

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 7 October 1982

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

QUESTIONS

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the written answers to questions, as detailed in the schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

COMMUNITY WELFARE ACT

In reply to Mr **CRAFTER** (16 September).

The Hon. **JENNIFER ADAMSON**: My colleague, the Minister of Community Welfare, has informed me that the Community Welfare Act Amendment Act, 1981, will be proclaimed during this financial year. It has been necessary to work out models for some of the initiatives under the amending Act (e.g., the Children's Interests Bureau) before it comes into operation.

RADIUM HILL

In reply to the Hon. **R.G. PAYNE** (26 August).

The Hon. **JENNIFER ADAMSON**: The questionnaire referred to by the honourable member is one instrument being used in the present Radium Hill epidemiological study. Its purpose is to collect data on smoking habits and occupational history from former workers still living and who do not have cancer, to facilitate future analyses and interpretations of health data in relation to Radium Hill workers. In 1979, the preliminary results of a pilot study were published and, as a result, arrangements were made for free medical examinations for concerned former workers who wished to be examined. The study does not depend on medical examinations and obtains its information on disease incidence in former workers from other records already in existence.

Since 1979, a protocol for the full study has been developed, based on the pilot study, and a funding proposal developed. The study commenced in 1981 and the follow-up of workers includes obtaining information from interstate registries. The study should add important knowledge of the incidence of disease in groups of uranium miners, but it cannot conclusively establish a casual relationship in regard to individual miners. I have previously advised Parliament (refer to *Hansard* of 27 November 1980) that the study would take some considerable time to complete.

PETROL PRICES

In reply to Mr **BLACKER** (1 September).

The Hon. **JENNIFER ADAMSON**: I have consulted with my colleague, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, on this matter. The request to examine the possibility of implementing a State fuel equalisation scheme as opposed to price fixing is perplexing. Any price equalisation scheme would require price fixing. To obtain equal petrol prices throughout the State, the variable wholesale prices of oil companies would need to be standardised, a fixed retail margin established and a State freight subsidy scheme introduced to meet country freights not reimbursed by the Commonwealth scheme. Such a proposal would not receive

Government support, as it is discriminatory to both the oil companies and resellers, and would require considerable public funding. The present three cents per litre reduction in the Petroleum Product Pricing Authority approved wholesale prices benefits for all South Australians and will be retained.

QUESTION TIME

The **SPEAKER**: Any questions directed to the Minister of Industrial Affairs will be taken by the Premier.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr **BANNON**: Is the Premier aware of unemployment figures published today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics that show that unemployment in South Australia for September 1982 now stands at 51 200? That is 8.5 per cent of the workforce, and the highest rate of any mainland State. Teenage or youth unemployment in South Australia is at the level of 29 per cent, the highest of any State, including Tasmania. If so, will he announce to this House what he proposes to do in terms of job creation schemes to assist the employment of young people in South Australia?

The Hon. **D. O. TONKIN**: Yes, indeed I have seen the latest figures. I must say that they are a matter of great concern throughout the country. I do not think that there would be anyone in Australia today who would be at all sanguine about the enormous social impact and difficulties which come from unemployment levels which are surging upwards at an enormous rate.

It is a most disturbing situation. The effect on young people in particular and on those older members of the community who have been unable to get employment is, of course, something that we very much regret. The level of unemployment in South Australia, while it is a matter of great concern, simply reflects the increase which is happening throughout the nation. It is important, however, to put this into perspective. The Leader asks, 'What is the State Government going to do about it?' State Governments cannot, by themselves, do anything to stop unemployment on a regional basis and the Leader of the Opposition knows that full well.

In 1978 and 1979 there was an enormous loss of jobs in South Australia under the Labor Government, and those policies have now been reversed. I think it is better not to talk about the past now, but about the present situation. The present situation is simply that the increase which has occurred in South Australia in the last month is the lowest increase of any State other than Western Australia. The point is, if we take the last 12 months figures from September 1981 to September 1982, South Australia's share of the national unemployment level has fallen from 12.2 per cent to 10.1 per cent. In other words, there is a relative lessening of South Australia's share of unemployment generally. That 12 month's result shows quite conclusively that while unemployment is going up everywhere, it is going up far more rapidly in other States than it is in South Australia. Basically, that is a very strong endorsement of the policies that we are now following, because we are adopting policies which are helping to insulate South Australia from the general trends towards high unemployment increases throughout the nation.

I emphasise that between September 1981 and September 1982 the rise in the number of unemployed has been: in New South Wales (the highest), 45.94 per cent; next, in Tasmania, 41.04 per cent; in Queensland, 34.9 per cent; in Western Australia 19.22 per cent; and in Victoria 18.85 per

cent. In Australia as a whole the unemployment rate has been 29.07 per cent. In that 12-month period, the rise in South Australia has only been 7.38 per cent. Any increase in unemployment is regrettable, and it is a matter of grave concern. At least in South Australia we are containing that unemployment increase. We are containing the figure because we are steadfastly holding our policy of job creation, through creating new investments, new development and creating new jobs with the security that it needs.

The Hon. J.D. Wright: Give us proof.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: The proof basically is in the figures which have been released today, and those figures speak for themselves. The basis is that against the most regrettable economic situation that we have experienced in this country for many years, probably not since the 1930s have we had such economic stringency in Australia. South Australia is performing better than the other States. That is something we must remember very carefully because we have, by our job creation schemes, more than a billion dollars of expansion and investment in manufacturing and service industries, in the Coober Basin project now coming down through the Stony Point pipeline, to export fruition and the jobs created with the Roxby Downs project, which is already creating in excess of 1 000 new jobs, directly and indirectly, and the other prospects we have, not to mention the Honeymoon project, we are engaging in job creation schemes. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to know what sort of job creation schemes this Government is going to put forward now to help young people and to help people who are unemployed, let me say we will fight for the uranium enrichment plant.

We will fight for the Honeymoon development. We will fight for every opportunity we can get. We will not stand by weakly, evasively, saying absolutely nothing and letting jobs and investment be snapped up by other States. We allowed our natural gas to be given to New South Wales against the best interests of South Australia. Now, apparently, the Opposition wants to see the multi-million dollar high technology industry that would come from uranium enrichment also go, by default, to Queensland. If that is putting the interests of South Australia first, they have funny sorts of ideas.

I believe there has to be a sensible and bi-partisan approach to the development of South Australia. That development should be towards investment which will create jobs and the sort of future that people in South Australia want. They want work, jobs and the ability to work. They want to know that not only will they be able to get jobs but also that their children and their children's children will get jobs. I will never allow the people of South Australia to forget that members of the Labor Party voted *en masse* against the establishment of Roxby Downs and the jobs it creates now and the jobs it will create in the future. It turned its back on jobs, development and security for South Australia. The people of South Australia will not forget that.

STUART HIGHWAY

Mr GUNN: Will the Minister of Transport be applying to the Federal Government for the granting of additional funds for the sealing of the Stuart Highway under the Australian Bicentennial Road Programme?

Members interjecting:

Mr GUNN: It is obviously a matter about which the Opposition has no concern. During a visit to the Stuart Highway earlier this week, the Minister indicated that the deadline was 1986 for the sealing of the road to the border. Will the Minister indicate, if extra funds are to be provided

under these arrangements, what progress will be made in the relatively near future?

The Hon. M.M. WILSON: Legislation for the Australian Bicentennial Road Programme has not yet been introduced in the Federal Parliament. I believe it will be introduced next week by the Federal Minister for Transport. In the past two days we have had the opportunity to visit the North of the State and see the work being done on the Stuart Highway. I thank the member for Eyre for having us in his electorate and for the hospitality shown in that area.

The situation is quite plain. We need extra moneys to seal the highway by 1986-87 and, obviously, it would be apparent to everybody that the State would designate the Stuart Highway as probably the most important component of the Australian Bicentennial Road Programme for this State and, indeed, as one of the most important components for the nation. I am negotiating with the Federal Minister for Transport for an extra \$40 000 000 to be supplied to South Australia between now and 1988 for the sealing of that road. If that money is forthcoming (as I believe it will be), the Highways Department will be able to call contracts very soon for two unsealed sections of the highway below Coober Pedy.

The House will be aware that we recently let a record contract, in Australian terms, of \$16 000 000 for the sealing of the Stuart Highway from Coober Pedy South to Pootnoura Creek—a distance of 130 kilometres. If the Bicentennial road funds are forthcoming (as I believe they will be) we shall be able to let contracts for the sealing of the Stuart Highway between Bon Bon Station and Mirikata and between Mirikata and Coober Pedy South. From November this year all unsealed sections of the Stuart Highway below Bon Bon Station should be sealed, which means that within 18 months to two years it will be possible to drive from Adelaide to 100 kilometres north of Coober Pedy whilst remaining on the bitumen.

I think that is a great credit to everybody concerned, and it is really a giant step forward. The sealing of the road will bring benefits to South Australia, and indeed, to the Northern Territory; benefits will accrue also to tourism in this State. So, obviously the State Government has carried out the promise made before the last State election that it would seal the road as soon as possible; it is carrying out that promise, and I believe that it will be a very satisfactory result to everybody concerned.

I am particularly glad for the people in Coober Pedy, who will, of course, have that sealed road within 18 months to two years, to travel to Adelaide. I was informed in the past couple of days that people in Coober Pedy have stated that the sealing that has been done in the past three years has already knocked 1½ hours off their journey time to Adelaide.

CONVENTION COMPLEX

Mr SLATER: Will the Premier, in view of his affirmative answer yesterday that a \$30 000 000 complex is to be built in Adelaide, be more specific and give further information to the House, particularly regarding the location of this proposed convention complex; where the site is likely to be; and who are to be the developers?

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: Negotiations are taking place at present. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, who gives out confidential information about delicate negotiations, I believe that it would be quite improper for me to make any comment on this until there is some specific information available.

PIPING SHRIKE

Mr ASHENDEN: Will the Premier please advise the House whether the piping shrike is to be deleted as South Australia's emblem?

Members interjecting:

Mr ASHENDEN: Members opposite find it amusing, but my constituents do not. I refer, in explanation, to a number of letters to the Editor of the *Advertiser* this week expressing concern that the piping shrike is to be deleted as South Australia's emblem. I have also had approaches made to me at my electorate office by constituents who are also concerned that the attachment they feel for the present emblem could be completely lost. I therefore ask the Premier to clarify the situation.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I thank the honourable member for the question. Apparently, there has been a good deal of misunderstanding on the matter. It was first brought up some 18 months ago. Concern had been expressed to members of the Government that the piping shrike, which is widely adopted now as the emblem of the State and widely identifiable as such, was in fact not part of the official Coat-of-Arms of the State. The Coat-of-Arms is of Grecian design; it shows a Grecian goddess with a Cornucopia, and a shearer holding his shears, supporting a shield with the rising sun on it. In fact, the piping shrike does not appear at all on the official Coat-of-Arms. The modification which is to be made (and this again will depend on official design) will be to bring the piping shrike itself as the central point of the South Australian Coat-of-Arms, so that we will give it the official recognition that I believe it deserves. There is certainly no intention of doing away with the piping shrike as the emblem.

EDUCATION PORTFOLIO

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: Will the Premier call on the Minister of Education to resign or call on him to publicly explain his management of his portfolio in light of findings that public support for his Government's handling of education has hit an all-time low?

Today a copy of a survey, commissioned by the South Australian Institute of Teachers, was released publicly and to the press. The survey, over a sample of 800 people, was undertaken by Ian McGregor Marketing Pty Ltd. The statistics reveal that it was carried out in a professional way. The findings show that only 12.3 per cent of those surveyed viewed the Government's performance on education as satisfactory, and, of those, less than 3 per cent strongly agreed with the suggestion; 61 per cent believed that the Government's management of education in this State has been unsatisfactory.

As a related issue, given the Minister's comments about class sizes in this State, 71.8 per cent stated, 'Yes', in answer to the question whether they thought large classes were a serious problem in South Australian Government schools, and 54 per cent of those people strongly agreed to the suggestion. Significantly, 82.5 per cent of the 31 to 39 years age group (the majority of the parent age group) held that opinion about class sizes in South Australia. Given the role of Ministerial responsibility, the Premier should indicate to this House what he will call on the Minister to do.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I am delighted that the honourable member has raised this subject, because it allows me to make several comments. First, I would like to commend the people who did the survey on their competence: I do not know them, and I am sure that they have done an excellent job with the questions that were supplied to them. In answer to the direct question, no, I will certainly not ask

the Minister of Education to resign, especially on such rather dubious evidence as the honourable member has been able to supply. I repeat, that comment is not a reflection on the people who did the survey: it is a reflection on what I believe to be a most misleading and scurrilous campaign that has been waged against the Minister of Education by executive members of the South Australian Institute of Teachers.

The Hon. W.E. Chapman: With the input and support of the member for Salisbury.

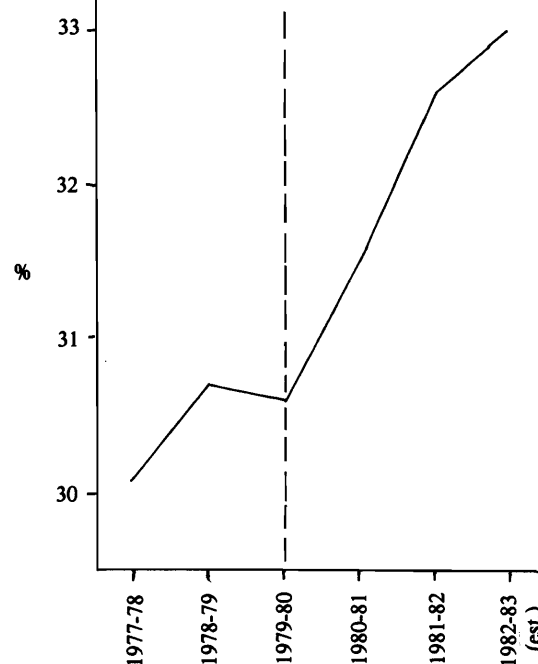
The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I have no evidence to show that the member for Salisbury has been directly associated with such a scurrilous campaign, but he is certainly identifying himself with that campaign by asking such questions. Basically, the survey shows the efficacy and the efficiency of the misleading and misrepresenting public relations campaign that has been adopted by the executive of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. For instance, I believe it is well known (and the Minister of Education has made quite clear) that the Australian federation acknowledges quite clearly that South Australia's educational system is the best system in Australia and, indeed, we can be very proud of it.

Mr Trainer: And who made it that way?

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I am glad that the member for Ascot Park moved right into that one. I have a graph of statistical information in relation to education spending, and I seek leave to incorporate it in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

EDUCATION SPENDING
as a percentage of the total State Budget.



The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: The graph shows quite clearly that to 1978-79 there was some increase in education spending as a percentage of the total State Budget, but from 1978-79 there was a decrease in the allocated sum, until the 1979-80 Budget, when there was a massive increase in the amount of spending on education as a percentage of the total State Budget. That gives the direct lie to the suggestions made by

the Institute of Teachers that funding has been cut back by this Government.

It also shows quite clearly that there was a decrease in education funding as a percentage of the total Budget in the last year of the Labor Government, and that this Government has continued to spend increasingly large sums on education as a proportion of the total Budget, more than the previous Labor Government spent in its last years. I simply make the point that I believe that some people on the executive of the Institute of Teachers do not represent the rank and file membership of that organisation. I know, too, that many people refuse to join the institute, because they do not believe that the executive properly represents their point of view.

There is also a very heavy and growing resentment of members of the Teachers Institute about the fact that the executive is now spending their money on misleading publicity and propaganda which is mostly of a political nature and which is not based on fact. I would be very interested indeed to know the degree to which the Institute of Teachers has lost the confidence of the teaching profession in this State. Frankly, it is a great disappointment that this should have occurred.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Mr BECKER: Will the Premier investigate the possibility or opportunity of preparing and submitting an application to the appropriate bodies to ensure that within the next 20 years Adelaide will be the venue for a Commonwealth Games? I understand that the Commonwealth Games currently being held in Brisbane is extremely successful and friendly.

Mr Hamilton: You haven't been watching the swimming for the past couple of days.

Mr BECKER: I forgive the honourable member, as I know that he is pretty ignorant. He ought to consult with his colleagues, and check where I have been.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will come to the explanation of his question.

Mr BECKER: I believe that 6 000 jobs were created in the past six years in the construction of facilities; several thousand jobs in the hospitality industry and associated tourism areas have also been created. Had the Dunstan Government accepted my pleas in the early 1970s for Adelaide to be the venue for the 1982 Commonwealth Games, its impact would have considerably reduced our current unemployment.

I also understand that such a major sporting event attracts world-wide publicity and support, apart from thousands of tourists and future tourist potential. Sydney hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1938, Perth in 1962, and Melbourne hosted the 1956 Olympic Games, neither city has looked back since as being acclaimed world-wide. In view of the outstanding performances of so many South Australians in the successful Australian team, I consider it would be tragic if the momentum of enthusiasm and interest was now lost. I ask the Premier whether future planning and development of sporting facilities in this State could be designed to provide suitable venues for a Commonwealth Games if and when the opportunity is available.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I thank the member for Hanson for his question, because the matter he raised is a subject of great topical interest, one that I believe should be considered very carefully. Indeed, I understand that the Minister of Transport, in his role of Minister of Recreation and Sport, has already had informal discussions with the Lord Mayor on the question of Adelaide's being the Commonwealth Games venue in the future. I emphasise at the outset that

such a proposal would require long-term planning. It would be unlikely that we would have any opportunity of staging the Commonwealth Games in Adelaide within the next 20 years or so. However, the point is that, unless the matter is considered now, there will be very little prospect of ever staging the games in Adelaide.

The staging of the games is particularly important when one considers the various facilities constructed for the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane and the fact that those permanent facilities will be of use to Brisbane and Queensland over many years. I cannot help but be impressed at the prospects of the long-term benefits that would come to South Australia as a result of having made the effort to stage the games here. I refer to facilities, such as the cycling track, the swimming centre, and the stadium itself, and many other facilities that have been constructed in Brisbane as a result of its staging the Commonwealth Games. The organisation of the event is a great credit to the people involved. Contributions in equal quantities were made by the Queensland State Government, the Brisbane City Council and the Federal Government. The cost has amounted to about \$30 000 000. Having regard to the benefits that will accrue to Brisbane and Queensland as a result, I really think that the Queensland Government has done very well.

I certainly believe that it should be looked at. Further, I would like to take the opportunity, and I am sure that all members will wholeheartedly support me, of congratulating those South Australians who have been participating, and particularly those who have been successful. We have done very well indeed with gold medals. Alex Taransky, Michael Turtur, Glynnis Nunn, John Tremmeling and Dean Lukin have won gold medals. A silver medal has been won by Glenn Beringin, and John Walters and Anton Wurfel have won bronze medals. That is a magnificent result so far, one of which South Australia can be very proud indeed, and I hope that at a suitable time I will be able to make some recognition of their great prowess in the games.

GAMES RECEPTION

Mr PETERSON: Will the Premier say whether consideration will be given to providing a homecoming reception for the very successful South Australian contingent at the Commonwealth Games? The efforts of amateur sportsmen are very soon forgotten, and with the outstanding success of our contingent I think that the State could do no less than provide a reception for these people to afford them the praise and acclaim that they so richly deserve. Last night I spoke here about the low spirits of South Australians, and this would be a golden opportunity to raise once again the South Australian image among the population of this State and raise also pride in what we can do.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: Arrangements have been made at this stage to welcome home the participants, particularly the successful ones, and details are now being finalised about a reception to honour their performances in the games. I am quite sure that everyone in the community will join in congratulating them on what they have done.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION: URANIUM

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

That Standing Orders be so far suspended so as to enable me to move a motion without notice forthwith:

That this House welcomes the latest report of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia and, bearing in mind the investment and future job opportunities such an industry would bring, urges the Government to make every effort to secure a fully integrated uranium mining and processing industry for South Australia, subject to internationally accepted safety standards, and that such suspension remain in force not later than 4.30 p.m.

Motion carried.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I thank honourable members of the House. Therefore, I move:

That this House welcomes the latest report of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia and, bearing in mind the investment and future job opportunities such an industry would bring, urges the Government to make every effort to secure a fully integrated uranium mining and processing industry for South Australia, subject to internationally accepted safety standards.

This motion basically is about jobs, investment and South Australia's future security. It is about attracting new technology to this State. It is about growth and prosperity. It is about expansion, and about the choice we now have between growth and stagnation. It is about fighting for a billion-dollar industry for this State. And, basically, it is about the direction that South Australia will take as we approach the twenty-first century.

The 1970s, as I have said previously, will be remembered for a long time as the decade when South Australia became an industrial backwater while other States expanded and prospered because they were prepared to move into their major resource development projects. It will be remembered, too, as the decade when in office the Labor Party gave away our natural gas to New South Wales at the expense of South Australia—a decision which is threatening South Australia's low-cost energy supplies and even the guaranteed continuity of gas. My Government is determined that the 1980s will not be remembered as the decade when uranium processing, with all the jobs and investment that it means, was given away to Queensland.

Yesterday's report of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia has given South Australia a very real chance of attracting this new and exciting energy-based industry to this State. The UEGA Report effectively eliminated Western Australia and the Northern Territory from any further consideration. The fight to attract this massive new industry, the energy industry of the 1990s and the years beyond, is now a fight between South Australia and Queensland. What we are fighting for jobs and security. We already have tremendous advantages for which we simply must fight and on which we must capitalise.

One of the first things we must do in this first stage of what I suspect will be a hard fought battle with Queensland is for the Government to demonstrate a firm and clearly stated desire to attract that uranium industry to this State. One of the fundamental reasons for this motion is to show potential investors and joint venturers that the Government is prepared to underline its commitment to this issue by putting it before the Parliament. What we are putting to the vote today basically is the future of South Australia. Anything less than wholehearted support clearly expressed by all members of this House will seriously jeopardise our prospects of wresting this major development from Queensland and creating the new jobs and security that we need for South Australians. It is one of the greatest opportunities for industrial expansion that South Australia has ever seen and certainly one of the greatest we are likely to see between now and the end of the century. A fully integrated uranium industry would exceed the massive B.H.P. development in size, job creation and investment. The unemployment figures issued only today further highlight the need for South Australia to continue to fight and secure projects such as this one.

I repeat that the unemployment levels are not good, but at least we in South Australia are going against the national

trend, because we are continuing to fight for and achieve projects of this magnitude—the Cooper Basin development, the Roxby Downs development and, of course, all the service and manufacturing industry development which has gone on since we came to office. We are determined to go on winning every possible advantage for South Australia. We must continue to do that, because that is the job creation scheme which is better than any other scheme that can be devised. Indeed, it is the only way that we in South Australia can minimise the impact of national unemployment levels.

With the uranium industry, we have a unique opportunity, a rare chance, and there is no way that we can afford to give up that chance by any lack of resolve, lack of direction, or by any uncertainty or loss of continuity. I repeat that the surge in national unemployment, although it is worrying, has not affected this State as seriously as it has the rest of the country in the past 12 months. The increase between September 1981 and September 1982 is 7.38 per cent in South Australia compared with the national average of 29 per cent. South Australia's percentage share of unemployment of the national total has gone from 12.2 per cent this time last year to 10.1 per cent at present.

We can insulate South Australia if we want to, and the only way to keep on doing that is to continue to fight for every opportunity that comes our way. There is no way that we can give any advantage away to any other State, and certainly not to Queensland. We already have an advantage over Queensland, and I sincerely hope that we can count on the support of members opposite in this project. I would be very disappointed indeed if they were to put their own Party-political interests above the interests of South Australia. We have vast quantities of uranium ready to be developed, and we have that advantage over Queensland. We have an excellent central geographic position, and that is another advantage that we have over Queensland.

We have extensive expertise in the study of Urenco-Centec enrichment technology, the centrifuge technology, and that is now the officially supported technology used in the establishment of an industry here. We also have that advantage over Queensland. We have a very good and on-going relationship with the Urenco-Centec consortium and with other associated groups, particularly in Japan. It goes without saying that we have a Government determined to fight to win this new and exciting industry for South Australia. I have been bitterly disappointed to read the weak and evasive comments of the Leader of the Opposition on this vital matter. He implied that there was nothing new in the statement made by UEGA yesterday and that the South Australian community would not welcome an enrichment plant in this State. Let us examine those comments.

For the first time, UEGA supported the Urenco-Centec uranium enrichment technology—the technology that successive South Australian Governments have advocated since Mr Dunstan's time onwards. UEGA has made a decision on technology for the first time. Is there nothing new about that? The Leader appears to think not. For the first time, UEGA has come down with a site and has said that the industry should be established in either South Australia or Queensland. It has eliminated Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Is there nothing new about that? It is a very momentous decision. Yet, the Leader says that there is nothing new. For the first time UEGA has recommended that the feasibility study into the establishment of the enrichment industry should proceed and get down to the solution of sites. Is there nothing new about that? Of course it is new! It is a major breakthrough. South Australia has, in fact, won a battle. We now have to get on and fight for South Australia. Having won the battle so far, we are now in a position to win the final round if we want to.

The point is that we have to want to, and we have to move in and fight with everything we have. The Leader says that the people of South Australia would not welcome an enrichment industry. I do not know how he draws that conclusion. Clearly, by making that comment he is saying that a Labor Government would not be interested in any attempt to win the billion dollar industry for South Australia. His Party would hand it over—jobs, investment, the lot—to Queensland without a whimper or without putting up even a token fight. By doing that, members opposite certainly are not putting the interests of South Australia first. I cannot basically forgive the weak and indecisive approach being taken by the Leader on this critical question. I can understand his dilemma. After all, he has been weak on similar questions of development in South Australia, and he will not say whether the Labor Party will support the Roxby Downs project. His attitude and the attitude, I suspect, of most members opposite is indecisive and evasive. The most the Leader will say is that he will seek to renegotiate the indenture. He will say nothing else and will not say whether a Labor Government will support the application recently made by the developers in respect of the Honeymoon uranium development for a production permit.

The Leader today said that it was nothing to do with the State Government and that he had not seen the projected market surveys. It involves an application by a company to the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy for a production licence. The Leader surely does not believe that that is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. It is a direct decision that has to be taken by this Government. The Leader cannot dodge around that decision that he would have to take. Again, he is weak, evasive and ineffective. With the enrichment story, I suspect that it is much the same. There has been no direct response. At least he gave some response on the announcement of UEGA yesterday. I understand that he ducked for cover when the Honeymoon decision was made. There has been no direct response on those three matters. If he will not give a direct response to Honeymoon, and he will not give a direct response to Roxby, where does the Opposition stand on such issues? Where does it stand in relation to the enrichment plant? No doubt, when the time comes for the next stage of the Beverley uranium mining project to be announced, the Leader's attitude will be the same. It will be weak, evasive and indecisive, and he will dodge the issue.

I think the only consistency that we have seen in the approach that has been taken by the Labor Party on these matters is lack of decision. As I said, I cannot forgive the indecision, the evasiveness and the weak approach to these subjects, but I can understand them, because the Leader is the elected Leader of a Party that is bitterly divided on this subject of uranium development, and on the wider issue of resource development, and behind the Leader and slightly to his left is the honourable member for Elizabeth. I will do him the credit of saying that, whilst I do not agree with his attitudes on uranium in its various forms, that attitude is clear-cut, unequivocal, and clearly expressed without any fear at all. I do at least respect him for having the guts to stand up and say where he stands on these matters, which is a lot more than one can say for other people opposite. I respect his right.

An honourable member: There is no orange flower water about him.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: There is no orange flower water about the honourable member for Elizabeth, but I must say that I totally agree with his assessment of other people to whom he applied that description not very long ago. I do not agree with him, but I respect the honourable member's view; I respect his right, and his courage, for expressing his views so forthrightly. I cannot say the same for other mem-

bers opposite. Let us look very briefly at the advantages to South Australia that would come if we won the fight to attract the Urenco-Centec project.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We have a debate and the Premier is the one called. There is not a sub-debate between other members on both sides of the House.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have no doubt that the honourable member for Elizabeth will make his contribution at the appropriate time. Let us look at these advantages to South Australia. We create thousands of new jobs and again we come back to the job creation schemes which the Labor Party puts forward. This would be a proper job creation scheme, a job creation scheme which would not concoct artificial jobs out of the air, but would be new jobs, permanent jobs, productive jobs. It would create more jobs than any of the expensive artificial schemes that are put forward could ever create. There would be jobs in planning, construction and production. There would be a wide cross-section of job opportunities from construction to high technology; from unskilled to highly skilled work. Those job opportunities are important for this State, and yet apparently the Labor Party wants to hand these magnificent opportunities, at a time when we desperately need these jobs, on a plate to Queensland. We would have investment and new wealth which would benefit every man, woman and child in this State for many years to come, in South Australia's bid to become the technology centre of Australia, and we could build on what we had already achieved by setting up technology plant.

We could well become the technology centre of Australia and perhaps the South Pacific Basin, and our chances of doing that would be tremendously enhanced if we could have this high technology industry. Inevitably, the enrichment technology will have spin-off benefits in other technology; it would attract other industries in that area, and not only that: our reputation as a responsible and secure area for interstate and overseas investment, which is already rising high over the past three years, would be considerably enhanced. There is no question that we would do very well with that industry, and I suppose if we look at the straight economics of it, there is an advantage to be obtained by enriching that uranium and doing it in South Australia to add to the value of it before export.

Again, that is additional money coming into the State and finishing up in the pockets of South Australians. It would give South Australia, and Australia, a greater influence in the international arena. Australia would be more adequately able to insist upon and enforce nuclear safeguards, because it would have a direct interest in customer countries, and hopefully would have an arrangement with customer countries with equity involvement in an enrichment area. There are so many very obvious and real benefits to South Australia, and to Australia, that I just cannot understand why the Labor Party is reluctant to embrace them.

We certainly recognise the benefits, but we cannot quantify them exactly. However, we know that they will be of enormous benefit to this State. We are not going to stand idly by and not fight for that industry for South Australia. I have already sought urgent talks with Urenco-Centec on the possibility of establishing that plant in South Australia. We were in contact with the company only this morning. I will arrange the matter with the Prime Minister when I see him on this and other matters early next week. But without any question, the Government's attitude on the matter is absolutely clear and unequivocal: we want this industry, and we are determined to get it. We will ensure that it is established in accordance with the strict controls to guarantee environmental protection, the health, welfare, and safety of workers,

and marketing and use of the product according to international safeguards.

I believe that it is high time the Labor Party told us clearly what it would do faced with the same series of major development initiatives for this State. It would come as no surprise, following the very weak approach that was adopted when a motion on Roxby Downs was introduced in this House, after a somewhat rhetorical speech by the Leader, if we heard nothing more from members of the Labor Party. That would figure, because it is a weak and cowardly tactic: it has been used before on matters of embarrassment to the Labor Party, and I would not be surprised if it was used again.

There cannot be any misunderstanding of the true attitude to the establishment of an enrichment industry. The Federal Labor spokesman on environment, Mr Stewart West, stated only yesterday that a Labor Government would halt the enrichment project. Nothing could be much clearer than that. Nothing would please me more than for the Labor Party to reverse (or at least try to reverse) this attitude. Why does not the Labor Party in this State say, 'We want the benefits for South Australia', without worrying about what the Labor Party in Queensland, in any other State, or even at the Federal conference states. The Labor Party here should say, 'We want this industry for South Australia, because of the benefits it would bring.'

That would be putting South Australia first, and it would certainly increase the credibility of the Labor Party and the respect in which that Party might be held. Of course, I suppose that, if the Labor Party was to do that, if it was to support our bid for the enrichment industry, it would be accused of turning around. Again, that is nothing new. The Labor Party has turned around before, particularly on the uranium issue. Of course, the question is which way the Labor Party would turn, and where exactly does it stand now? In statements on this matter so far, the Leader has supported neither his Party's policy nor South Australia—he has had two bob each way. That will not be good enough.

As I said before, the Leader has attempted to dismiss the significance of yesterday's announcement with indecision, equivocation, some misrepresentation, and generally by being as weak as dishwater. The Leader has done the same in regard to the Roxby Downs issue and Honeymoon. I defy anyone to produce a single statement from the Leader that supports those developments unequivocally. The point is (and I believe that this must be remembered by the community) that these developments represent planned or committed investment in South Australia that could generate a financial investment of \$3 000 000 000, and well over 20 000 jobs. These are some of our job creation proposals, and they are meaningful. They will provide permanent and diverse jobs, spread across the State.

The evidence available to us at this stage suggests that the Leader and his Party are trying to buy time. They will not make any commitment at all; they are refusing to make any commitment on the proposed multi-million dollar investment prospects, because they know perfectly well that, if they ever came to Government, they would not be able to allow these projects to proceed. That is quite clear. A Labor Government would not allow these developments to proceed, according to the policy that now applies. I refer again to the statement made by the Leader in August of this year, namely:

Nobody who reads the policy can say that it aims at allowing uranium mining.

The meaning in that statement is supposed to suggest that the policy prevents uranium mining, but the Leader stops short of making a positive statement. He does not say what his interpretation is. If in fact that is the Labor Party's position, it means that there will be no Honeymoon devel-

opment, no Beverley development, no Roxby Downs development, no uranium conversion, and no uranium enrichment, as well as the fact that there will be no \$3 000 000 000 investment, and no creation of more than 20 000 jobs.

I believe that all honourable members in this House would be prepared to stand up and support these developments for South Australia, knowing that they are in the best interests of all South Australians, not only in the short term but also in the long term for many generations to come. Certainly, this Government will be doing everything it can to stand up for South Australia and achieve significant results for South Australians.

Mr BANNON (Leader of the Opposition): If the motion before the House was genuinely aimed at enhancing or improving the development of South Australia, if it was a real attempt to gain some bipartisan action to solve South Australia's economic problems, if it was a genuine move on the part of the Government to somehow look to the longer term as to where South Australia is heading and what we all might do co-operatively about the future, the Opposition would be treating the matter in a very different vein to the way we must treat it today.

It is an absolutely cynical and discreditable exercise on the part of the Government. Faced with major problems in our economy today, and faced with figures which were issued within hours of a scurrilous press statement issued by the Premier in an attempt to cover up the facts, today we have this sort of exercise in the Parliament of the State, with the Premier standing before us with his crocodile tears running down his cheeks, saying that he hopes the Opposition will do the right thing and that he hopes we will not be evasive, and so on. The Premier knows very well what he is on about and so do his colleagues: survival in office, a shabby attempt to cling to power. Let the Premier keep it up in this place, but it certainly will not wash with the community at large. I know that his Deputy is sitting there taking notes in preparation for his usual abusive tirade which in his mind passes for debate. The Deputy Premier has had two major experiences in his life: he has taught a class of schoolchildren and has been in Opposition for most of his Parliamentary career, which shows every time he gets to his feet. The day he settles down and starts constructively to look at his job we might get somewhere in terms of this State's development.

Let me restate the proposition, and I want every member to think about this. Is this motion a genuine attempt on the part of the Government of South Australia to aid and advance the bipartisan development of the State? Plainly, it is not, and the cynics opposite know very well that it is not, just as members of the Opposition know that it is not. A Government with the genuine interests of the State in mind would be talking about our major and immediate problems, but time and again the Government has ducked debate on that. I shall refer to the motion and its substance in a moment.

Time and again the Government has ducked debate both publicly and in this place on the major economic problems of the day, and instead has produced motions such as the one before the House, which are cynical political exercises. Surely Government members have listened to the warnings of industrialists and people involved in development projects. Surely they have listened to the words of Sir Arvi Parbo. I would have thought his attitude to South Australia and to the South Australian Government would be fairly important, and I would have thought that it would do the Government well to look at the statement he made not so long ago in the face of this sort of exercise by the Government. Incidentally, because he does not want to get involved in that

debate he is very even-handed in the way he presents his remarks. Listen to the message. Sir Arvi said this:

The worst feature of recent trends is, however, that mineral developments can now become political footballs. Large new developments are an essential part of maintaining and, hopefully, improving, the living standards of the community. They are difficult enough to get off the ground because of the technical, commercial, and financial complexities and the high risks involved. Any attempt to make such projects controversial for purely political reasons will make it much more difficult to establish them and is, I respectfully suggest, a serious disservice to the voters the politicians represent.

Let me make it quite clear that I am not aiming these remarks at any one political Party, in this State or elsewhere. My concern applies equally to those who oppose developments for purely political reasons and those who couch their support in politically-motivated terms. Neither attitude is in the least helpful in getting on with the real job, which is getting the projects into production.

Is this motion a genuine attempt to aid and advance development of the things the Government claims it wants? Of course, it is not. It is the cynical politically motivated nonsense that Sir Arvi Parbo talks about. Listen to what he said. People in the industrial economic development industry in this country are not going to put up with the sort of cynical political misuse of projects that is going on by this Government. If the Government wants to know something about Roxby Downs and the Labor Party, ask the joint venturers whether or not they are satisfied with the attitudes of the A.L.P. in the aftermath of the passing of the indenture. Ask them! One will not hear any statements from them expressing concern or unrest, or whatever. They understand our position. They are willing to live with it. It is only this Government, for cynical political reasons, that seeks to beat it up in the way the Premier has just done and the way his Deputy will follow shortly. Listen to those words; how about the Government's obeying them, if it is interested in the long-term development of this State?

Secondly, we have had this exercise pulled on today at very short notice. The Premier made a statement yesterday about the Uranium Enrichment Group and its report. He said all he wanted to say. He outlined his Government's attitude to it. What is the point of giving notice of some special motion on the issue two hours before Parliament assembles? It is a lot of nonsense. There was no need to do it today or in this way. It was pulled on purely and simply to take attention away from the catastrophic employment situation revealed today.

I remind the House of those figures. I will come to the substance of this motion, but this is the context in which this motion is set. Let us get it firmly before the House. Unemployment in South Australia for September 1982 is now 51 200, or 8.5 per cent of the work force. It is only a few months ago that my Deputy suggested, not in any sense of gloating, but in an attempt to try to put some realism into this Government's mind, that our unemployment may top 50 000. What response did he get from the other side? Laughing, jeering, 'not possible', the Premier said; things were going to improve. I will quote the Premier shortly on that very matter. That was the reaction to it. Today, it is 51 200.

An honourable member: He said 80 000.

The Hon. J. D. Wright: I said 50 000, you bloody goose. What is wrong with you? Don't exaggerate!

Mr BANNON: That unemployment rate is the highest rate of any mainland State and well above the national rate. The argument that we are going backwards more slowly simply will not wash with a Government which, when in Opposition, said that something had to be done and that a State Government deserved to fall because it was not doing anything, made grandiose promises about how it was going to fix up the position. Now it is due for election, and it has completely failed to do so. It will not wash to say that things

are not so good elsewhere either. The fact is we are still worse off in South Australia. This Government has done nothing to improve the situation. Even more alarming is the rate of teenage or youth unemployment; 29 per cent in South Australia, nearly one in three young people who are seeking work cannot get it. What is the reaction to that?

A lot of them are going interstate. We are losing our most vital resource. We can talk about unexploited mineral resources in the ground that may be dug up and used in the next 10, 20 or 50 years. What about our living resource, young persons of 18 years and over about to enter the work force with skills, energy and enthusiasm? That is a resource that this Government is transporting out of the State. What will that do to our community? We have at the moment the highest proportion of aged people in the country, and our population is rapidly ageing. It is doing so because young people are voting with their feet about what is going on in this State and leaving. What about doing something about that resource and its development? That is what we need in the immediate future.

We are faced with those figures and we get this shabby and cynical motion before us. Unemployment has been escalating. From August this year it was in excess of 50 000. It has gone up again for this month. For two consecutive months we have been at that level. We have hit that level on only six occasions, and on each occasion that has been in the term of office of this Government.

The Premier, in attempting to defend his record, as well as the pathetic backwards more slowly approach, says that we have to look at our employment situation. More people are thrown out of work, and the employment figures also reflect our decline. I seem to remember the Premier (in fact he is on the record), in July last year, saying:

Put another way, the rate of new job creation between now and the next election needs only to be sustained at the present levels for South Australia's unemployment rate to fall by 2 percentage points, which I am confident can be achieved.

Look at the reality. He is addressing the Party faithful in a closed-door meeting and he says:

However, until that parity is realised our response to every mention of unemployment must be in terms of new employment, both that already created and that soon to be created as mineral industrial and commercial development intensifies.

What is the record with our employment figures? In fact, it shows that South Australians jobs have declined. From a comparative period, August 1979, to August 1982, there is a net increase of 1 800 jobs, far less than in any other State, far less than the 97 000 in New South Wales, the 82 000 in Queensland, the 75 000 in Victoria and the 40 000 in Western Australia. We have gone up 1 800. That is a nice comparative performance for a start, but let me put on record here and now that when the employment figures come out on the proper seasonal comparison from the end of the last Government, September 1979, and the three-year term of this Government, September 1982, they will show a devastating job loss in this State.

We have lost 7 100 jobs (I am not talking about increased unemployment; I am talking about jobs lost) in the last 12 months, and the rate of job loss is increasing. We are being told by the Premier that we have to waste the House's time on this sort of nonsense. What happened to all those promises, to the bold new initiative that was going to create all those jobs? What happens when the Opposition comes up with constructive plans to try and do something now to give people a bit of hope? We get unmitigated and badly-founded attacks on constructive proposals to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Job creation schemes are part of the whole panoply of weapons which any Government seeking seriously to tackle the problem should be using. This Government refuses to do that. It heaps scorn and derision on those who propose

it, because it is not prepared to act at all. It is so intent on getting out of the way, in terms of its philosophy, that it will sit back and watch the whole situation deteriorate. If anyone questions Government members they have two stock answers: it does not seem so good over the border, and in any case we have these marvellous developments coming up in the future.

What does this motion say? It asks us to endorse a report that none of us (and I suggest that not even the Premier) has seen yet. This House is to welcome the latest report of the Uranium Enrichment Group. We have not seen that report yet. We have simply had a Ministerial statement and the text of a telex from the Federal Minister. I am not quite sure on what information members are being asked to vote, on what comprehensive in-depth studies we are being asked to pin the economic development of this State. That is the first point. We are being asked to vote on a report we have not seen or studied. Look at the text of the motion. This, of course, I think typifies the present Government.

The motion urges the Government to do something. The Premier is standing up here urging himself to do something. He so obviously lacks self-confidence, he knows so well that the Government record has been so abysmal, that he has to come to this House and be urged by all of us to get on with the job that he says is vital. I will say this: if I am—

Members interjecting:

Mr BANNON: When I am Premier of this State—

Members interjecting:

Mr BANNON: When I am Premier of this State ('if relates only to how soon that will be) and I believe that certain actions should be carried out, and it is in the interest of the State for them to be done, and there is no bar in terms of reading legislative change, or whatever, I will get on and do it. I will not come creeping in here, waving a motion around, and saying, 'Go on, urge me to do it; urge me on.' What a pathetic way to govern!

Members interjecting:

Mr BANNON: So the Premier believes that this is so vital that it has got to be urged on. If members opposite believe this, let them get on and do the job that they should have been doing over the last three years. Finally, in terms of the statement that was made, I mention that we do not have a report to study and to vote on, but we do have a Ministerial statement and a telex. This is about a project apparently that is going to create all these jobs and an economic revival in South Australia. Let us just look at what this statement says. I can identify no less than 11 passages, at least, which show how this is a beat-up. This report has been produced in a hurry in order to try and create the issue, in the way Sir Arvi Parbo was deploring, for a particular aspect of Government policy for election purposes. This is not a report which says that certain actions should be taken. It is a report full of 'ifs' and 'buts' and 'maybes', and it is there even in the telex that we have got, because that is the only information we can go on. Listen to this:

It was announced today that the Government has been provided with a further report—

not a final report, but a further one. There is more to come. We are getting nothing definitive in this document of a continuing study (so that it is an on-going thing, it has not finished) of the feasibility of establishing a uranium enrichment industry. There is no mention of 'establishing' it, but of its feasibility. There is reference to 'further reports', 'continuing study', 'feasibility'. It goes on to talk about the need to do work on the nature and timing of further work: 'further work'. It talks about various countries being involved in the centrifuge technology, and this should be the basis for further study: 'further study' to be made related to the 'possible establishment' of a uranium enrichment industry.

This is a nice comprehensive, definite report. This is what the Premier has to fight with Queensland over. It goes on. The Government has accepted that certain sites be 'further evaluated' as most likely. I have reached No. 6 of the 11 uncertainties in this report. There are a few still to come, so just wait; just be patient. The statement continues:

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.

There is not even an agreement from the consortium whose process they have decided to use that it be used; no terms, no conditions have been set down. Further, it is subject to 'satisfactory conclusion of all necessary inter-governmental agreements'. They have not even started the process of finding what governmental arrangements on an international scale are required. And we are supposed to be voting on what we think about this report. I am up to No. 8, and there are three to go. Here is the crunch. This is probably the most important part.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BANNON: Far from the report saying that we are now going to get on and study the engineering and the feasibility work that is needed to establish it (that is point No. 10), before they even get to that stage, that stage which will take at least two years, they are going to undertake a market survey with Urenco-Centec. In other words, the whole thing is dependent not on whether the plant will be in Adelaide, or Brisbane, or anywhere else, but it is to be in terms of what the market is going to be like for the product that is produced in such a plant.

The Federal Government expects to get that survey at the end of next year. What are we doing debating this as a matter of urgency? There it is: that is the most significant thing said in the report. This was meant to be a final feasibility study which was meant to be presented six months ago. It is late and it does not say we should go on and do it. It says that we have got to do a market survey now (and that is going to take 12 months, six months for the survey and six months to present it to the Government). If that is favourable, and only if that is favourable, it will be another two years before the commencement of the detailed engineering and feasibility study.

What about the technology? The Premier claims that what this document does is decide on the centrifuge technology and, indeed, that is what is described in part of the press release. However, listen to this statement:

Although Urenco-Centec enrichment technology will be the basis for further studies by UEGA on the feasibility in Australia, this does not mean that Australia will co-operate only with Urenco-Centec countries.

In other words, the door is still left open, if there is some future change in technology or some different way of applying it, to go elsewhere. Not even in that point, the definitive taking over of a particular type of technology, is this report conclusive. It simply says that it will do the basis for further studies, but that does not shut the door on other countries being involved. It is there in black and white in the report. We hear that they have chosen the centrifuge technique. I would like to know what the Government thinks of recent developments in this field of uranium enrichment.

One remembers that in the past, even though the centrifuge technique was demonstrably superior to gas diffusion work, the United States has insisted on that the technique being sold and used because that was the one it perfected. Now a leap frog process has taken place and while the Premier is going to fight on the basis of this flimsy report, this further study document for something for South Australia, the technological developments are taking place which may well make all of the findings in this report redundant. I refer to

an article in the *Australian* of 23 August of this year, under the heading, 'Uranium industry dealt blow by new US system'. I will read the relevant passages. The report states:

The chances of Australian industry proceeding with a planned \$1000 million uranium enrichment plant have been jeopardised by the disclosure yesterday of a new American enrichment system. A Nobel Prize-winning American physicist, Professor Hans Bethe, revealed that the laser isotope separation method of upgrading uranium for use in civilian nuclear reactors could operate four times as cheaply as the systems being considered for the Australian plant.

Then it talks about the study that is being undertaken by UEGA, out of which this so-called report has come and in which the various consortia are involved and it states:

But the new American system discussed by Professor Bethe has dealt a savage blow to rival enrichment systems. Professor Bethe said the new enrichment system would reduce the cost of uranium enrichment to 'a fraction' of the present cost of upgrading by means of the established highly energy-intensive gaseous diffusion method. The new US technology should enter world markets by the beginning of the next decade.

This is the crucial point. This is what we have not been told.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BANNON: It is also four times cheaper than the centrifuge method. The article goes on:

Even if the Australian group, chaired by Mr Gene Herbert of C.S.R., makes an immediate selection of technology for its plant—and the decision is already six months behind the original schedule—

and that is the decision announced yesterday, supposedly—the plant would not come on stream before 1990, and so would face strong price competition from the new laser process.

It may well be that all of the work that has been done in the so-called decision that is being reached is the wrong one in the light of technology.

Finally, in terms of that aspect, what about the market at which we are looking? Is it not true that there is a surplus of enriched uranium and enrichment capacity in the world at this stage? Is it also not true that a Bill is currently before the Congress of the United States that, in the words of one correspondent, could be the death knell to further development of the Australian uranium industry? That article was published only five days ago. Have we heard statements on it? Have we had a reasonable assessment on that or on the technology about which I have just been talking? No, not a bit of it! I doubt that we will get it today from the Deputy Premier. We will get his usual tirade of abuse of the Opposition. We will get none of the hard facts we need to make the decision that we are being asked to make.

The article published on 2 October talks about the Bill being sponsored by Republican Senator Peter Domenici. The article states:

In recent months Senator Domenici has emerged as one of the two or three most powerful economic legislators in the United States Congress.

What he is proposing and has already had unanimously adopted by his Congressional Committee, is a motion which will prevent the importation of uranium from countries outside the United States pending the reopening of all the uranium mines that have been closing over the past few years. In terms of our development projections based on a massive boost of United States sales picking up demand in the world market, that is a major blow. It would make an enrichment plant absolutely unfeasible in any economic terms, whether or not its technology was relevant. That is the basis of this extraordinary motion.

The Premier tells us that he is going up to have a hard-fought battle with the Queensland Government. I seem to remember that it was the very same Premier who apologised to Mr Bjelke-Petersen because I was attempting to get the Jackson oil pipe through South Australia and used here for

processing in this State. It was a logical economic decision, and something which requires strong action by the State Government in conjunction with the consortium of the Cooper Basin, which wanted to come this way. What happened when I made some attempt to do something about that? The Premier apologised to Mr Bjelke-Petersen. He grovelled then and expects to have a hard fight now. I do not much fancy his success.

The motion is symptomatic of the unreality of the Government. While our economy is in trouble there is a refusal to face the facts. The Premier sits in his State Administration Office, like the Roman Emperor Nero with the olive leaves around his brow, a glass of wine at his side, playing his violin, as the State burns around him. It is about time he came down out of there, got into the community, and talked about real projects. I therefore move the following amendment.

Members interjecting:

THE SPEAKER: Order! The House wants to hear the amendment.

Mr BANNON: I move:

Delete all words after 'this House' and insert:

While noting the Ministerial statement made by the Premier on 6 October concerning the Report of the Uranium Enrichment Group, expresses its alarm at the level of unemployment in South Australia which has been revealed by the survey published by the A.B.S. today, in particular the fact that 5 300 more South Australians are now seeking work than at the time the Government came to office, and condemns the Government for failing to create jobs.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY (Minister of Mines and Energy): The Leader of the Opposition has managed unsuccessfully to completely dodge the issue. He sought to turn this debate into a discussion of unemployment figures, but he has not come to grips at all with the motion that the Premier has moved in the House.

Mr Ashenden: He couldn't, that's why.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: Well, he sought to give me a back-hander in his opening remarks, as he knew I would be following him in the debate. He gave a gratuitous insult, no doubt absorbed by the member for Mitchell, about the fact that I was a teacher for part of my working life, which he seems to think—

Mr Trainer: Are you talking to me?

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: No. I am talking about what the Leader said.

The Hon. R.G. Payne: I am the member for Mitchell.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I was referring to the Hon. Mr Trainer. He is seeking to suggest that I am unfit—

THE SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ascot Park.

Mr TRAINER: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I believe that members are to be referred to by their electorate rather than by their personal name.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member is correct in his assertion. I did take note that there was no disparaging remark made in naming the honourable member, but the point he makes is correct.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I did refer to him as 'honourable', but I will refer to him as the member for Ascot Park. The best that the Leader could do in referring to the possible contribution that I could make to the debate was to make some disparaging remarks about the fact that, for about a third of my working life, I was a schoolteacher. I have done a few other things which I believe have been valuable to me when it comes to gathering experience, and it ill-behoves the Leader to descend to personal insult in attempting to denigrate anything that I may have to say. He has completely ducked the issue, as is his wont whenever he is confronted with a difficult situation. He is in a bind

because his head tells him he should be going in one direction but the dictates of his Party policy compel him to go in another.

Some interesting comments were made about the decisions of UEGA. There were some less than gratuitous insults to that organisation. He was seeking to impute to the Government the fault he was finding in the telex, which has been the subject matter largely of the motion brought into the House today. All of the criticism that he was levelling in relation to that telex is a direct reflection on the people who make up the UEGA group. Amongst that group is the Western Mining Corporation. At one point in his remarks he sought to quote Sir Arvi Parbo, and suggested that Sir Arvi deplored the sort of politicking that goes on from time to time. I recall that he did not take too much notice of what Sir Arvi Parbo said when he stated quite definitely that, if the indenture for Roxby Downs did not pass the House, the project would be put on ice. The Leader chose to suggest that Sir Arvi was not being strictly truthful when he made that assertion, but he quotes Sir Arvi now in relation to a comment he made, quite rightly, that there was too much politicking.

The Leader does not see any advantage in supporting the motion. The clear advantage is that the State will have a bipartisan united approach in its efforts to gain a significant industry for the State. On the one hand, the Leader suggests that this Government is not interested in employment and that it does nothing to generate employment. However, when we have real prospects for employment in the State, albeit not immediate in this case, he wants to turn his back on them. I find that a strangely anomalous position for the Leader of the Opposition to adopt. I take it as a compliment that the Opposition members have largely vacated the benches. It not only indicates their lack of interest, but also pays me a compliment, as there is always a great deal of discomfiture amongst Opposition members when they stay in the House to hear what I have to say.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I am glad that the member for Elizabeth is here, as he is one on that side of the House whose personal qualities stand out above those of his Leader, in that at least one knows where he stands. He does not speak with the two tongues which unfortunately characterise the effusions of the official Leader of the Opposition. The advantages of a bi-partisan approach I would have thought were obvious. We have here an industry which, up until recent days, the Labor Party endorsed wholeheartedly. Let me refresh the memories of some members opposite in relation to uranium enrichment and the attitude of the A.L.P. in the mid-1970s to this venture.

The Hon. Peter Duncan: Maybe you could comment on the fact that the press gallery has also been vacated.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I see that one or two very intelligent members of the press are still in the gallery. The attempts to gain uranium enrichment for this State were initiated by the Australian Labor Party, going back to about 1973-74, when it established the South Australian Uranium Enrichment Committee. What members opposite are now saying is that they have spent many thousands of dollars of taxpayers' funds in South Australia on what they now believe is a fruitless pursuit. They set up the Uranium Enrichment Committee, they have funded it and commissioned reports, and now they are saying that all the funds spent on that exercise are down the drain. The former Premier, now selling tourism for the Victorian Government, was quick to jump into the headlines back in 1975-76 in relation to uranium enrichment. This is what the *Australian* editorial said on 2 July 1976:

Nor is Mr Dunstan fencing around this plan with needless ifs and buts, although, like the Federal Government, he says that he

will pay due regard to the Ranger uranium inquiry report when it is presented.

He sees no environmental danger to South Australia from the enrichment process ('less danger than from a normal chemical plant', he says) and has no qualms about the morality of using uranium as a world energy fuel (he told a recent A.L.P. conference that with coal running out and solar energy not a proposition nuclear power was the world's only hope as a future energy source).

He even sent his Minister of Mines and Energy overseas to have a look at the question of uranium enrichment and to drum up finance for it. On 2 July (the same day) a headline appeared in the *Advertiser*, 'Opposition support for uranium plant'. That was the South Australian Opposition: it was a bipartisan approach there, and we had a fair chance of having some impact on the Federal scene. The report stated:

The South Australian Opposition announced yesterday its support in principle for the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant in South Australia.

Premier Dunstan, as I say, encouraged and indeed sought to make the running in relation to uranium enrichment, and the reports at the time indicate that quite clearly. Under the headline on 14 June 1976 in the *News* '\$2 000 000 000 plant—new South Australian moves', the following appeared:

Renewed moves to build a \$2 000 000 000 uranium enrichment plant in South Australia have been launched by the State Government—

that is, the Labor Government—

Federal talks are to be held soon with a powerful British, German and Dutch consortium—

the group mentioned in the telex (the Urenco-Centec group)—

In Adelaide it was recalled that the State Mines and Energy Minister, Mr Hudson, has held a series of private discussions with Federal authorities in a bid to have any enrichment plant based in South Australia.

It is interesting that they thought they should be private. In the gas talks I have been having in the past few days, we should have been trumpeting to the world, according to the Leader. The report continues:

The Mines and Energy Minister in the Whitlam Government, Mr Connor, said in June that a site at Lake Phillipson, 480 km north of Adelaide, was an ideal site—

the Dunstan Government had other views about that; it was thinking of Redcliff—

Since Mr Connor raised the possibility of a plant about two years ago, the South Australian Government has carried out a detailed study on the feasibility of South Australia being selected. Although no announcements have been made, it is known that the Government has made a major submission to the Federal Government.

Let me finish with the following quotes:

Mr Dunstan caught other Premiers hopelessly napping on Wednesday when he released a two-year feasibility study for an enormous uranium enrichment complex at Redcliff, near Port Augusta, which would double the value of Australia's uranium exports from \$500 million to \$1 000 million a year on present prices.

He does not intend to lose the advantage. Copies of the report were delivered yesterday to the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, and the Minister for National Resources, Mr Anthony.

And today, Mr Dunstan will make his first approaches to winning vital Federal approval and assistance when he meets the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Senator Cotton, in Sydney . . .

Mr Dunstan says, 'We need the plant.' South Australia, he points out, does not have much capacity in resources for enormous developments. Its main thrust since 1966 has been in 'gap' manufacturing—industries which have been neglected in the heavy industrial States . . .

Mr Dunstan is not concerned that the enrichment plant would come under Commonwealth control. His prime aim is to get Australia's first—and for a long time, only—uranium enrichment plant built in South Australia.

And so the glowing reports in the press at that time go on. 'Hudson back—Europe wants uranium' proclaims the headline. What has happened to the A.L.P. in the meantime? It

has had a conference or two, and it does not know where to jump. What the Leader of the Opposition has sought to do again is duck this issue. He has not said whether he will or will not support the project. He has completely ducked the issue, and in the process has insulted the people who have made some decisions in relation to it. I believe they are very significant decisions, although he says that nothing has happened. The Leader must have been fairly well divorced from the scene for the past year or two, because if he had tried to keep at all close to the UEGA group he would know it has travelled overseas and looked at technologies, and the fact that it has decided on a technology is a most significant decision.

I know from my contact with overseas interests that there has been a great deal of interest in Japan and America in relation to the choice of technology, and a lot of work has been done by the UEGA group in relation to just which technology would be most suitable for Australia. That has been decided, and it is a most significant decision. The Leader of the Opposition also does not see as significant the fact that the site for a uranium enrichment facility has now been narrowed down to two States. He does not see as significant the fact that it is to be either Queensland or South Australia.

Coming on the heels of all this (what must in hindsight have been ballyhoo—all this headline-grabbing by former Premier Dunstan, who 'caught the other Premiers napping' and who 'leads in the fight for uranium enrichment,') I find it an amazing statement by the current Leader of the Opposition that there is nothing significant in the fact that it is to be in either Queensland or South Australia, and I suggest that that is most significant. He referred to his efforts (to the Jackson oil) briefly in passing in one of the other diversions which he introduced to the debate. We know how he behaved there: he went to Queensland and ingratiated himself into the Minister of Mines' office on false pretences and then came away and trumpeted to the world that he had had discussions with the Minister.

The Hon. D.O. Tonkin: He got in by subterfuge.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: Yes. We apologised for the fact that he got in there under false pretences, but having got in there he came back and said that he was going to go and talk tough; he would tell Joh Petersen where to get off: he would tell him to send his Jackson oil down to Adelaide. If anything was designed to be offputting as far as Premier Bjelke-Petersen was concerned, it would have been that approach, and he suggested that we were not doing enough to get that oil to come into South Australia. We had had contact with the producers, and we had offered all the assistance of the Government in relation to that development. We agreed that it was sensible that it should come to South Australia, but for him to suggest that he would go up there and demand of Joh Petersen that he should turn Queensland oil into a South Australian pipeline, and that Joh would click his heels, salute and do it, indicates how absurd the suggestion is.

It is unfortunate that we do not have the Leader on side in relation to this project. It is most unfortunate that we are not going to get the bipartisan approach which this magnificent development deserves, because it is quite obvious that the Leader of the Opposition does not intend to support the Government in its efforts to secure this industry. In the one breath he complains that we have troubles in relation to unemployment, and in the other he turns his back on any development that will create employment.

I do not believe that the Labor Party has a particularly enviable record: in fact, it has a most unenviable record in relation to its efforts to attract industry and enterprise to this State. I cannot think of any significant development

that occurred in South Australia during the whole 10 years of Labor's occupation of the Treasury benches. I know that the Labor Party sold our gas to Sydney to make a petrochemical plant viable and that the Dow Chemical Company, after about eight years, has now quit the scene. That project was announced and reannounced with all the humbug that went with it.

The Labor Party at one stage (as I indicated with the quotes from the press of the middle 1970s) was busy keeping to the front in the uranium enrichment race, but it has now turned its back on that. The Labor Government proposed an international hotel in Victoria Square, with Japanese waitresses flitting around. I recall the grand announcement in that regard, which came to nought. This Government managed to secure that project. There was to be a complex over the Adelaide Railway Station, and a model was put on display, but the project came to nought. We were to have a grand new complex on the showgrounds site, the subject of an announcement, which came to nought.

Mr Mathwin: It involved millions.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: Millions of dollars. We were to have a new underground railway in Adelaide, but that came to nought. If members cast their minds back over the accomplishments in terms of real redevelopment that gave long-term employment and strength to South Australia's economy during the 10 years of Labor Government, they will recall nothing—not one major project. What has been the record of the Labor Party during the life of this Government in relation to real projects—not only contemplated projects but also projects that were up and running? What was the attitude of members opposite? They opposed them. What was their attitude to the Roxby Downs project, where 1 000 people in South Australia are employed at present, 200 of those on site? They opposed it. They voted to put those people out of work.

The Opposition in this State seeks to divert attention in this debate to the question of unemployment, but it voted to put people out of work. How hypocritical can one get? That is what the Leader is doing. Members opposite assiduously sought this development five or six years ago, but they want to turn their back on it now. What was their attitude to the Honeymoon mine, in regard to which mining approval is currently being sought? What will be the attitude of members opposite to the environmental impact statement on the Roxby project? Will they endorse the project if they ever get a chance to do so? I believe that those questions require urgent answers. It ill behoves the Leader of the Opposition to go on with a tirade about unemployment when the Opposition is doing its level best to turn its back on our current employment efforts (in other words, to vote people out of work) and other developments that can have an enormous impact on employment in the future, as was acknowledged by former Premier Dunstan. If the Leader is interested in seeing the trends in relation to unemployment, I would advise him to look at the figures to see what has happened during the last month. If the Leader does not accept the fact that we are holding the line in South Australia while the situation is deteriorating quickly under Labor Governments elsewhere—

The Hon. D.O. Tonkin: He has a blinkered attitude.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: He is blinkered, as usual. Let the Leader consider the situation in New South Wales, under the great pace-setting Neville Wran, where the unemployment level increased in one month from 6.5 per cent in August 1982 to 7.3 per cent in September 1982. What does that represent in terms of people out of jobs in one month? It is nearly 1 per cent. What is happening under the enlightened new Cain Government in Victoria, whose policies, by the way, the Leader of the Opposition seeks to emulate by suggesting that we should spend our way out of

trouble and create jobs by spending money that we do not have? That is what Cain tried to do, but in one month unemployment in Victoria has increased from 6 per cent to 7 per cent—an increase of 1 per cent in one month. That is what the Leader is talking about when he suggests that jobs should be created in this way. One cannot create jobs without the necessary money. We have tried to create jobs by creating wealth, and that is the only way to do it. But the Labor Party turns its back on that method.

In Queensland, unemployment has increased in one month from 6.5 per cent to 7.1 per cent, but in South Australia the rate increased from 8.4 per cent to 8.5 per cent, only a 0.1 per cent increase, while in other States the rate has increased by 1 per cent. If the Leader cannot accept and absorb the fact that we are holding the line in South Australia with our policies of tight control, there is precious little hope for him. To suggest that the Labor Party has innovative policies that will come to grips with this matter is just so much gobbledygook that it hardly bears comment.

The Leader states that the A.L.P. has real policies to address the situation, but what are those policies and projects? Do they involve setting up an investment fund that gives discounted rates of interest, to which the Leader hopes to attract public funds? Do they involve setting up a body similar to the South Australian Development Corporation, which was set up by our predecessors to prop up industries that could not obtain funds through the normal financing channels? Look where that has got South Australia. That initiative cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. Some of the most severe problems that this Government inherited resulted from stupid excursions by the previous Government into the area of financing, which eventually cost the taxpayer dearly. What are the real projects about which the Leader talks? There are no real projects: they are ephemeral. If the Leader is suggesting that the Cain Labor Government in Victoria has the answer (and from what I can glean, he is emulating those policies), there is precious little—

The Hon. D.O. Tonkin: He has gone off Mr Wran a bit.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: The Leader has gone off Mr Wran, and he will soon go off Cain, because unemployment is increasing rapidly in Victoria. The Victorian Government has increased all the taxes it said it would not increase, and did not find money in the hollow logs where it said it would find it. The Victorian Government nosed around the hollow logs and found no money. It has put enormous imposts on the public of Victoria in regard to what it believes are job creating schemes, and that will only lead to an uncompetitive situation. The Victorian Government will follow the path of socialist France and will find itself in deeper water than it was in when it came to Government.

The Leader has completely ducked the issue. The Labor Party will not address the fact that very significant decisions have been made. Not only has the technology been chosen, but the decision rests on South Australia or Queensland. If the Labor Party is to turn its back on that, it has no claim at all to govern in this State. The Leader has moved an amendment.

The Hon. D.O. Tonkin interjecting:

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: As the Premier points out, it is a smokescreen. In fact, I would hardly call it that, because it has nothing at all to do with the motion that the Premier put before the House. At best, it is a very poor smokescreen. I refer members once again to the words of the former Premier, who stated that we have a chance to gain something very significant for South Australia, which will generate employment, create ancillary industries, act as a boost for the manufacturing of centrifuges, and so on.

What will the Labor Party do? It will turn its back on that. I believe that that sits very uncomfortably with the

plea for increased employment. I would have thought that, if the Leader was searching around for some diversionary tactic, he could not have been more inept in the amendment that he chose. The Leader chose to seek to divert attention away from the fact that a bipartisan approach would be useful in South Australia in seeking to secure this industry, but in seeking to divert attention from that issue he has chosen, I suggest, about the most inept subject for his amendment, and that is unemployment, because the Labor Party is turning its back on employment, as it turned its back on Roxby Downs.

Of course, only one of the Labor Party's members (Hon. Mr Foster) had the courage to stand up at the conference and say that he had never yet voted to put people out of work and that he did not intend to start now, which really put the cat among the pigeons. It was only the courage of the Hon. Mr Foster, who realised the employment ramifications of not proceeding with the project that enabled him to buck the machine, and by gee, that takes a bit of doing in the Labor Party as it always has a pretty sharp axe kept behind the door, which it uses. Norm Foster had enough courage to say what he thought, and he put his finger right on the question of employment. We now have a repeat performance with the Labor Party intending to vote against a proposal to assist employment: that is what it amounts to. It is the height of cynicism for the Leader of the Opposition to move an amendment in the way that he has done.

The Hon. D.O. Tonkin: Ill-judged.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: It is the height of stupidity. The Leader has shown a singular lack of judgment in many things, and yet again he has shown this, as the Premier has pointed out. For the Leader to move that amendment, when the Labor Party intends to vote against a measure to assist employment, is the height of stupidity. The facts are plain. Despite the attempts of the Leader to denigrate it, the resolution is plain. The House welcomes the latest report of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia, and it does so particularly because South Australia is one of the two States that could gain this industry, and bearing in mind the investment in future job opportunities that such an industry would provide. That was acknowledged freely by the headline-hunting former Premier Dunstan, who urged the Government to make every effort to secure a fully integrated uranium mining and processing industry for South Australia subject to internationally accepted safety standards. I think that if former Premier Dunstan drafted the resolution he could not have done better in terms of the quote that I read out to the House a moment ago, wherein he stated that the advances are undoubted on all counts. The former Premier would heartily endorse the resolution.

The Government subscribes to the view, enunciated I think by the Prime Minister, that Australia simply should not be a great quarry but that we should maximise the refinements of our minerals, our wealth and resources, because not only does that increase employment, but enhances prospects and generates income for the State and the nation. What could be plainer and simpler than the text of the motion? What could be better designed to generate worthwhile activity and the prosperity of the State and the nation? For the Leader of the Opposition to oppose that simply indicates that he will not face the facts.

The Government challenges the Opposition to outline its attitude to this industry. Has it changed dramatically from the days of Premier Dunstan, when he made the statements that I referred to? What is the situation? What does the Opposition intend to do in relation to this developing industry in South Australia? Members of the Opposition cannot be equivocal in their attitude. The member for Elizabeth is unequivocal, but the Leader will not be pinned down. It is

simply not good enough to attempt to push this matter under the carpet when there is a real possibility—

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

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer): I must say that I am not particularly surprised that members of the Opposition have decided to opt out of the debate and to make no contribution. The interesting thing about the Leader of the Opposition's contribution was that he did not address himself at all to the fundamental questions that have been raised by the motion. Until the Leader manages to get himself up to the barrier and answer those questions, the people of South Australia will have to draw their own conclusions about his attitude. Basically the Leader of the Opposition ducked the issue.

The Hon. E.R. Goldsworthy: As usual.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: He completely ducked the issue and changed the subject and talked about everything other than the fundamental issues. Quite clearly, the Leader does not support a uranium enrichment industry for South Australia; he does not believe that that industry should be in South Australia; he is prepared to let it go to Queensland, and he will take no part in any fight for South Australia. I find that attitude curious for the Leader of a Party that aims to be in Government some day. The Leader will not stand up for South Australia.

Because he has had some experience as a schoolboy debater, the Leader constantly says that he wishes to debate various issues. The opportunity was given to him today to say exactly where he stood and where his Party stands on the issue, but he did not take it. He has not debated the matters at issue, and has carefully avoided them. The Leader does not have the courage of his convictions, whatever they might be. He will not give specific answers to questions that have now been asked by very many people in the community. I challenge the Leader to give a clear and unequivocal answer: does he support the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant in South Australia, or does he believe that it should be given up to Queensland? There can be no misunderstanding the question; there can be no equivocation about that straightforward question that I put to the Leader.

Mr Ashenden: As well as the 20 000 jobs.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN: I think we have established that the jobs and investment are there. I do not want any sort of side issues coming in, although the question of jobs is fundamental to the matter. However, that was twisted around in a very well-known debating manner in an attempt to make the question of employment a major issue. The basic question remains: does the Leader support the establishment of a uranium enrichment establishment in South Australia, or will he stand by and let it go to Queensland? That is the question that we would all like him to answer. Further, will the Leader support the Honeymoon project now that it is moving into the production stage (or which has applied to do so), or will he oppose it? That is a clear enough question. The Leader has been quite silent on these matters. Apparently, he constantly wants to debate these matters because he wants to cloud the issues and to avoid giving straight answers. I point out that I have a great deal more respect for the courage and integrity of the member for Elizabeth, who has no hesitation in saying where he stands on these issues, than I have for the Leader, who does not have the courage to say where he stands. The Leader has been loud in his debating technique, but evasive and weak in everything that he has said, and, indeed, I believe he is evasive and weak in everything he stands for.

All the people of South Australia want now is an undertaking from the Leader of the Opposition that he will support this project and support the Government in its efforts to

achieve it. At least the Leader should have the guts to stand in this House and say that he opposes it, or say that, although personally he might not oppose it, he is bound by his Party to oppose the project, that he is in the grip of the conference of his Party, and the executive of his Party, those faceless men.

He is tied down. If he had the courage to do that he would have much more respect from the community, even though people may not agree with the stand that he is forced to take. His continual shilly-shallying, evasion, never touching the issue, and hoping that it will go away is doing him no good at all. More particularly, it is not doing South Australia any good, which is what concerns me most. I have no doubt that this motion will be passed on the voices, once we have dealt with the extraneous amendment, and that honourable members opposite will still sit on the fence, not say where they stand, and hope that the issue will go away. The issue is fundamental to South Australia's future, because it is about uranium enrichment and jobs and investment in South Australia. If the Opposition will not support this motion, we can take it that it is totally opposed to any type of resource development that will create jobs and security. Its words about unemployment, as the Deputy Premier has pointed out, are very hollow indeed.

The House divided on the amendment:

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

Noes (21)—Mrs Adamson, Messrs Allison, Ashenden, Becker, Billard, Blacker, D.C. Brown, Chapman, Glazbrook, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Lewis, Mathwin, Olsen, Randall, Rodda, Russack, Schmidt, Tonkin (teller), Wilson, and Wotton.

Pairs—Ayes—Messrs Corcoran, Crafter, and Keneally. Noes—Messrs P.B. Arnold, Evans, and Oswald.

Majority of 2 for the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived; motion carried.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: UNEMPLOYMENT

The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. WRIGHT: During the excellent speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition, he commented on a statement that I made in the House on 9 February 1982, wherein he said I had forecast to the Premier and the Government that we were heading towards 50 000 unemployed people in South Australia. The member for Newland interjected, as did the Minister of Industrial Affairs, and, possibly, the Minister of Agriculture (I am not quite sure). Their interjections were intended to exaggerate the figure of 50 000 nominated by my Leader and they said that I had said it would be 80 000 unemployed. I interjected and called them 'Gooses'. I now prove that. I am looking at *Hansard*, page 2687, of 9 February 1982, when I made a speech on unemployment during a no-confidence motion. I will not read all of it, because I will only delay the House, but I will read the important passage which verifies that the Leader was speaking the truth, and that the interjectors were not:

He cannot deny the indisputable fact that we are heading towards having 50 000 people unemployed in this State. The figure is still increasing. I am prepared to say that when the figures come out on Thursday I would not be surprised if we have not then gone beyond 50 000.

That is the only figure quoted in that speech. The interjectors were incorrect.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION: SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
BANKRUPTCIES**

Mr BANNON (Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr BANNON: Yesterday, the Premier, in answering a question, said that I had misrepresented the position on bankruptcies in South Australia. He referred to misrepresentations from my office, and said that figures had been plucked out of the air. Those statements were wrong. The Premier claimed that no bankruptcy figures were available for electorates. In fact, that information is obtainable, although obtainable by fairly tortuous means. I think that some members have claimed that unemployment benefits cannot be determined for electorates, when, in fact, one simply has to use post codes and assign them to electorates. That can be done. All bankruptcy notices are published and all contain an address. The Opposition checked all 2 300 bankruptcy notices since 1 January 1980, as part of a major project. Addresses were then allocated to State electorates by means of the State Electoral Office directory. All that source material is freely available in this building. The addresses shown related to electorates. It should be noted that the notices understate the bankruptcy total, as they are in respect of only two categories of bankruptcies, not all types. They relate only to debtors petitions and sequestration orders. In fact, since the completion of that initial project there have been another 160 bankruptcies in South Australia, bringing the total to 2 460, which is more than the Premier was saying occurred throughout the year.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader is in fact going beyond the description, or special explanation, of the material led yesterday.

Mr BANNON: The member for Mawson, in this misrepresentation, referred to 57 bankruptcies in his district which he claimed could not have been ascertained. In fact, the total has now increased to 62 and the suburb of Morphett Vale has the highest bankruptcy total in the State. In Newland, the bankruptcies have increased by the figures mentioned yesterday in the course of that question. To date, in 1982-83 there have been over 200 bankruptcy notices in South Australia, which is 16 per cent more than the equivalent period last year.

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. J.D. CORCORAN

The Hon. D.J. HOPGOOD: I move:

That one weeks leave of absence be granted to the member for Hartley (Hon. J.D. Corcoran) on account of ill-health.

Motion carried.

MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY (Minister of Mines and Energy) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Mining Act, 1971-1981. Read a first time.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

It deals with a problem relating to the payment of compensation in respect of mining operations conducted on exempt land. Section 9 of the principal Act provides that certain land shall be exempt from mining operations but that the exemption ceases if compensation is fixed by agreement or by decision of the Land and Valuation Court. Upon completion of the operations in respect of which compensation has been paid, the exemption revives. One of the categories of exempt land under section 9 is land in the vicinity of a dwellinghouse, factory or other buildings or structures specified in the section. These structures are in some cases situated on land that is adjacent to, but separate from, the exempt land on which it is proposed to carry out the mining operations. It is obviously fair that, in such cases, the owners of these structures which give rise to the exemption should share in the compensation payable by the mining operator. The present amendments give effect to that principle.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill are formal. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the principal Act. Paragraph (a) replaces paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3). New paragraph (b) of subsection (3) makes it clear that the Land and Valuation Court must assess compensation if asked to do so by a mining operator. Paragraph (b) of the clause inserts new subsections (3b) and (3c). Subsection (3b) defines the persons entitled to compensation. New subsection (3c) makes it quite clear that an agreement or determination under subsection (3) and conditions attached to that agreement or determination will operate for the benefit of successors in title to the land and to the mining tenement.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE secured the adjournment of the debate.

**PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA BILL**

The Hon. H. ALLISON (Minister of Education) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to establish an authority to be known as the 'Public Examinations Authority of South Australia'; to prescribe its functions and powers; to repeal the Public Examinations Board Act, 1968, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: 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

The Bill has been introduced to give effect to changes to South Australia's system of public examination of students in the final year of secondary school. There has been support for changes as a result of reports produced by the Committee of Inquiry into year 12 examinations in South Australia (the Jones Report) and by the Committee of Inquiry into Education in South Australia (the Keeves Reports). Those reports attracted considerable comment, and many of the responses supported the need to change the present public examination system.

The underlying concerns over the system were related to a variety of factors, including the apparent dominance exerted by the universities on the curricula of schools at the upper secondary level, the limited range of subjects at that level and their academic orientation, the concern that many students were opting out of upper secondary education because

of a perceived lack of relevance of the courses, and the inappropriate use being made of the Matriculation certificate in selecting students for employment. Courses that had been developed as alternatives to Matriculation were not enjoying widespread community and employer acceptance, in spite of attempts by schools to produce courses of more relevance to students. Part of the lack of acceptance could be traced to non-inclusion of those courses within an accepted public examining system.

Thus the Bill proposes the establishment of a new public examining body—the Public Examinations Authority of South Australia, which has a threefold purpose. First, it will provide a system of public certification of student achievement in secondary school; secondly, it will assist tertiary institutions in their task of selecting students who seek entry to tertiary courses; and thirdly, it will assist employers to select students for employment. These primary purposes for the authority encompass a much broader range of activities than are possessed by the present Public Examinations Board, which was originally established to serve the universities in their problem of selecting students seeking to enter degree level courses.

The new authority will still have this role but it will be expanded to cater for entry to the broader range of courses now offered by all tertiary institutions including the Department of Technical and Further Education. Again, it will still be responsible for developing the syllabuses of subjects or courses on which tertiary institutions will base their selection of students. However, the authority will have the added responsibility of approving the syllabuses of a broader range of subjects that are of more direct relevance to students seeking to enter the workforce directly from school. Those subjects would contain material of more interest to such students than they perceive to exist in subjects oriented towards tertiary entrance, but that is not to say that there need be any less academic rigour attached to their study.

Further, the authority will also enable the development of a system of public certification of student achievement in subjects which may be developed on the initiative of schools themselves, or by subject associations, or indeed by other associations such as, for example, the Australian Music Examinations Board. The authority will conduct assessments of student achievement in the range of subjects for which it has approved the syllabus; the methods of assessment will incorporate written examinations but other forms of assessment could also be utilised, for example, oral examination, auditions and performances, (or portfolio of completed practical exercises). In its syllabus development activities, or its approval of syllabuses presented by others, the authority will have the task of determining the extent to which use is made of any or all of the forms of assessment.

As well as conducting assessments itself, the authority will also have the power to accredit assessments performed by other bodies. To take again the example of the Music Examinations Board, in accrediting that board as an examining body, the authority will leave to that board the actual process of assessment of students, having determined for itself that the assessment methods to be employed are satisfactory from the authority's point of view. Hence the results of such assessment would then be able to be incorporated into any record of student achievement to be issued by the authority. The issue of the nature and form of certification to be provided by the authority is an important one, as the certificate will be used for a variety of purposes. Thus the authority will have the task of preparing and maintaining a system of recording the achievement of students' results from the assessments, and will also provide a record of student achievement.

The authority will have the responsibility for determining the content and manner of reporting to be used in a certifi-

cate. Those are matters on which the Government holds the view that it is better for the authority to have freedom to develop, rather than seeking to impose constraints by legislation; it will only be with experience gained within its operations, by drawing on past experience, and by understanding the uses to which a certificate will be put, that the authority will be able to provide a meaningful certificate of student achievement. The authority will have to develop that understanding of the uses to be made of its certificate, to produce information to help with community, employer, and student understanding of results, and to establish the appropriateness of various methods of assessment and the content of syllabuses. Consequently, the authority will be empowered to undertake and commission research into these and any other aspects of its responsibilities.

The authority is to have a broader range of interests amongst its members than the Public Examinations Board, to reflect the broader range of purposes for the authority. In particular, the membership of the authority will include parent interests, and those of employers and trade unions. Tertiary institutions will of course still have a significant presence. While the establishment of the authority finds its foundation in concerns over the existing and past system of public examination, it is to the future that perhaps the greater part of our attention should be directed. The Government holds the belief that the changes brought about by the establishment of the Public Examinations Authority of South Australia will have the effect of retaining students' interest and participation in upper secondary education. The Keeves Report outlined the relatively low retention rate of students to the final year of secondary education in Australia when compared with similar industrialised countries. The concerns currently being expressed in the community about the adequacy of the preparation being received by our students may well be substantially alleviated by the measures being taken to establish the Public Examinations Authority. That is not to say that the concerns will be immediately dissipated; rather it is to hold an expectation that, as the authority continues to expand the coverage of publicly accepted subject offerings at the upper secondary school, the increasing numbers of students remaining in secondary education for a broader range of studies over a longer period will thereby acquire the skills necessary to enter a more complex environment—whether it be further study or the world of work—with the confidence and capacity to ensure their future success.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill are formal. Clause 3 sets out the arrangement of the Bill. Clause 4 provides definitions required in the interpretation of the Bill. Clause 5 repeals the Public Examinations Board Act, 1968. Clause 6 is a transitional provision transferring property and liabilities of the board to the authority. Clause 7 establishes the Public Examinations Authority of South Australia as a body corporate. Clause 8 provides for the membership of the authority, the appointment of members, their term of office and other related matters.

Clause 9 provides for matters relating to procedures at meetings of the authority. Clause 10 is a savings clause that protects members of the authority in the performance of their duties. Clause 11 provides for delegation by the authority to members, employees and committees established by the authority and to persons appointed by it to assess students. Clause 12 requires disclosure by members of the authority of any contractual interest that conflicts with that of the authority.

Clause 13 will enable allowances and expenses to be paid to members of the authority when necessary. Clause 14 sets out the functions of the authority. Clause 15 sets out the powers of the authority. Clause 16 provides for the establishment of committees and subcommittees. A committee

may delegate functions and powers to a subcommittee that it has established. Committees and subcommittees may be constituted by persons who are not members of the authority.

Clause 17 provides for nomination by a tertiary institution of subjects on which it wishes to assess students for enrolment. The institution will have the right to recommend persons to be appointed to the syllabus committee for that subject and to be appointed as assessors. Subclause (5) ensures that a tertiary institution must take into account the achievement of students in nominated subjects for two years after it has decided to withdraw the nomination of that subject. This provision will safeguard students who have studied the subject in years 11 and 12.

Clause 18 provides for employees of the authority. Clause 19 provides for the keeping and auditing of accounts. Clause 20 requires an annual report to be delivered to the Minister and to be laid before both Houses of Parliament. Clause 21 provides for proceedings to be disposed of summarily. Clause 22 is a financial provision. Clause 23 provides for the making of regulations.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE secured the adjournment of the debate.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON (Minister of Health) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the registration of medical practitioners; to regulate the practice of medicine for the purpose of maintaining high standards of competence and conduct by medical practitioners in South Australia; to repeal the Medical Practitioners Act, 1919-1976; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: 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

This Bill seeks to repeal the existing Medical Practitioners Act and replace it with legislation designed to regulate the practice of medicine in a manner appropriate to the 1980s. The Bill has as its fundamental objective the provision to the community of medical treatment and services of the highest standard. It seeks to achieve that goal through restructured regulatory mechanisms, involving a combination of peer review and public scrutiny and I commend the profession for its initiative in seeking many of the changes now proposed.

Medical boards were established in Australia long prior to Federation. Their role and function of monitoring standards of medical education and medical practice has been solidly established. However, the question needs to be asked as to whether that role and those functions are appropriate to today's needs and problems; whether vastly changed conditions of practice ought to be accompanied by changes in structure and function of medical boards, if modern-day needs are to be met. Registration entitles the public to believe that certain standards of competence and ethics will be maintained. It places an obligation on practitioners to ensure that those standards are maintained. In effect, it requires members of the professions to be accountable to the public as well as to their peers for their actions. This, in turn, raises the matter not only of setting and monitoring standards, but the whole issue of the public's confidence in that monitoring and those standards.

Registration boards have a most important role to play in terms of the relationship between the public and profes-

sionals. In the medical area, this is particularly the case in times of oversupply of manpower, increasing volume of medical services being provided, spiralling health care costs and a public which will more readily voice its expectations of professional conduct and practice, and challenge the conventional sphere of competence of the doctor. The Government and the profession accepts the validity of the argument in favour of the public interest perspective being brought to bear on the profession.

The Bill before you today therefore restructures the Medical Board. It increases the membership from six to eight and changes its composition to include two non-medical members, one of whom is to be a legal practitioner and one of whom is to be neither a medical practitioner nor a legal practitioner. For the first time, a specific charter of powers and functions for the board is set out in the legislation, emphasising the board's role in maintaining high standards of competence and conduct.

The board is given power to establish committees. One important area in which it is envisaged that a committee would be formed is in the area of education and training. An important initiative in the Bill is the power for the board to deal with situations where the competence of a doctor is concerned. It may be that competence in a particular facet only is concerned, e.g. a declining competence in the performance of certain surgical operations. Currently, the board does not have specific power to investigate a doctor's competence in such situations, or on that account, limit his practice or suspend his registration. (It has only limited powers in relation to mental or physical incapacity). Provision is made in this Bill to remedy these deficiencies.

Another initiative in the Bill is the establishment of the Medical Practitioners Professional Conduct Tribunal, to investigate complaints alleging unprofessional conduct. From time to time, criticism has been levelled at the existing investigative and disciplinary mechanism, on the grounds that the board must in a sense be both prosecutor and judge. The Government believes the proposed division of responsibility between the board and the tribunal answers that criticism and will facilitate the handling of complaints. The tribunal will be a five-member body, including a legal practitioner as Chairman and a person who is neither a medical practitioner nor a legal practitioner. Complaints will initially be lodged with the board, which may itself investigate the matter, or taking account of the seriousness of the matter, may refer the matter to the tribunal. The tribunal will have a range of sanctions it can apply, including reprimanding the medical practitioner; imposing a fine of up to \$5 000; imposing conditions restricting his right to practice medicine; suspending the practitioner for up to one year or cancelling registration. There will be the right of appeal to the Supreme Court against a decision of the tribunal.

The Bill provides, in similar fashion to the existing Act, for registration of general practitioners and specialists. Qualifications for registration will be set out in regulations. Honourable members will note that, with the repeal of the existing Act, the provisions relating to the Foreign Practitioners Assessment Committee are repealed. This committee was included in the 1966 amendments to the Act, for the purpose of examining certain foreign graduates whose qualifications were not automatically registerable. The committee has performed a useful function. However, its functions have now been superseded with the development of the Australian Medical Examining Council (AMEC). Medical boards, in an attempt to introduce uniform registration requirements, have adopted the principle that any overseas doctor who wishes to practise in Australia and whose qualifications are not such as to entitle him to immediate registration, should be required to pass an examination of the

same standard as that required of graduates of any Australian medical school. The Australian Medical Examining Council (AMEC) was established to conduct examinations for this purpose. It will be through regulations that recognition of AMEC examinations, or indeed, recommendations of any future similar body, will be able to be achieved. Accordingly, it is no longer necessary to retain any reference to the Foreign Practitioners Assessment Committee in the Act.

Also on the subject of registration provision has been included to enable the suspension of the registration of a medical practitioner who has not resided in the Commonwealth of Australia for six months immediately preceding his application. The Medical Register currently presents an inaccurate picture of the number of medical practitioners in the State. It is considered that many practitioners on the register have never practised in the State, and are unlikely to do so.

At the request of the medical profession, the Government proposes to allow the practice of medicine by companies. Other States have allowed this to occur, but in contrast with the situation in other States, which do not have specific legislation dealing with the matter, the Government proposes that safeguards to regulate such a practice by companies should be contained in the Medical Practitioners Act. The Bill makes provision accordingly, and I shall deal with specific aspects in the clause explanation which follows. The attention of honourable members is particularly drawn to the provisions relating to practice of medicine by unregistered persons. The Government regards it as a serious matter indeed for unregistered persons to hold themselves out, or permit others to do so, as if they were registered under the Act. Substantial penalties, including imprisonment, are provided.

Provision is included to enable certain treatment, diseases or illnesses to be prescribed, should it be deemed necessary, the effect of which will be to restrict provision of such treatment to medical practitioners or persons registered or authorised under other health legislation. Recovery of fees is restricted to registered persons. Another important provision in the Bill is the requirement for declaration of interest in hospitals and nursing homes by medical practitioners or prescribed relatives. The information is required to be supplied to the board and patients must also be informed prior to being referred to such institutions. Substantial penalties are provided for non-compliance.

In respect of each of the matters dealt with by the Bill, Parliament and the public are entitled to be informed of the directions which the profession is taking and the manner in which the board approaches the interests of both the profession and the public. Accordingly, the board will be required to prepare an annual report for presentation to the Minister of Health and tabling in Parliament. By this means, it is intended that the community should be better informed about the manner in which the profession operates and the profession itself should become further accountable to the public. This Bill is the first major revision of the Act for many years. It embodies an awareness of public accountability, as well as serving the purpose of proper regulation of medical practice. I commend it to the House.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill are formal. Clause 3 sets out the arrangement of the Bill. Clause 4 repeals the Medical Practitioners Act, 1919-1976, and provides for the necessary transitional matters on commencement of the new Act. Clause 5 provides definitions of terms used in the Bill. Subclause (2) provides that the Act will apply to unprofessional conduct committed before its enactment. This is in the nature of a transitional provision. A practitioner cannot be penalised by removing his name from the register under the old Act after it has been repealed. This provision will enable his name to be removed from the register under the

new Act. Paragraph (b) of the subclause ensures that a practitioner can be disciplined for unprofessional conduct committed outside South Australia.

Clause 6 establishes the Medical Board. Clause 7 provides for the membership of the board and related matters. Clause 8 provides for the appointment of a President of the board. Clause 9 provides for procedures at meetings of the board. Clause 10 ensures the validity of acts of the board and gives members immunity from liability in the exercise of their powers and functions under the Act. Clause 11 disqualifies a member who has a personal interest in a matter under consideration by the board from participating in the board's decisions on that matter.

Clause 12 provides for remuneration and other payments to members of the board. Clause 13 sets out the functions and powers of the board. Clause 14 will enable the board to establish committees. Clause 15 provides for delegation by the board of its functions and powers to the persons referred to in subclause (2)(a)(i) and to a committee established by the board.

Clause 16 sets out powers of the board when conducting hearings under Part IV or considering an application for registration or re-instatement of registration. Subclause (4) gives a witness before the board the same protection as he would have before the Supreme Court. This provision will give witnesses protection in relation to any defamatory statements that they might make in the course of giving evidence. Clause 17 frees the Board from the strictures of the rules of evidence and gives it power to decide its own procedure. Clause 18 provides for representations at hearings before the board.

Clause 19 provides for costs in proceedings before the board. Clause 20 provides for the appointment of the Registrar and employees of the board. Clause 21 requires the board to keep proper accounts and gives the Auditor-General powers as to the audit of those accounts. Clause 22 requires the board to make an annual report on the administration of the Act. The Minister must cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of Parliament. Clause 23 establishes the Medical Practitioners Professional Conduct Tribunal. Clause 24 provides for the membership of the tribunal and related matters. Clause 25 provides for the constitution of the tribunal.

Clause 26 provides for the determination of questions by the tribunal. Clause 27 ensures the validity of acts and proceedings of the tribunal and gives the members immunity from liability in the exercise of their functions and powers under the Act. Clause 28 provides for the disqualification of a member who has a personal or pecuniary interest in a proceeding before the tribunal. Clause 29 provides for remuneration and other payments to members of the tribunal.

Clause 30 prohibits a person from holding himself or another out as a general practitioner or a specialist unless he or the other person is registered on the general or specialist register. The penalty is a fine of \$5 000 or imprisonment for six months. Clause 31 makes it illegal for an unqualified person to provide medical treatment of a prescribed kind or in relation to a prescribed illness or disease. The clause also prohibits the recovery of a fee or other charge for the provision of any medical treatment by an unqualified person. The effect of this is that fees charged by such persons may be paid but cannot be recovered in a court of law. Subclause (2) excludes a person conducting the business of a hospital, nursing or rest home from the operation of the provision. A 'qualified person' is defined in subclause (3) to be a medical practitioner or a person who has qualifications recognised by or under an Act of Parliament.

Clauses 32 and 33 provide for the registration of persons on the general and specialist registers. The qualifications, experience and other requirements for registration will be

prescribed in regulations. Clause 34 provides for reinstatement of registration. A person whose name has been removed from the register for any reason will not have a right to be automatically reinstated. Before being reinstated he must satisfy the board that his knowledge, experience and skill are sufficiently up-to-date and that he is still a fit and proper person to be registered. The tribunal may under Part IV suspend a practitioner for a maximum of one year or may cancel his registration. Subclause (3) of this clause provides that a practitioner whose registration has been cancelled may not apply for reinstatement before the expiration of two years after the cancellation.

Clause 35 provides for limited registration. Registration under this clause may be made subject to conditions specified in subclause (3). Subclause (1) will allow medical school graduates, persons seeking re-instatement and any other persons requiring experience for full registration to be registered so that they may acquire that experience. Subclause (2) gives the board the option of registering a person who is not fit and proper for full registration. He may be registered subject to conditions that cater for the deficiency.

Clause 36 provides for provisional registration. Clause 37 provides for registration of companies on the general register and provides detailed requirements as to the memorandum and articles of such a company. Clause 38 provides for annual returns by registered companies and the provisions of details relating to directors and members of the company. Clause 39 prohibits companies registered on the general register from practising in partnership. Clause 40 restricts the number of medical practitioners who can be employed by a registered company. Clause 41 makes directors of a registered company criminally liable for offences committed by the company.

Clause 42 makes the directors of a registered company liable for the civil liability of the company. Clause 43 requires that any alterations in the memorandum or articles of a registered company must be approved by the board. Clause 44 provides for the keeping and the publication of the general and specialist registers and other related matters. Clause 45 provides for the payment of fees by medical practitioners. Clauses 46 to 48 make provisions relating to the register that are self-explanatory. Clause 49 will enable the board to obtain information from medical practitioners relating to their employment and practice of medicine. This information is considered important to assist in manpower planning of medical services for the continued benefit of the community.

Clause 50 is a provision which will allow the board to consider whether a practitioner who is the subject of a complaint under the clause has the necessary knowledge, experience and skill to practise in the branch of medicine that he has chosen. This important provision will help to ensure that practitioners keep up-to-date with latest developments in their practise of medicine. If the matters alleged in the complaint are established the board will be able to impose conditions on the practitioner's registration. Clause 51 is designed to protect the public where a practitioner is suffering a mental or physical incapacity but refuses to abandon or curtail his practice. In such circumstances the board may suspend his registration or impose conditions on it.

Clause 52 places an obligation on a medical practitioner who is treating a colleague for an illness that is likely to incapacitate his patient to report the matter to the board. Clause 53 empowers the board to require a medical practitioner whose mental or physical capacity is in doubt to submit to an examination by a medical practitioner appointed by the board. Clause 54 gives the board the power to inquire into allegations of unprofessional conduct. If the allegations are proved the board may reprimand the prac-

itioner. However, in a serious case it may take the matter to the tribunal. Clause 55 gives the board power to vary or revoke a condition it has imposed on registration or are imposed by clause 4 of the Bill. Clause 56 empowers the board to suspend the registration of a practitioner who has not resided in the Commonwealth for six months.

Clause 57 makes machinery provisions as to the conduct of inquiries. Clause 58 provides that a complaint alleging unprofessional conduct by a medical practitioner may be laid before the tribunal by the board. The orders that can be made against the practitioner or former practitioner are set out in subclause (3). Clause 59 provides for the variation or revocation of a condition imposed by the tribunal. Clause 60 provides for a problem that has occurred in the past. A practitioner who is registered here and interstate and has been struck off in the other State can practise here with impunity during the hearing of proceedings to have him removed from the South Australian register. Experience has shown that these proceedings can be protracted. This provision will enable the board to suspend him during this process.

Clause 61 makes machinery provisions as to the conduct of inquiries. Clause 62 relaxes the rules of evidence in inquiries before the tribunal and enables it to conduct its hearings as it thinks fit. Clause 63 provides powers of the tribunal as to the taking of oral and other evidence. Subclauses (5) and (6) empower the Supreme Court to make necessary orders to enforce the powers of the tribunal. Clause 64 provides for the assessment and payment of costs. Clause 65 is a rule making provision. Clause 66 provides for appeals to the Supreme Court. An appeal will lie from the refusal of the board to grant an application for registration or reinstatement or imposing a condition on registration. Appeals will also lie from orders of the board or the tribunal under Part IV. Clause 67 allows orders of the board or the tribunal to be suspended pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. Clause 68 empowers the Supreme Court to vary or revoke a condition that it has imposed on appeal.

Clause 69 makes it an offence to contravene or fail to comply with a condition imposed by or under the Act. Clause 70 requires the disclosure to the board by a medical practitioner or the prescribed relative of a practitioner of any interest that he or the relative has in a hospital, nursing home or similar institution. The practitioner must also inform a patient of the interest when referring him to the hospital. The clause requires that practitioners and prescribed relatives who have such an interest at the commencement of the Act must inform the board within 30 days of the commencement. Clause 71 requires a practitioner to inform the board of claims for professional negligence made against him. Clause 72 provides for the service of notices on practitioners. Clause 73 provides a penalty for the procurement of registration by fraud. Clause 74 provides that where a practitioner is guilty of unprofessional conduct by reason of the commission of an offence he may be punished for the offence as well as being disciplined under Part IV. Clause 75 provides for the summary disposal of proceedings. Clause 76 provides for the making of regulations.

Mr HEMMINGS secured the adjournment of the debate.

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 September. Page 1015.)

Mr BANNON (Leader of the Opposition): The Opposition supports this measure. Stamp duties are paid on certain credit and rental business. They tend to apply on high-interest loans in particular. This Bill seeks to set different

threshold rates for different classes of transactions. In doing so, it departs from past practice. Currently, prescribed rates are defined in section 31b of the Act. The prescribed rate in the Act is the rate for the time being fixed by regulations as the prescribed rate for the purpose of the provisions of this Act falling under the heading of 'credit and rental business'. The amendment adds the words:

Where different rates are fixed by definition for different classes of transaction.

Under section 31b (1) (a) the rate of interest of not less than 9 per cent is the prescribed rate; the amendment adds 'different rates of not less than 9 per cent as the prescribed rates for different classes of transaction'.

It is claimed by the Government that one of the advantages of this amendment will be that it enables the Government to help building societies in return for their not lifting their lending rates. This will provide a slightly higher exemption level, lifting the threshold, and the societies would not attract stamp duty but could apply market rates for their commercial loans without attracting such duties.

In view of the current problems being faced by building societies, low deposit growth and also low growth with loans made, they need to maintain a fairly high liquidity in the current situation. But any measure that does help to free up their funds and make them more financially viable is a measure that should be supported. One clear reason for the differential threshold rates seems to be the intention to ensure that Bankcard is picked up by the legislation. In other words, stamp duty is continued to be paid on Bankcard transactions. We all recall a rather embarrassing fiasco that occurred earlier this year in relation to Bankcard with stamp duty and related matters. This does not touch on this particular item; it simply maintains the *status quo* as far as Bankcard is concerned. It does mean that if any lifting takes place in terms of exempt areas of threshold, a different and lower rate can be set to ensure that Bankcard consistently attracts duty.

This amendment comes before us at a time when both in Victoria and in New South Wales existing credit duty and stamp duties have been abolished in favour of the general financial transactions, or financial institutions duty. There are obvious advantages in streamlining the way in which such taxes are collected. This would be something very worthy of full investigation in this State. The Victorian Budget, for instance, abolishes existing credit duty other than rental duty and hire-purchase duty from the beginning of January. Stamp duty on bills of exchange will also be abolished. Stamp duty on cheques will be reduced by 50 per cent as from 1 January and then total abolition as from 1 July 1983 and will be replaced by the general financial institutions tax which will apply on transactions. New South Wales has also abolished its loan instrument, or stamp duty, which is currently 1.5 per cent if the interest rate exceeds 17.75 per cent of its instalment purchase duty, and so on.

In support of those measures, it is claimed that the existing duty on hire purchase and credit transactions is both inequitable and inefficient. It means that the poorer members of the community with fewer assets to secure a loan have to pay higher interest rates and therefore are taxed more than those who are able to get lower interest rates. A South Australian Government working party on State revenue several years ago identified the tax as being inequitable but I do not think the matter has been pursued since that time.

A problem has been caused for the States by the intrusion of the Commonwealth interstate taxing areas and by its imposition of the bank debits tax from 1 January this year. There will be a tax of up to \$1 per debit to raise up to \$2 000 000 in a full year. That is an area which properly should remain as the purview of State taxation, and the Commonwealth can be seen by that tax to be moving into

an area of State taxation. It is a pity that that is taking place.

I questioned the Premier on 25 August about this matter and he said that, over the long term, it would probably have little impact. I am not so sure that that is right. After all, the whole problem of taxation in this country generally is a difficult one and is compounded by the need of the State and Federal Governments for revenue and the degree to which each must collect its revenue separately.

Clear lines ought to be drawn between the type of taxes which are understood to be within the purview of the States and the type of taxes over which the Commonwealth has control. All of this reinforces the need for a major investigation and a major inquiry into revenue collection and taxation in this State. Certainly, it is something that we would propose to do as a matter of urgency under our election policy. It is surprising, that while this Bill does deal peripherally with the housing question in that it talks about special arrangements for building societies and generally by raising the threshold, there is no increase in the stamp duty exemption for first home buyers.

At present, no duty is payable for first home buyers on the first \$30 000 of the property. That has applied since 1979 and, over that period, there has been a rise in home building costs. Between September 1979 and July 1982 Adelaide home building costs have risen by over 40 per cent. Our building costs are rising at the fastest rate of any capital city. The Real Estate Institute is on record as calling for an indexing of stamp duty on land title transfers.

The 1982 Victorian Budget just brought down exempted the first \$50 000 on the value of a property from duty and gave a partial exemption from \$50 000 to \$60 000 and thereafter full duty is payable. One must recognise that property values in Victoria are above values here, but I suggest that the time is overdue for a review of that general level of stamp duty exemption for first home buyers. That could well be incorporated in the Bill.

The second purpose of the Bill is to foster the development of a secondary market in semi-government securities in this State. We certainly welcome any steps that would bring that about and, if stamp duty changes will do it, we support the measure. It should improve the market ability of securities issued by South Australian Government authorities, and that is important to note. Some bodies are gaining exemption from stamp duty on a comprehensive basis. It would be interesting to note which bodies are to be excluded under this provision and the criteria for such exclusions as it has considerable commercial ramifications. With those comments I indicate our support of the measure.

The Hon. D.O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer): I am grateful to the honourable member. The various matters he has brought forward, by way of comment, are general finance taxes which were referred to as being adopted by Victoria and New South Wales and which have created a good deal of interest. The Government has no intention of proposing such a tax in South Australia. As to the first home buyers exemption, the Leader has already picked up the point that the exemption rate of \$50 000 and the partial exemption between \$50 000 and \$60 000 reflects accurately the difference in prices between \$35 000 (which is our exemption) and \$50 000 (which is the Victorian exemption). I am not sure that our exemption is not more generous on comparative values. Nevertheless, the Government will keep that matter under close review from time to time. Always the general financial stringencies of the situation and the need to maintain a tight budgetary control must be taken into account when considering any such concessions.

Major concessions have been made by this Government since it came to office. I refer again to the abolition of

succession duties, to the introduction of pay-roll tax incentives, to land tax exemptions on the principal place of residence, and to concessions that apply to first home buyers. Inevitably, there are difficulties in applying more concessions at a time of financial stringency. We have done a good deal in the time since we have been in office. We will continue to maintain our approach and we will continue to maintain a close watch on the levels of concession made available. The matter of the Loan Council determination to bring about freedom for statutory authorities in all States will make the securities of semi-government authorities more easily marketable.

The initiative is being taken very much to bring South Australia into line with other States, rather than being a pace-setting idea. Presently, almost in the interests of uniformity it is being introduced so that we can compete with other States on equal terms. On that basis I am not going to give the Leader any detailed information as to which statutory authorities will be exempt. I point out to him that the securities to which he refers are not all that numerous in South Australia. Nevertheless, I will undertake to get a detailed report of the possibilities for him at an appropriate time.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

JUDICIAL REMUNERATION BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr EVANS (Fisher): I want to take the opportunity to raise one or two matters that do concern me. In particular, I refer to a comment by a person who is my political opponent from the Democrats about the amount of staff available for fire fighting within the State, in particular, saying that staff cutbacks have put at risk in the Hills area (as he implied when making the comments) the ability to be able to control, educate and make sure that the community has reasonable protection from fire fighters.

I think that is poor comment from a candidate, particularly after we have had a dry winter and particularly after the Government has set out to improve fire fighting in this State with equipment, back-up staff and making sure that volunteers have a better manned service behind them. I cannot understand why a person like Dr Coulter would set out with that sort of attack, unless he did not do his research properly. He has looked at where there have been recommendations made for X number of staff as being perhaps the optimum or that which is required in the long term for operations and suggested that that should be achieved in the short term.

He has also suggested that the Botanic Gardens are not going to participate, and so on. I think it would have been wiser if Dr Coulter had set out to say that this Government had greatly improved the facilities, had set out to make sure that people within the forestry area were given the opportunity to have better facilities and have men available, and

that the local volunteers work hard to prevent fires and to educate the community about fire risks, even though they are not in the sort of numbers that all the stations would like. These dedicated people are better trained and have better equipment than ever before, and in the main the community itself is more aware of its responsibilities because of the publicity given in recent years.

One area of concern to many of the volunteers and fire officers concerns the lack of understanding of some people of the necessity, even in bushland, to take precautions so that there is some form of break between that bushland and neighbouring property, whether the neighbouring property be bushland or otherwise.

I think that if a person who has lived in the hills for as long as the individual who made those comments was to sit down and think about it, he would realise that there is more bushland in the hills now than at any time since the Second World War; in fact, there is probably more bushland in the hills now than there has been since the 1920s after the First World War. That has occurred because many small holdings were worked intensively, either with horses or by hand, and became uneconomic. In many cases the soil was acidic and hard to work. Therefore, when bigger machines were introduced the horses disappeared, labour became expensive, small plots of land became uneconomic to farm and they were allowed to go bad, to noxious weed or bush. Vast areas are now in that state.

We cannot under any circumstance say that we should not worry about this and simply leave it to the volunteers to risk their lives and make sacrifices, in relation to their families, to attend training. That training must be done outside of normal work commitments where these volunteers earn an income to support their families. All of the fund-raising by their womenfolk and supporters to obtain extra equipment and furnish their buildings places a burden on their family life.

We all know that the organisers of fund raising functions, the office bearers, social directors and fund raising directors make the greatest contribution, not only in time but also financially. These volunteers devote many hours of their time not just during the summer, autumn and spring months but also during winter, when the weather in the hills can be quite miserable at night, and one then understands how much they contribute. Therefore, to set out deliberately, as did Dr Coulter, to demoralise these volunteers by suggesting that they have no back-up and that the National Parks and Wildlife Department does not have the personnel to back them up, is improper. Officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Department are well trained. National Parks and Wildlife personnel have not decreased in numbers in relation to the activities they must carry out.

I refer to the action taken by that department, which offended some people, to place fire breaks around some of the parks that posed a dangerous fire risk to neighbouring properties, in particular the Belair National Park. It used to be a national park under the National Parks and Wildlife Department, but the Labor Government made it a recreational park. I disagreed with that change. The department improved a fire break which was originally created by accident in the 1950s, by a chap named McGough, on the southern side of that park. However, it was neglected during the 1970s and it became as vulnerable to fire as was any other part of the park. Adjacent residents became concerned and asked that the fire break be restored to make it as effective as was originally intended. Those people are grateful, and I am grateful, as are the people further afield, that that action was taken. But that is the sort of action that the Minister and the department have encouraged to make use of the facilities that are available as well as having proper control. By that method one can deploy staff in other more vulnerable areas on a particular day.

What comment did Dr Coulter make about the lookout? Everyone knew that we needed a lookout at Mount Lofty and that it would give a permanent position for fire officers in the season. That lookout is being built by this Government and is costing a lot of money. I did not hear Dr Coulter state that it was a good proposal or give credit for it. However, he is a political candidate, and he is out to knock and not give credit. I have always admired the man in the past, but I believe that he brings discredit to himself in the eyes of many people when he uses that sort of exercise as a means to gain support. I hope that his past qualifications in relation to honesty improve.

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

Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury): I wish to bring two matters to the attention of the House this afternoon. First, members will recall that some weeks ago there was some coverage in the daily press about an application by the University of Adelaide newspaper *On Dit* to use the press gallery in Parliament House. Members will also recall that, in fact, permission was given by the President of another place for representatives to sit in the gallery of that Chamber, but the information supplied to the newspaper in regard to this Chamber was that the representatives were advised that they should make specific application as issues arose about which they were interested, and they would then be given permission to sit in the public gallery or the Speaker's gallery to report events. I understand that this matter may be considered by the Standing Orders Committee, because I believe that an approach was made to that committee on 15 June this year.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I hope that the honourable member is not reflecting on a decision made by Mr Speaker.

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: No, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am not doing that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen to the honourable member very carefully. The Chair cannot permit criticism of Mr Speaker.

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not criticising Mr Speaker. I am merely interceding on behalf of the journal by referring to the manner in which it has covered political events in its columns in recent times. Members may be interested to see the calibre of reporting that has been exhibited. Given the history of journalism at university level in years gone by (it was not always so good), it is interesting to note that there have been significant improvements in the quality of journalism in that newspaper.

There is a regular column called 'In State Parliament', which reports events as the author sees them. A wide range of areas is covered and, in fact, it is interesting to note that the areas covered might not initially be viewed as areas of immediate concern to the university but as matters that the

authors have gleaned from perusing events that take place. The manner in which they have reported those events, as with all journals, contains editorial comment, but it is as dispassionate and objective as I have seen in other forms of media.

Members should take the opportunity to peruse the journal in the Parliamentary Library and take a close look at the way in which matters have been reported in that column. The journal has set very high goals and its editors are showing a devotion that deserves commendation. I now refer to a question I asked in the House this afternoon about the survey conducted for the Institute of Teachers by the agency Ian McGregor Marketing.

I asked the Premier whether he would call on his colleague the Minister of Education to resign, or to at least publicly explain why education should be seen as being in the sorry state in which this survey reveals the public seeing it. The Premier chose to sweep away the evidence that I briefly quoted. The information was collected by a survey agency which went through all its procedures in a proper survey collecting manner. It is interesting to note that the firm is none other than the one presently handling data collection and surveying for the Liberal Party, so it is a firm that the Liberal Party believes has some credibility. This firm has also been used by the Institute of Teachers.

I repeat what I said this afternoon; there is considerable disquiet in the community about education. The Premier, on other occasions, has jumped on to certain survey results that may have shown some marginal percentage above 50 per cent in favour of something that the Government is doing and has said that that was proof that his Government's policies were working and that the people supported the Government in its policies. We now have a survey that shows that nearly three people out of four surveyed believe that large classes are a problem in our Government schools. In other words, a hefty majority of over 50 per cent of people surveyed believe this. Also, it shows a massive 61 per cent of people stating that the present Government's performance is unsatisfactory in this area. However, these hefty majorities are swept away by the Premier as being nothing more than scurrilous. The data was gathered in a proper manner and represents a reasonable reflection of popular opinion in this State at the moment. If the Government refuses to acknowledge that, so be it. However, if the Premier chooses to be the Captain of the *Titanic*, refusing to acknowledge that there is an iceberg out there, then there will be a day very shortly that will show the damage that that iceberg will do to this Government. So that members can weigh up the evidence that I am quoting and balance that evidence against the response given by the Premier, I seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard* statistical information gathered by that survey, with the assurance that it is purely statistical information.

Leave granted.

OMNIBUS SURVEY
SEPTEMBER 1982
SAMPLE SPECIFICATIONS—B

By Sex and Age of Respondent	Total	Males					Females					All Males	All Females
		18-24	25-30	31-39	40-54	55-65	18-24	25-30	31-39	40-54	55-65		
Sample sizes	800	88	64	80	104	64	88	64	80	104	64	400	400
Males by Age and Marital Status	Total Males	Prof. Exec.	White Collar	Blue Skilled	Blue Unskilled	Student	Retired	Unemployed	Other	Married	Not Married	400	400
Females by Occupation and Marital Status	Total Females	Full-time Income	Part-time Income	Home Duties	Student	Unemployed	Other	Married	Not Married	13	13	400	400
Sample sizes	400	16	102	112	66	18	52	34	0	268	13	400	400
Sample sizes	400	74	56	238	10	20	2	306	94				

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: The figures speak for themselves. I suggest that members on both sides of this place, when reading the Premier's answer this afternoon, weigh up the information contained in these figures with his answer, because they show that there is considerable disquiet in the community and that this Government, in a very foolhardy way, is choosing to ignore that disquiet. As I said before, so be it, if that is the way the Government wants to manage things.

The Government has decided that the blustering, hard-nosed approach, battering all in its way, will succeed. It may be that there is a new chapter to be written in psephological text books about the way in which that may or may not take place. We are, whatever prediction finally turns out to be correct, in the final run-down period to an election. It will not be long before all Parties are girding their loins and members of this House are transposed in their seating patterns. In fact, within their own ranks Government members will be transposed. They will be conducting a musical chairs game for those who are still here. I wonder who will be the piper playing the tune following the reshuffle on the Liberal Opposition benches?

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Mr Hemmings interjecting:

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: There will be a change of leadership first. Also, there will be a change in regard to the appointment of a shadow Minister of Education. I have heard some interesting reports about who would be the next shadow Minister of Education. In fact, I suggest that that person might do a better job than the present Minister of Education.

Mr Trainer: He couldn't do any worse.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not think it is necessary to have a two-way conversation. The member for Salisbury has the floor for one more minute.

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: The point is that we are in a run-up to an election. I hope that, following the election, the calibre of education comments coming from what will then be the Liberal Opposition benches will be significantly higher than the union bashing, jingoistic approach to which the Liberal Party has sunk in recent times. It should be borne in mind that that is the Party which in August 1979 released an education policy document that in many ways was very meaningless—

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

Mr RANDALL (Henley Beach): A predominant concern among many of those in the electorate I represent is that of accommodation for the aged. A significant number of people in that district are in the older age group and have reached the stage of having to make difficult decisions about their ability to maintain their homes, mowing lawns each week, etc., in an attempt to maintain their pride in their homes. Many people are living in their homes without a partner, who has passed on, but they still cling to their homes, attempting to cope with getting meals each day, and so on.

Some of these people are fortunate enough to have Meals on Wheels providing meals to the home through its community volunteers, which is a service that I would hate to see abolished. Also, support is given by Domiciliary Care and nursing care by Red Cross, and this greatly benefits the community. In many cases people are thus able to stay in their homes a little bit longer. However, the time comes when the problems of paying all the accounts, and the worries of accumulating the necessary funds to pay those accounts, begin to tell.

There is a group of people in the electorate that I represent who would like to see the establishment of a group of

community units for elderly people which they could buy after selling their existing homes. Living in such a situation could provide people with the necessary medical back-up and a 24-hour on-call nursing service by means of a link with either the nursing home or the community centre of the village. Further, they could be provided with meals if necessary.

Mr Hemmings interjecting:

Mr RANDALL: I do not care whether or not the member for Napier wants to make a point; he has the appropriate time in which to do that. There are groups of people grappling with the issues that I have raised, who are prepared to work to achieve significant results in regard to the needs that exist. As the local member for the area, I encourage such people to participate in planning for the community; they are sharing a responsibility with local government for what they believe is necessary for the community, particularly in the areas of Henley Beach and Grange.

That is a wellknown seaside suburb of many years. Many community groups throughout that area this year and next year will be celebrating their centenaries. In an older area, people who have grown up in that community obviously are looking to stay there, rather than sell their seaside homes and move out. They would like to continue to meet with their social groups, such as in the Leisure Lifestyle Centre at Henley Beach, which gathers together a significant number of elderly people for activities. Those people would like to stay in the community with their friends, to go shopping in the familiar shopping centres in which they meet almost on a regular basis, and to visit the local public library for a regular social chat.

The group, as a small community of elderly citizens within that area, would like to encourage the Housing Trust to sell them some land in order that they might build this establishment. The Minister, in the Estimates committees, spelt out in response to some questions asked by my colleagues and me that it was Housing Trust policy, as part of this Government's policy, to encourage local community groups to participate in such exercises, and that the Housing Trust was prepared to support and encourage them.

If I look across my boundary into the areas of the members for Peake or Hanson, I see what the West Torrens council has achieved recently, with the help of local government, a similar venture which I am sure will be of great benefit to their community. The other councils in the area—Thebarton, Henley and Grange, and Woodville, are well aware that that older group through the western suburbs needs accommodation for the future. In their own ways they are attempting to grapple with those issues. I may not agree with everything that they are doing, but I believe that as they grapple with and as we publicly discuss the issue of the elderly citizens accommodation in that area we will come up with plans for the future. Unfortunately, as I have expressed my concern in this House previously, I look back over the 10 years that have gone by when planning could have taken place, but no planning has been done. Only in the last few years have we been able to get together and do some planning. As we begin to plan, we are gathering momentum with the other communities to accommodate this need.

An honourable member: Give us some proof.

Mr RANDALL: I will give some proof in the weeks to come. Elderly citizens need not only accommodation but somewhere to spend their leisure hours. I said earlier that I was concerned about elderly citizens who were spending all day at home, watching television, because they had no community or social contacts. Even though we have a well established community bus service that provides a facility to the community, many elderly people by choice are staying at home, having little or no contact with their neighbours and relying on the contact of daily visits from the Meals-on-Wheels people.

So, we need to have in a village complex facilities that will enable elderly people to enjoy their leisure hours. I recently visited Frankston, Victoria, and saw a village complex. It had a successful and magnificent bowling clubroom and green which was of benefit to that group. Again, I believe that we have the facilities in the area. We have the magnificent bowling clubs and greens, but we need to provide incentive and encouragement to these elderly people to use them.

Elderly people need good health care. I am a firm believer in providing the means of encouraging people to take preventive health measures. If we have a heated swimming pool that older people can use on a regular basis for just the pure pleasure of being able to swim in a heated pool all year round, that daily exercise will be of benefit to them in a physical and, no doubt, mental way.

The other shortage in the area is the means of hydrotherapy. The problem is that we have designed our public swimming pools and heated swimming pools to such an extent that those who have, for medical reasons, a need for

hydrotherapy would have limited access to them, and in many cases no access. There is an established need amongst elderly people in the community (not only with the elderly but with some younger people as well) for daily access to a heated pool for hydrotherapy treatment. This means designing suitable facilities, so that they can get in and out of the pool, whether by a sling arrangement or steps placed in the proper position (an easily accessible position), with spaces wide enough for wheelchairs etc., to enable people to use the changing facilities. With proper planning, we can provide good facilities in the metropolitan area. Some of the western councils, in particular the Henley and Grange council, are keen to see the upgrading of these areas.

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

Motion carried.

At 5.1 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 12 October at 2 p.m.