

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 22 March 1983

The **SPEAKER (Hon. T.M. McRae)** took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

RACING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

PETITION: PETROL PRICES

A petition signed by 1 635 residents of South Australia praying that the House urge the Government to ensure that country people are able to buy petrol at a price close to that applying at the cheapest metropolitan fuel outlets was presented by the Hon. P.B. Arnold.

Petition received.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Treasurer (Hon. J.C. Bannon)—

Pursuant to Statute—

1. Superannuation Act, 1974-1981—Regulations—Government Cost of Living Contribution.

By the Minister of the Arts (Hon. J.C. Bannon)—

Pursuant to Statute—

1. History Trust of South Australia Act, 1981—General Regulations.

By the Minister of Education (Hon. Lynn Arnold)—

Pursuant to Statute—

1. Education Act, 1972-1981—Regulations—Leave to Contest Parliamentary Elections.
11. Further Education Act, 1976-1980—Regulations—Leave to Contest Parliamentary Elections.

By the Chief Secretary (Hon. G.F. Keneally)—

Pursuant to Statute—

1. Prisons Act, 1936-1981—Regulations—Payments to Prisoners.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION

The **Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Minister of Education)**: I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. LYNN ARNOLD**: As Minister of Education, I have approved the secondment of the South Australian Director-General of Education (Mr J.R. Steinle) as Senior Adviser to the Commonwealth Schools Commission for a period of three months, with the possibility of an extension. The Schools Commission has been given several new initiatives by the Federal Government and it has asked Mr Steinle to provide advice on these and other matters. These areas of special concern will be those associated with schools, youth, the re-establishment of a Curriculum Development Centre, Federal-State relations and the education of Aboriginal children. Mr Steinle will also be required to consult with State Education Departments and non-government systems in these matters. Finally, he will act as resource person in relation to activities nominated by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Schools Commission. In the first instance, this will involve leading a small team within the commission

to advise on the development of new programmes and the rationalisation of existing ones.

Mr Steinle will commence work with the Commonwealth Schools Commission shortly after the next meeting of the Australian Education Council, which comprises all Ministers of Education. This is to be held in Canberra, probably in late April. During his absence, Dr John Mayfield will be Acting Director-General of Education. I welcome this opportunity for a senior officer of the South Australian Education Department to advise the Commonwealth Schools Commission for two reasons: first, because it reflects the high regard in which South Australian education is held nationally; and secondly, because it is appropriate that a body such as the Commonwealth Schools Commission, which is responsible for advising the Federal Government on national goals and priorities, should recognise the need for advice from the States and draw upon their skills and experience. I am confident that this represents one further step in bringing Federal and State initiatives closer together in the interest of all Australian children.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: HONEYMOON MINE

The **Hon. R.G. PAYNE (Minister of Mines and Energy)**: I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. R.G. PAYNE**: Yesterday, Cabinet decided not to grant a production licence to Mines Administration Pty Ltd for its project at the Honeymoon uranium deposit. However, the Government has taken steps to ensure that the partners can preserve their interest in the prospect through a retention lease. The decision was taken after an exhaustive examination of the project and consideration of discussions I held last Thursday with the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Peter Walsh) and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade (Mr Bowen).

The basis for Cabinet's decision is four-fold. The Government's policy is based on its concern that many of the economic, social, biological, genetic, safety and environmental problems associated with the nuclear industry are unresolved.

Members interjecting:

The **SPEAKER**: Order! Leave has been granted, and I hope members will come to order.

The **Hon. R.G. PAYNE**: We believe that the uncritical support of nuclear technology by Governments world wide has encouraged the nuclear industry to develop before fundamental questions of safety, disposal techniques, effective regulatory and safeguard systems have been tackled and resolved. Where are the cries of shame, and whatever, now from the Opposition?

Members interjecting:

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

The **Hon. R.G. PAYNE**: The A.L.P.'s responsible position has been endorsed by a wide range of community groups including the Australian Democrats. The South Australian Government's approach to uranium mining, as well as to Roxby Downs' development, was publicised throughout the community by ourselves, by the media and by our opponents prior to the last State election. Members opposite will be aware of the endorsement we received at the polls—

Members interjecting:

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

The **Hon. R.G. PAYNE**:—and the mandate we have for our policies. The A.L.P.'s Federal policy, again highlighted during the campaign, was similarly endorsed earlier this month in a massive swing to the A.L.P.

The acceptance of nuclear power as an energy alternative by developing countries has not only presented these coun-

tries and the world with a substantial safety and surveillance problem, but has provided many with the option of becoming nuclear weapons States, adding to the dangers of increased armament proliferation. This Government believes that the development of a nuclear weapons capability from civil nuclear programme is the most distressing feature of nuclear development and one which requires the most urgent and earnest international attention. Our commitment to the public before the last election was that the Roxby Downs multi-mineral project must be—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE:—allowed to proceed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Deputy Leader has persistently defied my calls to order and I will not give him any further opportunities to do so.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: Since the election, we have taken into account the severe recession facing the uranium and nuclear industries worldwide. We believe that it is imperative that there should be no impediment to Roxby Downs becoming a viable and economic mine.

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: To achieve this, full backing must be given to the Roxby project. Roxby Downs has the potential to become a major generator of jobs, and I believe the Opposition made statements along those lines before the last election. This is not the case with the Honeymoon project which the companies themselves describe as a minor resource, employing only a handful of people. Claims about an economic bonanza from Honeymoon are absurd, and this is a position supported by the companies.

There is considerable community disquiet about the nature of the *in situ* leaching project proposed for the Honeymoon uranium deposit. *In situ* leaching is essentially an experimental process in Australia and this has been recognised by the joint partners. The partners themselves have argued that they cannot do things which the Australian public will not accept.

I referred earlier to my discussions in Canberra last week with Senator Walsh and Mr Bowen. As honourable members would be aware, both the Commonwealth and State Governments have specific responsibilities in relation to the mining and export of uranium. It was clear from the discussions that the Honeymoon project did not comply with the Federal Government's policy and therefore could not proceed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: During the talks I sought and was given assurances that Roxby Downs would be supported. My Federal colleagues also pointed out that advice from their departments indicated that the world uranium market remained in a very poor state and was unlikely to improve significantly for several years. Doubts were expressed that acceptable contracts could be written while the market remained in its present state of over-supply. Queensland Mines, the operators of Nabarlek, have reduced their work force because of the market situation and see little improvement for four to eight years.

Ranger, the other mine currently operating in the Northern Territory, has both unused plant capacity and a considerable proportion of its reserves still not committed to contract. During recent debate on the Honeymoon issue, much has been said about the likely negative effects on mineral exploration of a decision not to proceed. In the Government's view that possibility has been overstated.

With a Federal Government implementing consistent policies across Australia, there is no reason for a flight of risk capital for exploration from one State to another. Also, uranium is a mineral which occurs frequently in conjunction with others and the Federal Government policy contains a commitment to consider applications for the export of uranium mined incidentally to the mining of other minerals. This provision will ensure that exploration on South Australia's highly prospective Stuart Shelf can continue.

In coming to its decision, the Government has considered the situation of the Honeymoon joint venturers and the companies involved in the Beverley project. The Honeymoon joint venturers were informed of the Government's decision a short time ago and the Beverley joint venturers are being informed that a production licence will not be available for their project as the policy now stands.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS

The Hon. J.W. SLATER (Minister of Water Resources): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. SLATER: Over the past few months, I have had a number of deputations seeking extensions to water mains for supply in various parts of the State. There are currently some 35 areas of the State where an extension of the service is required. All of these schemes are considered highly uneconomic as the total capital cost in current day terms is approximately \$51 000 000. I have asked the Director-General and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department to prepare a report on schemes for extension of water supply to these areas. I refer particularly to the Houghton-Paracombe area, which was mentioned by the member for Todd.

On Tuesday 16 March, the member for Todd raised the matter of providing an extension of the water main to a constituent's property in Churchett Road, Houghton. The honourable member claimed that I had refused to allow the extension, which the previous Government stated in writing would be provided. I regret to inform the honourable member and the House that no such commitment was given by the previous Government.

Mr Ashenden interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. SLATER: I know that the member for Todd is a most successful graduate of the John McEnroe charm school—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. SLATER: On 30 September 1982, the previous Minister said that the approval of an extension to the water main would be subject to certain financial conditions and that these would be investigated should the extension be considered desirable. The truth of the matter is that any extension to the water main in the area is not only undesirable, but could adversely threaten existing users.

The Houghton water supply is part of the Range Road-Upper Hermitage-Paracombe system, which has been under stress for some years. It is for this reason that no indirect service has been granted in Churchett Road since August 1980. At that time it was emphasised that the departure from the existing policy was not to be construed as a precedent for mains water to be provided to other properties in the metropolitan watersheds.

The decision not to approve an extension to the member for Todd's constituent was based on the simple fact that the existing system is over-taxed. It has been the practice of the Engineering and Water Supply Department not to recommend approval for the extension of mains if the

standard of supply to existing consumers is adversely affected.

Situations similar to this have occurred further north in the Upper Hermitage area, where applications for extensions of water supply have been refused for the past 18 years. Considering the correspondence on the application, I can only presume that the member for Todd has read it all and is aware of the facts. If he is, then I am amazed that he continues to insist on securing this water main extension when it could jeopardise the supplies to a number of his other constituents in the area. As Minister, with the interests of everyone at heart, I would like to assure water supplies to all existing consumers as well as examining ways of helping the person concerned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION: HONEYMOON MINING PROJECT

Mr OLSEN (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to allow me to move the following motion forthwith:

In view of the fact that the Government has refused to grant a mining licence for the Honeymoon mining project, this House no longer has confidence in the Government, because the decision will mean the loss of jobs and investment and other mining and industrial projects at a time when South Australia urgently requires job maintenance and creation.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will resume his seat; he will not lose any of his rights. I intend to change the procedure used by my predecessor. I intend to count the House now and then call for a seconder. If the matter is seconded, I will then invite the mover to explain his reasons or, if there has been agreement between the Parties as to a time, it might be appropriate at that time to invite the Deputy Premier to move a time. I have counted the House and there is a constitutional majority present. I accept the motion. Is it seconded?

Honourable members: Yes.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the time allocated for the debate on this motion be no later than 4 p.m.

Motion carried.

Mr OLSEN: This is the first Government in Australia to shut down a major mining operation for political purposes. The Prime Minister—the Federal Leader of the Premier's own Party—has described a ban of the type this Government has now imposed as 'a sloppy exercise in ineffective morality.' However, the exercise in which, since it came to office, this Government has indulged South Australians on the matter of uranium mining at Honeymoon is all that Mr Hawke has criticised it for, and much more.

It has been an exercise of such deception that, in comparison, Goebbels was a paragon of virtue and truth. The Premier well knew before the last election that he would have to make this decision if he won office. He well knew that his Party would force him to stop the Honeymoon project. However, he refused to say so during the election campaign, because he did not want the people of South Australia to see him as he is now exposed—a Premier of weakness, of indecision, a Premier not willing to stand up for what his Party believes in, nor willing to take the people of South Australia into his confidence to tell them the truth, to give them the facts.

However, I am more concerned about the future of South Australia than I am about the future of the Premier and his Government—this shameful, deceitful Government. No

doubt the Premier will say that only 35 jobs at Honeymoon are at stake, that the project could not get off the ground anyway because of depressed uranium markets. He may even suggest that there are some environmental problems associated with the project. The Premier will say anything to avoid the truth.

The truth is that the Government has told a group of companies which have already spent more than \$10 000 000 in South Australia that their money has been wasted, that the jobs they want to provide are not needed, and that the new technology they have developed is unwanted by South Australia. That is one truth; however, there are others, some of which are even more devastating for South Australia's economic future.

South Australia has become the first State in Australia, possibly the first place anywhere in the world, to turn its back on a development and investment that have been advanced to the stage of the Honeymoon project. What will investors in Europe, the United States, and Japan think of us now? These are areas where nuclear power is used and where our uranium is needed. Honeymoon has been but the first domino: inevitably, others must now fall. I refer to Beverley, with construction costs of \$50 000 000, annual operating costs of \$15 000 000 and a total projected expenditure over the life of the project of more than \$500 000 000. In the construction and operational phases—

The SPEAKER: Order! As with any new system there are teething problems. Some time has to be chosen (and it is better to do this early in the Leader's remarks) where I put the question whether it is the wish of the House that the motion be proceeded with. It obviously is, because of the system that has been adopted, but I must put the question—for the question, say 'Aye', against 'No'. The Ayes have it.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: On a point of order, Mr Speaker. With all due respect, a suspension of Standing Orders requires a statement to the effect that, there being present an absolute majority of the House, and there being no dissentient voice, the motion for suspension is agreed to. As Standing Orders require that action to be taken, I would have thought that that would have been the course of action that you would have taken.

The SPEAKER: It is not required by Standing Orders. I put the question, and there was in fact no dissentient voice. I can see that no harm has been done.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK: On a point of order, I ask for further clarification. I notice that the Leader is being timed to a 10-minute limit whilst debating the substantive motion. I ask whether you intend to have that time erased, so that the Leader has unlimited time.

The SPEAKER: The answer to that is a simple 'Yes'. The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr OLSEN: In the construction and operational phases, Beverley will support 100 jobs and generate an additional 400 jobs in service industries. If Honeymoon cannot proceed, neither can Beverley. I refer now to uranium conversion and enrichment, with a potential investment for South Australia of well over \$1 000 000 000, 3 000 jobs in the construction phases and 800 jobs in the operational phases, generating well over 1 000 jobs in other industries. Uranium conversion and enrichment could bring new technology to South Australia and provide valuable work for our manufacturing industries, as well as in the supply of services and components.

However, the Premier, at one stroke, has given this project by default to Queensland, because there is no way that the proponents and the potential investors in uranium conversion and enrichment will agree to establish in a State while the policies of the Government are so unpredictable, so unstable and so out of touch with reality. In all, the Gov-

ernment's decision today has struck a savage blow for South Australia's economic prospects.

It has come at a crucial time for our resource industries, and the incredible statement made by the Minister was that the Australian Democrats supported the Government's proposal. Does that mean that the Australian Democrats are now making policies for the Government? We know there has been inaction, indecision and weakness by this Premier and this Cabinet—

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: It's the tail wagging the dog.

Mr OLSEN: That is highlighting it exactly: it is the Democrats wagging the Government's tail. The latest figures indicate that our share of national expenditure on mineral exploration has almost doubled since 1979. Last financial year our share of national expenditure on mineral exploration was 11.3 per cent compared with 5.8 per cent in the last year of the former Labor Government. These results underline the importance of the decision on the Honeymoon project. The record of the last three years has demonstrated that State Government policies can have a major influence on mineral exploration and development activity.

It is now inevitable that South Australia will slip back into the disastrous circumstances of the 1970s, when our spending on mineral exploration dropped well below even a per capita share. I have no doubt that the left wing of the Australian Labor Party is rejoicing at this prospect, but all right-minded South Australians will be concerned at the absurdity, the stupidity and the futility of the decision that has been announced to the House today.

By its decision on Honeymoon, this Government now wants us to believe that there are three classes of uranium: uranium mined before July 1982 when the Australian Labor Party Federal conference adopted its latest policy (which allows uranium mines in existence before that date to continue); uranium at Roxby Downs, which can, according to the Premier, be mined; and uranium at Honeymoon and Beverley, which cannot be mined. Nothing is more tragic or farcical than the set of circumstances which this Government has now created.

South Australia is the big loser. The only winners are the member for Elizabeth and his colleagues who initiated the campaign within the A.L.P. in 1976 to bring the uranium industry to a stop. In a speech to the Society for Social Responsibility in Science on 15 November 1977, the member for Elizabeth said:

It is my firm conviction that in the long term the uranium miners will lose and the conservationists will win.

The uranium issue has been the basis for long-standing division within the A.L.P., and today the Premier has conceded defeat to the member for Elizabeth and those of the left who support him—the Mike Ranns and the press secretaries of the Premier. Nothing is clearer from the Government's sell-out to the people of South Australia, to those without jobs who want them, to those companies which have invested in South Australia in the expectation that if they discovered uranium they would be able to develop their find, and they have invested \$10 000 000 to that end.

The Government has committed a very serious breach of faith with many people—including those many thousands of electors who were led to believe at the last election, because of the Premier's statements on Roxby Downs, that a Labor Government would not stand in the way of resource development in this State. Instead, the Premier now has as his bedfellows the Communist Party, the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy, the Friends of the Earth—all organisations which have advertised against the Honeymoon project in recent weeks.

He has supported their views and ignored the warnings of business and industry about the impact of any decision not to allow this project to proceed. The President of the

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Mr Miller) warned in the *News* on 4 February that a refusal to approve the Honeymoon project would have grave implications for South Australia. The South Australian Chamber of Mines, in an advertisement in the *News* on 2 February, stated:

If the Honeymoon project is abandoned, so will Beverley be abandoned, together with other mineral exploration projects which could involve spending millions of dollars in South Australia. Between them, Honeymoon and Beverley alone have already spent well over \$12 000 000. If these mines go ahead they will, over their operational life, provide 150 jobs at the sites, indirectly about another 600 jobs in service industries, about \$100 000 000 in wages, many millions in Federal taxes and no less than \$32 000 000 in royalties in South Australia. These royalties would provide useful funding for many worthwhile community projects.

The chamber also warned (and again I quote, emphasising that this is the voice of experience and authority, representing the resource development companies):

If the project is prevented from proceeding, can South Australia ever again expect to attract risk capital for its development? Where would the great mining and industrial ventures of today be without this risk capital? Investors have spent their money in good faith. If the rules of the game are changed 'at quarter time', it is going to be very difficult to encourage others to find the money and resources needed for South Australia's development.

These are serious questions affecting South Australia's economic future, questions which this Government has completely ignored in making this decision. It would rather guard against division within its own Party than do what is right and proper for the future of this State. A Government with priorities so out of keeping with the difficulties of today and the challenges of tomorrow no longer deserves the confidence of this House. Even the Minister of Mines and Energy has conceded that this decision will reduce exploration activity in South Australia. I quote from the *Advertiser* of 1 February:

The State Government had been told mining companies would scale down exploration in South Australia if the Honeymoon project were not approved, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr Payne) said yesterday.

To make this admission and then to stand by and allow this project to be scrapped demonstrates that the Minister has been totally negligent in his duties and can no longer have the confidence of the industry with which he is supposed to deal. Mr Speaker, I put these facts to the House:

(1) The Honeymoon uranium deposit was discovered in 1972.

(2) The companies involved have received encouragement from the previous Labor as well as Liberal South Australian Governments to pursue their work and invest in South Australia.

(3) The companies have spent more than \$10 000 000 on the project so far, including \$6 400 000 in 1982.

(4) The South Australian electors were led to believe at the last election by the Premier that he would not stand in the way of this development.

(5) Resource developments are seen as a vital component of the State's economic future, demonstrated particularly by the public support for the Roxby Downs project.

In these circumstances, the Premier and his Government have now committed a massive breach of faith with the people of South Australia. The Premier's credibility is now in serious question, and his statements about Roxby Downs must now be doubted. He has given the left wing, the anti-nuclear groups, the environmentalists and the other agitators this victory. Inevitably, they will now pressure the Premier to stop Roxby Downs—possibly the world's largest uranium mine, and their No. 1 target.

The question now is whether the Premier will be able to withstand the pressure, or will he again show his complete weakness and cave in to their agitation? Will his Cabinet give in to those beating at its door, the member for Elizabeth in particular? They have won this round, and South Australia

has lost it. What a pretty state of affairs: the Party which, at last year's election, wanted South Australia to win now sees that South Australia loses by its first major decision. How much further will the left wing force this Government to go? The Liberal Party, during the past three years, placed its policies clearly and openly before the people. We were determined to do everything possible to ensure that our resources were developed and to secure public support for this project in the interest of jobs, investment and the economic future of this State. As a result, we won public support for the Roxby Downs project and for uranium mining. The Premier cannot now dispute that, having given his full support for Roxby Downs.

I now give this commitment on behalf of the Liberal Party to those companies involved in the Honeymoon project: when we return to Government at the next election, the Liberal Party will allow mining to proceed according to the conditions established as a result of the assessment of the environmental impact statement process completed in 1981. We will move on this matter immediately on our return to the Treasury benches. I hope, therefore, that the companies will be willing to hold their retention leases for the duration of this Parliament—

The Hon. E.R. Goldsworthy: Government.

Mr OLSEN:—Government. If today's decision has not put the Beverley and uranium enrichment projects beyond the reach of this State, we will also immediately initiate efforts to ensure that they are revived.

I want the people of South Australia, the companies already established in this State, and potential investors in the future, to be aware that there is one political Party in this State with a responsible and realistic attitude to resource development—the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party believes that future economic diversification of South Australia depends on a major contribution from the resources sector. The present Government, on the other hand, is so weak, inconsistent and indecisive in its policies that it offers no confidence to resource development companies planning investment in this State. For that reason the Government also does not deserve the confidence of this House.

The Hon. J.C. BANNON (Premier and Treasurer): Let me commence by drawing the House's attention to the fact that for the second time in two weeks we have been prepared to accept a motion without prior notice and without the usual courtesies having been observed. There was never one occasion under the previous Government—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.C. BANNON:—when it had the guts to do so—never once! There were a number of occasions—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.C. BANNON: If it is the policy of the Opposition to shout me down, I am not terribly concerned, because what I say will be recorded and, more importantly, will be heard by the people of South Australia whom the Opposition is not concerned about.

There were many occasions on which we in Opposition attempted to debate as a consequence of a Ministerial statement or some other matter that had come up, and every time, without exception, we were refused that right. I just draw that to the attention of the House, because it also gives the lie to aspects of the Leader's address in which he tries to suggest that this is a Government that does not know its own mind and is not decisive. We are prepared to debate this issue, and we are prepared to do it today, irrespective of the fact that we have not had the courtesy of the usual notice that is given in such cases.

I give prior notice that we do not intend to do that on every occasion. We expect those courtesies from the Opposition. I know that members opposite find it hard to accept that they are not in Government, but they must come to terms with the fact that they are in Opposition, and they should try to observe the courtesies of the House. However, let us have this debate now. We do not shirk from it, and we do not in any way resile from our position, nor from the reasoned statement made to this House by the responsible Minister of Mines and Energy in South Australia.

We are asked to determine what is right and proper. In his speech on this motion, the Leader of the Opposition has shown the usual contempt for public opinion that has been present throughout the Opposition's whole approach to uranium mining and the nuclear fuel cycle. Constantly the attitude has been that they are the only ones who know the truth about this issue, that they are the only ones who are right, and that anybody who disagrees with them in any way is a fool or a knave. I suggest, first, that members opposite talk to some ordinary women in society. They should talk to a few housewives who have been observing this issue and watching the debate rage. They should tell them that they are damn fools for having concern or worries about uranium and the nuclear fuel cycle.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson interjecting:

The Hon. J.C. BANNON: The honourable member is one member who had a massive swing against her at the last election, I suggest not unconnected with her contempt for those people and their opinions. Let me repeat that that contempt of public opinion on this issue, contempt of the fact that there is division in our society and contempt of the fact that there is a genuine concern, has clouded the Opposition's attitude to this very complex issue. If rational debate and investment in this State are to be threatened, let it lie on their heads because that is the way they have directed this issue and have attempted to play it. They have been quite reckless in their statements—just as reckless as was the former Minister in regard to uranium mining. We have had it spelt out to the House by the Leader that if they get into Government companies can get in there and dig it up under any conditions they like: get in and get it out, erect enrichment plants and develop the industry. That has been the Opposition's attitude: come to South Australia—the world's best quarry! I assure honourable members that it is not the intention of my Government to exploit resources willy-nilly without counting the cost and without counting public opinion. We are committed to resource development, and time and again we have demonstrated it.

The whole Cooper Basin project was developed under a previous Labor Government, supported in Opposition, and advanced in Government again. There are so many other developments which have been part of a Labor Government policy. We have a record on resource development of which we are proud. We will explain that to any investor in the country irrespective of what members opposite try to do in sabotaging the State's economy. That is what it amounts to.

Let us not talk about resource development in general terms and then try to pitch it on to this issue, whatever the Chamber of Mines or anybody else says. Typical of the Opposition's contempt, Friends of the Earth, the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy and other groups are apparently made up of a crazy crowd of cranks and no-hopers, to whom no-one should listen. The Opposition's friends are the people who have explored the issue in a rational and reasoned tone. That is just not the fact. As a starting point for the Opposition, I suggest it looks at the real situation in our community.

Also, there are the usual exaggerated estimates of the jobs, finance and benefits. We are talking about an industry at the moment that is on its knees. Uranium cannot be sold.

It is being stockpiled all over the world. Estimates of future nuclear plants are being revised downward weekly. There may be a future for nuclear energy, but that future has certainly not been demonstrated at this time. I invite members to examine any literature from overseas and any market estimates, or talk to those in Australia who have uranium prospects and who are trying to sell them, and they will then understand that what I am saying is right. We are not talking about an industry which offers these great rewards. At some time in the future, if the questions around it are resolved, it may have a future, but that is not at the moment.

Again, we are hearing the usual misrepresentations of our policy. It is not, and never has been, total and absolute opposition to the development of nuclear energy or uranium. It is a rational policy based around the state of that industry, the safeguards that relate to it, and what we know about it. There may be a time in the future at which these questions will be resolved but no responsible Government, whether provincial (as in the case of South Australia) or national (as in the case of a number of Governments around the world) can be irresponsible enough to embark on such a scheme as the nuclear fuel cycle until it is absolutely convinced that the questions have been resolved. Whether or not the Opposition believes it has been resolved, let me remind it that a substantial body of public opinion in this community and elsewhere does not believe it has been resolved.

Let them not again misrepresent our policy. 'Honeymoon is needed', says the Leader, and this is the extraordinary thing: the whole of our State's economic and industrial development will centre around this small pinpoint, this minor project somewhere to the north. I think that the way in which the Opposition would like this treated was exemplified by a map which appeared in the newspapers the other day showing the major population centres in South Australia—Adelaide, Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Port Lincoln and a number of others around the coast. Then we find Roxby Downs and Honeymoon in the middle with big round dots and big tags next to them.

If those maps are circulated and if that is the way in which the Opposition will carry on, then I would not blame investors for wondering what is happening in South Australia. However, the facts are far, far different. Honeymoon is not needed as part of our economic development. Ranger and Nabarlek already have excess uranium that they are not able to sell. There is no question of our commitment to Roxby Downs, and I know that the Opposition does not like that. They are very unhappy indeed; they keep inviting us to say, 'We will close Roxby Downs,' and when we will not, they say, 'Perhaps they might.'

At the moment, Roxby Downs does not have contracts written for it. It is still a long way from that mine coming into production as we warned last year, and every other small uranium project that has been opened makes it less likely that that project will in fact get under way to the extent that we are hoping. It is a multi-mineral project. It has a number of minerals and a number of things to commend it in that sense and we are backing that project.

I reiterate that and I suggest that this is the advice that is being given at the Federal level. There is room at the moment for one large project only in this area for uranium components. We want that project to be Roxby Downs, not Honeymoon or some of these others. Yeelirrie, in Western Australia, has the same partners. They are in the market trying to buy contracts. Their first partner has withdrawn from Yeelirrie and at the moment it is not going ahead in large part because they cannot find anyone to buy their product. Now, is that the determinant and does that make this project—

Mr Lewis interjecting:

The Hon. J.C. BANNON: I think that the member for Mallee ought to attend to the concerns of his rural constituents instead of carrying on with this nonsense in the House. I am sorry that I bothered to give him acknowledgement, but I suggest that he listens very carefully and realises that, in terms of the economic development of this State, Honeymoon is not needed, and that is beyond doubt.

As for this enrichment plant, that is one of the greatest furrphies that has been peddled around. It reminds me very much of Sir Thomas Playford's deep sea port, when that venerable gentleman, just before every election, used to have a ship taking soundings at various strategic places along the coastline where there were marginal electorates, and the deep sea port never eventuated. Indeed, the enrichment plant has done the tour of the marginal electorates and around the traps. It has been up and down and around the country. It has most recently appeared in Port Pirie.

I would like to tell the Opposition two things. First, it is most unlikely that an enrichment plant will be built in Australia in the next 20 years. There is an over-supply of enrichment. In fact, the very customers for uranium at the moment are seeking customers because they want to use under-supplies of enrichment capacity they have in their countries, such as France, and so on. That is the first point.

The second point is that, as the consortium has made it abundantly clear, that plant will not be established at Port Pirie under any circumstances. They want it in a metropolitan area and it is either a decision between Adelaide or somewhere else if it ever came about. Of course, that has never been spoken about by the Opposition because their concern is not with the project, with the development, or with these jobs about which they talk. Their concern is with the politics of this issue and how to beat it up, and it is about time that they started talking realistically and taking people into their confidence.

Mr Mathwin: You should read what Mr Dunstan said.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.C. BANNON: Let me refer honourable members to the Minister's statement, which I think covers very adequately all the points that need to be made about this decision which is essentially a rational one and a decision which will allow us breathing time to consider what is a very divisive community issue in the sort of consensus that the people of this State have voted for on at least two occasions within the past six months. First, the Minister pointed out the overall concern. He then talked about the endorsement of community groups. Let me quote something that was said by the operators of the Honeymoon project, and I am referring to a speech that was made at the Honeymoon site in May by Mr Kelman, the Managing Director of C.S.R. First, in regard to the project he said:

This is a small fairly shallow deposit of uranium which could not be economically mined by ordinary procedures.

He then went on to describe those. He said (and this is the important part):

Because we are a large Australian company with broad interests in minerals and energy materials, we are obviously interested in the possibility of sound business opportunities in uranium. However, we are very aware that some sections of the general public are deeply uneasy about nuclear energy and all that it involves. C.S.R., as a responsible company, will act only with close regard for public attitudes and concerns. We know we cannot do things which the Australian public will not accept.

I would have thought that that was a more than clear statement from a major company involved in this industry. It is a statement that would be echoed by very many major companies. They, unlike the Opposition, are sensitive to public concern, and feel some responsibility for the overall acceptance of what they are doing, and they are prepared to stand up and spell it out and make it quite clear.

Indeed, if there is any doubt about endorsement, one has only to look at the results of the elections that have taken place in this country over the past 12 months or so. Indeed, one should look into the cockpit, if you like, of the recent uranium debate. I have here dozens of advertisements talking about the support of the candidate for Grey, Mrs Joy Baluch. It was probably another coup of Premier Tonkin to get Mrs Baluch to stand for the seat of Grey, which is a very marginal seat indeed. It is a seat where this issue was stressed to be of importance. In advertisement after advertisement we were told that the Labor policy was anti-uranium, that all these projects would finish, that they were absolutely vital, and that one should not vote for Labor which promoted the view of not caring about unemployment if Honeymoon, Beverley and Roxby Downs did not go ahead. I point out the trickery involved, because Roxby Downs will go ahead. The view was expressed by Mrs Baluch that only a Liberal Government would secure a future in mining investment and jobs. The editorial columns of the newspapers referred to the uranium issue in Grey with such headings as 'Candidates clash on uranium policy'.

The end result of all that was that in the seat of Grey there was a swing of 4 per cent or 5 per cent to the Labor Party. The Opposition simply thumbs its nose at that result, and says, 'Forget all that; yes, we did say it was the crucial issue, but obviously people were confused.' It is about time that the members of the Opposition had a bit of humility and regard for public opinion. It is about time that it had some regard for this State and the community, which I can assure honourable members my Government has.

If members of the Opposition examine the statement made by the Minister they will see that he has covered every aspect of this matter. Also, he has pointed out that South Australia is not alone in this issue. We have a Federal Government that will not grant export licences to these projects. Therefore, to carry on in the way suggested by the Opposition would simply ensure that South Australia is singled out: heaven help us if the Opposition's motives are to drive investments away or if the Opposition is of the view that it wants people to stay out of South Australia for three years while the State is plunged into an economic catastrophe until it again gets into Government, when it can then look after South Australians. That is not good enough and it is not what the community wants. The Government rejects completely and utterly the nonsense that has been put forward.

We have made a considered decision. We made it as an elected Government and not as a political Party. We will stand by that decision as an elected Government. We will keep the circumstances under review and whatever final decision is made in relation to this whole thorny area will be the rational one in the interests of the community.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): The Premier has made a big deal of the fact that the normal courtesies were not observed in this House. The fact is that the company concerned locally was not informed of the decision of the Government by 1.55 p.m., so what hope had the Opposition of knowing that the decision had been made so as to observe the courtesies? Yet we are being castigated. It is an absurd proposition to suggest that a no-confidence motion be mounted about a subject which was not known to the Opposition at that stage.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: The statement of the Minister of Mines and Energy and the speech of the Premier are quite deceitful. In support of this extraordinary decision the Minister gave four reasons for banging the door on the Honeymoon project. He charges that there is uncritical

support of nuclear technology by Governments worldwide. The nuclear industry has been accepted and is accepted by the vast majority of Western nations. It has been in operation in Great Britain for 30 years, and is operating in Sweden, Italy, and Germany. Socialist France is increasing its nuclear commitment, as is Japan. Is the Government of little old South Australia suggesting that it is the only one in step and that all the other major nations of the Western world do not know what they are talking about? We are concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and we are concerned about safety measures. The best chance Australia has of having some influence is being a responsible supplier of a fuel which the world needs and will procure, if not from South Australia then from places like Namibia and other nations, where the safeguard requirements are nowhere near as stringent as are those spelled out by the Fraser Liberal-Country Party Administration. To suggest that there is uncritical support for the nuclear industry is plainly deceitful.

The Premier is saying that his Government's responsible position was spelt out during the election campaign. This is equally false. We know that the Premier evaded questions on the Labor Party's stand on the Honeymoon and Beverley deposits during the recent campaign. Even when pressed, the Premier finally said that he would call for the documents, peruse them, and make a decision on the basis of what they contain. No clear indication was given to the people of South Australia of where the present Government stood on Honeymoon, Beverley or uranium enrichment. To make that assertion in the Minister's statement is plainly deceitful.

The statement talks about the substantial safety and surveillance problem. We are all aware of that, but the decision not to mine at Honeymoon makes not the slightest difference to that situation in the world scene; if anything, it will lead to nations getting their supplies of uranium from other nations which are far less stable than is Australia.

In the same point, the Minister says that the Government believes that the development of nuclear weapons capability from civil nuclear programmes is distressing. If the Government had had an open mind on this matter and had listened to some of the eminent people who came to this nation during the Roxby Downs debate, it would have heard that it is probably about the most circuitous route to take to make atom bombs from a nuclear power generator. It was pointed out by one of those eminent visitors that all the ingredients for making T.N.T., a well known explosive, are present in a chocolate factory; it is possible to make T.N.T. in a chocolate factory. It is about as convenient to seek to make atom bombs from a civil nuclear power programme as it is to make T.N.T. in a chocolate factory. It is absurd, if a nation decides that it will follow the nuclear path in making atom bombs, that it will not buy a power generator to generate electricity in the first instance. Australia's nuclear safeguards dictate that the path that the uranium takes after leaving this country is monitored; the uranium is not diverted into weapons production.

Then we had this absolutely absurd statement that it is all right to mine uranium if it is found with other minerals. Is the fact that there is copper, even though in low concentrations, to be found with uranium—

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: You were the one who said it was a copper-uranium mine.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: It is a copper-uranium mine, and the Premier knows that the uranium, even at present depressed prices, has about the same economic value as the copper.

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: It depends—

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: Certainly, from the Premier's standpoint. Is the Premier suggesting that the uranium is not radioactive because it occurs with the copper?

Is he suggesting the hazard is any different if the uranium occurs with sand, iron ore, gold, tin, or some other metal? It is absurd to suggest that Roxby Downs is anything having a series of hazards other than those associated with a uranium mine. That is an absurd proposition.

If we are to follow this to its logical conclusion, the Premier should be saying that all that is necessary for Honeymoon to be allowed to continue is for some tin or other metal to be found there. It defies explanation to suggest that, because some other mineral happens to occur with uranium, that makes it all right. How on earth the Labor Party can put that forward as a reasonable argument defies description.

Then we get thrown up that we are not worried about Honeymoon, because it employs only a handful of people. Go and tell that to the 10 people in the staff office of the joint venturers in Adelaide! I rang that office last week and the girl on the switchboard told me that she was worried about her job. Let the Government go and tell that to the 30 people working on the site. Are their jobs any less valuable than are the jobs of the people working at Roxby Downs or people working in any other industry?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: If that argument is followed to its logical conclusion we would be closing down every small business in South Australia. During the election campaign the Labor Party acknowledged that small business provides the bulk of employment in South Australia. Are we to close them down because they are small? That is a completely absurd proposition.

Then we have this nonsense about markets. Normally, it is the company's problem to find markets. If they want to create employment, Governments usually encourage them but this paternalistic 'Big Brother' Government is looking over the shoulder saying that a company must go because it cannot find a market for its product. It should tell G.M.H. to close down because it cannot find markets, and a hundred and one other companies should be told to close. That is completely absurd.

Here is a company prepared to keep an office going in Adelaide, even though it is employing only 10 people, and it has invested \$10 000 000 in South Australia, yet it is being told that because it is small it is no good. What an absurd proposition from a Government that made such a hoo-hah about small business during the last election campaign. That defies credibility; it is completely phoney. This Government says that unless a company is big it is no good. Those are the four reasons advanced by the Labor Party for banging the door on this development.

Until they had their big discussion in Canberra and came to terms in due course with their electoral dilemma, Roxby Downs was pie in the sky, it was hazardous and full of radiation, and they did not want it. Now, however, they must face electoral reality, and they say they have changed the policy. However, this is a hotch-potch of a policy that defies logic and common sense.

Both the Premier and the Minister of Mines and Energy have visited Roxby, which is a large mining operation by any standards. Once Roxby got the go-ahead from the gurus in Canberra, the Premier could not get up there soon enough and see the scale of activity for himself. There is a large pile of radioactive ore at Roxby. A major shaft and drives are being provided, they are spending \$50 000 000 in terms of the indenture, and they are moving lots of radioactive ore. There are copper, sand and ore there. In fact, it could be an iron ore mine if they could get the uranium out of it, but suddenly the radiological hazards no longer exist and it is all right to proceed with it because of the copper. How absurd because, even at the present depressed prices, uranium

is equally as valuable as copper and, in the fullness of time, it will become a major mine. Therefore, to suggest that a small business in the mining industry cannot go ahead, whereas we can have a big one, is absurd because mining is taking place at this very moment.

The argument that we should not let the Honeymoon project go ahead because the technology is new to Australia (that is in the Minister's statement) is equally absurd. There are many years experience in America of solution mining. The Minister knows that, because he has read about it. If we follow that argument, however, we will adopt nothing new merely because it does not exist here, although it may be well tried and proven elsewhere. Yet that is the Premier's proposition: we cannot have solution mining in Australia because we have not had it before. However, we in South Australia would be back in 1836 if we followed that argument to its logical conclusion. That solution mining technique is well established in the U.S.A., and it is probably as safe a method of mining as any other because it involves no-one in going underground.

If people had their choice of working above or under the ground and were not keen on underground mining, they would prefer to work above ground at Honeymoon on a few pumps and stop-cocks. They would prefer to work the chemical plant rather than don a helmet and work underground at Roxby. I know where the bigger hazards are. At Roxby people face the normal hazards of mining, whereas at this moment the mining hazards to be faced at Honeymoon are nothing when compared with those at Roxby.

One of the main planks in the platform of this Labor Government is that South Australia is to become a high-technology State, yet Government members say they cannot allow this method to be used simply because it is not used in Australia already. That is an absurd proposition. We have all the hoo-hah about safety and the support for CANE and the other groups who are not too fussy with the truth. They were not fussy with it last week, when we had a so-called leaked document, and that is not the first time during the term of this Government that we have had a leaked document: we had one during the second week of government. However, I consider the document to be a stolen one rather than a leaked document, as I am told by the company it is more likely to be. That document has been misrepresented. To his credit, the Minister refuted that, but that is the sort of hoo-hah that these groups put forward.

The allegation of underground water contamination has been refuted by the companies and by the department, yet we had the same old argument trundled out last week. We often hear of mining disasters that have nothing to do with uranium, yet where were the cries of CANE and the other greensies last week, when the press told of 90 miners who had been crushed in a coal mine, and we saw a photograph of a row of coffins as far as one could see containing bodies of the dead miners? Nor have we heard anything from the greensies about that or about the effects of pollution from the mining of coal. Although we are talking about the safety of people, we have heard nothing about what coal miners have to put up with, although thousands of coal miners suffer from black lung. Although pollution seems to be acceptable there because it has been suffered for many years, I believe that the existence of black lung is an extraordinary indictment on the coal-mining industry.

By stopping the mining of uranium at such places as Honeymoon, are we about to turn off the lights? What are the acceptable risks in the mining industry in this day and age? The risks associated with Honeymoon are minuscule compared to the risks taken by people in every-day work in metropolitan Adelaide. Yet Government members get up and talk all this hoo-hah about public opinion, although the previous Liberal Government gave the public the facts and

conducted polls that indicated that a clear majority of people in this State favoured the mining of uranium.

The Hon. G.J. Crafter: So the polls—

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: We know all about the publication that went into Norwood last year. The Labor Party was having two bob every way. What is the attitude of the Australian Workers Union on uranium mining? Members of that union favour it. Then what about the attitude of the Deputy Premier? He is a member of the A.W.U., which wanted to get on with the job because it had many members at Roxby. Faced with such an attitude, the Labor Government had to try to withstand pressure, but it finally could not do so on Roxby. What do trade union members throughout the world think about uranium mining? There is no problem in Britain with the unions, even with the extreme leftists who are left of the member for Elizabeth. We do not hear anything against the civil nuclear industry in Great Britain. People seem to confuse nuclear power with the peace movement, but that movement is against the nuclear bomb; that is another matter. If the nuclear reactors in Britain were closed down, factories would close down, jobs would be lost, and the lights would be turned out.

What is the position of the unions in liberated Sweden, that socialist haven? In that country a vote was held on the commissioning of new reactors.

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: It's being phased out—

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I do not know whether the Premier has been to Sweden, but I have. He should talk to Mr Svenke, who visited Australia during the Roxby debate, when eminent people came here.

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: How about—

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: The long-term decision can always be put off, but the trouble with this matter is that the decision must be made now, and they have voted to commission new reactors. Is the uranium at Honeymoon different from that at Roxby? Is the yellow cake different? What is the argument? Is it based on safety? On what grounds does the Labor Party argue? Roxby is in considerable jeopardy.

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: Roxby is an approved project.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: Why is it approved—because it is safe?

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: It will go ahead.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: We know that, but we are trying to get to the bottom of the deceit of the Government in this document.

The Hon. J.C. Bannon: What's wrong in the Minister's statement?

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: What do the Premier's mates in CANE think about Roxby? They did not favour it before the Labor Party did its switch, and I applaud them for that because there was logic and consistency in their stance.

Mr Mayes: It is complicated—

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: It certainly is complicated, but here we have a genius, the member for Unley, who can explain it, but can his mates in CANE say how the uranium at Honeymoon differs from that at Roxby? The yellowcake in one drum will hurt, but that in the other drum will not! We hear all this hoo-hah about the danger at Honeymoon being greater than that at Roxby, yet my argument is that many of the problems applying at Roxby do not apply at Honeymoon. If the Government spokesman on health were to go to Britain today he would be drummed out of the regiment because he would want to turn off the lights. Do not the arguments advanced in this pathetic, deceitful document apply to Roxby? Is not the uranium from Roxby going to be used for proliferation if that is the case?

The Hon. J.C. Bannon interjecting:

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I am not knocking the Roxby project; I support it. The Premier knows full well that if it was not for the fact that one member of his Party had the courage to cross the floor (and I had a considerable conversation with him) to get the project—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: The Leader knows that he has made an absurd statement. The Labor Party fought tooth and nail to beat Roxby, and all of a sudden it did a switch because, and for no other reason, it knew that the feeling out in the community was pro-Roxby. Now, it cannot explain it away, because uranium oxide, or yellowcake, from Roxby is no different chemically from yellowcake from Honeymoon, except that the Honeymoon project will be won more simply, more cheaply and at less risk.

We know that the Premier seeks to fudge the issue. He knows that it is an equally absurd proposition to suggest that I am against Roxby. In fact, I fought tooth and nail to get it through the House, against the opposition of the Labor Party. What we want explained is why the uranium from Roxby is not dangerous but the uranium from Honeymoon, which is won by a mining operation which is far safer, is dangerous. Let Government members explain that to their mates in CANE and to the member for Elizabeth, who said that the rank and file was spewing when that decision was made. At least they can understand that. At least his thinking is consistent and logical. However, this is a charade, where the Government is going to turn its back on small business. G.M.H. will be closed down because it has a stockpile, and the Government will let Roxby go because it is safe.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many interjections, and I hope that they will cease.

The Hon. E.R. GOLDSWORTHY: I make the point again for the Premier, who is being deliberately obtuse (we know that he may have some obtuse characteristics), that, if one followed the argument through that because markets appeared shaky Big Brother would not let them go, one would have to say to General Motors, 'Bad luck, your markets are shaky.' That is an absurd argument.

This is one of the most deceitful documents that has come before this House. The jobs of the 10 people in the Honeymoon office in town and the 30 people on the site are as valuable as the jobs of anyone else in this community. The Government deserves to be kicked out of office for the decision it has made.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE (Minister of Mines and Energy): One would have thought that, looking at the recent history of this matter in the House, we might have had a serious approach, particularly from the Leader of the Opposition, for example—

Mr Lewis: Why don't you lift your game then?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: —in speaking to the motion, which I, of course, oppose. The Leader said:

The people in CANE, Friends of the Earth and environmentalists and other agitators. . .

That was the level of the garbage that we were subjected to. The Premier, when he was speaking in this debate, pointed out that a Government should have proper regard to the feeling in the community about all matters, not just this topic, although this is the one that we are now considering. The Leader has said that anybody who disagrees with his viewpoint on the matter is an agitator. This was his supposedly measured, serious response to a debate which all members in this House would agree is of some importance in the community. No wonder the people of South Australia rejected the previous Government and reinstalled the rightful

occupiers of these benches, the Australian Labor Party. Even—

The Hon. E.R. Goldsworthy: You were born to rule!

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: Never did I think that I would ever hear in this House such a remark from the former Minister. The former Minister suggests that we in the Labor Party, which is a democratic organisation, are espousing a cardinal principle of the Liberal Party. Everybody knows that members of the Liberal Party believe that they are born to rule. Fancy his suggesting—

Mr BECKER: Mr Speaker, I take a point of order. I ask the Minister to withdraw the remark that every member of the Liberal Party believes that he is born to rule. I do not believe that I was born to rule. It is an idiotic remark to be made.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is nothing unparliamentary in that remark.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: Mr Speaker, I had assumed that there was nothing unparliamentary in that remark, but if it will please the honourable member then I will say 'everybody except the member for Hanson', and trust that he is willing to accept that. I was dealing with the puerile effort of the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the so-called alternative Government in this State. The Ministerial statement includes the following:

The Honeymoon joint venturers were informed of the Government's decision a short time ago, and the Beverley joint venturers are being informed that a production licence will not be available for their project as the policy now stands.

The Leader then said that if Honeymoon cannot proceed neither can Beverley. Of course it cannot. It was already stated in the Ministerial statement, yet in some strange way the Leader suddenly came across this very important point which should be brought to the attention of the House. He went on, as he usually does, to mumble something about giving projects to Queensland, and so on. What on earth was he talking about? He may be reluctant to acknowledge that we have a new Federal Government which is now an Australian Labor Government. Apparently, the Leader does not realise that it is the Federal Government that has the responsibility, authority and the legal backing in relation to the export of the commodity that we are discussing here today.

So, for the life of me, I cannot see how shifting around to another State will have any effect in that sense. The contract can be signed. Was he suggesting that, in this case, people will invest money when they cannot get it from bankers, for example, to start resource projects? It clearly indicates that the Leader came into the House ill prepared and with little understanding of the matter, anyway. It also illustrates the traps one can get into when one has been supplied with a pre-written text. I only trust that he does not take too much notice of me here, as I hope he will continue in that vein and therefore be as ineffective in future as he was today in this matter.

We also heard the Leader recycling figures, no doubt provided to him by the Deputy Leader, indicating that a special situation applied in South Australia in the years 1979 to 1982, when they were in Government, regarding mineral exploration and the funds spent thereon, as though, in relation to mineral exploration, South Australia were a special Liberal jewel in the expanse of Australia. That is nonsense. The Leader should know it, and certainly the Deputy Leader knows it, although he made no attempt to dissuade his Leader from peddling that nonsense in the House. There was a general up-turn in those years Australia wide and, in fact, in 1981-82 South Australia slipped a little in relation to its relative position on a table of funds spent per capita on a proportionate basis. The Deputy Leader knows that they are the facts, yet he sat calmly alongside

his Leader and allowed him to put forward that false prognosis relating to mineral exploration in South Australia. One can only assume that there may be other motives in the mind of the Deputy Leader in not providing the back-up that his Leader might have expected in that matter.

The Leader went on to say that companies have invested in the expectation that they would be allowed to proceed. He was referring to Honeymoon and to the fact that certain investments were made and would be allowed to proceed to a further stage. The Deputy Leader would well know (since he has had access to the same files to which I now have access) that in 1979 the joint venturers wrote to the then Premier, the Hon. Des Corcoran (a former member whom the Deputy Leader is fond of quoting in this House as being a great South Australian—I believe that was the term used on one occasion—and I fully support that), saying that they were fully aware of the Australian Labor Party's policy on the matter and that it clearly entered into their thinking in relation to any progress they might expect or achieve with the project. There was no mention of that today by the Leader or his Deputy.

I know that mining companies are realistic, and I suspect that the Deputy Leader knows it. Whenever a resource is to be first located, then delineated and subsequently processed, a course of action is open to the developer. Mining companies often have long-term plans, and for the Leader and his Deputy to suggest that in some way the Government of this State (which we are now) has suddenly interfered with plans that the joint venturers might have quite erroneously. As far back as 1979 there was a realistic understanding by the joint venturers in this project in regard to the Government's policy. Let us hear no more of the nonsense that suddenly the door has been shut and that out of the blue, like a thunderbolt (or whatever silly term was used), this has happened. That is not the case at all. There has been an understanding by the companies concerned. The Leader expressed concern about employment in South Australia. As the Premier pointed out, we also have those concerns and, in the election policy matters put before the people in South Australia in November last year and before all the people in Australia as recently as 5 March, the Labor Party gave great importance to the question of future employment in this country. We put forward a plan outlining that this is not a piece-meal operation and that single States operating on their own, special privileged groups in the community or even individuals out to make a dollar, can continue to operate for the benefit of this country. What was put forward by the now Prime Minister was that the time has come for all sections of the community to get together in an overall attempt to get the economy back on the rails through a concerted effort. Nowhere in the policy put forward is there the suggestion that all one has to do is hitch one's wagon to the mining star and all will be solved. Yet that is what we are being told by members opposite—that we only have to convert South Australia (and implicitly Australia) to a gigantic quarry and all our problems will be solved. That is nowhere near the case.

The Deputy Leader ought to know that something like 68 000 people are directly employed in the mining industry today in the whole of the country. Perhaps that figure applied two weeks ago, because there are down-turns in the mining industry as well. I am not criticising that industry because of that fact: it is having its problems, but to suggest that all we have to do in South Australia is get stuck into mining and the State's problems will be solved is far from the truth. I trust that in any future thinking the so-called alternative Government in South Australia (the Opposition) will apply a little more sense in relation to that topic.

Mr Meier: Mining does help, though.

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: I accept that interjection: mining can help but, if the honourable member takes the trouble to read what I have said so far when *Hansard* comes out, nowhere will he find that I have denied that. I have simply illustrated in point of fact the big mistakes made over the last few years in Australia by the Federal Fraser Government. The big mistake, as every member knows, was to go for the bonanza—the resource boom. Financial journals acknowledge that that was the wrong thing to do at that time. Economists say that mistakes were made. Even bankers (and they are usually the last to miss out in terms of ultimate loss) agree that that kind of thinking was wrong and led to some of the problems that we face today.

The argument put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition only a few minutes ago in relation to the Government looking at marketing with respect to the possible future prospects for Honeymoon was absolute nonsense. In fact, it might well be that the car industry, the example he cited, would not be in the position it is in today if proper and genuine market research had been done, and let honourable members opposite gainsay that point.

What happened was that there was not this concerted effort that will now result, I fervently hope and so do very many people in Australia, from the summit meeting that has been called by the Prime Minister of the day. For the Deputy to try to argue that it is wrong to look at market prospects in order to assess whether or not an activity should be encouraged, not only in uranium but whatever, indicates, I would suggest, that some more thinking is necessary on his part so that he may have a better understanding of these matters.

We then had the Leader trying to show in some way that on 1 February in the *Advertiser* (I think that that was the paper that he mentioned) I had in some way said that there would be in effect an amount being spent on exploration in South Australia in relation to, presumably not only uranium, but mineral exploration generally. The suggestion from the Leader was that on 1 February I had accepted that statement. If he takes the trouble not to selectively read the quotation as he selectively used it in the House, he will find that I said that I had been told that that was a possibility. I did not say that I accepted it, and the Leader knew that. However, it is an example of the kind of tactics that have been used by the Opposition over the years. He and his predecessors had tried to attribute statements to members on this side when they were not made, and I invite the Leader to respond to that point when, presumably, he may speak in reply to his motion.

Another small point he did not mention, which, as I said, is probably explained by the fact that he does not really wish to acknowledge that we now have a new Australian Labor Party Government as our Federal Government, is that the Federal election took place on 5 March. I think that it would have been reasonable for him to have put forward the totality of his argument in recognising that there is a new Government now operative over the whole of Australia and, therefore, the remarks that he was trying to attribute to me were completely out of context, because with an Australian Federal Government with a certain policy, obviously that policy will be applied uniformly across the States. If it is not, then there are even measures in the Constitution which take care of efforts by a Federal Government to deal selectively with States on an unfair or other basis. The Leader ought to know that.

We were then subjected to the effort by the Deputy Leader. He began by talking about deceit, and I believe that I could be excused if I thought that there was something wily ironic about that topic being chosen by the Deputy Leader. He said that the company concerned had not been informed locally by 1.55 p.m. of the decision of the Gov-

ernment. All that I can say is that I do not know where he gets his information.

I spoke at 10.12 a.m. to Mr Ross Wecker who is the project manager of C.S.R. Exploration located on Greenhill Road, Parkside. I gave him verbally the decision of the Government on this matter. Now who is talking about deceit? Now who is being the deceitful one in this House or, what is probably even worse in this case, who has not got his act together and did not have accurate information which could have been corrected by one simple phone call which I think costs 13c (or whatever it is now) or which could be phoned out from the privilege we enjoy as having access to the telephone as members?

Why on earth was not that simple fact checked? I know that I made the call and, if the Leader has any doubts, there were also other people in the immediate office when I made the call. I spoke with Mr Ross Wecker, who thanked me for the courtesy in advising him of the Government's decision and I assured him that a full written—

An honourable member: Did he thank you for the news?

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE: —answer would be following. I had been asked whether Mr Wecker thanked me for the news. What Mr Wecker did is what any responsible person in mining would do. I had already explained that he thanked me for the courtesy and explored with me some fine detail in relation to the Government's decision on a very simple basis. Then the conversation terminated. So, that is the full account of the conversation which took place.

I would not have expected any less of Mr Wecker whom I have met both on site and on other occasions. I am impressed with his efforts on behalf of the company. No doubt the company is impressed, or it would not be employing him. So, let us not have any more of that sort of nonsense about there being deceit and so on.

When charged with this responsibility as Minister of Mines and Energy, I have been at pains to ensure that I discharge the responsibilities in the interests of the people of this State and in accordance with the requirements of the Government of which I am a member. There is not one member in this House who could claim that I have done otherwise. If we were in a long-term, lengthy debate I could detail to the House, chapter and verse, the steps that I have taken in relation to this whole matter because I have them recorded. They have been the correct steps in relation to the obtaining of all the information relative to an application for a production licence in this matter, including recognising the imminent change of the Federal Government which was bound to occur once the election had been called, because the people of Australia no longer wanted any more Fraserism.

Everybody in this country knew what would happen. I will correct that by saying everybody except the member for Hanson. I think that he does not want me to include him amongst the category of 'everybody' anymore, so I willingly withdraw the member for Hanson from that group.

There was a further responsible step: having assembled all the information and kept Cabinet informed with briefings as to the state of play, if you like, in relation to the application, at the first available opportunity I went to Canberra. That was last Thursday, only some few days after the present Federal Government had taken over in Canberra on the arranged basis with the departing Federal Liberal Government. I discussed this matter with the responsible Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Peter Walsh, and also with the Deputy Prime Minister of this country, who has a responsibility in relation to the export of uranium and other matters related thereto.

As has been stated in this document, it was clear that there was no way that it would be approved. It was not just a matter of Australian Labor Party policy, but the elected Federal Government of this country. There is plenty of

silence opposite now because I realise that that is a little unfair. I am sorry that I am rubbing salt into the wounds, as it were, but it is the elected Federal Government of this country. It was not a narrow victory when matters of this nature were canvassed far and wide; it was an overwhelming election victory for the Labor Party to become the Federal Government of this country, and clearly the issues involved were canvassed at the time. As the Premier has said, Ranger, Nabarlek, and Roxby Downs are the projects selected and approved by the Federal Government of this country on the basis of the best interests of the country.

I feel that that point has escaped members opposite. The time for this debate is limited and I have no wish to restrict the Leader in regard to his remarks, so I shall simply point out that I believe the Premier and I have demonstrated the futility and senselessness of this motion before the House which should be opposed by all members.

Mr OLSEN (Leader of the Opposition): I shall repeat my opening remarks at the commencement of the debate, namely, that the Prime Minister, the Federal Leader of the Labor Party, described a ban of the type that this Government has now imposed as being a sloppy exercise in ineffective morality. So much for the comments from the Minister of Mines and Energy. On that basis, at least the Prime Minister (Mr Bob Hawke) has the matter of uranium mining and development and its benefits to this country in proper perspective. I just hope that his will prevails in regard to policy making within the Labor Party, so that we can get on with development of resources of South Australia and the nation.

I refer to the Government's saying that it has won two elections and that it has a great mandate for knocking back Honeymoon and Beverley. I remind the Premier that during the Federal election campaign neither he nor the then Leader of the Opposition, Bob Hawke, were prepared to make any comments on Honeymoon—they avoided the issue. There was no commitment on Honeymoon. The Government has no mandate for its present action: it sought no mandate and in fact avoided the issue, because it knew the implications in political terms of telling the people of South Australia. It was certainly an exercise in deception and, as I said, it would tend to make Goebbels a paragon of virtue and truth.

I also remind the Premier of his remarks about the Liberal Party making South Australia a quarry. I remind members opposite that the environmental impact statement established in 1981 on this project was acknowledged only yesterday by the Minister for Environment and Planning as providing adequate safeguards in countering the malicious and irresponsible claims of CANE made over the weekend. Any project undertaken by a Liberal Government would be subject to a proper environmental impact statement, proper controls and safeguards, and would not involve irresponsible mining. That can be achieved and it has been achieved. How inconsistent it is for the Government to argue that Roxby Downs with its uranium content can go ahead but that Honeymoon and Beverley cannot. The remarks made by the Government in its defence have been light on specifics and heavy on generalities. There has been no substance in the Government's refuting the Opposition's claim that this House ought to pass a vote of no-confidence in the Government's competence.

I remind members of the House that the Government has been in office five months, and in its first major decision it has failed South Australians. The Government has failed the 40 people currently on the pay-rolls of the companies concerned, not to mention others in small companies. The Premier should go and talk to a telephonist of the company concerning making her redundant and he should go out to

the smaller companies and talk to the people he referred to. The Premier should talk to the small companies which have liquidity problems and which require the investment of exploration funds turning around year after year for the provision of capital assets and job opportunities for people. As a Parliament we should be acting with one purpose, namely, that of taking people off the unemployment queues. We should not be making decisions which put them on the unemployment queues, which is what the Government is doing.

The Government has not attempted to justify its argument on economic grounds. The Minister of Mines and Energy referred to this matter. The decision has not been justified in current market or future market terms. In fact, the Minister acknowledged that the market of any commodity fluctuates from time to time. The Government has firmed up the view quite clearly that this decision has been a political one, and nothing more than that. Hence the reference to the Australian Democrats on the second point of justification in the Minister's speech. Quite clearly this is a political decision made by the left wing of Caucus. The Premier does not have the control of Caucus. I am quite sure that he as a person would be quite prepared to allow this development to go ahead, because the investment opportunities in this State of small companies in the metropolitan area and throughout the State have been put in jeopardy as a result of this decision. Over the next few years the Opposition will watch the graphs and note what happens to the exploration dollars invested in South Australia.

I venture to suggest that whereas the Liberal Government was able to turn the graph upwards, the Labor Government will turn it downwards with equal momentum. The Liberal Government was able to establish in South Australia some exploration development and some extra jobs for South Australians. We need to spread the economic base in this State over a wider field. The only way that any Government will meet the community's expectations, which are too high, is to embark on resource development to attract royalties. In that way the Government can meet some of those community expectations. It will not meet them with decisions such as that taken by the Government. I want to conclude my remarks in time for a vote by 4 o'clock, as agreed, and accordingly I think the matter is best summarised by the last paragraph in the *News* editorial as follows:

In pursuing resource development, the Bannon Government is like a suicidal contortionist: it has stabbed itself in the back.

I look forward to the next election date.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (21)—Mrs Adamson, Messrs Allison, P.B. Arnold, Ashenden, Baker, Becker, Blacker, D.C. Brown, Chapman, Eastick, Evans, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Lewis, Mathwin, Meier, Olsen (teller), Oswald, Rodda, Wilson, and Wotton.

Noes (24)—Mr Abbott, Mrs Appleby, Messrs L.M.F. Arnold, Bannon (teller), M.J. Brown, Crafter, Duncan, Ferguson, Gregory, Groom, Hamilton, Hemmings, Hopgood, Keneally, Klunder, Ms Lenahan, Messrs Mayes, Payne, Peterson, Plunkett, Slater, Trainer, Whitten, and Wright.

Majority of 3 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: WATER SUPPLY

Mr ASHENDEN (Todd): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr ASHENDEN: I have been misrepresented in many ways in a Ministerial statement made earlier this afternoon by the Minister of Water Resources. I would like to place

on record the correct situation to ensure that that misrepresentation does not persist. First, the Minister stated:

I regret to inform the honourable member and the House that no such commitment was given by the previous Government.

In relation to a statement he made that such a commitment was not given, I would like to quote from a letter from the previous Minister of Water Resources which was dated 30 September 1982. The letter states:

... an alteration to the water supply policy operating in the metropolitan watershed area has been approved by Cabinet. While there has been no change in policy in relation to the granting of indirect services outside of defined township areas, the revised policy permits the consideration of extensions of water main to unserviced allotments anywhere in the catchment area.

However, approval for an extension of water main is subject to certain conditions being met. In this regard, a return of 15 per cent on the estimated construction cost of the main must be achieved from the water rates that would be charged on all properties served by the extension. Where the required 15 per cent return is not forthcoming, for the extension to proceed, a cash contribution towards the cost of the work is required from the applicant.

I stress that they were the only conditions set by the previous Government. The letter continues:

Although a preliminary investigation of an extension of water main to ... property indicates that it would be an expensive proposition ... , I would be pleased to arrange for the financial aspects of an extension of main to be determined should it be considered desirable.

I therefore went back to my constituent with that advice. There is no doubt whatsoever that the commitment from the previous Government only required my constituents to agree to contribute extra money towards the cost of that extension.

The Minister then further misrepresented me in stating that the truth of the matter is that any extension to the water main in the area is not only undesirable but could adversely threaten existing users. I wish to point out that the extension referred to by the Minister was to one property only and that other residents along that road support my constituent's approach. The Minister further misrepresented me in stating:

It is for this reason that no indirect service has been granted in Churchett Road since August 1980.

I stress that the Minister used the word 'indirect' when in fact the Minister knows that I was referring to a direct water main. The Minister then further misrepresented me by saying:

The decision not to approve an extension to the member for Todd's constituent was based on the simple fact that the existing system is over-taxed.

I would like to point out that the misrepresentation is so obvious that in fact after new pumps were installed by the previous Government in this area old water pipes were bursting because the water pressure was so great. The Minister also stated:

I am amazed that he—

the member for Todd—

continues to insist on securing this water main extension when it could jeopardise the supplies to a number of his other constituents in the area.

I again point out that that is a completely false statement. Residents in Churchett Road are in agreement with my constituent having this connection. I have already pointed out that the action taken by the previous Government certainly allowed sufficient water pressure to be established.

Finally, the Minister indicated that the total costs for the sort of extension I sought throughout South Australia was \$51 000 000. The total cost of the extension to Churchett Road is \$25 000 of which \$14 370 would be a contribution from my constituents: in other words, considerably less than half of \$25 000 would be the total cost to the Government. There is no doubt that I believe I was completely misrep-

resented and the previous Government did give a commitment that has not been honoured.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. T.H. HEMMINGS (Minister of Local Government) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Local Government Act, 1934-1982, and to make a related amendment to the Valuation of Land Act, 1971-1981. Read a first time.

The Hon. T.H. HEMMINGS: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill makes a number of relatively minor amendments to the Local Government Act. Its purpose is to streamline essentially administrative matters where difficulties have arisen from operational experience. Some drafting errors in the Act are corrected, head power is provided so that regulations can be made to transfer long service leave entitlement in cash upon transfer of employment, a late payment fee for expiation of parking offences is provided and councils are given the option of budgeting to refund rates that become overpaid as a result of a reduction in assessed value of a property by the Valuer-General with the refund being made in the next financial year subject to the council paying 10 per cent interest on the money. What I consider to be the most significant clause in this Bill is clause 11 to simplify the setting of rates. At present different kinds of rates (general, differential general and special) require different kinds of majorities (simple, three-quarters and absolute). I believe this is unnecessarily complex, and there is much to be said for simplifying and standardising the requirement. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the measure. Clause 3 amends section 3 of the principal Act, which deals with the arrangement of the Act. This is consequential upon a further amendment which is contained in this Bill. Clause 4 provides for the repeal of section 69, which deals with the qualifications for mayor or alderman (being one year's service as councillor). Concern has been expressed that where a person is nominated for the office of mayor or chairman the returning officer cannot reject the nomination form where he knows that the nominee does not have the requisite one year's service as a member of council, even though such a person, if elected, would be ineligible to serve. The requirements of section 69 are therefore to be transferred to that section of the Act which deals with eligibility for nomination.

Clause 5 amends, in two respects, section 105 of the principal Act, which concerns nominations. First, the section is proposed to be amended to provide that nomination forms be in the prescribed form, to allow greater flexibility. Secondly, the section is to be amended to include as a qualification for nomination as mayor or alderman the requirement that the person has previously been a councillor. This links up with the proposed repeal of the present section 69.

Clause 6 provides for the amendment of section 157. This section provides for continuity of service, in relation to long service leave and sick leave, for persons who move from one council to another. The effect of the proposed amendment is to allow councils to make appropriate adjustments on account of their respective liabilities to pay a transferring employee long service leave and sick leave at or about the time that the employee transfers employment; the Act presently requires the adjustment to be made at the time of

payment to the employee, which may be several years after the transfer has occurred. The regulations are to prescribe how the adjustments are to be computed.

Clause 7 provides for the amendment of section 158 of the principal Act. This section deals with allowances and salaries for officers, mayors and chairmen. Mayoral allowances are determined soon after the annual elections in October, but this section refers to the declaration of allowances over financial years, and therefore creates some inconsistency. The amendment strikes out the reference to financial years. Clause 8 provides for the amendment of section 178b of the Act, which is consequential to another amendment provided for in this Bill. Clause 9 is also a consequential amendment to section 180 of the principal Act.

Clause 10 repeals the present section 213 and inserts a new section 213 and 213a in the principal Act. Amendments to the Valuation of Land Act, 1971-1981, have had an incidental effect on the position of councils under the present section 213, and the previous provisions referred to in the previous two clauses. Presently, where an appeal or objection is lodged against a valuation, the councils may still recover any rates which have been declared on the basis of that valuation, but in the event of a successful appeal or objection, an appropriate refund must be made. The proposed new provisions will enable a council to retain any amount found on appeal or review to have been paid in excess to be credited against a future liability of the ratepayer for rates. Interest is to accrue from the date of payment. If the council is informed that the ratepayer has ceased to be a ratepayer, it will be required to refund any amount standing to his credit. Also, any amounts which may be in credit after the declaration of the next general rate are to be refunded, thus preventing the indefinite accumulation of funds by councils. It is also noted that where an appeal or objection results in the council being able to recover further rates from a ratepayer, the councils cannot impose a fine on those rates, which might otherwise have been treated as arrears.

Clause 11 provides for the amendment of section 214, which deals with the declaration of general rates. The amendment provides that the declaration must be by resolution of an absolute majority. The amendment is proposed in order to provide uniformity in this Part of the Act. The proposed amendment also renders superfluous subsection (4) of the section. Clause 12 provides for slight amendment to section 228 of the Act. Subsection (3) of that section allows a council to exempt, in so far as is applicable, a property from the imposition of rates where the property extends across a council boundary and is subject only to a minimum rate in the other council. However, the subsection only refers to adjoining municipalities, which has a limiting effect where the municipality is adjacent to a district. Reference to municipalities is therefore to be changed to 'areas'.

Clause 13 provides for amendment to section 233a, which is identical to the preceding provision under clause 12, except that reference in this section is to 'districts'; this is to be changed to 'areas'. Clause 14 amends section 248c of the principal Act. This section requires the provision of lists of those eligible for remissions of rates to be supplied to the councils. The amendment requires the Minister administering the Rates and Taxes Remission Act, 1974, to supply this information; the Minister of Local Government presently has this responsibility.

Clause 15 deals with proposed amendments to section 342. This section provides for the construction and maintenance of private roads in the City of Adelaide. The cost of such roads is recoverable from abutting owners. Provision is to be made so that the council may agree to the costs being paid in instalments. Furthermore, an additional provision is proposed to enable a council to reduce or remit a

fine recoverable under the section on account of late payment, where it is appropriate so to do.

Clause 16 provides for amendment to section 343. This section deals with private roads other than those in the City of Adelaide, and the proposed amendments are similar to those contained in the preceding clause. Clause 17 amends section 344. This section relates to the completion of council work by laying pipes, drains and channels through private lands. The proposed amendment will allow councils to agree with affected owners that the owners carry out the required work themselves, at their own cost.

Clause 18 amends section 344a, which again relates to private roads. Amendments similar to those discussed in earlier clauses are again proposed. Clause 19 rectifies incorrect cross-references in section 368 of the principal Act. Clause 20 amends section 691, which sets out the regulation-making powers of the Governor. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) relates to the specification of qualifications of persons employed by councils and allows the constitution of committees to conduct examinations. The proposed amendment inserts an additional paragraph, which will provide power for regulations to be made allowing appeals from the decisions of a committee under paragraph (f).

Clause 21 rectifies an incorrect cross-reference in section 739 of the principal Act. Clause 22 rectifies a similar error in section 740. Clause 23 proposes an amendment to section 794a. This section deals with the expiation of offences. The amendment will allow the councils to accept a late payment of an expiation fee, on payment of a prescribed fee. Clause 24 provides a consequential amendment to the Valuation of Land Act, 1971-1981.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILS OF BALAKLAVA, OWEN AND PORT WAKEFIELD

The Hon. T.H. HEMMINGS (Minister of Local Government): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report be extended to Tuesday 19 April 1983.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MEADOWS

The Hon. T.H. HEMMINGS (Minister of Local Government): I move:

That the time for bringing up the report be extended to Tuesday 19 April 1983.

Motion carried.

BUILDERS LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. G.J. CRAFTER (Minister of Community Welfare): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It introduces a compulsory building insurance scheme to indemnify consumers for losses sustained where the builder with whom they have contracted dies, disappears or becomes insolvent. The need for the establishment of a building

indemnity scheme has been recognised for many years. In 1974, the Legislative Council passed amendments introduced by the Hon. Mr Murray Hill to insert a new Part IIIc of the Builders Licensing Act, 1967-1980, entitled 'The Building Indemnity Fund', to protect consumers against financial loss caused by builder insolvency or for any other reason. Part IIIc has not been proclaimed and is repealed by this Bill. In 1975, the S.A. Homes Insurance Scheme Committee presented a report concerning the introduction of a compulsory scheme which was different from the scheme set out in the Act.

In 1977, the Housing Industry Association, in conjunction with its subsidiary Housing Indemnity Australia Proprietary Limited, introduced a voluntary insurance scheme, essentially designed to cover financial loss to consumers arising from defective workmanship and materials or financial failure of a builder.

The Government acknowledges the role of the Housing Industry Association in this area. In 1977, the association, in conjunction with its subsidiary, Housing Indemnity Australia Proprietary Limited, introduced a voluntary insurance scheme, essentially designed to cover financial loss to consumers arising from defective workmanship and materials or financial failure of a builder.

The Government believes that, because of the substantial number of home owners who have suffered loss as a result of the collapse of home builders over the past few years and the uncertain future of the industry, compulsory indemnity is necessary. To this end officers of the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs commenced consultation with all interested parties to develop an indemnity scheme suitable for South Australia. Detailed submissions were received from interested parties including representatives of government, building, insurance and consumer groups.

The three schemes mentioned, as well as interstate and overseas schemes, have been examined in detail, but none are entirely suitable for practical and administrative purposes. The Part IIIc scheme, for example, has among other disadvantages the fact that it is limited in its application to building defects that occur within one year. The scheme contained in the Bill attempts to encompass the most desirable features of all the other schemes. The thrust of the proposed indemnity scheme is that it will cover consumers against financial loss only in those situations where there is no other avenue of redress under either Statute or common law.

As the indemnity scheme is to be a statutory requirement, some Government supervision is necessary in order to ensure that the scheme operates in the public interest. However, Government involvement is to be kept to a minimum. It is proposed that the premium offered by insurers meets certain criteria which will be spelt out in regulations. These criteria will be developed in conjunction with the industry and will ensure that premium levels are not excessive and reflect claims experienced over a period of time. Insurers will be free to settle claims, within the parameters of the criteria in the regulations, to collect premiums and invest premium income. Investigation of claims is to rest with insurers to avoid any duplication of resources between insurers and the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs and given that insurers have the necessary expertise. However, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs will continue to perform a conciliation function on building complaints, including disputes that may arise between a consumer and an insurer.

The Bill also provides for the repeal of the Defective Houses Act, 1976. For some time the Government has received submissions that the Defective Houses Act requires amendment and that its provisions should be incorporated

in the Builders Licensing Act, 1967-1981. The opportunity has now been taken to do so and to rationalise the legislative requirements affecting builders. The protection afforded by way of the warranties to the purchasers of new houses, which previously existed under the Defective Houses Act, has been incorporated in this Bill. However, the provisions have been extended to cover consumers who purchase an established house from a builder so that, in the case of a builder who has renovated a house but who has failed to carry out domestic building work in a proper and workmanlike manner, or who has failed to use good and proper materials, the purchaser, or any subsequent purchaser within five years after completion of the building work, may rely on the statutory warranty provisions to pursue a remedy. A definition of a 'builder' for the purposes of Part IIIc has been inserted in the Bill.

It is important to recognise that the warranty and indemnity provisions of the Bill are separate. Even in those cases where indemnity is not compulsory, consumers will be able to rely on the statutory warranty provisions provided that they, and the building work, fall within the definitions contained in that part of the Bill. The opportunity has also been taken to rationalise the statutory warranties which apply to builders under the Consumer Transactions Act and a Bill to amend that Act is also to be introduced. The effect will be that all statutory warranties which affect building work that falls within the definition of domestic building work in Part IIIc of the Builders Licensing Act will be found in that one Act (apart from those warranties which exist pursuant to the Federal Trade Practices Act). The opportunity has also been taken to repeal section 2 (2) of the Builders Licensing Act which presently restricts the operation of the Act from those areas of the State outside the jurisdiction of the Building Act. This will ensure that the statutory warranties in Part IIIc of the Builders Licensing Act and the indemnity scheme apply throughout the State.

Clause 5 of the Bill introduces the compulsory indemnity scheme. The scheme is to apply to domestic building work, as defined, which is carried out by the holder of a general builders licence or a provisional general builders licence. Provision has been made for certain building work to be excluded by regulation. There will be cases when insurance cover is not available and further consultation will be necessary with the insurance industry to examine the feasibility of extending cover to, for example, the construction of swimming pools. The indemnity scheme is primarily necessary to cover defective work or failure to complete work in relation to the building or alteration of a house and not other ancillary work such as swimming pools. Owner-builders are not covered by the scheme because at present owner-builders are outside the scope of the Builders Licensing Act. This is a separate issue, which will be considered in the context of the comprehensive review of the Act. For the present, owner-builders are to be excluded from the scheme. However, a subsequent purchaser from an owner-builder is to be notified that there is no indemnity cover by way of the section 90 statement required under the Land and Business Agents Act, and the regulations under that Act will be amended accordingly.

The Bill provides that domestic building work shall not be carried out unless a policy of indemnity is in force. Failure to do so will attract a penalty. Clause 5 of the Bill introduces new section 19r which sets out the components of a policy of insurance which must comply with the Act. The cover is to be limited to defects arising under a statutory warranty, or builder failure to complete building work, where the builder dies, disappears or becomes insolvent. It does not cover defective work or failure to complete building work when the builder is solvent and legal proceedings can be served upon him. The Government believes that the aim

of the scheme should be to protect consumers against financial loss only in those situations where they have no other avenue of redress either under Statute or common law. The minimum value of the building work which is to be covered by the scheme will be set out in regulations to be made under the Act but is expected to be \$5 000. The components of the policy, set out in proposed section 19r, cover the minimum requirements. The section provides for regulations to be made which will set out, in detail, the other requirements of the policy. It is appropriate that these other matters be dealt with in regulations as they relate to specific details of the policy such as the level of consumer excess, the value of claims to be paid, the level of insurer liability, the terms and conditions of the policy, premium levels and the time limits for making a claim. These matters will require further detailed consultation with industry before the regulations can be made and need to be incorporated in regulations as they may be subject to change from time to time.

The viability of the indemnity scheme rests on the involvement of local councils. Councils will be required to sight and record a certificate of indemnity when any application for council approval of domestic building work is lodged by a licensed builder or consumer. If the application is refused or not proceeded with, a refund is to be paid by the insurer upon receipt of notification from the local government authority. Where an application for council approval is lodged by a consumer before a builder has been nominated, final council approval can be given only when the local government authority sights and records a certificate of indemnity for the nominated licensed builder. This will ensure that a loophole does not arise and minimise the likelihood of domestic building work being undertaken without indemnity cover as a consumer is unable to build until he arranges indemnity cover. This proposal will require some amendments to the Building Act and these amendments will be introduced shortly.

The Government is aware of the extra costs likely to be incurred by consumers who will be required to take out compulsory indemnity cover before building. The likely premium cost is expected to be between \$100 and \$150 but this is subject to further consultation with the industry. However, the Government and industry will endeavour to ensure a fair premium level, principally by including criteria for determining premium levels in regulations. However, the cost factor must be offset by the immense advantages offered to consumers and the increased consumer confidence it should promote in the building industry. The history of recent builder collapse and consumer loss stand as sufficient evidence as to the need to introduce compulsory building indemnity in South Australia.

The Bill is based on a departmental report which was prepared in August 1981, and which was circulated to all interested parties including the Minister of Housing, Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Association, Real Estate Institute, Royal Institute of Architects, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Consumers Association of South Australia, South Australian Housing Trust, State Government Insurance Commission, Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction, Australian Finance Conference and Insurance Council of Australia. All interested parties support the Government in introducing a building indemnity scheme. I seek leave to have the detailed explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 provides for the repeal of the Defective Houses Act, 1976. Clause 4 amends section 2 of the principal Act by striking out subsection (2).

Clause 5 is formal. Clause 6 provides for the enactment of the new Part IIIC of the principal Act. New section 19n contains definitions required for the purposes of the new Part. The most significant definitions are those of 'domestic building work' and 'house'. 'Domestic building work' is defined as work consisting of or involved in the erection, construction, alteration of or addition to, or the repair or improvement of a house and the making of any excavation or filling incidental to such work. It includes the construction, alteration, repair or improvement of swimming pools and any other work that may be prescribed. It does not include work of a kind declared by regulation not to be domestic building work. A 'house' is defined as a building intended for occupation as a place of residence but not including a building intended partly for residential and partly for industrial or commercial purposes, a building divided into a number of separate places of residence and intended only for rental or any building of a prescribed class. New section 19o provides for the statutory warranties in relation to domestic building work. These warranties are as follows:

- (a) that the building work will be carried out in a proper and workmanlike manner;
- (b) that good and proper materials will be used in carrying out the building work;
- (c) where the building work consists of the construction of a house—that the house will be reasonably fit for human habitation;

and

- (d) where the building owner expressly makes known to the builder the purpose for which the building work is required or the result that he desires it to achieve, so as to show that he relies on the builder's skill and judgment—that the building work and the materials used will be reasonably fit for that purpose or of such a nature and quality that they might reasonably be expected to achieve that result.

Subsection (2) provides that successors in title to a house succeed to the benefit of the statutory warranties. However, under subsection (4) an action for breach of statutory warranty must be commenced within five years after completion of the building work to which the action relates. Where the defects in the building work result in reliance by the builder upon professional advice then the adviser can be joined as a party to the action and damages can be awarded wholly or in part against him. It will be a defence to an action for breach of a statutory warranty for the builder to prove that the deficiencies of which the plaintiff complains arise from instructions insisted upon by the building owner contrary to the advice of the builder. The new provisions will apply notwithstanding any contractual waiver. Division III relates to building indemnity insurance. New section 19p limits the application of the division to domestic building work performed by the holder of a general builders licence or a provisional general builders licence. The division is also limited to domestic building work the value of which exceeds the prescribed sum and for which approval is required under the Building Act, 1970-1982. The division does not apply to any class of domestic building work that may be prescribed. Section 19q provides that a builder shall not carry out domestic building work unless a policy of insurance that complies with the new division is in force in relation to the domestic building work. In case of contravention of this provision the building owner may repudiate the contract and recover, by action in a court of competent jurisdiction, such proportion of the moneys paid under the contract as the court thinks just. New section 19r sets out the provisions that must be included in a policy of insurance if it is to comply with the Division. The policy must insure each person who is or may become entitled to the benefit of a statutory warranty against the risk of being unable to recover

under the warranty by reason of the insolvency, death or disappearance of the builder. The policy must insure the building owner against loss that he may suffer by reason of the non-completion of the work where the builder disappears, dies or becomes insolvent. Any limitations upon the extent of the insurer's liability under the policy must conform with the regulations.

The Hon. B.C. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

CONSUMER TRANSACTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. G.J. CRAFTER (Minister of Community Welfare): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It results from the previous Bill which I have introduced to amend the Builders Licensing Act. The amendments to the Builders Licensing Act introduce a compulsory building insurance scheme and rationalise the statutory warranties which apply to builders by repealing the Defective Houses Act and incorporating its provisions in the Builders Licensing Act.

The opportunity has also been taken to review the position in relation to warranties which apply to building work pursuant to the provisions of the Consumer Transactions Act. In view of the specific provisions which will now apply to building work under the Builders Licensing Act, it is not necessary to duplicate warranty provisions under other legislation. Accordingly, this Bill provides that the warranties which apply pursuant to section 9 of the Consumer Transactions Act will no longer apply to domestic building work as defined under the Builders Licensing Act. However, the other provisions of the Consumer Transactions Act will apply to such building work, for example, the provisions relating to recovery of damages from a supplier or a linked credit provider. I seek leave to have the detailed explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the principal Act by adding a further subsection. The subsection provides that a consumer contract for the provision of domestic building work within the meaning of the Builders Licensing Act, 1967-1982, is not subject to the provisions of section 9 of the principal Act.

Mr EVANS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.
(Continued from 17 March. Page 463.)

Mr RODDA (Victoria): When I took the adjournment on Friday, I had not got very far into this important debate supporting adoption of the Address in Reply. Before proceeding further, I would join with members who have expressed their condolences to the families of the late Hon. Cyril Hutchens, C.B.E. and, of course, the late John Coumbe, A.M. Both gentlemen were respected members of this House and both had served as Ministers of the Crown. Both left their mark in this place with their example and their diligence

in their representation. I join with those of my colleagues who have expressed their condolences to the families of those former members.

The role of Chief Secretary interests not only me but many other people in this House and outside of it, and I want to say something about that in this debate. The Chief Secretary for many years had his place in another Chamber, where he was the principal Minister. Certain changes have come about and we now see the Chief Secretary in this House. Whilst his portfolios are many and varied, he does have an important role to play. Three and a half years ago, when I had the honour of that office, and in dealing with the prisons, it seemed to attract an enormous amount of attention. Arising from the representations that I was pleased to be responsible for, we became quite prominent and, to borrow a phrase, could have been hogging the news. What was happening was not without good reason.

On taking office, one of the first things I did, after meeting with the heads of the department, was to visit, with the then Director-General of Correctional Services (Mr Lloyd Gard), places of correctional detainment, such as the Adelaide Gaol and the Yatala Labour Prison. I found that over the years (and I do not single out the Government previous to that of which I was a member) those places had been passed over; they had not attracted a lot of expenditure, and consisted of terribly antiquated buildings. However, they were doing a job and were being asked to do an increased job, as more offenders were coming before the courts and the prison population had increased immeasurably. We took immediate steps to remedy some of the things that we saw, and I found need for plenty of action.

One rather notorious character from the Eastern States set us off with an escape on the day I was to be sworn in before I had even had a shave. I was besieged by the press about what I was going to do about this character, a Mr Heuston, who had escaped from Modbury Hospital. He has not been back here since then; I understand that he is paying for his sins in another place and, of course, for some poor Chief Secretary down the line he is due back here in about 17 years time. Whoever is holding this office will have some fun and games, although by that time that gentleman may have broken off from his vicious and meandering ways.

That was only the start. After discussions with the officers, it was obvious that there were staffing problems and needs in other areas. There had to be improvements to the prisons and, of course, the big shock came when one looked at the demands for funding and the time scale for repairs. That is an on-going thing, and it will not be corrected in one Parliament's lifetime; it has to be on-going and very carefully planned. A wayward inmate who decides to use all of his wiles to jump the gun had highlighted the areas to be appraised to prevent that sort of thing happening again.

After discussions with Mr Gard, I found that we had to look in some depth at what was required in the prisons. However, prior to my getting there, an internal investigation was being conducted by the then Deputy-Director of Institutions (Mr W. A. Stewart), and it was obvious that he was not going to get very far without assistance. A Mr Cassidy, who had recently retired after a long and distinguished career in the correctional services area in this State and interstate, was duly given the task, under contract, to report on areas of concern in the prison with regard to accommodation, staffing and matters that appertained thereto; he was to assist Mr Stewart in his report.

Early in the new year we had in the prisons the infamous pub gang. I am pleased to say that both gentlemen are not guests of Her Majesty in this State; they are under the wily care of the Hon. Mr Bjelke-Petersen. A gentleman by the name of Werner Thrun disappeared at that time. I had met him at Nangwarry in my early days. He was a good young

sportsman from overseas—who had acted outside of the law and distinguished himself as a member of the pub gang. He was an inmate of Yatala as a reward for what he had been doing at the expense of hotel-keepers in Western Victoria and in South Australia. His moving was a sequel to the big move, opening the thrust for the Tonkin Government to take forward steps in prisons; antiquated as they were, it was a case of first things first.

About mid year came the famous escape of the other accomplice, Tognolini. When the Tognolini story is written it will make good reading of what not to do in escaping from prison. I came under the full force of the public eye because of my Ministerial responsibility. The Tognolini escape was an epic, well planned, and we found that Thrun had a big part in it. It was amazing how they had jumped the rattler on a rough night in July. They had made coffee in one of the workshops at the back of the prison before they left, pointing to the need for more security and bringing to light many problems.

As a result of that, Mr Noel Lenton, a distinguished police officer in South Australia who had retired, and Mr Michael Hornabrook, the Director of Correctional Services in Tasmania, were appointed to inquire into the Tognolini escape. Their report and recommendations were far reaching, recommending that further staff be appointed and that bulldozers be brought in to remove antiquated buildings that afforded cossets for people to hide, aiding and abetting people in their escape. Something had to be done.

The member for Murray referred to this matter and his role as shadow Chief Secretary. The problems paved the way for the appointment of the Touche Ross inquiry, headed by Mr Hugh Swink. The present Government is looking at further recommendations for correctional services, and for that I commend it. We looked at staffing plans prepared by two officers of the Public Service Board, and made extensive moves at Yatala and Adelaide Gaol, as they are, with the installation of the surveillance system and the setting up of sewerage in the old building.

We took steps to prepare a remand centre, which has had a long and chequered history. It is much needed although I understand that the present Government is not going to proceed with the site on the Port Road. That does not minimise its need. The remand centre was required yesterday, so to speak, to take the place of the Adelaide Gaol which is antiquated, to say the least. It is situated on a prime site in the parklands and I understand that some of it has a National Trust stamp on it. That is what it should be used for, and a new remand centre is long overdue. I hope that, whatever plans the Government has, they are put into effect. The previous site on Port Road was excellent, as it was close to the law courts. I believe that remand centre should be adjacent to the courts, but that idea did not seem to meet with the approval of those who worked there. I would not be averse to a remand centre in the city proper, where offenders can be moved quickly to the courts. Having it a long distance away causes problems with transport. In this modern day and age, there is always the risk of somebody jumping the gun and interfering with prisoners transport.

The Yatala Labour Prison is a fine old building. I was interested in the comments of the member for Elizabeth in regard to its being bulldozed. That is fine, but the Chief Secretary has a responsibility to see that people who are sentenced are incarcerated, and that is the only place we have. The current Chief Secretary is having problems. When prisoners are finding shot guns in the prison, something is wrong. The only way to get rid of the problem is to segregate those who offend. For that reason, we want a super maximum security gaol and a prison that would cater for about 50 gross offenders who could be taken out of the system.

That would alleviate some of the problems the Minister is experiencing.

I am aware of the problems in the area, but I will say no more than that. It is extremely expensive to detain people, but a new building cannot be provided overnight. There are big hassles with fellow Ministers and the Treasurer when one is seeking funds. Until we face the fact that we need a maximum security prison to hold these people they will give the authorities all the trouble in the world.

I pay a tribute to the former Director, Mr W.A. Stewart, for the work he did in the prisons during the time he was there. He went through the thick of the holocaust, and it was to his great credit that he kept his cool and did not go round the bend. A day never passed without Mr Stewart's having a new problem. He served for 40 years in the prison and set a high standard. When history is written Alex Stewart will have an honoured place as a public servant of the State.

The other matter with regard to correctional services is the community work order, a step forward. The present Leader of the Opposition in his role as Chief Secretary, started the system, and I am pleased that the present Chief Secretary is continuing it. The community work order keeps the young offender out of the detention area. He is sentenced and a judge or magistrate can order that, in lieu of his sentence, he has to work one day a week in a public area. Of course, one finds that this is probably the first time these people have ever done anything for their fellows.

Some come from lowly homes. They have had a hard road and they are crooked on the world. However, they find that once they get into community service work they are obliged to report on Saturdays, or on the appointed day, and they must do this work. If they default in it, of course, they come back to the courts and go back to the prison and serve their sentence.

I do not have any figures for the success rate in South Australia, but Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand have a 70 per cent success rate. Of course, the important thing is that it keeps young people out of the prisons where they come into contact with the old lags; there is this brotherhood in the prisons. One finds that these people come under the influence of some of these 'baddies' and get on the road to crime, and that is a major way of controlling those people.

The other matter about which I want to talk in the time that is left is the Metropolitan Fire Service. We inherited the Inns Report from the previous Government. I was absolutely astounded by the reception that I had because I dared to bring it up in the House when it was the previous Government's report. I thought that it was a fairly good report. One or two things about it we did not like, but, of course, that is history now. A select committee sat for nigh on 10 months, I think, and, of course, it abolished the board. I think that South Australia can be grateful for George Joseph and his board. They equipped the South Australian Fire Brigade with some of the finest appliances in the country. The select committee did not go to Queensland or Northern Territory, although I have been to the territory as Chief Secretary, and looked at their fire services. However, I think that the equipment and appliances in this State are second to none. We abolished the board and appointed a chief fire officer. Mr Alan Bruce, from New Zealand, now holds that position, and it is functioning very well. I am sure that it could well be a forerunner to the rest of Australia where a fireman, a uniformed man, is running the fire brigades.

It gives me great pride to see that new building, the new fire headquarters, going up in Wakefield Street. It is long overdue, but it stands to prove that if one waits long enough the things one is waiting for come along. It is long overdue for the South Australian Fire Brigade. It is with great pleasure that I support the motion.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN (Alexandra): It is 133 days since the change of Government on 9 November 1982. During that period this Parliament has been called together for its ninth time today, and I believe that that demonstrates, among other things referred to by colleagues of mine in this debate, a degree of fear by the Government in office. Indeed, it is fearful to face the public and admit allegations that have been made at arms length through the media during that interim period and, indeed, fearful of the Opposition and what attack might legitimately come from this side of the House toward that Party in office during that period. If there are other reasons why the Government has failed to call this Parliament together for at least a respectable period, then I have yet to hear about them.

I extend congratulations on the appointment during that period of the member for Playford as Speaker in this House and pay due respects to those members from our ranks who were not returned to Parliament for one reason or another and, in particular, to this Chamber. The person to whom I wish to refer specifically is Keith Russack, who for a number of years has served as member for Goyder and, indeed, served our Party in Opposition and in Government in a most competent way. I had the pleasure of sharing an office in this House with Keith Russack, and he was certainly a gentleman of the Parliament. I wish he and his family well in their retirement.

I would like to extend my respects to those other colleagues from this side of the House, namely, the member for Brighton (Dick Glazbrook), the member for Henley Beach (Bob Randall), the member for Mawson (Ivar Schmidt), and the member for Newland (Brian Billard), all of whom served well during our term in Government between 1979 and 1982.

Likewise, I extend my respects to another long-serving member of this House from the other side, Des Corcoran; indeed, as far as I am concerned, he has pulled his weight as a member of this Parliament. He was vigorous in his application to the job and quite critical, indeed, scathingly critical, on matters with which he violently disagreed from time to time, but always applied a degree of fairness to the subject, whether it emanated from his own side of the House or from this. In that respect, I pay tribute to the long-standing service of Des Corcoran. Likewise, and finally, I wish to pay my respects to the late John Coumbe, a member of this House who passed away in recent months. I extend sympathy to his now widowed lady, Millicent, and wish her the happiness that she deserves in her remaining years, and I am sure that John Coumbe would very much wish that for her.

In this opportunity given to us to address the Parliament in reply to the Governor's opening address so many months ago, there are a number of matters associated with primary industry of this State to which I intend to refer. As I have a group of fishermen on the mainland from Kangaroo Island, the first subject that I propose to raise in this place during these Address in Reply remarks is a subject which is directly of interest to those persons.

You, Sir, and I am sure other members who have been about this place for a few years would recall the long-term saga that has applied to the fishing industry in Investigator Strait; some seven, eight or nine years ago one Mr Raptis sought to fish on a State permit in the Investigator Strait area off the mainland of South Australia. For those who are not specifically aware of the region, that is that area of waters between the lower portion of Yorke Peninsula and the north coast of Kangaroo Island. As a result of Mr Raptis's venturing into those waters, indeed, exploring the fishery in that region, he was prosecuted by the State and taken through a series of the courts.

Mr Raptis won his case in the High Court against the State of South Australia. Indeed, from then on those waters were clearly identified as being under the control of the Commonwealth of Australia, and not under the control of South Australia as was originally considered to be the case. Therefore, for a time between that High Court decision until very recently those waters, although fished by South Australians, have been under the control and management of the Commonwealth.

The fact that that occurred and that local fishermen have continued on one premise or another in that region has cultivated a degree of discontent—and at times quite colourful discontent—between that group of fishermen based at Port Adelaide and the group of fishermen based on Kangaroo Island. As a result of some careful strategy from time to time, emanating from Port Adelaide in particular, Kangaroo Island fishermen have suffered considerable harassment. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would be well aware of how disturbing it is to find that one's constituents are being unfairly harassed. The situation is that some eight prawn fishermen have weathered the waters concerned, explored a suitable trawling bottom and located prawns. In their own way they have researched and documented the pattern of prawn movements in and around that region and they have caught prawns in quite lucrative quantities over the relevant period. Over a period this harassment has continued from Ministerial level down to various Fisheries Department officers, whom I will not bother to name, as well as from members in this place, from time to time. This harassment has occurred under the banner of both Governments, but it has consistently and persistently been cultivated by an aggravated group based at Port Adelaide. Again, I will not bother to name the Crinckledicks and others who have been responsible for that aggravation.

For the reasons that I have mentioned, and for other reasons as well, the eight fishermen who some years ago were established and operating in that area no longer operate, and the number has been gradually pruned from eight to six to four. In recent months, when the subject of transfer of responsibility from the Commonwealth to the State under the Commonwealth Seas and Submerged Lands Act occurred, the number was reduced to two. Finally, only two prawn fishermen remained in operation in that region. To my amazement, in recent days a very deliberate and scurrilous attempt was made by the Minister of Agriculture to cut their heads off, too.

I refer to an action taken by the State Minister in recent times, indeed, immediately after he was granted the authority and control over that area under the Seas and Submerged Lands Act. I refer to a proposal prepared over his own signature. It is undated, but it was handed on 10 March of this year to a group of mainland fishermen, indeed, the Australian Fishing Industry Council executive. The letter was directed to the Executive Officer of the Australian Fishing Industry Council, South Australian branch, Mr D. R. Gallary, and stated:

Following the proclamation of amendments to the Commonwealth Seas and Submerged Lands Act, the waters of Investigator Strait became internal waters of the State of South Australia from 14 February 1983. This now means that the management of the Investigator Strait Prawn Fishery will be carried out under the South Australian Fisheries Act, 1971-1982, and that the management plan distributed by the Commonwealth is no longer operative.

In considering the management for this fishery, I am proposing that a number of measures be implemented as follows:

- (1) The two operators in the fishery will be issued with Special Permits (Ministerial) valid until 30 June 1983.
- (2) Complementary moon and seasonal closures will apply in both the Investigator Strait and Gulf St. Vincent prawn fisheries until 30 June 1983.
- (3) The eastern end of Investigator Strait be immediately and permanently closed.

- (4) The total Investigator Strait prawn fishery be closed for a period of two years as from 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1985, when the position will be reviewed.

In proposing these new management measures, a prime consideration has been the restoration of the prawn stocks in Investigator Strait as quickly as possible. The evidence of recent years' catch and effort data clearly indicates that continuing effort will slow down the rate of recovery of stocks. Once stocks are restored to their former levels, it is envisaged that effort may gradually be reintroduced. In this regard, the two operators presently fishing in the area previously described as Commonwealth proclaimed waters, will have first option of access. In addition, the fishery will be monitored during the period of the total closure.

The eastern end of Investigator Strait will be closed as a conservation measure. The area to be closed permanently is shown on the attached map. Before proceeding further on the implementation of the management measures, I seek AFIC's comments on the proposals.

That proposal was delivered to the AFIC executive at a meeting on 10 March, only a few days ago. In the interim, indeed, on 15 March, Mr M. R. Vandeppeer, President of AFIC, in a telex to the Minister stated:

The management measures outlined in your letter tabled at the meeting were discussed in detail and supported.

Therefore, those remaining two fishermen were gone for all money. Over the years the Minister and his colleagues and friends in the Port Adelaide region, that is, those in the prawn industry who concentrate their activities in the upper regions of St Vincent Gulf, have waited in the wings to finally knock off the fishermen operating in Investigator Strait. They have sought to do this by various means. It has been done by extending the gulf waters southward, although it should be borne in mind that initially they tried to claim the whole damn lot of Investigator Strait. But, as I indicated, Mr Raptis put a stop to that and at least kept them confined to the gulf waters. However, progressively over several years the present Minister during his previous term of office sought to do this. Now that he is back in office he is at it again, and he has screwed these people to the point where the remaining two fishermen in recent times have had their backs to the wall.

Curiously enough the Minister put up a proposal to knock off those fishermen as soon as he had the authority handed to him from the Commonwealth, and as of 15 March this year he sought and secured the support of AFIC, that vital group of people who, although representative of some of the fishing associations of this State, seems to be able to dictate to all the other fishermen in regard to their respective activities. AFIC did document and provide that support.

There has been no consultation with the two people involved—none whatsoever. Not even to this hour has the Minister of Fisheries in this State sought to let those people know what their fate was, yet he schemed this exercise, as is clearly on the paper now, to get rid of them by the most devious means. However, over the weekend (and I am not too sure how this happened) the copies of the correspondence signed by Mr Chatterton and Mr Vandeppeer on behalf of AFIC, as well as some other material, found its way into the hands of these two pending victims and was subsequently drawn to the attention of at least one or two members on this side of the House.

Mr Meier: I thought consultation was going to be the hallmark of this Government.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: It was certainly part of their platform, and it was easy for them to say it but not so easy to put into effect. This is another example I am demonstrating this afternoon where with forked tongue the Government talked about consultation with industry and yet, as in many other areas of primary industry in this State, it has climbed over the top of people, and proceeded to destroy not just these two fishermen but their wives and families, as well as the crew members and their respective wives and families, and also the people who work in the factory on

Kangaroo Island processing this product. All these people are affected by this scheming, slimy move, and yet not one member of that organisation from the factory floor to the top end of the gulf had been informed of his fate.

On Sunday a meeting was sought and secured with this Mr Vandeppeer, who purports to represent the fishing industry in South Australia at AFIC level. This South-Easterner, on having the ramifications of the subject brought to his attention and being reminded of what he had committed himself to by jumping into bed with the Hon. Mr Chatterton on this scheme, flew to Kangaroo Island and talked the subject out with the local fishermen. Following that discussion he telephoned the Hon. Mr Chatterton on Sunday evening, and on Monday morning (yesterday) he sent the following telex:

Dear Brian,

My sincere apologies for disturbing your Sunday evening and thanks for your considerate hearing. As I mentioned, I attended a meeting of the Kangaroo Island Professional Fishermen's Association and that association, after considering AFIC's decision to support your proposals for further management measures in the Investigator Strait prawn fishery, has requested that AFIC withdraw that support until they have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with you. They believe that there is data available which has not been taken into account when the proposals were formulated.

Since AFIC is not involved in the detailed assessment of any data available, but believes quite firmly that every group of fishermen should have an opportunity to put their case, I hereby inform you that AFIC does withdraw its support of the proposals until the Kangaroo Island Professional Fishermen's Association has had an opportunity to discuss the matter with you. Be assured that AFIC appreciates the difficulty of your impending decision.

Well, bad luck, Mr Chatterton. We all know it is a big job, and we all know you are having great difficulty in coping with that enormous job, with the pressures following the floods and fires and other disasters that have occurred. However, it is part of the job and, despite those pressures, it is no licence for any member of this Parliament or any member of the South Australian community to screw people in this profession, in any other profession or any other level of the community (let alone my people operating in the Investigator Strait area of South Australia) into the ground or, in this case, into the sand as he has attempted to do.

Remarkably, in the interim it would appear that the Minister attempted to do this with the support of an ill-informed AFIC organisation which has since overturned its decision. What degree of embarrassment this has caused at Cabinet level we will never know but to the best of my information (it has been right, on paper and substantiated in the letter) the matter was prepared last Thursday by the department in the form of an agenda item for Cabinet to consider yesterday. As a result of the embarrassment (and no doubt other pressures that came to bear on the Minister, including pressure from the Premier), he withdrew the proposal for consideration by Cabinet as of yesterday, so that yet again there is a temporary reprieve for these people. They have over the years been hanging by a thread as regards annual, short-term, no-security-of-tenure permits. They have been under attack not only from persons within the fishing industry itself but, as I indicated earlier, from within the department at Ministerial level and at Government level. They have been attacked by the State and Commonwealth authorities from time to time. They have been unduly and unfairly harassed but they are still hanging on. I put on record that I aim on this occasion to assist not just those fishermen but also their families to hang on in this industry, in which they desire to participate, if it is the last thing that I do in this place.

Mr Meier: It would appear to be a long-term agreement to be drawn up as long as possible.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: Agreements do not mean a thing to this outfit. For example, back on 16 September

1982, which is only eight months ago, a senior officer from the Commonwealth Department for Primary Industry told these two fishermen, among other things:

Included in the management measures to be implemented is a reduction in the number of entitled operators to two. I am pleased to inform you—

in this case it was Mr Ronald Smith—

that you have been selected as one of the operators to continue fishing in Investigator Strait.

Not only officers such as the signatory to this letter (Robert Bain) but also Ministers such as Ian Sinclair and Peter Nixon have repeatedly assured us that the hand-over of the authority of the specific waters of Investigator Strait from the Commonwealth to the State would assure that the interests of those people who were committed to and participating in that area were preserved, and yet within days of the official hand-over, which was 14 February 1983, this guy pulls yet another slimy trick and tries to put them out of existence.

Mr Meier: So much for consultation.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: So much for consultation, so much for adherence to agreement, so much for reasonable moral attention to the responsibilities of office that that Minister has. We have to be pretty careful in this place—we cannot reflect on other members in another House, and I do not intend to do so; but I do intend from time to time to lay on the line facts that demonstrate the incompetence of the Government generally and in particular the incompetence of that individual. I will be having more to say to him tomorrow morning at 10.30 because as of last evening I have been invited to attend with the fishermen concerned a deputation to that Minister to ascertain just what the hell he is up to and who is propping him up to this sort of procedure, who is in fact encouraging him one way or another to get rid of these people from the area, and those whom he is keen to see exploit that resource, which indeed is a rich resource of the State, as the tax returns of the fishermen over the years can demonstrate. I suggest that we can only wait until tomorrow morning, but I assure the House that I am looking forward to the meeting, and in no circumstances do I anticipate that our fishermen will be placed on the defensive, because they have nothing to defend.

This Government, through its Minister, and, if necessary, through its officers, has a hell of a lot to answer for in the

matter of its management of fishing in this State. There is much material about this matter to which I could refer. However, before seeking permission to have certain data, which has been professionally prepared by the department, inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it, I will read into the record one or two paragraphs from a report prepared by Mr Mike King, a senior research officer of the Department of Fisheries, in August 1976. This information may appear to be a little bit dated but, despite requests from time to time for up-to-date reports and data on the prawn industry as it applies to Gulf St Vincent and Investigator Strait regions, it is the most recent authoritative report I have been able to locate. The summary in that report states:

Management of the Investigator Strait fishery requires consideration of the following points:

1. The major catches taken in June 1976 may not be repeated in future years. Large annual fluctuations in stock are characteristic of prawn fisheries and the number of vessels allowed into such a fishery should not be based on short term records. The management policy deemed most appropriate to developing prawn fisheries involves the cautious increase in the number of vessels as catch and economic data become available.

2. Although Investigator Strait has been separated into a new fishing zone there is no evidence that there is a separate stock of prawns from that in the Gulf St. Vincent. Size frequency data indicate that the stock in these two fishing areas is continuous and one cannot be managed in isolation from the other (for example, an increase in the number of vessels fishing in the Gulf St. Vincent in the future may affect available catch in Investigator Strait).

3. Although prawns have been found in spawning condition in the waters of Investigator Strait a number of juveniles located in shallow water nursery areas are small and juvenile abundance may be highly variable from year to year. Recruitment to this fishery is thought to occur from the north in the Gulf St. Vincent.

The balance of the material, or at least that which refers to figures and data, I seek permission to have inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I grant leave on the basis that the figures that the honourable member wishes inserted in *Hansard* without his reading them are, in fact, statistical ones. If they are found not to be statistical, then leave will be withdrawn.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: It is statistical material only. The figures presented in this report, I can assure you, are related only to the subject of fish catch returns and locations.

Leave granted.

The sequential events in the life cycle of the Western King prawn are summarised in Figure 1.

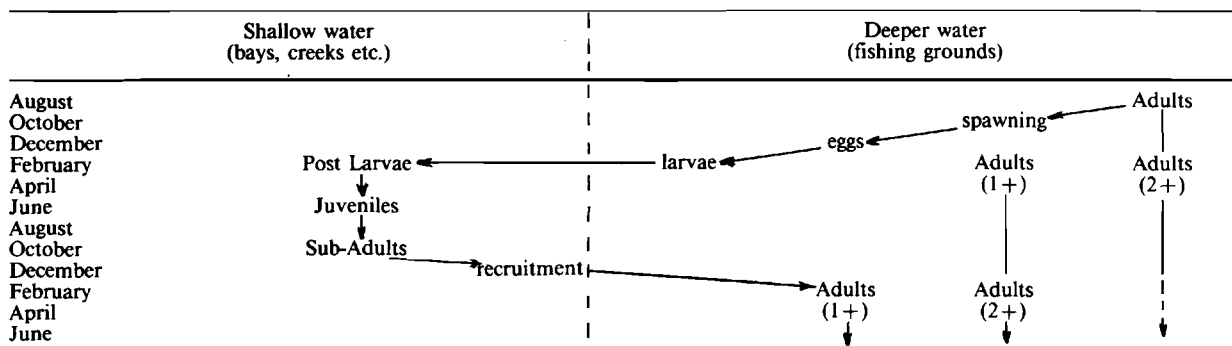


FIGURE 1. Life history summary of the Western King Prawn in South Australia.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF JUVENILE PRAWNS

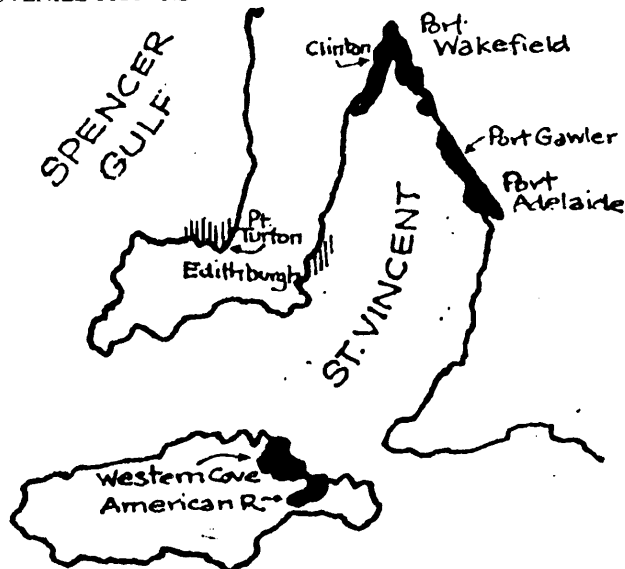


FIGURE 2. Distribution of juvenile prawns in Gulf St. Vincent and Investigator Strait. Solid black indicates areas where the presence of juveniles has been confirmed by beam trawling; shading indicates areas where small prawns have been reported.

3. CATCH STATISTICS

A full summary of catch, effort and catch rate by month for Investigator Strait given in the table below*—

	Month	No. of Vessels	Total Effort (hrs)	Total Catch (kg)	Catch Rate (kg/hr)
1975	July	1	29	669	23.1
	August	1	60	942	15.7
	September	3	224	3 053	13.6
	October	4	153	3 372	22.0
	November	4	343	10 016	29.2
	December	4	192	5 674	29.6
1976	January	4	263	7 120	27.1
	February	4	371	10 545	28.4
	March	5	446	15 559	34.9
	April	4	384	17 943	46.7
	May	4	396	18 919	47.8
	June	5	566	24 735	43.7
	July	6	368	13 152	35.7

* Catch statistics in the lower portion of the table are considerably lower than actual values, the table is constructed from the returns of state authorised or permit vessels only. Catches of up to 1 500 kg per night are reported to have been made by some unauthorised vessels.

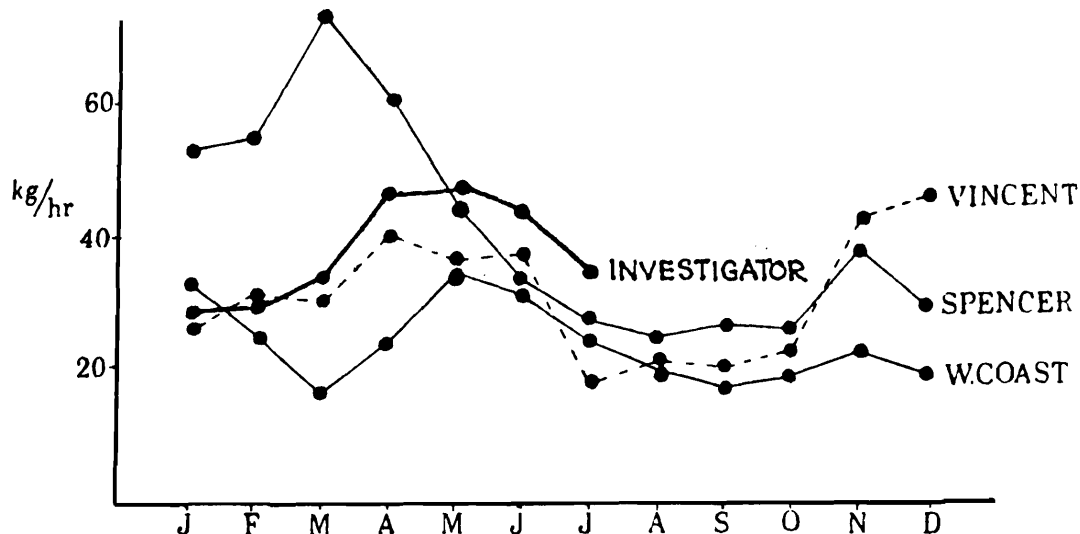


FIGURE 3. Catch rates (kg/hr) per month (1 075) for—

- (1) Spencer Gulf
 - (2) Gulf St. Vincent
 - (3) West Coast
- and for 1976 in Investigator Strait

4. AREAS FISHED

Distribution of adult prawns determined by trawling abundance in Investigator Strait is shown in Figure 4 which gives the mean catch rate per 6 x 5 n mile grid area for the first seven months of 1976. These data are taken from the log books supplied by the authorised vessels only.

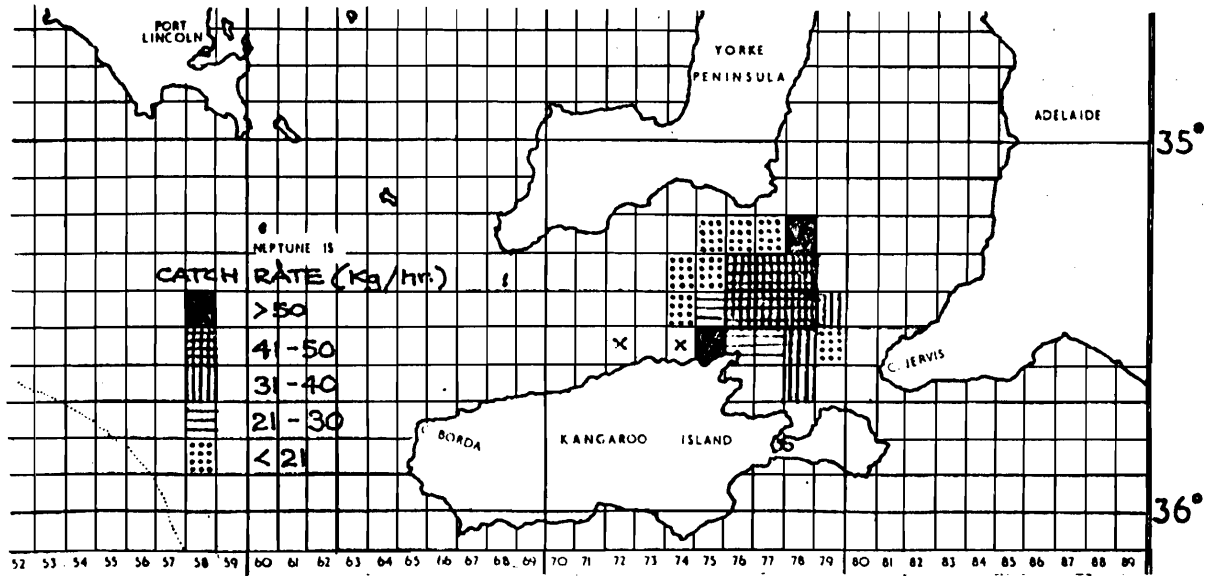


FIGURE 4. Mean catch rate (kg/hr) per grid area of authorised vessels in Investigator Strait. Crosses indicate areas where trawling has been carried out but no prawns caught.

5. SIZE GRADINGS AND LENGTH FREQUENCIES

Size grading of prawns received at the SAFCOL factory at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island are given as percentages as follows:

Factory grade (SAFCOL) approx. carapace length	Small 30 mm	Medium 30 to 33 mm	Large 33mm+
June (first half) 1976	11.5	11.5	77.0
June (second half) 1976	10.1	14.6	75.3
July (first half) 1976	2.5	18.2	79.3
July (second half) 1976	7.5	17.4	75.1

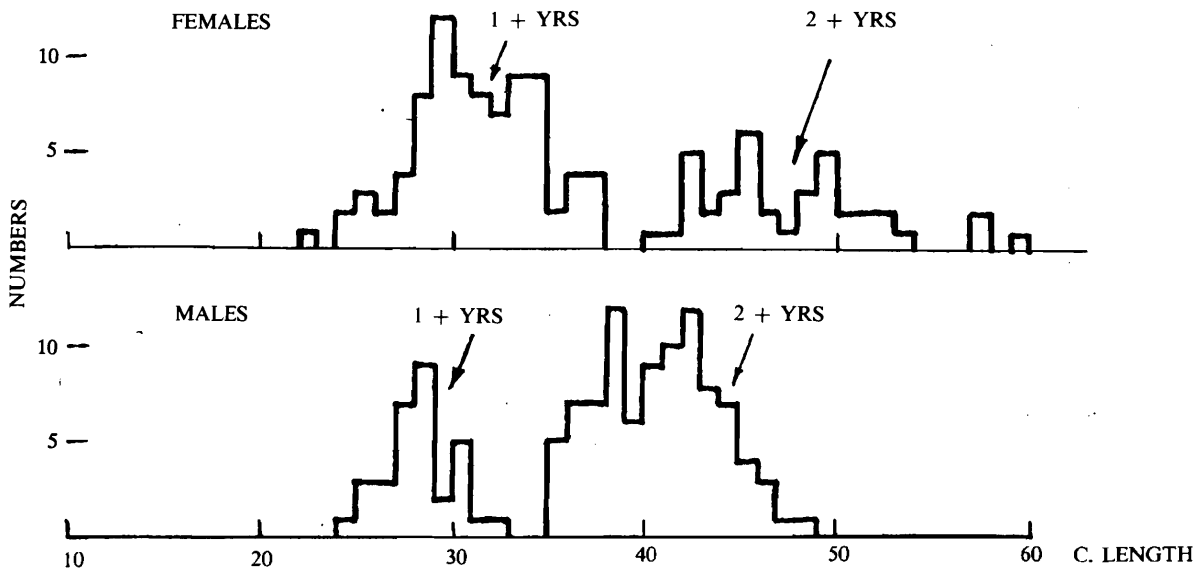


FIGURE 5. Length frequencies of prawn caught approximately 10 n miles N.E. of Kingscote on 12 August.

6. PROJECTED MOVEMENTS

As shown in figure 5, two age classes of prawns are at present being caught—1 years old and 2 + years old. The details of those groups are given in the following table:

Age	Carapace length (mm)	No. per lb.	Factory grading (SAFCOL)
1 + years	30	32	small
2 + years	42	12	large

From length frequency and other biological data the following simplified life history is given for prawns being caught in Investigator Strait:

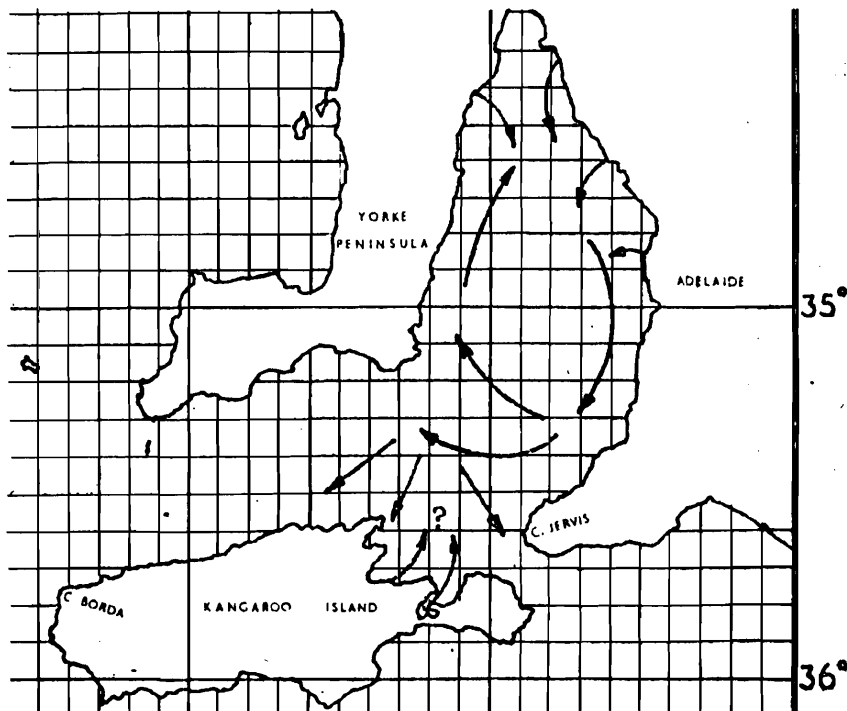
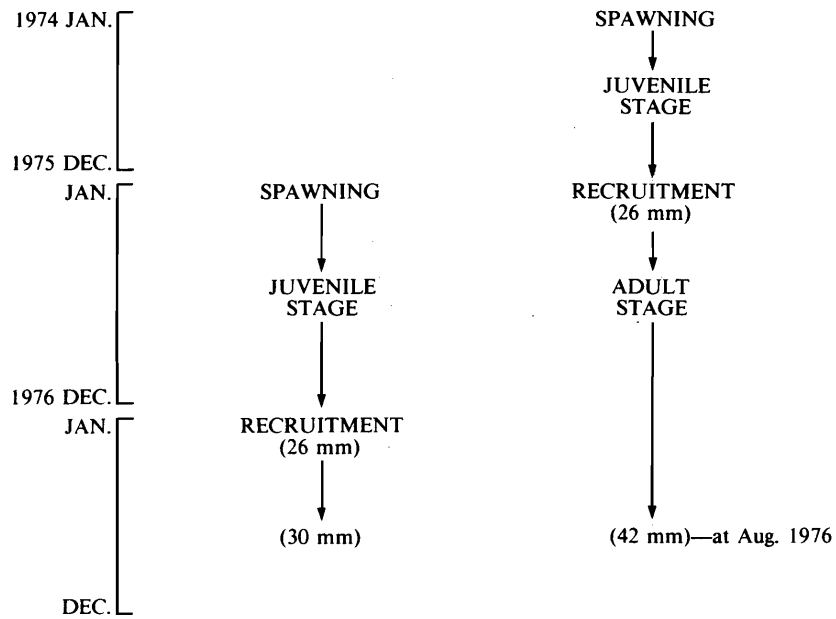


FIGURE 6. Tentative migration routes for the Western King prawn in Gulf St. Vincent and Investigator Strait.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: So that they are clearly on record, I will refer to the names of the fishermen involved in this matter. I mentioned earlier Mr Ronald Smith, a permit holder and a prawn fisherman in the Investigator Strait region; also, Mr Mancer, a permit holder in partnership with a Mr Brown who physically participates in the prawn industry from their jointly owned vessel.

I also place on record my concern for the welfare of these people because, quite apart from the personal elements that have been referred to, there are the debts that each has incurred to equip himself to enter into and perform in this industry. It is not unusual to have \$500 000 000 invested in a trawling vessel; that is the value of the vessel shell, plus the engine, winches and trawling equipment as well as all of the other associated equipment that goes with such a vessel.

I understand that neither of these two fishing groups was in a position to enter the industry on a cash basis. They have been involved in significant loans, both on land in the form of housing and vehicle requirements and on sea in relation to their vessels. Those commitments have to be met. These are honourable people that I am talking about; they have a deep conscience and are fully aware of their responsibilities to the banks involved. For them to be cut off from their source of income in the way that they have been is an utter disgrace. I know of no other kind of term to describe the harassment that I have outlined and, more especially, the action that has been taken by the Minister of Fisheries in recent days.

Mr Mancer and his colleagues have kindly furnished me with a number of items of correspondence identifying groups who support their venture. Without referring to all the letters, I do propose to put on record some comments made by the national secretary of the R.S.L., who said the following about one of the participants:

Most importantly, Mr Mancer is a young ex-serviceman of the Vietnam war who has worked exceedingly hard to re-establish himself following his overseas service and has made most commendable progress in the industry he has selected. He has an outstanding war record and his efforts since his discharge indicate that he is a young man of considerable substance. It is our view that this record entitles him to some special consideration.

Whether it does or not, it does demonstrate in this letter the sort of calibre of person involved. The letter continues:

After working successfully for some years to establish his own fishing enterprise, he then invests all his savings, borrowed heavily, and with a partner (that is, Mr Brown) went into the more lucrative business of prawn fishing. At the time he made these decisions his actions were entirely within the law as it was at that time. Subsequently, restrictions were placed on prawn fishing activities and he was obliged to fish in what have been established to be largely unprofitable areas of water, so much so that he is now faced with the alternative of either being able to fish in the more productive waters or selling his business at a very considerable loss.

The letter from the National Secretary, Mr Keys, goes on to further demonstrate the effort and style of approach to the subject applied by Mr Mancer, and I have no doubt that the same style applies to his colleagues.

It is against that background that, whilst disappointed that it has occurred, I pull no punches in expressing my attitude to the shocking treatment that has been applied to the people operating in that region and, in particular, to these two remaining fishermen.

This afternoon we heard the Minister of Mines and Energy trying to play down the importance of mining in South Australia, saying that it was not the be all and end all to our economic future. In fact, I was amazed to hear him play it down so low when I would have thought that, among other responsibilities he holds, that it was his job to promote it.

The Opposition, through the Leader, is desperately seeking to expand mining operations in the State in the long-term interests of South Australia. In the same House, on the same day and in the same debate, we have the Minister diminishing the significance and importance of the mining industry. I do not wish to explore that subject, but it certainly reminds me of another enterprise in this country upon which we all depend—I refer to primary industry, and rural industry in particular.

The total area of South Australia is 984 377 square kilometres—a vast area of land in any part of the world. Of that total area, over one-third has no significant economic use whatsoever. One half of that area is devoted to extensive pastoral pursuits. I do not play down the importance of that vast pastoral region of South Australia, but because of its sparsity of natural growth and, accordingly, its sparsity of livestock population, and its inability to produce cereal as a result of the extremely low rainfall prevailing, its productive value is limited. Of the balance of land available in South Australia, there is but a relatively small area in the higher and assured rainfall belt from which we can produce food for local consumption and export. Of that balance area (more especially that important balance area around the coastal fringe), which is the higher rainfall area, we have a significant lump of country bound up in parks and reserves of one kind or another.

Almost 44 000 square kilometres—about 4.5 per cent of the whole of the State area—is bound up in national parks of one kind or another. Because the Government has vested in its care and control the ownership of park areas does not, in my view, divorce it from the responsibilities of management that apply to those areas. Indeed, it does not matter whether the owner is of a public, private or corporate kind, there is a common responsibility for management that should apply. Whilst the Acts of this House and this Parliament do not bind the Crown in many minor management respects, that does not in any way negate the responsibility of which I speak.

It is about time that the Government of South Australia, as owner of a vast area of the State in its own right, picked up the responsibility for management of its public land in regard to weed and vermin control. We were vividly reminded in recent times of the need for national park fire control. Until this Government, or any future Government, grapples with that responsibility and directs its departments and officers (and does not continue to be screwed by its departments and officers), to apply fire protection management to those areas by burning them off (and I mean deliberately and positively burning them off under control in the right conditions), we shall forever have not only devastation of those parks from time to time but also devastation of neighbouring properties and persons.

As has been said many times during this debate by my colleagues, we have recently seen cases where life and property have been destroyed by fire. The fire that has destroyed life and property has been, if not caused by, severely aggravated by, the large build up of flammable material allowed to accumulate in our parks and reserves. One does not have to go very far outside the metropolitan area to see this. Indeed, within the outer-metropolitan zone of Adelaide a ton of evidence exists to show that, without the massive build up of flammable material that has occurred, the opportunity to control fires that occur from time to time would be very much assisted. Whether a fire starts by accident, lightning, other natural causes or firebug, is irrelevant to the effect and irrelevant to the enormous impact on the community when it occurs in places such as our parks.

It would be unfair to be critical in isolation of the group in the community responsible for public parks. We all have

a responsibility in this area. The Highways Department has a responsibility in regard to roadside vegetation. So, too, do other corporate and private owners of properties have a responsibility where they seek to retain natural growth. They have a responsibility to keep that under-foliage clear and to do their housekeeping on their properties whether they be a household allotment, a group of allotments constituting a rural living area, a hobby farm or a broadacre property. We all have a responsibility to apply good management in such circumstances. Unless there is a deliberate and positive attempt and a fair and appropriate example set by the Government, it is unfair and unreasonable to expect the community to take the course of good management action that I propose.

I have a signal from the Whip that my time is up. I wish to speak to a number of matters at the earliest opportunity, and material intended for recording on this occasion I shall seek to have incorporated in *Hansard* during grievance debates over the next few weeks. I thank the House for the time extended to me to speak in this debate.

Mr OLSEN (Leader of the Opposition): In rising to support the motion, I propose to take as my theme the economic difficulties and challenges facing South Australia. I propose to give examples of how I believe the political process can best respond to them. Before doing so, however, I must refer to the bushfire and flood disasters which have hit our State since His Excellency opened this session of Parliament in December. These disasters have caused damage and devastation on a scale unprecedented in the history of South Australia.

His Excellency made it his duty to visit those areas worst affected and I know that many South Australians have been fortified by his interest in and concern for, their well-being. As a South Australian he has shared both their anxieties and aspirations, and has revealed to many people one of the important facets of the Vice-Regal office in acting as the representative of us all to express both compassion and a unified desire to do all we can to help people recover from the loss and tragedy of these disasters. In so doing, his Excellency has amply demonstrated the qualities of personality and devotion to his task which recommended him for appointment. I am sure that South Australia will be the richer for the period he spends with us. The bushfires and floods have brought more gloom to an already depressed economic outlook for South Australia. They could not have come at a worse time. They make the task of economic recovery all the more difficult, but difficulties demand action and answers. They must not be an alibi to do nothing.

The difficulties pose challenges to us all. There are things we must all do, as part of our individual personal responsibility, to ensure that the difficulties are minimised and the opportunities maximised. To ensure that they are, the Government also has responsibilities and aspirations—responsibilities and aspirations which in many respects the Opposition shares. As a parent, I want my three children to grow up and continue to live in South Australia as a State which offers them equality of opportunity, good education, and the prospect of pursuing rewarding careers. As a parent, I am determined to do all I can to give my children a good future.

In addition, as a member of Parliament, I want to do all within my power to ensure that all our children can look forward to a better future through better education, more investment, more jobs and more opportunity. These are aspirations and responsibilities common to all members of this House. Yet, too often, politics is presented as a struggle between organised interest groups for the benefits which can be gained by winning the most votes on election day. I reject this simplistic and misleading assessment. It ignores

the role of this Parliament and its members to legislate in the best interests of all South Australians. This role should require us all to give as much thought and emphasis to the issues about which we do agree as to those on which we differ.

For my part, where I believe the Government is acting in the best interests of South Australia, I will say so and I will support its actions. I have already done so on a number of occasions. Where I believe the Government is letting down South Australians, I will also say so and propose alternative action. An Opposition—the alternative Government—must speak out when it believes that the policies it supports will serve this State better than will those of the Government. We would be failing in our responsibility if we did not. Equally, we must be prepared to offer ideas and plans of our own if we are to make a positive contribution to public debate on the many vital issues which face us today. I intend to do that this afternoon in a realistic way.

In recent years, at both State and Federal levels, election campaigns have tended to become auctions as Parties have attempted to out-bid each other for votes. However, at the last State election we resisted that temptation. We wanted to be honest and straightforward with the voting public. That direction of political Parties from time to time has encouraged expectations which, in the current economic circumstances, are not only shown to have been unreal, but are unattainable. As a result, people have become cynical of and disillusioned with politicians who have been prepared for short-term political gain to embark on the auction process at election time. Those people who have embarked on that course have only themselves to blame. They have let down the electors.

If we are to restore public confidence in and respect for the political process, we must begin by examining what we must do to rationalise public perceptions, so that they are in keeping with what is achievable rather than what people are encouraged to expect in return for their votes. All Parties must think of the next 30 years as much as the next three—as much of what we want for South Australians in the next century as what we will offer them at the next election. Only in this way can we promote reasoned and informed debate about the difficulties we face and realistic appreciation of the solutions to them.

The last South Australian election coincided with a growing public awareness of the full depth and impact of the difficulties manifested in the economic recession. This national and international tragedy has cost the Liberal Party office in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and most recently, federally. In analysing these results, there has been a tendency to generalise and to suggest that, in each case, the magnitude of the defeat was great and such as to keep the Liberal Party out of office for the foreseeable future. I reject that general assumption. A closer analysis of the results reveals varying degrees of voting swings, and significant reasons in addition to the economy for the changes of government in different States.

In South Australia's case, it can be seen that the swing to Labor in both the State and Federal elections was not as great as in other States. The Liberal Party here held the line much better, and we have less to make up in South Australia to regain Government in anything up to 1 083 days from now. I am confident that the Liberal Party has the Parliamentary team, the organisational support, and the grassroots membership to retrieve that ground during the term of this Parliament. To do so, we must work to convince more electors of the differences between the major Parties and the fact that Liberal policies and Liberal Government are more relevant to the needs of this State and our nation, particularly in the current economic circumstances.

Until the last few months of 1982, 8 per cent unemployment was viewed—almost glibly—as 92 per cent employed by all those who had jobs. People in work had tended to vote to retain their jobs. But our State election campaign identified a changing mood. People voted to express a social conscience. Unemployment was by far the most important issue. The stark message now is not the number in work, but that one person in 10 is without a job.

Of course, Australia is not alone in facing the difficulties and tragedies of high unemployment. The average level of unemployment in 1983 for the O.E.C.D. countries is predicted to be 35 000 000 or 9.5 per cent of the work force, compared with 8 000 000 or 3.5 per cent 10 years ago. Indeed, Australia was one of the last countries to feel the real impact of the international recession, but now we are being hit hard because the value of world trade has declined for the first time in 20 years. There is less demand for our products, lower prices for our commodities, and greater competition for our goods. The conjunction of these circumstances has made the wage pause imperative.

Nothing I have heard better diagnoses the symptoms of and the cure for our present difficulties than the words of Sir Charles Court in a speech in Adelaide last year. He said:

We have played the fool long enough with the economy of Australia with unrealistic wage demands which have literally gutted the profitability of industry. These wage demands have destroyed the national competitiveness and brought Australia to the brink of depression which can be arrested only if we are bold enough. It is time the employers and Governments went on their own offensive and put forward logs of claims which provided for a reduction in salaries and wages at all levels and all of the fringe benefits that have been piled on industry. It is time the work force was told, plump and plain, that the cargo cult days are over.

In other words, Sir Charles was saying that the dreams and demands of the 1970's have become the realities and the rigors of the 1980's, and what is required now in Australia are not outrageous and unobtainable goals of personal gain, but a national mood of realism. We must be prepared to make the best use of our skills and resources and not squander those energies for the short-term gain of a few. That is why the wage pause is so critical.

Just consider the factors which compelled the former Federal Liberal Government to initiate it. In the 12 months to the end of September 1982, average weekly ordinary time earnings in Australia rose by about 17 per cent. In the same period, the consumer price index rose by 12.3 per cent; in other words, wage earners have been paying for the price increases which wage rises cause. Instead, businesses have been forced to cut their margins. Profits have fallen by 13 per cent—the profits which allow business to employ more people. Australia simply cannot afford to continue down that path, and if the spiral of wages can be broken, preferably for 12 months, company profitability will improve, Australian firms will become more competitive, and the economy will regain some of its former strength. I believe that a majority of Australians accept these factors and are prepared to make a sacrifice.

The political and Parliamentary processes have led the way in establishing a consensus behind the wage pause, but industry also needs to stand up and be counted. It needs to back policies which are in its interests and be more aggressive in explaining its difficulties and promoting the solutions, so that a better understanding of them is established in the community. Economic revival is not going to be easy, particularly in South Australia.

During its present term in Opposition, the Liberal Party has set itself, as a key priority, the need to refine existing policies and develop new initiatives which will take South Australia, economically and socially, to the year 2000 and into the next century. In doing so, we will be looking at realistic and responsible policies. We will be looking at the

positive role that State Governments can take in this task. We will be looking in particular at the urgent requirement to diversify the State's economic base—something politicians and business leaders have been talking about for more than two decades.

If all that talking had been translated into action and developments, we may not be facing the unemployment levels of today. If much more is not achieved in the next 20 years, it will be too late. That is why South Australia must take advantage of every opportunity for economic development which comes its way. That is why, as members of Parliament, we have a responsibility to ensure that gloom and doom do not become self-fulfilling prophecies. This State is strong. It has a proud history of innovation and initiative. It has a great potential for growth and development.

Last year, our two daily newspapers pointed the way. The *News*, in an editorial on 14 July, referred to 'underlying strengths' in our economy and to 'special features which can be used in the ferociously competitive drive to win new investment'. The *Advertiser*, on 15 July stated:

Despite recent problems, and they are not insignificant, this State is poised on the threshold of a future which offers both opportunity and prosperity. It is demonstrable that South Australia has an expanding resource base, is attracting new industry and investment, is achieving success in many established activities and can make a success of restructuring industry.

It is clear, also, that this activity is not yet a sufficiently high level to provide jobs for all people who want to work or sufficient wealth to enable help to be given to everyone in need. For South Australians to have the living standards and lifestyle they desire, this wedge of success has to be driven considerably deeper into the economy.

I see no reason to change the realistic and essentially optimistic tone of this editorial comment just because the Government changed at the last State election. Much was done during the last three years on which this Government can build. I refer to seven points of progress already made offering potential for the future, a foundation laid by the Liberal Government, a seven-point plan for growth and development in the Cooper Basin, at Roxby Downs, in other resource related projects, our manufacturing industries, our primary industries, transportation and tourism.

Development is proceeding apace in the Cooper Basin. Oil is being shipped out and the cash flow will allow accelerated exploration with the hope of further significant discoveries. Royalties to the State from this project are estimated to amount to more than \$50 000 000 within three years—five times what they are now. At Roxby Downs, \$50 000 000 is being spent on pre-feasibility studies. This project is still shaping up as one of the world's largest mining developments. A petro-chemical project, coal to gas conversion and uranium conversion and enrichment, despite today's announcement, on the return of a Liberal Government remain as real, long-term possibilities.

We have a wealth of manufacturing experience. A considerable degree of industrial restructuring has taken place in recent years which has helped many firms to remain viable despite the recession. The State Government must go on giving every possible support to this sector of our economy to allow it to remain our principal employer. Manufacturing industry has to keep its costs below those in other States to retain existing markets and develop new ones. This means the State Government must limit the amount that it taxes and not allow South Australia to become a pace-setter in wages and other conditions.

Our primary producing industries are capable of further development and diversification. There is international interest in our dry-land farming expertise, our wines, and in some of our seafoods. I am concerned that the State Government has cancelled some wine and food promotions planned for Japan and Hong Kong. It must propose an

alternative quickly to ensure that the penetration already made in these markets is not lost and to reassure those South Australian companies which have already invested in the development of these international opportunities.

The drought and the consequential reduction in the purchasing power of the rural sector have demonstrated the extent to which South Australia relies on viable primary industries with growth potential. Small business operators in rural areas and industries dependent on a buoyant rural economy have suffered. We must continue to back these vital industries because they create significant export income and generate jobs throughout the economy.

Rather than being seen as isolated from major markets, improved communication by road, rail, sea and air has now given South Australia advantages in relation to the rest of Australia and the Asian-Pacific region. We must press for further developments, particularly to ensure the completion of the rail link to Darwin, standardisation of the Adelaide to Melbourne line, and establishment of deep-sea ports.

After taking a back seat to industrial development for too long, our tourist industry is at last showing signs of real growth. To augment the international airport and hotel, we must push for a world-class convention centre. The former Government's policies demonstrated that South Australia's improved tourism growth is directly linked to better marketing and the promotion. A 10 per cent annual growth rate over the next five years can create 22 000 new jobs. The Government has an important role in ensuring that this activity is generated and continues.

These seven points for growth and development, established by the former Liberal Government, must also continue to have, as a vital aim, encouragement to small business, which supports more than 60 per cent of the work force in the private sector. Small business can adapt swiftly and positively to opportunities offered by changing economic conditions. It must, to survive, and I am sure that small business in this State is ready and able to meet the challenges, provided it receives appropriate Government encouragement and South Australia is able to take maximum advantage of the opportunities which the developments I have outlined, and others, can bring. Two issues which will influence the current operations and future plans of many South Australian companies are the economics of electricity supply and the availability of financial assistance from the State supported banks.

In Government, the Liberal Party addressed these issues with a view to finalising and implementing policy during the term of this Parliament. Since the last election, we have continued to develop and refine policy in these areas and I wish to deal with our views as they stand at present. First, I put forward a three-point plan to guarantee our electricity supplies until the end of the century.

Policy planning in this area is mostly long term, because it takes 10 years from the decision to construct a project as large as a power station to the time when the project is fully operational. There are some problems in this area, however, which do not allow us the benefit of such long-term planning. They demand solutions in the immediate future.

The first of my three points is to guarantee natural gas supplies after 1987 if we are to continue to obtain the most economical use of the Torrens Island power station for the rest of its planned life. This will require the present Government to continue negotiations which the former Government initiated to rationalise the current contracts to supply South Australia and New South Wales with gas from the Cooper Basin. The former Government was also seeking access to gas in the Northern Territory and Queensland. I hope that the Minister of Mines and Energy will be able to report further progress on these matters in the very near

future (he has had five months in which to begin those discussions) so that we do not have to contemplate the very expensive process of burning oil at Torrens Island, or converting it to coal.

Another relatively short-term problem relates to the need for some interim development of base-load generating capacity to bridge a gap which will emerge later this decade between supply and demand. Based on current projections of power demand, this gap will require some additional base load capacity between the late 1980s and the commissioning of new power station in the early 1990's. I believe that the least expensive option to cover this need could be for the extended use of existing facilities at Osborne or the Playford Power Station at Port Augusta, which are scheduled to be scrapped later this decade.

Instead, some of their facilities could be modified and upgraded to give them sufficient additional years of operation until completely new plant is available. This action would increase the efficiency, reliability and flexibility of our present generating system and have the least impact on domestic and industrial tariffs. For the long term, South Australia must contemplate a significant transformation from its present heavy reliance on natural gas for power generation.

By the year 2000, coal-fired electricity generation could well be satisfying 90 per cent of our power requirements, whereas today well over 70 per cent of our electricity is generated through the burning of natural gas from the Cooper Basin. This transformation will mean the use of a new coal source, because the deposits at Leigh Creek are now fully committed for use at the Playford and new Northern Power Stations at Port Augusta.

In terms of quantities of coal available, South Australia has no problems, because proven and indicated reserves of near surface coal exceed 6 200 000 000 tonnes. However, most of this coal has a low calorific value and is difficult to burn efficiently in conventional coal burners. Either special boilers have to be designed, or the coal has to be converted by chemical process to gas.

In fact, it could well be that, in the time available, it will not be possible to develop the technology and the equipment to burn low-grade South Australian coal at a price competitive with coal available from elsewhere in Australia. This is because key decisions have to be taken in the very near future about the site for the next power station and the source of fuel for it. Obviously, selection of a South Australian coal is the best option all round. It would not subject our security of supply to threats of industrial disputation in another State and it would mean many hundreds more jobs for South Australians in a coal mining development.

I know that the Electricity Trust is working hard on these problems, and I hope that they can be overcome. Whether or not they are, however, I believe that the site of the next power station is apparent. I believe that the station must be sited in the North of the State. Resource based projects at Roxby Downs and, hopefully, in other areas of the North will require increasing amounts of power. Other factors requiring consideration include the availability of sufficient water to feed a power station's cooling system, the quantity and quality of coal, and environmental protection.

Myponie Point obviously meets these criteria and is a viable option. It would have access to large amounts of cooling water and could supply power south to the metropolitan area and north to the locations of major resource projects. It would also be located close to the deposits of coal defined at Lochiel and Wakefield. Tests are being conducted on these coals at present to determine whether they are suitable for power station use. Even if they are not suitable, development of a power station at that site would fit in with plans which I believe must be pursued to establish a deep sea port. South Australia will need a new power

station and a deep sea port in the future, and I believe that common sense suggests that both should be located at Myponie Point.

The Liberal Party has played a key role in the development and expansion of electricity supplies in South Australia. It was Sir Thomas Playford who established the Electricity Trust and ensured the development of the Leigh Creek coal field. Former Liberal Governments decided on the establishment of the Port Augusta and Torrens Island power stations. These decisions of former Liberal Governments have guaranteed our electricity supplies at advantageous tariffs—a vital factor in allowing our industries to remain competitive. The decisions we now face in the next few months are as vital as those which Sir Thomas Playford was called on to make. I have put forward this three-point plan on the future of Torrens Island, the bridging of the base load gap which will emerge later this decade, and the site of the next power station as a positive contribution to the long-term planning process which has been and will continue to be so vitally important.

I now turn to the State banking institutions. Following the merger of the Bank of Adelaide with the A.N.Z. Banking Group during 1980 and the recent mergers of the remaining free enterprise banks, I believe that there are distinct advantages for the people of South Australia which would flow from the merging of the Savings Bank of South Australia and the State Bank to form a South Australian banking corporation. In putting forward this proposal, I want to emphasise at the outset that it is based on the fundamental principle that such a corporation should operate on the same basis as do the private banks; in other words, it should be liable to other imposts, such as taxation at normal rates, and it would have no Government created commercial advantages over its competitors.

I believe that such a corporation, operating on this basis, would still be able to provide the people and businesses in South Australia with a full range of banking and related financial services. The merged bank's goals would be:

To provide banking, financial and related services to the people of South Australia and to those segments of the economy of importance to the State's strength and further development;

To ensure adequate levels of competition in the markets available to the bank;

To encourage and assist investment in South Australia and liaise and co-operate with organisations having similar objectives;

To provide services to all levels of government and to public authorities;

To manage effectively and efficiently those services that the bank performs on behalf of the State Government.

A merger of the banks would enable the Savings Bank of South Australia branches to offer a wider range of lending and other financial services, and it would have a greater capacity to offer full international banking services which, due to restrictions (which have been removed), have not been fully implemented within that service and are currently not offered.

The size and strength of a South Australian banking corporation would be such as to enable it to expand or move into new services and enable the corporation to compete more equitably with the other banks represented in Adelaide in such areas as:

Corporate banking, including management of consortium loans in local and foreign currencies. Over a period of time a business development and trade inquiry service could be developed;

Investment services, including nominee and registrar services and portfolio management. Other services in this

category include management of superannuation funds and investment of short, medium and long-term funds; Other services, including a more comprehensive travel service, a migrant advisory service, an economic research and information service covering mining, rural, and industrial undertakings.

A merged bank would have the expertise and strength to raise off-shore funds for financing resource and other projects for the benefit of the South Australian community in general.

The people of South Australia would have a single bank 'The South Australian Banking Corporation', offering a comprehensive range of banking and related facilities. South Australia is the only State with two State banks, which, I believe, leads to an inefficient use of capital and human resources. There is no longer a bank with its head office in South Australia which offers a range of services in complete sympathy with the local scene.

Existing branch structures of both banks would bring these services to the whole community. With the possible entry of a limited number of foreign banks (and that matter is under question), the whole banking market is expected to change significantly and become even more competitive over the next few years. A merged operation of the two banks would be better able to cope with the challenges these changes will present than either bank could expect as a separate entity. A merger of the State-owned banks would bring rationalisation of the use of all resources, as well as economies of scale with ultimate savings to its shareholders—the people of South Australia.

As a result of a merger of branches, staff will be freed to move into new and expanded service areas. Opportunities would arise for staff to have a broader work experience and to develop new skills. This would lead to better career prospects, greater job satisfaction, and a more highly motivated staff. The marketing image of a merged bank would be greatly enhanced, as it would be able to promote the idea of a South Australian bank, operated by and for South Australians.

A South Australian banking corporation would hold a market share of approximately 34 per cent of total trading and savings bank deposits in South Australia. Because of the geographical spread of the merged bank, a South Australian banking corporation would be able to ensure that funds were retained within the State for the benefit of the State.

The Hon. D.C. Brown: Backed up with a merchant bank as well.

Mr OLSEN: A merchant bank, under the initiative of the former Liberal Government, and well and truly functioning. In placing before Parliament today future proposals for the operations of the Electricity Trust and the State banking institutions, I have clearly indicated my view that State action in certain areas of our economy is not only appropriate but also vital. The Electricity Trust is providing services which the community expects and needs but which private enterprise cannot provide on an economic basis.

In the case of the banking institutions, I have advocated action to maximise the efficiency of long established facilities to benefit all South Australians, provided such action does not place the private banks at any disadvantage. These proposals are completely consistent with Liberal philosophy that action by the State can best be achieved through a public sector which has its role clearly defined so that, on the one hand, it can serve public needs effectively and efficiently in those areas where its services are needed and for which it has a responsibility but, on the other hand, is not wasteful, superfluous or inhibiting and does not stifle or threaten individual freedoms, enterprise or initiative.

My contribution to the Address in Reply debate also gives notice that the Liberal Party intends to continue to make a

constructive and positive contribution to the workings of this Parliament and to the urgent task of ensuring that, at the State level, all that must be done is done to help economic recovery.

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

The Hon. D.C. BROWN (Davenport): I have great pleasure in responding to His Excellency's address in opening Parliament, and from the outset I have been very impressed with the number of addresses given by the new members, particularly on this side of the House. I thought that the two new members excelled themselves, and the quality of their speeches and depth of understanding they revealed of their electorates obviously indicate that those members will make a very significant contribution to the future of the Liberal Party.

I, along with other members, extend my condolences to the families of a number of very distinguished former members of Parliament who have died. The Hon. Gordon Gillfillan was a member of the Legislative Council for 13 years, a person who was a member when I came into this Chamber. I remember that I had many long talks with Gordon, and he was a person with many ideas. Certainly I pass onto his family my regrets at his passing.

The Hon. Cyril Hutchens left this Parliament I think three years before I entered it. I think that his period as a member of Parliament was from about 1950 to 1970, and during his 20 years in Parliament, culminating in his term as a distinguished Minister of Works, he was, from what I understand, a member who was respected by all members of this House and to whom any member could go to discuss a problem and get a very diligent response.

The most recent death of all was that of Mr John Coumbe, who was Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party when I first came into this House. He was a person whom I got to know extremely well and for whom I had a high regard. I refer the House to John Coumbe's achievements in trying to attract more industrial research and development, including high technology industry, to this State. It was John Coumbe who did so much to promote Techsearch for the Institute of Technology. Techsearch is a private enterprise body connected with the Institute of Technology which sold the research and development capacity in the institute to private industry. John Coumbe was the Chairman of that group and was the driving force behind it.

When I first became Minister of Industrial Affairs, that group managed to woo across to their ranks a Mr Taylor, who was regarded as a very outstanding employee of the Department of Trade and Industry. From there, John Coumbe went on to become Chairman of the Institute of Technology. I had a great deal to do with John Coumbe at the stage of negotiating the relationship between the Institute of Technology, the South Australian Government and other bodies in setting up the Technology Park, Adelaide concept. We received by far the most overwhelming support for Technology Park from the Institute of Technology. It was the only body, other than the State Government, which really understood the concept, and I do not mind adding that many people misunderstood what Technology Park, Adelaide was all about. However, John Coumbe did not: he threw the full weight of the institute behind that project, and it was because of his enthusiasm that we managed to ride through the very many difficulties that we had over an 18-month period in trying to establish Technology Park, Adelaide.

People should understand the problems that we had to overcome in dealing with a very difficult situation. I refer to the problems surrounding proper drainage, land purchase, road access and trying to establish a close link with some

tertiary institution in this State that would enhance Technology Park.

It was the South Australian Institute of Technology under the leadership of John Coumbe that immediately offered staff facilities, recreation and sporting facilities, library facilities, computer facilities and even to offer rent at a very reasonable rate per square metre for any future occupant of Technology Park who wanted to set up immediately in the institute before moving to the park. So, to the families of those three former members, I pay my respects and I particularly note the valuable contribution made to this Parliament and South Australia by those three members.

Turning to the recent bush fires, I believe it is clear that South Australians must learn lessons from the devastating bush fires of Ash Wednesday. In particular, various Government authorities have more to learn than most. Despite the threat that our country areas constantly face from bush fires, little action has been taken by the relevant authorities to minimise the fire danger to life and property. The same complacency must not be allowed to sweep away the need for positive action in the future.

I do not intend to blame any person or body for the recent fires. The cause of the fires is a matter now subject to a coronial inquiry. However, I am concerned that time and complacency will prevent action being taken to reduce the loss from future fires. The fires were a holocaust: they were a vivid reminder of the uncontrolled power of nature and her elements. Nothing could have stopped those fires, but action can be taken to reduce the intensity of a fire in the vicinity of houses, and to reduce the risk to people's lives. The destruction in the Greenhill, Mount Lofty and Crafers area was a direct result of the winds and enormous heat generated as the fire swept through Cleland conservation park.

This park, which lies in valleys between the South-Eastern Freeway, Summit Road, Mount Lofty, and Greenhill Road, contains thousands and thousands of tonnes of thick, highly flammable undergrowth beneath its tall and rather majestic gum trees. There has not been a substantial fire through the park for a couple of decades. The park runs right to the edge of residential areas perched on top of ridges. The houses were burnt by the fireballs that raced out of the conservation park, and even clearing all the vegetation around those houses would not have saved all of them. Mr Speaker, I ask that the audible conversation of certain members in the House be kept at a slightly lower level.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The time has come—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Davenport.

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: The time has come when the Government and the authorities must take regular action to reduce the potential fire intensity in conservation parks and national parks. Realistic fire breaks of up to 400 and 500 metres should be established on the perimeter of large parks where a fire hazard exists. This could be achieved by burning undergrowth in the off season on a regular basis, or running stock in a properly fenced perimeter belt.

Some people would object to stock being run in even a small portion of a national park, but that is one of the realistic choices that must now be looked at. The nature and character of the parks must not be changed, but the Department of Environment and Planning must accept responsibility for the fire hazard that these parks impose on neighbouring properties. If the wind change of Ash Wednesday had come 30 minutes later, the fire probably would have swept through Belair national park, with the subsequent loss of perhaps 100 homes in the Upper Sturt

and Crafers West area. The provision of an effective fire break along the southern and eastern edges of the Belair national park has been raised often. It is the responsibility of the department to ensure that such breaks are provided before the next inevitable fire occurs.

The hills face zone has been established to preserve and enhance the natural character of the Adelaide Hills. Most of us support that concept and would not wish it to be substantially altered. However, the concept has increased the fire risk that exists, both for those who live in the zone and for those residential areas abutting the zone, especially at the top of ridges such as Mount Osmond, Belair, Blackwood, and Eden Hills. The existing regulations, and the administration of those regulations, should be reviewed to reduce the fire risk, but without substantially altering the nature of the hills face zone.

The existing minimum size for subdivisions is probably too large to expect owners to control vegetation growth. Olive trees, artichokes and other introduced plants have proliferated greatly within the hills face zone during the past decade. Owners should be encouraged to use stock to control the amount of vegetation that exists. One look at the hills face zone below Mount Osmond reveals the effectiveness of such grazing, because the fire stopped at the edge of grazed paddocks. If the whole area had been grazed perhaps the eight houses at Mount Osmond that were burnt would not have been lost and the fire probably would have been contained.

The Highways Department owns large areas of land below Mount Osmond. The Burnside Country Fire Service has repeatedly requested that vegetation on this land be cleared, but no action has been taken. I refer to a letter sent by Mr John Nolan, Captain of the Burnside C.F.S., to the Commissioner of Highways on 23 February 1983, as follows:

Dear Sir,

Correspondence and numerous telephone calls have been exchanged between officers of the City of Burnside and your department during the past year concerning the clearing of dangerous flammable vegetation in a section of land owned by the Highways Department behind houses in Bayview Crescent, Beaumont. As officer-in-charge of the Burnside Country Fire Service, I personally pursued this matter again in December of last year with promises of some action early in 1983 when the holiday period was complete.

Without detailing the subsequent events I can advise that an inspection of this area was undertaken today, 23 February, by Mr Tony Seager and Mr Martin Joyce of your department in conjunction with myself and the Burnside City Deputy Engineer, Mr Richard Crabb. The details of this inspection and the obvious need for urgent action are now with your department.

I will not quote the entire letter, but it concludes:

I trust that your department will see fit to take appropriate action within the next few days—procrastination could add another four or five homes to the existing list of destruction. Yours faithfully, J.S. Nolan, Captain.

I refer to that letter because it highlights the considerable fire hazard which is imposed on that area by the Highways Department and other Government authorities holding large parcels of land without making sure that that land is properly maintained.

I point out that although the Highways Department was obviously made aware of the danger that existed on numerous occasions (but certainly by December), and although certain promises had been made, the Highways Department by 23 February had taken no action whatsoever to clear the extensive vegetation from that land. Any Government authority which owns tracts of land must be responsible for maintaining that land in safe condition. That particularly applies to the Highways Department and local councils. The cause of the Mount Osmond fire is still to be determined, but there can be no doubt that some previous fires in South Australia and Victoria have been started because trees have interfered with power lines, thus causing a short. Some

people advocate a clean earth policy beneath power lines. Whether it is necessary to go to such limits is for the experts to say. However, it is obvious that the Electricity Trust of South Australia must be more diligent in lopping all trees where they present any risk.

ETSA has certainly been negligent in keeping power lines free from obstructions in the past. Most councils impose bureaucratic restrictions on landowners cutting down trees over 10 metres tall. It is time that those restrictions were removed for landowners wishing to remove trees within 20 metres of a house for reasons of fire safety.

There has been a lot of criticism of people growing trees close to houses, but few people realise the irritating procedures involved to remove such trees. Again, this is a matter that lies in the hands of Government. The previous Government initiated a general review of building codes and regulations in this State. That review should now look seriously at what conditions should be imposed on houses built in districts with a high fire risk.

Incidentally, from talking to a number of C.F.S. firemen, it appears that the most vulnerable point of any house under such extreme conditions is the glass windows, which crack and then blow out as the fireball hits them. One can imagine that with, as I understand it, reported temperatures of up to 2 000 degrees in some fireballs, that when the window goes, the curtains virtually explode immediately and the contents of the house ignite. I talked to people who saw houses literally go up in smoke, houses that were engulfed in flames in a matter of two or three minutes. I was talking to someone who commented that in their hallway, which was completely removed and which had all its doors shut, there were no flames even though the front door of the house caught fire, and the plastic doorbell actually melted because the heat was so great. If windows are the most vulnerable point of a house during a fire then some action obviously should be taken to try and reduce that risk. There is no point in clearing vegetation, having sprinklers on the roof, gutters blocked with water in them and taking every other precaution if people find that windows blow out allowing the curtains and then the house to ignite very readily. One simple answer to this problem may be to place a rolled asbestos blanket above the window on the outside so that when a fire danger exists that blanket can be hung to cover the window and fastened at the bottom.

In the search for information on how to minimise the loss of life and property in such fires the State Government should establish and fund a research programme. The programme would determine what contributed to some houses burning, what protected other houses from the fires and what caused people to lose their lives. The research should clarify whether staying in a motor vehicle during a fire is still the soundest advice to follow.

An honourable member: I hope that what you are drinking is Murray water.

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: There seems to be a difference in the quality. I am not sure where they came from.

An honourable member: One is filtered and the other is not.

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: I suspect that one has come down in the recent rains and the other came down the Murray.

The SPEAKER: Order! I hope that the honourable member will link his remarks to the motion before the Chair.

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: The cost of a research programme to examine how to reduce the damage done by the fires would be small compared with the losses involved in fires. In fact, I think that one is looking at costs of probably less than \$100 000 for a research programme compared with losses of tens of millions of dollars. The information now available would be extremely valuable, but speed is essential

if the value is to be realised. Such a research programme could be based at the university or the South Australian Institute of Technology. However, the initiative in such matters must be taken by the State Government—the ball is in their court.

Another Government responsibility, one related to my electorate, is the water supply system at Mount Osmond. In December last year I brought to the attention of the Minister of Water Resources the very low water pressure in the reticulation system at Mount Osmond. This lack of pressure is a constant problem during summer and increases the fire danger in that area. Another problem was revealed on Ash Wednesday. The Mount Osmond system is reticulated from a small tank near the golf course at Mount Osmond which, in turn, is pumped from tanks above Beaumont. When the power failed on that day the holding tank could not be filled and the area apparently had no reticulated water for a period.

This increases enormously the risk of property damage by fire. Those at a public meeting of Mt Osmond residents two weeks ago signed the following petition to the Minister of Water Resources:

We the undersigned petitioners request that you take immediate action in upgrading the water supply system to the Mt Osmond area with specific priority to increase the water pressure. In addition, we request the installation of alternative ancillary pumps to ensure that the Mt Osmond area receives water even during an electrical failure.

I ask the Minister to ensure that the Engineering and Water Supply Department acts promptly to rectify the low water pressure and to recognise the need for an alternative ancillary pump.

The availability of up-to-date information during an emergency is absolutely essential. One lesson that came out of Ash Wednesday is that accurate information is the most important ingredient of all. The news media of South Australia is to be commended for its efforts and achievements on that day and on the following days. People risked their lives to report events, perhaps no-one more than Murray Nicoll, in giving a very dramatic description of what happened at Greenhill. However, confusion still existed, in particular in relation to whether or not Hills residents should return to their homes from the city, and if so, which streets or roads they should use.

There is no doubt that, although at least one or two people were burnt on Greenhill Road, a very significant disaster could have occurred at that location if there had been hundreds of cars banked up on Greenhill Road attempting to get to the Hills by that route. The member for Murray was one of those in cars on Greenhill Road for a time and saw at first hand the desperate situation which prevailed and which could have become a crisis. In fact, at about 5 o'clock on that afternoon I went up Greenhill Road in a fire vehicle and was amazed how many private vehicles were jammed at various parts along Greenhill Road, still with fire and smoke licking around them. Very accurate and up-to-date information is vital to help people understand what they should do in such an emergency.

This highlighted the need for some radio station to be designated as the official radio link for the purpose of announcing detailed and up-to-date information about such a crisis; in other words, there should be one radio station that everyone understands as being the radio station for that purpose. In such a crisis people would automatically turn to such a radio station if they wished to have up-to-date information. Obviously such a radio station would be closely linked with the C.F.S., the police, and other emergency services. Announcements could then be carefully monitored and changed as the circumstances dictate. Most people have a radio in their home and in their car, and a radio can be

used without relying on electricity supplies. A radio is a very rapid and accurate means of communication, and is highly portable. Incidentally, the state of emergency should have been declared on that day as existing between 2 p.m. and 2.30 on 16 February, and should not have been declared at 5 p.m., as was the case.

The Hon. J.D. Wright: How can you make that allegation?
Mr Lewis: It is not an allegation.

The Hon. J.D. Wright: You were not in possession of the facts. It is an allegation that you cannot substantiate.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not want conversations across the floor of the House.

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: I did not intend to elaborate, but, because of the Deputy Premier's interjection, I point out that in 1981, when I was acting Minister of Agriculture on one occasion and there was a bad fire through Brownhill Creek, the Premier at the time sent me specifically to C.F.S. headquarters to see how the operations were undertaken and how communications were handled.

That was the first occasion that State emergency legislation was prepared and ready to be invoked, so I had a good idea of the circumstances under which it could be implemented. I believe that the emergency legislation on that day should have been—

The SPEAKER: Order! I hope that the honourable member is not going to reflect on the Governor.

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: I am not reflecting on the Governor, and I certainly would not reflect on him. I am in no way suggesting that I am reflecting on the Governor. I point out to the Deputy Premier that I attempted to telephone the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Community Welfare for more than 15 minutes between 2.55 and 3.10 p.m. on Ash Wednesday to inform them of the seriousness of the fires in the Burnside district. I picked out the Minister of Community Welfare because at that stage eight houses had been burnt on Mount Osmond and I realised that the services of the Department for Community Welfare would be needed.

However—and I underline this point—none of the switchboard telephones of the three Ministers was answered, and I add no more than that at this stage. I congratulate the C.F.S. officers and volunteers, members of the Metropolitan Fire Service, the Police Force, the St John Ambulance Brigade, the State Emergency Service, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and many other groups and individuals on their efforts. No-one will ever know the extent of the bravery, determination and sheer guts that these people displayed on that day.

The extreme weather conditions of Ash Wednesday and the accompanying fires inevitably will occur again. Whether or not the same loss of life and property damage occurs again will depend on whether or not we learn the lessons of 16 February 1983. No one body has more to learn than the Government and its various authorities and departments. A heavy responsibility now rests on the Premier and the South Australian Government to ensure that the Government takes the necessary action to reduce the threat of life and property when a disaster such as this occurs again.

The other subject I wish to touch on is the nature of the industrial and employment crisis facing Australia at present, and particularly facing South Australia. In briefly listing the situation that this State faces, I realise that the present Government has only been in office for 4½ months. Unemployment has risen sharply during that period from about 8 per cent to 11.8 per cent. We would all agree that 12 months ago we would not have believed that level of unemployment could occur in South Australia and it is a level of unemployment that starts to become ubiquitous and has an effect on most people one way or the other.

First, we already have this devastating level of unemployment of 11.8 per cent which has risen dramatically in the past couple of months. I am concerned that there has been silence from the people who have said so much over the past three years and who now have responsibility for tackling the problem. I make it clear that I am not blaming them for the problem. Secondly, the State's biggest employer, General Motors-Holden's, has announced that it will reduce its work force by 700 people in South Australia. That is a very significant reduction by that company, knowing the reductions that have already occurred in its work force over the past three or four years. It is the biggest single announcement for reducing the work force of any company in South Australia that I can recall in my 10 years in Parliament, and is certainly by far the biggest reduction by General Motors-Holden's in one announcement. The company has announced yet again a very substantial loss. That highlights the need for further substantial rationalisation within the General Motors-Holden's organisation, both in South Australia and interstate.

The third characteristic of the crisis we currently face is that South Australia has been renowned for its whitegoods industry. However, the operations of Kelvinator, one of our two big manufacturers of whitegoods in this State, have been almost decimated by the collapse of the market and the rationalisation of some of Kelvinator's operations into its parent body, Email. Again, I have perhaps better knowledge than anyone else in this House of what problems were facing Kelvinator. It is a company in need of a great deal of understanding, encouragement and co-operation.

The fourth point is that the steel industry in Whyalla faces a crisis. The Industries Assistance Commission in its recent recommendations on the protection level has recommended a level below that currently sought by B.H.P. Based on what B.H.P. has said so far, unless the Federal Government is prepared to change that or unless B.H.P. is prepared to back down, we face the very real possibility that over 4 000 jobs could be lost in Whyalla between now and the middle or end of 1986. That is something that this House really must start to come to grips with—the fact that the biggest provincial town in the State is about to have its almost sole employer (in terms of size, at least) wiped out. Without B.H.P. in Whyalla there is very little else; almost the entire economy of Whyalla of course is dependent on B.H.P. That, again, is a very substantial fact with which this State must come to grips.

The fifth point is that there have been very large and substantial further retrenchments in other areas, including now the meat industry and the agricultural machinery industry. More retrenchments have been announced there in the last two weeks. I make it quite clear that I am not blaming the present South Australian Government for all the economic ills of this State. As I have said, it has been there for 4½ months. We do have a world recession; we had a very substantial drought in this State. I think it is fair to say that it has probably been broken today, so I must put that in the past tense, but they are factors beyond our control. What is important is this: how is the new Government of South Australia reacting and what is its performance and what are its functions during this economic slump and crisis, because the best way of judging the Government is on how it is responding to the crisis? We are not going to blame it for the crisis, but we must judge it on how it is responding.

I want to pick up a number of points that point to the lack of performance by the Government. First, after 4½ months in office, it still has not appointed the Director of State Development. Here is the one department in charge of industrial development and manufacturing industry—the

whole economy of this State—this new massive department that was promised, the Department of State Development, yet we find after 4½ months that the new Government still has not appointed the Director to it. I would have thought that the top priority of the Government was surely to put that person into position and get him operating as quickly as possible; it has not been done.

Secondly, as we all know, there was formerly an Office of State Development in the Premier's Department and a Department of Trade and Industry, which came under me, as Minister of Industrial Affairs. The present Premier, when in Opposition, promised to amalgamate those two groups into this new Department of State Development. As a result, the Director of State Development, Mr Matt Tiddy, decided to resign from his position. What we have now is a Department of Trade and Industry which still exists, despite the fact that it was told 4½ months ago when the new Government came into office that it would be abolished. It still exists, but it does not know what its role is. We find that the personnel within that department are confused, bewildered, unsure of what their role is, and certainly have no direction. So, here is the group of public servants who have been responsible in the past for directing industrial development, particularly manufacturing industry, in this State and we find that they are without direction; they are lost, with the threat of being abolished, but it has not yet been carried out. It is like a man who has been sentenced to death and it is now 4½ months overdue before the death penalty is actually imposed.

One can imagine that it would be very difficult to work under those conditions. I am not blaming the public servants at all. I know those people: they are professional and capable public servants, and I have the highest regard for them. They are people who dedicated many more hours than they were required to dedicate to ensure that this State progressed. However, at present they are in a state of confusion, because of lack of direction and positive action by the State Government.

Thirdly, we were told that the answer to everything would be the Enterprise Fund. One can remember the statements that were made when the present Government was in opposition. It was stated that the Enterprise Fund would attract high technology industry to South Australia; stop the take-over of South Australian companies by interstate and overseas rivals; save all the small businesses of this State by supplying them with working capital; and bolster the capital works programme of this State. What do we have? We are 4½ months into the worst economic crisis that this State has seen, and we have heard nothing further whatsoever about the Enterprise Fund. It certainly has not been established.

Fourthly, the previous Government had an excellent working relationship and liaison with industry. Public servants were constantly in touch with industry and, if need be, the Premier or I as Minister were constantly in touch with large companies. This close working relationship and liaison has now broken down badly. I can point to no more obvious example than the collapse of the liaison between the Government and G.M.H. The Premier has criticised G.M.H. because he did not know about its intention to reduce its workforce. Yet, if the Premier had behaved as the previous Government behaved, if he had shown an interest in such companies, he would have been in constant touch with G.M.H. and he would have been told about the reductions.

If that company was about to implement changes, it was only too willing to sit down with the previous Government and discuss the matter. Obviously, that is not the case now. What is the Premier's response? He has not said, 'I will

mend the bridges with G.M.H.'; instead, he has said, 'I will talk to Bob Hawke about this and see what he can do about G.M.H.' The Premier was like a small boy who had had his lollies taken away and who had been smacked on the bottom.

Mr Hamilton: What about when you wrote to me and said that you were going to write to Lynch about G.M.H.? You hypocrite!

The Hon. D.C. BROWN: I saw Sir Phillip Lynch on numerous occasions. No State Government put forward a better advocacy for the motor industry than did the South Australian Government. Sir Phillip Lynch recognised that and stated that South Australia had the best public servants and the best Minister who understood the motor industry. That is publicly documented.

The breakdown in liaison did not occur with G.M.H. only but also with B.H.P. The Premier had to run off to the Prime Minister and, from what I have learned from public statements, he has had no contact with B.H.P. I would have thought that, first, the Premier would sit down and talk with B.H.P., but instead the Premier ran off to talk to the head prefect in Canberra, Bob Hawke. Once again, there was a complete breakdown in the liaison that had been developed between the previous Government and Kelvinator. Despite the crisis in the industry, a breakdown in liaison has occurred.

In this moment of crisis, the State Government is bold enough to say that the Honeymoon and Beverley uranium mines shall stop, cutting off potential expenditure of \$400 000 000 to \$600 000 000 in this State and resulting in the loss of jobs. That does not make sense, particularly when, on a moral basis, the Government argues that it will allow uranium mining at Roxby Downs but not at Honeymoon or Beverley. The sixth point is the fact that the capital works programme has actually slowed down under the present Government.

For three years I can recall Mr Bannon, as Leader of the Opposition, criticising the Government and saying that his Party would get the economy going by stimulating capital works and that the previous Government was not doing enough. Members opposite also said that more should be spent on capital works and that they would get money from their enterprise funds in other areas to stimulate capital works. What do we find? When the Budget was discussed in this House, the Premier was the most vocal of all about the fact that \$42 000 000 would need to be transferred from the capital budget across to the recurrent budget to match up the deficit.

What we find is that the capital works budget in this State at the end of January is \$24 000 000 underspent on what was budgeted for that period. At the end of December, it was \$23 000 000 underspent. In other words, this Government has actually slowed down the budgeted capital works programme that we had set up for this State. The Government has not increased it; it has slowed it down. I suspect that it is simply trying to transfer funds from the capital works programme across to the recurrent budget to patch up some of its \$140 000 000 deficit that it has allowed to blow out through poor economic management.

I find it devastating that during this period of economic crisis the building industry is facing a crisis as bad as that confronting manufacturing industry. In this time of crisis, the Government's works programme has been slowed down by \$24 000 000, and we are only just over half way through the economic year.

The seventh point is the threat of new tax measures to cover the \$140 000 000 deficit that this State now faces.

How can a Government turn around and, because of irresponsible management, say, 'We need to stimulate consumer spending; we need to stimulate the private industry in this State, but before we do so we are going to tax the people of this State to make up our deficit of \$140 000 000?' Whether it be a financial transaction tax or some other tax, it would ultimately be passed on to both the consumers and the private industry of this State and will further dampen any hope of economic recovery.

The eighth point is that 50 000 to 60 000 people are presently unemployed in South Australia: 11.8 per cent of the work force. That is a horrifying figure. Something needs to be done to encourage more people to receive training and to overcome the lack of confidence of employers in taking on new apprentices. I understand that the apprenticeship intake this year could be down by as much as 25 to 30 per cent compared to a normal year. That situation generally occurs when there is a great deal of economic uncertainty. Employers are not prepared to commit themselves to a four-year indenture of a new apprentice not knowing what might occur during that financial year, let alone in the subsequent three years.

I commend the Government for deciding to take on 50 new apprentices within the Government, as announced by the Deputy Premier last week. However, much more is needed. Despite 50 new apprentices, 50 000-odd people are unemployed, and we need to deal not in tens or fifties but in thousands of people. I believe that it is time that the Government started some major new initiatives for the training of unemployed people in order to cope with the problem.

I have been through eight areas examining the responses of the Government to this economic crisis that we face, and without a doubt one could say that the Government is without direction, without leadership, without determination and without practical policies to cope with the financial, economic, industrial and employment crises that this State now faces. Frankly, the Government stands condemned for what I think has been a very poor performance so far shown in the 4½ months since it has been in office. I am not blaming the Government for the economic crisis this State faces, but certainly it is showing no positive responses to remedy that crisis.

Mr ASHENDEN (Todd): It is with much pleasure that I support the motion. Before commencing my actual address, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment to the position which you currently hold. Although your style is markedly different from that of your predecessor, who set a high standard in this House, from what I have seen so far I believe that the House will be extremely well served again. I congratulate you on your appointment and indicate from this side of the House that thus far you have been eminently fair.

Before dealing with some of the main points that I wish to raise, I indicate how pleased I am to be here this evening. I know that some members opposite thought that that was a most unlikely occurrence, but events have proved that the many interjections across the floor claiming that I was a 'oncer' were incorrect, and support my frequent reply that the then Opposition members should not hold their breath, because I would be back.

Members interjecting:

Mr ASHENDEN: In this instance we have seen that my judgment in relation to the District of Todd was better than theirs, and I am pleased to be able to continue to represent my constituents. I assure them all that I will continue in

the life of this Government, as I did in the past Government, to represent them all without any favour whatsoever, to place their representations before relevant Ministers or departments, and to do all that I can for them.

Also, I look forward to enjoying a greater number of years in this place in the future. Indeed, after the next election, I look forward to again occupying the Treasury benches. I did hear an interjection from a Government member that his Party has developed a strategy to get rid of me. I am flattered, because obviously the only way they could do that is by a redistribution. Certainly, they would need a better strategy than the last one.

Before turning to the main context of my speech, I would like to comment on the conduct of the campaign in the District of Todd.

As members probably know, I contested the seat with candidates from the Australian Labor Party, the so-called National Party and the Australian Democrats. I would like to comment on those candidates. First, I was extremely disappointed with the manner in which the A.L.P. candidate conducted his campaign. I do not mind fighting fair but, when a letter is sent out to all my constituents two days before the election in the Houghton, Paracombe and Inglewood area saying that the present member was totally disinterested in the concerns of residents in the area about quarrying, I think that is grossly unfair. Indeed, I had written many letters and made many personal representations to the then Minister of Mines and Energy to have the proposed mining development adjacent to the Paracombe cold store stopped and not allowed to proceed.

The Hon. D.C. Brown: It was not unfair but dirty.

Mr ASHENDEN: It was completely dishonest. As I said, I do not mind being attacked fairly but, when other candidates have to go to such lengths, it probably shows that even at that stage other candidates were aware that the District of Todd would remain with the Liberal Party. Also, I was extremely concerned about comments made by the only member of the National Party in this Parliament following the election. He said that he believed that the Liberal Party should stick to the city and not go out into the country. I feel it is only fair to tell the honourable member that I believe the National Party is a very narrow Party, representative of very few people.

The point is that the Liberal Party is far more effective in representing country people, and I can see no attraction for city people in the National Party. This was proved by the fact that in every booth in the District of Todd a gentleman known as 'informal' defeated the National Party candidate.

Mr Blacker: Didn't you get in on National Party preferences?

Mr ASHENDEN: What a ridiculous comment to make. I was first past the post. I gained a majority of the preferences, certainly, but there is no way that the National Party helped my campaign. Again, the dishonest advertising carried out by that opponent indicated that the National Party did not have my interests at heart.

I would like to address myself to one matter to which the previous speaker addressed himself fully. Therefore, I will not take the time that he took, because I cannot put any more succinctly the effect of the disastrous fires that occurred on Ash Wednesday II. The electorate of Todd contains a very large rural area. In fact, over half the area of the district is rural. Virtually all of that area was destroyed by the bush fires. This has had an effect on my constituents that will last for many years. Many of my constituents lost their homes, fencing, outbuildings and stock. The main area of primary production in Houghton, Paracombe and Inglewood is orcharding. Members may know that it takes 10 years

for an apple or pear tree to reach maturity and provide a return to landholders. Therefore, the destruction of these trees has removed the incomes for orchardists affected by the bush fire not only for this year but for the next 10 years.

I point out that the fire came exactly on the day that the growers were commencing to pick their crops. They had spent all their money this year in anticipation of the income that they would receive from their crops. The expenses involved in orcharding are extensive and include irrigation and sprays. A tremendous amount of money and work goes into producing a crop. The very day of the fire was the day that picking started in this area. Therefore, as many of my constituents have lost their total income for this and the next 10 years, they do not know how they will survive.

This is probably one of the most difficult areas to which this Government will have to address itself through the Minister of Agriculture. I certainly hope that the representations that I am presently making to the Minister will be met, because some form of assistance will have to be forthcoming; otherwise, an entire section of the rural community will have to leave their properties.

The Hon. D.C. Brown: They will need more than \$70 000 in carry-on finance.

Mr ASHENDEN: It will need far more than the \$70 000 mentioned by the honourable member, because these people will need help for 10 years. Many people when faced with disasters such as this in previous years have taken other jobs while their trees have been reaching maturity. All members would acknowledge that that is now virtually impossible given the present economic and unemployment conditions. As I have said, I sincerely hope that this Government will consider the plight of my constituents and make special allowances for them.

The other point is that not only did my constituents with orchards suffer because of the fires, but also those orchards that were not burnt had their crops destroyed not only for this year but also for next year, because the wind accompanying the fires was so violent that the crops were just thrown to the ground. The heat was so intense that the produce was scorched and therefore made useless for sale in the market place. Therefore, those orchardists whose properties were not burnt still lost their crops. They will not get a crop next year, either, because their trees have been so severely set back that they are starting to sprout again. In other words, as far as the trees are concerned, it is spring; they will go through the budding stage and they will bear fruit, but, because it will be winter, the fruit will simply drop and, therefore, there will be no crop next year, either.

The situation faced by those people is extremely serious. Of course, small businesses such as delicatessens, butchers, and so on, in that area will also feel the pinch because their normal customers will not be able to go to them and purchase the goods that they would normally buy. It is an extremely serious situation and, as I have said many times, I hope that the Minister is able to accede to my requests in relation to assistance for these people.

Of course, there is another large group of people who live in this area and commute to the city. One of the most devastated areas was Range Road South. I would again like to support the previous speaker in relation to the extremely large national park, the Anstey Hill reserve, on the western side of that road. Unfortunately, we have in our society some extremely disturbed people, and at least four fires were deliberately lit in my electorate on Ash Wednesday. Those fires were all lit at the western extremity of the Anstey Hill reserve. Because of the grass growth in that reserve, the fires moved up the hill so quickly that many residents could not get away from their homes.

However we did not lose life in that area I will never know. I drove around my electorate and visited constituents on the Thursday, the Sunday, the Monday and the Tuesday after Ash Wednesday calling in to speak to people. One cannot describe the devastation, and when one sees the effects of that fire one cannot understand how it was not greater.

However, the point is that I believe that steps can be taken to prevent a similar occurrence, and one of those steps must include much better removal of undergrowth, grass, etcetera, in national parks. Although I know that this is contrary to the views of many environmentalists, I think that we must get a reasonable balance between the two viewpoints.

I would certainly hope that the Minister for Environment and Planning takes the trouble to go into my electorate and see the effect of the fire sweeping through that reserve. I have been advised that the Minister for Environment and Planning has issued instructions to his staff under no circumstances to make comments in relation to the burning off of bush land as fire breaks or any other form of what is considered to be destruction to be undertaken in national parks.

I hope that the Minister will have a look at these areas. I hope, too, that he will change his mind and allow or, at least, support any move towards far more extensive protection in those areas than was the case, because I believe that this played a major part in the very serious destruction that occurred.

I would now like to discuss other aspects of importance within the electorate of Todd. Of course, I have become a bit noted regarding one of those points since I was elected to Parliament, namely, the public transport system to service the north-eastern suburbs.

I guess that I would find it very difficult not to stand up here and say, 'I told you so' in relation to the comments that the present Minister of Transport has made in relation to the O'Bahn system. One can only draw one conclusion from what has occurred since the change of Government, and that is that all of the objections and vehemence that existed in the previous Opposition, which have now completely dissipated, can only have occurred for purely political reasons.

There is no doubt that the then Minister of Transport was completely right when he indicated that the O'Bahn system is a viable form of public transport. There is no doubt that the points that he, the previous member for Newland and I made on our return after going to Germany at our own expense to see this system in operation were right.

We said all the way through not only that it was viable but also that it was much more economical and a much better proposition for the north-eastern suburbs than any other proposition. Although I do not intend to go into all the advantages of the O'Bahn system again, I wish to point out that I have been provided with copies of correspondence between the Tea Tree Gully City Council and the present Minister of Transport, and I would like to read this, because I think that it is very elucidating indeed. First, following a resolution of council in November 1982, council forwarded a letter to the present Minister of Transport (Hon. R.K. Abbott). That letter read as follows:

At the last meeting of council, concern was expressed by councillors that the infrastructure of the busway had been designed to take only one mode of transport, i.e., O'Bahn buses.

Council has requested that urgent consideration be given to the construction of an infrastructure which would be substantial and flexible enough to cater for alternative modes of public transport.

Council requests the State Government to ensure that the design and construction of bridges, etc., on the unproven O'Bahn busway be such that the track could be converted to l.r.t. operation with

the least possible cost when the O'Bahn system proves to be unviable.

This was written at the end of last year, mind you. The letter continues:

Your consideration of this matter, particularly regarding bridge design and clearances, would be appreciated.

The Minister replied with the following letter:

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 1982 concerning the design of busway bridges in a manner which will enable future conversion to l.r.t. There is no evidence that the O'Bahn system is likely to prove unviable as you suggest, and experience on the limited section of track completed to date would appear to suggest otherwise.

Well, well: when things are different they are not quite the same. When members opposite are in Government suddenly the O'Bahn system is right, which is exactly what the previous Government had been saying all the way through.

While I am on this subject I would like to raise a point concerning my belief that the Minister of Transport has not fulfilled his Ministerial duties as well as he could have done. I believe that it is a usual courtesy for a Minister to notify those in an electorate who are affected by a visit by him, or by any other matter, that he is coming into the electorate. On many occasions it has been the practice for a Minister to invite the local member to be present when something is going on. However, when the Minister came out and took all the glory for the new O'Bahn system on the occasion of his declaring it open and of the bus having its first run along the track, the member for Todd was not invited, and neither was the shadow Minister. Incidentally, at the opening of the O'Bahn system the Minister gave no credit whatever to the previous Government for implementing that system. However, that is something that we have to endure. Then the same Minister had the gall to come into the electorate of Todd to perform an official opening ceremony involving the new section of the Lower North East Road (which again was all budgeted for by the previous Government) without letting me know that he was coming into my electorate. Although he performed an official opening ceremony in my electorate, I was not invited. Therefore, on two occasions not only was I not advised by the Minister that he was coming into my electorate but also I was not invited to attend the official functions involved. Of the two I think that probably the O'Bahn occasion was the one that galled me most, particularly in view of the very strong support that I have given that project since 1979.

I point out that the Minister of Transport is not the only Minister who has transgressed in that way. On at least two occasions the Minister of Health has come into my electorate and I have subsequently found out about that happening. Again, on neither of those occasions did the Minister advise me that he was coming into my electorate in his official capacity. The point I make is that it would not hurt Ministers to observe these common courtesies. The Minister of Education has interjected on a number of occasions. I thank him for letting me know that he was coming to my electorate to look at the schools that were nearly destroyed by the fires of Ash Wednesday. I appreciated his telling me that he was coming before he came. However, having given him a credit on one side of the ledger, I must now give him a debit on the other, because I resent his approach, and the approach of some other Ministers in Government, in replying directly to correspondence—in the Minister's case his writing directly to schools and in the case of other Ministers replying directly to constituents following representations I have made on behalf of a school, a constituent or another body.

The Hon. Lynn Arnold: You have already raised this matter and I have told you that it will not happen again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr ASHENDEN: I did not intend to raise this matter, but I have been told by my colleagues that the Minister has

done the same thing to them since I raised this matter with him—that is the only reason I have raised it again in the House. Certainly, other Ministers have written directly to an organisation or a constituent advising them of the Government's intentions following my making official representations on behalf of that organisation or person within my electorate. I do not think that that is right. Certainly, if those constituents were to make an approach to the Government through their own Legislative Councillors that would be different.

In fact, there have been occasions when I have been contacted by organisations to tell me that they have received a reply from a Minister, and what he has said, before I have received a reply at my office. That is taking politics a little too far. I hope that that practice will not continue. To be fair to the Minister of Education, he has interjected that my allegations are not true. If that is the case then I apologise.

The Hon. Lynn Arnold: I acknowledge one episode as a mistake on behalf of the process. I indicated that that would not happen again. The honourable member knows that I indicated that to him.

Mr ASHENDEN: I accept that. As I said to the Minister, had I not been advised by my colleagues that the same had occurred to them subsequently—

The Hon. Lynn Arnold: That's not—

Mr ASHENDEN: If that is not correct then I have unfairly criticised the Minister. I was acting only on advice that was given to me and if that advice is incorrect I withdraw the comments that I have made. To be fair to the Minister I admit that I was surprised, particularly as when I spoke to him personally I did obtain an assurance about this matter. He is one of the Ministers on the other side for whom I have always had respect.

I would like to make some points in relation to what has occurred in Parliament today. Again, members opposite would be only too well aware that I have always been very much for development in South Australia, whether it be industrial, mining development, or other forms. I was extremely disappointed to find that the Government had decided not to go ahead with mining at Honeymoon and Beverley. I cannot but feel that I probably have a large number of members opposite agreeing with me. I am certain that Caucus would have been far from unanimous in coming to its decision in this matter. Having listened to the conversations of certain members opposite, and being aware of their feelings about certain matters, I have no doubt that there are a number of Labor Party members who would have liked to have seen these two mines go ahead. However, the left wing has again flapped and has controlled the direction of the Labor Party, unfortunately very much to the disadvantage of South Australia.

Before the election members opposite attempted to make, quite dishonestly, tremendous capital out of the unemployment situation during the life of the previous Government. As soon as they were elected it was interesting to note statements from the now Premier who, within days of the election, was saying that these matters were beyond the State Government's control and that it finds it will not be able to turn things around. The Premier was palpably dishonest in that, and in other matters to which I will come in a moment. However, be that as it may, the Labor Party stated that it was going to be pro development and would create jobs. What do we find? Do we find its new enterprise scheme going yet? No! The only decision that this Government has taken is a decision that will cost jobs in South Australia. A letter from the South Australian Chamber of Mines, which was written before the decision on the mines projects and is not from Liberal Party figures, states:

If the Honeymoon project is abandoned, so will Beverley be abandoned, together with other mineral exploration projects which

could involve spending millions of dollars in South Australia. Between them, Honeymoon and Beverley alone have already spent well over \$12 000 000. If these mines go ahead they will, over their operational life, provide 150 jobs at the sites, indirectly about another 600 jobs in service industries, about \$100 000 000 in wages, many millions in Federal taxes and no less than \$32 000 000 in royalties in South Australia. These royalties could provide useful funding for many worthwhile community projects.

Since the election the Premier, after promising no increase in taxes, has been saying that there is to be an increase in taxes. First, unconscionably, he blamed the bushfires and floods for this. I am glad to see that he has now resiled from that position.

I do not think that a situation of disaster like that should have been treated with the political disdain that the Premier then displayed. He is crying poverty, yet here are two mines that could return \$32 000 000 in royalties, \$32 000 000 of taxes that we would not have to pay if he had let those mines go ahead. More than 700 jobs have 'gone down the gurgler', to put it colloquially. How can Government members stand up and address themselves to the public of South Australia after the election promises they made when they are carrying out this sort of exercise?

Also, for the benefit of members opposite, in the *Advertiser* on 18 February there was a report in the financial pages, as follows:

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd, reported a big jump in profit—from \$7.73m to \$24.02m—in the six months to 31 December.

Of course, as we all know, Energy Resources of Australia is a uranium miner and processor. The report continues:

The strong result was struck on turnover up from \$35.65m to \$127.59m and came after tax of \$28.99m (nil previously). The group will pay a maiden interim dividend of 5c a share on 31 May.

And the report goes on to point out that the reason for this is that there has been a lift in demand overseas for its product. So, the Government has said that there is a decline in demand for uranium, and has made a decision that is a business decision that mining companies should make as to whether they will go ahead and develop; it has nothing to do with that Government. If those companies think that they can make money and they do not, that is their problem. For the Government to say that it is protecting business is absolutely ridiculous.

There is no doubt that this decision will cost the State over 700 jobs; it will cost this State tens of millions of dollars in royalties—money which we would not have had to pay in taxes if the Government had allowed mining to go ahead, but, more importantly, there will be a flow-on effect in other areas. Does the Government really believe that other mining companies will now come into South Australia and risk spending, as in the case of Honeymoon, \$10 000 000 and then not be allowed to get a cent from it? Does it think that they will take the risk of looking for minerals, knowing that if uranium is found they will not be allowed to go ahead and mine? Of course they will not. The decision that this Government has taken today will have repercussions for years and years to come and, I have no doubt, is the first nail in the coffin of this Government.

There is no doubt at all that the public was not made aware of the Government's intentions prior to the recent election. For the Premier to stand up and say that he had a mandate not to mine uranium could not be further from the truth. Before the State election he stated that Roxby Downs would go ahead; in other words, 'Let us support uranium mining.' Most of the public out there would have felt, 'Right, uranium mining is O.K. under Labor.' Then, before the Federal election, did this dishonest Government come out and say, 'We will not allow the mining of uranium to go ahead'? Oh, no, because it knew full well that, if it did that, a lot of support would be lost for the Labor Party

federally. Therefore, the present Government has absolutely no mandate to refuse uranium mining in this State, and it cannot say that it has.

An honourable member: Oh, what rot!

Mr ASHENDEN: The honourable member has led a sheltered life in a Public Service Association position where he has never had to fight for his life; he has had a secure job, could not be dismissed, and he has the gall to come in here and say that someone from private enterprise does not know what life is all about. I would like to point out to the honourable member that one of the big disadvantages of members who have not been in private enterprise is that they just cannot comprehend the situation under which companies operate. When a Government comes in and makes this sort of decision, private enterprise will be frightened, whether he likes it or not.

The Hon. J.W. Slater: You are a dill.

Mr ASHENDEN: I really would have thought that by now the Minister would have learned to be quiet after the statements that he made today which were so patently false. Yet, he comes in here and tries to carry on. I would have thought that the Minister would quit while he was only a little way behind. The dishonesty of the Tonkin Government—I mean the Bannon Government—

Members interjecting:

Mr ASHENDEN: The Tonkin Government was such an outstanding Government that one can always remember its name. I had trouble remembering the name of little John—sorry—Premier Bannon. The Bannon Government was dishonest not only in regard to uranium mining. Let us consider the pamphlet that was put out by the A.L.P. candidate in the District of Todd which reference to price rises since 1979. The candidate listed price rises, quite dishonestly in many cases, but did not point out that, when percentages are worked out, the price increases were not as great as the rate of inflation. Let us consider some of the specifics. The candidate referred to bread and stated the 1979 price, and he then listed the prices through to 1982, and criticised the previous Government for allowing the price of bread to increase.

The Hon. J.W. Slater interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr ASHENDEN: However, what do we find? Very shortly after the election of the Bannon Government, the price of bread increased by 3c a loaf. We were promised that price control would stop the price of bread from increasing. We have not seen that happen. The Minister of Consumer Affairs stated that that price rise was in order, and yet we find that any price rise under the previous Government should not have been allowed!

The candidate also referred to the price of beer. We all know that the price of beer has increased twice since the present Government was elected. The cost of a hospital bed is also referred to in the pre-election deceit. What do we find within two months of the election of this Government? The price of a hospital bed has increased phenomenally. I could refer to many other areas. What do we find? The now Government used dishonest scare tactics. Prices in many areas have been increased quite substantially since the present Government came to power.

Members opposite sit there and think, 'So what? We are used to being dishonest with the electorate anyway, so why worry? It goes on all the time.' Let us also consider some of the other aspects of the Government's actions (or lack of actions, which would be the better way to put it). I have been absolutely staggered at a lack of leadership that the South Australian Government has shown in relation to the wages pause. The Government has done a Pontius Pilate, which seems to be a fairly frequent occurrence in relation to this Government. It has stated, in regard to appearances

before the Industrial Commission, 'No, we won't appear. We don't think we should come in and interfere in any way with the processes in the wage area.'

That is not right: the Government should appear before the commission and it should point out quite clearly that, under the wages pause guidelines (which the Federal Government at least acknowledges should go ahead), the South Australian Government still is not prepared to go into battle to try to protect jobs in this State. If members opposite really believe that private enterprise is a bottomless pit and that money for wages can come from nowhere, then I am sorry, but they do not know the facts of life. Private industry is quite different to a socialist Government which, at the click of its fingers, can raise taxes to cover its expenses. Industry cannot do that.

There is only one way in which to curb costs and that is to increase the cost of produce that the company is selling. It does not take long before costs reach a point where the company is not competitive with overseas suppliers, for example. We wonder then why there are no jobs in Australia. There is no doubt whatsoever that, unless companies are given breathing space, they will not survive. One has only to look at the past few months and over the past few years to see how many businesses went out of operation because they could not afford to keep going. In today's situation, everything possible must be done to allow those industries to continue to operate. Overseas countries have acknowledged this. What do we find in the United States, for example? Unions support the reduction of wages and shorter working hours to keep their mates in work.

Members interjecting:

Mr ASHENDEN: The member for Brighton is going to be here only for three years, so perhaps she might learn something during these years. If she cares to look at some previous speeches and also at some of the records from the United States, she will find that what I have said is perfectly true. The unions have accepted the reduction of wages and working hours to keep up the number of jobs.

What do we find in Australia? We find that in fact Mr Lesse, Secretary of the U.T.L.C., has stated that the South Australian Industrial Commission has no need or requirement to adopt the national wage pause guidelines. The biggest expense that most industries have is their wages. It is not a truism but an absolute fact that one man's salary increase is another man's job. It is as simple as that.

Mr Mayes: What rot!

Mr ASHENDEN: Once again, the gentleman from the Public Service Association is the one who is most outspoken on this. I would suggest to him that he try to get some facts from his industrial mates who have at least been out in the real world.

The point is that wages are the biggest expense. I know from the industry I came from: I have seen both worlds. I came from the car industry, which was subjected to tremendous pressures, and we knew what it was like to have to squeeze every dollar. Before that, I was with the oil industry which had a lot of money and which the unions would screw unmercifully, and that is why those employees are the most highly paid workers in Australian society, apart from some of those in the outback mining areas. The point is this: because of union demands and because of the susceptibility of the supply of oil to industrial pressure, the unions can get wage increases from an industry that can afford it. That is one of the very few industries that can. I can tell the member for Unley that I was at Chryslers in the period when it almost 'went', and I do not think that members of the public will ever appreciate how close that company came to having to close its doors because of the losses occurring. That situation was turned around before I left Chryslers, I am proud to say. The turnaround occurred,

and Chryslers made its first profit. Therefore, I think I can comment on that, because I was involved deeply in discussions that occurred which led to that turnaround.

One of the things that did occur was that there was close consultation between management and the unions. To members opposite who think that we are union bashers, I point out that that is not the case. I worked very closely with the industrial section of Chryslers during those negotiations and I saw clearly what can happen when two such bodies work together.

Even then, with the agreement of the unions at that company, lay-offs occurred. In fact, the old policy of 'last on first off' (for the first time that I know of in Australian industry) was dispensed with by the agreement of the unions and the management. The result was that the work force in the company became dedicated, and that dedication has grown. I believe that this again is a result of deliberate attempts, not just by the Japanese owners but by the Australian management, to ensure that the workers there are kept in their confidence and given incentives to perform well. I am absolutely in agreement with that.

The point I am trying to make is that that company has again suffered a loss. It is working a four-day week with the agreement of the unions. I am raising this now to show that there are examples where there can be agreement. I would hope that Mr Lesses and some of the other union radicals will look at these examples and overseas examples where agreements in relation to true wage pauses and reductions in working hours to maintain jobs can and do work. Of course, it is very hard. Members opposite may not realise that every employee of Mitsubishi has had a 20 per cent reduction in his wages or salaries, from the Managing Director down through the ranks. It does not affect just one section of that work force. Mitsubishi has done that to ensure that the maximum number of people are retained by that company. In other words, it is better to have 2 000 people employed on 80 per cent salary than no people employed on no salary. It is something that more and more companies and unions are going to have to get together on; they must work out a system whereby the demands on the employers are reduced. Let us face facts: if a company cannot make money, it cannot stay in operation. It is as simple as that.

It cannot go out and raise taxes. Even Mr Hawke has agreed that a wage pause is an essential aspect, not just for six months because he is now starting to talk about 12 months. That is the best news that I have heard, and I hope that the Federal Government continues in that direction.

There were other points that I wished to make. I was going to address myself to the role of the South Australian Institute of Teachers in the election campaign and other points. However, I have given a commitment to the Government Whip that I would stop after 40 minutes because of the various commitments that have to be met for the rest of the evening. I hope that I will have opportunities in the future to air my other comments.

Mr PETERSON (Semaphore): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. Again, in this debate I know that I join illustrious company when I say that this debate in this House is really a waste of time. The previous member for Hartley, in one of his last contributions in this debate, said the same thing. My opinion has only been supported by what he said. I see no purpose in every member of the House getting an hour in which to ramble on about nothing. That is what has happened in the majority of cases. There have been some good contributions in the debate, but in the main they have been a waste of time. In line with that, I do not intend to speak for an hour. I refer to the previous speaker, the member for Todd. I am afraid

that in speeches by Opposition members there is obviously a feeling that it really has not happened, that the Government has not changed, but it has.

The Opposition must accept that the public in this State and subsequently throughout the country chose to alter the Government of the day. It is no good harping about what they said before and about what they were not going to do. We have a new State and Federal Government. These Governments will make decisions and will stand or fall by those decisions. We should clear up that aspect once and for all. That is what will happen.

Also, I refer to the fires and floods experienced recently in this State. I express my deepest sympathy to all those who have been affected. I know it does not help them much, but it has been a serious catastrophe in many people's lives, with people dying as well. I hope that the State and Federal Governments will do all in their power to help those people rebuild their lives and help the economy of the State and the country once again. There are a couple of other points that I want to make. One involves the equipment purchased by the State for State Government use. One area of concern brought to my attention involves boat builders in my district of whom there are quite a few. I refer to the interstate purchase of boats by Government departments. We had a thriving boat building industry in this State. To me there is no reason why that industry in this State cannot be supported and made viable and competitive.

Much reference has been made to the importation of technology to this State, especially to Technology Park, where a computer and microchip industry will be established. However, there are other areas in South Australia that could do with technological assistance and the importation of knowledge. One of the arguments advanced against the State buying boats in South Australia relates to the standard of boats, their quality, and the expertise that is put into them. Until such industries are supported or given support in technical knowledge and other assistance, that degree of expertise required will never be reached. The State should look seriously at some form of assistance to such industries. To highlight this area of concern, I refer to the boats that have been bought for use by the State in the last few years.

A 36ft. Randall survey boat was purchased from Western Australia for the Department of Marine and Harbors; a 25ft. Bertram was purchased from New South Wales for the Police Department; four 20ft. Shark Cats were purchased from Queensland for the Fisheries Department; I think there were a couple of Broadbill Cats purchased from Victoria for the Department of Marine and Harbors; a 33ft. pilot boat was supplied by Western Australia which I think may have gone to Stony Point; and a 23ft. prawn research vessel was purchased from Queensland for the Fisheries Department. An engine was even purchased from New South Wales for a Department of Fisheries boat. I also believe that two other Shark Cats were purchased from Queensland. That is quite a considerable expense to this State. Not one cent of that money was spent in this State: it all went out of the State, while the boatbuilding industry in South Australia is struggling for survival.

I refer now to steel equipment for Santos, particularly equipment for the treatment of steel by sandblasting, galvanising and other methods. I am well aware that people in this State have already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to set up plant to do this job. As I understand it, tenders for this work in South Australia are consistently let interstate, even to the stage where some interstate contractors who receive South Australian tenders come back to South Australia and subcontract the job to the South Australian tenderers. There is something wrong somewhere. Once again, that is money going out of this State.

I am aware that one steel treatment contractor included in his quote the cost of bringing a technical expert from the United States to supervise a job. His quote was still lower than interstate quotes, but the job still went interstate. That type of situation is not importing technology or helping in any way. As I have said, we need Government supervision or overseeing by the Government so that it can look at this area and advise those people in this State who are trying to keep jobs and develop industries in South Australia. Perhaps these people need assistance with their tendering, because they may not understand that area properly. They may need assistance with their applications or in the preparation of tenders for contracts. I think the Government should look at the help that is needed in this area.

I now refer to the sale of the North Haven harbor. It is a pity that this has been a matter for such debate in this House and in the community, but the harbor has now been sold. I do not necessarily think that that is a bad thing, going by a report in the *Advertiser* last Monday morning, which mentioned the expenditure of some \$100 000 000 over 10 years. If that occurs it will not do anyone any harm. I place on record that I think that this development will be a good thing for South Australia, and it will certainly be a good thing for the area that I represent. I hope the area involved is ratable for the Port Adelaide council, because that is not the case under the current conditions.

I am concerned that under the current provisions, as I understand it, the council will have no control over development in this area. That takes away any input from residents or from the council. That is one area that may need a little investigation. Apart from that, on the surface it appears at this stage that this development can only be good for South Australia.

The member for Todd seems to have left the Chamber, but while I am talking about State industries I will refer briefly to Colan Shipbuilders, in Port Adelaide, which has currently gone into receivership and put hundreds of men out of work through its inability to pay severance and holiday pay. Several of my constituents who have worked for Colan Shipbuilders for some time have approached me. One of them was due to go on leave this week. He turned up for work the other week and was told that he would not receive anything. He did not receive any severance or holiday pay and was given time and a half for the day he had worked that week. While we have situations like that we will never see a stop to industrial disputes in this country. That type of situation is not fair to workers. If that happened to any member of this House—if a member came here next week and was told that he had no job from then on and was paid for his time up until that day—

Mr Klunder: That happened to me.

Mr PETERSON: A member informs me that he has had that experience. I can say no more than that it is not fair and it is not just. While that situation occurs we will always have industrial conflicts in our State and our country.

Again, on the matter concerning people out of work, I had a telephone call yesterday and I hope that at least one member can give me the answer here, because I do not know what it is. The caller said, 'I am out of work. I have tried but I cannot get a job. My wife has taken a job to try to help us out. She earns about \$200 a week. When we pay our commitments that we undertook while I was employed, we have \$30 or \$40 to live on.' This person is not entitled to any assistance whatsoever, and he and his family have nowhere to turn. There is nobody to help them: there is not one agency. I put this matter before the Parliament hoping to receive an answer because I cannot give these people one.

That is the sort of problem occurring in our community now. The talk about taxes, problems involved in the change

in Government and problems of being misrepresented at election time all fade away to nothing. Here is a man with a young Australian family trying to make his way in South Australia. There is no hope at all—no way out of the problem in which he finds himself and which he had nothing at all to do in creating.

I turn now to the Ramsay Trust, the idea of which I think was good. However, I did not think that it would work from day one because of its structure. I am not an economist or a banker but it seemed to me that it was aimed to get many of the funds in the community which are now put away in non-interest-bearing deposits, or not available in the general money market. The point is that there is no way that one can get pensioners' funds (or granny funds, as I think they are called in some areas) into a Government area. There is no way that a pensioner would take his money out of a non-interest-bearing deposit in the bank and put it into what he believes is a Government-controlled fund, purely because he fears that someone will find out what he has.

If one wants that to work (and I think that it can work: I spoke in this House some time ago about access to those funds in non-interest-bearing deposits in banks and building societies in this State and the country as a whole), one has to make it attractive to people. One has to guarantee the people concerned that it will not affect their well-being or the benefits they get, that the funds will be safe, as I think that they would have been in the Ramsay Trust, and that it will not work against the people who put their money in there. I think that it is unreasonable to expect that great masses of people will rush forward and put their money into an inflation-indexed fund. One will not get the average money, available generally, because it will go into high-interest areas. However, there is a possibility of getting some of the money in that non-interest-bearing area of the economy, but only if one protects the people who put it in there.

The other area about which I wish to speak very briefly is the last State election. I think that the result was a good one. Yes, I think that it was timely. I got in, too, which is very important, of course.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: An increased majority!

Mr PETERSON: I just happen to have here the figures for Semaphore. I would like to congratulate the candidates who stood in Semaphore. In particular, I would like to congratulate the A.L.P. candidate, Mr Peter Bignell, who ran a very good campaign and worked very hard. Through no fault of his own, I won. However, he ran a good campaign and I congratulate him for that. I also congratulate the Liberal candidate. There was no animosity at all in the campaign, and it worked obviously well, because I am here.

The Hon. R.G. Payne: You could say that about Coles: through no fault of her own, she won.

Mr PETERSON: I am not sure of the results in Coles. However, there was a significant result in Semaphore. The reason it is significant is that I am an Independent and my vote increased. There must be a message there for all politicians and the political system in this State, because I increased my percentage from 31.7 per cent in 1979 to something like 46.8 per cent in 1982, and it will probably go over 50 per cent next time. However, it was a good result for all. I would like to say that I am sorry to see many of the older members leave the Parliament.

Mr Trainer: Some of the younger ones, too.

Mr PETERSON: I will come to them. The former member for Hartley and the former member for Unley were two old stagers in the game who helped me a lot when I came into this Chamber. They gave me a lot of good advice and one would not have expected anything less from them. They helped me at times when I was in a corner, and I would like to again register my thanks to them.

The member for Todd mentioned 'oncers' in this House. I might point out that that was said in relation to me when I first came here. Therefore, honourable members should be careful when using those terms, because they have a habit of coming back at one.

The Hon. R.G. Payne interjecting:

Mr PETERSON: He is a twicer, but he suggested that someone would be here only once. As I have said, that is a very difficult prediction to make in this place, and so it should be, because the choice regarding an elected member is up to the public of this State.

I believe that the Address in Reply debate is a criminal waste of time and that the time for the debate should be somewhat cut down. New members could be given an hour in which to speak, because every new member has the intention of changing the world during the first hour that they are allotted in this House. However, half an hour would be sufficient for subsequent Address in Reply speeches. Perhaps that extra half an hour could be used for grievance debates during private members' time following Question Time on Wednesdays, which would serve a much better purpose than does the Address in Reply. No-one listens to it, anyway. There is no press here at the moment and if one had an earth-shattering statement to make no-one would hear it. Any point that was made by an honourable member on a Wednesday afternoon, for example, would be more likely to be taken up by the press. Let us not kid ourselves that politics in this House really concerns the 6 o'clock news, and if this change was made it would be much more effective for the member concerned, his electorate and the South Australian public. I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to speak in this debate. I can guarantee that I will not take more than half an hour in any such debate.

Mr TRAINER (Ascot Park): I rise on this occasion to make the final contribution to the Address in Reply debate in this current session. I hope that it will also be the last contribution made to the Address in Reply in its current format. I am entirely in concurrence with the comments made by the member for Semaphore and with those made by other members who have said that the traditional format, in effect, seems merely to be that of an extended grievance debate.

I will be commenting on several topics that could well be covered by separate grievance debates, if we had them more regularly. However, we do not have them regularly, as usually they disappear from the agenda because of the lateness of the hour. So, instead, I will use most of the three-quarters of an hour that I have available to me before concluding the debate by 10 o'clock, when a grievance debate will take place as scheduled. I can see that the member for Albert Park is pleased because he always makes a good contribution to grievance debates. I can understand his frustration as a back-bencher, in that opportunities for grievance debates do not come as often as they could. This frustration applies to back-benchers on both sides.

In theory, we could have 46 of the 47 members of this House taking part in the Address in Reply debate. In practice, the 10 Ministers in the House of Assembly do not take part, but that still leaves the possibility of 36 members speaking for an hour each—36 wasted hours spread over several weeks, which is a horrifying prospect. Fortunately, on this occasion members have been a little more concise with their contributions, for which I thank members on both sides of the Chamber. Some members have taken up their full hour, but others have by some miraculous means been able to restrict themselves to three quarters of an hour or half an hour. Some may say that members do not have to use their full hour, but I think that in this respect Parkinson's law tends to operate, and the speech expands to fill the time

available. So, if an hour is provided, people tend to use the full hour.

I have previously commented several times on the Address in Reply debate. When I first came into this Chamber in 1979 I did not comment on it: I dutifully followed tradition and spoke for an hour on a subject that I have long since forgotten. It was recorded in *Hansard*, at great expense to the taxpayer, but what purpose did that one hour contribution that I made in October 1979 serve? It was not reported by the press. Very few people would have read it in *Hansard*. Hardly anybody was in the Chamber listening to it, and I do not blame them, because if I cannot remember what the speech was about it could not have been a particularly good one.

How many people are present tonight? It is fortunate that we have a reasonable complement of people in the Chamber at the moment, but it is not unusual to see one person speaking in almost solitary splendour, perhaps with only one or two others on his side of the Chamber for company, and with a similar handful on the other side of the Chamber. He is, in effect, addressing an almost empty Chamber, an empty gallery and, in most cases, an empty press gallery. Only *Hansard*, the clerks and the Speaker have to sit and listen to it.

In 1980 I was a little bolder. A large proportion of my Address in Reply contribution on that occasion was devoted to pointing out the inadequacy of that debate. At that stage I proposed that we should have a reduction in that debate and have more grievance debates—something along the lines just mentioned by the member for Semaphore. I returned to that theme in 1981, although on that occasion I also referred to the occasional temptation of people to misuse the Address in Reply debate, which I believe was done on that occasion by the then member for Brighton, with a contribution that did get some press coverage. Of course, that may have been the intention.

Last year I again referred to the inadequacy of the Address in Reply debate. I was starting to sound like a cracked record on the subject at that stage in mentioning the inadequacy of the traditional format. I did not propose that it be dispensed with completely. Obviously, out of respect to the Governor, parts of the traditional format must remain, but I do not see why the maximum of one hour should be given to every single member of the House. I suggest that the mover and seconder have an hour, that new members, if they should be crazy enough to want to use a full hour for their maiden speech, be given an hour and, possibly, because it provides an important forum for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, they also should be given the opportunity to use the full hour. But, other members should have their time reduced to a maximum of 15 or 20 minutes, so it would then only be double the length of a grievance debate. Perhaps half an hour, at the most, would be sufficient.

The argument from some back-benchers would be that the 'extended grievance time' of the Address in Reply debate is useful and that they may not wish to give it up. As the member for Semaphore suggested, I also suggest that we could have a sort of trade-off whereby far more grievance debates could be provided in the course of the year. I suggest that, first, there be a reduction in the three possible grievance debates late at night to two, one from each side of the Chamber, as they are not very valuable grievance opportunities in one respect. As I pointed out earlier, although it is on the Notice Paper, that debate often disappears from the proceedings because we sit past 10 p.m. When that happens we do not go into the adjournment debate and the three people who have been waiting notes in hand to make their contribution do not get the opportunity. That can happen day after day. In fact, it is possible for a couple of

weeks to go by before a person has an opportunity to raise something that may be of immediate importance.

Therefore I suggest reducing the three 'possible' grievance debates each day to two and add to that two 'definite' grievance debates in what I would call 'prime time', when the press is present, the gallery is packed and those back-benchers would have an opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution in front of an audience on a topic that they consider important. I would place that 'definite' grievance debate at the conclusion of Question Time each day, when one person on each side of the Chamber would be able to have a grievance contribution guaranteed, except when urgency debates or no-confidence motions pushed them aside. Of course, that should not happen very often.

It is important for members to have an opportunity, other than merely asking questions, to bring what they consider are important issues or grievances of their constituents to the attention of the public. So often one receives a request from a person in one's constituency to raise something in Parliament and then the opportunity does not arise.

I mentioned earlier that I would like to make several contributions that could perhaps be covered by separate grievances, but I hope, as the next few minutes unfold, that it will be seen that they share a common theme regarding the standard of political debate in this country. I would refer first to the style of campaigning that we have seen far too often in this country, a theme on which I made some remarks at the declaration of the Kingston poll last week. I now would like to deal with it in a little more detail.

I consider it rather ironic that, shortly after the State election last year, *Time* magazine carried a rather good two-page essay entitled *Slinging Mud and Money*, sub-titled 'In big-buck campaigns, the price of victory could be scruples'. It was dated 15 November 1982, and, referring to political campaigning in the United States, it states:

Like spending, negative campaigning this year reached heights not experienced in a long time.

It suggested that:

One reason is that candidates have more money to hire consultants and admen who will search out, or if necessary invent, flaws in an opponent's record and then craft ads that will magnify and distort them.

It also states:

Depending on your view of human nature, you aim for a voter's baser instincts or his hopes and aspirations.

That was said by Senator Hart of California. Recent elections have shown the complete contrast in styles of the two major political Parties in this country in that regard. Fortunately, as was pointed out in the United States, some of the worst advertising failed or even boomeranged. Again, that applies particularly in this country. It is so easy to have negative advertising so blatant that it infuriates voters. I hope that some of the atrocious election campaigning that was conducted in the electorate of Unley, for example, or to a lesser extent in my electorate, in November last year will not be repeated.

An honourable member: Don't bet on it.

Mr TRAINER: The track record, as the honourable member points out, is such that one would not want to bet on it but, nevertheless, there is a bit of soul searching going on amongst people opposite and we can hope that they will have a change of attitude. Similarly we saw the same thing on a State-wide basis. We saw it in the Western Australian election. Earlier than that, of course, we saw the same sort of negative smearing approach used in the Victorian election. We saw it come to a head in the Federal election just a couple of weeks ago.

I shall refer momentarily to the sort of campaign that was waged in my area. I will not comment on some of the eccentricities of my opponent, because to refer in any detail

to his strange donation of \$1 500 to the Public Service Board and his \$500 donation to the Marion City Council as part of his election campaign and to suggest that that would be in breach of certain bribery conditions of the Electoral Act would be to be making the same sort of personal attack as he made on me. So, I will not deal with that in any detail. However, I was rather disappointed with a leaflet which appeared in letterboxes in my area in the last three days of the campaign and which was also published in the local *Guardian*. It was rather a strong personal attack on me.

Because I wish to keep my remarks fairly short, I will not deal with that in any detail. I have already remarked on it on a previous occasion and that was reported in the *Advertiser*, so I will not do so now, except to say that it obviously backfired, judging by the reaction that I got from constituents who wrote letters of support and approached me personally; people who had never been Labor voters in their lives offered to letterbox and doorknock and so forth on my behalf, and a lot of letters went into the local Messenger Press condemning the Liberals for their approach. But it did not seem to make much difference, because the Federal candidate in Hawker a few months later was using the same sort of personal attack, criticising Ralph Jacobi, the member for Hawker, who is well known as one of the most loyal people as far as the interests of his constituents are concerned, saying, in the February 19 *Advertiser*, that 'Ralph Jacobi's heart has not been in the electorate for some time'. I think that that person showed just how out of touch he was with the electorate to make a comment such as that.

We saw more smear and fear and loathing, and all the rest of it, in the Western Australian election. I commend to members an article that appeared in the *Western Mail* of 5-7 March, entitled, 'Dirty tricks row over votes from bush', which once again catalogues a whole series of attempts by the Liberal Party in Western Australia to cheat Aborigines out of their vote. What also stung me was the anti-union approach taken by the Western Australian Liberal Party. It was certainly not very effective, because the 8 per cent swing was the largest State swing ever recorded in Western Australia, as far as I am aware, against the Liberals.

An advertisement which appeared in the *West Australian* on 18 February, the day before the election, repeated some of the advertisements that had appeared previously. Under the heading 'Who is the Labor Leader?', the advertisements referred to Brian Burke with Kevin Reynolds and Norm Gallagher on each side, or with Jack Marks and Peter Cook on each side. He was also featured with Halfpenny, Gallagher, and all sorts of people. It went on to such an extent that finally one of the newspapers in Western Australia published a cartoon with Brian Burke between Ghengis Khan and Atilla the Hun! The Labor Party did not respond in kind to that sort of fear and loathing campaign. In fact, Brian Burke ran a very simple advertisement in the newspaper in the form of a letter dated 17 February 1983, as follows:

To the Electors of Western Australia:

It's disappointing that in the final stages of the election, our opponents have decided to wage an unfair and dishonest campaign to denigrate me personally and attack the Party I lead.

This style of advertising is inappropriate in view of the serious problems facing Western Australia today and I have advised all Labor supporters and Party officials that I will have no part in answering it. The Labor Party has conducted a positive campaign and I prefer to stand above such negative propaganda.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Burke

It is pretty clear from that letter which Leader and which Party were taking the statesmanlike approach.

The anti-union smear was not new: it has been around for a long time. We saw a good example of that in regard to the present member for Florey in the by-election held a couple of months before the general State election. A leaflet

asked, 'Do you want another left-wing union leader in Parliament?' Obviously, that was correct: obviously, the people of Florey said, 'Yes', judging by results! The pamphlet stated:

The Labor Party has endorsed a left-wing union leader as its candidate for Florey to join Peter Duncan's growing influence in the A.L.P. and the Parliament.

The pamphlet further refers to Roxby Downs and exaggerates the thousands of jobs that it would create. It further states:

The reintroduction of death duties remains a possibility.

That is a good one. The Liberals even trotted that out for the Federal campaign and stated that the Labor Party would be 'taxing the savings of the dead'.

One prime example of a rather unfortunate style of campaigning occurred in Kingston. My district does not come into Kingston, but it is adjacent, and so I had a certain amount of interest in what happened there, because I wanted to see one more Labor colleague in Canberra—and we were successful in that regard.

At the declaration of the poll last Thursday, the former member made some pretty outrageous comments about the campaign. To listen to him, one would not have thought that he actually lost at the election. The former member went through some strange statistics in describing the situation, saying that if one takes off 1 per cent for this and 2 per cent for something else—

Ms Lenehan interjecting:

Mr TRAINER: And the donkey vote, as the member for Hartley has pointed out. We were not quite sure whether the former member actually conceded defeat. In one respect he has adopted a dog-in-the-manger attitude: I understand that he is determined to hang on to the electorate office to the last possible minute. In fact, the new member for Kingston will not be able to get in there until two weeks after the declaration of the poll—not two weeks after the election.

Mr Groom interjecting:

Mr TRAINER: I suppose that that would be a *de facto* concession. Listening to the former member outlining the fact that one could take off certain percentages for various reasons, I was reminded of the person who was told that, if he installed a certain carburettor, he would have improved consumption of 25 per cent, while a transistorised ignition would improve consumption by 30 per cent and several other gadgets would give improvements of 30 per cent and 40 per cent, and so on, to the point where he complained that the petrol tank overflowed!

The Kingston campaign began on a moderate level. The incumbent member put away his B.M.W. in his garage and trotted around in a well-used Sigma station wagon (or what the newspapers described as a dilapidated Land Rover) to show his support for the local car industry. The first advertisements that appeared in the newspapers tended to stress the allegedly high profile of the Liberal candidate. However, despite his high profile, the *Sunday Mail* of 6 February, somehow or other, published a photo of him and his Labor opponent, but the names in the caption were switched. I do not know how that came about. Certainly, his high profile did not prove to be much of a drawcard at meetings in the area. On the *Advertiser* front page of 22 February there appeared a photo of the Treasurer of the nation addressing an audience of 30 people at O'Halloran Hill.

Mr Groom: That was a big meeting for them.

Mr TRAINER: That was apparently one of the bigger meetings. On 2 March, the *Advertiser* described Mr McPhee, the then Minister of Employment and Industrial Relations, plus the former incumbent, as trying to play King Canute as a tide of workers poured past them at the Lonsdale Mitsubishi plant. As the last weeks progressed the campaign got a bit nasty; 100 of the Labor candidate Gordon Bilney signs disappeared or were damaged or covered with red paint swastikas at cost of about \$400, and there was a break-

in at the campaign office and also into a private home. The Liberal slurs against Gordon Bilney escalated; a lot was made about the fact that he had been a diplomat overseas.

On 1 March, the incumbent referred to Mr Bilney as a 'last minute import in the electorate who had not lived in South Australia for 16 years'. By the time he had commented the next day, the 16 years had grown to 17. The advertisements got more strident and more desperate as the week progressed. We heard of things such as 'Hawke and union bosses', and '\$4 000 000 000 spending, higher taxation, higher interest rates, union control', and so on, on the Friday. Earlier in that week it had been claimed that if people wanted to keep their home mortgage payments down then they must re-elect Grant Chapman. There had been a bit about unknown imports, and so on, on the previous Monday. But things really started to get very, very bad on the Friday with a disappointing piece of journalism by Alex Kennedy. On this occasion it was reported that the period that the Labor candidate had been out of South Australia had grown to 26 years. There is something a little bit strange about the stress put on the fact that Gordon Bilney had been out of the country. I would have thought that a prime quality diplomat, who was appearing as an ambassador for his country, by definition would have to be out of the country. I do not know how it could work otherwise.

An honourable member: It's handy, anyway, for casting aspersions.

Mr TRAINER: That is right. To suggest that there is something wrong with a person being a diplomat and nominating for preselection is in effect to say that one of the most highly qualified professions is such that people are permanently restricted or excluded from ever applying for a Parliamentary position, and that someone who has got some real talent that he can contribute to the Federal Parliament should be excluded, according to that approach. The article of Alex Kennedy's led up to what I believe was the most scurrilous advertisement appearing in the metropolitan area in South Australia. Suddenly, for some reason that I cannot imagine, other than maybe out of sheer desperation, the Liberals decided to make the wife of the Labor candidate the key issue. It was apparently considered rather wrong that she should be bringing up the children in Canberra and maintaining their schooling there, rather than disturbing it purely for the sake of an electoral campaign.

The advertisement appearing on the morning of the election stated:

Come clean, Mr Bilney. It was reported in the *Advertiser* yesterday that your wife and children had remained at the family home in Canberra during the campaign.

It goes on further. Some people connected with that advertisement obviously have a lot to answer for between themselves and their consciences. The authorisation that appeared at the bottom of it is a gentleman by the name of Eric Isaachsen. I understand that he is a member of the Australia Day Council; certainly, the annual report of 1982 lists him as one of the members of that committee. He certainly does not seem to consider it un-Australian to endorse a campaign advertisement of such a scurrilous nature.

I understand that someone else who may be connected with that advertisement is David Harris, of Creative Services. In all fairness, since I am mentioning that gentleman's name in Parliament, I point out that this is something that has been suggested to me and I have not had the time or the research facilities to check it out. I am advised that the Mr David Harris who compiled that advertisement in conjunction with Mr Isaachsen is also responsible for some of the advertisements that have appeared above names such as Nigel Buick, and so on.

The Hon. W.E. Chapman: Get your facts in order.

Mr TRAINER: I am being very careful how I say this, because I think this is significant: he may well have been connected with some of the other advertisements that appeared last election above strange addresses, such as Whyalla, Port Lincoln, and so forth, presumably so that the Liberal Party will not bear the odium for its own dirt.

The Hon. R.G. Payne: Ted is touchy about Nigel.

Mr TRAINER: I have noticed that, but I will not remark on it. The honourable member is upset by two election results already, and I would not want to upset him further by commenting in that regard. These advertisements are scurrilous, and whoever is responsible ought to take a good look at themselves and their consciences.

I do not know whether this is as a result of the phenomenon I mentioned earlier about the effect of 'big bucks' on campaign styles, but I refer to the amount of money that was floating around in Kingston. Before referring to some of the expenditure that actually took place, I would like to read a few quotes from a letter sent out to Liberal Party members in the Federal District of Kingston on Parliament of Australia letterhead. The letter, subtitled 'Kingston Liberal Campaign Headquarters', and dated 9 February 1983, appeals for support and refers to the dreadful Labor Party that is going to take over. It does not go as far as the sort of approach of the Prime Minister, that we should kill our children before the communists eat them. It is mild in comparison with that. The letter goes on to state:

The Labor Party, with the support of the trade union movement, is mounting a massive campaign in Kingston. We understand it has a budget of at least \$50 000 in this seat.

Yes, \$50 000! I can see the member for Mitchell looking around, because he and I both know the sort of shoestring budgets on which the A.L.P. tends to operate. Although we are not desperate for money, because we do have people who are willing to put their hands in their pockets to a certain extent, we would be flabbergasted to have \$50 000 to spend in a Federal electorate. I can assure the House that the amount of money involved in the Kingston campaign would have been about half of that, at most. Indeed, I understand that it stayed close to its budget, which is about half the amount cited in this 'fear and loathing' letter.

This letter also talks about the Labor candidate's time overseas, although in this letter the period has dropped a year and is down to '15 years overseas'. While I think of it, in reference to the business of the funds that the Labor Party has in Kingston, I can assure Opposition members that there was not any substantial trade union movement contribution at the local level. A few small amounts may have been contributed but, in the main, honourable members will find that what the Labor Party spends in a Federal or State district is what is raised at the local level by Labor sub-branch members and candidates doing it the hard way.

I notice that I do not have many members opposite in attendance. Perhaps what I am saying is too hard for them to take. The letter, addressed to all Liberal Party members in Kingston, further states:

As you hold Liberal Party membership, may we ask for a contribution of \$50?

It goes on to state:

This may seem a large amount.

I do not know what sort of people are members of the Liberal Party; they are certainly different from members of the Labor Party. We just have ordinary people as members. We do not have plutocrats who can easily dip into their pockets for \$50. The letter continues:

You may be in a position to provide more than \$50, and for that we would be most grateful.

The letter is signed by John Sandover, Chairman of the Kingston Liberal Campaign Committee, and by Grant Chapman, the former member for Kingston.

The Hon. R.G. Payne: They have probably taken it out of a family trust.

Mr TRAINER: They could have a family trust, for all I know. Some of the things that happen on the other side are such that I am sure that if Al Capone was alive today he would have got a knighthood from the Liberal Party.

The information which I am about to give the House obviously comes from a biased source but, nevertheless, the people concerned have attempted to be reasonably fair with the estimates that they have made. Before me I have some estimates by us of the campaign expenditure over three weeks by the Liberals in Kingston in February/March 1983. I could perhaps ask for it to be inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it, although it does contain a certain amount of verbiage as well as statistical information.

The SPEAKER: I am afraid that that is not possible under existing Standing Orders.

Mr TRAINER: In those circumstances, Sir, I will read them out. I concede that they are only rough estimates. Liberal Party expenditure includes four full-page *News* advertisements at about \$4 000 each, totalling \$16 000. There were several local press advertisements, some of which were shared. For example, there was an advertisement for Hawker and Kingston together—and there is nothing wrong with that, it is fair enough—amounting to about \$3 000. *Advertiser* press advertisements amounted to about \$4 000. In relation to leaflets, one was released in full colour, which would have cost about \$8 000 to distribute; another was in two colours, which would have cost about \$4 000; and two plain leaflets would have cost about \$3 000. The total cost for those leaflets would have been about \$15 000. There were also about 20 television spots at \$1 100 each, amounting to \$22 000. We did not have anyone available to monitor the radio and record how many advertisements were broadcast, but they seemed to be going to air at about three for every one of the Labor Party advertisements. Therefore, we tripled the cost of the Labor Party advertisements and estimated that the Liberals spent about \$8 000. We estimated that about \$2 000 was spent on posters. Office rental for four weeks for two sites, one at Reynella and one on Brighton Road, would have cost about \$1 000.

Mr Gregory: Red spray paint.

Mr TRAINER: We could put something down for red spray paint after what happened to many of the Labor Party posters. Telephone charges for the two offices I have mentioned would have cost about \$500. Miscellaneous costs, including sign writing, would have been about \$1 000, and I suppose that that would be the best expenditure line to include the red spray paint. I also refer to postage for 40 000 personal letters from the Liberal candidate. It is significant that, apparently, the Liberal Party is a bit short of troops on the ground, because it used the postal service instead of volunteer delivery as the Labor Party usually does. Those personal letters to 40 000 homes amounted to \$5 000. How-to-vote cards would have cost the same as ours, which is about \$4 000. The amount spent in Kingston over the space of about three weeks by the Liberal Party amounts to about \$81 500.

Mr Groom: \$1 per elector.

Mr TRAINER: Yes, that works out to about \$1 per elector; whereas the Labor Party campaign worked out to about 30c per elector. In other words, the Liberal Party spent about 3½ times more than that spent by the Labor Party. The Liberal Party also threw in a lot of dirt and still got done.

The Hon. R.G. Payne: That means we've got better business acumen—we got a better return for our investment.

Mr TRAINER: Yes, we certainly got a better return for our investment, which may prove that we are better business managers.

Mr Meier: It is only a short-term return, John.

Mr TRAINER: Earlier I saw, or could hear, an honourable member opposite shaking his head at the figures that I was citing, because I pointed out that they had come from Labor Party estimates. That could well mean that they are biased in that respect. However, we attempted to make fairly conservative estimates based on the information available. Even if we are out by a factor of 10 per cent, that is still a prodigious sum to float around. On the other hand, if the Liberals disagree with those figures, let them publish their balance sheet for each of their campaigns in the 11 Federal electorates in South Australia. I challenge them to do that. I also challenge them to publish the source of their funds, but that is something that I am sure that I will not be taken up on.

The Hon. R.G. Payne: No problems.

Mr TRAINER: I am pretty confident about that. However, they may have to do so sometime in the near future, because the State and Federal Electoral Acts, particularly at Federal level, are due for an overhaul. I understand that the new Special Minister of State, Mr Young, will look closely at that aspect of funding for political Parties.

I could make quite a few remarks about the overall standard of the campaign from coast to coast across Australia. For example, I could refer to the fact that I had no sympathy whatsoever for the former Prime Minister as he shed a tear late on 5 March or early on 6 March. I tend to agree with the remarks of the Premier of New South Wales, Neville Wran, when he was reported in the Monday morning's *Advertiser* as follows:

How can I feel sorry for him when I heaved a sigh of relief at his departure? I think he rather went out like he came in—like the school ground bully.

Politicians do not have high repute in the community. It is part of Australian folklore to look down on Australian politicians. It is one of the crosses that we must bear in the profession we have chosen. However, it certainly does not have to be as bad as it has been in the past few years. I refer to the standard of conduct of the Fraser Government, the continuous scandals, the jobs for the boys, the contradictions, the straight-out lies, and the broken promises. Mr Fraser and his supporters have a lot for which to answer for what they have done to lower the standard of politics in this country over the last seven or eight years.

Mr Groom: Where do you think their style of campaign got them?

Mr TRAINER: It did not get them anywhere, and that is what delights me. I am delighted that they have come 'a cropper' this time in using those old techniques that they have used effectively in the past: it no longer works.

I refer to a brief article by Des Colquhoun on the front page of the *Advertiser* where he refers to the 'L plate politicians', taking up a comment that Doug Anthony had made. He said that 'L plate' must surely stand for 'Liar-plate'. He went on to say:

Every politician must learn to be a liar . . .

He also said:

In politics such behaviour is not considered wicked.

He went on further:

If an ambitious politician has passed his L-plate test, he may become . . . Prime Minister. And then he can lie outrageously about when he's going to call an election—or not—and why, or why not. Hardly anyone will raise an eyebrow.

To me, apart from the remarks about money under the beds and Bob Hawke's quite witty reply (that will probably go down as one of the political quotes of the decade—it certainly appeared in both *Time* and *Newsweek*—that 'little old ladies cannot put their money under the bed because

that is where the "Commies" are'), I think that the most significant quotation to come out of the Federal campaign centres around the questions asked by George Negus on *60 Minutes* on Sunday 27 February, the week prior to the day of the election. The fact that there was no reaction to that question and its answers was very significant. People should have been shocked and horrified at the question that was directed to the Prime Minister of this country. I will read it to the House:

Negus: Mr Fraser, with a week to go to polling day, there are probably hundreds of thousands of people out there who believe that ultimately they can't trust you, that when the political chips are down you've told lies. How does that leave you feel . . .

Fraser: Well it doesn't happen to be correct . . .

Negus: But the performance you have given this week could only be regarded as a rather liberal use of the truth so far as your opponents' policies are concerned.

Fraser: Not at all . . .

Regarding the rather ironic phrase in there, 'A rather liberal use of the truth,' we could perhaps put a capital 'L' on that 'Liberal use of the truth' and suggest that that is the way they have used it for years.

Nevertheless, the most significant thing to me in that is that when Mr Negus said to the Prime Minister of this country on a very high rating television programme, 'When the political chips are down, you have told lies,' the reaction should have been shock, horror, consternation, amazement and disgust. However, no-one batted an eyelid, because that is what that man and his Party have done to the standard of political debate and conduct in this country. It has become taken for granted and accepted as normal that politicians tell lies and, if one is not a very good politician, one does not tell lies; that one should tell quite a few of them if one is to be successful. Think of all the pats on the back that Mr Fraser has had over the last seven or eight years, and the admiring editorials on the 'shrewd' Prime Minister.

I will leave that line of remark now because we are approaching 10 o'clock and I promised members that I would try to arrange for the House to conclude at a reasonable hour tonight. However, I hope that the Liberals opposite and their colleagues at Federal level and interstate can see that the negative approach in Australia is no longer accepted, and I hope that they will take stock of themselves. In particular, I hope that they will heed the following advice of the *Advertiser* in its editorial on the Monday after the election:

But all must now be prepared to accept the responsibility of trying to co-operate in making the new Labor Government's plans work. To do otherwise would be to defy the clearly expressed wishes of the majority of Australians and to damage the prospect of economic recovery from which all will benefit.

I challenge them to do so at both State and Federal level, to accept the responsibility of trying to co-operate in making the new Labor Government's plans work and not to carry on like the Liberal Opposition between 1972 and 1975. The Whitlam Government, whatever problems it might have had from inexperience and from coming into Government after 23 years on the Opposition benches, nevertheless never really got a chance to get off the ground, because the Liberals conducted a continuous guerilla warfare from two levels: from the States on one side, the overwhelming majority of the States at that time being non-Labor States, and from the Liberal control of the Senate, culminating in the events of 11 November 1975, when Malcolm Fraser put himself into power on a dead man's vote.

I now conclude by pointing out that I wind up my remarks with double pleasure: my pleasure in the results of the recent elections and what they signify, and my pleasure in making what I hope will be the last Address in Reply contribution under the traditional format.

Motion carried.

**LAW COURTS (MAINTENANCE OF ORDER) ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. R.G. PAYNE (Minister of Mines and Energy): I move:
That the House do now adjourn.

Mr BAKER (Mitcham): I want to address my remarks to the matter of Government initiatives.

The Hon. J.W. Slater: All of them—it will take a long time.

Mr BAKER: Yes, all of them; it can be easily done.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAKER: As a new member of Parliament I am appalled at the lack of new business before the House.

The Hon. J.W. Slater: We have been back for only a week.

Mr BAKER: That is a week too long, Jack.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAKER: I have been an avid follower of Parliament for some 18 years and a reader of *Hansard*, and I cannot remember the House introducing business so slowly.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAKER: Before us we have a portfolio of 19 Bills: three have come from the Upper House, one is a new initiative and the rest have resulted from actions taken by the Liberal Government before it departed from power on 6 November 1982.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAKER: There is one new initiative that was passed in this House, and I refer to betting on the Bay Sheffield. That is an absolute indictment of the Government after having been in office for five months. The Government has no new business before the House. I remind members that when the Labor Party was elected to office on 6 November 1982 certain promises were made to the electorate. I can see members opposite smiling smugly. The member for Ascot Park referred to lies, but lies are inherent in the Government's inactivity, because the Labor Party promised so much. During the campaign, members of the Labor Party talked about unemployment, housing interest rates, and a whole range of things that were outside the control of the State Government, and said that they could fix them. However, we have had one Bill before the House, and that was to enable betting on the Bay Sheffield. During the Address in Reply debate the Independent member for Semaphore and the member for Ascot Park mentioned that the Address in Reply needs to be changed. I can only agree with them. However, without the Address in Reply debate the Parliament would not have sat for five months, because there has been no business before the House. This is a Government of inactivity, and it is about time that members of the Government showed a few ideas.

Members interjecting:

Mr BAKER: I would say that my understanding is better than that of the member for Mawson, because new Bills can be introduced before the Address in Reply is concluded. However, they have not been forthcoming. At least some of the Government members in the Upper House have shown a little more initiative than was shown by members in this place. Members opposite have been saved by the Address in Reply. I find it rather ironic that, whilst I agree

with the member for Ascot Park about the need for change, the Address in Reply is the very thing that has maintained the Government business before the House, for without it nothing would have been done for five months.

I would like to take up in this grievance debate the actions of the Premier. There has been a lot of discussion about consensus and co-operation. I believe that I am a reasonable man and that every other member in this House is a reasonable person. What we want is consensus and co-operation.

We have had the spectacle, on three occasions since this House has been sitting this year, of the Premier standing up and saying that he wants co-operation. Each time that he has said this the Premier has been under pressure because of mistakes made by his Government. It is the bleating of a man who cannot achieve. The Opposition will give co-operation. There was the Ramsay Trust, when the Premier rose to his feet and asked the Opposition not to be negative, saying that the Government did not want criticism. In fact, if one makes mistakes in Government, one pays the price. It is amazing that the Government has made any mistakes because it has done nothing.

There have been the matters of the Ramsay Trust, the Ombudsman and, more recently, the Honeymoon development project. All one hears from the other side of the Chamber is bleating that they want co-operation. I am a South Australian and I want to see South Australia progress, but there is nothing coming from the Government at the moment.

Mr Groom: You can support my motion tomorrow.

Mr BAKER: That depends on what your motion is, Terry Groom.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hartley.

Mr BAKER: It is difficult to remember where the member comes from, although I know of certain places I think he comes from.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the member for Mitcham resume his seat. The member will not get carried away and make unparliamentary remarks like that.

Mr BAKER: There is a crisis of confidence in the Government, as there are some issues it cannot tackle and does not wish to tackle. One talks about the wage pause, and we have seen the Government shift from side to side on that issue. One talks about development and the need for South Australia to broaden its base in order to attract capital. Again, that opportunity seems to be lost with the latest development on the Honeymoon project. One talks about the promises that were made during the election campaign and the undertakings in the education area, and already we have that seen some of those promises are not being kept. Of course, tonight Yatala is burning to the ground.

Mr Hamilton: Are you going to blame us for that?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAKER: It is an interesting question where the blame for the Yatala situation lies. I am sure that that will be debated at a later date. All members know that the crisis in the correctional services area has been building up for some time. The Government has been in office for only five months. If the honourable member does not know that that situation was fuelled and was going to reach the point where some action had to be taken, then it is time he changed his Minister. One talks about politicians and says that they have a very poor image in the eyes of the public. Unless this Government gets off its collective backside, that position will be confirmed in the eyes of the electorate.

Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park): I briefly mention the outburst made by the member for Mallee during the Ministerial statement of the Minister of Water Resources. The member for Mallee's interjection was, 'Stop wasting money on filtration.' I was amazed by that response from the

member for Mallee. My understanding is that successive Governments over a period of years have had a programme and support has been given by successive Ministers to that programme of water filtration. For the member to make an outburst like that reminds me of the old saying, 'The only time he hasn't got his foot in his mouth is when he is changing feet.' Having made the point about the inane remarks that we have become used to from the member for Mallee, I suggest that for the sake of his Party the Whip on his side should pull him into gear and tell him to put a muzzle on when he comes into the Chamber.

Turning to more important issues, I would, as I have in the past, like to express my horror at the bushfires and the floods that we encountered here some time ago. I was in the United Kingdom when the floods hit South Australia. Having the opportunity of looking at telexes in the Agent-General's office, I was absolutely appalled by what took place. It raises the issue of the number of people who are, I suggest, under-insured. I can remember some 12 months ago talking to a person in the insurance field who said that so many people in South Australia were under-insured and had perhaps taken out an insurance policy 10, 15 or 20 years ago and had not updated it since. This person went through my policy with me and pointed out where I was remiss in not having a look at my policy and updating it. I certainly did, but I suggest that this is something to which the Government should give some thought, perhaps with a view, in conjunction with the insurance companies, to placing some time in advertising the need for people properly to insure the contents of their homes.

Whilst I am on the question of these bush fires, members will know that when I was in London, I took the opportunity through the assistance of the *Advertiser* in South Australia to contact a young lass who had written to all South Australians and whose letter was passed on to the *Advertiser* itself. That was indicative of the feelings of Brits in the United Kingdom about their concern for their friends and loved ones here in South Australia. I was amazed by the number of people who approached me and asked me what exactly took place in South Australia and how they could help. When I spoke to the South Australian Savings Bank branch manager in London, he assured me that many Brits were coming in and withdrawing money, but at the same time donating money to the South Australian bush fire appeal. I thought that this was magnanimous. After this article that appeared in the *Advertiser*, I thanked that young lass on behalf of the South Australian Government and all South Australians for the amount of money that the British had donated to this appeal, which is so necessary to get many South Australians back on their feet.

In the six minutes that I have left, I would like to mention a number of issues that were brought to my attention prior to my departure from the Adelaide International Airport, about which I have said something in the past. I refer to 25 February, the date of my departure from the Adelaide International Airport. For those people who may recall, it was a very hot day and, on arriving at the airport about 1½ hours before departure on the British Airways flight, the airport was almost packed out. There was a lack of air-conditioning once again.

The Hon. J.W. Slater: They were there to see you off.

Mr HAMILTON: No doubt they were. I know that I am a very popular person, but I do not believe that they were all there to see me off. Seriously, I am informed that there were 178 passengers ex-Adelaide. I am further informed that usually three visitors see each passenger off from the international airport. So, we are looking at something like 600 people packed into that international airport that evening.

The international airport still does not have duty free shops, which results in a loss of revenue to South Australia. There should be duty free shops not only in the foyer but also in the transit lounge, so that international transit passengers can wander around for an hour or so while waiting for their aircraft to depart and, hopefully, spend a considerable sum, money which is sorely needed in this State and which not only would generate employment opportunities but also would assist those people who are prepared to invest in such duty free shops.

In terms of international airports, the food bar is still disgusting. I am informed by the carriers that the majority of complaints to date are in relation to the lack of facilities. Most of those complaints come from people from Auckland. The other area in which there has still been no response (although I understand that this matter should be tidied up by the end of the month) and which results in a sad loss for South Australia is the lack of currency exchange facilities. There are no such facilities at the international airport. This is the high season for international travel in respect of South Australia, and it is regrettable that the previous Federal Government (and I will certainly mention this point in my study tour report) did not provide those facilities at the domestic terminal in the interim period.

I have been informed that the South Australian international airport was to be a replica of the Townsville airport. The response that I received from an international carrier, was 'That's a load of crap.' I am informed that the concrete strips at the airport have not been extended on to the tarmac, and as a result the container loads are sitting on bitumen in the stinking hot summer. Those containers can move and, if there is a slight error in the loading of these containers, the aircraft could be penetrated, resulting in a loss of \$70 000 to \$80 000, not taking into account the delays that would occur as a result of such damage to the aircraft. I am also informed that in this day and age blocks are placed under the container loaders, yet we are supposed to call it a modern airport.

Another issue is the barrier at the light aircraft section. There is a potential problem: a burst of power from a 747 that is moving off could blast a light aircraft over the fence. I would like to elaborate on other problems in respect to security, inspection, and car parking facilities at our so-called international airport.

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

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN (Alexandra): This afternoon at the conclusion of my Address in Reply debate contribution, I reported to the House the relatively small areas of the State that are subject to intense cultivation and agricultural production compared to the vast proportion of the State that is occupied for other purposes and, indeed, the balance of the area that serves no economic purpose whatsoever in this State's interests.

In furthering those remarks, I have some statistical detail to demonstrate the actual primary production of that cultivated area. I seek leave to have that material inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

The SPEAKER: Does the honourable member give me the usual assurances?

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: You have those assurances. Leave granted.

Sheep numbers; wool production; wheat, barley and oats production; and total primary production: South Australia.

	1979-80	1980-81
Sheep (million)	16.046	17.056
Wool Production:		
Weight ('000 kg)	95 459	99 456
Gross value (\$ million)	215.4	241.0 (p)
Wheat Production:		
Weight ('000 tonnes: SAYB p.396) ..	2 348.7	1 650.4
Gross value (\$ million)	357.1	243.5 (p)
Barley Production:		
Weight ('000 tonnes: SAYB p.399) ..	1 528.0	1 158.0
Gross value (\$ million)	192.8	166.3 (p)
Oats Production:		
Weight ('000 tonnes: SAYB p.401)—		
Grain	144.0	96.0
Hay	119.0	73.0
Gross value (\$ million: SAYB		
P.409)	11.5	14.1 (p)
Gross value of total rural production (\$		
million)	1 341.6	1 324.5 (p)

Note: (p) = preliminary figure.

Exports of primary products and total exports: South Australia and Australia.

S.A.Y.B. page 632 shows the following values of exports overseas from South Australia (\$ million):

	1979-1980	1980-1981
Total	1 599.2	1 400.0
Wheat and flour	376.7	307.8
Barley	191.8	153.1
Wool	183.7	225.3
Total of wheat and flour, barley	752.2	686.2
and wool (percentage of above total)	(47.0%)	(49.0%)

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: This statistical material in particular involves sheep numbers, wool production, wheat, barley and oat production and, accordingly, the total primary production involving all other products. It will occupy a portion of one page in *Hansard* to incorporate that material. The second part of this material is even less in volume and involves the details of exports of primary products and the total exports of South Australia as compared to national exports.

I am having this material inserted, because I wish to compare that block of data with the current position of productivity as a result of a disastrous year for this State. First, there was the national drought the calibre of which we have not experienced in this country before (at least not on record); secondly, the Ash Wednesday No. 2 fire; and thirdly, as referred to a moment ago by the previous speaker, the substantial flood in that highly productive region of the State, the Barossa Valley.

Despite the fact that we have had comprehensive, if not vivid, reports about each incident in isolation, I do not believe that collectively there is an appreciation at community level of the enormous product downturn that has resulted from those three disasters. Indeed, the whole State economy has been severely shaken by each of them so that, collectively, there has been an enormous impact on the South Australian community at large. With respect to the Ash Wednesday fire No. 2, some figures are now available from agricultural and timber industry analysts which demonstrate the enormity of agricultural and forestry losses, but even in this—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation on both sides of the House.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: Even at this stage, the complete picture and the on-going impact on all South Australians and, indeed, both the State and national economies, will flow on into and through the system for months, if not years, to come.

In forestry, for instance, the long-term impact on employment in service industries and in the mills is impossible to measure. Then there is the huge financial burden of restoring productivity to the land. The forestry salvage operation alone is estimated to cost some \$30 000 000 and the replanting of forests in those areas where they were still subject to long-term growth is estimated to cost, in isolation from all of the other expenditure, an additional \$12 000 000.

State-based submissions have been lodged with the Federal Government for financial assistance which is beyond the resources of this State Government, and I acknowledge the enormous difficulty the State Government has in meeting the capital expenditure involved in restoring such major products and assets within the State. Those submissions seek the widening of carry-on loan finance for use on the farm improvement section of the rural adjustment scheme in order to restore structures of farms in bushfire affected areas. A special allocation of some \$15 000 000 for rural adjustment, as I understand it, has been requested by the State Minister of Agriculture in addition to financial aid packages of some \$42 000 000 for the hard hit forestry industries. It is this financial assistance that I want to speak about in particular.

In the early days, after fires, farming families received urgent on-farm assistance from the Department of Agriculture and other agencies. This assistance included the maintenance of families, the provision of fodder for livestock and the immediate requirements of those people affected.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is out of order to have a meeting in the House.

The Hon. W.E. CHAPMAN: I place on record my highest praise for those officers who were involved in the work of distributing urgently needed finance and fodder in those days immediately after the fire. In a report recently produced by the Minister of Agriculture, he states:

Finally, we must provide long-term measures to restore these farms to full productivity but we are unable to announce specific aid schemes in this area until we obtain clarification from the Federal Government on what money will be available. As the restoration of structures will take place over many years it would be completely funded by the State Government if the Federal Government insisted on the use of the existing natural disasters agreement. This is beyond the capacity of the State and the South Australian Government is seeking from the Federal Government alternative funding through the farm improvement section of rural adjustment.

That is an ideal objective pronounced by that Minister. I have no criticism of his efforts to seek funding from those identified sources. However, what I cannot understand is a report in the rural edition of today's *Advertiser* (page 12) with the headline 'Governments refuse fire aid to renew farm assets'. The opening paragraph states:

Neither Federal nor State Government will make any money available to bushfire victims specifically to fund the replacement of farm assets lost in the Ash Wednesday fires.

It goes on to state:

Carry-on loans, for seven years at 4 per cent interest, are normally available only for working expenses. The decision has stunned the United Farmers and Stockowners of South Australia which had sought up to \$130 000 a farmer for asset replacement, as distinct from carry-on loans to cover working expenses.

The U.F.S. president, Mr M. S. Shanahan, said yesterday, 'I am appalled at the lack of understanding by both the Federal and State Governments at the plight of rural bushfire victims.'

As I said before, I have the highest praise for the officers who have worked their butts off to cope with the immediate needs of rural fire victims. I am conscious of the effort, overtime and dedication that officers have displayed throughout the period since the smoke drifted from the scene of the fire toward those victims in their immediate needs.

However, I am most disappointed that a number of days after the event neither the State Government nor the Federal

Government appears to have their act together in regard to urgently required loan finance in order to assist farmers to restore their capital assets, whether it be in homes—many homes were burnt out on broadacre farming properties—whether it be sheds and other buildings essential to the management of those properties, fencing or the lot. It is absolutely essential that those farmers have access not to grants or handouts but to Loan funds which attract realistic and reasonable interest rates so that they may proceed to restore their capital assets because, without those structural improvements and machinery that was cooked in the fire,

there is no way that they can exploit to the limit the productivity of respective farms, even if we have a good season, and there are signs of that occurring even at this early stage. I cannot urge—

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

Motion carried.

At 10.20 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 23 March at 2 p.m.