representations to let me know that that article appeared. So, many people, from both rural and city councils and from local governments in almost every part of South Australia, have contacted me. They are without any equivocation at all opposed to it.

**An honourable member:** I think the member for Napier has said he was misquoted.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** I did not know that the honourable member had suggested that he was misquoted. He certainly made his position clear in this matter. There is absolute opposition to compulsory voting in local government elections, I would judge from the reaction I have had from all walks of life, not only in local government but also from outside local government. That is certainly the case as far as my Party is concerned. The Government will have no part of it whatsoever.

#### INSURANCE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

**Mrs SOUTHCOTT:** Will the Minister of Industrial Affairs inform the House of the function of the Insurance Assistance Committee and give details of its composition and funding as well as indicating who is eligible to receive assistance? Some time ago I asked what assistance was available from the Minister's department for employers facing severe hardship due to increased workers compensation premiums. The advice given by the Minister was that they should shop around. It was stated recently at a seminar on the new Workers' Compensation Act, organised by the Productivity Promotion Council in co-operation with the Minister's department, that help is available for employers who are unable to find an insurance company which is prepared to insure them at a reasonable rate. It was also stated that, if an employer is referred by this company to S.G.I.C. and S.G.I.C. subsequently makes a loss, S.G.I.C. can recover any loss from the committee.

**The Hon. D.C. BROWN:** The honourable member's question relates to legislation passed by this House in about March of this year, prior to her entering this place. The Insurance Assistance Committee was set up under that legislation. It consists of a representative of S.G.I.C. and two representatives of the private insurance industry. I believe I am correct in saying that one represents Heath Insurance and the second represents Lumleys. They are both private

insurers heavily involved in the workers compensation field. It is an insurer of last resort with a statutory fund covering the loss or risk involved in any insurance taken out. It is only available for employers who are unable to receive insurance premium cover from private industry or from S.G.I.C.

As the honourable member would realise, by Statute every employer in the State is required to take out workers compensation insurance, yet a small number of employers found that they could not take out such insurance because no company was willing to cover the risk. To my knowledge, so far only one company has needed to be covered by that committee, although a certain number of companies have received advice and assistance in obtaining workers compensation premiums from the private sector after consulting with that committee.

Can I just briefly say that the policy of the Government is that every assistance is given to find insurance within private industry first. If that is still not feasible, then as a last resort the assistance committee is willing to give advice and take out the insurance policy, but it is on the condition that the people involved must undergo a safety audit of their factory and adopt certain practices on rehabilitation for any person injured during that period. I believe that the committee has been of great assistance to a number of employers who have found real difficulty in obtaining workers compensation premiums at a reasonable rate.

I suggest that the honourable member should contact perhaps Mr David Gribble within my department if she would like more information, or Miss Jillian O'Dea, at the Department of Industrial Affairs and Employment. Both of those persons have been working with this committee. Miss O'Dea is the secretary to the committee and I am sure she would be only too willing to give further assistance and advice.

**Mr Gunn:** She has been most helpful.

**The Hon. D.C. BROWN:** I hear from behind me the member for Eyre saying that Miss O'Dea has been most helpful. I know that one or two of the constituents from the honourable member's electorate, particularly an employer at Coober Pedy, have been helped by that committee and I know that through that help that employer has now been able to find insurance.

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTRE

**Mr GUNN:** Can the Minister of Industrial Affairs say whether it is correct that he told the fourth Construction Industry Conference this morning that a technical information centre is to be established and, if so, can he give some details about this proposed centre?

**The Hon. D.C. BROWN:** It is correct that I held the fourth Construction Industry Conference this morning. The conferences are held at six-month intervals and I believe that the conference is now carrying out a very worthwhile function. It represents something like 34 different bodies, covering the whole of the construction industry from the Master Builders Association, subcontractors, to the specialist contractors like plumbers and electricians, to the financial area and to the Australian Finance Conference. Six trade unionists are invited to attend as delegates and that conference has now achieved a great deal of uniformity, certainly as far as Government contracting is concerned. A number of professional bodies are also involved, including the architects, engineers, the Institute of Engineers and the consulting engineers.

I told the conference this morning that it has been decided by the Government to establish a technical information referral centre within the Public Buildings Department. That

centre is available for all participants within the building industry to obtain technical information. If the information is not available within the Public Buildings Department, it acts as a referral centre so that that person can be referred to the appropriate body that would have that technical information. The library facilities and the existing technical information centre within the Public Buildings Department will now be made available.

The concept has been established by the Building Science Forum here in Adelaide. They put a request to Government. The Government has examined it and believes it is a worthwhile function for the building and construction industry. It is one way in which I think during the past two or three years a great deal has been achieved in trying to bring together what is a very fragmented and diverse industry to get consultation within that industry, involving employers, employees and principals involved, particularly those people who supply the finance and have the buildings constructed. That is one way in which I believe this Government, as it has in many other areas, has assisted industry, and improved consultation, particularly between all sectors of that industry, to the well-being of the State.

### STONY POINT

**Mr MAX BROWN:** Will the Premier say whether the Government will rethink its decision to name the new Santos port facilities at Stony Point, Port Bonython, and support a naming of the facility by recognition of either a longstanding, well respected local identity of the Whyalla area, or alternatively an environmental aspect of the location?

**The Hon. D.C. Brown:** What do you want to call it? Brown's Bluff?

**Mr MAX BROWN:** The Minister is jumping the gun. I would like the Premier to pay attention, because this matter is fairly important.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member must give his explanation.

**Mr MAX BROWN:** Many people in Whyalla believe that the community should have been afforded the opportunity to be involved with the naming of the port facility. In fact, I inform the Premier that I wrote to Santos asking the company to conduct a competition for local people to submit appropriate names for the port. I would submit the name 'Port Ooena', which is the Aboriginal name for 'fuel'. I believe that that name would have a very good chance of winning such a competition.

**Mr Hamilton:** Which tribe?

**Mr MAX BROWN:** That could be decided. In making the suggestion, I do not wish to detract from the important role of the Bonython family in the State's energy industry.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** Let me say at the outset that the Government has no plans at all to call the port Port Brown, Brown's Bay, or anything else. It is unfortunate that a few people in Whyalla seem to be determined to stir up controversy in this matter. It is not a question of renaming Stony Point: Stony Point can keep its name. It is a question of finding a name for the pipeline harbor that will be the key point for the export of liquid petroleum gas and liquid hydrocarbons, hopefully, from the Cooper Basin for many years to come. Let me make clear that the name was first proposed by the Government after consultation with Santos.

The Government believes that this is an appropriate and fitting way of commemorating the work done by John Bonython in this State. I must say that his enthusiasm for the prospects of finding oil in the North of this State led, first, to the formation of Santos in 1954 and, indeed, if it had not been for his continued faith and steadfastness in sticking to his beliefs on this matter, it might have been

many, many years before the Cooper Basin hydrocarbons were discovered and exploited in the way they are about to be exploited. There is no question that the first gas finds of 1963 and the oil discoveries from 1969 (and, indeed, the Government of the day helped considerably), without Mr Bonython's enthusiasm, steadfastness and vision, might never have been made or perhaps might have been long delayed.

There is no question that John Bonython is regarded as the founder of the Cooper Basin hydrocarbon project. In a recent press article, the Mayor of Whyalla highlighted the employment opportunities and the contracts that have been awarded to local firms in the Iron Triangle as a result of this development. Also, there has been a great deal of spin-off in benefits for contractors, service industries, and the community of South Australia. There are already very tangible links between John Bonython's work and the future of South Australia, and between John Bonython and the people of the City of Whyalla, and I cannot see that there could possibly be serious objection to the Government's commemorating the name of the man who has done so much not only for the Iron Triangle area but also for the State of South Australia by being responsible for all of that development.

I will take the matter a little further: 'Whyalla' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'place with deep water', and that name could quite properly be applied to many different parts of South Australia's coastline. But, very few places will benefit so directly as will Whyalla itself from the initial work, enthusiasm and dedication of John Bonython. I think it is a very fitting name indeed. The Government intends to proceed with it.

### GREENING OF ADELAIDE

**Mr RANDALL:** Will the Minister of Environment and Planning say whether his department is involved in the greening of Adelaide programme? If so, to what extent is the department carrying out such work? Apparently, the A.L.P. has recently announced that, if it should ever win Government, it would undertake a programme of greening Adelaide as a matter of policy. The facts I have from some Ministers' departments, including that of the Minister of Water Resources, indicate that there are plans for tree planting, and that thousands of trees have been planted along the Torrens River. I believe that this point needs to be clarified.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I was somewhat surprised and amused to read in the media recently a release from the Leader of the Opposition indicating that, if the Labor Party were to come to Government, it would launch a campaign to green Adelaide. I suggest that that indicates how out of touch the Opposition is with what is already going on. The greening of Adelaide is well under way; in fact, it started more than a year ago. As the member for Henley Beach has indicated, my colleague, the Minister of Water Resources, has been responsible for planting many thousands of trees along the Torrens River. Other Ministers are involved in different ways. Within my department we have already planted more than 20 000 trees on 21 major projects throughout metropolitan Adelaide, specifically for the greening of Adelaide for the Jubilee 150.

It is not very often that members of Parliament have the opportunity to be involved in digging up the footpath in front of Parliament House to plant a tree, but I had that honour earlier this year. It also happened in Victoria Square. The greening of Adelaide project was launched last year with the Jubilee 150 Board and also the Adelaide City Council. This year, more than 10 000 plants have already

been distributed to councils and organisations throughout the metropolitan area.

A special committee was set up to oversee the work involving councils, private enterprise and community organisations. Last financial year 15 major projects were undertaken. This financial year there will be more than 17 specific greening of Adelaide projects undertaken. A streetscape design guide has also been produced to increase the awareness of sensible planning and design for councils and individuals who are interested in the greening of Adelaide. In some cases specific approaches have been made to local councils encouraging them with on-going planting programmes, pointing out priorities as far as main roads are concerned and areas of major public use or public view.

Specific projects undertaken in conjunction with councils include tree plantings along Main North Road, Glen Osmond Road, Burbridge Road, Main South Road, McLaren Vale, and Mount Barker Road. Projects to be undertaken this year include tree plantings at Aldinga, Port Adelaide, further plantings along the South-Eastern Freeway, the Main North Road, and also tree plantings in some 64 schools in the metropolitan area. The Government has firmly committed itself to the greening of Adelaide project and significant results will be gained before the State's Jubilee 150 celebrations. As an indication of the Government's commitment, the greening of Adelaide project in this year's State Budget has a special allocation of \$38 000 set aside. That was an \$18 000 increase on the amount set aside for the project last year. It is a pity that the Opposition did not make itself aware of these activities and of the involvement of many community organisations which work on a voluntary basis with the State Government and local government in what is a very important project as far as the Jubilee 150 celebrations are concerned. I reiterate that the Government is firmly committed to that project.

#### O'BAHN COMPENSATION

**Mr CRAFTER:** I ask the Deputy Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, whether the Government will provide a precise statement on the rights to monetary compensation, relocation and other forms of assistance available to those property owners who are affected directly or indirectly by the establishment of the O'Bahn busway, including those persons who have already sold their property to the Government by private treaty without knowledge of the current revaluation of properties. Recently, the Minister of Transport announced that all properties currently required for the O'Bahn busway would be revalued. I have made numerous representations on behalf of those many people who have now sold their homes, believing the price being offered by the Government was final, although they believed that the compensation they received was inadequate in the circumstances.

The Minister is now reported in the *Advertiser* of yesterday's date as saying that the Government would look at all cases of claims for compensation by people who believe their property values were affected by their becoming neighbours to the north-east busway. This is a matter on which I have also made representations and received a stern negative reply from the Minister. Several people have sold their homes in the belief that no compensation at all would be available in those circumstances.

**The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY:** I will see that the honourable member gets a report. While I am answering a question in relation to transport and O'Bahn, I would like to correct one of the Labor Party misrepresentations apparently being promulgated. That is in relation to the construction of the busway where it joins the city, and where the

official transport spokesman suggests it is not properly designed. That is absolutely incorrect. The Government has had a highly professional team working very efficiently on the O'Bahn system. The work is being done in close association with the Adelaide City Council and with councils along the route.

I could expand, but I will not, because it is not entirely relevant to the question asked. There is much misrepresentation being promulgated by the A.L.P. at present in relation to the O'Bahn system. It says that it is too fast, it is too slow, it is not ready. Then, the planning is insufficient. In fact, the planning is right on the spot. Many buses will be rerouted and will be taken over as a result of the transport system. No congestion will occur, as the spokesman for the Labor Party suggests. That is completely false. One gets so used to falsehoods that one wonders whether the Labor Party will ever learn. The short answer is that we will get a report.

#### MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENT

**Mr RANDALL:** Will the Chief Secretary investigate an advertisement which has appeared for the past week in the situations vacant column of the *Advertiser*? It states:

Consultant. Trainee public relations consultant, 15 to 19 years, required for a busy city agency. On-the-job training given in all aspects of office administration, advertising, public relations, sales presentation.

It went on to explain the job as consultant. This issue was raised with me by a teacher who encouraged four of her female students to apply, thinking it would be a good job for those girls. When they arrived at the address, apparently it was a massage parlour.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** This advertisement was drawn to my attention yesterday by the member for Henley Beach, and I immediately had discussions with the Acting Commissioner of Police in relation to it. I am quite concerned that an advertisement appearing in the paper, seeking applicants from young people in the 15 to 19-year-old age group, under-age people, should be for massage parlour work.

Obviously, the position is something other than the advertisement implies. I have asked the Acting Commissioner to get the Vice Squad to immediately investigate the matter and to report on it. In that way the matter can be clarified and we can stop any unsavoury effects, or people being placed in an invidious position of applying in all good faith for a position that turns out to be a position in a massage parlour.

#### WEST LAKES WATERWAY

**Mr HAMILTON:** Will the Deputy Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, ascertain why action was not taken against companies concerning the laying of concrete blocks around the waterway at West Lakes, and why legal costs were not recovered from that company or those companies involved?

**The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY:** Yes.

*At 3.12 p.m., the bells having been rung:*

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

#### TEAS SCHEME

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

That this House calls on the Government to convey the concern of the House to the Federal Government at its failure to provide



realistic levels of assistance to tertiary students through the TEAS scheme; and expresses its opposition to the proposal to reintroduce fees for some categories of tertiary students and to the proposal to introduce a loan scheme as a replacement for the TEAS scheme.

**The Hon. Peter Duncan:** It should be carried unanimously.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** It should be, and the purpose of moving this motion in the House is so that all members will have the opportunity to express their concern over this very important matter that affects a large number of existing students and future students who will come into the tertiary sector in this State. If we believe that the tertiary sector is a vital and important one for society at large and the economy in particular, as well as for the personal development needs of the youth of the future, then indeed we should all be concerned about this matter.

It is not my intention to speak at great length this afternoon on this matter, because there is a lot of business on the Notice Paper. Therefore, shortly I will be seeking leave to continue my remarks after outlining briefly the type of approach that I propose to take in my more detailed analysis of this matter.

Members would be aware that matters such as the TEAS scheme and the loan scheme are in fact handled by the Federal Government. It is not for this House to establish levels for the TEAS scheme, or to decide whether or not there should be a loans scheme, but it is within the competence of this House to convey its opinion to the Federal Government and indicate to that Government that we, as a Parliament, are concerned about other areas of education and about the development of the State at large, and that we have the right to hold an opinion about such matters.

Indeed, by expressing such an opinion we would be joining a large number of organisations and educational institutions in this State and throughout the country which have already expressed a similar viewpoint. I shall refer to some of the organisations that have expressed those viewpoints and I shall detail the ways in which they have arrived at those opinions. Why, indeed, has the University of Adelaide, for example, taken a strong stand on this matter by means of its governing body, the council? I also propose to go through the loans scheme and the manner in which it has been put forward by the Federal Government, and then study the way in which loans schemes have operated overseas, and through that look at the problems that have arisen in those cases.

Likewise, I shall be going through in some detail the manner in which the TEAS scheme provides for students who are eligible for assistance: the costs that can be anticipated that tertiary students might be likely to meet, and the amount that they would be likely to receive through the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, if they are lucky enough to be able to cross the many hurdles that exist in that scheme.

Further, in the process of that I will be outlining particular examples of people who have spoken with me about the way in which the TEAS scheme and the potential for a loans scheme affects their own cases. One example will be that of a constituent who has two children presently at the multi-campus, with a third due to go there within 18 months if the family can afford it; there are serious doubts about whether they will be able to do so, as they are having serious difficulties getting access to the TEAS scheme, and certainly, they are not in the market to be able to afford to pay for tertiary education for all their children without some support.

Another matter pertinent at this time concerns the South Australian College of Advanced Education. Members would know that there have been some difficulties in recent weeks in regard to the cut-back of contract appointments, which in itself is a very thorny issue because there are many problems associated with that, levels of Federal funding

being not the least. One of the problems that I acknowledge as facing the South Australian College of Advanced Education is that there has been a situation of declining enrolments in recent times. The population of the State is not declining, but the enrolments for multi-campus institutions have been declining. In other words, for some reason or other this positive tertiary resource is not being taken full advantage of by all those who could enrol in its courses. I venture to suggest that one of the reasons for that is the financial difficulties facing many students who try to get into such institutions.

If indeed adequate financial support were made available, and if, indeed, some security of financial structuring applied in those institutions, we may have not a declining enrolment situation for the tertiary sector, but rather an increasing one. I point out to members of this place that in fact participation rates in tertiary education are, like the non-compulsory level of secondary schooling, well below those in many other industrialised nations. That has a significant impact on our country at large, because it affects, among other things, our capacity to do research, given the fact that more than 40 per cent of all research done in this country is handled through the tertiary sector.

If that is undermined, the research base is undermined which, in fact, is already significantly smaller than that in many other countries. Further, it affects the supply of skilled personnel to our economy. There is already evidence of serious bottlenecks taking place in our economy in the 1980s because of shortages of skilled personnel in various areas. The tertiary sector needs to be maintained; it needs to be healthy. Its health is dependent upon the capacity of students to participate in that sector. The ability of students to participate in that sector involves questions that revolve around the matter of fees or funds made available to students to assist with the cost of studying. These are matters that I will go through at greater length on another occasion, because there are other matters on the Notice Paper to be dealt with this afternoon. Accordingly, I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

## POWER SURCHARGE

**Mr GUNN (Eyre):** I move:

That, in the opinion of this House, the 10 per cent surcharge which applies to consumers of 240-volt power in certain country areas in South Australia be phased out during the next three financial years, because it can no longer be justified as a fair and equitable charge.

In moving this motion, I want to explain clearly to the House that the existing situation is not only unfair but can no longer be justified. I am fully aware of the reasons for it. However, when one considers the amount of subsidy that applies to various other State Government operations, in my judgment and, I believe, in the view of my constituents this surcharge is unfair. Some parts of the State are not subjected to this surcharge, and I know of a case in a district council area where, on two adjoining properties, one family pays and one does not. In my judgment, if we are to have a system of charging for electricity, all consumers should be placed on an equal level. It is unfair that people in isolated parts of the State are forced to pay an extra 10 per cent, when many of them have had to pay high standing charges to get the supply connected. They do not like paying those charges, but they accept that we all have to make a reasonable contribution to the services that we receive.

The Electricity (Country Areas) Subsidy Act was introduced some years ago to reduce the cost of electricity to country consumers. At that stage it was a most welcome

concession granted to country people. However, since that occasion, the Government has involved itself in various other activities calling upon the taxpayers to bring in subsidies. For the interest of the House, I refer to the annual report of the Electricity Trust, page 21 of which states:

Subsidies paid to country undertakings during the past five financial years are as follows:

	\$
1978 .....	1 429 000
1979 .....	1 809 000
1980 .....	1 920 000
1981 .....	2 503 000
1982 .....	2 840 000

One could say that that is a considerable subsidy, but all electricity for the western and northern parts of South Australia is generated at Port Augusta. It is rather unfair that one person who is connected to that grid system has to pay the 10 per cent, and another person does not.

I understand that many people in country areas are fortunate enough not to have to pay it, although they are connected to the same grid system. Purely on the basis of being fair and logical, we should look at the subsidies that apply in other areas. People can ask why should not people pay a 10 per cent surcharge, because they get their water. I understand that the deficit on country waterworks for those properties fortunate enough to be connected to the service was \$22 200 000 in the last financial year (page 80 of the Auditor-General's Report).

However, let us look at the subsidy that applies to the Adelaide Festival Trust, that is, the Festival Theatre and the Playhouse (an excellent facility, but the taxpayers in this State make a significant contribution to its running), where the operating deficit for the 1981-82 financial year was \$3 900 000, an increase of \$175 000. Every taxpayer in South Australia finances that deficit whether or not he goes to the Festival Theatre.

Turning to the State Transport Authority, the Auditor-General's Report states (page 418):

In addition to the contribution from the State of \$55 400 000 a further \$5 800 000, which is included in the amount for traffic receipts, was received on account of fare concessions and free passes, bringing the total funds provided by the State to \$61 200 000.

It is interesting to note that the initial contribution made by the Government was \$55 350 000 and the actual receipts (the income from traffic receipts and fares) were only \$36 000 000. The State Transport Authority runs at a loss of \$55 000 000. The combined cost of the country waterworks and the country areas subsidy for electricity comes to about \$24 500 000, yet we have subsidies of nearly \$65 000 000 for the two organisations I mentioned in the metropolitan area. Therefore, there can no longer be any justification for this charge.

I have attended many local government conferences where this matter has been discussed. We know of the current increases in the electricity cost (and I am not blaming the State Government because it does not have a responsibility for setting electricity charges). I think it is unfortunate that speakers opposite over the last day or so have been attempting to blame the State Government for the increase in electricity charges. They know that that is incorrect; they know that it is political hogwash and nonsense, because no State Government, since the Electricity Trust was established, has had that authority. I refer those people to section 15 (2) of the Electricity Trust of South Australia Act, which states:

The trust shall administer this Act in such manner as in its discretion it deems to be in the best interests of the general public.

I am fully aware that the Electricity Trust has the responsibility for providing electricity to as many people as possible in South Australia in the most effective and efficient manner. I believe it has done a very good job; it cannot be blamed

if its costs continue to rise. However, I believe that it is only fair that all citizens should be charged on the same basis.

I am fully aware of the cost structure of the Electricity Trust and the massive amounts of money involved to mine the coal at Leigh Creek, which, of course, is essential. I am fully aware of the problems with the gas contracts. Those matters should not, in my view, be used to force certain sections of country consumers to pay charges higher than those paid by people throughout the rest of the State. I think I have made it clear that this charge ought to be phased out as soon as possible. I am aware that the Minister of Mines and Energy has a committee investigating the matter, but I think there has been enough consideration, enough discussion, and enough charging. The time is now ripe to have this matter resolved in favour of those people who have been penalised long enough. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I commend the motion to the House and I sincerely hope that all members will support it and will want to see it brought into effect as soon as possible.

I am fully aware that, in recent times, there has been an increase in the distribution system of electricity throughout country areas, particularly within my electorate. The involvement of the Outback Areas Trust of Coober Pedy, acting virtually as an agent for the Electricity Trust, enabled the extension of power to the mine, and I am more than hopeful that it will extend to other parts of the State. With Australian National pulling out of places like Kingoonya and Marree and the Outback Areas Trust having to become involved with those undertakings, it has been an expensive exercise.

I have demonstrated that the Government is involved in subsidising various other activities. I regard electricity as a basic need. I do not think that one can say that the Festival Theatre is a basic necessity of life. It certainly provides a great deal of entertainment and enjoyment to many people, but it does so at a considerable cost. Many of my constituents who have to pay the 10 per cent surcharge often do not have the opportunity of using that facility, although they helped pay for it.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that in the future electricity services can be extended to all areas of the State that do not currently have them and that it will be possible to extend them to such areas as the northern Flinders Range. We have had enough nonsense from environmentalists and other people who do not know what they are talking about: we want to see electricity connected to Wilpena and extended on to Blinman and all those other areas of the State that have had difficulty. I appreciate the recent extensions, but I want to see the reticulation system extended in the future. I hope that the House will agree to my motion and that the Government will act on it as a matter of urgency. I commend the motion to the consideration of all members.

Mr EVANS secured the adjournment of the debate.

## TORRENS RIVER

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Whitten:

That by-law No. 20 of the Corporation of Adelaide relating to the Torrens River, made on 1 July 1982 and laid on the table of this House on 20 July 1982, be disallowed.

(Continued from 25 August. Page 748.)

Mr EVANS (Fisher): I am concerned about the issue which the member for Price has raised. Evidence is still being taken by a committee of both Houses and, until such time as all the evidence is available to the House, I believe

that it is unwise for me to continue my remarks. I therefore seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

### ALSATIAN DOGS ACT (REPEAL) BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 15 September. Page 1094.)

**Mr LEWIS (Mallee):** I oppose this measure. It is an irresponsible and unreasonable Bill, and it embodies an undemocratic and inadequate proposal. It smacks of political opportunism of the highest order. It does nothing whatever to solve the problem of whether or not a dog should be known by one name or another. Nor does it do anything to solve the problem that arises in various communities throughout South Australia. I am a dog lover and always have been. I have always had a dog as a pet, one of which lived for 19 years and finally had to be destroyed because some irresponsible youths in my district shot it with a slug gun. It upsets me to find dogs being mistreated or misjudged by anyone.

My present dog is purely a watch dog and companion to my wife. Accordingly, he is not a violent dog but one capable of warning us of the approach of any visitors, thereby letting my wife know, wherever she may be, that someone is coming to see us. Members of this place would know that I spend much of my time away from home, even though the single most important place to me is my home and there is no other place at which I spend more time. In the event of my absence, my wife needs not only companionship but also protection and some early warning. The dog I have is a cross-bred Labrador. It is sufficiently placid not to disturb or otherwise excite visitors to the point where they may be attacked, but it is loyal and diligent enough to sound a warning to visitors and to let my wife know that there is someone else around the place.

Having made that explanation, I make no apology for the view I have expressed about this measure. Nor do I criticise the German shepherd breed. The criticisms I have made of the Bill are simply to illustrate the point that there are people living in South Australia who, in vast numbers in the communities in which they live, are flatly opposed to having the German shepherd breed anywhere within that community. They see it as a threat and as a risk. They do not want that breed of dog (regardless of their reasons) within their community. If this Bill were to become an Act it would mean that such dogs, known as either German shepherd or Alsatian (the name does not matter; there is no significance in that at all), could be owned by anybody anywhere.

The people of Kangaroo Island, in particular, have overwhelmingly expressed the view that they would not be happy with this proposition. There would be a proportion far greater than nine out of 10 people on Kangaroo Island who have expressed that view. I believe, therefore, regardless of their reasons, that they should be entitled to have that view heard and embodied in the law. This Bill, of course, denies them that right, even though all Parties in this Chamber have happily acknowledged that in every other respect legislation relating to dogs is the responsibility of local government.

The Bill, which seeks to repeal the Alsatian Dogs Act, 1934-1980, does nothing whatever to protect the wishes, the interests and views of the vast majority of people in places such as Kangaroo Island. It does not even address that problem, and there are wider implications. Not only is it a breed of dog known as the Alsatian or German shepherd which some people find undesirable in their local government

areas: there are other breeds. I do not see that any one breed should be singled out, but I do believe that the responsibility to determine which breeds are proscribed ought to be left to local government.

Local government is quite competent, in the opinion of all members of this House, to make other decisions, as I have already said, relating to the control of dogs and to the responsibilities of those people who own them. Why cannot local government be given the responsibility of deciding which breeds of dogs can be kept and in what circumstances? I think that it is, therefore, a reflection on the political aptitude of the honourable member who introduced the Bill that he failed to see the importance of that aspect of his proposed measure.

It is for that reason that I am urging all my colleagues on this side of the House, and indeed all members of this Chamber, to oppose the Bill. It is undemocratic, and it takes away any capacity of local communities to decide whether or not they want one or another breed of dog to be excluded from their local government area. In due course, after consultation with the Local Government Association has been completed (and that, I understand, is under way), the Government intends to introduce a Bill which will not only repeal this Act but at the same time provide all local government bodies with the democratic right and responsibility to decide whether any breed of dog can or cannot be registered within their locality. We should ensure that local government bodies are given full control of the management of the best friend man ever had in the localities for which they are responsible. As I have said, I urge all members to oppose this Bill.

**Mrs SOUTHCOTT (Mitcham):** On 15 September in this House the member for Eyre read a letter from the Local Government Association relating to the repeal of the Alsatian Dogs Act in which that organisation called for a round-table conference and said that until such conference had taken place it was opposed to the repeal of the Act. I have checked with the Local Government Association and no such round-table conference has been arranged in the period since 15 September. I have taken the initiative to ask for a meeting, on Thursday 28 October at 3.30 p.m., with representatives of the Local Government Association, as this will be the first time that country members will be in Adelaide. The member for Semaphore has expressed his interest and has agreed to be present at that consultation. I will be writing to the member for Flinders and also to the Government and the Opposition, and hopefully they will join us at that round-table conference.

I believe quite strongly that the repeal of the Act is possible, because I believe that all the things to which people in the rural community object can be covered very well under the Dog Control Act. I have sought advice on this matter, and my opinion has been confirmed. I believe that, if the situation is put clearly and discussed with members of local government, particularly from rural areas, this whole matter can probably be resolved quite amicably. So I would urge all members of this House to take part in that round-table conference, at which we can hopefully resolve the situation.

**Mr RUSSACK (Goyder):** I wish to speak only briefly on this matter. Representing a rural electorate, I entertain some of the concerns that have been expressed by other country members. However, I am conscious of the fact that the dogs to which this Act applies are in many instances very faithful animals. Only today, in a genuine attempt to ascertain some of the feeling from country people, I asked a gentleman from the country what his view was concerning Alsatian dogs. He has a farming property but his main interest is in

engineering; there was a problem with vandalism and stealing, and it was suggested to him that the best protection would be for him to own a dog of this nature. He has now had several of these dogs and cannot speak too highly of them. I do know that they are used for particular purposes and that they respond to proper training. I have watched them in obedience schools, and I would say that an Alsatian dog can be one of the best types of animal as a pet and a friend and as security.

However, I think that this Bill has been introduced a little hastily, and I think the honourable member who has just resumed her seat has advanced probably one of the reasons that I could use in making that statement. It so happens that the member for Napier is the shadow Minister of Local Government, and I would have thought that he would communicate with the Local Government Association on this matter before, or concurrently with, introducing the Bill. I think that it would have been advisable for him to do so, especially as it is in the country where there seems to be a concern that the United Farmers and Stockowners should have been consulted and involved in discussions. There is no doubt that, where there is discussion and where there can be negotiation, many of the fears can be allayed and the problems overcome.

I understand that the initial Bill was introduced in 1934 and is really a canopy Bill that gives the right to local government. However, only 15 per cent of South Australia is covered by local government administration: the rest of the State is unincorporated. Therefore, about 85 per cent of the State would be covered by this Act, and the Alsatian dog would be prohibited in those areas. In the settled areas, the local governing body has the right to determine whether or not the Alsatian dog is acceptable. I believe that that is desirable, and I would have thought that the member for Napier would also believe that the local council should have the right to say what was to happen. There is no doubt, as I have said previously, that the Alsatian is used for very important work, and for many purposes.

There were amendments to the Act in 1979, and section 2, 'Prohibition of keeping Alsatian dogs in certain parts of State', referring to 'the district council or any part thereof, states (in part):

This Act shall not apply in relation to any Alsatian dog owned by, or being used for the purposes of, the Crown.

I would suggest that that involves the Police Department, which uses these animals very effectively in some instances. The section further states:

This Act shall not apply in relation to any Alsatian dog while the dog is in the possession, or under the control, of a person within any part of the State to which this Act applies pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, a permit granted under this section.

The Minister, or any person appointed by the Minister, may grant a permit to any person who is travelling with an Alsatian dog authorising that person, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the permit, to have the dog in his possession or under his control while he is travelling through the part of the State to which this Act applies.

I take that to mean that, if an Alsatian dog is being used as a guide dog by a blind person or for some similar work (which is most commendable), the owner can obtain a permit that would allow the dog to go anywhere in the State. In summary, the Alsatian can be very valuable as a pet or as a friend, it can be used for specific purposes, such as security measures, for the detection of the criminal element, and it can be used by blind people. Therefore, consideration must be given to those things.

On the other hand, local government should have the autonomy to determine what should happen in the areas under its administration. There is a Dog Control Act, and we must be fair and not single out Alsatian dogs. It may be

determined that the same conditions should apply under that Act to all breeds. Until the Local Government Association and the United Farmers and Stockowners have come to an agreement with the member who introduced the Bill, until a satisfactory conclusion has been arrived at, I feel that I cannot support the Bill.

However, I was very interested to hear what the member for Mitcham said. She has taken very positive action to arrange a meeting, and perhaps from that will come very useful and direct understanding. When negotiations and discussions have been undertaken, something more definite may be done. In the meantime, I do not support the measure, because of the reasons I have stated; however, I will keep an open mind until those organisations and the people who have reservations about this Bill's being repealed have made a decision.

**Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park):** I did not intend to speak in this debate but, having listened to some of the comments made by the previous speaker, I felt compelled to say something. Some 18 months ago, the Local Government Association was contacted in relation to this Bill (and I have no doubt that the information supplied to me was correct). I wonder what the member for Goyder was on about when he said he had reservations and that more discussions on this Bill were required. One would have thought that, if that was the case, 18 months ago, when the Local Government Association knew that this Bill was to be introduced, sufficient information would have been available not only to that organisation but also to members of this place who say that they have reservations in regard to the Bill.

Information that has been provided to me indicates that these dogs are being utilised by the Guide Dogs for the Blind, and I feel sure that, if Alsatian dogs were properly trained, they would be useful in the community, as would any other properly trained dog. If the Guide Dogs for the Blind or any other association can train Alsatian dogs, there is no reason why those dogs should be restricted in South Australia. There is a tradition of fair play in this country: it is the essence of every Australian. Let no bigots come into this argument.

We all know that one could say that any breed of dog has been involved in attacking people, sheep, cattle, and so on. The emotionalism that has been stirred up by members opposite is unwarranted. The *Southern Times* of 1 September 1982 stated that farmers had called for stricter dog controls. Under the heading 'Outrage at sheep attack', the report states:

Happy Valley farmers are outraged after a Great Dane mauled and killed 16 sheep in a vicious attack last week. It is the latest in a string of similar attacks involving dogs and livestock. It has prompted farmers in the area to call on the Government for stricter dog controls.

Farmers want compulsory tattooing of all dogs, as well as registration medals. During the past year 236 sheep had been killed by domestic dogs in Happy Valley alone, they say.

And so it goes on. In that same newspaper, a report under the heading 'Meadows warns dogs owners', states:

Meadows council has issued a warning to local dog owners following the latest sheep attack. Registrar of dogs Alan Pickering said very strong measures would be taken when a dog was involved in an attack.

'Whenever there is a dog attack with damage incurred and we can identify the owner, we will automatically prosecute,' he said. 'There's no exception to that ...'

It does not mention anything about a specific type of dog, nor should it. Much emotion has been injected into this debate. I understand that the German shepherd dog has been around for a long time. From memory, I think it was introduced into this country somewhere around 1899. Correspondence received from the German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia, dated 28 September 1982, states:

In the Australian tradition of 'fair play' our club asks you to please spend five minutes of your time to read and consider the following which is a brief summary of our quest for the repeal of the Alsatian Dogs Act of 1934.

The article points out the political issue with respect to Tara's case on Kangaroo Island. The letter continues:

The political issue concerns an estimated 15 000 dogs throughout South Australia and their owners. The German shepherd dog is a very young breed. Breeding to a standard type commenced with the formation of a specialised club in 1899. The earlier dogs were bred from three different varieties of sheepdogs. Breeding was very strictly supervised and there was a very high requirement for correct temperament and working ability.

The German shepherd dog first came to the notice of other countries through its bravery in the trenches, under fire, in the First World War. After the war many dogs were taken to Britain where they were called Alsatians to avoid unfavourable attention due to the post-war anti-German feeling. One of these German dogs was taken to America where he became famous as Rin Tin Tin. The popularity of the breed grew very quickly throughout the world. The first German shepherd dog came to South Australia in 1925 and between 1925 and the imposition of a total importation ban in 1928, only six of the breed had arrived here. These early dogs were not top representatives of the breed, but as new bloodlines could not be obtained, they were the foundation stock used here from 1925 until 1935 when several new dogs were introduced from interstate. As Australia had imported only approximately 60 dogs prior to the ban the quality of the breed here was limited to the producing abilities and attributes of these first dogs.

Over the years, it became obvious that Australian breeders were unable to keep in step with the improvements and changes in the breed throughout the world. In 1972, after a great deal of deliberation and study of the facts, the Government lifted the importation ban for a trial period of 12 months. The ban was permanently lifted in 1973. Australian breeders have spent millions of dollars importing top quality breeding stock from all over the world since that time. Several top German stud dogs have been purchased for prices exceeding \$15 000. In this State, over \$450 000 has been invested in the importation of 82 dogs and 92 bitches. In 1981, 84 per cent of the German shepherd dogs registered with the South Australian Canine Association were from entirely new bloodlines.

That is most important. The letter continues:

Our breed has undergone such a revolution that the German shepherd dog in Australia today is equal, in both conformation and character, to the best in the world. Our national show has approximately 900 entries and the visiting German judges always express their astonishment at the quality of our dogs. After such a long period of deprivation we are intent on breeding the very best.

That is a very commendable sentiment. The letter continues:

It is proven fact that German shepherd dogs are no more liable to attack either stock or people than any other breed of dog. To continue to discriminate against the German shepherd dog because of myths from the past is very unfair.

I certainly agree with that. Going on:

Everyone knows of the history of our breed in its service to man. The German shepherd dog has faithfully devoted itself to man in war as a message carrier, bomb detector, tracker and Red Cross dog, and in many fields in peacetime as an avalanche rescuer, police dog and customs dog. One dog alone saved the lives of hundreds of people buried alive in the London blitz, another was decorated for bravery after the Vietnam war. The first guide dog for the blind was a German shepherd dog, and throughout Europe, the United Kingdom and America our breed is the breed most used for this purpose. The reason for their use in these areas is their tremendous intelligence, faithfulness and stability. An increasing number of German shepherd guide dogs are now at work in Australia. Under the law, as it now stands, these dogs may be shot on sight in the areas covered by the Alsatian Dogs Act.

That is just outrageous. The letter continues:

South Australia is the only place in the world which discriminates against our breed. We also have a strong Dog Control Act which very strictly governs the behaviour of all breeds of dogs and the responsibilities of their owners. We have lived with this discrimination for nearly 50 years. Please understand that we are asking only for equality for our dogs and for us, their owners.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) D.R. West, President

It seems that South Australia is certainly out of step, particularly as this is the only place in the world that discrim-

inates against these dogs. We are becoming a laughing stock because of this type of discrimination. If the dog is properly trained and bred it is no different from any other breed of dog. The bigoted attitude shown by members opposite is clear. One could even suggest that the bigotry of the Minister of Agriculture has shown in his opposition to this Bill.

German shepherd dogs are used by the Blind Welfare Association. As is pointed out in the correspondence, a German shepherd dog can be shot on sight. What an outrageous thing for this State! We are out of step with the rest of the world. Fancy our being the only ones who can go around shooting dogs like this, particularly where they are helpful to man. I support the Bill introduced by my colleague. I hope that the Minister will reconsider his attitude towards this matter.

**Mr PETERSON (Semaphore):** I rise briefly to participate in this debate, which has been rather long. All the good remarks have been made. However, we have heard the history of the German shepherd breed. We have heard of its loyalty and application, and of the many purposes for which it is used, such as assisting the blind, guard duties and so on. It is undoubtedly an outstanding breed which has been of great service to mankind. We also heard about the original name of German shepherd in Australia, which seems to have some overtones of a First World War hang-over.

It was also said that the dog has a bad name. Admittedly, it carries a stigma, which is probably too strong a word, but there is some feeling towards the dog. He is a big dog and has the appearance of a canine which we are all trained to fear, the wolf. The community is reticent about it. That reticence has never been borne out in my case. I have many friends with German shepherds as pets. However, in our community there are many irresponsible owners. I think all dogs suffer because of that.

*Mr Hamilton interjecting:*

**Mr PETERSON:** They might have dogs, too. I doubt whether there is a member in this House who has not had people coming to his electorate office complaining about stray dogs and problem dogs, and about dog catchers or their lack of efficiency. I must admit that I cannot recall one complaint raised in my electorate about an Alsatian or German shepherd dog, whichever name one uses.

**Mr Hemmings:** German shepherd.

**Mr PETERSON:** I use 'German shepherd', but a rose is a rose by any name. However, the point is that I cannot recall one occasion when a German shepherd has been the subject of a complaint. It appears that in the part of the metropolitan area that I represent those dogs are not a problem. Generally, the problem is in regard to smaller dogs and irresponsible owners who have absolutely no control over their dogs. I admit that I would be fearful if German shepherds were allowed to run as freely as some of those cross-breed, mongrel dogs that run around.

We own a Chihuahua, which does not have anywhere near the same effect on people as would a large dog, yet there are people even frightened of that dog. Therefore, certain people fear dogs in the community whatever their breed. However, fear of a German shepherd is usually much greater because of its size and bulk. I could not subsequently find the report, but I recall having seen a report concerning dog attacks, and of all the breeds listed, the dog recorded as having been involved in the most attacks and reportable offences of biting, attacks on children and this kind of thing, was the fox terrier.

**Mr Hemmings:** Sheep dogs as well.

**Mr PETERSON:** In the report to which I referred it was the fox terrier that was listed in that category. As I recall, the German shepherd breed was well down that list. It is

hard for me to believe that the German shepherd is such a threat to our community, although I understand the attitude of the people on the land. They see the results of what dogs do when they attack stock. I admit that if a fox terrier attacked a sheep, the result would be different from what would occur if a German shepherd attacked a sheep. I am sure that German shepherd dogs have been involved in that type of incident, and I am sure that the damage that they inflict is much greater than is the case concerning a smaller dog: I understand the attitude that the bigger the dog the bigger the damage, and I understand people trying to control that.

I suppose that this situation has now really been brought to a head because of certain current events: the Kangaroo Island situation has come out of this. The person involved there did break the law in taking in the dog, but such events have served to bring the issue to a head and might result in bringing this matter to a final decision.

*Mr Hamilton interjecting:*

**Mr PETERSON:** The member for Albert Park is right, of course: it is a peculiar anomaly that this situation should exist in South Australia, a small area when compared with the rest of the world. That fact must raise some thoughts in people's minds. However, I believe that there is a way around the problem that exists at the moment. The Act itself is very discriminatory: it is even discriminatory concerning the name of the dog. There is no doubt what the Act is all about. It is there to serve a specific purpose. Much has been made in the debate this afternoon, more so than at any other time, about the responsibility of local government and the control of dogs under the Dog Control Act. We spent quite some time last year or early this year in regard to a new Bill on dog control, which overall contains some improvements. The responsibility of local government was again raised today by several speakers, which is a matter which must be considered as part of this issue.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** You are right on the ball.

**Mr PETERSON:** I believe that we must recognise the role of local government. Governments at State level generally do not consider the role of local government. This occurs on many occasions when dealing with legislation.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** You have a very good opportunity to do so now.

**Mr PETERSON:** Do not steal my thunder. I believe this is an opportunity for us to reinforce the role of local government, to put responsibility back where it should be. Local government's responsibility in regard to the Dog Control Act has been mentioned. It does have a significant role there; as a matter of fact I think that local government is the only body that has any control under the Dog Control Act. It seems anomalous that no control is applied (if it is so desired) under that Act to certain breeds of dogs. As the member for Mitcham mentioned earlier, this matter has been raised as well as the matter of the role of the Local Government Association, and we intend to speak to those people involved, as I want to know what they think, and it is their right as an organisation to make their opinions known to me. The point I want to make to them is that it is their right to be discriminatory if they so wish, as individual councils or corporations.

I think that the present Bill should be abolished, while concurrently provisions should be made in the Dog Control Act for councils to have some control. I am not too sure by what method this can be done. I want to have discussions on this matter with the Local Government Association. The decision to impose restrictions could be assisted by the holding of a referendum, it could be a decision of the council or it could be achieved by by-laws and regulations. By whatever means, the decision would be a democratic one made by individual council areas concerning particular

breeds of dogs. The restrictions would not be imposed by blanket legislation.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** Exactly like that done by the Kangaroo Island council.

**Mr PETERSON:** Maybe so. By that method we would not be denying the councils the right to make a decision. As the Act stands at the moment the opportunity for individual decisions does not exist.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** Oh, yes it does.

**Mr PETERSON:** No, it does not. The Act lays out the provisions and does not give local government any right of appeal if it does not agree with them.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** There is a right; that is how the provision was taken away in relation to Coober Pedy, because that area did not want it.

**Mr PETERSON:** That is an example. If we are going to talk about the restrictions provided in an Act such as the Alsatian Dogs Act and then make exceptions in one specific area, why then is that unique? Obviously, one could come up with many other reasons.

**Mr Hemmings:** They apply to every other area except to Kangaroo Island.

**Mr PETERSON:** Well, there are exceptions. I have spoken long enough today on this matter. Discussion with the Local Government Association would be desirable along these lines to ascertain its point of view in an attempt to come up with a format which would provide for local government to make decisions on this matter. That is the line that I hope as many members as possible will take, which I think is the best way to handle the problem.

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

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr RANDALL:** On a point of order, I take exception to being called a coward when I simply move a standard procedural motion in this House. I ask the member for Napier to withdraw that comment.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Russack):** Order! The member for Henley Beach has taken offence at a statement made by the member for Napier, and I ask that the statement be withdrawn.

**Mr HEMMINGS:** I understand that the member for Henley Beach is very sensitive on this, but I do withdraw—

*Members interjecting:*

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr HEMMINGS:** I do withdraw it unconditionally.

## MARKETING 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 15 September. Page 1094.)

**The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN (Minister of Agriculture):** A couple of weeks ago, I commenced to respond to the motion moved by the member for Salisbury and out of deference to the House at that time, and by convenience of the Parliament, I sought leave to continue my remarks immediately after the commencement of the debate. For those members who may not have been present at that time, I pick up my concluding remarks made to Parliament, where I said:

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 can be seen that the industry has received attention from the Department of Agriculture in servicing the horticultural industry referred to. However, there is insufficient reason for the establishment of a joint committee as proposed by the honourable member for Salisbury to inquire into all aspects of the market garden industry. The two major areas of concern mentioned by the honourable member have, and are, being studied by this Government and several measures have been taken to resolve problems which have occurred with that industry. These problems have been drawn to our attention. My department spends a large amount of time and resources in solving these problems.

The marketing of fruit and vegetables has been looked at in some detail in the past. The East End Market Relocation Committee was appointed in 1975 by the previous Government. That committee had wide representation in its membership. The committee studied the wholesale marketing system and presented recommendations for the relocation of the market. I am sure that some of the members serving in this Parliament at that time will recall the previous Government's decision to proceed with that research undertaking. Indeed, they will recall the details of the report brought before this Parliament by my predecessor. The committee made its first report in October 1975. The committee was provided with new terms of reference to conduct detailed studies of the fruit and vegetable industries and their marketing at both the wholesale and the retail level. Those findings set out in the report on the marketing of fresh fruit and vegetables in South Australia were also made known to the industry and the interested members of this Parliament. The recommendation for redevelopment of the wholesale market has not been implemented due to financial reasons. I am not in a position to identify the specific detail associated with market owners' financial affairs. Even if I were in possession of those details, for obvious reasons they could not be conveyed to Parliament.

The proposals for market regulations that are dependent on the market redevelopment have not proceeded as a consequence of the economic position of the owners of the market here in Adelaide. The South Australian vegetable industry is under significant pressure from interstate producers because of the provisions of section 92 of the Federal Constitution which, as we all know, guarantees free trade between the States. In other areas of agriculture, this same section of the Constitution, of course, acts to our advantage in providing markets for our own primary products. The South Australian vegetable industry consists mainly of small producers who cannot operate on the scale of their large interstate competitors, who might be described as broad-acre farmers. It is thus impossible for South Australian producers to markedly affect vegetable prices and, to a great degree, the influences which affect producer profitability are outside the control of South Australia and its growers. Because of the inability of any State to control interstate imports, any supply forecasting would be of little value to the industry.

In relation to the grower market as requested by the group of growers from the Salisbury-Virginia area, the Government made a site available for a growers market at Salisbury, but the local council did not agree to its establishment. On that point, it will be most interesting, to say the least, what influences the recently elected councillor in that district may have over the Salisbury District Council. I wish Councillor Vicki Argirov the best of British luck as a representative of that council following last week's local government election. Indeed, as a candidate, she made her position quite clear

and her platform reasoning for seeking to enter local government. I congratulate her and wish her success in that direction.

I do not think it alters the fact that it has been clearly demonstrated that the Government has made an effort to facilitate that young lady, her family and their colleagues in the business with sufficient land for an appropriate period for a trial of their proposals. I know that has not readily been recognised by the Opposition, but I am personally aware of the efforts to co-operate as they came forward through my colleague the Minister of Transport and, indeed, the Minister of Education.

The upshot of the exercise was dependent upon the good grace of the council. For reasons best known to the council at that time it made it awkward, to say the least (if not impossible), for the grower market group to try out its proposal. It should be remembered that, under the provisions of the Market Clauses Act, 1870-1956, the establishment of a market outside the city centre requires the approval of local government. It was under the protection of that particular Act that local government exercised its powers and authorities and scuttled this scheme.

During 1981 my department appointed a senior horticultural adviser to be stationed at Virginia on a full-time basis. In addition, another horticultural adviser works an average of two days a week in that area. I know my colleague, the member for Goyder, currently acting as Speaker of this Parliament, recognises and appreciates the efforts of my department in that servicing of his constituency. The department is operating an on-going plant extension programme in the Northern Adelaide Plains market gardening area and several departmental officers are members of that joint industry-department committee. The Northern Adelaide Plains Glasshouse Action Committee is presently attending to problems in the glasshouse industry. The Department of Agriculture is spending approximately \$150 000 on research this year, and I ask the permission of the House to have a statistical table inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it to demonstrate the programmed expenditure on research in that line.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Russack):** Can the Minister assure the House that it is purely statistical?

**The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN:** I can.

Leave granted.

Vegetable Research Conducted by Department of Agriculture, 1981-82

	\$
Assessment of vegetable varieties . . . . .	11 529
Analysis of soils for vegetable research . . . . .	2 695
Comparison of vegetable cultivars for glasshouses . . . . .	3 383
Examination of hydroponics in glasshouses . . . . .	19 336
Research into vegetable handling and storage . . . . .	15 357
Pathology of vegetable crops . . . . .	17 756
Strawberry root rot control . . . . .	1 000
Insect control research in vegetables . . . . .	15 105
Insect control in glasshouses . . . . .	9 420
Nematode control in potatoes . . . . .	470
Potato variety assessment . . . . .	16 735
Vegetable production in the Riverland . . . . .	6 438
Assessment of onion and garlic varieties for dehydration . . . . .	3 311
Agronomy and weed control in vegetables . . . . .	26 634
	<b>\$149 169</b>

**The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN:** From that table members can see the area of vegetable research and the financial resources committed to those respective projects. This does not include an allowance for the proportion of overheads in operating the Northfield Service Laboratory, the Lenswood Research Centre, and the Loxton Research Centre, where

this kind of work is undertaken. In addition, research work is done on individual properties in co-operation with the growers. I point out that, from field reports received in my office, the co-operation of growers throughout the horticulture industry is to be commended. I am sure, likewise on behalf of the growers, that they would support my recognising the efforts by our horticultural officers and staff serving in that direction.

In conclusion, I emphasise that the Government has committed a number of specialists, as well as quite significant resources, to the vegetable industry. When one considers the size of the industry in South Australia, one realises that its size does not warrant a separate vegetable research institute. However, it is well supported by specialists attached to various discipline groups in the department. On the basis of those comments, I cannot support the motion before the House in the name of the member for Salisbury.

I am aware that you, Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, have a contribution to make to this debate. While the changeover of Acting Deputy Speakers takes place, I will refer to some other matters. Sometimes in this place we have, as the records will reflect, members from the Opposition seeking to introduce motions for debate, or Bills for amending legislation, for other than sound legislative purposes. Indeed, I make the point quite positively that it is sometimes done for sheer blatant political purposes. I am not attempting, in my remarks, to reflect on any member in particular but, indeed, the cap applies to those who are prepared appropriately to wear it. It has happened in this place on many occasions and has been done by all political Parties.

I do not believe, in this instance, that the member for Salisbury had undesirable political motives behind his move to introduce this subject for debate. I commend him for that. He introduced a similar motion during the last session of Parliament. I studied his remarks and supporting detail to that motion at the time, both prior to and after responding to it. I believe that the same attitude applied then as is inherent in this motion. It is a genuine attempt to assist the industry. As he is in the House presently I am sure that he will recognise that my comments now are consistent with those made on the last occasion when I responded. It does not alter the fact that the Government has put an enormous amount of resources into this subject for that section of the rural industry. It does not alter the fact that we will continue to assist and support each of the many fields of primary production applying within the State.

To demonstrate yet another example of further and more recent assistance directed to the fruit and vegetable marketing side of the industry, I refer to an offer made to the East End Market companies of a figure of some \$5 000 to assist them to carry out a feasibility study on a redevelopment proposal under consideration by them. As far as I am aware, that study was estimated to cost (in round figures) about \$20 000. Representations from the company and evidence demonstrated that they were fair dinkum in their attempts this time to ascertain the viability of redevelopment and/or relocation of a privately-owned and operated premises to the extent where, as a Government, we have agreed to subscribe. That money will be provided from my departmental Miscellaneous line or from sources to supplement that line during this financial year and at a time when it is required by the parties, should they decide to proceed with the proposed feasibility study appointment. Precisely who is going to be employed as a consultant, I am not aware.

**Mr Lynn Arnold:** You've already appointed one.

**The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN:** Whether the appointment that has been made (according to the member for Salisbury) in recent times is specifically for this purpose, I am not aware. Those matters belong to the private operators based on East Terrace, Adelaide, and are not matters that ought

to be canvassed publicly in places of this kind. The whole private ownership and operation of the vegetable marketing system located in the city of Adelaide deserves protection from public comment and debate to the extent that has been implied should occur in this place.

I am not prepared to be a party to the business, economic, or commercial decision-making details associated with those companies. I believe that, if a Government can see its way clear to assist and/or facilitate private enterprise in its function, it should make every reasonable effort, with public support and funding, to do so. It should, under no circumstances, direct or dictate what shall or shall not happen in the private sector. We are unique in Australia in that privately-owned and operated companies provide the servicing of fruit and vegetables to the retail and public market as occurs at that level. It would be a great pity if those companies, either one or the other or both, were to withdraw from that long-standing role.

However, I readily agree that the premises in which they operate are screaming out for upgrading and improvement to carry out the appropriate operations. I am sure that the persons responsible for the management of those premises will agree with my remarks. I believe that this time they are on the way to positively repairing the situation. If they do proceed and invest the sort of money that appears to be required in that direction and set about deliberately to provide, in those premises, the services that this city requires, I hope that the city consumers and retailers will then give them the patronage they deserve. I mention that for no reason other than to identify that there are many other operators buying direct from growers, packing and sorting for their own retail and marketing purposes through their own independent premises. I appreciate the degree of erosion of the centralised private operations on East Terrace that has occurred over a period of many years but would appear to have been stepped up in more recent times to develop into a level of concern for the investors and shareholders of the two companies in question.

I wish them well in their studies, and hope that in the very near future the needs are met of the growers and the primary producers of horticultural products in this State who are dependent on a merchandising marketing facility for the purposes of supplying the domestic consumers' needs. My colleague the member for Goyder is now in his place and, I understand, keen and ready to contribute to this debate, and on that basis I conclude my remarks.

**Mr RUSSACK (Goyder):** When the member for Salisbury presented this motion in the previous session I was to have spoken, but, because of time constraints, that was not possible. I am well aware and acknowledge that during the debate the honourable member naturally cited the difficulties being experienced by his constituents and my constituents in the Northern Plains area. In the honourable member's speech in the introduction of his motion in this session, he continued his remarks from the initial speech made in the last session, and mentioned the marketing of vegetables and fruit.

The wholesaling of fruit and vegetables in South Australia has been for nearly 100 years the responsibility of private operations, two of which organisations have been established throughout the period on the eastern side of the metropolitan centre. I am of the opinion, in fact I am sure, that it is not the Government's intention to become an operative or financial partner in such a venture; nor is it the Government's intention to become directly involved in the relocation of that site. Such commercial decisions rest entirely with the wholesale marketing arm of the industry, and I am sure that the Minister would agree with that statement. Massive inquiries have been undertaken for the purpose of deter-



mining the merits of such moves; indeed, one major exercise was instigated by the previous Government. All confirm that the present site, with appropriate upgrading, lends itself most favourably as the preferred distribution centre.

When moving his motion the member for Salisbury, at least in the last session, appears to have overlooked facilities available to the market garden industry, and I would say that applies now, because the member for Salisbury has reintroduced the same motion. Within the Department of Agriculture and the extension services area of the department, a great effort has been made by this Government to do everything possible to overcome those difficulties and to extend facilities to those market gardeners and to the industry in general. Quite apart from those matters raised by the Minister a short while ago, a tomato industry committee was specifically set up for the purpose of assisting growers in the packaging, presentation and marketing of their product. At no time has this Government failed to recognise the tremendous job that is being done by our market gardeners in South Australia, and the Government has undertaken again and again, through the Department of Agriculture, to provide the technical and advisory assistance that that worthy industry deserves.

I am aware of the hard work put into those properties and into the industry by many people in the Adelaide Plains area, and particularly in my electorate, embracing the district of Virginia and Two Wells. All members of the House would readily recall the prompt attention given to the Northern Plains region and other horticultural regions of the State following the disastrous storm in November 1979. I would like to just dwell on that a moment. I recall very vividly—

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** We will never forget it.

**Mr RUSSACK:** As the Minister has said, we will never forget it, because this Government had been in office for no longer than two months when a disastrous hailstorm swept through some of the market gardening areas, particularly the Two Wells and Virginia area, smashing many of the glasshouses. Much of the fruit was ripe, but it was unsaleable, because splinters of glass were embedded in it. Many people were placed in financial as well as other difficulties.

I recall very vividly the Minister's attending several meetings, one during the day at Virginia, where several hundred growers attended. In the Two Wells hall a little later a follow-up meeting was held, and I had the privilege of attending both meetings, as did the member for Salisbury, and great interest was displayed. The Government did everything in its power to make carry-on finance available at a low interest rate. If my memory serves me correctly, about \$200 000 or more was made available. It is unfortunate that some growers have found difficulty in the repayment of some of that money.

I would like to thank the Minister very much for acting as he did in the Virginia area. Mr Barry Phipps is now stationed in that area and will be kept usefully busy in his job of advising the growers in that particular region. As we have heard only this afternoon from the Minister, a second officer spends some considerable time in that area for the purpose of offering facilities, advice and assistance to the growers in every possible way.

I know that my remarks have applied principally to the growers and market gardeners in the North Adelaide Plains region, but I make no excuse for that, because it is from that region that a substantial quantity of our fresh produce is derived, and our local markets receive a variety of vegetables from that area. I have always endeavoured to be informed on this industry. Some producers (or processors) in that area have gained overseas markets, so, as well as interstate markets, overseas markets have been gained for

our vegetables. I recall very vividly the enterprise of the Zerella brothers in this area.

Modern processing machines are used in the preparation of carrots, potatoes and onions for export interstate and overseas. Growers are to be commended, as are many other people in that area. I have had discussions with the Fruit-growers and Market Gardeners Society, which is interested in the matter. The membership of the society is made up of growers from the general markets and recently a very successful conference was held, opened by the Minister of Agriculture (if my information is correct).

The interest in this industry is not only local, because produce is exported to interstate and overseas markets. The manager of the society suggested to me that the society is something like a service club, such as Lions, Rotary or Kiwanis, and that it is a progressive association with national and international interests and ties. The society has various committees, under the lead of a chairman or a president, something like the committees that come under the United Farmers and Stockowners in regard to grain, fruitgrowers, sheep or cattle. The society has a celery committee, a tomato committee, an onion committee, a potato committee, and so on, under good leadership.

However, problems have been experienced in tomato production. It would be fair to say that Queensland has taken over many of the markets in Melbourne and Sydney. A very prominent market gardener told me only yesterday that some 15 years ago his father, who has since passed on, after having visited Queensland, determined that Queensland growers would take over some of the markets from South Australian growers. There was a time when tomatoes from South Australia were freighted to Melbourne by rail. Prior to freighting, inspections took place to maintain a standard acceptable to the interstate markets. There was a transition from rail freight to road transport, and the same inspectorial process was continued. However, some growers sought other means of transport and lower standard produce found its way to the markets, which might have had a bearing on the loss of some interstate markets.

I know that the Department of Agriculture has attempted to give guidance on the different varieties that come from other sources. Consideration in this regard can only help South Australia. Onions, potatoes, and tomatoes were three of the main products, but onions are quickly taking over from tomatoes in regard to quantity of production. There is a very keen market for celery at present, and sprouts are gaining popularity, resulting in increased production.

Last night I talked to a very successful grower, and I endeavoured to ascertain what would be necessary to solve some of these problems and to revitalise the industry in some areas. It has been suggested that there should be one organisation, in which all growers should take an interest. I understand that the Queensland growers are very well organised and all pay a levy, as wool producers pay for promotion purposes. Queensland market gardeners have entered into a scheme whereby promotion officers have been successful in maintaining a market and improving sales in Sydney. A full-time promotion officer in Sydney is supported by the Queensland levy, and there is interest in research and marketing.

During the past 10 years, because of the conditions, there has been a big reduction in the number of growers. There are half as many growers now as there were 10 years ago. The grower to whom I spoke (who has been very successful) stated that three things are necessary: the produce must be of the right variety, and that must be determined; the fruit or vegetables must be available at the right time; and the produce must be of the right standard. In the main, that man grows onions, potatoes and celery, but he believes that these days a grower must specialise. With his interstate

markets, he is able to determine when onions, potatoes and celery should be exported to those markets and in what quantity.

He has found that consistency is very necessary. One must provide produce in the same amounts each year, at the right time, with a constant level of supply each week. That man maintains that that can be achieved by good management, by looking ahead, and by planting at the right time so that the product will be available when required. Not so long ago, that grower supplied onions, potatoes and celery, but when there was a glut of onions on the market, he found that he could not sell his supply.

He had discussions with agents who considered the quality of his produce so good that they have assured him that this will not happen again; he is now involved in a scheme of presale overseas. His product will be received on the basis of the same quantity at the right time, the right standard each year, and the right variety. A reduction has occurred, mainly in tomatoes, where there are possibly too many growers for the local market. I pass on those points from someone involved in the industry. A number of growers on the Adelaide Plains have had the advantage of moving from the metropolitan area, where their families were well established over the years, acquiring land in the Northern Adelaide Plains, and being able to finance setting themselves up. They also have skill and expertise.

I know that the member for Salisbury is very interested in assisting those small growers with facilities, that expertise, and all the information available, and, possibly, with scientific knowledge. The Department of Agriculture has done much in this respect. I again refer to the appointment of a permanent officer and a part-time officer to assist in providing the necessary information to growers in the Virginia and Salisbury areas. Some sections of producers meet monthly. Potato growers meet once a month in Virginia. Almost without exception at that meeting there is open discussion, and officers from the Department of Agriculture are present. I am sure that, if growers came together in an organised manner such as this, they would be able to obtain the necessary assistance. I know that the honourable member was very interested in establishing a local market in the Salisbury area. At that time, he did everything he could to assist his constituent. I notice that she became a councillor in the last local council elections.

At that time the Minister received deputations. He offered to negotiate with local government bodies concerning that matter. He did what he could to assist in that local area. Today, the Minister of Agriculture has replied in detail to the points raised by the member for Salisbury. I appreciate this opportunity to reinforce my support for the attention given to that industry by the present Government.

I am concerned about the Salisbury and Virginia water supply. Some people are unable to obtain adequate underground water. The previous Minister of Transport (Hon. G. Virgo), who was in office when the Two Wells to Virginia by-pass was being installed, listened to the local people. To my knowledge, provision was made that at some time, if it could be arranged, water from Bolivar, instead of going to waste, could be reticulated under the road to the eastern side of Port Wakefield Road and used.

I wonder sometimes whether there should be a reconsideration of water permits and licence allocations in that area. I do not suggest for one minute that water should be taken from those who find adequate use for it. Perhaps the years have gone by and it could be considered that other market gardeners could obtain further quantities of water necessary for continuation of the industry. I know also that some market gardeners have had to find other employment to make it possible for them to continue. I feel for those people. I understand their position. I do hope that something

can be done so that they can be more self-reliant, increase their productivity and standards, and find suitable markets. But, I commend all those people on the Adelaide Plains, particularly those in the Virginia area, which is unique. It has a particular soil that is very responsive to and suitable for market gardening. I have no doubt that this will continue. That area will continue to supply demands for fresh vegetables in many varieties, not only for Adelaide but for other States and overseas. For the reasons that I have stated and those outlined by the Minister, which I support, the department is doing all it can. Expertise, knowledge, information and facilities are being offered to the growers. On that basis, I cannot support the member for Salisbury's motion.

**Mr EVANS (Fisher):** My background has made me conscious of difficulties suffered by market gardeners for as long as I can remember, except in one or two freak years, particularly in the war years. In saying I oppose the motion, I am conscious that I speak from some knowledge of the industry, even though that knowledge now is less than I had in the past. I know that the real problem with market gardeners is their inherent independence. When there was a boom, there were good prices and there was not an over-supply; agreed prices by different committees used to stand. When there was a glut, an over-supply, some growers would have to take produce home, if the agreed price, which was somewhere near at least a paying cost price, was to stand; then the tendency used to be to sell the product under the price and, if possible, without one's mate knowing. That has been inherent in the industry, from what I was told by my father and grandfather, since before the turn of the century. I suppose that, wherever individuals work in their own small businesses or sometimes big businesses, that independent streak is the very thing that makes people take it on and survive. I will go back to what I can remember of the East End Market.

I think I first went there in 1939, when I was nine years of age, to help my father. I used to leave home at 3 a.m. and my primary school teacher used to wonder why I sometimes went to sleep during classes. A lesson was soon learnt one day, because a man clipped me over the ears, saying that I had not sold him a dozen pounds of beans, that the scales only balanced. He wanted them to go down so that he could weigh them in 12 individual lots, which was the usual practice, but he was getting a dozen pounds in terms of scale weight. He clipped me under the ears and told me that I was not doing the right thing; that incident caused me to shed some tears. An elderly man in the market, a packer or a merchant, told me that I had to learn to take it. He said that if all the doors were shut at that market except one at the north and one at the south, and for the first time everyone was told that they had to make an honest decision and that the honest ones were to go out by way of the northern exit and dishonest ones by way of the southern exit, one would not see too many people going out by way of the northern exit.

That was not much of a beginning for a young guy. Everyone was dealing in cash and disposing of their loads very rapidly. Supermarkets were not in vogue at that time. I might point out that my experience with the market is the only connection in terms of background that I had with the recently deceased Sir Thomas Playford. One saw people coming into that market and selling their goods. I well remember a time in 1956 when cauliflowers were 36s a dozen, which was a goldmine price. At that time the Chairman of the Cauliflower Committee came back and said, 'Son, they are back to 30s today,' and I replied 'All right.' About two hours later one of my customers came back and me and told me that I had fleeced him for the best price, that other sellers were charging only 24s, but that I had

charged him 30s. At that time I was older, more than 21 years old, and doing the marketing myself. That taught me a lesson, namely, to trust not even a chairman of a committee advising the price on behalf of the committee. At that time I advised the Chairman of the committee that, from that point on, I would sell at whatever price I could get, and that I did not wish to be advised by him.

The second lesson I learnt was that people did not keep to the agreed price as far as fellow growers were concerned. If the honourable member's suggestion on a form of control guaranteeing the selling price of goods were to be implemented, someone would have to grade the quality of each consignment of vegetables, which would be done at a cost. The end result of that would be that the consumer would have to pay for that, as would the grower. That type of thing never affects the people in between. Anyone who believes that the person in between can be eliminated is fooling himself, and I refer to the member for Salisbury in that regard. I will come back to that point later. If one attempted to do that, the very independence that is inherent in the vast majority of growers would incline them to the opinion that they do not want more regulations and controls. The only time that they want controls (and this was the way I felt, also) is when they cannot sell goods at a price that will guarantee a profit.

Another factor we should consider is that in the past virtually no-one had a cold room of any description. In months when there was rapid growing of plants and vegetables, with crops maturing quickly, there was usually a glut, but produce could not be stored and kept for a couple of days in order to spread the glut. The position now is that goods can be stored for a week or even longer if deep frozen by supermarket chains or other individuals with the necessary facilities. In the past, that could not be done, and the alternative was to take the produce home to use as a sideline in the way of fodder for sheep and cattle. The improvements in storage facilities these days allow a grower to sell his crop at the best price.

At about the time that General Motors-Holden's was getting established, as well as other industries of a similar nature, 24-hour operation was introduced, and that was really a hangover from the war years and the munition factories, and so on. Further, there was a massive influx of migrants from other lands and there was the opportunity for people working shiftwork at night to work with their families at other times and produce vegetables on the family allotment in order to supplement their income. Usually such income gained from this practice was not taxable, because it was not able to be traced. Those people who moved into the industry quite often did not have the opportunity to go to market, so they found a friendly greengrocer to sell their produce on the side of the road at whatever price he could get. This had a direct effect on the commercial growers relying upon vegetable growing as their sole means of surviving.

People working those small operations were called backyard operators. The matter concerning the way they sold their goods was not only the problem. Another problem was that they did not necessarily control all the pests and diseases that affect the industry. Therefore a backyard operator in close proximity to a large commercial operator who did not control pests that could fly or diseases that could be transmitted through the air by wind placed a commercial grower at a disadvantage by having to provide more sprays in an attempt to control pests and save his crops. If a backyard operator lost a crop, all he lost was some labour time, and he could still rely on wages coming in from another source. Further, he had not spent money to control the pests that a commercial operator had to do. However,

a large commercial operator relying on his crops for his livelihood is placed at a disadvantage in that situation.

Smaller growers then took the attitude that they wanted to get into the industry on a bigger scale and rented blocks of land next door or land elsewhere and also went in for glasshouses. I am not reflecting adversely on people who came from other countries, but because of their background they were able to work hard to obtain cash, making the decision whether or not to pay tax. They were able to buy homes and become larger operators, with the thought always in mind that such a venture would be profitable. However, when such growers went into the business on a bigger scale they found that they were then obliged to be more accountable for controlling pests and diseases. Further, they were obliged to take account of their income tax position, because of the methods available for checking on the operations of big operators.

Such growers then found that the business was not as profitable as they had thought it would be. They all then started putting down bores. The member for Goyder mentioned that this put a strain on the aquifers below the Adelaide Plains. First, people drilled down to the gravel bed at 80 feet to 120 feet, but when the water level began to drop they then drilled in the coral down to the next aquifer at a depth of up to 250 feet.

Governments then had to bring in controls to say how much water people could use. That was a restriction that people in the industry did not like. As the member for Goyder said, they had good and pliable soil to work. It was easy to keep down the weeds compared to some of the heavier soils. They could work it on more days of the year. The climatic conditions did not affect it as much and the drag or draught in drawing implements was not as heavy on fuel costs.

So, the growers in those areas had water control. However, the honest people who put in a report on how much they used in the previous five years before controls were brought in got what they deserved but the dishonest people, who inflated their figures (and there were many of them), were given an unfair advantage. Nobody was prepared to correct it, and that was another problem which they faced.

The member for Salisbury referred also to the subdividing of market garden land and the spread of the city sprawl. I regret that. I can remember when the plants for the hills growers and for the Piccadilly Valley were grown on the Adelaide Plains in the winter months ready for the spring planting because it was too cold in the hills to give them an initial start. I recall also the Lockleys area, which was one of the best market garden areas in the State, along with Sturt, Campbelltown, Felixstow and the river flats. Some of the soil was heavy to work, especially in the Campbelltown area. It was difficult but it was rich and when growers first started to work it transport was easy, it was horse drawn, and it was followed by pneumatic-tyred vehicles operating close to the city. When growers moved out to Virginia and other areas the travelling time was no greater than the original travelling time when people started in other areas.

We did force out the growers. Many of them were too small to survive in today's climate. Since the war years we have seen the big firms move in. I remember when canned peas became the big thing: in 1945 I was involved in picking peas at Mount Compass. It boomed until we were mass producing all sorts of vegetables. That had an effect on the industry to the point where we can now pick brussel sprouts with machines, which was something no-one ever dreamt of on the cold frosty mornings when one would get frost-bite when picking by hand.

So, the industry changed to the point where it was difficult for the small grower to survive. The small grower has brought it about himself in recent years when he started

dealing direct with retailers and little shops and began selling from roadside stalls. He forced others to compete with him. The bigger growers were able to do it at a lesser cost at times. The bigger growers opened cold stores and were able to export (because they had a bigger quantity) even if only to other States. That was another problem small growers faced. The honourable member speaks about looking at the whole industry. He wanted to look at the packers and the retailers.

When the honourable member mentioned the price of commodities and the price paid for tomatoes, he said that he used the price stated in the *Advertiser*. I guarantee that there has never been a grower or packer in this State who has accepted the price stated in the *Advertiser* as being anywhere near accurate. That is the price which the market might start off at and later in the day people will agree to a price depending on sales and on what is home for the next days market. The member said he used it only as a comparison. He never set out to say how much it cost the packer to run his operations. The *Advertiser* price is not the packer's price. It is not the price paid to the grower. It is an average paid overall and some are going back to greengrocers which is the position that the honourable member did not mention.

A greengrocer owns his own premises, has a massive capital outlay and has all the problems of paying employees as does the grower. True, some small operators may not employ others. If he does not own the premises, the rent charged for shops nowadays is quite high. To suggest that we need an institute to look into the industry is not right. To a degree the industry will always govern itself and there will always be some coming and going. If we set out to fix the prices and quality through some marketing system, we will find that we will push up the costs for the consumer. I would hope the honourable member will rethink the situation and accept that the Government is tackling the problems. The East End Market does need upgrading. It belongs to private operators: people in the industry who started out in the market gardening game had foresight. Over the years there have been opportunities to buy shares, although it is more difficult today because it is a prime piece of real estate. The market needs upgrading.

One form of control which some people would like to see is in regard to selling goods in the East End Market from a fixed starting time. One would then not be able to sell before the starting time. Anyone dealing with central markets or outside that circle are able to deliver when they like. They are the people causing many of the troubles within the industry. If we are going to set out to control that, we are moving into another area of control in the industry. It is another case of the big getting bigger and the small getting smaller.

It is a difficult industry in which to judge quality because it differs from season to season. No two growers produce products of identical quality: it is not possible. We can get an average but the negotiator buying might say that one is worth more than another. If we are to control that, we will have problems similar to those that we have now. I am happy if the growers themselves could come to an agreement to accept controls and, if they break the controls, they will incur substantial fines. That is the only way the controls will work. However, knowing the inherent anti attitude within the growers minds towards controls (especially some who have come from other lands and who have used their independence to progress), if we try to do that we will have an even hotter potato on our hands than we have at the moment.

Supply and demand has been another problem. We have lost some of our other markets to Darwin because we did not have a good road through to Darwin. We have lost it

because Western Australia has found other land to work closer to the Northern Territory markets. Queensland has had a road put through and can beat us in many areas. We have had the ludicrous situation where that area of Australia most closely tied to us is lost: in the Northern Territory we have lost much opportunity, and I hope that in the future we get it back, particularly with the upgrading of the Stuart Highway and the railway.

Packers believe they are disadvantaged. They struggle to survive and some have failed over the years. That also applied to growers, greengrocers as well as those packaging vegetables and selling them through that system rather than acting as merchants. I do not know the answer. The member can request that a committee of inquiry be set up to solve the matter, yet from all the meetings held and all the evidence given, the Department of Agriculture is tackling the problem as well as it can. With proposals for feasibility studies still going on and with the people still looking at upgrading the East End Market, I support that site as being one of the best.

I have agreed with some of the people at the market to meet them one morning and to talk about their new problems as they see them. I will do that and some of my colleagues may want to go along, also. I remember the mad rushes there, and I remember all of the arguments, especially when times were tough. When things were selling well, prices were good and supplies were short, you did not see anybody about the place after 9 or 9.30 a.m.: they had all gone back to their gardens. However, when it was hard to sell that was when the complaints were made frequent, and that is what comes about with supply and demand. The grower who has a regular clientele and builds up his clientele, controls his growing, and manages his planting and looks after his crops properly is the one who survives. Those who want to sell to the highest bidder today and hope to sell while the glut is on are the ones who end up in trouble, because they want to play the field. The sincere operator who keeps his good customers and gives good service, the same as in any other business, is doing all right on average, even though in our present times of high wages, high cost of fertilisers, insecticides and pesticides, high taxes and council rates, he finds it more difficult. I sympathise with those operators, I respect the way they work hard, and I think that their industry will always have a place in our society. I oppose the motion.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury):** I am very disappointed in the Government's attitude, in that it has not seen fit to support my motion. I am disappointed, because much of the evidence that Government members themselves have provided in their speeches this afternoon highlights the fact that something needs to be done. I thought that the whole approach was summed up by the statement of the member for Fisher that he does not know the answer. My motion is merely trying to help him find the answer.

I appreciate that we are dealing with a very difficult area. Members will know that in the first session of this Parliament I moved a motion that specifically called for support for growers markets and for support for a vegetable research institute. Having been introduced to the many complex problems that face the market gardening sector of the agricultural economy, I realised how many problems were involved which needed further examination, and that is why in the second session my motion was modified to call for a joint committee.

The motion is reiterated in this session of Parliament, because indeed there are a large number of areas that need further investigation. I want to know why the Government should be so timid and coy about this matter, retreating from any attempt that might suggest that we look into the whole situation and come up with some options that could

be considered. I am particularly intrigued, because the suggestion may have been put that only one group of people might support the proposition that I have been putting, namely, the growers. I have argued long and hard on behalf of the market gardeners of this State and will continue to do so, because I believe that they play an important part in our State economy and that they are not receiving the support they should receive.

I have also acknowledged the role of other people in the market gardening economy: the packers, the merchants, the distributors and the retailers. It is interesting to note that I was approached by a representative of the people who handle the produce once it leaves the growers, seeking an appointment to discuss my proposition for a joint committee. That meeting finally took place yesterday, and I met with representatives from the associations representing the merchants, the retail fruit and vegetable traders and those involved at the East End Market, including the growers' official association. They all indicated that they would support the establishment of a joint committee. Here we have the official organisations dealing with all areas of market gardening production to the point of sale at the retail level, all indicating to me that they would be prepared and eager to see what a joint committee would discover.

Obviously each one of those people had different briefs to put, different arguments to make, because they are charged with the responsibility of looking after a particular segment of the industry in each case; be it the growers section, the merchant section, or the retail section, and each one of those naturally has different interests. But they can all see the merit of studying the situation. They acknowledge that all is not well and that the situation should be improved, and they indicated, as I say, their support for the joint committee. Yet here we have the Minister in the House, supported by various people who have been drummed up to support his case, to say, 'No, we will not support a joint committee.'

Now, I appreciate that it may be in the way of the forms of the House that a Government cannot bring itself to accept an Opposition motion. If that is the way members opposite want to play it, let them introduce a joint committee themselves. I indicated earlier that I would be prepared to withdraw this motion if I could have an undertaking from the Minister that he would initiate a motion doing this same thing. If he must have the fame of it, then so be it. I think the more important thing is the state of the market gardening section of the agricultural economy, not whether or not it ends up being my name or his name attached to it.

When I met yesterday with representatives from the merchants and retailers I found the conversation most interesting, because they pointed out to me a number of things which I have to admit I did not know. I learnt a lot. I also pointed out to them a large number of facts about how I see the market gardening industry, and we debated those points, and obviously we did not agree on all points, but it was a very worthwhile meeting and it reaffirmed in my mind just how useful the proposition I have put could be, because all these issues could be thrashed out in great detail, and, be it noted, in camera.

The Minister made the point before that it is inappropriate to drag before the House all of this information. Select committees, of course, in their discussions invariably operate in camera, and the same could happen again; not that I quite see why people should be so shy in putting their viewpoints on this matter. I am quite certain that representatives from various sectors of the industry would be quite happy to speak publicly about their position. I do not wish to take a long time, because we have other matters before the House, so I want to make a couple of quick closing comments.

The member for Fisher expressed some amazement at my comments about the prices quoted in the *Advertiser*, and he said sweepingly, 'Everyone knows that you never could accept the prices quoted in the *Advertiser*.' As the words tripped from his mouth, he did not realise that he was supporting the very contention I was making. What a farce the price reporting system has become. Has he told his colleagues who deal in shares, selling and buying them, to totally disregard the share list because it means nothing, that those prices are just figments of imagination, determined by the toss of a coin? Of course he does not, because we expect the share market prices to be an accurate reflection of what happens.

I am not suggesting that the prices quoted in the *Advertiser* are so capricious as to be determined by no more than the toss of a coin, but there is no reason at all why experience from overseas and interstate markets could not be examined, because the Minister of Water Resources, in a *sotto voce* interjection, has indicated that I have no idea at all. May I suggest that I did take the opportunity while overseas of looking at the price reporting mechanisms in other markets overseas, and I find that they have been able to establish mechanisms that accurately record prices obtained.

**Mr Evans:** Did you look at the cost of that and the cost of subsidies?

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** Let us let the joint committee do that. One may also comment on interstate markets, where more accuracy applies in some of those markets. The member for Fisher also said that I am intent upon eliminating the middle man, and that I never mention the greengrocer. I started off my motion this year by reminding members of comments I have made on other occasions. I did not think it appropriate to be repetitious by restating facts which I have previously stated on other occasions. But obviously the member for Fisher cannot think back that far, because on those occasions I pointed out my feelings on the role of the greengrocer who, I believe, still has the most important part to play in the retailing of fruit and vegetable produce.

If he goes back and looks at my comments on the hierarchy of fruit and vegetable outlets, he will see those comments made there. Likewise, the middle man still has a very important part to play in the whole procedure. My support for growers markets over the time, of course, has indicated that that would be only an outlet, not the sole outlet, but it would have its place in the hierarchy of distribution. I take on board the comments made by the member for Fisher about the serious cost disadvantages suffered by the packers, but I do hope that he has taken on board the facts that I have presented, facts given to me by market gardeners. I brought into this Chamber on the day I spoke the actual invoices given to me. If he is disputing those, they will be made available to him to have a look at, but seldom did I hear any comments from him indicating any concern about that.

Indeed, I was pleased to read in the July issue of *The Grower*, from the South Australian Fruit Growers and Market Gardeners Association, the comment about fruit and vegetable prices and the call for improving the growers' share of the profit cake which is at present very low; that was the quote from there. The member for Goyder said that I was supporting my constituent, referring to Miss Vicki Argirov, implying that that is all I am supporting. There is considerable unanimity of feeling amongst the market gardeners in my electorate, with whom I have much contact, and the support I get from all of them on this issue is very pleasing indeed. The article that the *Sunday Mail* chose to write a couple of weeks ago in fact commented on a number of other market gardeners, and for every one that has been mentioned so far in the media as coming from Salisbury, I can provide five more who could similarly underline the

comments I have been making about the need for assistance to the industry.

I close on this important point. My motion calls for a joint committee to give everyone in the industry a chance to have their say, put their case and discuss options. Secondly, it deals with three approaches needed, I believe, to assist the industry, no one of which will be sufficient to ensure the health of the industry. First, the question of wholesaling and retailing needs to be investigated, and the very fact that a feasibility study has been set up by those in the industry indicates that; secondly, there is the question of price reporting; thirdly, there is the need for technical assistance. I have told a number of people that no one of those by itself will solve the problems of the industry, but some improved effort in those three areas would be likely to. One by itself would still leave us with too many unanswered questions; taking the three, which the joint committee is invited to do, offers hope for a very important segment of our agricultural economy in this State.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (16)—Messrs Abbott, L.M.F. Arnold (teller), Bannon, M.J. Brown, Gregory, Hamilton, Keneally, Langley, McRae, Payne, Plunkett, and Slater, Mrs Southcott, and Messrs Trainer, Whitten, and Wright.

Noes (18)—Mrs Adamson, Messrs P.B. Arnold, Ashenden, Billard, Chapman (teller), Evans, Glazbrook, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Mathwin, Olsen, Oswald, Randall, Rodda, Russack, Schmidt, Tonkin, and Wotton.

Pairs—Ayes—Messrs Corcoran, Crafter, Duncan, and Hopgood. Noes—Messrs Allison, Becker, D. C. Brown, and Wilson.

Majority of 2 for the Noes.  
Motion thus negatived.

### LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 1 September. Page 912.)

**Mr SLATER (Gilles):** The matter that the member for Whyalla raises in this amendment to the Licensing Act deserves urgent attention, and I commend him for bringing the matter to the attention of this House and the community. The problem of under-age drinking of alcohol is not a new phenomenon: it has been with us for some time, but it has been accentuated in the past few years by the increase in the number of venues in hotels, which encourage young people to attend discos and similar entertainment.

Although the proposed amendment places the onus of proof of age on the consumer, it also places a further responsibility or onus on the licensee of the premises, on the basis that every reasonable precaution must be taken by the licensee to ensure that a person under 18 years of age is not supplied with alcoholic liquor. We should be aware, of course, that society accepts and really promotes a double standard in regard to alcohol, not only in relation to under-age consumption but also in regard to the consumption of alcohol generally.

In our consumer oriented society demands are made on the individual by way of promotion, marketing and advertising of the consumption of alcohol. I am not opposed to the consumption of alcohol, but I am opposed to its consumption in excess. In one sense consumption of alcohol is considered socially acceptable, with legislation providing the opportunity to do so, and we often have amendments before Parliament concerning the Licensing Act providing for the extension of opportunities for alcohol consumption. However, we also legislate concerning problems arising from

excess alcohol consumption; I refer particularly to random breath testing.

I noted with interest the comment of the Minister of Health in response to the member for Whyalla's remarks. The excuse offered by the Minister for not accepting the amendment (although she indicated that the Government was sympathetic) was that at some indeterminate time in the future the Licensing Act would be reviewed. I recall that the member for Whyalla asked, by way of interjection, when that was likely to be, although he did not receive any indication of when it was likely to occur.

**Mr Max Brown:** Nor did I receive it during Committee stages.

**Mr SLATER:** That is true. I am not prepared to accept the proposition that we should wait until the Licensing Act is reviewed, because certainly we do not know when that is likely to occur. I believe that the matter is one of some urgency and that we ought to be considering very seriously the proposition put forward by the member for Whyalla. I would like to know what action, if any, the Government proposes to take concerning the problem of under-age drinking. I agree that is difficult to police the matter, but legislative attention is urgently needed to obviate the adverse effects of alcohol on young people in our society in general.

I refer particularly to fatal road accidents. It is generally accepted, of course, that excessive alcohol consumption and driver inexperience are the main factors contributing to road accidents. Figures show that that is so. The publication titled *Road Trauma* indicates very clearly the position in regard to young drivers, as evidenced by statistics for accidents occurring particularly in the 17 years to 20 years age group. That publication is produced by the Royal Australian College of Surgeons and the Life Insurance Federation of Australia. I shall refer to those statistics on another occasion. I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

### STUDENT COUNSELLING SERVICES

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Lynn Arnold:

That this House calls on the Minister of Education to ensure that student counselling services are available as an element of staffing additional to direct teaching appointments at all colleges of technical and further education which provide adult matriculation courses.

(Continued from 1 September. Page 912.)

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury):** I understand that this matter is to go to a vote if there is sufficient time, although I take it that there may not be sufficient time for the ringing of the bells, in which case I shall make some concluding remarks which will lead to a vote being taken on the next day of sitting.

**The SPEAKER:** If the honourable member for Salisbury speaks he will close the debate.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** The Minister has indicated that he will oppose this motion, which I find disappointing, because really the motion is just a statement of where counselling should be in regard to colleges of technical and further education, especially in light of the fact that the Minister has said there is nothing substantially wrong with my motion. Of course there is not. It is quite a sound motion, and I appreciate the Minister's support about that. However, in one of these remarkable pieces of Parliamentary logic the Minister stated that there is nothing substantially wrong with it but that he does not intend to support it. I am reminded of the member for Playford, who late one night received that astounding—

*Members interjecting:*

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

### CLEAN AIR BILL

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON (Minister of Environment and Planning) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to minimise and control air pollution, and for other related purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

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

Leave granted.

### Explanation of Bill

Prior to July 1980, responsibility for air quality management and the prevention and control of air pollution was vested in the Minister of Health pursuant to regulations made under the Health Act, 1935-1978. The regulations were administered by the air quality section of the Health Commission. Recognition of the need to consider the broad environmental implications of air pollution in addition to the health aspects led to the transfer of administration of the clean air provisions of the Health Act from the Minister of Health to the Minister of Environment and Planning and the transfer of the Air Quality Section to the department for the Environment.

Proclamations effecting the transfer of the air quality section to the Department for the Environment and a delegation to the Minister of Environment of the relevant provisions of the Health Act, appeared in the *Government Gazette* on 10 July 1980. A subsequent delegation to the Minister of Environment and Planning was published in the *Government Gazette* on 18 June 1981. The quality of air in South Australia is currently governed by two sets of regulations made under the Health Act—the Clean Air Regulations, 1969-1981, and the Clean Air Regulations, 1972-1978.

The Clean Air Regulations, 1969-1981, prohibit the emission of 'dark smoke' except during certain specified periods of time. The regulations also prohibit the burning of open fires on land used as a tip except in certain areas specified in the schedule. In those areas open burning requires the approval of the local board of health. Open burning on land used for any other purpose always requires local board of health approval. The regulations apply only to non-domestic premises.

The Clean Air Regulations, 1972-1978, require the owner or occupier of premises to maintain fuel burning and control equipment so as to minimise air pollution, prohibit the emission of air impurities in excess of certain standards and establish a distinction between major or minor sources of air pollution by requiring registration of the former as 'scheduled premises'. Occupiers of such premises may not operate without first obtaining a certificate of registration which is subject to conditions the Health Commission considers appropriate for the control of air pollution. These regulations also apply only to non-domestic premises. The delegation of power by the Minister of Health has permitted administration of the above regulations by the Department of Environment and Planning. Nevertheless, there is, I believe, a need for new legislation to give the Minister of Environment and Planning direct responsibility for administration of air pollution legislation.

In my view, the proposal is a key piece of environment protection legislation in that measures to control air pollution will be contained within one comprehensive enactment rather than scattered throughout a variety of statutory instruments such as indentures, local government by-laws and the like. The quality of air enjoyed by the citizens of South Australia is excellent relative to many of the other highly developed regions of the world. However, the increasing amounts of pollutants emitted and changes in fuels used require careful management to ensure this air quality is maintained. Although the present Regulations have achieved significant success, through experience gained in their administration, it has become apparent that there is a need to clarify certain matters. In addition, changing emission patterns have indicated the need to introduce some controls not now available in the regulations.

The Bill is designed to meet these needs. A first draft of the Bill was circulated to various interested organisations for comment, together with a detailed explanatory paper. Subsequently, submissions received were considered and discussions held with their authors. In addition, the Clean Air Committee established under the present regulations considered and commented upon the Bill. As a result of this fairly extensive discussion, amendments to the Bill were made and I believe the Bill achieves the desired balance between the needs of industry and the aspirations of the community.

As with the Clean Air Regulations, the Bill makes a distinction between industries which are a major source of air pollution and those which are a minor source. The former will be prescribed by regulation ('prescribed activities'), and occupiers of premises from which those activities are conducted may not operate without a licence and must comply with conditions attached to that licence. Proposed regulations to follow passage of the Bill will contain a list of 'prescribed activities' essentially the same as the 'scheduled premises' listed in the present Clean Air Regulations. Occupiers of all premises, whether these are major or minor air pollution sources, must comply with the general control provisions.

In many respects the Bill parallels the Clean Air Regulations. However, some additional or altered provisions have been included and I believe these are of sufficient importance to warrant separate explanation. I shall now deal with each of these in turn.

#### 1. Consideration of Approval and Licence Applications:

Further developing a provision of the regulations, the Bill requires that 'prescribed activities' must be operated pursuant to the conditions of a licence and that approval must be obtained prior to the construction or alteration of premises from which it is proposed to conduct a 'prescribed activity'. The Bill does, however, differ from the regulations in that it specifies those matters which will be taken into account in determining an application for approval or a licence such as location, technology, meteorology, public health, effects on property and the like. Further, it provides that either type of application may be refused on the ground that the proposed operations would give rise to an unacceptable level of air pollution. The present regulations neither specify the matters considered on licence or approval applications, nor permit a licence application to be refused.

A major weakness of the present system is considered to be its failure to give the responsible department a clear mandate to influence operations at the development stage. This emphasis must currently be placed upon policing of standards after the erection of premises and installation of equipment. Incorporation of pollution control measures at this late stage can often require major changes in process design and added expenditure on equipment. Consideration at the development stage has been included to alleviate

those problems. The criteria to be taken into account on licence or approval applications are those presently taken into account on such applications and thus no practical change will result. The inclusion of those matters will however permit industry at the planning stage to take note of the types of considerations which will induce a favourable response to its application, and, effectively, to obtain approval 'in principle'. The power to refuse an approval or licence provides further flexibility.

At present, the fact that a licence must be granted upon request can lead to the imposition of stringent operating conditions. It is believed that effective exercise of this new power will benefit not only the community, which gains by the location of industry in less sensitive areas, but industry itself which, as a result of being located in acceptable areas, will receive more attractive operating conditions.

#### 2. Best Practicable Technology:

The Bill requires the use of best practicable technology where no emission standards have been prescribed. Although no formal statement to this effect is made in the present regulations, the approach is embodied in regulation 12 which requires that 'economic and technical considerations' and 'conditions local to the premises' must be taken into account prior to giving notice requiring action to be taken pursuant to that regulation.

The best practicable technology approach evolved in the United Kingdom and has for some time been a feature of clean air legislation in New South Wales and Queensland. The concept is considered an essential component of the legislation since, in many cases, it will not be possible to prescribe suitable emission standards. The approach is specifically applied where air pollutants are generated from a large area source.

#### 3. Control of Odours:

Complaints of odorous emissions constitute the majority of air pollution complaints received by the Department of Environment and Planning. Accordingly, included in the Bill is a provision which prohibits the emission of excessive odours from premises. An odour will be regarded as excessive if it is detected at the point of complaint by an authorised officer and is, in his opinion, offensive, likely to cause discomfort and, in all of the circumstances, excessive. A defence for the non-intentional or non-negligent release of odour has been included. In addition, the Minister has power to grant a total or conditional exemption from compliance with the section.

This provision to control odours is not entirely new since the definition of 'air impurity' in the present Clean Air Regulations includes odours and thus some control has been available through the giving of an order to rectify operations. Effective control has not, however, been possible as identification of the source and/or the particular pollutant(s), a prerequisite to the issue of an order, is frequently extremely difficult. It is believed, further, that this provision offers a way to serve the interests of both the public, which does not wish to be subjected to offensive odours, and industry, which may encounter great difficulties in completely eradicating such odours, by permitting conditional exemptions.

Conditions attached to an exemption may require that certain changes be made to lessen odorous emissions, and subsequent review could result in variation of those conditions as the odour problem is reduced. Thus industry is given time to work toward resolution of its odour problem and progress towards this end is ensured by governmental review of exemption.

#### 4. Powers of the Minister:

The present regulations endow the Health Commission with powers to require that certain action be taken. A clause in the Bill parallels this provision, but states in greater detail what actions may be required or activities prohibited. It is

considered that all the actions specified may need to be taken from time to time; their inclusion is necessary to ensure the Act is workable. A provision of this nature is in fact the primary means for dealing with justifiable complaints by the public about environmentally unacceptable discharges.

For example, the power to order cessation of operations, which has, in the past, been exercised on a few occasions each year, is regarded as essential in order to cope with nuisance situations where action is required to prevent the occurrence of damage to health or property. In all instances where this power has been exercised, an acceptable alternative method of operation has been made available, and when adopted, operations have been permitted to recommence with impunity.

A new clause permits the Minister to prohibit the use of fuels and equipment in certain situations where he considers air pollution is occurring or is likely to occur to such an extent that it presents a danger to public health or to property, animal or plant life or may have a serious adverse effect on the environment. The provision, which is not in the present regulations, is modelled on section 24 of the New South Wales Clean Air Act 1961, which endows the Minister with power to prohibit use of fuel, fuel burning equipment or industrial plant in certain areas or to prohibit open burning.

For South Australia, the types of situations where a provision such as this may be utilised are two-fold. First, where meteorological conditions remain static for a number of days, thus permitting a build-up of pollutants, an order pursuant to this clause could prohibit, for a short period only, until weather conditions improve, the use of certain types of fuel likely to exacerbate the situation. Secondly the provision could be used to prohibit totally the use of a certain type of fuel in a particular area. The likelihood of a reversion to the use of energy sources with high pollution potential such as coal is increasing with rising energy costs. It may well be desirable to prohibit the use of such fuels in particularly sensitive areas, such as the central business district where tall buildings inhibit dispersion of pollutants and consequently nuisance and damage to health and property is greatest. In New South Wales the power has been used in this manner to restrict the use of high sulphur fuels which can cause damage to property through formation of corrosive air pollutants.

Another new clause provides that, where a notice or order is not complied with, the Minister may cause work to be carried out and recover the reasonable costs and expenses incurred in exercising this power. This provision is frequently found in environmental and other types of legislation. Where remedial action is required after an air pollution incident, it is considered reasonable for the person or body responsible to bear the cost. It may not, however, possess the necessary facilities, and in these circumstances the required action may be taken by the Government and the cost recovered.

#### 5. Authorised Officers' Power To Require Action:

The Ministerial powers referred to above do not provide adequate means of dealing with emergencies where air pollution is likely to be injurious to public health or cause serious discomfort or inconvenience. A new clause thus provides that in these circumstances an authorised officer may require such action as he thinks necessary for stopping, controlling or mitigating the pollution. This provision is not contained in the Clean Air Regulations but similar provisions exist in the Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act, 1972, and the Mines and Works Inspection Act, 1920-1978, where inspectors for the purposes of those Acts may require occupiers to take remedial action in emergencies.

The situations where it is envisaged that an authorised officer would make use of the powers conferred by this clause are as follows.



First, where outside normal working hours there is an occurrence of air pollution which threatens grave risk to health or property. For example, users of the soil fumigant chloropicrin, may fail to water the soil after use, thus permitting the escape of particularly offensive lachrimatory (tear causing) gases. On one occasion, when this occurred at night, the afflicted area had to be evacuated, because there was no power to order remedial action. Where this occurs, it is obviously desirable that an authorised officer should be permitted to require watering of the affected area immediately rather than wait until the following day to obtain an order from the Minister. It is not expected that use of the power in this sort of situation would happen more than once or twice a year. During normal working hours decisions of this nature would be left to the Minister.

The second type of situation where it is envisaged that the power would be used would be to require on-the-spot rectification of omissions or practices, for example, where through carelessness or otherwise, a cover is left off a materials handling system thus permitting the emission of dust or where a filter system is bypassed.

#### 6. Criteria Considered in Formation of Opinions:

Several provisions of the Bill, as with the Clean Air Regulations, permit its administrators considerable discretion in the exercise of powers. Unlike the regulations, however, the Bill specifies the criteria which must be taken into account when forming the opinion which must necessarily precede the exercise of power. These criteria are as follows: current technology, the ability of an occupier of premises to apply such technology, location, topography, meteorology, effect on public health and well-being, effect on flora and fauna, and effect on property. They are neither more nor less than matters that are currently taken into account in the decision-making process.

In summary, I believe that this Bill will go a long way towards improving the control of air pollution in this State. I must add, however, that industry in this State is, in the main, conscientious in its efforts to control pollution, and the relationship between the department and pollution-prone industries is good. The department is seen by most as a welcome adviser in a highly technical area. The Bill is perhaps only for those few who choose to disregard the interest of the wider community and the environment at large in carrying out their operations.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the Act upon proclamation. Clause 3 sets out the arrangement of the Act. Clause 4 provides necessary definitions. It is made clear in the definition of fuel-burning equipment that the Act does not apply to motor vehicles. The Act does apply, by virtue of the definition of motor vehicle, to cranes, vessels and railway locomotives. The activities for which a licence must be obtained will be set out in the regulations.

Clause 5 provides that the Act does not apply in relation to household cooking or stoves. Small incinerators used on domestic premises and serving no more than three households do not fall within the ambit of the general body of the Act, nor does the burning of garden refuse by open fire on domestic premises. The exceptions to this exclusion are the provisions of Part VI allowing for the making of regulations prescribing the types of incinerators that may be used on any premises, and the enforcement of any such regulation.

Clause 6 binds the Crown. Clauses 7 to 14 establish the Clean Air Advisory Committee whose functions are to set objectives and formulate policies relating to clean air, to monitor the administration and operation of the Act, and to make recommendations to the Minister for changes and improvements. The committee will consist of 10 people chosen from a wide range of areas of interest and expertise.

Clause 15 provides that a person who proposes to construct or alter premises, or to install or alter plant or equipment, for the purpose of carrying out a prescribed activity in respect of which no current licence under the Act exists, must obtain the approval of the Minister. The Minister may only refuse to give approval if he is satisfied that there would be air pollution from the premises that would contravene the Act, or that would be likely to pose a threat to public health or to cause serious discomfort or inconvenience to persons or damage to property. A person refused approval will have a right of appeal to the Air pollution Appeal Tribunal. The Minister is obliged, when considering an application for approval, to take into consideration the prescribed matters (these are set out in a definition in clause 4).

Clause 16 provides that a person shall not carry out a prescribed activity on premises unless he holds a licence to do so in respect of those premises. A three-month period is given for obtaining a licence under this Act after the Act first comes into operation. During that period, the current Health Act regulations will continue to apply. Clauses 17 and 18 deal with applications for licences and the grant of licences by the Minister.

Clause 19 provides that again a licence may be refused only where the Minister is satisfied that there would be air pollution from the premises that would contravene the Act, or that would be injurious to public health, etc. The Minister may not refuse a licence if he has already given approval to construct or alter premises, etc., under the previous section, except where the applicant failed to comply with the conditions of the approval. An unsuccessful applicant has a right of appeal.

Clause 20 gives persons carrying out prescribed activities at the commencement of the Act the right to be granted a licence. Clause 21 requires the Minister to take the prescribed matters (as defined) into consideration when determining applications for licences. Clause 22 provides that licences, once granted, do not have to be renewed. A licence holder may surrender his licence at any time.

Clause 23 empowers the Minister to revoke or suspend a licence where the holder is guilty of certain actions. Clause 24 provides that licences are not transferable from one holder to another. Clause 25 provides for the keeping of a register of licence holders. Clause 26 sets out a mandatory condition of all licences. A licence holder may not, without the Minister's approval, alter or change certain things that are specified in the licence, nor alter the premises or any plant or equipment (particularly fuel-burning equipment) where to do so would be likely to cause air pollution, or a change in the composition of impurities emitted from the premises. An approval may itself be subject to conditions.

Clause 27 provides that licences may be subject to further conditions if the Minister thinks fit. Clause 28 requires a licence holder to comply with the conditions of his licence. Clause 29 empowers the Minister to vary, revoke or waive conditions, and to impose further conditions at any time. Clause 30 obliges the Minister to take the prescribed matters into consideration when exercising his powers under this division relating to condition of licences.

Clause 31 places an obligation upon an occupier of premises (whether or not he is carrying out a prescribed activity) not to cause air pollution as a result of failure to maintain or operate fuel-burning equipment or control equipment properly, or through failure to handle or process goods properly. Clause 32 provides that certain classes of air pollution (to be prescribed by the regulations) must not exceed the standards or levels prescribed by the regulations. An occupier of premises who emits air pollution that is not covered by the regulations is under a general duty to take all reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate that air pollution.

The Minister has a power to exempt an occupier from any provision of this section, subject to conditions where appropriate.

Clause 33 provides that an occupier of premises must not cause the emission of an excessive odour. There is no technology for the measurement of odour, and therefore the test must be a subjective one. An authorised officer will have the task of determining whether an odour is excessive. A complaint will have to be lodged with the department by a member of the public, and the authorised officer will then have to be able to detect the odour at the point where the person making the complaint detected it. The officer may take proceedings if he believes the odour to be abnormal, and offensive to the degree that persons in the area ought not reasonably be expected to tolerate. The occupier of the premises has a good defence if he can establish that even with the exercise of reasonable diligence he could not have prevented the emission of the odour.

Clause 34 empowers the Minister to require the erection or alteration of chimneys on premises that contain any equipment that causes air pollution. Once a chimney has been provided, impurities may only be emitted into the air through that chimney, unless the Minister approves otherwise in relation to any specific occasion. Clause 35 empowers the Minister to require an occupier of premises to take certain specified action where the Minister believes that air pollution has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur. The Minister must consult with the occupier first before he issues a notice under this section. He cannot cause the total closing down of an entire operation unless he has first consulted with the Minister of Industrial Affairs. Clause 36 again requires the Minister to take the prescribed matters into consideration when exercising his powers under clauses 31 to 35.

Clause 37 deals with emergency situations where air pollution has occurred and is causing, or is likely to cause, injury to public health or serious discomfort or inconvenience to any person. An authorized officer may require any person in charge of the premises on the activity causing the pollution to take certain specified action. As this power is to be used in emergencies, the penalty for failing to comply with the notice is a maximum of \$10 000, with a default penalty of up to \$2 000 a day. The person has a defence if he could not reasonably comply with the notice.

Clause 38 empowers the Minister to prohibit the use of certain fuels, fuel-burning equipment or other equipment for a specified period where he considers air pollution has built up to an extent that it is injurious to public health, is causing undue damage or injury to property, plants or animals, or is having an adverse impact on the environment. This notice will be of general application, and not addressed to a specific person, but may be limited to a specified area.

Clause 39 empowers the Minister to cause an authorised person to enter premises where a notice issued under this Part has not been complied with, and to do such things as may be necessary to comply with the notice. An authorised person may not break into premises except upon a warrant issued by a justice, unless he believes it is an emergency situation. The Minister can recover any costs incurred by him under this section from the defaulting person. Clauses 40 to 45 establish the Air Pollution Appeal Tribunal, a three-man body chaired by a judge of the Local and District Criminal Courts.

Clause 46 gives any person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister made in relation to him a right of appeal to the tribunal. Any person to whom a notice issued by the Minister or an authorised officer relates also has a right of appeal. Any notice or decision appealed against is suspended pending the appeal, except for those notices issued under clause 37 or 38 that deal with emergency situations. Such a notice

will be suspended only upon order of the tribunal. Appeals are to be conducted as full re-hearings. Clauses 47 to 49 set out the usual powers and duties of a tribunal.

Clause 50 provides that decisions of the tribunal are final. Clause 51 provides for the appointment of authorised officers. Clause 52 sets out the powers of authorised officers. Licensed premises may be inspected at any time during working hours. Any premises (including licensed premises) may be entered or broken into at any time where the officer suspects on reasonable grounds that air pollution has occurred, is occurring or likely to occur. An officer may not break into premises except upon a warrant issued by a justice, unless he believes the situation to be an emergency.

Clause 53 provides the usual power of delegation for the Minister and the Director-General. Clause 54 gives the usual immunity from personal liability to those persons exercising powers under the Act. Clause 55 provides for the manner in which notices given under the Act may be used. Clause 56 creates an offence of divulging trade secrets or using trade secrets for gain, where the information has been obtained during the course of administering or enforcing the Act. Clause 57 provides the penalties for offences against the Act for which individual penalties have not been specified. Offences committed by companies attract penalties of up to \$10 000 with \$2 000 default penalties, while all other cases attract maximum penalties of \$5 000 and \$1 000 default penalties. The court may also order restitution of damage caused by the offence.

Clause 58 provides that offences are to be dealt with in a summary manner. Authorised officers and police officers are the only persons permitted to institute proceedings. Clause 59 sets out the necessary evidentiary provisions. Clause 60 is the usual appropriation clause. Clause 61 is the regulation-making power. It should be noted that open burning and incinerator burning on industrial and commercial premises, but not domestic premises, may be controlled by regulation. However the types of incinerators that may be used on all types of premises, including domestic premises, may be regulated. The composition of motor fuel used in motor vehicles may be regulated, but standards imposed may not be more stringent than those (if any) that are adopted by a majority of the other States and Territories, or failing this, than any standards published by the Standards Association.

The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Minister of Environment and Planning) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Health Act, 1935-1982. Read a first time.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

Its object is to remove those sections of the Act that empower the Governor to establish a Clean Air Committee, an Air Pollution Appeal Board, and to make regulations relating to clean air. The regulations made under these sections will be revoked successively as the new Clean Air Act comes into operation.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for commencement of the Act upon proclamation. Clause 3 repeals the sections dealing with the Clean Air Committee, the making of clean air regulations and the Air Pollution Appeal Board.

The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT secured the adjournment of the debate.

### SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

**The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD (Minister of Water Resources)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the South-Eastern Drainage Act, 1931-1980. Read a first time.

**The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD:** I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

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

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Bill

Its principal object is to provide for staggered elections of those members of the South-Eastern Drainage Board (a four-man board) who are landholders from the area. As the Act stands at the moment, the two landholder members are elected at the same time and hold office for a term of three years. Should both these members retire simultaneously, or both be defeated at an election, and the public servant members retire at or near the same time, the board would obviously lack experienced personnel. The board wishes to overcome this problem by providing in the Act for one landholder member to be elected at two-year intervals, and each to hold office for four years, thus ensuring a continuity of experience and minimising the disruptive effect changes in membership have on a board comprised of such a small number.

Under the Act at present the Minister is not obliged to consult with the board or seek its recommendation when the Governor appoints a chairman, and it is considered that such a procedure should be followed when future board chairmen are appointed.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that clause 4 of the Act is to come into operation after the completion of the next board election. This means that the current landholder members will serve their present three-year term, and that thereafter elections will be held at two-year intervals. Clause 3 provides that landholder members of the board will be elected for four-year terms of office. One of the members elected at the next election is to hold office for only two years, thus providing for staggered retirements.

Clause 4 provides for elections to be held every two years. Other consequential amendments are effected. This clause will come into operation after the next election is held under the Act. Clause 5 provides that the Governor shall not at any time appoint a chairman of the board unless the Minister has first consulted with the board and considered any recommendation the board may wish to make.

**The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT** secured the adjournment of the debate.

### PUBLIC FINANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's suggested amendment:

Page 2 (clause 3), after line 28—Insert subsection as follows:

(5) No consent or approval is required under this section in respect of a credit arrangement entered into by the Savings Bank of South Australia or the State Bank of South Australia

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

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendment be agreed to.

Obviously, as this is a financial Bill, the Upper House has been—

**Mr McRae:** We haven't got the amendment yet.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** I have only just received it, I will give members opposite an opportunity to examine this very detailed amendment. An anomaly has been picked up in the legislation as originally presented. Theoretically, it would be possible for a Government to apply the need for the Treasurer's consent relating to semi-government authorities for borrowing to the State Bank and the Savings Bank of South Australia. It would be totally impossible if such an approval were required every time those two financial institutions entered into transactions or borrowings of any kind. Quite obviously, that would be unworkable, and the Upper House has made this proper amendment to tidy up the legislation.

**The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT:** I thank the Premier for the opportunity to examine this very important amendment: he gave me 18 seconds, which is very generous of him. I also thank the Premier for his explanation because, for once, I am able to say that the Legislative Council has been of some value to the Lower House. The Opposition supports the amendment.

Motion carried.

### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. D.O. Tonkin:

That the proposed expenditures referred to in Estimates Committee A and Estimates Committee B be agreed to.

(Continued from 5 October. Page 1203.)

**Mr LANGLEY (Unley):** I must admit that this half-hour speech will probably be my last episode in this House, for the simple reason that it appears that it will not be long before an election is called. It is marvellous that we have a journalist called 'Onlooker' because, as he says, he seems to know everything. In fact, he seems to have first-class information from the Premier and Cabinet as to the date of the next election. There is one thing wrong with the article he wrote the other day about the District of Unley, although he also had a few words to say about other districts. However, most of the stories in the newspapers are about the Unley District. I assure members opposite that a lot of work has been done in the Unley District by the Labor Party and all its members.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** What's this?

**Mr LANGLEY:** The Minister of Agriculture has one great thing in his favour: he has never door-knocked his area. We have done that in Unley and we know how the people of this State are thinking. It will not be the greatest episode when a Labor Government is returned to power because there is not doubt that that will happen at the moment. The Minister of Agriculture tries to bait me into saying something wrong; I hope I do not do that tonight. I point out to the Minister that opinion polls all over Australia and in this State show that the Labor Party will achieve 54 per cent of the vote in this State. I assure members opposite that people are looking forward to the next election and hope that it will be called as soon as possible. They have heard enough about it over a long period of time. In fact, one reads about the election in tonight's *News*.

I do not always believe what I read in the press. However, I know that the people of this State are confident that when an election is called a Labour Government will be elected. I am very confident of that. I recently had an opportunity to sit on a Committee in this House where I asked questions of the Premier about unemployment. I know that every member of this House is concerned about unemployment, but let us look facts in the face. Since the Tonkin Government has been in office, South Australia has been at the top of the list of the mainland States with its number of unemployed people.

**Mr Mathwin:** That is not right.

**Mr LANGLEY:** The honourable member says that that is not right. However, I have figures prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from our excellent officers in the research department. I have been right through their figures from September 1979 to June 1982 (other figures are not yet available). Despite these figures the Premier told that Committee that what I am now saying is not correct. I even had a copy of this table inserted in *Hansard*, but that was not good enough for the Premier. People talk about Tasmania when speaking of unemployment, yet it was only in December 1981 that Tasmania rose to the top of this list.

One can see that over a period of years South Australia has had the highest number of unemployed people of all the States of Australia except Tasmania. I can assure honourable members opposite that this is the case. This is a terrible thing to happen in this State. We were promised so many jobs when the Premier came to power—21 000, if I remember correctly. No matter what anyone says, unemployment in South Australia has risen. Whatever jobs the Premier has got for the State (if they are not fictitious ones), as fast as he has got them people have been put off in other areas. I am not in charge of these matters; the Premier is, but the gimmicks that have been going on have done nothing to help the unemployed people in this State. Honourable members opposite must have people in their districts, as I have in mine, who do not like this happening, but, for goodness sake, do not blame the Opposition for this rise in unemployment, because the Tonkin Liberal Government is to blame for the unemployment figures in this State.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** Quieten down!

**Mr LANGLEY:** If the Minister does not know what I am talking about he can look at my previous speeches on this subject. The Minister is out of order in interjecting. Members of the Liberal Party have called people without jobs 'dole bludgers'. I can assure members opposite that the unemployed people in my district would be pleased if they could get jobs. The member for Goyder has said nothing during my speech, because he is a man who is always interested in fair play.

I have spoken a good deal on this matter. I am particularly worried about breadwinners and younger people with families, because they are hit the hardest. Only today I received a petition from 400 parents of children attending the Black Forest Primary School. I point out that there was a fire at that school some time ago, yet still today the classrooms have not been rebuilt. Over the last three years this Liberal Government has squandered \$140 000 000 of capital works money. I stress that the people who signed the petition to which I referred represent a large proportion of the total number of parents of children attending the Black Forest Primary School.

What worries me more is that schools throughout the State have been affected by this Government's cut-backs on capital works expenditure. Hardly anything has been done to schools within the Unley District, except for some minor repairs. The same point applies to the water supply and other spheres. And it must be borne in mind that people are out of work because these capital works have been cut back. Of course, the number of employees in the Public Buildings Department has been reduced. The Minister of Industrial Affairs says that no-one has been sacked but, if someone retires or leaves a job, no-one replaces that person. If this continues, it will not be long before no tradesmen are left in South Australia. Not one area has been boosted since the Liberal Government has been in power. Why did this Government not admit earlier that there was a recession?

This Government has done almost nothing during its term of office, and it can blame no-one but itself. When the

previous Labor Government left office, the Hon. Mr Corcoran said that the coffers of this State were left in good shape. However, reserves have been squandered by this Liberal Government, and it is now in a position of 'no return'. And it will not return to the Government benches. Of course, some members at present on the Government side will be returned, but the Labor Party will win between 25 and 27 seats at the next election. I refer now to the column in the *Sunday Mail* written by 'Onlooker'. The writer of the column is not game to give his name, but he should come to Unley and speak to the people there. I would like to spend some time with him, because I will be very surprised if the Labor Party does not win 55 per cent of the votes cast in the Unley District at the next election.

**The SPEAKER:** Can the honourable member say which line in the Budget refers to 'Onlooker'?

**Mr LANGLEY:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker, that I have not stuck to the Budget. I am worried about a vital area.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** You worry about all your area.

**Mr LANGLEY:** I am certainly concerned about my area. If the Minister can tell me that he has done that I will be very happy. I must admit one thing: when one goes around a district, one gets an idea of what is happening there. Last time there was a big swing. There will be a swing the other way next time. It does not have to be as great, in any case. I know for sure that last time the Government did a very clever thing in relation to succession duties. It was very clever, and the Government got the message over to the people. However, they have not got the message now, because taxes have gone up so much, as have the prices of little things such as groceries. Naturally, that can happen, but the taxation of this State has gone up so much now that the benefit that people thought they would get has gone. Very few people in my area would have to pay succession duties. Things have risen so much in that time, and people are behind the eight ball.

**Mr Slater:** Even the price of beer has gone up.

**Mr LANGLEY:** That is so, as has the price of smokes. I am not as perturbed about that, because people do not have to drink or smoke; but they must eat. Every person in this House should ask his wife or whoever does the shopping how much the prices go up from week to week in this State. There is no doubt that they are going up, and there is no control in any way. The people must eat.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr LANGLEY:** They could be, as the honourable member says. I do not like to say this, but the Minister of Agriculture has told us that we can buy meat now because it will be very dear around Christmas. That is one of the things that happens in life.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** Don't you agree?

**Mr LANGLEY:** I am not disagreeing. I am not an agricultural man. I do not know, so I would not like to say anything else. The Minister most probably is right. I do not mind that; that is one of the things that happens in life, but the prices have gone up all the time during the term of this Government. An example is hospital charges. It is nothing serious—up 110 per cent! Likewise, this occurs when one goes to the shop. However, do people, especially aged pensioners, have an opportunity to catch up with these types of things? The Liberal Government (or the Fraser Government—he says that he would like to have it that way) has done everything to these pensioners, who are living on the borderline all the time. I do not say all of them, but many of them, especially those who pay rent, have no hope of surviving for one week.

Then we came to the greatest thing of all time. When I asked the Minister of Health in the course of a debate here recently what would happen to a pensioner with an acute illness and there was no room in the hospital, 'No answer'

was the stern reply. What do honourable members think about that? The Minister said, 'The person should take a little bit of Medibank to cover himself.' However, any pensioner, whether a couple or single, who must pay rent does not have an opportunity to do these things. I thought that the Minister would be more appealing to these people, because she most likely has some in her own area. I remember what happened at the Magill Home. I can assure members opposite that that did not go down very well. I know that it was the Federal Government, but the Minister did not move very far, with section 34, when hospitals had pensioner beds. At Ashford Private Hospital in my district a number of beds were completely cut off. That is what Mr Fraser (if I can call him that) did—

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** So you should.

**Mr LANGLEY:** He is No. 1 for Sturt. I do not know what number the Minister is. I know where I am, I am on the interchange—no, I am out of that now: I was dropped after they lost the Premiership. But, I will retire undefeated. That is how much the Minister of Health thinks about people. I now come to another point that worries me. In my electorate there is a great ethnic population, including Greeks, Italians and other people who are now good Australians.

**An honourable member:** And Kangaroo Islanders?

**Mr LANGLEY:** I do not have any Kangaroo Islanders there. I visit my constituents and know what they require, but I cannot give them too much while I am in Opposition. Sometimes, though, I score. I know my constituents, and they are upset, because one thing that one cannot buy is good health and my constituents are not very well looked after by the Government of the day.

I know that members opposite want many strikes shortly. I know that just before the election members opposite want people in different departments that are controlled by the Government to go on strike. A certain strike was helpful to the Government last time. There is no doubt that the Government is going all out to cause industrial strife in this State, but it will not happen, for the very simple reason that people will not fall for the three-card trick. Neither will the unions.

I often hear members opposite saying that the Labor Party is controlled by the trade union movement regarding industrial strife that occurs in Government departments. More members on this side of the House have not been officials in trade unions than honourable members opposite would be willing to say. Many people on this side of the House are diversified in different positions. I was an electrician.

**The Hon. W.E. Chapman:** What about the endorsed candidate for Unley. Is he a union representative?

**Mr LANGLEY:** He is a member of the P.S.A., and he is on the official book. The Minister has raised an interesting point. Has he at any time been a member of an official union, such as the farmers and graziers union or the Liberal Party? Whatever the Ministers says, Liberal members are in it for what they can get out of it.

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

**Mr LANGLEY:** He could have been a member of a union. I am not sure about that, but he would not be a member if he did not want to be. I cannot say some things before this House; otherwise, I would do so. Honourable members opposite cannot tell me that they are not a member of some organisation or union from which they do not want a benefit.

**Mr Abbott:** The workers are a wake-up to the Government's shocking deeds this time.

**Mr LANGLEY:** I think that they might be. People from all walks of life do not join anything unless they are out for gain. Members opposite may laugh. I received a little note the other day saying that to belong to the Liberal Party

costs a married couple \$45 and a single person \$25. The rate for pensioners has been dropped.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I assure the honourable member that there is nothing in the Budget about that.

**Mr LANGLEY:** I do not want to be rude, but one must get one's money from somewhere regarding the leaflet that I was able to obtain. I want now to come to another subject that is very dear to my heart.

*Mr Abbott interjecting:*

**Mr LANGLEY:** No. I am not worried about the rule book. All rules are made to be broken; that can easily be done. Rules are like records: they, too, can be broken. I refer to one of the worst set-backs which this State suffered and about which I was very despondent because, when price control was lifted in this State there was no doubt that people made millions of dollars, especially those who sold food: they made exorbitant profits. As I said, when we have a Labor Government in this State (and I am confident that it will not be too long now), price control will be considered. I must be quite frank: I am not greatly averse to wage control, but I believe that price control should always be in the mind of every politician in this State, because we all know that members of the public are easy prey.

The policy of the Labor Party involves price control. It is a great policy and a vote catcher, I am sure, because people are sick and tired of being told that things will level out. The economic situation has not levelled out, and the Minister of Consumer Affairs knows that the petrol situation has been topsyturvy and has not levelled out. A maximum price can always be applied, but a minimum price does not have to be set. That was always our policy, and it will remain our policy. People have been taken for a ride on that matter.

I refer now to a topic that has been very dear to my heart. I was on the Sports Advisory Council during the term of the Labor Government, and during my time on the council I learnt a lot. Every member, of whatever political colour, should realise that this Government has almost done away with sports grants to small clubs and has favoured the big shows. Recently a club in Clare, in the district of one of the members opposite, received \$3 000. I was asked to open the new sporting complex, which was not very big.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I point out to the honourable member for Unley that he has four minutes left: the clock is once again playing up.

**Mr LANGLEY:** The grant was a great fillip to that club, and all of the money went towards goods and materials, the labour being donated. I hope that the next Labor Government, or the present Minister (because it is not all over yet), will consider the small clubs. These days sporting goods have an astronomic cost.

*Mr Slater interjecting:*

**Mr LANGLEY:** It is more than that: sometimes there is a tax on sporting goods of up to 20 per cent. We are doing quite well at the Commonwealth Games at present, but if the Commonwealth Government put money back into sport, it would be a great fillip to the smaller clubs. More people would be involved, and it would not be so costly. A cricket bat costs \$130 now, but I remember when a bat cost 47 shillings. Times have changed. I only hope that the incoming Government, whichever it may be, will do something, and I will be only too happy to help on that score.

I believe that everyone knows what has happened in the education field. Day after day, people come to my office—I cannot say they come in droves, because that is not correct. However, one or two people a week come along with problems concerning education. People are very worried; indeed, those associated with the Black Forest Primary School are more than worried, because the facilities there are shocking.

Finally, I would like to say that, whatever may happen this is most likely the last time that I will have the opportunity to speak for half an hour in this place. In case I do not have an opportunity to do so later, I want to take this opportunity to thank members on both side of the House for being so kind to me during the 20 years that I have been here. I know what happens in this place, as well you would know, Mr Speaker; it is nice to be on a winner all the time. I think I have spent about 10 years on the Government side of the House and about 10 years on this side, so I have had a diversity of experience during my time here. I hope that I have always had friends on both sides. We have our differences of opinion, but when we leave this Chamber in most cases they are forgotten and people have an opportunity to say a few words afterwards.

My colleagues have been great to me and have helped me. If it were not for their help I would not be here today. Also I pay a tribute to the people of the district I represent who have stuck by me through thick and thin. I won my first election by 43 votes, which was not a very great majority. It has increased considerably at different stages during my time in this place. Following the last State election I was one of the people who nearly (although not quite) fell by the wayside, but the vote I received on that occasion was by no means the lowest that I have ever received. I want to say, 'Thank you very much' to honourable members on both sides.

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

**The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I know that you will bear with me for a moment, Mr Speaker, if I do not speak strictly to the Budget. Having been given the opportunity to follow my friend and colleague, Gil Langley, I want to place on record the fact that my colleagues and I have enjoyed very much working with Gil. This will be the last opportunity we all have to wish him well in retirement, and we hope that he performs as well in retirement as he has over the years for the people of Unley. The honourable member has served those people for 20 years and has served them well, and I know that they will miss him as we will miss him in this House. To put the record straight, I point out that the honourable member has actually served as a Government member for 12 years and as a member of the Opposition for eight years, which I think puts him in front.

In relation to the Budget Estimates Committees, first, I point out that I am really repeating what I said last year, but if I say it again it might eventually sink in. In my honest opinion the Estimates Committees did not improve this year; I believe that there is more streamlining to be done. I am not placing any blame on either of the Chairmen or on people involved with the organisation of the committees. However, I hold responsible the Ministers, mainly, and to a lesser degree their officers, who are called on by the Ministers to simply duplicate the answers given.

I believe that the Estimates Committees would work better if a limit were placed on the time available for the asking of questions, to eliminate the opportunity for members to make political speeches. Further, there should be a limit on the time available for questions to be answered by Ministers and their officers because it is now apparent, after the experience we have had of the operation of these Committees, that Ministers can absorb as much of the time allowable to the Committees as they desire, and that is not a good thing. That aspect of the procedure needs to be assessed. I am not suggesting under any circumstances that we will change the system dramatically if the Labor Party is elected to office at the next election, but we would certainly endeavour to streamline the procedure so that it will be possible for

members of the Opposition to have a longer time to ask questions of the Ministers and their officers.

Having said that, I wish to deal with two matters which have become evidence during the question period of the Ministers in the portfolio area for which I am responsible. I refer, first, to the unemployment situation and those matters which are affected by it, particularly in the public sector. All figures I use are in real terms, taking into account an inflation rate of 10.7 per cent for 1981 and 1982. The Government has got itself into a difficult situation and it is not doing very much about it regarding the employment and unemployment situation in this State at the moment.

I refer to the Public Buildings Department, which was an area of my responsibility briefly before we left Government. The indicators are that some 1 500 jobs were lost between June 1979 and June 1982 in the Public Buildings Department alone. It is useful to consider the Public Buildings Department forecast for the incoming year which shows that another 169 people will lose their jobs in that area. One has to question what is happening. On the one hand, the Government will argue that most of the work is going out to contractors. It is my information that that is not true. In many cases the work is not being done at all, but is being neglected in many circumstances. If we look at the predicted capital expenditure on schools and hospitals, we find that it has been cut dramatically. The wages allocation has been cut by 30 per cent and the allocation for terminal leave payments has been doubled. I believe the projections as put forward by the Public Buildings Department that 169 further jobs are to go will be almost totally accurate.

I move on to the Engineering and Water Service Department. I have been able to take out figures only from June 1979 to June 1982. We find that 1 553 jobs have been lost. Budget recurrent expenditure is down 9 per cent and capital expenditure is down 6 per cent for this year. It is not hard to realise, with such sort of amazing cuts in just two departments, what is happening with the employment and unemployment situation in this State.

I turn now to the Highways Department. We find that 334 jobs have been lost between June 1979 and June 1981. We find in this Budget that the recurrent expenditure is down 6 per cent and capital expenditure shows a real increase of 3 per cent. To take the Department of Marine and Harbors, 193 jobs have been lost between June 1979 and June 1981. We have Budget recurrent expenditure cut by 6.9 per cent and capital expenditure cut by 13 per cent. There can be no pick-up in any of those areas. It simply means that the capital outlay has not been expended by this Government. It is using that capital to cover other costs.

To add up those totals we find, in the public sector alone since this Government came to office, that there has been a total reduction in jobs of 3 527. I suppose that the Government would try to argue at least that some of those jobs would be retirements and, certainly, some of them have been retirements. I am aware that the Government introduced its own early retirement scheme, but the occupations in the public works area, including all categories I have mentioned in that area, show that 4 000 jobs have been lost in three years. If that sort of budgeting is to continue for the next three years, if by some trick of fate the Labor Party is able to win the next election, the unemployment situation will be a lot worse than it is presently. I will outline some remedies in relation to the drastic unemployment situation. I want to get away from the State scene and talk about unemployment in Australia.

In 1945 a Labor Government, through Parliament, committed Australian Governments to full employment. Since then, the history of the Australian labour market has been, as Barry Hughes puts it (and we all know who he is) 'One long retreat from full employment'. Full employment in its

original meaning has come to be regarded as too hot to handle and the concept has been progressively redefined as the commitment has become diluted to make life more comfortable for policy makers. I agree completely with Barry Hughes's predictions in that area.

Unemployment started to rise sharply after June 1974. In August 1974, 140 900 people were unemployed in Australia. By August 1982 this had more than trebled to 450 500 people looking for jobs in this country. That represents almost 7 per cent of the workforce. If Federal Treasury is correct, unemployment is likely to hit another 200 000 people by the end of 1982-83.

South Australia initially withstood the recession better than did the other States. However, by 1977, the recession impacted heavily, with rapid job losses in manufacturing industries and flow on effects to other sectors, a severe drought, reduced farming incomes and employment. For the past three years South Australia has had the highest unemployment rate of any mainland State. The Australian recession, the Federal Government's restrictive economic policies and the restrictive policies of the present State Government have each contributed to the unemployment situation we now face.

Given no change in government at Federal level, the likelihood of a significant reduction in unemployment is small. The much heralded 'resource boom' has fizzled, following the first trickle of mineral related investment recovery in 1980. Hopes for short term economic recovery centred on a world recovery and a consequent stimulation to mineral industries in Australia now seem misguided. Success is dependent on a sustained world recovery from recession and a massive injection of foreign capital. Moreover, the capital intensive nature of the mineral sector means that the employment generated would do little to reduce unemployment anyway. The 1982-83 Budget represents a continuation of the Fraser Government's strategy of shifting the burden of economic crisis onto working people, despite its concessions in providing sweeteners.

A Federal Labor Government, when elected, will encounter the same pressures on the Australian economy emanating from overseas sources. However, its response will differ greatly from that of the present Government in several important respects. First, the A.L.P.'s approach aims to distribute the income generated by mineral development more equitably. A major aspect of Labor's approach is to provide a national strategy which will integrate mineral development more effectively with the rest of the economy. This will include a more rational allocation of public sector funds as opposed to the *ad hoc* approach operating now; labour planning and training schemes to ensure an adequate supply of appropriately skilled labour, the development of a regional strategy to spread the benefits of development; encouragement of a greater level of raw materials, processing and fabrication domestically, and a more rigorous evaluation of investment proposals from overseas.

Secondly, a Labor Government will implement a new Commonwealth-State financial system to restore a rational and co-operative system of financial and economic planning between the Commonwealth and the States. Under the present arrangement the States face a choice of either dropping necessary functions, and sometimes critical functions in areas such as public housing, education, health and transport, or of imposing extra taxes to pay for continuing these functions. In South Australia we have witnessed the culmination of these two reactions, with cuts in basic services and enormous rises in State charges.

Thirdly, and most importantly, a Labor Government will boost public funds for jobs in the States. It will provide assistance to local government and non-profit organisations, which create employment, and offer incentives to private

enterprise to provide more jobs. Labor is committed to the restoration of full employment and will give this goal the highest priority.

Labor's employment policy aims to directly boost job opportunity by about 150 000 in the public and private sectors in its first full year of office. Labor's policy to raise employment comprises increased spending on capital works on overdue social and economic infrastructure programmes in co-operation with State and local government; a boost to the public housing rental stock and associated community services; and genuine tax cuts and associated measures aimed at making up the decline in family living standards.

The Australian experience with Government-sponsored job creation programmes is very limited. Elsewhere, notably in Sweden, manpower policies are used extensively to counteract the labour market impact of declines in economic activity. In Sweden, active manpower policies of retraining, relocation, public works programmes, and phased withdrawal operate to maintain acceptable levels of employment. Sweden thus has been demonstrably successful in ensuring low rates of unemployment, around 2 per cent, throughout the 1970s. Australia did not begin to develop a comprehensive manpower policy until the early 1970s. In 1971 the Liberal Government introduced a non-metropolitan unemployment relief scheme which was extended to metropolitan areas by the Labor Government in January 1973.

The Regional Employment Development Scheme was introduced by Labor in 1974. Initially, it was restricted to areas of high unemployment but, by February 1975, the whole of Australia was covered by the scheme. Grants were made to bodies for specific projects of a labour-intensive kind. At its peak in July 1975 almost 32 000 people were employed by the scheme, representing about 11 per cent of the registered unemployed.

Commencing in February 1975, SURS (Special Unemployment Relief Grants) were provided to the States by the Commonwealth on a temporary basis, similar to the earlier scheme. Between February and November 1975, \$30 000 000 was provided, giving rise to employment of some 9 200 people at the peak of employment under the scheme in May 1975. In South Australia, the Labor Government continued to fund SURS when Federal funds dried up. At its peak, in 1977-78, SURS payments in South Australia amounted to \$20 000 000. Costs would have been higher had not Federal Government subsidies under the NEAT and SYETP schemes been offset against State Government expenditure. The Tonkin Liberal Government immediately set about removing SURS when it attained office. By the end of 1981 the scheme was disbanded.

Both REDS and SURS were unemployment relief measures of a short-term nature designed to reduce unemployment before more conventional policies could take effect. They were not intended to be the major weapon against rising unemployment. Rather, they were meant to provide an additional tool of economic policy to insulate workers from the most severe aspects of the recession. As the labour market rapidly worsened, REDS and SURS were used in a manner for which they could not cope. This contributed to the success of the movement by conservative forces to discredit and finally dismantle REDS, despite the fact that a major evaluation study of REDS in 1976 showed clearly that REDS had performed well in terms of its objective of alleviating pockets of structural unemployment, and that its main failures were in the poorly co-ordinated administrative machinery and in an over-reliance on this one measure of unemployment relief.

The same experience occurred under the State Unemployment Relief Scheme here. There were administrative problems which I hope, when it is reintroduced, we will be able to take control of. I have attended functions in your

district, Sir, where people have benefited greatly from State unemployment relief schemes. Many people throughout the length and breadth of South Australia have benefited from these schemes. The recently released report of the State Development Council makes little direct reference to South Australia's unemployment problem. I thought it would have gone into that matter in great depth. Consequently, it offers no concrete, immediate suggestions regarding its amelioration. The report discusses those sectors of the economy which are likely to provide future job opportunities: mineral resources, tourism and technology-based industries.

In an about-face it calls on the Federal Government to afford assistance to manufacturing firms and workers in sectors where trade protection is cut. In line with Labor policy the report argues for short-term housing assistance to needy groups. The council claims that it has serious reservations about the value of job creation schemes, yet it advocates that the State Government allocate funds to projects to employ unemployed persons, giving the example of an afforestation project for young people. The proposal would have a significant effect on unemployment in my view, but the acceptance of the notion of job creation schemes by the council is in my view quite significant.

A State Labor Government is committed to reducing unemployment in South Australia. Given the recession situation in industry it is unlikely that this can be achieved solely through the promotion of economic development. Certainly, greater assistance to the housing industry will generate jobs, as will greater assistance to the tourism industry, new technology based industries and small businesses in general. However, better business conditions take some time to trickle down to the unemployed. In the interim it is likely that Government-financed job-creation programmes will be required to provide jobs to the unemployed.

The debate now needs to centre on what types of programme the State Government should initiate. Should they be public works programmes, subsidised community organisation activities, subsidisation of private sector firms employment or direct Public Service employment and the like? I am targetting assistance to different labour market groups. Whatever those areas are, something needs to be done urgently. The unemployment situation is deteriorating daily in this State. Every day we pick up the paper to read that someone else has been laid off. If it is not 130 here, it is 40 there, or 70 there, or 137 in the South-East. The position at the moment is drastic; it is unbelievable, and some action needs to be taken urgently.

Any job-creation scheme will involve significant State Government funding, and a State Government, with its limited financial resources and borrowing powers, cannot hope to achieve full employment without Federal Government assistance, and a revival of the Australian economic situation. What we need to focus on is achieving the greatest number of good jobs at any given level of State Government spending, and to easing the unemployment amongst those groups which are presently suffering the greatest deprivation. In my view they fit into two categories. Until the last 12 or 15 months, the people most affected by unemployment, not only in South Australia but in Australia, were the group upwards from 18; starting from 16 up to about 25 years of age. They were the most affected. Any member of this Parliament must know the problems he has had in trying to find employment for people of that particular age group.

I believe that unemployment in my area was running at over 30 per cent at one stage. In the last 12 to 15 months, that situation has not changed but another group has come in, the group known as DOME, those over 40 and under 60 years of age. They are now being laid off from jobs in all sorts of industries: manufacturing, retail, and wholesale. It does not matter where we go, those people now are joining

the dole queues in hundreds, in fact in thousands. I made the forecast some eight or nine months ago, and the Premier scoffed at me, that the unemployment figures in South Australia would go beyond 50 000, and they have. I am not proud to boast of being right about that. I wish unemployment was coming down. Indeed, I have raised these matters tonight to indicate to the House that the Budget that we are just finalising does nothing to overcome all of those problems that I have raised.

The second matter to which I refer concerns the Workers Rehabilitation Assistance Fund, and this is dealt with in the Budget. I support this new fund strongly, but I do not support the concept of how the money is obtained to keep this fund going. When this Bill was before Parliament the Opposition opposed it. It deals with people on workers compensation who after they have been on workers compensation for 26 weeks, have their average weekly earnings reduced by 5 per cent.

That is how the fund is loaded. The 5 per cent goes in and it is funded in that manner. Regarding the other means of deduction from the workers, there was an amendment to section 72, which takes into consideration the lump sum payments when one loses an arm, a leg, finger, toe or whatever the case may be. That is also penalised or levied by 5 per cent. People who may never work again or are off work for a long time are paying for their own rehabilitation. It was on that ground, on that fundamental principle, that the Labor Party opposed it—not the concept, but the method of funding. The moves towards rehabilitation were correct and should have been taken a long time ago, particularly following the emphasis laid on that by the Byrne Committee Report.

It has been put to me by leading lawyers in South Australia, who have had this matter examined on three occasions now, that this legislation (which is now law) implemented by the Government possibly may be illegal. It may even be unconstitutional. It is subject to very grave doubts. I have a lawyer's opinion here, which says clearly to me that this levy or imposition is a tax and therefore unconstitutional.

It says:

The fundamental principle of the Workers Compensation Act is that an injured worker is to receive income from his employer during periods of incapacity for work.

He goes on:

It is my view that this loss of 5 per cent from the worker's average weekly earnings and 5 per cent from the lump sum is in fact an income tax.

Taxation is a compulsory contribution levied upon a person's property or business in the support of Government. It is, in fact, a compulsory contribution imposed by a sovereign authority. A worker's weekly payments of compensation are income for the purposes of the Income Tax Assessment Act and are taxable.

The taxation power is a concurrent power with the States under section 51 (ii) of the Australian Constitution. However, the four Uniform Taxation Acts passed in 1942 effectively expelled the States from the income tax field and made the Commonwealth the sole income taxing authority.

The Income Tax (Arrangements with the States) Act, 1978, provides that each State will be able to legislate to impose a surcharge on personal income tax and the State additional to that imposed by the Commonwealth, or to give at cost of the State a rebate on personal income tax payable under Commonwealth Law. I have not examined that Act in full. However, it is quite obvious from the manner in which the Worker's Compensation Act Amendment Act has been passed that is quite clearly in conflict with the Income Tax Assessment Act and the Arrangements with the State Act, giving rise to the constitutional issues as to the validity of the 5 per cent deduction. For instance:

- (a) Section 51(7) and section 72(2) do not provide for paramountcy of Commonwealth taxation law.
- (b) Section 51(7) and section 72(2) are clearly in conflict with various sections of the Federal Act—



and here is really the question that needs to be answered by the Government—

- (c) Is the 5 per cent taken from the gross weekly wage before tax or after tax; that is, is the Commonwealth income levied only on 95 per cent of average weekly earnings or 100 per cent at the expiration of 26 weeks?
- (d) It seems clear that the 5 per cent is not a surcharge or rebate for the purposes of the Income Tax (Arrangements with the States) Act, 1978.

It raises some very serious questions. I am not a lawyer and, therefore, am not in a position to judge it, but I am given to understand by this very prominent lawyer that after three opinions he intends to challenge this law. I imagine that he will challenge it in the Supreme Court.

Consistent with the approach of my Party to this matter in the first place, I now call on the Premier to give serious consideration to this matter; it cannot be taken lightly. First, the fundamental principle is opposed by the Labor Party, and I think we are on proper ground there; there ought to be some other method of funding rehabilitation courses. I have no dispute about rehabilitation courses: I support them 100 per cent. We are now in a position where there may be people in South Australia who have already been levied or who are on the verge of being levied. Members should remember that there is a 26-week span before this 5 per cent actually operates, so far as a person's average weekly earnings are concerned, but that does not apply to lump sum payments.

So, there may already be some people in South Australia from whose wages a sum has been deducted illegally. I do not think that that is reasonable. I am not sure whether or not the Government has been made aware of this. The report came to me only very late today and I decided that it was so important that it ought to be raised in this place tonight. I ask either the Minister of Industrial Affairs or the Premier to have a look at this serious matter as quickly as possible and obtain a Crown law opinion as to where this actual legislation stands, so far as its legality is concerned. Quite clearly, the information I have received from this very prominent lawyer indicates that it is not legal; he even goes further. The lawyer says, 'Not only in my opinion is it quite illegal: it could be quite unconstitutional.' In those circumstances, I do not think that anyone in this Parliament would want that situation to exist. I wish that I had thought of this in the first instance: I certainly did not. I am responsible for raising the matter, but I am not responsible for its activity in the first place.

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

Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park): I will address myself, in part, to the Budget Estimates Committees and then proceed to issues within my electorate. In the time I spent on the Estimates Committees it was my impression, and I say this with sincerity and believe that my colleagues also share this opinion, that the amount of information extracted by members of the Opposition was very meagre, to say the least.

I was not here yesterday, due to sickness, but I dare say that my colleagues probably related the same as I am about to say: I refer to the waffling and filibustering by members of the Government. This certainly concerns me. I believe that the Government was sincere in what it originally set out to do with these Estimates Committees, which was to provide information to members so that we could question Ministers and criticise the Government, if necessary, regarding the Budget. I do not believe that that has occurred, not only this year but also in the past year.

The Opposition is not getting the information that its members are seeking from the Government. It concerns me that we waste our time in this place, particularly during Estimates Committees. I know that members of the Gov-

ernment have said that the Opposition is not doing its research. One could elaborate a great deal on the question of research. After my experience of the past two years, I believe that it is a con job by the Government in respect of the amount of information that is being provided. I believe that my time would be better spent in my electorate talking to my constituents and finding out their problems. I could then write direct to the Ministers to try and obtain that information, rather than driving 14 kilometres here and back and probably spending seven or eight hours here trying to extract information from the Government.

However, as I indicated previously, I will refer to issues in my district on which, hopefully, I will be able to obtain information. In the Estimates Committee on 21 September, on the spur of the moment, I asked the Minister of Marine the following question:

What were the reasons for the fretting away of concrete bricks around the waterway at West Lakes? I have sighted the breaking away of many of these concrete bricks. Can the Minister inform me how many metres or kilometres of concrete have been replaced around the waterway at West Lakes? Is the programme for replacement complete? If not, what is the future programme for the replacement of these concrete bricks? What has been the overall cost or costs involved in this programme and over how many years? Who was the manufacturer responsible and what recovery, if any, was made by the department from these people who manufacture the bricks?

The Hon. Michael Wilson replied:

The initial building was on the basis of a contract let by West Lakes Limited. I approved work to commence some weeks ago. We thought that it should be done as soon as possible. I do not believe that my officers have the fine detail which the honourable member requires as to the length and number of bricks that have to be replaced but I will certainly get that information for the honourable member as well as the time of construction, etc.

Further, I asked:

Is it a considerable length of the lake?

The Minister replied:

Yes, it is a reasonably long section.

In October 1981 (page 1444 of *Hansard*), the following question (No. 498) was asked by the Hon. Peter Duncan, and the following answer was given by the then Chief Secretary, Hon. W.A. Rodda:

1. Does the Department of Marine and Harbors have responsibility for the lakes and the lake banks in the West Lakes development and, if so, when did the department assume this responsibility and from whom was it assumed?

2. Has the department had to replace a large number of concrete bricks which protect the banks of the lake and, if so, how many bricks have been replaced and why have they been replaced, and how much has this work cost to date?

3. Is it envisaged that eventually most of the bricks will require replacement and, if so, how much is it estimated that this work will cost?

4. How old are the original bricks and when were they installed?

5. Are the original bricks in need of replacement because they were made of inferior grade concrete?

6. Who supplied the original bricks and were they supplied in accordance with specifications and, if so, were they of merchantable quality?

7. Has the supplier been approached by the department with a request that all of the bricks be replaced with bricks of merchantable quality and, if so, what has been the response and if the supplier has refused to replace such bricks and undertake such work has the department considered taking legal action to obtain damages?

8. Who let the original contract for the bricks?

9. Who installed the bricks?

The Hon. W.A. RODDA: The replies are as follows:

1. The Department of Marine and Harbors is responsible for:
- (a) the maintenance of bank protection works;
  - (b) the inlet and outlet works;
  - (c) the control of flood levels arising from intake of storm water into the basin;
  - (d) the control of water quality.

Responsibility was assumed in accordance with the indenture in two stages on 2 April 1976 and 14 December 1976 from West Lakes Limited.

2. Approximately 1 000 out of a total of 70 000 blocks have been replaced due to weathering, cracking and crumbling at a cost to date of approximately \$18 000.

3. The number of blocks that may require replacement eventually is not known.

4. Block manufacture and installation commenced in late 1973 and continued for approximately two years.

5. No.

6. Hollostone Ltd supplied the blocks in accordance with the Australian Standard A87-1963: concrete blocks for masonry construction, and therefore they would have been classified as merchantable quality.

7. No.

8. West Lakes Ltd.

9. West Lakes Ltd.

I have raised this matter because when I was walking around my electorate in the West Lakes Shore area I came across some constituents who expressed considerable concern about the fretting away of the bricks.

**The Hon. M.M. Wilson:** We are doing something about it.

**Mr HAMILTON:** There is no dispute about that. A constituent who, incidentally, informed me that he is a Liberal voter, living outside Clare, asked me to go down and have a look at the concrete bricks on the waterway, which I did. He put his hand on a concrete brick, pushed hard and it cracked off in his hand. I found it rather amazing that concrete bricks should break off in that manner. I found that this occurred in numerous places.

Shortly afterwards, I found that on the other side of the lake workers from the Department of Marine and Harbors were installing concrete bricks, and I had a look at what they were doing. Although I did not question the workmen there, because they were occupied with what they were doing, I spoke to a number of constituents who live on the waterfront and who expressed concern about what was happening to bricks not only above the waterline but also beneath the water line. They informed me that the bricks were fretting away. One constituent was using sand bags poked under the bottom rung of those bricks to prevent the erosion of soil along the bank.

Being a patient person, I decided to wait to see how much work was being done before I questioned what was happening. Interspersed with my Parliamentary activities and those of the electorate I represent, I kept an eye on what was happening by inspecting the area on a number of subsequent occasions, but found no activity on the part of the officers of the Department of Marine and Harbors. I am not suggesting that they did not do any work there, but when I went to the area I did not see them.

Following my raising this matter during the Estimates Committees, I was very concerned that the Minister informed me that a reasonable length of this section of the lake had still not been replaced by suitable concrete blocks. Given that the specifications were in accordance with the Australian standard A87-1963, can the Minister say what research was carried out by the Government or by previous Governments concerning the fretting of these bricks?

Where was the research carried out and by whom? What were the results of that investigation? Why was no legal action taken against the company or the manufacturers of those bricks? Are the specifications for the bricks around the lake different from the specifications prescribed for the building of bridges in that area? Were the same materials used? I would like the Minister to answer those questions.

Were Crown Law opinions sought by this or previous Governments as to the reasons why no legal damages claims were instituted? The Minister pointed out that a reasonable section was to be completed. Could he advise, from the time of the original replacement of these bricks until now,

how much it has cost the State and its taxpayers to replace those bricks? The Minister has indicated that he will provide me with the information I sought on 29 September during the Estimates Committees. On 27 September I put out a newsletter to constituents in the West Lakes area. The response from people living around the waterway was unbelievable. They wanted to know why the fretting occurred. I am not suggesting that anything untoward has occurred but I would certainly like to know why these events did occur.

Another issue I raised in Parliament recently was the question of traffic control problems at Football Park and surrounding areas over the past 2½ years. The Minister of Transport, once again during the Estimates Committees, indicated that he was prepared to assist in this regard, and on behalf of my constituents I thank him for the offer he made as the Minister responsible. I pursued that question through the local government authority concerned. Last Thursday morning I had a discussion with the Mayor of Woodville and his officers about problems that constituents are experiencing with football crowds, particularly during the finals. As a result of that discussion, I took it upon myself to subsequently contact the Chief Secretary's office, which resulted in the Chief Secretary giving me permission to fly out in the Wales helicopter on the following Saturday to look at the problems related to the ingress of patrons into Football Park and nearby areas.

I appreciated the Chief Secretary's offer. However, my original intention was to look at the problems that my constituents encounter when crowds leave a football match, that is, between 4.45 and 5 p.m. In future, I hope I will be given an opportunity to look at that problem again from the Wales helicopter. The experience was very enlightening. The police officers involved were very courteous, to say the least, and they were prepared to answer many of the questions that I put to them.

I found that many cars were parked illegally in the adjacent flats on the southern side of Football Park. Residents have expressed anger at that. There was also illegal parking on private property off Brebner Drive, Beeston Way and also on the northern side of the lake. Further, the loss of 180 car parking spaces in the vicinity of West Lakes Mall adjacent to the Woolworth's shopping complex will, I believe, compound the problem in years to come. I will not rehash the reasons for that, because I have already stated them in this House previously.

The development of the West Lakes area will result in a population of about 20 000 people, and I believe that this Government or subsequent Governments will have to come to grips with that fact. I was pleased to hear that the previous Government and this Government, in an attempt to overcome this problem, decided to erect the Redhill bridge. I understand, from speaking to the Minister's officers, that that bridge will connect with the Bower Road road connection. I was also pleased to learn that the carriage of patrons on public transport by State Transport Authority services now takes place from the southern side of the Boulevard rather than from the northern side, where there was a problem associated with people trying to cross the Boulevard to get to the transport service. The services provided by the State Transport Authority are given priority by the police officers in charge.

I understand that last Saturday nine police officers and six parking inspectors from the Woodville council were on duty. Clearly, the connector service from the Redhill bridge to Bower Road will assist in the dispersal of vehicles in the future. I believe that it is most important that more publicity be given to this service by the State Transport Authority. Football clubs could also publicise this service in their local in-club magazines; and the State Transport Authority could

publicise the speed of its service from Football Park on the Thursday or Friday before a football match.

I am informed that it takes about 25 minutes for a bus to travel from Football Park into the city. If that fact were publicised enough and if people were aware of this facility, I believe that more people would leave their cars at home and use the services provided by the State Transport Authority. Coupled with that and the Redhill connector, I think that patrons of the Elizabeth and North Adelaide football clubs would utilise special services, if provided, especially if those services were express to Elizabeth or North Adelaide. I do not know whether this idea has been considered by the Minister, or by the State Transport Authority.

**The Hon. M.M. Wilson:** I think that they are most constructive suggestions.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Thank you. There are a number of matters which should be considered by the Minister and which would help overcome many of the problems that my constituents are experiencing in the area. I was critical of traffic flow problems in this area until it was pointed out to me by Inspector Barrett and Senior Sergeant Jeff Bungey that there is a plan for the operation and control of the traffic flow from Football Park during the football finals. Those basic plans can be altered from time to time, depending on the circumstances pertaining at Football Park.

The way in which the 10 000 cars leaving Football Park were directed by using a helicopter and on-duty police officers was tremendous, and I commend the police for the manner in which that exercise was carried out. However, I believe that there must be more liaison between the authorities in the area, the Police Department and the State Transport Authority. I say this because of the projected use of Football Park in years to come. I was informed reliably of this by the Minister of Recreation and Sport, I think, in June last year. I understand from a conversation with the Mayor of Woodville that Paul Dainty Productions anticipates having a function at Football Park either late this year or early next year. I understand that, under the regulations, the South Australian National Football League must seek permission of the Minister, who, if he agrees, seeks the Governor's assent for Paul Dainty Productions to use this area. I notice that the Minister nods.

**The Hon. M.M. Wilson:** It involves the council as well.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Yes, indeed. I am concerned about what has been said by constituents of mine, both prior to and since my coming to office, about rock concerts in particular in this area and the problems that have been encountered, such as vandalism and the like. Investigations must be carried out into the problems that have been encountered. It is my opinion (an opinion shared by others) that there needs to be an adequate number of attendants at Football Park when entertainment is taking place there. There should also be proper noise control and adequate car parking control. Will the Minister say how these matters will be handled when a decision is made about this matter?

In the short time left I would like to raise an issue arising from correspondence from a constituent who lives in the West Lakes Shore area. The letter states:

As a concerned parent, I would like to bring your attention to the West Lakes Shore Primary school. My son started at the school in March 1982 in a class of 10. Since then the class has increased to 27 children and still more to come. The teacher is capable but with more children at this age it would be extremely difficult for her. She has the children grouped into their appropriate stages but I feel that the children are not receiving the attention that they deserve and need at this age. The children are excited and willing to learn, but another intake would be unfair to all concerned.

The classroom is not large enough to accommodate more children. As reception is a very important basis for the rest of their education, I feel that another teacher and classroom are needed.

Most of the parents are concerned and are at their wits end. It would be an emotional trauma for the child to have to adjust to another school and teacher at this stage.

My son has had two teachers since he started. He was not taught the basics in the first three months, so the teacher he has now has to make up that time. This is extremely difficult with children needing her attention. The school is in a young and growing area and definitely needs another teacher and classroom and reception before the end of the year.

I realise there have been cut-backs made in the education system but this is a very important age in their education and I feel it needs your urgent attention.

I would hope that the Minister of Education would have a close look at this matter, because I have received numerous responses from my constituents in that area who inform me that the projected increase in the area is in excess of 740, where the limit of the school building is currently 504.

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

**Mr ABBOTT (Spence):** I have pleasure in supporting the previous speakers in this debate. As a member of both Committees at different times I am still a little bit disgruntled with the Estimate Committees system. The length of time that some Ministers and their departmental heads took to provide answers, in many cases to quite simple questions, was indeed rather frustrating. I cannot really see the need for a Minister, and then as many as three departmental representatives, all giving answers and information to the same question, but this happened, and I can recall that it took as long as a half an hour to answer a question. However, that was the situation on several occasions, and it was filibustering at its best.

The first Committee of which I was a member was Committee A, which dealt with the transport lines, and I am pleased to say that the Minister of Transport was one Minister who did not take too long to answer the questions directed to him. However, three days after questioning the Minister on many transport issues, he or his officers forwarded to me a copy of the north-east busway addendum to the north-east area light rail line environmental impact statement, and it was dated September 1982. I challenge the Minister as to why that e.i.s. report was not made available prior to discussing the transport budget during the Estimate Committee stages. Was it deliberately withheld? Was the Minister frightened of being rigorously questioned about its contents, or was there in fact something to hide?

It is a very important issue which has created much public interest and which has cost much taxpayers' money. In fairness to the Opposition and to the community of South Australia, it should have been made available prior to the Budget. On reading the e.i.s. it becomes crystal clear that it has been compiled with one objective, that is, to try to justify the decision of the Government to jettison the light rail transit scheme and replace it with the O'Bahn experiment. It is interesting to note that this e.i.s. addendum is dated September 1982, some three years after the Government took office and announced that it would proceed with the O'Bahn busway. Also, it is important to note that the e.i.s. does not stand on its own, but rather relies on the 1979 e.i.s. prepared for the l.r.t.

On the unnumbered page headed 'Introduction', reference is made to reports that are of relevance to the e.i.s. One such report is the 'Department of Transport 1980 North-East Busway e.i.s., addendum to the North-East Area Light Rail Line Environmental Impact Statement'. I have not seen that report, and I doubt that it was released to the public, so the Minister may wish to provide me with a copy and with the details of the public participation that occurred.

Reference is made in the second paragraph on page 1 of this latest e.i.s. document, to a further review of transport options undertaken late in 1979 and early 1980. This par-

agraph is notable not for the information that it provides but for the information that it withholds. Was the review undertaken as the result of professional advice or as a result of political direction? Were those who conducted the review aware that it would be useless to continue to advise that the l.r.t. was, and still is, the preferred option, and did they temper their report accordingly? Page 1 also contains a summary of the l.r.t. and O'Bahn proposals, and they should not be described as the 1979 and the 1982 proposals, as if to convey the impression that the latter is the more modern. They should be called what they are: the l.r.t. and the O'Bahn proposals.

Similarly, in the first paragraph when describing the l.r.t. proposal, the author of the e.i.s. states that there were six stations in the busway corridor. In 1979, when the l.r.t. e.i.s. was processed, there was no busway corridor. The corridor has existed only since the present Government jettisoned the l.r.t. proposal.

**The Hon. M.M. Wilson:** No, the busway was an option with your Government as well.

**Mr ABBOTT:** If the Minister does not mind, I am within my rights to criticise what I see in the latest e.i.s. addendum to the North-East busway, and that is exactly what I am doing. In 1979, when the l.r.t. e.i.s. was processed, as I have said, there was no busway corridor. This has existed only since the present Government threw out the l.r.t. proposal. If this present e.i.s. was a fair dinkum document, the errors of this nature would long since have been corrected.

The next paragraph describes the busway option and, among other things, says that there will be three stations with a possible fourth station. Again, it fails to say where the fourth possible station will be. At page 2, the document indicates that Grand Junction Road may be a possible future station. It also says that there will be no at-grade crossings because of the increased speed of the facility. Again, we have another example where the e.i.s. is notable for the information that it fails to provide. Does the term 'increased speed' mean that the O'Bahn is now expected to travel faster than was earlier thought, or does it mean that it will travel faster than the l.r.t.? If not, what does it mean? It is not at all clear. On page 8 of the e.i.s., under the heading 'Traffic and travel times' it states:

If a 100 kilometre per hour operating speed is adopted.

As this clearly suggests that an operating speed has not yet been adopted, how can the author of the e.i.s. state that grade crossings have been eliminated because of the increased speed of the facility?

At this stage no-one really knows what a safe speed is for the O'Bahn experiment, nor will they until tests have been properly undertaken. Unlike all light rail systems which operate in most major cities of the world, it is not possible to obtain verified operating statistics of the O'Bahn experiment because there are no other systems (other than a short piece of track in Essen) operating anywhere else in the whole world.

The claim that O'Bahn will have an increased operating speed is yet another piece of misleading Government propaganda. The summary of 'stations', 'grade separations' and 'road closures', as set out on page 2 of the statement, makes comparison between the 1979 l.r.t. and the 1981-82 busway proposals which merit further study. Within the city, the l.r.t. stations were nominated as Victoria Square, King William Street, near Rundle Mall, and King William Street, near the Festival Theatre. Of course, because of the under-grounding, these stations would not have constituted further traffic problems.

However, the O'Bahn experiment has not nominated where its three city stops will be. The question must be asked as to why not. How can any comment be made on a proposal

that does not include specific detail? All that the reader of the e.i.s. is told is that the experiment will travel along Grenfell Street and Currie Street, as shown on figure 4. Why are the stops not shown on this figure? They were certainly shown on the l.r.t. option. Is this simply another case of the e.i.s. withholding information necessary to properly evaluate the O'Bahn experiment?

On page 8 of the e.i.s. document it is stated that at peak times there will be at least one bus every 1.25 minutes, that is, a bus every 1¼ minutes. This means that at peak times there will be another bus in Grenfell Street and Currie Street every 1.25 minutes. Yet, the e.i.s. makes no reference to the horrendous effect that this will have on the already overtaxed Grenfell Street and Currie Street.

If other bus routes are to be taken out of these streets as a result of the new busway, why does the e.i.s. not spell this out? Surely the Adelaide City Council has not agreed to the proposed city route for the O'Bahn experiment. Why is there no reference to the point of view of the Adelaide City Council? Why is there no reference to the views of the Royal Automobile Association?

Two other important points relate to the proposed city route. First, while the increased bus traffic in Grenfell Street and Currie Street will have a devastating affect on other traffic, particularly road users who patronise the various car parks in both streets, how will the already severely overtaxed junction of East Terrace and Grenfell Street operate at peak periods?

Also, on market days East Terrace is cluttered up with trucks during early morning unloading of vegetables. How will this problem be overcome? On the figures provided in the e.i.s., it is proposed that about another 100 buses will use this junction every hour in peak times, but the e.i.s. is silent on how this O'Bahn created problem can be handled. Again, it is a clear example that this e.i.s. is notable for the information it fails to provide.

The second point regarding the city route that needs explanation is the city terminus—or, better still, where is it? All the e.i.s. says is that the terminus will be west of Light Square. So again it fails to provide proper information of where the terminus is to be. The preferred city route merely shows the bus terminating at the junction of Gray and Currie Streets, but no reference is made to how and where the buses will turn around.

On page 4 of the e.i.s., under the heading 'the city route' in the third paragraph, it is stated that the terminus will provide for a maximum of 12 buses at peak times, and yet again the e.i.s. makes no comment on where this space will be provided. Has the Adelaide City Council agreed to this scheme? The fact that in this section of the report it is stated that severe restrictions for private vehicles will be required emphasises the fact that the O'Bahn experiment will severely overload both Grenfell and Currie Streets—a fact that emerged four years ago when a study was undertaken into bringing the l.r.t. along the route now proposed by the O'Bahn experiment.

The comparison of the l.r.t. with the O'Bahn experiment also shows that the l.r.t. station proposed for North Adelaide adjacent to the Children's Hospital will be non-existent with the O'Bahn scheme. For those mothers in the Tea Tree Gully area and other places served by the transport facility who have to take their children to the Children's Hospital, this will constitute quite a loss. However, the more serious loss will be the l.r.t. proposed station at Mara Street, St Peters. This station was intended to serve the people who will suffer the intrusion of the facility as it passes through their district and, although the intrusion of the l.r.t. was considered to be minimal, it did seem that the people affected by the facility's presence should, if possible, get some benefit. The Mara Street station provided this without

causing any noticeable reduction in the overall level of the service.

The provision of this station also catered for a potential reservoir of passengers who, of course, constitute the reason for providing a transport facility. For reasons unstated, this potential has been eliminated from the O'Bahn experiment. The comparison of the number of grade separations under the two proposals at first glance appears to be a very definite plus for the O'Bahn experiment. But is it really, or is it a reflection of the failings of the Government's proposal?

On page 3 of the e.i.s., reference is made to the fact that the vertical alignment is generally depressed below natural ground level, and on page 5 it is stated that the depressed alignment will result in significant reduction in engine and transmitted noise. From these two references, it is quite clear that the designers of the O'Bahn experiment were aware that their toy had a noise level far in excess of that of the l.r.t. and that, for it to be acceptable, they had to reduce it. How else could it be done other than by depressing the vertical alignment and, having done that, they were forced to go under roads that otherwise would have been at-grade crossings protected with conventional crossing protection devices.

So really the increased number of grade crossings was forced upon the designers because they are handling a sub-standard product. A further sign of the weakness of the e.i.s. is seen in the reference to the noise level of the Glenelg tram. Who in their right mind would suggest that a comparison with a facility over 50 years old is valid? Are they suggesting that there have not been advances in noise reduction techniques in the past 50 years? Surely anyone who wants to compare two transport facilities would compare facilities of a like era and, in this case, would compare the latest Melbourne tram with the O'Bahn experiment.

Better still, one of the universities of Europe could be requested to have their appropriate research staff provide 'on the spot' noise levels of the O'Bahn experiment in Essen or any one of the many l.r.t. schemes that have been installed in Europe, say, in the past five years. By either of those two methods a genuine comparison would be obtained and the e.i.s. would not have to resort to ridiculous comparisons as it has done. The e.i.s. also refers to tests of noise levels having been undertaken at Adelaide's International Raceway using standard buses, but it is noted that the tests were taken at 50 to 85 kilometres per hour, and one wonders what value these tests will be, as the proposed maximum speed of the O'Bahn experiment, as shown on page 8 of the statement, is 100 kilometres per hour.

The economic evaluation on page 9 also merits some comment. The capital cost is stated at \$68 500 000 at 1981 prices, but the Auditor-General's Report on page 419 states that the cost at 1980-81 was \$54 000 000 and at 1981-82, \$84 000 000. In the Estimates of Payments for the year ending 30 June 1983, it is stated that the anticipated cash cost, based on the approved cost of \$53 500 000 at 1981 prices, and that the estimated total cost for the busway is \$95 000 000. So who are we to believe—the authors of the e.i.s., the Auditor-General, or the information contained in the Estimates of Payments? The e.i.s. document, anyhow, is notable for its errors and omissions.

Similarly, how can anyone accept the claim of the increase in the cost of the l.r.t. when it is made in an e.i.s. that is so blatantly biased and misleading? The authors of the e.i.s. have clearly operated under instructions that the e.i.s. must support completely the decision of the Government to install the O'Bahn experiment and to jettison the l.r.t. When it is carefully studied, the message emerges that the O'Bahn experiment designers have not found solutions that could be remotely described as satisfactory to many of the problems the experiment causes.

The Minister of Environment and Planning should also state where he and his department stand in regard to the e.i.s. and whether he, too, is party to this very biased document. There are still far too many unanswered questions about the city end of the experimental O'Bahn busway system. Massive problems remain to be solved, even though construction work on the north-east section is being rushed ahead with the next State election in mind.

It is being hurried up on a political basis and not on an engineering timetable as should be the case, and this could create many problems and trouble for the city end of the system. There are many unresolved matters about the progress of O'Bahn buses through major inner city streets, and this is made clear in the addendum to the environmental impact statement of September 1982. North-east bus travellers will probably get down as far as Park Terrace a little quicker than at present but, after that, their problems will multiply, as the city end of the route has not been thought out correctly. It is an experimental system, as the whole O'Bahn system is in the experimental stages.

*Mr Ashenden interjecting:*

**Mr ABBOTT:** It is still only an experiment in Essen. I do not think the member for Todd realises that. On present planning there must be serious traffic congestion, especially in Grenfell and Currie Streets. The Minister cannot deny that. It is quite incredible that the Government can proceed with the laying of concrete at the north-east end and talk about travel times when it does not know or will not say exactly where the city terminus is to be. I have written to the Adelaide City Council and the Royal Automobile Association about some of these implications of this greatly increased and poorly-planned traffic density.

*Members interjecting:*

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Russack):** Order! There is far too much audible conversation.

**Mr ABBOTT:** I hope that both organisations will speak out and call for a halt until the scheme is properly designed. The former Labor Government was able to nominate the city stops for its light rail system and did so before starting construction. That was the right way to do things. It was decided just before the last election, and we had enough guts to name those stops—not like this Government, which has not nominated the city stops. It seems that this Government is simply attempting to obtain as many achievements as it possibly can prior to the next election. Such a break-neck approach to transport planning will store up major headaches for the next Government and for tens of thousands of north-east commuters. So much money will already be committed that nobody will be able to draw back.

If it is doing its job properly, the Department of Environment and Planning will refuse to approve the e.i.s. addendum and will force the Government not to take costly short-cuts and embarrass an entire city. If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing properly because it must last for a very long time in the future.

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

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

Motion carried.

**Mrs SOUTHCOTT (Mitcham):** I wish to address my remarks tonight to difficulties encountered by groups within the community whose needs and claims for funding relate to several Ministries, although, for practical purposes, they relate to one Ministry. Because of their multi-faceted nature, they do not have a strong claim for consideration nor a

high priority on any departmental programme. A typical example is the need for more aquatic reserves. On page 141 of the yellow book for the Department of Fisheries, a programme is listed entitled 'Conservation of the marine environment'. Under the heading 'Issues/Trends' a comment is made that non-consuming recreational interest in marine environment is becoming much wider, leading to demands for more 'closed' areas. Under the heading 'Broad objective/Goals', it states:

To identify, protect and enrich significant areas of fish habitat. Finally, under the heading '1981-82 Specific targets/objectives (significant initiatives/improvements/achievements)', it states that Surveys of potential reserves progressed. On page 142, general reference is made to the declaration of area. The question remains: what progress has been made over the past years on the declaration of aquatic reserves in South Australia and of the level of commitment of the Department of Fisheries to aquatic reserves?

Obviously, the problem is that, at a time of staff and financial stringencies, the Department of Fisheries must concentrate on commercial fisheries. However, a case can be made out for the need for aquatic reserves from the point of view of national parks and wildlife, recreation and sport, tourism, education, and local government, as well as for fisheries. In fact, aquatic reserves appear to have more in common with national parks and wildlife than they do with fisheries, except that national parks and wildlife deal mainly with land areas.

The extension of terrestrial reserves or parks into the marine zone is logical. In 1971 there were seven marine reserves, and no additional reef zones have been declared since that time. In 1978, it was stated that the Troubridge Hill area off Yorke Peninsula would soon become a reserve, an underwater conservation park. However, nothing has happened since 1978. At that time, three other areas were also recommended for urgent consideration, that is, Second Valley, Innes National Park and Aldinga and Port Noarlunga reefs. I refer to extracts from an article on the Troubridge Hill Reserve dated January 1978. The article refers to the idea of the reserve being almost cut and dried. The article also states:

South Australia has seven underwater reserves, including the Noarlunga reef, Aldinga reef and Barkers Inlet near Port Adelaide. The Clan Ranald spot is one of four new areas being considered as reserves. Mr Johnson said the Troubridge Hill area was unique. 'You don't have to go far from the reef to see a wide variety of marine life. It is an ideal marine biology classroom. People can see a lot from the reef, without getting their feet wet,' he said.

The article then refers to the area proposed to be declared as reserve. The point was also made that more and more Adelaide people were using Yorke Peninsula for underwater recreation, including spearfishing, as diving sites became more accessible. It was said that, if it was proclaimed an underwater reserve the area would be kept intact for general operations of snorkel and scuba (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) diving. There are many conflicting interests in the uses of the sea and its resources. I refer to a 1977 report from the Coast Protection Board, as follows:

There are many competing demands on the coastal zone. Proponents of industry, recreation, urban development and conservation vie with each other for the valuable, yet limited, natural resources of this area where land and water meet. The purpose of coastal zone management is to provide the framework for the resolution of such conflict.

In 1978 Rooney *et al* suggested in fact that marine parks and reserves, where all fishing is prohibited, may actually benefit adjacent commercial fisheries.

Little information is available on the effects of spearfishing, although in 1968 two writers blamed excessive spearfishing for the denudation of inshore reefs along the New South Wales coast. In an unpublished report prepared for the

South Australian Museum Underwater Research Group, a similar pattern was suggested for this State. It should be noted here that spearing fish is not fishing at all, but rather a form of hunting. Spearing of fish should be regarded as analogous to hunting native land animals with a rifle, where the prey is seen at a distance, actively pursued and then shot.

The papers discuss the conflict between spearfishermen and non-spearfishing divers. Arguably, spearfishermen kill an insignificant number of fish compared to the total numbers caught by anglers and net fishermen. There has been no study of this that included the numbers of fish taken by people having no club or organisational affiliation. It was quite obvious, however, that spearfishing divers take different types of fish to those usually caught by anglers and net fishermen.

It seems that there may be some justification for the view that reef fish, especially the larger and more sluggish species that are permanent residents of reefs and are slow to reproduce, are particularly vulnerable to spear fishermen. Whether or not spear fishing could kill off all the larger fish of a particular species on a reef has not been studied rigorously, but it is the opinion of three persons who spear fished in South Australia some 15 years ago that this was happening then and is still happening now on reefs further and further away from main areas of population. While many spearfishing groups deny all reports of excessive killing, there is no question that constant pressure from spear-fishing removes fish from accessible areas and makes the surviving fish wary of divers.

Traditionally, terrestrial parks and reserves have not extended into the sea even when they have coastal boundaries, and most marine reserves do not include land areas. From an ecological point of view, this artificial separation of land from sea is nonsense. Activities on the land influence life in the sea, and the state of the sea influences life on the land. The shore and the coast zone do not separate land and sea but unite them. Neither geologically nor biologically can the coastal zone be defined as a complete eco system: it is the interface between two systems and, characteristically of such zones, it is immensely productive as a result. For this reason marine reserves should not end on the shoreline but should incorporate adjacent land areas either within their boundaries or in their management plan.

A report circulated by the scuba-diving people recommended that existing terrestrial reserves in South Australia such as Innes, Flinders Chase, Canunda, The Sir Joseph Banks group and Althorpe Island, should have their boundaries extended seawards. There is an existing precedent in this State to do this, as Seal Bay, West Island and Goose Island Conservation Parks all have marine extensions, although those extensions are nominally supervised by the Department of Fisheries and not the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which would be more appropriate. There is an urgent need for an extension of Innes National Park from the eastern boundary to the northern point of Groper Bay. There are reports of active and deliberate interference and altercations between amateur and professional fishermen. The area is frequented by both spear-fishing divers and divers interested only in the less destructive activities such as photographing fish.

Over the years net fishermen, anglers and spear-fishermen have all been known to take fish to excess from the area. These practices probably still occur from time to time, to the detriment of the surrounding marine communities generally. As human pressures are rapidly increasing on the marine areas on the southern end of Yorke Peninsula, urgent action is needed, and there is particular merit in Groper

Bay becoming a total sanctuary for all marine life. More marine reserves are needed closer to Adelaide to take pressure off of Port Noarlunga and Aldinga reef reserves. Obvious areas would be off-shore from Glenelg, where there are concrete blocks about 600 metres off-shore. These blocks are regularly visited by snorkellers and scuba divers as those blocks are covered with abundant marine life and support huge numbers of tiny fish. With the protection of marine reserve status, larger fish could soon appear there, too.

Other areas close to Adelaide would also be suitable as marine reserves, for example, Marino Rocks, Hallett Cove, areas immediately north and south of Port Stanvac, Rapid Bay to Second Valley, and Wright Island at Victor Harbor. The South Australian Piscatorial Council has submitted a proposal to have an area at Encounter Bay from Rosetta Head at Victor Harbor to Freeman Nob at Port Elliot, including Wright Island and Granite Island, considered as a marine reserve. There are several special features in that area. The proposed reserve area is well defined by large obvious national land marks, and the area is sufficiently extensive to be a worthy sanctuary for local forms of marine life. The area contains a range of habitats from open sand and seagrass meadows to reefs and granite islands. That proposal has been supported by the Game Fishing Club of South Australia. Again, the urgent consideration is the marine reserves in the Yorke Peninsula area.

A case also can be made for jetties as recreational reserves. Jetties have always been popular for recreation, as promenades on to the sea, as fishing locations for anglers and, in the last several decades, as places where snorkellers and scuba divers may see a great variety of marine life. The jetty structures act as a form of artificial reef, allowing to grow plants and animals that could not survive on the sand of the sea floor nearby. Sponges, sea-squirts, barnacles, tube-worms, and many other sessile and sedentary forms of life often completely cover the subtidal parts of jetty piles. This growth of life and the shelter afforded by the piles themselves attract more mobile and obvious marine animals such as sea urchins and bony fish. Jetties usually become small oases of rich marine life on the otherwise comparatively barren sea floor.

As with reefs, jetties are of particular value to recreational divers engaged in passive activities such as underwater photography, and to students of marine biology. We feel that this value should be recognised and that some of the South Australian jetties should be declared marine reserves. In line with the existing regulations for Port Noarlunga jetty, the taking of any marine life by any means, except angling, would then be prohibited. The report from the scuba divers again recommended for consideration the jetties at Rapid Bay, Edithburgh, Stenhouse Bay, Port Hughes and Penne-shaw.

I would like to read some of the guidelines for the establishment of underwater parks and reserves in Australian waters. It was prepared by the Australian Marine Sciences Association, and I quote as follows the section that relates to the different types of uses for reserves:

The separate individual underwater parks and reserves may require different management strategies, depending on the uses for which they are intended. Four major categories of use can be recognised. These are (in order of stringency of protection):

- (i) Scientific reserves. Unspoiled natural areas set aside for the study of pure and applied marine and estuarine ecology and other sciences by competent persons or organisations. Human access to these areas would be severely restricted.
- (ii) Conservation reserves. Unspoiled natural areas which would function both as a source of flora and fauna for the repopulation of adjacent areas and as reservoirs of genetic diversity. Human access to these areas would also be limited.

- (iii) Educational reserves. Relatively unspoiled natural areas set aside specifically for school, college, and university groups to observe and learn at first hand the general principles of aquatic ecology. These areas would also be open to the general public for the same purpose.
- (iv) Recreational reserves. Areas in a relatively natural state set aside for passive recreation, but in which spear-fishing, aquarium fish and shell collecting, and perhaps also commercial fishing and angling, would not be permitted. Such active recreational pursuits as water skiing would also be excluded.

This is a difficult category and views of competent persons differ as to how these use objectives can best be met. Categorisation and management strategies are also topics which are likely to arouse strong public feeling and objections. Various pressure groups with specific interests, for example, spearfishermen, anglers, commercial fishermen, could threaten the viability of these separate categories, and special efforts in public education will thus be needed to ensure their acceptance.

Underwater Parks and Reserves in each of these categories should:

- (i) preferably be established in regions where existing or proposed national parks or fauna reserves are adjacent to the shoreline;
- (ii) be large enough to comprise a viable ecological unit; and
- (iii) be characterised by as large a variety of marine habitat types as possible.

I was interested to read questions and media releases by the present Minister of Environment and Planning, when he was the shadow Minister, which indicated his concern for the need to expand the number of marine reserves in South Australia. I would like to quote part of the question that he asked on 26 August 1978, as follows:

Has the Agriculture and Fisheries Department conducted any studies during the past five years into the need to expand the number of marine reserves in South Australian coastal waters and, if so:

- (a) when were the studies carried out;
- (b) what conclusions were drawn from them; and
- (c) what action is proposed to be taken and when will it be taken,

and, if not, why not, and will such studies be carried out as soon as possible in view of the large number of divers using aquatic reserves in recent times?

The answer was that preliminary reconnaissance surveys have been conducted at the Onkaparinga Estuary from July to December 1973, the Port Noarlunga Reef in 1976, Barker Inlet in 1976, and American River inlet in October 1976 and January 1978. The second question was this:

Has the department received any submissions concerning the need for aquatic reserves at Troubridge Hill and Second Valley and, if so, does it propose to declare these to be marine reserves to protect the blue groper and the black cowrie?

The answer was as follows:

The State's coastline is generally being examined for the suitability of areas as aquatic reserves and conclusions cannot yet be drawn until this assessment has been completed.

So we come back to the line in the Estimates Committee report that states: 'The surveys are progressing.' What progress has been made since that time in 1978, and what progress has been made on adding more marine reserves since 1971? Our figure still stands at seven, despite our gulfs being exploited to a much larger degree.

The point I want to make particularly is whether any more reserves will be added unless there is some recognition of the need, not only by the Minister of Fisheries but by pressure from other Ministers who should be involved, such as the Ministers of Tourism, Recreation and Sport, Local Government, Education and Environment and Planning.

Another related area is a submission that I received recently from the Eyre Peninsula Inshore Fisheries Advisory Council. The letter that came with the submission states:

This council has been formed because there does not exist at present, a satisfactory method of adjudicating disputes between the tourist, recreational and fishing industries in regard to fish stocks adjacent to built up areas . . .

The depletion of fish stocks adjacent to built up areas through excessive netting, is affecting tourism and employment as well as severely reducing a most important source of recreation. Public

dissatisfaction is mounting over this issue as indicated by the local government membership of this committee.

I was asked to take what steps I could to do something about it. The Chairman, then, of the Eyre Peninsula Regional Tourist Development Association commented on the effects on the tourist industry of decisions and actions being taken on the management of fishing stocks on Eyre Peninsula and in other areas of the gulfs. The suggestion was made that local government and the tourist industry should have direct representation on the committee that determines and makes recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries. The group was suggesting that, by bringing together these organisations, a more satisfactory solution would result.

Steps were taken to set up a working party with various representatives from around the area. A man from Coffin Bay explained that fishing and boating were the main tourist drawcards for Eyre Peninsula and residents were concerned about the amount of netting permitted in the area. They found that the only way in which they could achieve any concessions was by negotiation direct with the Minister of Fisheries. There was mention that petitions directed to this House were not acknowledged. The point was made that professional fishermen must be given the opportunity to remain viable, which means that people must compromise, but that any compromise must be fair to all persons who rely on the fishing. Points were made by the Mayor of Port Augusta about the importance of tourism as an industry in South Australia, the need for the Government to recognise this point, and the fact that excessive netting was affecting the industry. I could read quite a deal more from this, but it was from all areas of the gulf, from Port Augusta right down to Coffin Bay, and further.

A petition was taken up and was referred to the Fisheries Department, and the person who presented it was invited to attend a meeting to discuss the matter. The joint consultative committee is a group of some six persons who decide the fishing policies of the Government to a significant degree. It consists of two representatives from the Australian Fishing Industry Council; two representatives from the Fisheries Department; and two representatives from the South Australian Fishermen's Advisory Council; and three invited observers who are almost, without exception, members of the Australian Fishing Industry Commission. Points were made that, despite attendance and representation, nothing much seemed to be done in this area. So, the suggestion was that the working parties and the committees would be set up representing all the different interests: recreation, tourism, and the fishing interests. So, the Eyre Peninsula Inshore Fisheries Advisory Council was formed.

A similar case, not involving fisheries, concerns an industry with many different interests amongst its membership. I refer to the South Australian Association of Nurserymen, which is a representative body of the nursery and ornamental industry in South Australia. Information supplied by the association states:

Our members include wholesale producers of plants, retailers of plants and accessories, allied trades, including manufacturers and distributors of products such as chemicals, fertilisers, glass-houses, pots, shadecloth, etc., landscape suppliers and contractors, Government bodies, e.g., Botanic Gardens, School of Horticulture. In all, the majority of members are small business operations, mainly family owned and run. The nursery industry, particularly over the past decade, has been and is continuing to be a growth industry in South Australia.

Mr Lynn Arnold: With great export potential.

Mrs SOUTHCOTT: That is right. The information continues:

The following figures were taken from a recent Commonwealth Government report: Compound average annual percentage growth rates of various indicators during the period 1975 to 1978:

(1) No. of nursery locations . . . . .	39.11 per cent increase
(2) Area of glasshouse . . . . .	24.37 per cent increase
(3) Area of shadehouse . . . . .	16.44 per cent increase
(4) Total No. of employees . . . . .	8.31 per cent increase
(5) Total sales of the industry . . . . .	24.87 per cent increase

Although figures for the period 1978 to 1981 do not seem to be available from the Bureau of Statistics, our knowledge of the industry allows us to say that increases in all of these areas have occurred.

Our estimates of the value of the commercial ornamental horticultural industry and associated allied trades in South Australia at the present time is:

1. Wholesale nursery and cut flower industry . . .	\$20 000 000
2. Total industry including wholesale, retail allied trades and landscaping . . . . .	\$80 000 000

The potential for our industry in the export market is extremely great, with a number of our members presently developing in this area.

In all, the ornamental horticultural industry in South Australia is both buoyant and developing. We see that our industry has a bright future in South Australia, developing into one of the most important industries for the State. The continuation of our development depends very much on the policies and direction of the Government of the day.

Their problem, as they expressed it to me, was that there was no one simple co-ordinated approach that they could make to the Government, as in the various aspects of the industry it relates to many different departments, with the resulting reduction of overall Government commitment, because to each department to which it makes representation, it is only a small fraction of the work of that department. I stress that the export potential, with possible contracts overseas, is very great. That should be of interest to the Premier, as Minister of State Development.

Obviously, the Minister of Agriculture is involved, as are the Department of Environment and Planning, the Education Department (particularly through courses at TAFE colleges) and, of course, the Minister of Industrial Affairs in relation to small business and the potential for employment. I do not know the answer; I am hoping that perhaps Cabinet will have the answer. I have given just three examples of groups or industries that experience real problems because they are involved in so many different areas.

As this House knows, in the present economic situation, with lobbying from very powerful interest groups, the position of groups that have to apply to a number of people for support is difficult and is felt very keenly. I am delighted that the Minister of Environment and Planning is in the House at present, because I know that he is genuinely interested in aquatic and marine reserves. The division between marine and terrestrial areas is a difficult one and I hope that some way of overcoming the problem can be found.

Mr PETERSON (Semaphore): I was interested to hear the previous speaker refer to jetties and to learn that she is interested in recreational jetties. I did not realise that there were jetties in Mitcham: perhaps there is a jetty at Brownhill Creek! There are two jetties in my district. I bring this matter to the attention of the House, because many people do not realise that the District of Semaphore incorporates a coastline and two jetties. We have encountered difficulties in regard to those jetties. I agree with the previous speaker that jetties are valuable recreational structures and are used by people from all over the State, not just from one area of the State.

The Semaphore jetty was constructed in 1860, and it is the centenary of the Largs jetty this year. Those jetties are fairly old structures and served the State very well in the early days as points of loading and discharge for ships. I am concerned that the jetties are dilapidated and crumbling and have not been adequately maintained. The Minister of Marine who is responsible for those structures indicated that local government bodies should be involved on an 80/20 basis for continuing maintenance of the jetties. I do not



believe that that is right, considering that most of the jetties are outside the council areas anyway.

I refer now to the Estimates Committees through which we have just waded. I said last year, I say it now and, if we continue with this system, I will say it next year—

**Mr Oswald:** It was the Opposition's fault; it was for its benefit, not ours. It was not our fault that they asked ridiculous questions.

**Mr PETERSON:** I would be interested to know whether anyone derived any benefit from the Estimates Committees. It is a restricted way of considering the Budget, because it minimises the participation of elected members and the public. Even Superman could not be present at the two Committees which ran concurrently. The system restricts participation.

**Mr Trainer:** The member for Morphett could do that, because he is schizoid.

**Mr PETERSON:** I thought he was a Liberal. Membership of the Committees is restricted, and I do not believe this is the best method. Because the system is far too restrictive it affects the continuity of questioning: the whole quality of questioning is affected by the system, which restricts Parliament to the members of a single Committee. Ministers and their advisers should be subject to questioning by the full Parliament, which would allow all members to participate. I realise that it is a long hoe to haul to get any change, but I feel that the present system is not effective.

Members could well ask at this stage what has this Budget proven, what has the information obtained from Ministers achieved, where are we going? I suggest that there are now many more disillusioned and unhappy people in the community than there were before the introduction of the Budget. There is no more hope for the average person in South Australia now than existed before the Budget was introduced. I do not see how in any way it provides encouragement, help or hope for the future. That matter should be addressed.

Today, I received a new magazine *Australian Society*, which contains an article by Barry Jones. The article reflects how the attitude in Australia has changed; how we were innovative and creative, looking forward to the future, but how we have gone back into our shell, being fearful of the future. In the article titled 'Retreat Australia' in the 1 October 1982 issue of *Australian Society*, Barry Jones, who I assume is a Federal member of Parliament, states:

I am conscious of a deep sense of moral bewilderment in Australia, a lack of confidence about the direction we should take, no clear understanding of what is happening to us or why, and a massive lack of intellectual vitality.

In 1900 Australia had the world's highest per capita income, ranking 11 per cent above the U.S. and 17 per cent above Britain. We were among the first nations to have a secret ballot, universal suffrage, a basic wage, an industrial arbitration system, old age pensions, widow's pensions and child endowment. Our expectation of life was the world's longest. Visitors came from Europe and America to see how Australia and New Zealand were pioneering a new type of society.

In 1982 Australia ranks number 11 in per capita income of industrialised nations and number 16 in all nations (Kuwait comes first, believe it or not).

We know where the wealth comes from there. The article continues:

Apart from Medibank, which has been subject to constant revision, and Commonwealth funding for education, it is difficult to think of any major social innovations since 1949. We now rank No. 27 in life expectancy.

In the nineteenth century Australia made significant innovations in agricultural machinery, refrigeration, pharmaceuticals, and Laurence Hargrave nearly made it as the first successful designer of a heavier than air craft. (His New Zealand counterpart Richard Pearse actually beat the Wright Brothers to it in March 1903—but his diffidence, part of a national cultural cringe even more acute than Australia's, has kept him from recognition until recently.) Melbourne and Sydney had electric light and telephones within months of New York, the Royal Sydney Hospital acquired Röntgen's third X-ray machine, and Listerian surgery was being

practised in Hamilton, Victoria, soon after it was pioneered in London.

During World War II we were making aircraft of our own, and after it we produced something known (not ironically at that stage) as "Australia's own car", and the CSIRO designed the world's third or fourth large stored memory computer (CSIRAC) in 1947. Then we seemed to run out of steam.

That is what is happening in this State at the moment. About 100 years ago we had a significant drought which drove the agricultural people back to Goyder's line. We then had the mineral boom in this State. With it came the manufacturing and engineering developments that created a future for this State. Now, we are back into a lull again. A theory exists about 50-year waves in peaks and troughs. We are into a trough again. There does not seem to be an attitude abroad, whether it be in politics, in the public, in business, with economists or anybody, that gives us any real hope for the future. Everybody seems to be sitting and waiting for something to happen. I refer again to a document that I received today titled 'South Australia—A strategy for the future (No. 2)'. This document has been prepared by the State Development Council. I would like to meander through it and see what hope it gives us for the future and what points are contained in it to give us a guiding light by which to steer.

**Mr Oswald:** There will be another one next year.

**Mr PETERSON:** The first one did not do too well. I hope the second one is better. On page 3 it states that it is the second discussion paper and that the object of the document is to identify specific realistic long-term goals for the State, to find the means by which they might be achieved and to suggest methods by which progress might be reviewed and goals and actions updated. The proposal is the second in an on-going project which is intended to extend into the next decade and beyond and not merely into the next few years. If we are going to plan to go into the next decade, that is how long the plan will take. It is also interesting to note the mention in the document to the fact that the council recognises a recent emergence within the State of a strengthening of determination to succeed, a sharpening of the competitive spirit and a growing awareness of the State's relative advantages.

We have a lot of natural advantages such as the climate, people's attitudes and the population of the State. However, we have to get it together. The book quotes a few factors that explain Australia's economic difficulties such as the concentration of investment in the technical manufacturing sector, the replacement of imports and the use of agricultural and mineral wealth to camouflage the necessity for manufacturing industry restructuring. It also refers to a reluctance by Australians to accept that Australia is not isolated from the effects of the rest of the world, its economic moves and its money markets. It also comments that South Australia's task has been complicated and made more difficult by the State's narrow industrial base. It refers to its great dependence on protected industry and the lack of natural resource development during the 1970s. We did not know much about our resources in the 1970s. It has only been in the last few years that they have emerged as a real factor. With the world economy as it is, the market for those resources is looking a little doubtful.

It also refers to the attitude of the population of the State and an inbuilt conservatism, pessimism and reluctance to look for opportunity and change. This comes back to a point I made earlier. Somebody has to give the people a lead. If it is not going to be the alleged leaders and politicians of the State and through decisions made in this place, who is going to give it?

**Mr Ashenden:** The member for Semaphore.

**Mr PETERSON:** I could do it—I could be Premier. I have previously mentioned in this place the attitude that

prevailed in the 1970s during the Dunstan decade, when people had an interest and a real enthusiasm for South Australia to get it going for the future. That has now been eroded and it is not apparent any more. The pace setters and the public's attitudes are not the same today. I defy any member of this place to say that the attitude of the population of South Australia is the same today as it was 10 years ago. At that time people were proud of this State and were looking to the future.

**Mr Ashenden:** Look what Dunstan did—he ruined it.

**Mr PETERSON:** First, I am amazed that an interjection should be allowed and, secondly, I am amazed at that comment.

**Mr Oswald:** Give us one achievement by Dunstan—

**Mr PETERSON:** Fancy that, an independent member of this place being asked for one achievement by Dunstan. I am sure that any one of the 20 members of the A.L.P. would be more than happy to give the honourable member the lot. However, I will give the honourable member my impressions of the Dunstan decade. I can see the honourable member waiting with bated breath.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair is interested to know whether it is in the Budget.

**Mr PETERSON:** It was. I am sure the impact of the 70s has affected today's Budget and will affect future State Budgets. I am sure that there is a link. However, if I stray, I am sure you will correct me, Mr Speaker. Today, we are in a new decade—the 1980s. It is an interesting exercise to compare this decade with the 1970s, along with the attitudes of the people at that time and the leadership of that time, which was innovative and creative.

**Mr Ashenden:** Poetry on an elephant's back.

**Mr PETERSON:** Perhaps poetry on the stage of the Festival Theatre is needed today. We need a Leader who will do that if he thinks it is needed; but our present Leader will not do that because he does not think it is the right thing to do.

**Mr Ashenden:** Would he have to wear pink shorts?

**Mr PETERSON:** If pink shorts were needed, I am sure that any sensible Leader would wear them.

**Mr Lynn Arnold:** Gilbert and Sullivan.

**Mr PETERSON:** Gilbert and Sullivan could be taken as part of the scenario, and a comparison could be made in that area. Comparisons have been made between the last decade and this decade. The basic thing that makes the two decades different is the attitude of the people and their enthusiasm. That is not present today. This report, which I believe was commissioned by the Government as a guide document, states:

Lack of a clear sense of direction and purpose supported by consistent decision making and community co-operation.

That supports to the letter what I have just said. People do not believe that they have a clear sense of direction. They do not know where they are going any more. There is no leadership.

**Mr Slater:** Like Christopher Columbus.

**Mr PETERSON:** Even Christopher Columbus knew where he was going. He was a bit worried about going over the edge of the world, but he knew that he was going west or east. It is significant that that point should be made so clearly in a report commissioned by the Government. It is a fact which must be studied by the leadership of this State and by the potential leadership of this State. I am sure that everyone is anticipating an election shortly, when there could be a change of government. I am sure that every person in this State is waiting to see whether there will be a change of government, which is very likely, and whether the leadership will perform. The people need clear direction in relation to where they are going. I will continue a little

further with this report, which outlines the strengths of the State.

**Mr McRae:** We should be proud of it.

**Mr PETERSON:** Yes, we should be. If we cannot build on what is declared as the strength of our State, where are we going? The next page of this report lists the weaknesses of the State and sounds a warning. The article states:

There is a changing view of South Australia's location from isolation to one of being advantageously placed in relation to the rest of Australia and the Asian-Pacific region.

I disagree with that point. We must recognise that we are at a disadvantage because of the geographical location of our State. We are out of the mainstream of world trade lines. Shipping is a matter of which I have some knowledge. We are just outside the main shipping lines. I know that the Department of Marine and Harbors has been trying for years to overcome this disadvantage by making deals with shipping companies, but we still have difficulties in this area.

Under the heading 'Strengths', the report refers to a lean, competitive agricultural industry which is capable of further development and diversification. I agree with that. I believe that we have an extremely efficient agricultural industry in this State that is capable of further development and diversification. We have not looked closely enough at the development of our arid lands as they have in areas where it has been necessary for them to do so. There are northern areas with Artesian water and the sort of land which in other countries has been developed and used very successfully, but which we have not yet looked at. The report refers also to a wealth of manufacturing experience, a stable, educated and skilled work force, with a good industrial relations record, and lower direct and indirect manufacturing costs. I do not know whether that is all correct. It is true that we have a wealth of manufacturing experience. We have also had much productivity from plants here over the years, and we do have a stable and competent work force. Industrial relations in this State stand alone and do not have to be built on.

The suggestion of lower direct and indirect manufacturing costs is open to question. The costs of transporting raw materials to and from South Australia has to be looked at. Also, the cost of power must be considered. Even though the Minister of Mines and Energy issued a document the other day saying that we have the cheapest electricity in Australia, it still seems to be fairly costly to me. The report continues 'that we have a revival of industrial development'. I must have blinked because that has not yet become apparent to me.

The report also states that we have low-cost housing, a good education system, excellent community facilities and, in general, a fine environment and lifestyle. That statement contains some points that I would like to take up. The first is the question of low cost housing. I saw this week a newspaper report which pointed out that the system of social housing in this State is at risk. That needs to be looked at. However, that system must be maintained. I also noticed a document issued by the Hon. Mr Hill, Minister of Housing, referring to housing for the elderly. It makes the point that housing must be rearranged, and that people who no longer need large houses must be moved into flats, and so on. This is especially true of Semaphore, because by 1986 people of 60 years and over in the area will outnumber those 14 years and under. I therefore have a particular interest in that statement. The report also refers to a 'fine environment and lifestyle'. One cannot knock that at all.

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** It's an excellent environment.

**Mr PETERSON:** The Minister of Environment and Planning and the Minister of Health are both in the Chamber, so I will turn to the environment matter now. I was interested

to see the Clean Air Bill introduced today. I refer to the Clean Air Bill 1982; I hope that that is an effective piece of legislation, and I will tell the House why I feel so strongly about it. I believe that in the Osborne area, in the electorate of Semaphore, more industrial pollution has been allowed to drop on people and their houses, and vehicles than has been allowed in any other area in this State. I recently spoke to a person in the medical profession who considered that there was an increasing incidence of young people with respiratory diseases in that area.

*Mr Slater interjecting:*

**Mr PETERSON:** Some of them smoke, but these are children at primary school. He feels that this airborne pollution is affecting their health. I have written to the Minister of Health and asked for an assessment of that to be made. She looks charming tonight in her dress.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Would the honourable member care to refer to the line in the Budget that relates to the Minister's dress?

**Mr PETERSON:** I am not sure; I did not actually get to all the Estimate Committee hearings. However, I have written to the Minister of Health and asked for an investigation of whether there is any possibility of these children being affected. We had an incident at Port Pirie where it built up over many years. A survey was carried out, and it was found that people were being affected by the lead. In that area it is not lead but industrial pollution, and I certainly hope that we can get some assistance. I might ask, as the Minister of Environment and Planning is in the Chamber, about new equipment (there is a line in the Estimate for new equipment) for the assessing of airborne pollution. I have been told, because I was at that Committee, that it is magnificent equipment. It is up to date, modern and able to do anything. I have written to the Minister and asked him to give it its first run at Osborne; the machine will probably crack. I am probably treating this matter a little lightheartedly, but it is a serious problem. When the pollution from these plants has the strength to etch into the windscreens of motor vehicles, to eat the paint off those vehicles, and to eat out galvanised iron roofs, and when one cannot drink the water out of a rainwater tank, it must have some effect. There must be some effect eventually.

When a principal of a company in that area suggested to persons whose car windows had been etched that they should use hydrochloric acid to remove it, I think that something is fairly wrong. I have therefore, written to the Minister, and I hope that he can see his way clear to put that equipment down there. I have also written to the Department of Environment and Planning asking for data relating to fall-out in that area, although I have not yet got a reply. I must admit that I am surprised, because I usually have had a particularly good response from the Department of Environment and Planning. Whether there are not any, I am not sure. I think that possibly the best way to remind the department would be to send it a page from *Hansard*.

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** I will follow that up for you.

**Mr PETERSON:** I now have on record that the Minister will follow it up. I assume that means that the testing equipment could be there in the very near future. I am pleased to hear that. The report also refers to, 'the tendency by some to neglect the full range of options available'. I think that is right; I do not think that we have. We have lost that innovative effect, as I said, and nobody is game to have a go at the moment.

To have a go is a particularly Australian trait, but we do not seem to have it in this State at the moment. An interesting thing is happening at present concerning what might be termed the 'personality' of Australia. We have the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. There would not be an Australian who does not have a deep seated and burning

desire to see Australia winning gold medals at those games. Why cannot we have that attitude to making the State great again? We keep saying it, but we do nothing. Somehow, we have to get an interest, enthusiasm and feeling for this State back into people and get the State moving.

All these slogans, such as 'Its a great State', will not do it. People have to want to do something about it. They have to feel that there is an aim and that they can achieve something; they have to feel confident that their leadership is sound and that they are moving in the right direction. We do not have that confidence, but we need it. If we are going to make the State great again, we must put that feeling back into people, no matter at what level of life they may be (and I do not say this in any derogatory way)—whether they are street sweepers or brain surgeons. We all must have confidence in the State, and it is up to the Government of the day to give the people that confidence and to give them hope.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ashenden):** Order! The honourable member's time has expired. The member for Napier.

**Mr HEMMINGS (Napier):** I am rather pleased that the member for Semaphore got involved in this debate, and I appreciate the remarks that he made. However, I am rather disappointed that so far there have been about 19 speakers in this debate (I am the last, I think), and that not one member from the Government benches has been prepared to speak on behalf of the Government in relation to this Budget. One can always say, 'Fair enough, the Budget Estimates Committees gave everyone a chance to examine the Minister and put questions.'

**Mr Trainer:** You could say that, but it wouldn't be true.

**Mr HEMMINGS:** That is right, it would not be true, because the time allotted was never sufficient. The whole exercise, if I can put it bluntly, has been a farce. Not one Government member has been prepared to speak in this debate. They have been gagged. The order has gone out that not one Government member should speak, and it has been left to the members of the Opposition to speak on the Budget.

When we were in Government we had the old line system, for better or worse. It was not a bad system, but the present Government decided that we should have this exercise of examining Ministers and giving members a chance to ask questions. The questions on our side sought to get at the truth, whereas members on the other side, with all due respect, were asking Dorothy Dixers that were handed out to them. They merely quoted those questions and the Minister responded accordingly. Not one Government member of the Committees on which I served was prepared to probe the Minister in any way. You are laughing, Mr Acting Deputy Speaker: I think that you received your fair share of Dorothy Dixers, and you posed them quite well, Sir. Your heart was not really in it, Sir, but you posed the questions well and the Minister responded.

**Mr ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ashenden):** Of course, the honourable member is not reflecting on the Chair?

**Mr HEMMINGS:** No, Sir, only on you as a member. All members in this place realise that, despite the problems of the old line examination, examinations under the new system are a complete farce. Twelve booklets were issued, giving the Estimates for 1982-83 dealing with every portfolio. After speaking to my colleagues regarding their areas, it was a complete farce.

I dealt with two particular issues, local government and housing and health. I first wish to deal with the health portfolio. That was the joke book of the year. Every line in that booklet set out what the Government was going to do,

but when one looked at it closely, one saw that there was no further staff or money involved, despite the rhetoric one received earlier. There was nothing to benefit the people of South Australia.

The Minister sat there surrounded by something like 18 advisers. In effect, what the Opposition established at that examination was that nothing was going to happen this year. In fact, in response to one of my questions the Minister said that it was not Government policy, but Health Commission policy, and that she was not responsible for what was in the paper. Yet, she was sitting there surrounded by her advisers, unable to give any information to the Opposition.

Of course, she gave information to Government members, because Government members were primed. It was rather tragic, but also funny, that Government members were there with the questions. One could almost see it: a Government member on the Committee asked the question and then the Health Commission people were there to give the answer. But, when Opposition members asked questions, the Minister of Health said one thing and turned to her advisers and asked them to give their view. As I said, it is a farce and a joke. This Government may regret what it has done. When we become the Government—

**Mr Whitten:** Very shortly.

**Mr HEMMINGS:** Yes, and we will become the Government very shortly. We may continue the process, and then the members of the Government who will be in Opposition—and very few members opposite will be here to be present at the next Estimates Committees—might find that we will make it more sophisticated. Members opposite will find that the exercise into which they entered three years ago will be their undoing. Let us consider the health programme. When this Government is in trouble it is worth recycling where it is going wrong. The yellow book stated:

The major areas towards which existing resources continue to be reallocated are community health and domiciliary care service, environmental and occupational health services, and health promotion services.

It all sounds very good and is in line with the dear Minister's attitude of brown bread, plenty of oranges, open windows, and everything else. But when one looks at the ensuing pages, one finds nothing whatsoever. Not one person is engaged on this programme and no money is being spent. That is the whole problem. It is a complete farce.

We tried to establish that in the Estimates Committee but we could not do much, because, as I said, Government members were primed up with long questions, and the answers from the Minister and her advisers were equally long. I believe that the message is getting through to the electorate that this Government's programme for health promotion is completely wrong. The Government has cut its health programme in regard to nurse staffing, in fact, in every area. During the next election campaign the people in this State will recognise that, and will vote accordingly.

I was also a member of the Estimates Committee that considered local government and housing. I have warned this House at least half a dozen times that the programme on which this Government has embarked in providing funding to the Housing Trust, forcing it to take on loans through the S.G.I.C. and the Public Service Superannuation Fund (which is expensive money), will create problems. The Premier has huffed and puffed and has said that I do not really know what I am talking about.

However, I think that now the pigeons have come home to roost. Peter Ward of the *Australian* is in possession of minutes from the Housing Trust (I do not have those, as it is not my style to try to get things in an underhand fashion) which prove what I have been saying all along, namely, that the Housing Trust is facing bankruptcy. Yet, yesterday the

Premier gave a Ministerial statement which implied that, in effect, all is well. If the Premier were honest he would admit to this House tonight that the Housing Trust is in real trouble. It is facing bankruptcy.

For whatever reason the Govt was hell-bent on building more homes and forcing the South Australian Housing Trust to take up loans from the S.G.I.C. and the Public Service Superannuation Fund. During the Estimates Committees I asked the Minister of Housing (although he does not really see himself as the Minister of Housing but rather as the Minister of Local Government; housing is just a side issue which he does not really worry about and which he sees as catering simply for welfare housing) how much those funds were costing the department, and the Minister did not know. With all his advisers around him he could not tell me how much those loans were costing the Housing Trust. I asked the Minister whether he was aware of the low cost loans available to the Govt from the Federal Government.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It may well be difficult for *Hansard* to determine whether it is the voice of the member for Glenelg or the voice of the member for Napier that is to be recorded.

**Mr HEMMINGS:** Thank you, Sir. The Premier seems to think that my remarks about the South Australian Housing Trust are highly amusing; he seems to think that it is rather amusing that it is in this rather unfortunate position. That goes to prove the point that the Opposition has made time and time again, namely, that the Government is not really concerned at all about low cost housing. The Premier laughs; the attitude seems to be that it is all good fun, that we should not worry about the people outside this Chamber, that we should just worry about going home, getting to bed, and everything else. That is the way the Premier works. All he is interested in is making his international flights and so on. I asked the Minister of Housing whether the Govt was aware of the low-interest loans available to the States from the Federal Government. The Minister professed ignorance of that matter.

Under a Labor Government in Victoria \$72 000 000 was allocated to provide public housing in that State. I am not saying that we are in the same position as Victoria but, at least that Labor Government has realised that, through the Federal Loan Council meeting, money is available. It has taken advantage of it. This Government has not taken advantage of it. Worse than that, it is not even aware of it. Our Minister of Housing, the Hon. Murray Hill, went to that meeting, but he does not know what it was all about. When we are in Government we will be taking full advantage of those measures to provide housing and cheap money for housing in the public sector. The Government seems to be concerned only with providing money through the more expensive rates of interest.

I move now to the Local Government Assistance Fund. In the Estimates Committee examination we found that the Government, for reasons known only to itself, was allocating money from the Local Government Assistance Fund to Coober Pedy, the City of Marion and the District Council of Tatiara. That fund was never set up for providing real assistance to local councils. The Local Government Assistance Fund was set up to provide assistance to communities within local government. If one looks at the Act which set up this fund one will see what it was all about: merely providing assistance to communities within local government. However, this Government, surprisingly enough (although one can see that it is good at juggling the books) suddenly decided that it would use that line to provide money to the people of Coober Pedy and to the City of Marion. I am not arguing about the money being allocated but rather about the line under which it was allocated.

When the Minister was examined, he did not know what was going on. With all due respect, I accept that he does not really know at the moment. He is a lightweight in the Cabinet and does not have much say as to where money is allocated. The Local Government Assistance Fund was set up for community purposes only and not to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr HEMMINGS:** We know that only \$500 000 is being allocated to the Local Government Assistance Fund. However, \$771 000 is mentioned in the lines. That is a sop to the people outside who believe that the additional \$271 000 is being given to them, and they believe that more money will be spent in local communities. However, that is not where the money will be spent; it will go to the City of Marion, to the people of Coober Pedy and to the Tatiara flood relief scheme. The Government has had ample time to put that additional money into the Highways Department lines.

Members opposite are smiling because they think that they have worked a real con trick on people in the community who are concerned about community aid in the local government area. The Minister could not answer my question on this matter. It is obvious from the way that members opposite are sitting back with sick smiles that they cannot answer it, either. The Government is taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another pocket. Despite all the smiles, the Government will not escape this time.

**The Hon. M.M. Wilson:** Only five minutes to go, Terry.

**Mr HEMMINGS:** I might even stay on my feet for those five minutes. It is obvious that this year's Estimates Committees were the usual farce that they were last year and the year before. As I have said, I believe that this Government, when it is in Opposition, will live to regret that it set up the Estimates Committees system.

When my Party is in Government, and if it continues with this programme of placing Ministers before the Committees, members opposite might find that we are better at it than they are. In fact, we are better than they are anyway. When members opposite are before a Committee attempting to ask a question to obtain the truth and to establish exactly what is happening and finding time and time again that they are being fobbed off (as did my colleagues and I over the past two weeks) they might wish that they never started this system. I sat in on the Estimates Committee dealing with the Chief Secretary's votes as an observer, not as a participant. The Chief Secretary is very good with words; he is better educated than I am. I am just a worker, whereas he is one of the gifted upper class.

The Minister sat there and rambled on and on, but when the time comes when we are sitting on the Government benches as Ministers, members of the present Government will rue the day that they started this system. Members opposite and the Premier may laugh, but the Premier will not even be Leader of the Opposition because he will have been deposed and the Minister of Industrial Affairs will be the Leader in the next Parliament. Members opposite may laugh, but they will be squirming in their seats and I will enjoy the day when we are sitting on the Government benches and making members of the Opposition eat their words, as they have done to us during the past three years.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer):** I thank honourable members who served on Estimates Committees A and B. In particular, I thank the Chairmen of those Committees as it was not an easy job to chair those Committees for the whole of their sittings. I think that everyone would agree that they did a first class job. I can speak for the Ministers involved, who appreciated the fine chairmanship shown.

I believe that the Estimates Committees have served a useful purpose in promoting the further use of programme performance budgeting—the yellow book. The amount of information made available to this Parliament by the Government in the yellow book was greater this year than ever before and certainly the greatest amount of Budget information ever made available to the Parliament in the history of this State.

**The Hon. M.M. Wilson:** It was unprecedented.

**The Hon. D.O. TONKIN:** Quite unprecedented. This is the closest thing to open Government that this State has ever had. The programme performance budget exercise not only provides members of Parliament who take the trouble to learn what is in the yellow books (and quite obviously the member for Napier and some other members did not understand how to use those books) with information but also provides a useful stimulus to members of the Public Service and to permanent heads. It enables public servants to administer their departments more effectively and efficiently. That has tremendous advantages from the point of view of conserving expenditure and making sure that we get value for the taxpayers' dollar.

The only other matter I will comment on is the appalling performance on those Committees of members of the Opposition who apparently had not taken the time or trouble to find out how to use the yellow books or to seek out important information. I make no further comment, except to say that the other thing that has come through is that although I thought that the bitterness with which the Labor Party regarded the last election had quietly passed away and that common sense had prevailed, I see now that it has not. I am absolutely amazed at the way the Opposition takes for granted the electorate of this State, believing that it has, by some divine right, an opportunity and will automatically be returned to office at the next State election. I think that the member for Elizabeth knows better than that. Indeed, I have information which leads me to believe that Opposition members are very mistaken if they think that they are going to fall into the Government benches by default, because I can assure them that they are not.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I am sorry; this may not be the appropriate time. I want to make a personal explanation.

**The SPEAKER:** This is not the appropriate time. The question before the Chair is that the proposed expenditures referred to Estimates Committees A and B be agreed to.

Motion carried.

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

That the remainder of the Bill be agreed to.

Motion carried.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PREMIER'S REMARKS

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN (Elizabeth):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** A couple of moments ago, in summing up the debate on the Bill that has just been passed, the Premier said, in referring to me, that he also had information to that effect, and I just want to make it clear to the House that I certainly am not privy to any information to which the Premier was referring in relation to the next election.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 11.6 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday 7 October at 2 p.m.