

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 15 February 1990

The **SPEAKER (Hon. N.T. Peterson)** took the Chair at 11 a.m. and read prayers.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.  
(Continued from 14 February. Page 179.)

**Mr De LAINE (Price):** I support the motion and record my congratulations to you, Sir, as Speaker of this House. I know that you will carry out your duties in a conscientious and very efficient manner. I would also like to acknowledge the great contribution made by the previous Speaker, the member for Walsh, over the past four years.

I congratulate all members of the forty-seventh Parliament, both the members who have retained their seats and the new members who are starting their parliamentary careers. I wish them well in this place. I also express sadness at the loss of the defeated members of the last Parliament: June Appleby, the former member for Hayward; Michael Duigan, the former member for Adelaide; Di Gayler, the former member for Newland; Derek Robertson, the former member for Bright; and Phil Tyler, the former member for Fisher. These defeated members were dedicated, hard-working and committed members, and I enjoyed working closely with them over the past four years. They are all quite young and I feel sure that in the future they will come back into this place in one electorate or another.

Also, I express best wishes to the retired members of this place: former Ministers including the Hons Roy Abbott, Gavin Keneally, Ron Payne and Jack Slater; a former Speaker of this place, Hon. Terry McRae; and the former Chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee, Keith Plunkett. It has been a pleasure to work with these people over the past four years and I thank them for the assistance and advice given to me personally and for their friendship. All members of this place, on both sides of the House, would agree that these six members not only were very good at their jobs but were very good people to deal with, and we are all sad to see them go. In retirement, I wish them and their families well.

I congratulate the Premier on being returned, albeit with reduced Government numbers. Nevertheless, the Premier has done a magnificent job and I congratulate him on being returned for another term.

I should like to spend a little time on the bleatings of the Opposition in regard to the 52 per cent versus 48 per cent question. The Liberal Party certainly did not worry about it in the Playford years when there was a substantial gerrymander in this place. I have some official figures from 1944 through to 1962—seven elections. I did not go back beyond 1944 because that was the time when compulsory voting came in. Therefore, it was irrelevant to go back beyond that time. The figures show that in those seven elections between 1944 and 1962 the Liberal Party won government on only two occasions, in 1950 and 1956. On every other occasion that it was in government it had substantially less than the 50 per cent required to be in control. The calculated misrepresentation or penalty as far as the ALP was concerned in those years was between nine and three seats. Even in the 1965 election, when Labor was elected with about 53 per cent of the vote, it still had a disadvantage of three seats.

The electoral system that we now have, while not perfect, is quite fair. It has been taken out of the hands of politicians. It is run by the Electoral Commission and it is as fair as we can get. There will obviously be problems from time to time with percentages, such as there are now. For example, in Fisher and Bright and other electorates which are growing there will be anomalies. However, there is a provision within the Act to redistribute boundaries when they get over plus or minus 10 per cent. To maintain an exact balance at all times would require a redistribution probably every month. Obviously that is not on. Within the constraints or guidelines of the Act, I think the system that we have now is the fairest one that the State has ever had.

While on the subject of elections, I should like to comment briefly on the 25 November campaign. I agree with the Premier that the Opposition's campaign was very professional, but, at the same time, it was very dishonest and deceitful, particularly in relation to interest rates, which everyone knows is a Federal matter and nothing to do with the State. The campaign in my electorate—Price—was also very deceitful. My political opponent made a point about my not being industrious enough. To have been any more industrious over the past four years I would have needed more than seven days in a week. My political opponent has made the criticism that the people in my electorate were under-resourced and neglected. That is absolute rubbish. I will go through some of the resources that the people in Price have.

In education, there are many public, private and church schools. There is the Port TAFE college, the Aboriginal Community college and the University of the Third Age. In health and welfare, we have the Port Adelaide Community Health Service, which provides a whole range of magnificent services from dental to dietary, podiatry, Aboriginal health services, and so on.

The Parks Community Centre is another excellent multi-purpose facility. They are two major health centres alone within the one electorate, which is very well served. There is also the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which, of course, is not in my electorate but the catchment area is there and many people from Price use that excellent world-class facility. Also, there are many specialist health related services and organisations within Price; for example, the Dale Street Women's Health Centre, which was specifically set up to service women and their problems. It does an excellent job. We have the Archway Rehabilitation Centre and the Port Adelaide Sobering-Up Service. We have May Wilson House, which is a rehabilitation hostel for women—particularly Aboriginal women—with alcohol and drug problems. That hostel also services the children of these women.

There are several Child, Adolescent and Family Health Service centres in the electorate, and late last year or late the year before the Port Adelaide Department for Community Welfare opened a new regional office in Port Adelaide. We have the excellent Meals on Wheels service and when I spoke about it in this place some time back, I mentioned that the Meals on Wheels service in South Australia was set up and started in Port Adelaide. I am very proud of that fact because it is an excellent service. We have domiciliary care and a myriad of other services available to the people of Price.

In respect of emergency services, we have the Port Adelaide regional police base at Birkenhead, the courts at Port Adelaide and two new up-to-date fire stations—one at Port Adelaide and one at Angle Park. The Port Adelaide fire station was commissioned last year and the Angle Park station will be commissioned shortly, although it is already in use. A new marine firefighting vessel will come on stream

this year to replace the old *Karlooloo*. A new police and courts complex will be built this year in Port Adelaide.

The electorate of Price has over 4 500 Housing Trust places. The Housing Trust is to undertake an extensive redevelopment program starting more or less in the centre of the electorate of Price. This very exciting project, which will be spread over many years, will update and redevelop Housing Trust areas and introduce a better social mix. Also, going hand in glove with that is the concept of tenant participation which has been actively pursued within the electorate. The officers of the Housing Trust do an excellent job in this regard. The Housing Trust has two offices in the electorate: a regional office at Port Adelaide and a district office at Mansfield Park. This district office is soon to be upgraded to a regional office and will give much better support and service to the large number of Housing Trust properties and tenants in the electorate of Price. An emergency housing office was set up in Port Adelaide about two years ago, and it gives excellent service to the many needy people in this area.

In relation to employment and training, we have the Commonwealth Employment Service, the Department of Labour with a major regional office in Port Adelaide, the Department of Social Security, the Port ITeC (which I mentioned in the grievance debate last night) and three Skill Share projects. Other services to the public in the Price electorate include the Motor Registration Division office at Port Adelaide; the South Australian Legal Services Commission office, which was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister about three years ago; the Port Information Service; the Parks Community Centre; and a whole range of migrant advisory and support services in and around Port Adelaide. We have three excellent child-care centres, two of which are quite new and were opened only fairly recently. We have the Junction Community Centre which offers a whole range of community support and activities as well as a home for many organisations, such as senior citizens clubs, within the electorate.

This excellent facility was opened late last year. The St Ives Recreation Centre at Port Adelaide offers a whole range of activities for many young and not so young people in the community, and we have many other family support groups and organisations in the district. We also have a multitude of clubs and churches covering all denominations. Further, we have several excellent museums—some of which have received national and international awards—including the South Australian Maritime Museum, the South Australian Aeronautical Museum, the recently opened Railway Museum, and other lesser museums. The district of Price is extremely well serviced in areas right across the board.

*Mr Hamilton interjecting:*

**Mr De LAINE:** Yes, as my colleague the member for Albert Park reminds me, the STA bus depot is another major facility in the area providing employment for local people. Overall, the criticisms levelled by my political opponent just do not carry any weight as the electorate is well served. Of course, added to that is the massive sums of money that have been injected into Port Adelaide, the ongoing redevelopment in the area and the extra and many varied employment opportunities that have been created through this redevelopment, and I have not even touched on things such as the Submarine Corporation and other major projects. I now turn to some of the points in the Governor's opening speech in respect of the forthcoming program and the achievements of the Government.

*The Hon. E.R. Goldsworthy interjecting:*

**Mr De LAINE:** No, I have picked out only five points. In respect of education and training, the Governor stated:

There is a clear recognition by my Government of the need to adapt and shape education and training programs for young people to ensure that our work force is capable of taking full advantage of the changes in our industry and commercial base.

This is vitally important not only for the State and the nation's economy but for individuals who live in our State. It is especially important for the health, well-being and self-esteem of people living in the district of Price. Much work has been done, and the training programs coming on stream both at State and Federal levels will set up people positively for the future.

I refer to interesting figures provided in a speech by the Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training only last week. He said that in Victoria the number of job vacancies is about equal to the number of unemployed people in that State. That situation is not entirely different in other Australian States. Of course, the problem is that many job vacancies today are for highly skilled people in computer and other electronic technology, while many unemployed people are largely unskilled. That explains the need for the massive push into the area of training not only by the Government but by the private sector in order to train or retrain young people and other unemployed people to a higher level of competence so they can take up these job opportunities.

Reference was also made to the area of age discrimination. The Governor said that legislation would be introduced this session to outlaw age discrimination. This is a long needed requirement, but caution will have to be exercised in this area especially as age is used as a qualification for retirement. His Excellency also mentioned that a Freedom of Information Bill will be introduced. That is an important initiative which also needs to be addressed with caution.

His Excellency also mentioned the rural sector and the fact that it had enjoyed a very good year. As far as I am concerned that is great news. I have no doubt that Government and Opposition members, heeding the great importance of the primary sector to the economy of the State and the country, will agree that it is good to see that sector enjoying such a good year after some of the problems that it has experienced. I extend my sympathy to farmers, because they are entirely at the mercy of the elements in raising their crops and at the mercy of the market-place once those crops have been delivered. It is good to see that they have had a good season and I hope that it continues.

The Governor also mentioned the Commonwealth Games in Auckland. I will refer briefly to the achievements of not only the Australian athletes generally but, particularly, the South Australian athletes. The Australian medal tally was a record for this country and equalled the record set a few years ago by the British team. We won 52 gold medals and many silver and bronze medals. It was certainly our best performance. Of course, many of those medals went to South Australian members of the team and I congratulate them for that achievement—but I will not name them at this stage. It was a marvellous effort. I also congratulate the other competitors from South Australia who, while they might not have won medals, often gave personal best performances. Overall, it was a good performance on their part.

While on the subject of the games and sport, I also refer to the need for a velodrome in South Australia. The project has been on the agenda and money has been allocated for some time. However, there have been problems getting the project up and running. There is an urgent need for the velodrome and I fear that, if we do not get it up and running fairly soon, we will be in danger of losing the support of the Australian Institute of Sport for the establishment of its

cycling division here in South Australia. We are badly in need of this facility and, as I said a couple of years ago, we have been winning Olympic and Commonwealth gold medals and world championships for some years in spite of the facilities that we have.

A couple of years ago I said that, when I was racing here, the major South Australian track at Hanson Reserve, which is the track used by Australian cyclists to prepare for competition, was of 1936 standard in relation to world competition standard. Therefore, our riders are using facilities that are 50 years out of date. Even though that track has been upgraded three times over the years, it has kept pace only with that 50 year gap. That is an atrocious situation. If we can achieve a world-class velodrome, it will certainly give our riders an extra edge, and that will be enough to put them on top of the world competition and keep them there. It is very important to get the velodrome up and running.

I would like to digress slightly and pay tribute to my colleague, the member for Albert Park. As members of this House and the public would know, the honourable member has made personal sacrifices over the past two years to walk from Adelaide to Port Pirie, which is no mean feat by any stretch of the imagination. Last year, the honourable member's inaugural walk from Arndale, Kilkenny, to Port Pirie over about eight days was a remarkable performance. He did it alone and raised in excess of \$10 000 for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, money that was badly needed and gratefully received. Last month, the honourable member did the same thing, but this time in the company of three young ladies. It was another remarkable effort and in excess of \$27 000 has been raised to this stage for the cardiac and cardiology units of the QEH.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr De LAINE:** I am not fit enough. I pay tribute to the honourable member—and I hope that I speak for all members of this House—not only for his magnificent effort but also for the goodwill created along the way and in Port Pirie. The honourable member was greeted and given substantial donations along the road by people from farms and towns. No-one would deny that most of the people who gave this money were probably not supporters of the Australian Labor Party, but politics were set aside. I know that the honourable member had discussions with many people and Party politics were never raised. The people of these country areas appreciated the fact that a member of Parliament was prepared to make this sacrifice and do this hard work. It augurs well for the image portrayed by members of this Parliament, especially in country areas, when the public sees a metropolitan member making such a sacrifice. He deserves full credit. As I said, more than \$27 000 has been raised to this stage and, if the situation is anything like last year, more money will continue to come in after the event.

During the life of the forty-sixth Parliament various other events occurred in my electorate of Price. I will outline a few of these events, one being the continuation of the Port redevelopment, which is ongoing and on which more money will be spent in the near future. I have already mentioned the Submarine Corporation, and I took advantage of the fact that you, Mr Speaker, were in the Chair and could not speak on this matter. But it does impact on my electorate, being right on the boundary. While the submarines are on land they are in the District of Semaphore and when in the water they are in the District of Price, so I have some interest in the matter.

This project was set up during the forty-sixth Parliament and is going ahead. In fact, yesterday the keel of the first submarine, which will be completed in 1993, was laid. The

project has provided many hundreds of jobs and has boosted the economy of the Port Adelaide area and, indeed, the whole of South Australia. The survey vessels for the Royal Australian Navy are being built by Eglo Engineering, in your electorate, Mr Speaker, but there will be the same impact in my electorate. Two naval survey vessels have been commissioned and completed, and there is still a lot of work for many people in the area. The Anzac frigate contract, which is worth \$500 million for South Australia, has also given a major boost to the area and has provided a lot of work for the people of the Port area.

Another highlight of the past four years was the magnificent public effort directed towards the saving of the sail training vessel, the *One and All*, which was in debt for about \$1.2 million. The magnificent public support resulted in the financial problems being overcome and the debt being paid off so that the vessel was back onto a commercial footing. It is now continuing its great work of providing sail training for our young people.

There is continuing development of the Regency Park and Wingfield industrial estates, and that work will be going on for some years. The Regency Park part of that area is largely complete, and it is a pleasure to drive round those streets and see the magnificent way in which industry has set up its buildings. It is an ideal set-up. The buildings are attractive to look at, unlike the older type of factory. They are fully landscaped and serviced and, although they are within easy reach of people who live in the area and work in these places, they are out of sight and hearing for both visual and noise pollution. So, it is an ideal set-up, and that development is continuing.

I mentioned before the Housing Trust redevelopment and tenant participation schemes, which are ongoing and will be so for many years to come, and which should really transform The Parks area, in particular, into a place in which people are proud to live. The \$35 million Harborside Quay development which has been announced for housing and marina development in Port Adelaide, on both the east and west banks of the Port River, work on which is due to start, comprises an area between West Lakes and the Jervois bridge. Although public discussion about this project is occurring at the moment, I feel sure that it will continue and will provide further development for the Port Adelaide area and, more importantly, bring more people back into the Port.

I am fast running out of time, so in the last moments at my disposal I should like to place on record my thanks to the electors of Price for having had the confidence in me to return me, and for the support given to me by the members of local sub-branches, friends and, in particular, my family—my campaign director, who is my father-in-law, my wife and son who, as always, have given me marvellous support. Without the support of our families, none of us could be in this place and carry out this job. So, I should like to place on record my thanks to them. I support the motion.

**Mr BLACKER (Flinders):** In formally supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the speech so ably presented by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Donald Dunstan), I should like to make a few comments about some of the things which were referred to by His Excellency. Before doing so, I should like to extend my congratulations formally, to you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment to this high office. I have absolutely no doubt that the impartiality you have displayed in this House in the past will be demonstrated in this Chamber, and I look

forward to a very interesting and very fair session. I commend you on your appointment.

Likewise, I commend the member for Elizabeth on his appointment as Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker. No doubt, we will likewise see a very interesting session. I take this opportunity to congratulate each of the new members who have been elected to this Parliament for the first time. This is the seventh time on which I have been able to take my place at the beginning of a parliamentary session and, no doubt, each of the 11 members newly elected will find it very interesting, challenging and, at times, nerve-racking, particularly during the early stages.

I wish each of those members well, and trust that their deliberations in this House will contribute to the all-round benefit of the State. The Opposition has had a change of leadership since the election, and the member for Victoria has been appointed as Leader. As one member of the press said, the new business arrangements are Baker, Baker & Co. Whether that is the new name for the Opposition I do not know, but there is a new leadership direction, and thus far I have been impressed with what I have seen. I trust that that will continue and, perhaps, improve.

I should like to say a word of thanks to my electorate for returning me at the last election. It is perhaps not widely known to many people on this side of the gulf, but I probably had the hardest fought election that I have ever experienced. Without doubt, my opponents really put time, effort and money into their endeavours to unseat me.

Fortunately, my electorate saw through that and returned me with an increased majority, although my vote was not the highest that I have received in the past. In the light of the effort that was made against me, it was a significant win, and had the effect of reducing the Liberal vote by a further 2 per cent to 26 per cent and the Labor vote by over 7 per cent to 12.6 per cent. I have made a few inquiries and it may well be that a primary vote of 12.6 per cent is the lowest recorded by the Labor Party for any House of Assembly electorate in this State.

The result was brought about because the electorate considered that the two major Parties were ganging up against poor little lonely Blacker, causing resentment and a polarisation in the electorate. In the final analysis, the two major Parties collectively received only 48.6 per cent of the vote. In other words, more than 50 per cent deliberately chose to vote against the two major Parties. I say that because the seat of Flinders returned the lowest number of informal votes of any electorate, so my electors must have been prompted by my opponents' campaign to cast a deliberate vote. Such a low informal vote indicates that the deliberate intention of the electorate is clear.

Some of the other electorates returned an extraordinarily high informal vote. I do not know whether that means that there is disenchantment with the two major Parties or that the voters could not care less. However, it proves to me that, where the people have a choice, they will exercise it. That is a matter for future consideration.

The last election was the seventh time that I have been able to demonstrate that, where two conservative Parties contest a seat, it has a dramatic effect on reducing the Labor vote. That point has been overlooked by many people on the conservative side of the fence, but that strategy has been proven and should be used to greater effect in the South Australian electoral system. It is no accident that the conservatives have lost seven out of the past nine elections. We have only to look at the other States to see exactly what can happen when the coalition process is used appropriately. There is a message for all conservative people in this. The last time there was a two Party contest in the electorate of

Flinders, the Labor Party recorded a vote of 46 per cent. On the most recent occasion, when it was a four way contest, the primary Labor vote was 12.6 per cent, which is a significant drop. Political strategists should look at these results and use that approach more effectively.

Much has been said about the Opposition's receiving 52 per cent of the vote yet not winning Government. Although I recognise that anomaly, if one goes through the figures and works out the theoretical range in which those votes could apply to come up with the same number of seats, the percentages could range from 26 per cent to about 74 per cent. It is fortunate that the Opposition got close to the 50 per cent mark. It is an anomaly, but the system cannot necessarily be blamed because, after all, the two major Parties put the system into effect. I am not sure whether a better system can be devised but, by all means, this House should look at the possibility of creating and developing a better system, whether it be an amalgam of other systems operating throughout the world or a totally new system. We should make sure that the fairest electoral system is implemented.

I look forward to the debate that obviously will ensue over the next 12 months, to see just what will happen with our electoral systems. It looks like a two-pronged attack at the moment, with the Government intimating that changes will be made to the electoral boundaries by changing the number of members of Parliament, thereby creating a total distribution, which we all know is the only way in which the system can be opened up for redistribution, as the Act presently stands. The Leader of the Opposition has foreshadowed a private member's Bill, which I support, because it endeavours to do just what I advocated earlier—a good look at our system to see whether it can be improved and, if it can be, the best method for doing so.

The member for Price, who resumed his seat just a while ago, recognised the worth of primary producers to our State, and I am rather pleased that he did, because I have been living right in the middle of all the controversy that has occurred over the past five years as a result of the dilemma confronting so many people. It is important for this House to realise that, although we have had one good season, the problem is far from over. In fact, I could say that we are only halfway through the exercise of re-establishing and stabilising the farming community. It happened five or six years ago. Land prices were escalating and were at a relatively high level, while interest rates were at a relatively low level, if one can call 13.5 per cent a low level—we can, nowadays. Because of that, and because of the deregulation of the banking system, traditional banks handed out money hand over fist, because they were trying to keep the new banks from entering rural areas.

It is interesting to note that not one new bank established itself on Eyre Peninsula, but the traditional banks gave out money very freely without properly considering the borrower's ability to repay and without properly advising their clients of the likely consequences that could occur in the future. Because of that dilemma, people over-committed themselves. Nobody can get away from the fact that the farmer himself signed the bottom line; he did go to the bank and request that finance because a neighbour's property came onto the market; therefore, he must carry the ultimate responsibility. However, some of the responsibility must be shared by the financial institutions, because they were only too willing to lend and, in some cases, they did so as a public relations exercise—certainly, they did so as a self-preservation exercise—to prevent other banks and competitors getting into the area. All that started a problem. What happened was that we had four years of below average

seasons, culminating in the 1987-88 season, which was probably the worst drought ever.

High amounts of money—\$400 000 to \$600 000—had been raised, based on the ability to pay in an average season. Those four years meant that no payment had been made, no interest was paid and a compounding of interest upon interest occurred; the thing snowballed. We then got to a situation where people's liability exceeded their equity and it therefore became impossible, on the figures, to pay the money back, because the property did not generate sufficient funds to repay the interest, let alone the principal. Fortunately, the 1989 season turned out to be a bumper. What that did was bring back from the brink many of the farmers who were getting to the point of no return but who had not quite reached it and were sitting on the fence. That good year gave those farmers some stability and the opportunity to work their way out. Even in the good season we have just had—in some cases, 200 per cent of an average year—those persons who have got so far into debt that their liability exceeds their assets are still not able to make sufficient ground.

Last Tuesday and yesterday a seminar or program was conducted in the Port Lincoln TAFE College on service delivery to farm families in financial difficulties. The two day seminar was entitled 'Networking or Not Working'. Those are the two extremities of care provided: networking to help and not working being a matter of insignificance. Dozens of people and numerous Government departments are trying to do their bit—there is no question about that—and most of those people are conscientious and are putting their heart and soul into helping those people.

I was concerned that at the first session of that conference that I attended on Tuesday morning there was a little bit of flippancy along the lines that it is not all bad if we kick off some of those farmers, regardless of whether they have been there for 20 or 25 years. An example was quoted of a family being kicked off Eyre Peninsula. They have come to Adelaide, have two sons in college, the farmer has a labouring job, and everything is rosy. That attitude disturbed me because it will require an outstanding effort by all care providers at this point of time when the real crisis cases start to develop. I say 'real crisis cases'. Letters of demand and eviction notices are going out. That is when the crunch point has come. Letters of demand have been going around for 12 months with farmers trying to negotiate their position. Eviction notices become the last straw and that is the crunch point.

All care providers who attended that conference have their work cut out at this point because the social effect on those people and on the community will occur right down the line. However, that is only another step in the chain of events that will last 10 years, because in the five-year period of financial difficulties, instead of the elderly farmer retiring and going into town, with his married son stepping in to take over, sufficient funds have not been available to buy a house to set up Mum and Dad. Mum and Dad have stayed on the property. The only person who has an opportunity to get employment is the young married son. He has gone to Roxby Downs or Adelaide to get outside employment. We have the dilemma of an ageing farmer population who one day will be forced off or, to use a crude term, will die on the property. Somewhere his ability to remain a farmer will cease.

What will happen to that farm? Will there be sufficient attraction for the farmer's son? He has gone to Roxby Downs and is earning \$800 a week or more. He can knock off at five o'clock and sleep peacefully at night. Will he be attracted back to the farm to carry on its management and

operation? Will the son say, 'I am set up well now, so let someone else come in'? We will have a new breed of farmers who do not know Eyre Peninsula country or dry land farming endeavouring to farm the country. Talk about environmental consequences or disasters! That is where I see the problem occurring: four or five years down the track when the elderly farmer has to leave the land for some reason or another.

We are a long way from having worked this problem through and the Government must look carefully at what it is doing, at the support programs it has implemented and at the efficiency and effectiveness of those programs. Although I have not had the opportunity to check this allegation, it was put to me on the telephone only the other night that the Government incentive of offering stamp duty exemption for viable farmers to buy out unviable farmers (and, therefore, create that chain where the unviable farmers are moved off the land) has been lifted. I have not been able to check that matter but I am looking into it. Now that it has rained, the Government seems to consider that all the problems have gone away. It seems that the Government is no longer encouraging these changes. I am concerned about that because, as I mentioned, it is important that we continue to strive to ensure that this problem is worked through.

I mentioned that it is mainly an interest rate problem, which is really the core. However, with interest rates come all the increasing input costs—the cost of machinery, labour, superphosphate and chemicals. All those inputs are snowballing at such a rate that the farmers' returns through wool and grain receipts and stock prices are not escalating at a comparative level, and that cost price squeeze is pressuring the farmers. Farmers were told by various agencies and governments to get big or get out, but the big ones are now facing the problems.

I have mentioned before in this House that it is not so long ago—20 or 25 years—that an average farmer would have about 20 per cent of his finances tied up in the machinery shed; in other words, 80 per cent of his investment would be in land and permanent assets and 20 per cent would be in his machinery. It is now not difficult to find instances where that ratio can be 50 per cent in land and 50 per cent in machinery. So, to that end that cost price squeeze is just snowballing. I believe that that matter should be addressed also.

I want to refer to a number of other matters, one of which concerns an issue that the drought effectively started for Eyre Peninsula, and that is the spread of yellow burr weed, which is a noxious weed. Evidently it is fairly prevalent in the Mid North. The Eyre Peninsula is relatively free of this problem, but there are some isolated pockets. Regrettably, through the charity of some farmers, when they provided hay, and the less than active supervision of the weeds authorities, contaminated hay was delivered to Eyre Peninsula. We know of a case where 20 farmers took hay from one semitrailer and 13 of those farmers have identified outbreaks of yellow burr weed. Through no fault of those farmers, they are now facing massive chemical costs—the cheapest being around \$2 000 a year—for a minimum of seven years and probably up to 13 years, if they can get every plant.

Obviously, if hay has been fed into a 300 acre paddock and that paddock was cropped after the break of the season, the chances of getting every weed over that 300 acres are nil. It is humanly impossible. Some farmers fed their hay in feedlots so they have that contaminated hay contained and, therefore, there is some reasonable hope that it may be able to be contained in that way.

I ask the question: where was our Pest Plants Authority when that was allowed to occur? I also add that there has been no prosecution and no follow-up on that matter. I think one must question the role of the Pest Plants Authority when that can be allowed to occur without proper follow-up and investigation, at least to see that it never occurs again.

An even worse scenario than I have just quoted recently came to light, where 12 tonnes of certified clover seed came from Victoria, all of it contaminated with yellow burr weed. Twelve tonnes of clover seed will literally seed tens of thousands of acres and effectively spread yellow burr weed over that area. The question must be asked: what has happened to our certification system that has allowed that to occur? I know that it is always difficult, but allowing 12 tonnes of contaminated seed to be spread over a completely new area raises problems of immense proportions.

I know that the Government has a problem with this. Had it helped those 13 farmers who received the contaminated yellow burr weed in the hay delivered from the Mid North, it would then face the further problem of compensation for the damage caused by the certified seed.

**Mr D.S. Baker:** Sue the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

**Mr BLACKER:** Again, I raise the question: what has happened to our seed certification authorities? In this instance I am not sure whether it relates to the Victorian or South Australian authorities, but the certification system must again be looked at and the matter of the Government's authority in this area must certainly be raised.

This is a matter of immense importance. The economic implications for Eyre Peninsula farmers over this matter are of great concern. Even taking nominal figures, it will cost each farmer \$2 000 to try to control this weed for the next seven years minimum, and probably as many as 13 years, on the assumption that they get every plant—which we all know is a human impossibility. Those farmers, through no fault of their own, have been saddled with these ongoing costs until such time as a spray that is guaranteed to stop re-seeding can be found—and we all know that that is an impossibility.

Another issue of concern to me and my electorate is that of health care and the problem of attracting doctors to country areas. We now have two hospitals that do not have a resident doctor. The doctor at Elliston works over and above his call of duty; not only does he service the Elliston area but he fills in for the Central Eyre Hospital and he does some work in Cummins, too. One doctor cannot have that workload, and I am concerned at his ability to continue under that pressure, travelling the miles he does.

I have had brief discussions with the Chairman of the Health Commission and, although the problem cannot be immediately resolved, I hope that active consideration is being given to providing every possible incentive to encourage doctors to go into country areas. After all, every citizen in this State is equal—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BLACKER:** They should be equal, and they should be treated that way. With the bulk of the community living in the metropolitan area the Government's attitude seems to be out of sight, out of mind. While, in many areas, the Government has tried to do things properly, some areas need extra consideration. Although the problem with the hospitals has been with us for 20 years and, in some ways, has been resolved by Government incentives, regrettably, we are not able to attract doctors who wish to stay in the area. Those who do invariably like it, and it is often the case that a doctor might wish to stay, but his wife might

have difficulty in accepting country life. Also, in many cases schooling problems for the children arise.

I now turn to the education system in country areas which is breaking down, first, because the Government abandoned the bonding system whereby teachers were obligated to serve at least part of their time in country areas, secondly, because it did away with the four year rule that required teachers to serve at least four years in the country before being entitled to an automatic transfer back to the metropolitan area (if that was the wish of the teacher) and, thirdly, because it allowed the exploitation of the system by allowing teachers, if posted to the country, to take four years leave without pay (that deemed to be execution of their country service).

It cannot work on that basis. Quite frankly, I think the Government will have to reconsider the issue of bonding. People would be up in arms about that, but it is essential that qualified teachers are sent out into those areas so that they can provide a teaching standard equal to that of the metropolitan area. I will give some examples in country areas—but I will not identify the respective schools; I guess that will come in due course—where matriculation results have not been as good as they should have been. Wide fluctuations have occurred between schools, and I believe that is a problem that the teaching fraternity and the Education Department must address.

I have had brief discussions with the Minister about this matter, and he acknowledges that it is difficult to get teachers of certain subject classifications to go into country areas. Mathematics and science are always a problem because there is a shortage of mathematics and science teachers. The few teachers of those disciplines can choose where they go, so some of the schools in outlying areas, and particularly those with matriculation classes, are having extreme difficulty in getting qualified staff into areas where there is a real need.

These issues—hospitals and the education system—are of ongoing concern to country people, and at a later time I will discuss country roads. I am pleased that we still have a highways gang on Eyre Peninsula. That gang is committed to working on the road between Karkoo and the Cummins/Port Lincoln turnoff. Hopefully that will continue. That does not help the dirt roads, the gravel roads, the Lock to Elliston Road, the Cleve/Kimba Road and many arterial roads that are so important for produce delivery.

As mentioned earlier, we have had a bumper year—4.5 million tonnes of grain produced in South Australia, of which Eyre Peninsula produced almost 50 per cent. So, an area which was wiped off two years ago as a desert, an area that should not be farmed, is now considered the granary of the State, if not Australia. We should all recognise that these areas can be farmed if there is an economic incentive.

**Mr LEWIS (Murray-Mallee):** I support the motion. I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, and your deputy, on your elevation to the high office you now hold. I look forward to the undoubted skills which you will bring to that post.

**The Hon. Ted Chapman:** You are going okay so far.

**Mr LEWIS:** Very much so. I appreciate the way in which you have applied yourself to the purposes to which you must address yourself to ensure that not only this Chamber but also, more particularly, the Parliament of which it is a part, functions more effectively in the interests of the people of South Australia than has been possible in the past. Whilst I am on that, I wish to make the point to members here and in the other place—a point which I believe is as self-evident now as ever before—that this place should not be beholden to Government departments and Ministers for the



essential supply of services and equipment to enable it to function.

Too often the whimsy of ministerial advisers and/or the feeling that the Minister has on the day in which the request is received determines the outcome and the consequence for the way in which this institution functions. This institution, as you, Mr Speaker, members, and anyone who has watched the events in Eastern Europe now know, is the cornerstone of a civilised society in which citizens are free to say and do as they please, subject to the rights of others. To abuse this institution and its capacity to function in those interests in the way I have witnessed since I have been here is, to my mind, an abuse of that privilege and an abuse of that position which we occupy in history over the short period we have had democracy.

Members hardly need to be reminded that this State has the fifth oldest democracy on earth. The notion that men and women of goodwill can govern themselves is a recent one in the development of the history of civilised man, that is, *homo sapiens*.

The Governor, in the course of his remarks, drew attention to an area for which I have been entrusted with some responsibility on behalf of my colleagues. Not only am I invited to speak on their behalf on matters related to mines and energy but also—and of equal importance—lands, State services and public works. Under the topic of mines and energy, the Governor referred to the need to have an integrated response in planning the State's long-term energy needs and to controlling energy prices so that they remain competitive with the prices in other States. He also spoke about the need to respond to calls for action to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Foreshadowed in that speech, which members know is never the opinion of His Excellency but always the opinion of the incumbent Government in office, the Governor foreshadowed the release of a State Energy Plan Green Paper in order to open these issues to full public debate. For goodness sake, this is a Government of committee and inaction! These days the term 'Green Paper' is taking on a meaning different to that when it was used first by the Government in the United Kingdom.

*The Hon. Ted Chapman interjecting:*

**Mr LEWIS:** It is interesting, is it not? Notwithstanding the other application of the term 'green', in this instance it is intended to start debate. We have had debate on these matters. Clearly the Government has neither the wit nor the inclination to make decisions. The facts are there for all to see. It is about time that we took nothing more than simple stock of the facts and came up with a comprehensive and definite statement of direction. I am relieved that at long last the Government has moved to seriously place these issues on the agenda, because it has never done so in the past, and there is no doubt that they are crucial to the development of this State.

The lack of coordinated, long-term planning has been so disgracefully mishandled by the Government that the situation of the future supply of electricity, gas and tariffs in this State has now reached a crisis point. We find repeatedly that there are areas of the State that simply lose electricity supply for no other reason than the capacity of a locality's lines of supply is overtaxed. This is occurring more frequently during the hot weather than it used to in the middle of winter. One hopes that the Green Paper we are about to see—and I wait with bated breath for it (I will not hold my breath because I certainly wish to still be here to join in the debate when the paper hits the deck)—will not lead to the establishment of another plethora of committees making conflicting recommendations with this Government being

too short-sighted, complacent and confused to take action. That is exactly what has occurred for the past seven years.

A summary of some of the activities of the many committees that have been established to consider future electricity generation options and tariff pricing in this State is to be found in the South Australian Energy Planning Executive Annual Report of 1986-87. An advisory committee on future electricity generation options was established in 1983, which is when the then Minister (Hon. Ron Payne) made the announcement. The report states:

The Advisory Committee reviewed the need for new electricity generating capacity and the options available to satisfy forecast demand.

Just on a year later, as the report states:

... the Government endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and established the Future Energy Action Committee to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations—

That is what the background report says. It continues:

The action committee completed its activities in October 1985.

That is getting on for five years ago. It continues:

Alongside the activities of the Advisory Committee and the Action Committee, over the period of 1983 to 1986, the Minister initiated a review—

this is another one—

of energy planning procedures. In March 1986, an Energy Coordination Review Committee was established under the Chairmanship of Mr B. Guerin... The Energy Coordination Review Committee also included the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy, together with the Chairmen of ETSA and PASA [the Pipelines Authority of South Australia]. The overall objective of the committee was to develop a structure which could:

- integrate the long-term planning of major agencies;
- coordinate advice and action on energy issues;
- consider the role that energy plays in the State's economic development;
- achieve optimum development of local resources;
- assign responsibility for securing future gas supplies for the State.

I do not know how we do that if we do not know how much gas we have and how long it will last and if we cannot get to the back of the contracts that have been signed by some of the people who own the gas. The Energy Planning Executive was formally established by the Minister of Mines and Energy on 26 September 1986 and commenced functioning in December 1986. That was four years and three months ago and we still have not got the information that we need and we do not know where we are going. I have some firm views about that. It seems that we are committed to trying to obscure the truth and hide behind convenient decisions between bureaucrats and politicians, none of whom I have any truck with, and avoid making responsible decisions which would provide us with the real prospect of cheap and secure energy supplies, particularly electricity, going through this decade and into the next century.

I need to address my remarks to the importance of energy, and particularly to the growing role of electricity in providing energy which is so vital to the State's development. The Future Energy Action Committee—FEAC as it has been called—specifically examined the feasibility of developing coal deposits at Kingston, the Wintinna—Meekatharra mineral deposits—and deposits at Sedan or Lochiel. In July 1985 the committee reported that the Lochiel and Sedan deposits offered the best overall prospects. During the time of the Labor Government from November 1982 to the present—seven years and then some—there has been a good deal of public debate about the various coal deposits and the level of expected future electricity demand and about productivity and pricing, that is, the tariff structure here.

I seek your leave, Mr Acting Speaker, to incorporate in *Hansard* a purely statistical table about the size and impor-

tance of industry. The extract is from *Electricity Australia*, 1989, and is entitled, 'Electricity Supply Association of Aus-

tralia.' That is the organisation which publishes it. It is business data of the electricity supply industry in Australia. Leave granted.

SIZE AND IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRY  
Business Data of Electricity Supply Industry in Australia

	N.S.W	Vic.	S.M.A	Qld	Tas.	S.A.	W.A.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total Aust.
Installed Generating Plant										
Thermal and Other (MW) . . . . .	11 827.381	5 925.000	0.000	4 266.246	244.700	2 694.547	2 271.773	322.160	N/A	27 551.807
Hydro (MW) . . . . .	344.900	468.515	3 740.000	632.000	2 075.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	7 260.815
Total (MW) . . . . .	12 172.281	6 393.515	3 740.000	4 898.246	2 320.100	2 694.547	2 271.773	322.160	N/A	34 812.622
Sales (kWh Million)										
Residential . . . . .	14 181.777	8 348.713	N/A	5 655.482	1 729.389	2 967.917	2 250.200	235.295	907.457	36 276.230
Commercial/Industrial . . . . .	25 375.750	17 616.838	N/A	12 764.777	6 375.188	4 246.648	4 859.500	582.606	993.291	72 814.598
Traction . . . . .	708.997	292.298	N/A	224.963	0.000	1.782	0.000	0.000	0.000	1 228.040
Public Lighting . . . . .	220.052	187.155	N/A	98.168	18.060	59.638	51.700	N/A	31.980	666.753
Total . . . . .	40 486.576	26 445.004	N/A	18 743.390	8.122.637	7 275.985	7 161.400	817.901	1 932.728	110 985.621
Income from Sales (\$ Million)										
Residential . . . . .	1 069.683	719.767	N/A	523.469	114.163	266.899	267.723	28.575	59.664	3 049.943
Commercial/Industrial . . . . .	1 872.545	1 352.921	N/A	893.100	189.073	395.383	514.658	84.535	90.182	5 392.397
Traction . . . . .	40.744	23.728	N/A	22.029	0.000	0.185	0.000	0.000	0.000	86.686
Public Lighting . . . . .	48.237	34.970	N/A	17.503	2.927	11.945	9.402	1.254	4.064	130.302
Total . . . . .	3 031.209	2 131.386	N/A	1 456.101	306.163	674.412	791.783	114.364	153.910	8 659.328
Average Price of Energy Sold (\$/kWh)	0.0749	0.0806	N/A	0.0777	0.0377	0.0927	0.1106	0.1398	0.0796	0.0780
Customers . . . . .	2 324 422	1 801 532	N/A	1 071 461	211 527	644 435	585 020	42 039	101 246	6 781 682
Employees . . . . .	27 787	19 421	903	9 164	4 153	5 386	5 795	721	830	74 160

Mr LEWIS: That illustrates that, with the exception of Western Australia, South Australia had the most expensive electricity in Australia at the time of publication. In fact, in the very near future South Australia will have the most expensive electricity in Australia. The eastern States, particularly Queensland, have recognised that the availability and proper pricing of electricity are important inducements in attracting industry to their States. South Australia has lagged behind in this respect, and it is only in the last few months that efforts have been made by the Electricity Trust to review the price of electricity to industrial consumers. I hope that it is not too late, but it appears to be, as we now find ourselves being shunned by prospective developers because we have not addressed this problem in the past.

I turn to the position in 1989. We should be focusing our attention upon sources of information which enable us to draw a conclusion about our electricity supply, demand and pricing. We need to recognise that an Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) report, which was quoted last year (so it is nothing new to the Government, if it was not aware of its existence) by the Hon. Legh Davis in another place, states:

Many commercial users have expressed concern about various aspects of the tariffs charged by electricity authorities, in particular they have pointed to apparent disadvantages they face, compared with tariff levels applying to similar industries in other countries and more recently to what they regard as inefficient practices within the industry itself. They have also been concerned about apparent discrimination against industrial and commercial users in some States.

In the introductory remarks of the paper (page 1), the IAC states:

Inefficiencies in the industry are largely attributable to electricity authorities being insulated by restrictions on competition.

Monopolies are never a good thing, Mr Acting Speaker; you would know that. All members ought to consider that. It is relevant in the context of how we go about generating power for the future, in my judgment. The report further states:

Furthermore, as outlined in Chapter 5, the authorities' internal operating environment compares unfavourably with privately owned businesses because they are faced with:

- conflicting objectives;
- Government interference in the way managers run electricity undertakings; and

- pricing policies instituted by Governments to achieve welfare and regional development objectives.

I would add my own comments to that, which are not attributable to the IAC. It is a bit of political pork-barrelling. The report goes on:

Resulting inefficiencies are costly. Commission estimates suggest that economy-wide gains of around \$1 billion annually could be achieved with a more efficient electricity industry.

That is not me saying that. I agree with it because the evidence is there. It is the Industries Assistance Commission saying that. In section 1.1 of Appendix 1 of that same report, the IAC states:

By international standards Australia has an inefficient electricity industry. While progress towards the achievement of international standards is under way, considerable scope for improvement still exists. Australian plants and distribution systems are overmanned—

it is a bit like the pilots—

and plants operate at capacity levels well below those achieved in many overseas countries. Consequently, per unit generating costs are higher than they need to be.

I could go on and quote a great deal more from that report. Suffice to say that, if we can get, as we have been offered, a coal mining operator willing to build and operate the power station and not sell the coal to the Electricity Trust in South Australia so that it generates the power. If that private source of power can be brought into competition with the trust itself, as it is prepared to do, and instead of supplying the coal, sell the electricity to the Electricity Trust of South Australia, at a point or points in the grid where the trust nominates for a negotiated contract price, it will be in the best interests of this State to have such an arrangement.

Such an arrangement is offered by the mining proponents of the Wintinna deposits. The Labor members of the select committee of the last Parliament, other members of the Labor Party and Electricity Trust officers would be derelict in their duty if they ignored the prospect that offered to South Australia to ensure improved efficiency and lower costs of electricity to the State, long term, for the reasons that I have mentioned. I think it is a dereliction of public duty to allow that to continue. The Hon. Mr Davis said in another place:



... conclusions which do not bring credit to the South Australian Bannan Government which took office in November 1982. The facts do not reflect well on the people in the Electricity Trust who have been making key decisions, but—and I want to say this publicly—

and I endorse these comments—

—excluded from that is the new management of the Electricity Trust, and there certainly have been some significant board changes in recent years. I accept that the General Manager of the Electricity Trust, Mr Robin Marrett, has come from a most competitive and vigorous industry—the petroleum industry—and already, is making a decision to slash the ETSA work force by 6 per cent over three years—

and that was in August last year—

he has shown his hand...

That needs to be commended. Overmanning should not be tolerated in any part of the economy, especially in monopolies. The report continues:

South Australia, more than in any other State, believes electricity costs are too high.

I have provided that evidence. He continues:

... their perception is absolutely right.

That is the IAC perception. Further:

The price of electricity in South Australia is progressively making South Australia less competitive. It either has, or is about to have, the highest electricity price.

For many years we have been told by successive Ministers in this place that everything is all right. That is simply not true.

The other matter to which I wish to draw attention during the course of these remarks relevant to my responsibilities in the Liberal Party under the general heading of mines and energy relates to a disturbing fact that in South Australia our share of the national exploration dollar—the hundreds of millions of dollars that are being spent on mineral exploration—is way down to 3 per cent compared to where it was when the Bannan Government took office in 1982. That is not only disgraceful but also despicable.

The Minister knows full well why that is so. It is the same kind of dilemma that is confronting the Government in other areas of its planning laws and the way in which developers are dissuaded from expending their dollars here. Too much time is wasted from when a proponent comes along to the time when they can expect to do anything effective to get some recovery or return on the capital invested. Equally, the detail into which the proponent must go is greater than is necessary, and the Government illustrates that point itself by deciding to simply ignore EIS requirements for each and every project it finds convenient to develop without an EIS.

I ask that the House and the Government consider seriously reviewing immediately and streamlining these processes. Not to water down the necessity for them to be in place but simply to speed them up and make it possible for us to get those development dollars back into South Australia again, particularly as it relates to mineral exploration. We have too many hobbles on industry, and that is why industry is not here. That is why we are not getting the dollars; and that is why we will suffer late in this decade and early in the next century, when we will have fallen behind where we were at the beginning of the 1980s, when we were in front.

I will now turn to some of the local issues which concern me as a country member in this place. Members realise that schools have just gone back and the issue causing people most concern is education. First, the Education Department is having great difficulty delivering on its promises of curriculum guarantee. The Government made those promises and now it is reneging on them. The promised new deal of a basic curriculum for country schools and improved incen-

tives for country staffing just do not exist. We know that, had it not been for the vocal protestations made on behalf of the rural community by the group that was spontaneously formed during the latter part of last year, Community Action on Rural Education (CARE), we would not have had the Mellen committee of review.

Mr Mellen was appointed only after attention was drawn to the parlous way in which the formula was depriving country schools of their staffing levels. The committee was born out of desperation and anger of parents who saw their children being deprived of the catchcry this Government parades in front of the people of the metropolitan area, that is, equal opportunity and social justice. The people whom I represent were being deprived of that because they were not being given an equal opportunity or anything like social justice in access to education.

To its credit, the Mellen committee understandably supported the claims of schools for more staff and this has met some of their needs. However, the rigid application of the numbers formula in the curriculum guarantee did not acknowledge the difficulties involved in rural education which arise as a consequence of distance and isolation. Many schools throughout the State started the year just a few days ago with fewer staff than they had in 1989 and this has not always been due to falling enrolments, as has been claimed by the Government.

There are fewer staff in some schools that have had an increase in enrolments. This exposes and mocks the Government's commitment to social justice and equal opportunity. There is no equity in it at all. For example, an area school in my electorate with an increasing enrolment—up to 180 students, with 22 new enrolments—has had staffing reduction by one part-time position, and there will be only six instead of seven primary classes as a consequence.

The Keith area school staffing allocation is marginally down, although its enrolment has increased slightly to 168 secondary students and 330 primary students, with an extra 35 reception children expected in the forthcoming year. The Government cannot tell me that it is interested in equal opportunity and social justice if that is how it deals with people who are living in country communities and providing an essential service to this State. These people are being belted around the ears by indifference to the standard of their roads, by reductions in their police services, by threatened closure of hospitals and reductions in the number of hospital beds, and by the disruption of their volunteer service organisations such as the CFS and St John. These people are now being confronted with a Government which says one thing but which does another thing. While it says things to people in the metropolitan area, the media does not report what is really happening. That is a tragedy because it does not bring the Government to account in the conscience of the majority of people who live in metropolitan Adelaide.

We have seen more concern about the welfare of seals (goodness knows that that is legitimate) in the Marineland fiasco than about the plight of children who live in the country. It is not reasonable for the media to be let off the hook without taking some of the responsibility for failing to ventilate the concerns of country people. By failing in that responsibility, the media does not ensure that there is a development cohesion and understanding between city and country people.

Indeed, the opposite is occurring. People are told by Left wing politicians of both Parties in this camp—the Democrats and the Labor Party—that everything on the farm is rosy, that because commodity prices and quantities are up, things must be good. What they need to understand is that

the high interest regime is killing many farmers, as it is killing the mining industry and all the major exporters of this country. They are principally rural and mining in their base and, without them, all of us would suffer to the point where there would be collapse of essential public services.

Already we have a balance of payments problem, yet the policies being pursued by the Federal Labor Government, aided and abetted by the Bannon Government in South Australia and by other State Labor Governments, are destroying the viability of those industries which we so desperately need to turn around so that they can make the contribution necessary to the balance of payments problems which are reducing this country's credibility with overseas lending institutions.

Instead of earning the money from export industry, the Government seems hell-bent on borrowing it at higher interest rates than ought to be paid and, in the process, putting up the cost of operating those export industries to the point where their marginal viability has been constantly eroded and many of them will fall by the wayside.

The member for Flinders would well understand what I am talking about. The consequences for not only rural areas, but the entire community of Australia, will be parlous if we continue down this path. It is economic madness to have a dirty float on the dollar propped up by unnecessarily high interest rates with the argument being to keep the wages accord in place and to damp down the demand for imports—piffle! It cannot and it will not! Instead, it damps down total demand and viability of export industries rather than doing what it should, which is the exact opposite.

The curriculum provided in schools is not what it should be nor is it what the Government says it is. For country students to gain equal opportunities to enter into tertiary education and compete for jobs on an equal footing with city children, it is necessary for them to have access to an adequate choice of subjects at senior secondary level. This aim cannot be achieved without specialist teachers. It is understandable that many parents are apprehensive about the prospects for their children's academic success when the local school is forced to offer core curriculum units by distance education. Those who can scrape up enough money to send their children away often reluctantly make that decision, but this, in turn, reduces course offerings in the schools which they leave. Student numbers fall and, consequently, so do staff numbers. So, the destruction of rural communities by these policies continues. The example *par excellence* is to be found in the Pinnaroo Area School.

I draw attention to another problem in the lands area of my responsibilities: the stupid rental fixing provisions for pastoral leases contained in the Bill which went through this place last year and which has now become law. I commend the Minister for establishing the task force and the UF&S for its cooperation. I point out now, as I did then, that those rental fixing provisions are destructive and will send many pastoral leases to the wall.

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

**Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's speech which opened the forty-seventh Parliament. I congratulate all members in this place on their election and, indeed, the Speaker and his deputy on being given the privilege to serve as the presiding and deputy presiding officers of this Parliament. I also thank the electors of Albert Park for giving me the honour and privilege to serve my fourth term as their representative in this place. I give a commitment that I will endeavour, to the best of my ability,

to represent their views. I believe that my role as the representative of the electors of Albert Park is to pursue and obtain the best possible conditions and facilities for them and their families—a commitment which I do not give lightly.

I recall many years ago that one of my ministerial colleagues, the then member for Stuart (Hon. Gavin Keneally) saying, 'Kevin, your job as a back bencher is to pursue the Government Ministers with all the strength you have to get the best possible conditions for your electors.' He then said, 'It is my responsibility as a Minister and a member of Cabinet to make those decisions whether or not your electors should be successful.' That good advice was given by Gavin not only to me but to other members of this place.

I publicly record my disgust and dismay at the insult meted out to the electors of Albert Park by the candidates for the Liberal Party and the Australian Democrats not turning up at the declaration of the polls. Mr Hayes for the Liberal Party and Mr Mitchell for the Australian Democrats meted out an insult to my electors by not turning up. The record of that function shows no apology. That is an insult. I do not care which political Party it is. If some of my colleagues in the Labor Party have erred then, in my view, they equally stand condemned. They have a clear responsibility to attend and to thank the electors of that electorate for the opportunity to stand for election to that seat. I make no apology at all to any candidate who is not prepared to mete out the common courtesy that should be displayed to any electors.

I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition. I must say it was no surprise to me that he would be the Leader of the Liberal Party after the State election. I am not being smart about it. I predicted it in this place on 28 September 1989 (*Hansard*, page 1023). I said:

The information I obtained yesterday that I want to pass on to Parliament is that a meeting of four very senior Liberal members was held in the Albert Park electorate this week. The reason is to unload the Leader of the Opposition as soon as the State election is over, that is what it is all about. Members opposite do not like it: they may laugh, but that is a fact. The meeting was held in my electorate, and time will tell whether I am correct, as I was in 1982. Well may the member for Victoria hang his head in shame!

I was absolutely spot on, as I was in 1982.

**The Hon. T.H. Hemmings:** Who were the members concerned?

**Mr HAMILTON:** With the greatest respect to my colleague, that is one thing that I will not divulge because it could, and probably would, identify the source of my information. I think the ex-Minister will quite clearly—

*Mr Lewis interjecting:*

**Mr HAMILTON:** The member for Murray-Mallee might well laugh, but it is on the record. I heard two words used yesterday in a manner that I thought was unbecoming to the Parliament—'bastard Government'. I could also use terminology such as 'acts of bastardry', but I do not intend to follow that line in discussing the manner in which the member for Custance was unloaded and the amount, if you like, of loyalty displayed towards him in the lead-up to the last State election. The fact that his colleagues were plotting to unload him speaks volumes for the loyalty that was displayed to the then Leader of the Opposition. There is no question at all about what took place.

**Mr Groom:** What's he still doing here?

**Mr HAMILTON:** Who knows what he may do? I will now refer to issues that impact upon my electorate and the people of South Australia.

*Mr Lewis interjecting:*

**Mr HAMILTON:** If you want to get back into your rabbit warren that would suit me fine. You have had your chance; I will now have mine.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member should direct his remarks to the Chair.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Thank you, Sir, I was hoping that you would contain him; nevertheless, I will not reflect on you.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Is that a reflection on the Chair?

**Mr HAMILTON:** No, it is not.

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable member will resume his seat. I suggest that the honourable member consider carefully his remarks to the Chair.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Thank you, Sir. I humbly submit to your will. I will now talk about an issue pertaining to my electorate and, indeed, to your electorate, Sir, namely, the environment. There is no question that I will pursue that issue in this place with all my strength. Indeed, I was most impressed during a recent short visit to Western Australia to look at what was happening in relation to the environment in that State.

One of the issues that was brought to my attention was that of the new air rules for the Kwinana area in Western Australia. I have already brought this to the attention of the Minister for Environment and Planning and hope to be given the opportunity today to ask her a question about what the Government may do in relation to this. An article in the *West Australian* of 19 December 1989, headlined 'New air rules for Kwinana', reads as follows:

Noxious industries will be made collectively responsible for the air quality on the Kwinana strip under a new Environmental Protection Authority approach. The anti-pollution policy, which is still to be approved by Parliament, will legally bind industries in the strip to air standards among the world's toughest.

EPA chairman Barry Carbon said that, for the first time, the EPA was setting a standard based on the air people breathed rather than on the amount of dust and gas released by industry. The present approach was to limit the emissions of sulphur dioxide and dust from individual industries. But that does not take account of the cumulative effect of many industries,' he said.

Mr Carbon said that under the new policy industries would have to share the air space over Kwinana so that collectively they did not exceed hourly limits for sulphur dioxide and dust.

The district had agreed to the idea in principle.

It goes on to say in part that the EPA had a comprehensive monitoring network in Kwinana and it would be progressively improved as the policy was enforced. I believe that in my electorate as, indeed, in yours, Sir, there are problems from industry, and I believe very strongly that that is a problem this and any future Government must address in terms of the environment. There is no doubt in my mind that erecting a higher chimney stack is done for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to spread the dust or the emissions further afield. Whether that be here in Adelaide, in Port Pirie or in Port Augusta, that, in my humble opinion, is the thrust behind such chimneys.

I now turn to other matters in relation to the environment, and particularly in relation to my electorate. I believe that the announcement last year by the State Government, and by the Minister of Marine in particular, of a \$100 000 hydrological survey of the West Lakes waterway was very important—but, I hasten to add, in my opinion long overdue.

For many years, as members of this House would be aware, I have persistently expressed concerns about the quality of water that flows not only through the waterway but into the waterway. I mention specifically the amount of water that flows into the West Lakes waterway from the surrounding drains. With a freshwater input, stratification occurs, which leads to many other problems including, as we all know, toxic algal blooms. Although there have been only two instances of this, I hope that in time those prob-

lems (which, amongst others, are being addressed) will be addressed in a proper manner.

I am aware that the freshwater input from stormwater brings in a lot of bird droppings, lead from the roads and many other toxic materials which must ultimately, as I understand, reside in the sediment of that lake. The fact that I have correspondence from one of my ministerial colleagues which stated some time ago that the West Lakes waterway is 'badly engineered', I believe justifies the stand I have taken in pursuing this question of water quality. While saying that, I hasten to say to my constituents that I have been very careful in the manner in which I have approached this subject, because I am aware that some people and some sections of the media would latch on to such a statement and cause unnecessary concerns to those people who have purchased very expensive properties around that waterway.

There is a need for education of people not only in the area but those people who use that particular waterway. The waterway is used by thousands of people, and many business people, including those from interstate and overseas, come down to look at that magnificent development—and there is no question that it is a magnificent development. There is a need for information to be put out to nearby residents and to the people of South Australia generally so they can be aware of what they can do to stop the pollution of that waterway.

I know that there are many other members of this place, such as the member for Henley Beach and the member for Price and, indeed, the Speaker of this House, who are concerned about not only the West Lakes waterway but indeed the Port River and the impact that that is having on our coast. We must be conscious of the need to address the issue of Gulf pollution, be it from freshwater or indeed from the treated effluent that flows into the Port River.

I have already indicated in writing, and indeed to the Minister personally, that I will be waiting on information from her as to when the State Government intends to embark upon the redirection of that sludge and some of that treated effluent from the Port Adelaide Sewage Treatment Works, out around Bolivar, I understand, as was indicated during the lead-up to the most recent State election.

I believe very strongly that the question of the pollution of our waterways has to be addressed and I give a commitment to my constituents that I do not intend to walk away from this issue. I have here a press cutting from the *Advertiser* of Wednesday 12 July last year, which states, 'Tough new laws aimed at clearer coastal waters.' I do not intend to read out all the information contained in this press cutting. There is a photograph of the Minister for Environment and Planning, Hon. Susan Lenahan—and a good Minister, I might add. She is very much aware of my intention to pursue issues like these in and around my electorate.

We must readily applaud the efforts of the Minister for Environment and Planning. On one occasion after the Minister had come down to my electorate and had a look at the encroachment along the Tennyson sand dunes, in no time she had gone back to Cabinet and put forward a proposition, which was subsequently agreed to. My constituents, and particularly many of the environmentalists, were particularly delighted with that decision.

**The Hon. T.H. Hemmings:** Great win for you, mate!

**Mr HAMILTON:** I thank my colleague, the member for Napier, for that. It was not only my win. More importantly, it was a win for environmentalists and concerned people in South Australia.

**The Hon. T.H. Hemmings:** The community.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Indeed. They were not prepared to allow a handful of people to encroach upon Coastal Protection Board land, land that belongs to every person in South Australia and to future generations. The Minister has a lot going for her. She is a very intelligent woman and I know that the people of South Australia and my colleagues have great admiration for her particular ability to handle difficult issues.

I turn now to the serious problems facing the community regarding law and order. I was given the privilege of entering Parliament in 1979, and at that time my colleagues in the Labor Party and I were subjected to what I have constantly and consistently described in this place as one of the most outrageous, filthy and disgusting campaigns waged by the Liberal Party on the issue of law and order. I have never forgotten it and I will never forget it. To impute that I, my colleagues and the then Premier of South Australia (Des Corcoran) condoned rape and other crimes was beyond the pale. I could use other emotive language but I do not intend to do so. I will never forget it.

It prompted me to pursue the issue of law and order in Parliament, and I have not relented, be it in Opposition or in Government. I have a great deal of pride that I was instrumental in asking in this place in November 1983 for the State Government to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It was not my idea: I picked it up from Western Australia. The community at large applauds the scheme because not only does it reduce the incidence of crime it also encourages people to report crime. Last night I listened with a great deal of attention to the member for Newland. With the greatest respect to her as a new member, I think that she has a hell of a lot to learn about law and order issues and crime in this State.

**Mr Ingerson:** So do you.

**Mr HAMILTON:** It is very easy to stand up in this place and bucket the Government of the day. With respect to the honourable member's interjection, I have no doubt that I have a lot to learn about many things but I can speak with considerably more authority than the member opposite, who constantly interjects inanely on matters which, to my recollection, he has not seriously addressed since he has been in Parliament. I have. Members opposite make stupid remarks along the lines of, 'Pity the Government doesn't do this, that or the other.' So, I commend to them the pages of *Hansard* and the speeches of members like me and the Attorney-General.

Our Attorney-General, who is still subject to filthy and disgusting rumours, has probably addressed law and order issues more thoroughly than any other Attorney-General. Members do not have to think back too far to recall the outrageous remarks that were made in Parliament last year. I also recall the attempt to impute certain actions to the Attorney-General by placing a question on the Notice Paper. That was absolutely outrageous. If I am ever responsible for something like that, I hope that my colleagues would walk away from it.

I turn to the issue of crime prevention and the Government's ongoing commitment to it. I will read from the policy document, admitting that it is very easy for Labor members to stand up and say what is in the platform. It is my intention (as my colleague, who sits on the front bench will be well aware, as one of the Ministers responsible) to pursue them to ensure that these policies are implemented. It says:

A future Bannon Labor Government will pursue a crime prevention strategy, including the provision of \$10 million worth of new money over 5 years for prevention programs and local initiatives. In summary, the crime prevention strategy will include \$10 million to be set aside specifically for crime prevention over

the next five years; the formation of a broad-based coalition against crime—comprising Neighbourhood Watch, community leaders and representatives of local government, business and unions, church and youth organisations—to advise Government on crime prevention issues. The group will be chaired by the Premier.

And I commend the Premier for that. It continues:

Specific programs to be undertaken in the first of the five years include the extension of the Police Department's Blue Light concept to include camps and other youth activities; establishment of a police deputies' club to promote crime prevention concepts amongst primary school aged children, computer mapping of crime data by the police department to pinpoint target areas for crime prevention activities; a project to provide recreational activities away from the city for 'street kids'.

It goes on to say:

Other major programs to commence immediately and supported after three years include: School Watch, Security and Safety for the Aged—

which I commend; it is fantastic—

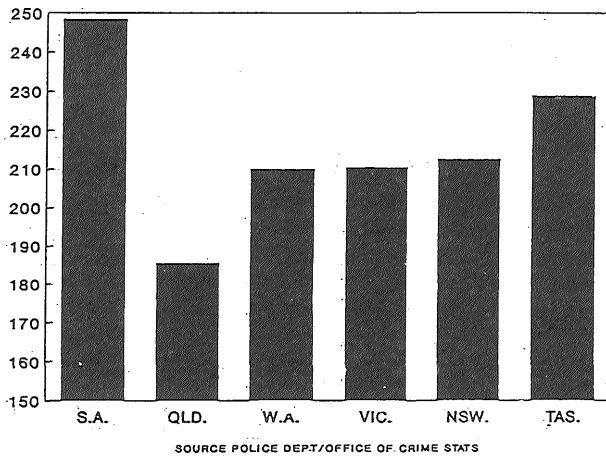
... and grants to community groups interested in promoting crime prevention programs within their area.

One of the issues that has been raised often in this place, to which I listened with a great deal of attention, is the question of resources. In terms of the number of police officers in this State, as I understand it, South Australia has more police per head of population than any other State in Australia. I have listened as a person who is regularly invited to Neighbourhood Watch initiatives in my electorate to talk on what I believe Neighbourhood Watch should do, and I very much appreciate those invitations. Time and time again senior police officers have said that additional police officers are not necessarily the answer to a reduction in the crime rate in this State. I know that and so do many other people but for cheap political purposes there are people opposite who want to say that we need more and more police officers out on the beat.

I know also, from the Police Association (and I do not deny the association the right to ask for more members; as a trade union official I applaud any union official or secretary of any association representing workers in this State to ensure that they get the best possible conditions) that there is a price that we all pay. So, I come back to the point that the community itself, with proper encouragement and educational programs, including those that start in schools, will bring about a reduction in crime. One of the things I have found through the Neighbourhood Watch program—and it is well researched overseas—is that, where Governments embark upon greater education in the community about crime and particularly reporting crime, there is an increase in the incidence of reported crime. I applaud that; it is not something that we try to hide behind a bushel or shove under the carpet.

If there is a problem in the community, I believe that Government and members of Parliament have a responsibility to air them in this place and to try to meet those issues head on. It is no good walking away from them. I will watch very closely what takes place in terms of the policing of this State over the next five years. Finally, I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* statistical information entitled, 'Police Department Staffing Levels 1988'.

Leave granted.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING LEVELS 1988  
per 100,000 of population

Mr HAMILTON: One of those other areas of crime prevention is 'Tips for Older People.' It has been my experience in the 10 years that I have doorknocked my electorate that many people leave their doors and windows open and indicate to the community at large they are ripe to be broken into.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2 p.m.]

#### PETITION: RARE EARTH EXTRACTION PLANT

A petition signed by 712 residents of South Australia praying that the House urge the Government to require environmental impact statements for all stages of the rare earth extraction plant at Port Pirie was presented by Mrs Hutchison.

Petition received.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: MARINELAND

The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN (Minister for Environment and Planning): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN: The death of a Marineland fur seal pup on 13 February 1990 raised a number of issues which need clarifying. First, there were a number of inaccuracies in statements made yesterday. Mrs Abel stated in the *News*:

When I was sacked from Marineland on 2 January, Amber was a healthy robust animal.

Mrs Abel was dismissed by the receivers on 8 January not 2 January. Amber was sick over the Christmas period from 24 December 1989 to 3 January 1990 and over this period suffered a weight loss of 5kg. Mrs Abel also stated:

In five short weeks she [the seal] went downhill rapidly, and I believe she was traumatised not only by being torn away from me, but also by being put into a different pool with other fur seals, of whom she was petrified.

While I sympathise with Mrs Abel's distress, I point out that the fur seal did have genuine physical ailments and has been seriously ill for a number of weeks. The vet, Dr Needham, advised the receivers that it was not necessary for either of the fur seals to be taken home any longer at night. He also advised that all animals should be kept in a quarantine situation at Marineland.

The other fur seal pup, Warneke, which Mrs Abel had also tended from a young age, is perfectly well. The two fur seals were placed in the inside pool with other animals, but

they were separated by fences. The pup, Amber, was next to the other pup and the female sea lions. An evening news program last night stated:

The Abels managed Marineland for three years and in that time they claim no animals died.

The implication is that animals have only died since the Abels left. In fact this is incorrect. A number of fairy penguins, two wallabies and a female sea lion died while this facility was being managed by the Abels. The dolphin, Zippy, died last year after the departure of Grant Abel but while other members of the Abel family were still employed there. Zippy had been diagnosed and treated for a liver problem on several previous occasions. Dr Needham's advice on 17 March 1989 was that Zippy's liver problem was possibly due to a slowly haemorrhaging gastric ulcer. Poor water quality has been implicated in the death of both the seal pup and the dolphin, Zippy.

Certainly, there are and have been for some time problems with the state of the buildings at Marineland. The former Marineland managers were well aware of these problems and that is why they had planned to demolish and rebuild the facility. I have consistently said that the animals should be moved as soon as possible. It is inhumane to keep the animals in deteriorating facilities longer than is necessary.

When it became obvious in December that the animals may have to remain at Marineland for at least 12 more weeks, expert advice was sought on how the water quality could be improved. In early January \$6 500 was spent on cleaning the pools and removing algae. Chlorination equipment and six high pressure filters are currently on order and will be installed shortly. The death of yet another animal re-emphasises the need to move these animals as soon as possible.

Marineland's vet, Dr Needham, stated in the *Advertiser* this morning that moving the six dolphins could be dangerous and the calf should not be moved or handled until it is 18 months old. I have received a wide range of advice on the risks associated with transporting these animals. It needs to be recognised that there are well established procedures for transporting dolphins and that dolphins have been transported far greater distances than the journey to Seaworld.

While there have been cases where dolphins born in captivity have died from stress induced by handling from routine checks, there are at least two cases in South Australia where wild dolphin calves have been stranded and successfully re-launched. Similarly, an orphaned calf was transported to Marineland 10 kilometres by road. It did not die from the handling or the journey; it died several days later from starvation because it would not bottle-feed. I have been advised by a marine biologist, Dr Ross, and Mr Anstee as follows:

Most of the risk will be incurred during the loading and unloading procedures, rather than during the intervening period when mild sedation relaxes the animals. Thus, the longer overall period in transport to Queensland should not increase the risk of mortality significantly over transport to the Port River.

Mr Anstee has been employed at Marineland since 1987 and knows these animals well. Dr Ross has successfully transported one dolphin. Many dolphins which are transported are sick or in a weakened condition because they have been stranded. These dolphins will have the advantage of being in reasonable health and in having had intensive training.

I reiterate my comments of last week. Transport to suitable facilities is the best solution for these animals. As

soon as they receive a veterinary clearance, they will be moved to their new homes. For the information of the House I lay on the table the following information. First, veterinary advice from Dr Needham on the health problems of Marineland animals over the preceding three months; secondly, advice from Dr Needham stating that all animals should remain quarantined at Marineland until they receive a veterinary clearance; and, thirdly, a summary of comments on transportation of the dolphins from a range of experts.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before calling for questions, I advise the House that, in the absence of the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Employment and Further Education, the Minister of Education will handle questions directed to the Deputy Premier and the Minister of Youth Affairs and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology will handle questions directed to the other portfolios handled by the Minister of Employment and Further Education.

## QUESTION TIME

### HOMESURE SCHEME

**Mr BRINDAL (Hayward):** I direct my question to the Minister of Housing and Construction. Did the Government take any action during January to further restrict the number of home buyers eligible for Homesure assistance?

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** I think I have fully answered questions about the plans that were laid out by the Government with regard to Homesure. Quite the contrary, we have endeavoured to encourage as many people as possible to take up the opportunities that we believe are available to those who are suffering financial distress as a consequence of high interest rates on their home loans, and we will continue to do so.

### KARINA G

**Mrs HUTCHISON (Stuart):** Can the Minister of Marine tell the House what action has been taken in regard to the *Karina G*, a fishing vessel that has run aground in the State's far west? I understand that the vessel still contains several thousand gallons of fuel and oil.

**The Hon. R.J. GREGORY:** I thank the member for Stuart for her question. On 24 January this year the *Karina G* ran aground on a beach about 8 kilometres from the South Australian-Western Australian border. This vessel is operated by Mr Dinko Lukin of Port Lincoln. Mr Lukin has told officers of the Department of Marine and Harbors that it contains approximately 4 000 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of lubricating oil. The vessel appears to have hull damage, but no fuel or oil spills have been reported, and my advice is that the vessel is not at risk of breaking up at the moment.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service advises that the vessel is adjacent to a national park. On 30 January Mr Lukin was advised that he must ensure there was no spillage of diesel or oil from the vessel and that before taking any action he must have it approved through the Department of Marine and Harbors.

On Monday 5 February Mr Lukin was interviewed as part of the department's routine investigation into the incident. He indicated that he was planning to retrieve either the whole vessel or the fuel and oil only, and deal with the vessel in some other way. He was told that, whichever process he chose, he must receive prior approval from the department. As yet he has not informed us of any decision.

The department has contacted Mr Lukin again today to ask him what he is doing about this vessel. He will be

advised that the maximum fine for oil spills under Commonwealth law could be up to \$250 000 and, under State law, \$50 000, and that does not include any costs of cleaning up if there is an oil spill, which would be levied on top of the fine. Under State law we can require that the fuel and the oil be removed from the vessel.

Of course, Mr Lukin has effectively said that he will do that, and we are awaiting further details of just when and how he proposes to do that. But I must reiterate that, before he takes any action, a detailed inspection will be made by officers of the department. I further advise the House that, in view of the discrepancy between the penalties, we will be seriously considering lifting the penalties under State law to the level of those under Commonwealth law, because oil spills are very serious matters. My advice is that this vessel is near a seal colony, and we will be requiring that action be taken as soon as possible.

### HOMESURE SCHEME

**Mr D.S. BAKER (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is directed to the Minister of Housing. How many home buyers have been rejected for Homesure assistance after initially being advised that they were eligible, and why have they been rejected? The Minister, so far this session, has refused to give any specific answers to a series of Opposition questions about Homesure. I now have detailed evidence of people being rejected for this assistance after being initially advised they were eligible, and I seek from the Minister a full explanation of why this has happened.

In the case of Mr A.J. Rolton of Hove, he was advised by letter from the Housing Trust on 18 January that he was eligible for assistance and that 'Homesure will forward a cheque to the value of \$64.50 monthly to the lending institution nominated on your application form.' A similar letter was sent on the same date to Mr R.D. Pearce of Munno Para, advising him that he would be getting \$86 a month. However, on 30 January the Housing Trust sent further letters to both these applicants advising that this assistance was being withdrawn because the mortgage repayments were 30 per cent or less of gross household income.

I have copies of the letters to which I refer. In both cases I am advised that these applicants gave full details of their income and mortgage repayments at the time they made their applications, so that the initial offer of assistance was made by the Housing Trust in the full knowledge that their repayments did not exceed 30 per cent of gross household income. Neither applicant has been able to obtain a satisfactory explanation for the subsequent rejection of assistance. The circumstances amount to further evidence that the Government acted to significantly restrict the Homesure assistance promised during the election campaign and in initial advertising of Homesure.

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** I reject the comment of the Leader of the Opposition at the end of his question. The Leader may care to provide me with further information concerning the individuals he has mentioned, and I shall be happy to request a thorough investigation of those matters. As from the beginning of this week approximately 2 500 applications have been mailed out, over 3 000 firm inquiries having been received from South Australian residents regarding the Homesure scheme; 730 applications have been processed; 421 have been approved; and 309 refused. I do not have at my fingertips the information about the actual basis of refusal, but I will endeavour to get the details for the Leader and supply him with that information.



## WHEAT HARVEST

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Can the Minister of Agriculture tell the House the final outcome of the 1989 wheat season?

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** I thank the honourable member for his question, and I know this has been a matter of great interest. I note that some members, by way of interjection, are asking, 'Does the member for Spence have a rural electorate?' I would have thought that they themselves could well have asked such a question, but they have chosen not to.

*Mr Ingerson interjecting:*

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** The member for Bragg says that he already knows: perhaps he would like to read the figures himself right now. My guess is that he would have no idea of what the figures are.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** The member for Spence, who appreciates the importance of agriculture in our economy, knowing that it involves much more than just the one section of the economy, wants to see what—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I would advise the Opposition front bench that position and status in this place has no exemption under the Standing Orders. The honourable Minister.

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** The member for Spence appreciates how important agriculture is for our State economy and, therefore, as a metropolitan-based member, he would rightly be concerned to know the impact of this year's grain season.

*The Hon. D.C. Wotton interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** The 1989-90 grain harvest, as was mentioned in the Governor's speech, has been a record for both production and receivals into the container bulk handling system. At this stage, harvesting is all but completed. Receivals of wheat, barley, oats, field peas, lupins and faba beans total 4.82 million metric tonnes, which just beats the 4.553 million metric tonnes received in 1983-84, which was the previous record year. Wheat production was 2.75 million; barley, 1.75 million; and oats, 328 000 tonnes.

There are a number of factors worth noting: the installation of temporary bunkering facilities is required at a number of silo sites, particularly Thevenard, Port Pirie, Wallaroo, Ardrossan and Port Giles, in addition to the facilities at Port Adelaide and Port Lincoln. As reported in the rural media, holdups in the capacity for receivals occurred due to the volume coming in. Those holdups were experienced in December and early January, particularly at Thevenard. At present, the shipping program is particularly busy, and at present 490 000 tonnes of grain is being either loaded or scheduled before 1 March.

I think that is a very impressive figure for the industry and I know that it has been welcomed by the rural sector in South Australia after what had been some disappointing years with respect to Eyre Peninsula and certain other parts of the State. I thank the member for Spence for his interest in this matter. I know that all members who are concerned about these issues will look forward to this year's crop being as good as, if not better than, last year's.

## LAND TAX

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen):** My question is directed to the Premier.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier also has no dispensation under the Standing Orders.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Following his press statement about land tax yesterday, in which he said that one of the issues to be considered in a review of the current system is 'the effect of removing existing exemptions', does this mean that the Government will consider the reintroduction of land tax on the principal place of residence?

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** No way; we will not. However, it has been suggested by some of those who wish to change the incidence of land tax in order to avoid some of the problems that have arisen in the past couple of years. They have also suggested that it should be extended to a range of things, including rural properties, to which it does not apply. The implications of some statements made by members opposite both last year and this year clearly indicated that such a broadening could be contemplated. This Government rejects that. We believe there may be solutions to the problem of land tax, and there may be adjustments that can appropriately be made. However, we do not believe that by adding to the list in this broad-based way we are solving anybody's problems. It has been seriously proposed though and I repeat, the implications of some of the comments made by members opposite indicate that that is the way they believe we should travel. We have said that we will have a full inquiry into it. It is interesting to note that this is not some sort of problem that has emerged in South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** This is not a problem which has just emerged in South Australia which is unique to this State and its particular tax base. On the contrary, the problem is far less acute in South Australia because of the steps that we have taken, particularly in successive budgets, to restructure the rates and reduce the incidence of land tax. There will be about \$40 million tax forgone in this financial year because of the changes that we have made.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** If honourable members who interject do not believe me on this point, I refer them to an article in today's *Financial Review*, which is in the following terms:

The New South Wales Premier, Mr Greiner—

a Liberal Premier whose policies, administration and example are often cited by members opposite who would like to model themselves on him—

has conceded that huge increases in the State's land tax levies this year could hurt some property owners and may cause rent increases.

The article goes on to talk about the way in which values and other things have affected that market—increases of more than 500 per cent in many cases. Mr Greiner then says—

*Mr S.J. Baker interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** Before the Deputy interjects about his colleague in New South Wales, whose industrial relations policy I have heard him extol on a number of occasions—the policy of confrontation which is shown for all its value in New South Wales, and that is what the honourable member has advocated—let him listen to this. Mr Greiner said:

Land tax is going to go up a lot this year—it's going to hurt some people. I can't offer people any great short-term relief on that.

It was necessary to continue with these levies, he went on. I am simply drawing attention to the fact that this problem is common to all jurisdictions in Australia. It is something that we have done more about than has any other jurisdiction and, through the inquiry in which we have invited people to participate, I hope that we will be able to do more.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Napier.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES ATHLETES

**The Hon. T.H. HEMMINGS (Napier):** I direct my question to the Minister of Recreation and Sport. In view of the magnificent efforts of the Australian team, particularly the South Australian athletes, at the Commonwealth Games, will the Minister report on the assistance provided by the South Australian Government? I remind the House of the medal tally for South Australian athletes, as follows:

**GOLD:** Lisa Martin (marathon), Martin Roberts (200 m freestyle, 4 x 200 m freestyle relay), Sean Carlin (hammer throw), Simon Arkell (pole vault);

**SILVER:** Jason Roberts (weightlifting, 110 kg class, three silver medals for snatch, clean and jerk and combined total), Darren Winter, Brett Aitken (cycling team pursuit), Martin Roberts (200 m butterfly);

**BRONZE:** Darren Winter (cycling individual pursuit), Martin Roberts (200 m individual medley), Philip Rogers (4 x 100 m medley relay), Kate Farrow (javelin). I am sure that all members join with me in congratulating those athletes.

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** I thank the honourable member for his question. He is renowned not only for being the former Minister of Housing and Construction but for some athletic pursuits of his own. I understand that during his service in the army he was a member of the SAS and was quite skilled in jumping out of planes. Such a skill has to be acknowledged. I am sure that all members of this House and the other place will join with me in congratulating our athletes, particularly those from South Australia, on their magnificent efforts at the Commonwealth Games. It was a record result and very significant from the point of view of sport not only in this State but nationally. It was a magnificent effort by our athletes as a whole, particularly in the pool. We should rejoice in South Australia because it was a South Australian, Martin Roberts, who gained Australia's first gold medal of the swimming events—a significant event for swimming in this State. Swimming and track and field events are regarded as the two major sports of the Commonwealth Games. Sean Carlin took the first gold medal for track and field with a magnificent hammer throw.

*Mr Ferguson interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** I am reminded by the member for Henley Beach that the cyclists also brought home medals. From the point of view of South Australian sport, it is significant to acknowledge the fact that the commitment and achievement of our athletes has been confirmed. The reception which was held in the mall—

*Mr Lewis interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** The member for Murray-Mallee suggests that this is boring. I am sure that he alone in the South Australian community would make that comment. Our commitment to sport and our continuation of the State's sports program through the Sports Institute has, I believe, supported our superb and magnificent athletes to the point where they have achieved results with which I am sure they are all pleased. Personal bests were a feature of the games, as were new Commonwealth records.

From the point of view of commitment and funding, it is important to record that our direct assistance to athletes roughly equates to \$10 000 per head. This figure does not take into account the support services available through the Sports Institute, including the coaching unit, the sports psychology unit, sports plan and junior sports development. All these contributions through the SASI program offer important background support to the South Australian sporting community and, in particular, our elite athletes.

*Mr Ingerson interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** The member for Bragg's interjection was something about a junket for delegates. I thought that this was to be a bipartisan commitment.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES:** The member for Bragg should reflect on the commitment from his Party to a bipartisan approach. It is very important that all members acknowledge the achievements of our athletes, from the point of view not only of their individual performance but that of the team. All of us can join in celebrating their success at Auckland and look forward to future success with the support of the South Australian Government and the community.

## LAND TAX

**Mr INGERSON (Bragg):** Will the Premier confirm that 5 898 land tax payers have received bills this year that are above inflation and that, of these, 2 615 were increased by at least 50 per cent and 749 were increased by over 200 per cent? Bearing in mind the extent to which many businesses receiving these bills also have to cope with record interest rates—and the fact that the Government now expects to receive almost \$10 million more in land tax revenue than it received last financial year—is the Government prepared to reconsider its refusal to provide immediate land tax relief to those facing real increases in land tax bills in 1989-90?

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** I point out to the honourable member that 65 per cent of taxpayers will have either the consumer price index increase or less applied to their land tax bill. The measure of land tax is not CPI but property values. I am told that the Statewide property value increase is 50 per cent, which means that 80 per cent of taxpayers will receive a bill at or below that figure. It must be put into perspective. The honourable member also suggested that something like \$10 million extra revenue will be received through land tax. First, it is too early to make any precise estimate of what will be received.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is interrupting consistently, and I draw to his attention the consequences of his behaviour.

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** Precision in those figures is not possible. Some sort of estimate can be made, but what I said yesterday about increased revenue from land tax was clearly delineated as to its source. For instance, some of it will be collected from Federal Government properties for the first time. I wonder whether the honourable member is aware that 90 per cent of that must be returned to the Federal Government. If that is not done, our Commonwealth grants will be reduced effectively. That is an example of the way in which a tax estimate can be altered in the course of the year. That was introduced under the Federal budget after we had published our own budget estimate figures. It is spurious to say that, because there seems to be a variation in the tax collection in one area, we can make major changes that could end up reducing revenue by a very substantial sum. We cannot make that adjustment in 1989-90. We can look, in preparing a budget, at factoring in changes in 1991, and that is the decision that I have announced. I hope that there is a constructive approach to it.

In addition, I point out that land tax is levied on land-owners, not on their tenants. Some tenants say that they will not pay the land tax—that is up to them. First, I urge that the benefits of the 60 day deferral that we have allowed

will be passed on directly to tenants and not kept by the landowners. Secondly, those tenants who have particular problems should approach their landlord and try to negotiate.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I caution the member for Bragg with regard to his behaviour.

### ROAD FUNDING

**Mr HERON (Peake):** Will the Minister of Transport explain the Government's response to a call by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to massively increase spending on roads? Yesterday the Chamber of Commerce and Industry called for an additional \$1 billion to be spent on our roads or, it said, we would 'risk losing hundreds of millions of dollars in industry development'. The chamber listed roads that it believes should be given high priority funding in order to ease traffic congestion and ensure future development in this State. One of those road projects is what has become known as the north-south corridor. The infamous MATS plan of the 1960s proposed that there be a six-lane freeway right through my electorate. The freeway would have wiped out most of the western suburbs—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member to resume his seat. He is introducing comment into his question. I am sure that, as a new member, he has not had a chance to look at the rules, but I ask him to do so. As the honourable member is commenting, I withdraw leave and call on the Minister to reply.

**The Hon. E.R. Goldsworthy:** You want to get your dorthy dixer in order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I was surprised yesterday when I heard the call from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a further \$1 billion to be spent in this State alone on roads. The chamber indicated the areas in which it wishes the money to be spent. It was not a comment of the quality that I would normally expect from the chamber. I have the highest regard for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in this State; it is by far the best employer organisation in this State, without a doubt. I was very surprised.

The chamber forgot, or chose not to say, that this State spends about \$250 million a year on roads. That is an enormous and an appropriate amount. It has enabled us to maintain the standard of roads in this State far in excess of that in any other State. That is recognised throughout Australia and I would have thought that members opposite, who in the main represent rural areas, would give credit for the state of our roads, particularly as about 90 per cent of main roads in rural areas are sealed. I was concerned about some of the projects proposed by the chamber and its being critical of the decision of this Government to do away with the north-south corridor which, as mentioned by the member for Peake, is a hang-over from the MATS plan. The north-south corridor as proposed by the Liberal Party would have decimated the western suburbs. As people in those suburbs pretty well vote Labor, I am sure it does not concern members opposite.

The point I stress strongly is that, if this State had a further \$1 billion to spend on roads, it would obviously have to come from some other area, whether education, health, law and order and so on. If we had the money, would it be wise to spend it on roads? The only thing that that would achieve is the carriage of more freight on the roads. The proportion of freight carried on roads would

increase at the expense of our railways. I would have thought that, if the Chamber of Commerce and Industry were interested in making a sensible contribution to the transport debate, it would recognise that it is a complex debate and would at least acknowledge that perhaps \$1 billion would be better spent—or this should at least be considered—on upgrading our rail infrastructure, terminals and access to them. A responsible organisation should have done that. I also point out that at some stage someone will say to the road transport industry that 90 per cent of money we spend on roads is spent for the road transport industry. Motor vehicles would contribute next to nothing to the wear and tear on our roads.

**Mr Lewis:** You mean motor cars.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** Yes. The IAC has quite clearly demonstrated that something like \$4 billion a year is transferred from the private motorist to the road freight industry. I think that the RAA should at some stage consider that matter in its campaigns, rather than arguing the nonsense that it presently does. Anyway, I assure the member for Peake and other members who represent the western suburbs that the MATS plan is not about to be revived and that we are taking measures to upgrade our existing roads system to use them better and more appropriately, so that the western suburbs of Adelaide are not decimated and we do not turn Adelaide over to the motor vehicle and road building industries.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before calling on the next question, I inform Opposition members that during the last question many comments were made as an aside, instructing me on a particular course to take. A procedure is laid down in Standing Orders and, if members wish to take a point of order, I ask them to do so. I call on the member for Hanson.

### MARINELAND

**Mr BECKER (Hanson):** Apropos the Minister for Environment and Planning's statement that it would be inhumane to keep animals at Marineland any longer than was necessary and that they should be relocated as soon as possible, why has she so far failed to acknowledge an offer to house the two fur seals? Yesterday, one of the Marineland fur seals died. However, earlier this month Mr and Mrs Grant Abel wrote to the Minister offering to build a facility on their country property to take the seal that died yesterday and the surviving male fur seal. So far that letter to the Minister has not even been acknowledged.

Last night on Channel 9 the receiver of Tribond, Mr Heard, said that the surviving fur seal would have to be destroyed. I understand that the Abels have demonstrated that they have the ability to care for this animal, and the Minister is urged to take up the offer as soon as possible.

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** I thought that my ministerial statement and tabling all the relevant documents relating to the allegations—which are, in fact, grossly incorrect—that have been made in the media might have cleared up the matter. Of course, the member for Hanson is not interested in the facts.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** I am very pleased to answer the question. The honourable member may be aware that I have not personally been involved in searching throughout the country and overseas to place all these animals. I am sure that even the member for Hanson would acknowledge that that is not the responsibility of the Minister responsible for animal welfare.

However, the receiver has left no stone unturned—and I stress that—to ensure that good homes are found for all the

animals. I understand that Mrs Abel wrote to me or to the receiver. Obviously, the receiver, who is responsible for the placement of these animals, will not make such a decision without the expert veterinary advice of Dr Pin Needham who, in fact, has looked after these animals since their birth or since they arrived at the facility. The honourable member would know that no decision has been made about any animal at Marineland without expert, competent veterinary advice.

Just as the Minister of Health does not personally oversee the transfer of every patient in this State or the decisions of the trained, qualified medical personnel, neither do I, as the Minister responsible for animal welfare, personally oversee the decisions of trained, competent professional veterinarians. Is the honourable member seriously suggesting that, regarding the 16 000—and I stress that number—cats and dogs that have had to be put down in this State in the past year because people were not prepared to make decisions about desexing or take proper care of these animals, I personally should have overseen every one of those decisions? He probably is.

He is probably the only person in South Australia who would be ridiculous enough to suggest that. The Abel's offer would have been considered properly by the receiver, in consultation, I am sure, with expert veterinary advice. I shall be pleased to check out that fact to ensure that that was the case.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** In reply to an interjection, which I know is out of order, I do care; I care passionately. I have made myself available to speak to groups and I have looked at every single possible option for these animals. I believe that the Government's decision is the best decision for the welfare of these animals. It is the only decision that any responsible, caring member of the community could have made, and I am proud to have been part of that decision.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES TRANSPORT DISPUTE

**Mr HOLLOWAY (Mitchell):** Can the Minister of Agriculture inform the House of the impact on the horticultural industry in this State of the New South Wales road transport dispute, which I understand ended today?

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in this matter. It is pleasing that the dispute has ended today, and one hopes for a successful resolution of the matter generally. There was cause for concern in South Australia about the impact that the dispute would have, particularly in the horticultural area. The fact that it has ended today means that concern has not translated itself into actual outcomes, but it would have if the dispute had gone on for many more days. If it had gone on, the implications would have been to limit the capacity of horticultural products to reach New South Wales, particularly the Sydney and Newcastle markets and also the Australian Capital Territory (which is a sizeable market for our produce) and Brisbane.

That would have then meant that the produce would be forced back on to the Adelaide market or the Melbourne market, and a number of suppliers in South Australia were concerned that that would force a reduction in prices in both these markets and hence a reduction in returns to the growers. Yesterday's prices in the Adelaide market did not indicate any easing, so there has not been an impact at this stage. If the dispute had gone on, there would have been that reduction in price returns in the Adelaide market, because there was not any more unmet demand in the Adelaide market that could have consumed that supply and maintained prices.

The principal crops affected were those from the Riverland, and the only alternative, apart from taking them to Melbourne or Adelaide, would have been for rail shipment, which would have had its difficulties, or for private transport arrangements; in other words, the growers themselves transporting the produce. However that was not guaranteed of success in terms of getting across to the eastern seaboard. The products affected were fresh vegetables and tomatoes, hard vegetables, pumpkins, onions, garlic, potatoes and fresh fruit, including stone fruits and citrus. The largest components of those would have been table grapes, citrus and fresh vegetables.

#### MARINELAND

**The Hon. H. ALLISON (Mount Gambier):** I listened to the statement of the Minister for Environment and Planning earlier today, but the comments of the Marineland veterinarian, Dr Needham, as reported in the *Advertiser* this morning that the dolphin calf, Shasa, should not be handled or moved until it was about 18 months old, appear to be in conflict with certain aspects of the ministerial statement. What steps will be taken to safeguard the life of the dolphin?

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** I would have thought that if the honourable member had read my ministerial statement—

**The Hon. H. Allison:** I do not have a copy—

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** Your colleagues have a copy.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will address her remarks through the Chair.

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** It is abundantly obvious not only that the honourable member did not listen to my ministerial statement but he is so deficient in commonsense that he could not ask for a copy. I would have been delighted to provide him with one. I do not believe that the way in which I read the statement was difficult to understand. It is obvious that this is a prewritten question—a prepared question—and I am disappointed that the intelligence of the member opposite is not such that he could have at least tried to alter the question to fit in with some aspects of the statement.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** It is a pity that you cannot listen.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I withdraw leave. The honourable member for Elizabeth.

#### LPG PRICING

**Mr M.J. EVANS (Elizabeth):** I direct my question to the Minister of Education, on behalf of the Minister for Consumer Affairs. Will the Minister ensure that the pricing practices relating to the sale of LPG are investigated to protect the public from any unjustifiable increase as a result of the world parity pricing policy of the Commonwealth? I understand that the price of LPG has risen overnight from some 16.9 cents to about 27.9 cents per litre. I am advised that this increase is related to changes in the national pricing policy, but industry sources have expressed their concern to me that it will limit the use of LPG in motor transport. It has been further put to me that this trend will add to our pollution problems as well as impose an increased cost burden on motorists who have converted their vehicles to use LPG gas rather than petrol.

**The Hon. G.J. CRAFTER:** I thank the honourable member for his question. I understand that this price increase has come about not as a result of any taxation policies but because of pricing arrangements entered into at the Federal level. I further understand that petroleum products are sub-

level. I further understand that petroleum products are subject to the scrutiny of the Prices Surveillance Authority. I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague in another place so he can consider what further action the State of South Australia can take with respect to the pricing of LPG.

### YELLOW BURR WEED

**Mr BLACKER (Flinders):** My questions are to the Minister of Agriculture: first, can he say what action is being taken to contain the spread of yellow burr weed following its introduction and spread through contaminated hay and, more recently, through certified clover seed which was brought from Victoria; secondly, what action is being taken to tighten the laws applicable to the Animal and Plant Control Commission and the seed certification system to ensure that the problem does not recur; and, thirdly, what went wrong with our present laws that enabled such a calamity to occur, and will any action be taken against any person or organisation to seek compensation for the affected farmers?

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** Normally, I appreciate questions from the member for Flinders who shows a studied concern for the interests of his electors. In relation to this issue, he was concerned enough to get me to meet with some farmers who were affected last year. At present, I would have to say that I am disappointed in the honourable member's question and the speech he gave this morning. It seems to me that he has ignored the advice I provided him with in my letter of 5 February this year. In the first instance, I draw his attention to that letter. With respect to yellow burr weed, I will reiterate some of the points that I have made. Of course, it is not appropriate to be repetitious, but clearly the question requires an answer.

With respect to the legal question—as I advised the honourable member—there is no capacity within the legislation for charges to be taken on the basis of the evidence provided. That may beg the question should there be an amendment? However, I suggest that, on the basis of the evidence provided in my letter, there is no evidence to sustain any change to the legislation to levy a charge against the fodder producer in question. The letter states:

Section 57 states that all landowners are responsible for yellow burr weed control on their properties. (and of course other plants proclaimed under the Act). Section 58 provides the mechanism for the Animal and Plant Control Board in the area affected to require destruction of contaminated materials at the landholder's expense. Section 52 specifically states that if the circumstances alleged to constitute an offence for moving hay with proclaimed weeds were not the result of a 'wilful or negligent act or omission' on the defendant's part then that defendant shall have a defence. Section 54 which refers to the sale of produce contains a similar defence clause.

The member in his speech this morning was critical of the Animal and Plant Control Commission, I think that was unfair criticism because an officer of the commission has been to the property of the fodder producer at Jamestown and, as I also indicated in my letter to the member for Flinders, has not been able to find any signs of an infestation. The letter continues:

A remnant of the hay was also inspected and is reported to be of excellent quality with no signs of contamination. The vendor made no admission that he was aware of the presence of yellow burr weed in the fodder and pointed out procedures he used to ensure that the fodder was free of yellow burr weed.

On the basis of that, under existing legislation it is clear there was no capacity for the commission to take legal action, nor, indeed, would I suggest, on the basis of that information, would there have been had the Act been worded differently.

There is another point that is very important with respect to this matter. Yellow burr weed is a noxious weed. I guess that all weeds are noxious, but this is a particularly nasty weed, so to speak. As I also pointed out in my letter to the honourable member, yellow burr weed first proved its weediness—a word I had not been aware of—in western Victoria in the 1950s. My letter goes on to indicate its capacity to regenerate itself, which is quite frightening.

What is the best response that we could have given? The response that we have given is the one where the commission has, first of all, been working with local boards and with local farmers to provide technical advice so that we can cope with it at that level. Indeed, I give a commitment that we will maintain that technical advice. Support subsidies of \$134 000 have been made available through the commission to local control boards on Eyre Peninsula in 1989. That will ensure that technical support is available to the landholders with yellow burr weed and other problems that may arise.

The other issue is with respect to a possible fodder inspection policy when fodder is brought into an area. I think that needs a lot more discussion. The commission is having such discussions with the United Farmers and Stockowners Association. In that context, and in the context of the precedent problems that might have occurred had an alternative course of action been undertaken with respect to what I acknowledge was a serious problem for the farmers on Eyre Peninsula, I believe that the course of action that we have taken has been the most appropriate one. We will certainly be monitoring the situation closely and doing what we believe is the most practical response to those particular problems.

With respect to the certified seed from Victoria—the clover—and the problems there, I am still awaiting a detailed report on that matter. When I receive it, I will certainly apprise the member of that information.

### STOLEN VEHICLES

**Mr FERGUSON (Henley Beach):** Will the Minister inform the House of the role of the Vehicle Security Register in regard to making a note of the numbers of stolen vehicles? One of my constituents, who had a vehicle stolen from his property, informed the police of the theft and then informed the Vehicle Security Register that the vehicle had been stolen. He was informed by the Vehicle Security Register that this did not fall within its jurisdiction. It is the opinion of my constituent that, when a motor vehicle is stolen and information is given to the Vehicle Security Register, a notation should be made on the register to the effect that the vehicle should not have a clear title because it is a stolen vehicle.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I agree with the honourable member's constituent. The present system certainly is inadequate. It seems to me that the proposition is perfectly reasonable, that any vehicle that is stolen should be recorded on the Vehicle Security Register. Steps are being taken to see that that happens. We expect that over the next few months a system will be devised that will completely eliminate the problem.

I point out that the source of the information for the Vehicle Security Register will still not be the general public; it will have to be given to the Vehicle Security Register through the police, because we can then be sure of the integrity of the information. Thanks to the representations made by the member for Henley Beach on behalf of his constituent and other representations that the Government

has had over a period. I am very happy to announce that the Government is working as fast as it can with the technology that it has to ensure that the problem is eliminated.

#### STUDENT TRAVEL

**Mr S.G. EVANS (Davenport):** I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Why did the Government not seek advice from the State Transport Authority on the total cost of free student travel before the Premier made that election promise? Will the Minister now confirm that the figure of \$7 million used by the Government during the election campaign relates only to fare revenue to be forgone, and that the actual total cost will be between \$20 million and \$25 million a year when account is also taken of the cost of additional buses, other sources required and the accumulated impact on the operating deficit?

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** Several questions are raised. I would imagine that in the preparation of its policy the Government, just as the Liberal Party and other Parties would do, keeps that information pretty much to itself. Such policies are there for the Premier to announce during the election campaign, particularly in his election speech. We do not go broadcasting such information through the Public Service or anywhere else. I assume that the Liberal Party, when it was in office, did exactly the same. It would be a mug if it did not. It did not do the Liberals any good—they lost, but that is by the by.

The best estimate to date by the STA is the same as our estimate, that is, about \$7 million to \$7.5 million. The extra resources that have been required to date are of the order of five extra bus services. We did not have to buy five new buses, we had that capacity within the system. That is the information I have to date. There were some constraints on the escalation of costs, because children do not just come out of the woodwork. There are a finite number of children who go to school and those predictions are easy to make. If we had adopted a similar policy for adults it would be more difficult because there are many more adults who could make choices.

Children go to certain schools. Some live within walking or cycling distance of the school and others require bus services, but the numbers fall within a small range. It is not the case that twice as many children can suddenly appear and say that they want to travel by bus, because there are just not that many children who want to do that. Thus, there is quite a containable cost and this is a sensible policy. It is the Government's view that public transport is a service to the community, as much as we can make it within the limits of our purse. Certainly, we were happy to ease the pressure on families by eliminating the cost of bus fares to parents.

*The Hon. D.C. Wotton interjecting:*

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** The member for Heysen refers to my electorate. I was interested to hear the member for Bragg say last night that I had forgotten my electorate. Perhaps if the allegation had been that I was pork-barrelling my electorate and had forgotten Adelaide and the STA, it would have had more credibility, as my Cabinet and Caucus colleagues will attest. It would not have been true, but it would have been more credible.

As to so-called pork-barrelling in Labor electorates, I point out that three of the principal regional cities in South Australia to which this policy applies are held by non-Labor members, that is, Liberal and National Party members, as opposed to two being held by Labor members. It is strange pork-barrelling when you give your opponents more than

you give yourself. However, I will save that argument for another day. Suffice to say that the best estimate is about \$7.5 million, and I believe that such an amount will be very well spent.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES HELICOPTER

**Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park):** Will the Minister of Emergency Services investigate the purchase of Canadian emergency multiple person rescue apparatus for use in conjunction with the proposed new emergency services helicopter? In 1985, I wrote to the then Minister of Emergency Services pointing out that such large rafts have a multiplicity of applications which could enable large evacuations of people who are in distress or trapped, be it on land or at sea.

**The Hon. J.H.C. KLUNDER:** I acknowledge the honourable member's longstanding interest in this matter and I am happy to consider his suggestion that the time of the changeover of the helicopter might also be an appropriate time to look at some of the equipment used on that helicopter.

#### FREE STUDENT TRAVEL

**Mr OSWALD (Morphett):** Will the Minister of Transport ask the STA to review an instruction to operators because of increasing concern that there is already widespread abuse of free travel for students? I refer to an instruction which was issued by the STA on 22 January and which states:

Operating staff are reminded that if students are asked for their age the answer given must be accepted in the first instance. Operating staff must not engage in any discussion. If any doubt exists an inspector or ticket examiner should be called to handle the matter.

The Opposition has been told that the result of this instruction is that an increasing number of adolescents, who bus operators are confident are not eligible for free transport, are claiming this benefit in the knowledge that operators are unable to challenge them about their age and eligibility and are unlikely to be able to find an inspector or a ticket examiner in the vicinity and at short notice to handle the matter.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I am not quite sure what the fuss is about, nor do I understand totally the import of the honourable member's question. This seems to be an entirely reasonable instruction to operators, particularly in relation to students aged 15 years and over, because—and the Minister of Education may correct me—photo identity cards with the integrity of a photograph will not be available to all school students until March. So, in the interim I think it is a sensible policy for the operator to take the word of a young person who purports to be a school student, at least until all students aged 15 years and over are compelled to use their photo identity cards. If I have missed the point of the question, I am sorry, but it seems to be a perfectly reasonable thing to do.

#### PAPER RECYCLING PLANT

**Mr FERGUSON (Henley Beach):** Can the Minister for Environment and Planning inform the House of the progress that has been made in the establishment of a paper recycling plant? Before the last election, the Department of Environment and Planning stated that, as a start to the



recycling of paper, collections would be made from the Government Printing Office and Parliament House.

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN:** I am delighted to answer the honourable member's question and to give him a brief update on where we are with what I believe is more than just the establishment of a recycling plant; in fact, we are embarking upon the establishment of a recycling industry in South Australia. As members would be aware, last year the Government announced that it was undertaking negotiations with the Local Government Association to establish a domestic wastepaper collection scheme and that this scheme would be part of a bigger program to establish a recycling plant. This plant would sort the paper collected, shred and bale it and initially be part of an initial export scheme to the countries on the Pacific rim where newspaper is recycled.

It is believed that the collection part of the scheme and the recycling plant will be operational later in the year. It is proposed that the wastepaper generated by all Government offices and the Houses of Parliament will be made available to the recycling plant at no charge. That is the significant point. The reason for this is to offset the cost of collection and processing of lower value newsprint. Anyone who has an interest in this issue would know that newsprint is not the most ideal paper for recycling: office paper is much more effective, because it is of a higher quality.

The scheme that I launched last year—the Kesab/Pace Messenger scheme—to collect office wastepaper from some Government offices and Parliament House is proceeding. Until a large paper recycling operation has been established, this scheme allows for concerned and interested organisations within the private and public sectors to recycle their high quality paper in an environmentally responsible manner. I thank the honourable member for his question, I note his continued interest in this matter and I am prepared to keep him informed as developments proceed on this important issue.

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### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1)

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON (Premier and Treasurer)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the financial year ending on 30 June 1990. Read a first time.

**The Hon. J.C. BANNON:** I move:

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

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

Leave granted.

### Explanation of Bill

Its purpose is to grant supply for the early months of next financial year. Present indications are that appropriation authority already granted by Parliament in respect of 1989-90 will be adequate to meet the financial requirements of the Government through to the end of the financial year. The Government will, of course, continue to monitor the situation very closely, but it is unlikely that additional appropriation authority will prove to be necessary. The 1989-90 budget provided for a net financing requirement of \$154.3 million. While it would not be prudent to make precise forecasts at this stage, I can advise the House of

some of the factors which will influence actual outcomes this financial year as compared with the budget estimates.

**Recurrent Budget:** After taking into account revised accounting arrangements relating to superannuation, present indications are for total recurrent receipts to be on target with the budget estimates. As usual, the picture for particular receipt areas is mixed and at this point in the year there remains considerable uncertainty over the likely outcome for the year.

Commonwealth general purpose recurrent grants are expected to exceed the budget estimates because the Commonwealth's estimate of inflation for the year has been revised upward. The arrangements agreed upon at the 1989 Premiers Conference provide for indexation of the base level of financial assistance grants according to the actual increase in the consumer price index for the four quarters ending March 1990 over the preceding four quarters. It must be noted, however, that the pool of funds made available by the Commonwealth for the grants was reduced significantly before the interstate distribution of grants was determined for 1989-90.

In the area of State's 'own source' receipts revenue from payroll tax is expected to exceed the budget estimate due to higher than anticipated employment growth. Interest received on investments is also showing a small increase over budgeted levels. Offsetting this, however, it is now expected that revenue from stamp duties on conveyances and mortgages is likely to be lower than estimated in the budget. This reflects mainly a flattening out in the property market. Overall, the expectation is that recurrent receipts will be reasonably close to the budget estimate.

On the expenditure side, the Government is maintaining its policy of restraint. The accent continues to be on savings and reallocation of resources. The Government's interest costs are now expected to be higher than estimated in the budget because of prevailing interest rates. Wage decisions made since the budget mean that the Government will be required to increase expenditure on wages and salaries. All areas of expenditure will continue to be closely monitored.

**Capital Budget:** At this stage of the year it appears that the budget estimates for both capital receipts and payments will be closely adhered to. On the receipts side, the estimates have not changed while the expenditure side of the capital budget is expected to increase by about a net \$2.4 million with the principal item of additional expenditure being for the purchase of a new helicopter for emergency services.

**Overall Budget Result:** As usual at this stage of the year there are emerging indications of over and under achievement of budget estimates for both revenue and expenditure. It is difficult to estimate with any certainty the balance of these trends and so the overall budget outcome. The Government will continue to closely monitor the budget throughout the year.

**Supply Provisions:** Turning to the legislation now before us, the Bill provides for the appropriation of \$800 million to enable the Government to continue to provide public services during the early months of 1990-91. In the absence of special arrangements in the form of the Supply Acts, there would be no parliamentary authority for expenditure between the commencement of the new financial year and the date on which assent is given to the main Appropriation Bill. It is customary for the Government to present two Supply Bills each year, the first covering estimated expenditure during July and August and the second covering the remainder of the period prior to the Appropriation Bill becoming law. That practice will be followed again this year.

Members will note that the authority sought this year of \$800 million is approximately 7 per cent more than the \$750 million sought for the first two months of 1989-90. This is broadly in line with the increases in wages and other costs faced by the Government over the last year and should be adequate for the two months in question.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for the appropriation of up to \$800 million and imposes limitations on the issue and application of this amount.

Mr S.J. BAKER secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Minister of Finance) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Stamp Duties Act 1923. Read a first time.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I move:

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

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

Leave granted.

#### Explanation of Bill

It implements a recommendation of the Law Reform Committee report on delivery of deeds. The main recommendations of the report have been incorporated into the Law of Property Act Amendment Bill which was introduced into Parliament in 1988 and passed in the first session of 1989. This Bill provides that an instrument is liable to duty according to its term notwithstanding the existence of any conditions affecting its execution. However, if any such condition is not fulfilled, provision is made for the Commissioner, on being satisfied that the instrument will never come into force, to cancel the stamp and refund any duty paid.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts section 17 into the principal Act to make an instrument that is executed conditionally liable to stamp duty as if it had been executed unconditionally.

Mr S.J. BAKER secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.  
(Continued from page 28.)

Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park): Prior to the luncheon adjournment, I was speaking about law and order issues and my experience, when wandering around my electorate, of noting the number of people who provide an open invitation to the criminal element to invade their home. At every attempt I have endeavoured to convince people to be vigilant in locking up their homes, even during the daytime, and keeping windows and front doors locked so that the criminal element cannot gain entry.

In this debate last night, the matter of graffiti was raised. I spoke to the new member for Fisher later and pointed out that a large amount of energy has gone into what this State Government has done in trying to combat graffiti. I have in this Parliament and through the press requested that the State Government investigate the reparation scheme that operates in New South Wales. The Minister of Transport

knows that I have addressed the matter with him. Reparation is one of the options open to the Government on this issue. I do not believe in people being put into stocks, but they should be responsible for their actions. The Attorney-General has addressed this question in the review of penalties for those juveniles who carry out anti-social acts in the community. I was brought up in a tough school and my father disciplined me on what is expected within the community. I would hope that the Government would give the reparation scheme a trial.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr De Laine): I call the member for Hayward and remind members that it is the honourable member's maiden speech, and I ask that the normal courtesies be extended.

Mr BRINDAL (Hayward): I support the motion for adoption of the Address in Reply. To His Excellency the Governor and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Australia, I express my loyalty. I ask you, Mr Acting Speaker, to convey to the Speaker my congratulations on his elevation to high office. I have every confidence that he will grace that office with the distinction, impartiality and wisdom that he would have acquired during his years in the Chamber.

'A veritable smorgasbord of talent' was the expression used at the beginning of the last Bannon Labor Government's term to describe the abilities of Labor's front bench. It is a metaphor which haunted me as I struggled to become part of the political process of this State. It haunted me because, while I believed that I could see behind the slick presentation and advertising hype that deludes our consumer society into believing that fast food is nutritious enough to sustain a healthy lifestyle, I nevertheless worried that it might have some basis in truth. I have since learnt that that concern was baseless.

Even allowing for the fact that some 50 per cent of the remarkable product on the opposite bench has a use by date of 26 November 1989, how might that same metaphor be applied by the same journalist today? Let us just be kind and say I, and I strongly suspect all my colleagues on this side of the Chamber, given the choice would not be eating in that cafeteria. After all, a few wobbly jellies, some glitzy but environmentally suspect packaging that contains nothing of substance, and a plethora of limp lettuce would hardly attract the discerning gourmet.

All members in this place sit here because their constituents have had enough confidence in those members' abilities to return them at the recent election. I therefore congratulate the longest serving member here with the same sincerity that I congratulate those who, like me, take their places for the first time. I do this quite deliberately, Sir, since much seems to be made by members on both sides of this House of the term 'oncer'. Quite frankly, it is a term I find tasteless, since it denigrates those by whose mandate we are here. None of us has an inalienable right to a seat. Each has a tenure which stretches only from one election to the next and is at the will of the electors. We are then, in this very real sense, all 'oncercs', and I trust will always remain so.

Further, since the Speaker quite rightly observed that '*Hansard* is forever', let the record show that as I took my place here I held the view that I would rather represent the electors of Hayward for one term, and well, than serve two or three terms in a tepid torpor of mediocrity in which vision, zeal and ambition bow down before the Baal of parliamentary pension. I have the honour to be the first Liberal representative for the seat of Hayward. I thank my electors for the opportunity that they have given me to represent them for the term of this Parliament. My pledge

to each and every person in the electorate is that I will represent them to the best of my ability.

The people who elected me require from their member of Parliament not only a bottom on a seat but also an ear and a voice of action and understanding. For so long as they continue to want me to remain as their member, I undertake to represent each and every one of them, regardless of age or political philosophy, with care and integrity, honesty and compassion.

The most humbling experience of the campaign period was, for me, the number of ordinary South Australians who gave one unstintingly more of their time and talents than anyone had the right to expect. And they did so because of their deep and abiding belief that the interests of this State would have been better served by the election of an Olsen Liberal Government. They are too many to number here and indeed sought no more thanks than my election. Let, then, my tenure in this place be their thanks. The time which I spend in Parliament and my commitment to the electorate and its problems will justify their confidence in me and in my Party.

I wish well, Sir, all those who no longer occupy seats here. While I would have disagreed with the political philosophies of many, I am sure that they enlivened the deliberations of this House. I particularly acknowledge Mrs June Appleby, the previous member for my own seat of Hayward. Her contribution was, I believe, always to the best of her ability. It is a pity that a Party which seems so prepared to compensate its yesterday's persons with sinecures could not find a reward for her commensurate to her service. I take my place with a mixture of humility and pride: pride in the traditions of this House, both as part of the Westminster system and in its own right.

These benches have been graced by some of the greatest South Australians—men and women who have made this State what it is today—legislators, innovators and statesmen. Pride also that I am privileged to sit on this side of the House. I sit with those who hold the values that I hold: values, I add, which will continue to be held by the Australian people long after the final metamorphosis of the Labor Party has slunk into oblivion. Indeed, if the only way I can ever sit on a Government bench is to sit with those whose philosophies I see represented opposite me, I would rather spend my life in Opposition. But, Sir, by that statement I record only the futile hopes of those who perch precariously on the Government benches.

In front of me sits the man who should be Premier, and opposite whom sits the man who is Premier. Members opposite can say what they will, but the commentators and the people know that this minority Government clings to power in spite of the legitimately expressed will of the people of this State. On a two-Party preferred basis, 51.9 per cent of electors clearly preferred the election of an Olsen Liberal Government. I quote the following words:

Our constitutions are based not on a democratic franchise but on a system by which a minority may govern. The Government of South Australia has been elected by a smaller percentage of the vote in this State than has its colleague Party in any other Australian State. How can they excuse themselves and say that the practice is democratic?

They are not my words. A previous honourable member used them in this place once before to berate his Premier. Those words are the words of the Hon. Don Dunstan in his maiden speech, which was delivered in this Chamber on 28 July 1953. What has changed?

Were these electoral injustices the only debits in the ledger of this Government, South Australia could indeed be grateful. If members opposite doubt that there is still a reckoning to be made, they have only to look at the seat of Hayward.

It is not a Bragg or a Light, not a Davenport or a Morphett—it is, hopefully, a Hanson. It has always been a Labor seat and, while it contains some affluence, it is predominantly characterised by areas of modest private dwellings and Housing Trust accommodation. It is an elderly and stable electorate whose residents generally measure their association with the area in decades rather than years. Mortgage and high interest rates affect the area perhaps less directly than they affect many others. Hardly a volatile seat; hardly a seat that a sitting member should lose; and hardly even a seat that found the most congruence with the Liberal Party's election themes.

No wonder there was consternation and perplexity amongst the gurus of the ALP when it fell. I will explain why the seat was lost, not because I have a burning ambition to be a 'oncer' but because, through no fault of those who elected me, I find myself upon the Opposition benches and, quite frankly, this State cannot afford four more years of Labor misrule. The last Government and, by every indication thus far, this Government has lost touch with the people whom it claims to represent. It has created a green cloud cuckoo utopia whose hallucinogenic mists cannot be penetrated by truth, logic or reality. It has turned vacillation and inactivity into an art form. It tries to turn every negative indicator into a positive virtue.

Compared with its level of vacillation, Hamlet becomes a veritable Sweeney Todd. I am tempted to refer to the ALP as the indolent Neros of North Terrace, but realise that I would, by that comparison, be unfairly denigrating a dead Emperor. Whatever his faults, at least while Rome burned he is reputed to have fiddled, which is more action than can be ascribed to the last term of this Government. Those worrying facets of life in South Australia which have been so creditably highlighted in the replies of my colleagues are but symptoms of a malaise that is eating the very fabric of this State. As the member for Fisher so ably put it in his Address in Reply speech, 'Society is what you make it or allow it to become'.

Let us look at some examples of what we have allowed it to become as it relates to my electorate. As I previously mentioned, many of those who live in Hayward shifted there in the decades immediately after the last world war. Oaklands Park, Warradale and Paringa Park were the Morphett Vales of today in that they were towards the furthest extremities of the urban sprawl and were housing areas that were characterised by modest, affordable dwellings. It was the water bag trip of our parents, as many regard Morphett Vale today. Dover Gardens was typical of the burgeoning areas of public sector housing at that time. To these areas came many average South Australians, good hard working people, who raised their families and struggled to pay off their mortgages—not because of high interest rates, as occurs today, but because they were tradespeople, teachers, policemen and shop assistants rather than doctors, lawyers, accountants and entrepreneurs.

More often than not these mortgages are now paid off and their children are now struggling with mortgages of their own in the electorates of Fisher and Bright. Whether one or both of the original parents remain, they generally want little more than to live out so much of their lives as they are able within those walls that they have called home for so long. But, how does this Government deal with these people who very often have voted Labor all their lives? It tells them that, although their house may have no real value to them until it is sold, it is an increasingly valuable asset, and it assesses and charges them on that asset and not on the basis of any realised capital gain—which method of taxation one member opposite was, last evening, espousing

as being so eminently just—but on the potential capital value.

So, increasingly we see in Hayward pensioners and retirees on fixed levels of superannuation who can no longer afford to pay their council and water rates, even after taking into account such rebates as they may be entitled to. People sometimes end up by being forced into what this Government would euphemistically explain away as 'more suitable accommodation' because they can no longer afford to live in the home of their choice. They are being rated out of their homes—and this at the hands of a Government that trumpets social justice!

Why cannot there be a charge for service? Does the Party across the Chamber really believe that my sewerage is more valuable than my neighbour's up the road; or that just because my house is worth more than his I should be able to squander this State's most precious natural resource—our waters? Does my garbage cost more to cart to the dump than his? Do my shoes wear out the footpaths more quickly than his? And, if our society will not work without this cross-subsidised system that seems so dear to the heart of the Labor Government, why does this same cross-subsidy not apply to other services such as electricity or gas?

I was impressed by what the last speaker, the member for Albert Park, said about law and order. I acknowledge his commitment to the matter and I hope that he will get the support of his Caucus in seeing that this Government's strategies are implemented. Unfortunately, I and my colleague, the member for Newland, do not enjoy the privilege of the Labor Caucus and it is left for us, as members of the Opposition, to criticise as we see fit and to try to goad the Government into action.

I can see, from the Governor's speech, that the Government is rather lamely attempting to come up with a policy on law and order. I will be the first to congratulate it if it succeeds in any small measure. Quite frankly, I cannot see that the measures it proposes are anything other than a knee-jerk reaction to a perceived problem, as exposed by the Gallup polls, and bandaid solutions. Later I will talk to the honourable member about it because, like him, I think it is a very dangerous problem.

What then of law and order as it relates to Hayward? I am afraid that, until I am convinced otherwise, I believe there is a problem out there. I know that I will be told there is no problem because this Government says there is no problem; and whatever this Government says in this place must be so. The Government can tell that to the people with whom I come into contact every day. Tell my local deli owner that the young man did not blow himself to oblivion outside her shop. Tell the cake shop owner that she was not the subject of a robbery with violence. Tell the people in a nearby street that they imagined the murder, and the property owners that the graffiti on their fences is the latest art form. Tell it to the parents of daughters who imagine rapes. Tell it to parents of sons who mistakenly believe that the gentlemen who frequent some of our fore-shore toilets are trying to broaden boys' horizons.

Above all, tell it to the elderly ladies who live on their own, and perhaps the first one should be the lady who consulted her solicitor about retirement village management rules. She had some very expensive security equipment installed, just so she would feel safe in her bed at night. Everything went well until she decided to go away without telling anyone. After a couple of days her neighbours began missing her and, concerned for her health, reported it to the management. Because of the security system, the management were not able to gain access until they had removed a section of the roof. Upon her return, the management

demanding that she remove the locks so that they could gain access to her flat in the event of a medical emergency. She sought legal advice, but then refused on the ground that she would take a chance of the risk to her health, rather than remove the locks that she thought were the protection she badly needed. Some choice!

When the Government has told all those people, tell it to me and to my colleagues. More importantly, tell it to the relatives of the first person who is incinerated in his or her house because the fire brigade cannot get in to get him or her out.

I would speak of a justice system which is totally inadequate in dealing with those who transgress the rules of law. I would speak especially of the juvenile offender and of the horrendous consequences which our current system is having on both young offenders and their victims. I could go into vast amounts of detail about electors who have come to me with problems of young offenders. I have made representations to the police on their behalf, but basically it is a no-win situation. The police can do very little, other than compile a series of reports. After compiling those reports, somebody decides that the matter should go to a panel and, having gone to a panel, the person is invariably slapped on the wrist and no further action is taken. The police cannot win, the victims cannot win, and everybody except members opposite think the situation is a mess.

I would speak of an education system that I was really proud to have been a part of for some 20 years but which, despite the best efforts of teachers and parents, is in a state of paralysis and crisis. Members on this side of the House who represent country electorates have addressed that matter well in the Address in Reply. Members opposite should note what is happening to the education of the children of this State. There are two classes of education: education for metropolitan or urban children and totally different education for people who live in the bush.

I may be a member of a city electorate, but I am also a member of this Parliament, and I believe that one job of every honourable member is to stand up for all the people of South Australia. If one person in this State is diminished by anything that happens in the Chamber, we are all diminished. I stand here to tell you that education in country areas is a disgrace, and the Government should be doing something about it.

I would speak also of a health system which is riddled with problems. Taxes and charges are unfairly lumped on selected groups in the community. If members opposite do not want to believe what I say, let them go into the nursing homes and talk to the matrons and the people involved in palliative care and the District Nursing Society. Let them talk about respite care.

I totally support the efforts of the Government to have people remain with dignity in their homes for as long as they can. I totally support that concept. What I do not support is a Government that comes out with a lot of sanctimonious claptrap about what it is doing, when the evidence before each honourable member is that it is not doing it.

The RFDS is full in most areas; people cannot get on to it. If people are put into respite care, by the time they come out somebody else has taken their place on the list and they cannot get back into nursing care. It is a hurdy-gurdy that none of them seem to be able to get off, and about which the Government does not seem to care.

Above all, I would speak for the disadvantaged of our community; those who the Government claims most to help; those about whom the Premier is most fond of talking;

and, in failing to help, those whom the Government most often betrays.

I speak of the young and the old, of the physically and mentally handicapped, and of the impoverished and the homeless. There are plenty of pious platitudes, but never much action. I have listened with interest to the debate on both sides of this Chamber. I have been heartened by the common ground which I share with those whom I call colleagues and am impressed by the skill, thought and commitment displayed by some of the members on the benches opposite. I acknowledge two of them today. The member for Hartley last night berated me for not being present in the Chamber when he spoke; I place on record my apologies.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BRINDAL:** I know, and I will say that. Unfortunately, I had consulted the speaking order carefully, but had been assured by those in my Party who know better that he could be trusted never to say anything intelligent, nor to contribute to the debate. I remember being told that about cobwebs though, whether they relate to his brain or his seat, I cannot now remember. Having attended upon his advice, I left the Chamber no wiser for his contribution. Therefore, I respect another piece of advice given to me by the learned members in my own Party, and that is that when gratuitous advice is given from the Government benches, it can be relied upon for only one thing: that it is invariably wrong.

**An honourable member:** Where is he tonight?

**Mr BRINDAL:** Not here.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BRINDAL:** All the faults of our society cannot be heaped upon the Government, neither can they be rectified without vision and leadership from those whom we elect to authority over us. This Government—and I hope I do not need to remind it of this—is elected to serve all the people of South Australia. The Government is elected to serve the people of Hanson, Bright, Fisher and Newland, as much as it is elected to serve Labor electorates. I trust that the Government will do that. I have every confidence that it will do that, since I heard the Premier and various Ministers say today that they had done more in certain Liberal electorates than they had done in Labor electorates. I trust that they will do that, for that is the Westminster system. I can assure members opposite that, if they do not do that, many members on this side of the House will jump up and down very loudly to remind them of their responsibilities under this system.

With Plato, I believe that there are some immutable truths that each of us individuals, through our own relationships and through our political structures, strive to find. None of us is perfect, nor can we ever hope to be—except perhaps some members opposite. When considering any problem then, whether or not it be political, we must do so on its merits, placing in the balance our own knowledge, beliefs and consciences—and our sense of what is fair, what is just and what is right. Even if the answer is not then perfect, it will at least be our most honest attempt to achieve the best of which we are capable. I do not believe that the last Bannon Government lived up to that trust and I hope that for the good of all South Australians, a better judgment may be delivered on this one. Yet I fear my wish may remain but an idle dream unless the Government is to use this House in the manner for which it was created.

If I may be permitted an observation, it appears the Government will not do that. While each and every member, regardless of their political persuasion, I hope, would espouse as an article of faith government of the people, by the people, for the people, and we have stood idly by and

watched democracy wither on the vine. We have become an anachronistic joke when the local press refer to us as 'the Adelaide debating and snoozing club', when protesters on our steps look up at our closed doors and exclaim, 'God only knows what really goes on in there.' I was ashamed to witness that just after the election.

We have only ourselves to blame, because each and every one of us who has been elected to govern in this place has progressively abdicated their responsibilities. We have witnessed government by Cabinet, then government by executive decision and finally government by Public Service. I believe that we now see a situation in which the function of bureaucracy has moved from the implementation of the will of the people through its elected Legislature towards one in which that Legislature is in danger of becoming the creature of its own Public Service. Notwithstanding the increasing complexity of the society in which we live and the recent moves to make senior Public Service positions the subject of contractual agreements, Sir Humphrey remains alive and dangerously well in South Australia.

Nowhere but on the floor of this House can we guard those four freedoms of which Menzies wrote, freedoms which, I believe, cross the bounds of Party politics and which should be dear to us all: freedom from want; freedom from fear; freedom of speech and freedom of expression. It is with no less a responsibility than this Government is charged for, whether we like it or not, we remain for this term, Her Majesty's loyal Opposition. That is not to say that we are just here to criticise: far be it from us to do that. We are here to support and encourage.

As an aside, I was pleased to note that there is some sociability in the ranks of members opposite. I think I saw them exchanging Valentine cards yesterday. However, I would caution them. I have done a little bit of theological research. In fact, St Valentine was a very confused theological character, a bit like the Labor Party. No-one knew whether he was one person or two; no-one quite knew where he came from, or what, if any, connection he had with lovers. However, one thing is certain: whoever he was and however he died, he died the gruesome death of a martyr. He was either stabbed to death or had his head chopped off.

If I were in the Labor Party and someone gave me a card saying 'Be my Valentine', I would be very worried. In this serious matter of the Opposition, I am reminded of two things. The first was the custom of the people and the Senate of Rome in insisting that the legions be disbanded before approaching the city in order to preserve its peace and good government. An exception was made on a rare occasion—a great Roman victory. On that occasion the legion was allowed to cross the Rubicon—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BRINDAL:** I thank the honourable member for his correction. They crossed whichever river it was and they marched in triumph to Rome, complete with prisoners, treasures and all sorts of things.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BRINDAL:** It was not the Tiber River. If the honourable member listens, he will learn something. They crossed the river in procession. The centerpiece of the procession was the victorious general, who was clothed in imperial purple, painted in imperial purple and rode in a chariot. His object was to appear before Caesar and the Temple of Jupiter. Standing beside him on his right side was a person of great importance who had two functions: one was to hold the golden laurel above the head of the victorious general as he rode in triumphant and the second was to whisper in his ear, 'Remember thou art mortal'.

There are 23 tongues over here, and I believe 23 sets of ears over there. Throughout the session we will remind members opposite of that.

The last thing to which I would allude is the parable of the talents. I will not give a biblical instruction to those who I hope know it. However, this Government has been found wanting, for it has not used that with which it has been entrusted sufficiently to increase the common good and has been content to return little to those who have a right to expect more from the Government. It has quite fairly and correctly been placed on notice by the people of South Australia. Every member on this side of the House demands more of the Government in this Parliament.

So I come to sit down, conscious of the fact that in the Government ranks few have heard and even fewer will have listened, but there will come a time—a time that is not long hence—when the wheel shall begin to turn and they shall listen, for on this side of the House we shall speak with one voice, and it will be the voice of the people of South Australia. It will say, 'You have tarried in this place too long. Get you gone.'

**Mr BECKER (Hanson):** I am pleased that the member for Hartley is present this afternoon, because he can no longer berate the members of the Opposition, particularly the new members, for their poor contributions. I was about to say the same as he said in relation to his members. I thought that their essays—that is all it was, a series of essays—were very poorly presented and done. Obviously, they have not been assisted by their long-standing colleagues within the Labor Party ranks.

I thank his Excellency the Governor for his presentation of the speech opening Parliament. I remind members opposite that their Ministers did a very poor job in preparing the contents of that speech. It was in one way window-dressing for the forthcoming Federal election. There is no doubt that as soon as the Labor Party looks like facing an election, be it in this or another State or federally, all stops are taken out to make sure that everything is under control, that there are no hiccups, and that everybody cooperates and coordinates their activities to present the Labor Party in a good image. However, it is not working, because we have already witnessed in the past few weeks the efforts of the Government to handle land tax. That is one of the worst forms of taxation within our society. It was a terrible tax when it was placed on the principal place of residence, and now investors, developers, owners of commercial property and small business people are finding that a tax is being placed on the prospective increase in the value of their property. It is a theoretical valuation of that property.

One of the biggest mistakes that the present Treasurer of South Australia has made has been to use the Valuer-General's Department to value those properties. I have always said that it is an educated guess and I will always support the principle that it is an educated guess until the value of the property is tested on the market by auction or sale. It is difficult to find out, but I believe that the Treasurer has increased the percentage that is used for property valuation. Years ago the Playford Government took only 85 or 90 per cent of the value of a property for tax purposes. We need to find out the percentage that the Government is working on for tax purposes. Is it 100, 98 or 95 per cent? The Government can ease the burden of property taxation by saying to the Valuer-General, 'All right, that is your valuation, but we will take only 80 or 70 per cent for tax purposes.' That is one method of using it. Whatever way we look at it, the Government will be forced to reduce its

income in relation to land tax. Therefore, the question is: what will it do to replace it?

I maintain that about every five years—certainly no shorter period—one can carry out an exercise in the public sector of looking at the cost of operating Government. In some departments between 72 and 90 per cent of the operation costs will be for salaries and wages. There is a component built in that cannot be reduced unless people are sacked, and I am not suggesting that. But one can go through the exercise and prune 1 per cent or possibly 2 per cent off Government spending programs where it is necessary to acquire equipment, stores, or whatever. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to cut the cost of government unless we reduce the size. All major political Parties should be aware of that. Certainly it will be forced on them within the next 18 months. No matter who wins Government federally in the next few months, the Federal Government will continue to pressure the States to reduce their costs. That is where the real challenge will be—organising the administration of government to provide the services that people demand. Being a very selfish society, we demand much of our Governments. Therefore, we have to be prepared to come up with ideas and ways for delivering the services that people want.

Much has been said about the disappointment that the Liberal Party was not successful at the last State election, and much will be said and written for many years to come. I wish to remind the member for Hartley of what one political commentator has said in his analysis of the State election. I refer to the '1989 Elections in South Australia', statistical analysis, written by Dean Jaensch. I do not have much time for Jaensch and some of his assessments of the political scene in South Australia. I think that he is fed so much garbage by so many people who think that they know everything that he never gets down to the realities of life by spending a couple of days in an electorate. I would like Dean Jaensch to spend a week in my office. Many of his students have approached me over the years. Even when Neal Blewett was lecturing in politics at Flinders University, they came to me for help. They came to do essays on me and to look at my electorate. I am referring to those who have studied under Jaensch. I have somebody working with me who studied under him. They have an attitude towards and concept of politics that is entirely different from that taught by those theorists.

In his report (page 3) Jaensch said:

In mid-1989 the Liberal Party alleged a 'Labor gerrymander', claiming that the Liberal Party needed at least 52 per cent of the votes to win government. The allegations were partly based on the fact that demographic change had caused a number of electorates to move out of the acceptable enrolment range. But the case was also based on the assumption that there would be a uniform swing. Of course, this never occurs. The Liberal Party called for a referendum to be held at the State election to carry an amendment to the Constitution to allow an early redistribution. The change to the four-year term of Parliament had put the earliest date for a redistribution back to the late 1990s.

Certainly the electoral geography had moved away from 'one vote, one value'. Demographic change, especially in the metropolitan area, had produced a situation in mid-1989 where 10 of the 47 electorates were outside the allowed deviation from the mean. The major changes had been in the rapidly-growing 'dormitory suburb' electorates of Fisher (30 per cent above the mean), Ramsay (22 per cent), and Florey (15 per cent), and in the industrial electorates of Elizabeth (17 per cent below the mean), and Whyalla (14 per cent below).

When we look at the election statistics, we find that, over the whole State, the Labor Party received 40.1 per cent of the first preference votes, the Liberal Party, 44.2 per cent; the Democrats, 10.3 per cent; Independent Labor, 1.5 per cent; the Call to Australia Party, 1.3 per cent; the National Party, 1.2 per cent; the other independent Parties, .1 per



cent and .1 per cent; and an Independent, .12 per cent. What this all comes out to is that, receiving 40.1 per cent of the vote, the Labor Party won 22 seats and the Liberal Party, with 44.2 per cent, won 22 seats. The Democrats gained 10.3 per cent in the House of Assembly and did not win a seat. Some 5.4 per cent of the vote went to other Parties and they were successful in having three candidates elected.

We must be careful when considering figures and statistics in connection with one vote one value. I seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it a statistical table of election results for the period 1975-89 breaking up the results into ALP, Liberal, Democrats and others.

Leave granted.

Election Results, 1975-89

	ALP		LIB		DEM		OTHER	
	Votes %	Seats N	Votes %	Seats N	Votes %	Seats N	Votes %	Seats N
1975	46.3	23	31.5	20	—	—	22.2	4
1977	51.6	27	41.2	18	3.5	1	3.6	2
1979	40.9	19	47.9	25	8.3	—	2.8	3
1982	46.3	24	42.7	21	7.1	—	3.9	2
1985	48.2	27	42.1	16	4.3	—	5.4	4
1989	40.1	22	44.2	22	10.3	—	5.4	3

**Mr BECKER:** In 1975 the 'Other' Parties included Independent Labor (Mr Connelly) and the Liberal Movement, which won 22.2 per cent of the votes and won four seats. In 1979 the ALP won 19 seats, with 40.9 per cent of the vote; and, in 1989, 22 seats, with 40.1 per cent of the vote. Therefore, I warn the member for Hartley that, if he is on his Party's committee looking at one vote one value and the redistribution of boundaries, he should examine the situation carefully.

While I support the principle of one vote one value, I would like to think that we could get it as near as possible throughout the 47 seats. Indeed, I would like to see all 47 seats being as marginal as mine has been over the past eight years. As the member for Hartley knows, representing a marginal seat, as I have done for 20 years, is exciting. I have faced eight elections and suffered two redistributions of boundaries. There is nothing harder than having to struggle with a majority of 135 votes, build it up and then see it all chopped up through another redistribution and then, starting again, having it all chopped up once more.

After eight elections I am not much better off than I was 20 years ago, but at least I am here and that seems to be the most important thing as far as the people in my electorate are concerned. Based on correspondence and the telephone calls that I receive over an average 18-hour day, that is the view of many people in this State who contact me from all over the metropolitan area. It indicates that some of the things I am doing must be right and must be in the people's interests. I get much support from people who voted Labor—certainly, I get much support from people who voted Labor in the past, otherwise I would not have been able to build up my majority.

The member for Hayward, who has just spoken, expressed his thoughts well. Certainly, we have not heard the last of the member for Hayward. The member for Newland also did extremely well. I am not impressed with most women in politics. They have a long way to go before they make their mark in politics. There are only a few women—

**The Hon. T.H. Hemmings:** You are so sexist.

**Mr BECKER:** Of course I am. Whether they are in the Labor Party or the Liberal Party, I do not care. Only two women in the Labor Party have performed reasonably well. Certainly, I have a lot of respect for Barbara Wiese. After all, she was a typist in the typing pool when I first came here, and used to type my letters. She was very good and competent, even in those days. As to the Minister for Environment and Planning, I have fun ribbing her, but she has performed extremely well and retains that real touch in relation to her sex. If ever there is going to be a woman

Premier of this State it will probably be the Minister for Environment and Planning.

I have known the member for Fisher for many years. He will contribute strongly and will be a Minister, if he does not go even further than that in future years. The same applies to the member for Adelaide and the member for Bright, who has yet to speak.

I can understand the disappointment of the member for Hartley, because in the last election the Labor Party vote in his electorate dropped 11.9 per cent. The Minister for Environment and Planning saw her vote decline by 13.2 per cent, and the member for Ramsay also lost 13.6 per cent. We saw extraordinary swings against the Labor Party in most of the metropolitan seats. One would expect that in seats where the new members came in for the ALP, because of the change in personality, and I am not placing much credence on the change in vote in those electorates for that reason. However, long-standing members suffered considerable voting losses, which should indicate to all members that there is no such thing as a safe seat.

I would like to see the Electoral Commission redraw boundaries in a way that creates many more marginal seats in the future. I now refer to the statistical tables contained on pages 27 and 28 of Jaensch's report in respect of shifts in first preferential voting between the 1985 and 1989 elections, and I seek leave to have these tables inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

TABLE 8: SHIFTS IN FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES, 1985-89

(Index shown only where Parties contested both elections)  
8-1 Metropolitan Area

Electorate	ALP	LIB	AD	Other
Adelaide	-7.5	1.4	4.0	
Albert Park	-6.2	2.8	3.5	
Baudin	-11.9	3.3	7.2	1.4 (Ind.)
Bragg	-7.1	-1.3	8.4	
Briggs	-1.2	5.0	7.5	
Bright	-7.6	-2.1	7.5	
Coles	-7.1	2.1	6.4	
Davenport	-2.0	15.2	15.1	
Elizabeth	-15.9	3.4	2.9	4.0 (Ind. Lab.)
Fisher	-7.6	-0.5	4.6	
Florey	-11.1	0.8	4.7	
Gilles	-10.8	4.1	6.7	
Hanson	-8.0	3.5	4.5	
Hartley	-11.9	5.2	6.7	
Hayward	-7.4	-1.0	4.1	
Henley Beach	-6.2	1.3	3.9	
Heysen	-11.3	2.6	10.5	
Mawson	-13.2	5.8	7.3	
Mitcham	-5.9	-0.2	6.0	

Electorate	ALP	LIB	AD	Other
Mitchell	-12.9	4.8	8.1	
Morphett	-8.2	2.4	5.8	
Napier	-7.0	4.7	10.6	
Newland	-4.5	-3.2	3.3	
Norwood	-8.9	0.5	5.7	
Peake	-10.0	1.9	5.3	
Playford	-14.7	4.7	10.1	
Price	-8.6	6.0	2.7	
Ramsay	-13.6	2.4		
Ross Smith	-6.8	2.0	4.9	
Semaphore	-7.3	4.0	-1.7	
Spence	-9.5	-3.5	2.2	
Todd	-6.5	-1.7	5.1	
Unley	-7.1	-1.1		
Walsh	-6.3	4.8	6.7	

## 8-2 Extra Metropolitan Area

Electorate	ALP	LIB	AD	Other
Alexandra	-3.9	3.2	8.4	
Chaffey	-7.3	-5.0	6.7	
Custance	-5.6	-1.4	-0.2	
Eyre	-4.6	-1.8	2.5	
Flinders	-7.2	-2.7	0.8	8.9 (Nat.)
Goyder	-5.3	2.5	2.8	
Kavel	-8.9	-3.7		
Light	-5.3	-2.1	2.8	-1.3 (Ind.)
Mt Gambier	-15.0	8.7	3.8	
Murray-Mallee	-5.2	5.5	7.3	-4.7 (Nat.)
Stuart	-18.6	-10.6	1.9	
Victoria	-3.6	19.5	4.8	
Whyalla	-2.8	1.8	6.7	

**Mr BECKER:** It is important to illustrate the decline in the ALP vote against the gain in the Liberal vote. In the metropolitan area the gain for sitting members was about 3.5 or 3.6 per cent. My neighbour, the member for Morphett, and I seem to do pretty well in the metropolitan area in that respect. Certainly, the figures prove that, by working in the electorate and looking after constituents, one can get those percentages.

An excellent effort was made by new members in the Liberal Party, and I think it is high time that we gave credit to the Party and the Party organisation for having their act together in selecting and supporting candidates and making arrangements for us to work with them so that the people of South Australia have a better Parliament and the type of Parliament that they deserve.

Before the election was called, I remember the Premier saying, 'Keep it clean. We want a clean election,' and he berated the Liberal Party for saying that it would do certain things. Certainly, I was never so disappointed as I was on this occasion, having had various candidates stand against me at eight elections. I hold the member for Hartley in high regard, not because he is in the Chamber now but because that has always been my view of him. I remember the first time he stood against me, when he said, 'I'm going to knock you off at the next election. I have door-knocked the whole electorate.' I said, 'Can you do it again? The more times you door-knock, the bigger majority I gain.' True, I am being facetious, but the point is that we brought him up the right way. The next time it was the seat of Morphett and the candidate bolted in.

I thought Ann Pengelly conducted one of the best and fairest campaigns ever waged against me. I am amazed that she has not been given an opportunity, whether it be election to the Legislative Council or in another seat, but she deserves something in the future.

**The Hon. B.C. Eastick:** She doesn't have enough cars.

**Mr BECKER:** I do not know anything about that system, but I am learning. On our side of town she would have been all right. I felt sorry for Anne, because I think she has

a future in politics. I was disappointed when an advertisement headed 'Liberal Party Soft on Crime' was placed in the local papers. It reads:

Convicted criminals, including killers and armed robbers, will be back on the streets early. Why? Because of the Liberal Party. Just over two months ago your Liberal candidate—Heini Becker—voted against legislation that would have made sure dangerous criminals served their full sentences. 'The Liberals' vote means early release for these prisoners. Why did Heini Becker vote to make sure the Government's plans for a safer South Australia were defeated? Hanson needs more police, tougher sentences and crime prevention. Send Heini Becker a message on 25 November—our community wants tougher action against crime. Authorised by R.M. Glastonbury, 146 Lipsett Terrace, Brooklyn Park.

Needless to say, Mr Glastonbury received a letter from my solicitor requesting him to withdraw his allegations. My campaign committee believed that it was necessary to put an advertisement in the paper in the following week to this effect:

In Westside Messenger, Wednesday, 15 November 1989 an advertisement stated that Heini Becker voted against a Bill which would ensure that prisoners served their full sentences. This is totally untrue.

No vote was taken in the House of Assembly on the Criminal Law (Sentencing) Act Amendment Bill [*Hansard*, 9 August 1989—24 August 1989]

Therefore the allegations are false.

The article goes on to say that the Labor Government is soft on criminals and quotes the cost per year to keep a prisoner in gaol and a youth in the remand centre and the cost of building a new wing at the Yatala Labour Prison. The point is that nobody contacted me or asked me whether a vote was taken because there was no vote. No vote was taken in this Chamber because of the simple fact that several of my colleagues and I would not have supported it. Nobody knows how some of my colleagues or I would have voted. I assure the House here and now that we probably would have crossed the floor. I found that letter highly offensive. I do not believe in retrospective legislation, but at the same time I do believe that something should have been done. Every so often I am prepared to take my stance even if it is contrary to the will of the majority of my Party—and we are entitled to do that. When people put advertisements such as this in the paper they should be prepared to take the consequences.

Another circular which was put around in my area and which I think was extremely disappointing and hurtful, is headed 'Housing interest rates high under Liberals'. This circular was put out by the Housing Coalition and authorised and printed by C. McMullan of the Shelter SA, 194 Morphett Street Adelaide. The next document is headed 'Liberals Axe Housing!' It reads:

Will the SA Liberals follow the New South Wales lead?

It discusses several allegations that were raised in New South Wales as follows:

The New South Wales State Government has set about the shameful destruction of the public, private and community housing systems since the Greiner Liberal Government was elected. They have sold off public and community housing and land to private developers.

How much Housing Trust land have we sold to private developers in South Australia? The Minister has even made announcements to this effect and we have never criticised them. The circular continues:

Defunded public and private tenants' advisory services; introduced a new Residential Tenancies Act which fails to give tenants security of tenure or protection against rising rents.

Who called for a Residential Tenancies Act? Back in the early 1970s when I interviewed some young people in a derelict flat at Glenelg where the rain was coming through the roof and the building was rat-infested, the Government

honoured my request and introduced a Residential Tenancies Act in South Australia. The circular further states:

Halved the number of public housing regions so residents will have less choice about where they live; restricted public housing—people on the waiting list will get one offer only to accept public housing and if it is not accepted (many offers in suburbs far from people's choice) they will be removed from the waiting list. This includes people on the priority list.

Unfortunately, one cannot pick and choose housing in South Australia unless one is prepared to wait for a period of up to seven years in some areas. It is a very difficult situation, as we all know. The circular goes on to say:

Introduced a policy of forced transfers. Transfers can no longer be requested, only direct swaps—except disabled with medical problems or people being harassed; closed nine Housing Department rental offices, another 20 offices are likely to close.

We closed some agencies on Saturday morning, so how can these people complain about what is happening in New South Wales when we do the very same things in South Australia? The circular continues:

Increased rents with some tenants paying top market rents. Rents for pensioners are to increase from 18 per cent to 20 per cent of income.

Who increased rents in South Australia by 47 per cent in four years? These are some of the toughest rent increases by the Housing Trust that I have seen.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BECKER:** Whether or not they were justified, the point is that people had made commitments. Pensioners have commitments and to suddenly be lumped with a rental increase of \$3, \$4 or \$5 a week hurts. The Labor Party hurt a lot of Housing Trust tenants. The circular further states:

Refused to pay rental rebates to pensioners and low income earners if the rebate form is late; scaled down public housing repairs; repairs are to be done area by area rather than when they are needed; this includes urgent repairs like hot water and toilets.

The Housing Trust boasted that it had cut down on its maintenance program, that it had been able to save money here and there by using other programs. The Auditor-General berated the Housing Trust a few years ago. I do not think he was right, because the Housing Trust has ageing stock, and as it gets older it will cost more and more to maintain. The circular continues:

Forced public housing rents to be paid through banks or real estate agents at a commission. What guarantees do we have that the Liberals won't do the same in SA? They have already attacked medium density inner city public housing and housing cooperatives. We have absolutely no guarantees at all!

This circular created a false impression. It goes on:

Vote for State election candidates who have a strong commitment to housing justice for all, not those who want to take from the poor to give to the rich—

we know who gives to the rich in this country in political terms—

or who pretend that they can reduce interest rates. Produced by the Housing Coalition.

This circular is disappointing because the Liberal Party worked hard to look after Housing Trust tenants and to make sure that the Housing Trust would continue to develop and carry out its true role. I took the opportunity to write to Housing Trust tenants and that is how we won the votes.

I do not care how the experts analyse the last State election results. The Minister attended a meeting at Camden Park where only 35 people turned up. The member for Morphett was also there. I thought that a reasonable number attended. We knew from the previous meeting held in the south that Housing Trust tenants were not prepared to go to a public meeting where they would have the opportunity to protest about rent increases and to raise all sorts of questions. However, it turned out to be a good PR exercise because some Housing Trust officers attended and were

inundated with complaints, some of which were able to be settled then and there and which others were followed up. It was a good exercise from that point of view.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BECKER:** It was a lousy night; it rained cats and dogs, but the trust tenants talked amongst themselves and the trust itself came up with a newspaper for the tenants which gave the opportunity to tenants to find out what was going on. For the first time Housing Trust tenants knew that both major political Parties were interested in their welfare. Their problems could not be solved overnight. They were not easy problems and they will not be in the future because a lot of people need housing.

Some 40 000 families need some type of affordable accommodation and the only agency that can provide that at present is the Housing Trust. It is a difficult problem which has to be handled fairly and housing has to be provided in the best locations. We cannot keep spreading the city of Adelaide by dumping people out at Elizabeth or in the south. Some terrible planning mistakes have been made in this city over the generations and all political Parties have to take the blame. So, we have to look at the situation.

It gave us a chance to communicate with the Housing Trust and those people. They will continue to communicate with us. I hope that we have established the same rapport with them as I have with the Correctional Services Department. I was told not to worry about correctional services because there are no votes in it. As the Minister knows, I have said before that our prison system is not the best in this country; it is terrible. The conditions that must be tolerated at Yatala Labour Prison are dreadful and the Adelaide Remand Centre is claustrophobic.

If we are talking about social justice and if we are concerned about the people of this State, we must look at everyone, no matter who they are or what they are. One of my constituents, who suffers from angina and artery problems, has been told by his GP that he could die any day, but he must wait six weeks for heart surgery. These are the real problems and the sooner we tackle them, the better off this State will be.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK (Light):** I support the motion that is before the House. In so doing, I express my appreciation of the services that you, Mr Speaker, have already rendered to the House and those which you will render whilst you hold that high office. I am sure that the member for Elizabeth, who has also attained higher office, will bring an air of independence to his role. I do not suggest that the former Chairman of Committees was anything other than totally fair and impartial in the conduct of his office but the member for Elizabeth can bring an element of independence to that role that was denied the member for Henley Beach.

I welcome new members on both sides of the House and trust that, at the end of their term, whenever that might be, they will be able to say that they genuinely achieved something for the people they represent, despite what the press might say. One of the great tragedies of our system is that we are portrayed outside as of no consequence and the value of the parliamentary process in this day and age is not infrequently called into question. The parliamentary system began in 1215, in King John's time, and, whilst there have been a great number of changes over the years, many of the traditions are still with us and still achieve results for the people of the State.

Regrettably, depending on which Party happens to be in power at any particular time, the emphasis given to certain

issues changes. Although I welcome the opportunity to sit in this place, not looking at a great sea of faces as I did in the last Parliament, let me say that, from my experience in this place for almost 20 years (this being the eighth occasion on which I have been able to address the opening session of Parliament), the times of greatest benefit to parliamentary service have been when the numbers have been evenly balanced.

In the Forty-Sixth Parliament, when the Government had a large majority, the Ministry, particularly, and Government members adopted a holier-than-thou attitude. I notice that the former Minister of Housing and Construction (Hon. T.H. Hemmings) is shaking his head at me. It is a fact. Anyone consulting the record will find that the Ministry became so arrogant, not only with members on this side but, in many cases, with its own members, that Parliament was directed and led by the nose through the Executive, and deteriorated as a result. If members opposite were to critically examine the record, they would agree that my comment is factual.

I pay my respects to His Excellency the Governor on opening this Parliament and for his continued service to the State of South Australia. Sir Donald and Lady Dunstan have endeared themselves to the people wherever they have travelled in the State, and they have covered practically every corner of it. They have given tirelessly of themselves and they are respected for being people amongst people while carrying out the high traditions of the Governorship. I look forward to a continuance of their service, good health being in their favour, for some time to come.

My colleague, the member for Hanson, who has just resumed his seat, extolled the virtue and value of giving service to the community and of obtaining a benefit as a result. I once heard a comment from a gentleman whose trousers are well known throughout the Commonwealth of Australia: Fletcher Jones. He was a great motivational speaker when he was active in business in the 1950s and 1960s. I recall the following statement that he made when addressing a conference: 'It is impossible to provide a service without making a profit as a by-product.' He was not talking necessarily of dollars and cents. He was talking of the satisfaction obtained by a person providing the service, as well as the benefit to the community. I believe that that comment is as pertinent today as it was then.

As we made our way across to Government House to present Mr Speaker to His Excellency the Governor, I congratulated the member for Albert Park on his fundraising walk from Adelaide to Port Pirie. He gave a service and many people got behind him, with the result that many people in the State will benefit from the funds that he raised. He did not do it for self benefit, yet, as a by-product, he will profit. I passed on to him my appreciation for what he had done.

Another point raised by the member for Hanson concerned the Housing Trust. He posed a challenging question: what is the Housing Trust doing about selling land? We know that the trust has a lot of land on the market, as a result of the Commonwealth Government's decision to rein in funding for housing—so that it can fulfil its commitment to the community of South Australia by providing housing to those in need. I thought back to the former Minister's answer to my Question on Notice concerning a parcel of land at Willaston in my electorate. The answer appears at page 1145 of *Hansard* for 11 October 1989. I asked the then the Minister, who is in the Chamber at the moment (although not as a Minister):

1. For what price and when did the South Australian Housing Trust purchase the Weaver property at Murray Road, Princes Street, Queen Street, Willaston?

The Minister replied:

1. The Weaver property at Queen Street, Willaston was purchased on 20 September 1985 for \$220 000.

My second question was:

What costs were incurred for clearing, surveying and holding the property from the date of purchase to the date of disposal in 1989?

The answer came back:

From 20 September 1985 to 24 August 1989 the trust incurred the following costs.

	\$
Agents fees . . . . .	4 391.75
Lands Titles Office fees . . . . .	439.00
Council rates . . . . .	9 633.77
Engineering and Water Supply Department . . . . .	2 520.04
Land holding expense . . . . .	5 857.15

The total amount is \$22 841.71. The answer was qualified as follows:

This includes weed spraying, grass cutting, valuation fee, rubbish removal, etc. In addition, the trust applies an internal interest charge at the SAFA rate, even though the average debt servicing cost is around 8 per cent.

Those figures and the interest were not supplied in the Minister's answer. My third question was:

What amount was received at auction in May-June 1989 and has the sale been finalised and, if so, when and to whom?

The answer came back:

Property sold for \$220 000—

that happens to be the same sum paid for the purchase four years before—

amount received at settlement on 24 September 1989, \$197 175.34.

The name of the purchaser is then given, but that does not come into the exercise. My fourth question was:

What other land in the Corporation of Gawler has been sold by the trust since 1 July 1985 . . . ?

A series of answers is given. In a number of those cases, if I were to ask the same set of questions relative to the individual costs associated with those properties, I would get much the same sort of answer.

What is the real answer, and what is the damage to the Government in this exercise? The Government paid \$220 000 for the property and sold it for \$220 000 but, after fees were taken out, it received only \$197 000. The Government expended \$22 841 by way of costs in the four-year period, which reduces the \$197 000 down to about \$175 000. If one then applies the interest on the money outlaid at 8 per cent compound annually (rather than going to compound monthly or compound quarterly, as happens in the real world), we see a loss of another \$76 000 or \$77 000 in interest. If we take the \$77 000 away from the \$175 000, the Housing Trust made a direct loss of over \$130 000 in a four-year period. That is a tragedy because that \$130 000 has not gone into the provision of homes or units for people in the community.

If we multiply that by the number of occasions on which it has occurred as a result of the fire sale situation forced upon the Government for a variety of reasons (some of it of the Government's own making and some forced on it by the Commonwealth), a very unhealthy set of circumstances unfolds. On behalf of the people of my own electorate who have been waiting in the queue for a long time, I draw attention to that rather unfortunate set of circumstances. I do so not to beat the Government around the ears so much as to say that this has been allowed to occur and that we should not let it occur again because people are hurting as a result of those series of experiences.

I have taken up this point as a result of comments made by my colleague, the member for Hanson, as it is pertinent to the overall bind in which we find ourselves of trying to

give equity and justice to the whole community and trying to make sure that as a Parliament, and more particularly as a Government, there is no untoward loss of funds at a time when wastefulness of that nature should not be tolerated.

I have already announced to the people of Light that, all other things being equal and with this term of office going for the expected four years, I do not expect to be a contender at the next election.

**The Hon. J.P. Trainer:** We will miss you.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I will miss you, too, and will also miss the House.

**The Hon. T.H. Hemmings:** You are one of the better speakers—don't go.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Don't give me the kiss of death! If the Government sees out its full term, I will have been here 23½ years. Of the 19 new members who came into this place in 1970, only five remain—one member opposite and four on this side. The Deputy Premier is one of the class of 1970, and the others are the members for Hanson, Kavel and Eyre and me. If 1993 is the election day, we will have given 23½ years of service.

**Mr Ferguson:** Don't let them push you out.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I have no intention of letting them push me out. I went to a meeting once and someone said, 'I want to introduce you to the honourable member for Light.' A voice from down the back said, 'Yeah, but he's not a very bloody light member.' Excuse my French, Mr Speaker. My centre of gravity is dropping a little each year—my chest is going down.

It is time for a restructuring and rethinking of our Party system, and I say that so that others can start to look at that role. It is also the reason why I told my two Leaders—John Olsen, the Leader of the Opposition immediately after the election and Dale Baker, the present Leader—that I believed I could serve the Parliament and the Party equally from the position in which I am sitting now, or from elsewhere on the back bench, as from the shadow Ministry.

I believe it is important that other members gain experience, and they will have my assistance all the way. I found a great deal of pleasure in my contacts with groups in the community when I was a shadow Minister in such portfolios as Treasury, Housing, Environment and Planning, Emergency Services, and Local Government. The Minister for Environment and Planning and I had some rather hair-raising experiences leading up to the last election when we attended certain meetings—and we did not refrain from attending them even though they were set up against us to a degree. I value the experience I gained in all those circumstances.

I have welcomed the assistance that the people of the electorate of Light, and my family, have given me. If this sounds like a valedictory rendition, I assure members that that is not my intention. However, I believe that I owe them a little more time but, knowing the nature of the beast, other challenges may arise in the district in which we will continue to live.

My colleague, the member for Davenport, is the father of the Parliament in relation to his length of service to the whole parliamentary system, having come here first in 1968. I take some pleasure—and this may be a rather unwise accolade to take—in recognising the fact that by my birth date I am the oldest member of the Parliament in both this and the other House.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Quite apart from my slipped chest, looks would not suggest it, would they? Much has been said during this Address in Reply debate about the importance of a positive approach to the whole exercise of

redistribution. I know only too well what it is like to gain a majority of votes but not the fruits of office. As Leader of the Opposition in 1975 I found that an almost identical set of circumstances pertained where we gained considerably more than 50 per cent of the vote, yet we gained less than 50 per cent of the seats.

My friend and colleague, the member for Custance, who, I believe, deserves to be the Premier of this State here and now—not only because of his effort but because of the votes that were gained by the Liberal Party at the last election—is the only other member of this House who has had the misfortune to go to bed as the Leader of the Opposition and wake up as the Leader of the Opposition, when the Party had gained the majority of the votes.

The Premier, as Leader of the Opposition in 1982, rightly became the Leader of the Government and the Premier at that time because, when he woke up the morning after the election, he had the majority of the votes. In 1989 the Premier went to bed as the Premier and ought, by everything that is fair in the parliamentary system, to have woken up as the Leader of the Opposition. Yet he still masquerades here as the Premier. I use the word 'masquerades'—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** It is interesting to see how the tide comes in; the truth hurts. What I have just stated is the truth. Already the Premier, as he is today by title, is showing signs of the fact that life is not anything like as rosy as it was before he went to bed on the night of 25 November 1989. I believe we will see the weight come down on his shoulders in a very positive way. Members of the Opposition, for the benefit of South Australians, will be placing on him that necessary pressure.

I am glad that the Minister for Environment and Planning is presently with us, because I take up yet another point. Earlier I said that there was not the arrogance of Government in this Parliament that we experienced in the last Parliament. I draw to the Minister's attention that yesterday she was asked a serious question about circumstances that will unfold on Saturday morning of this week.

It was drawn to the attention of the Minister that the circumstances in 1990 are not the same as those of 1989. We recognise that there were problems directly associated with the 1989 duck shooting season and the regulations that applied at that time. The restrictions have been deliberately left off. If that were not so, the Minister would have come in here this afternoon at Question Time and related to this House the results of the investigation.

The point I want to make—and, although it might appear hurtful, I make it quite deliberately—is that, if there is a tragedy associated with the opening of the duck season on Saturday morning of this week or on any day during the duck season, it will be on the head of the Government and, more particularly, on the head of the Minister for Environment and Planning.

**The Hon. S.M. Lenehan:** You don't understand the regulations.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I do understand the regulations. I understand that regulation 15 which appeared in the 1989 regulations has deliberately been removed, and no such action has been taken with the other 14 regulations. There were 15 regulations on the original schedule but only 14 in the present schedule. If the Minister was sure of her ground, she would have been in here at Question Time today giving an explanation to the House and to the public of South Australia. That is enough detail on that topic for the moment: be it on the head of the Government or, more particularly, on the head of the Minister—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** That is better than what is happening at present to the fur seals and dolphins, which are not dying naturally—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** The Minister is representing the Government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I pick up the point made by the member for Henley Beach, because he did not really think that one through before he opened his mouth.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I paid him one, too, and deliberately. I believe sincerely—and the Speaker will agree—that the honourable member was a very impartial and very balanced Chairman of Committees whilst he occupied that position. In your absence, Sir, I was able to indicate that I look forward to a long and healthy respect for the office you hold, because I believe that there is no greater responsibility in the House than that which you currently undertake.

A great deal of concern has been expressed in the community of recent times about where we as a State and as a nation are going in dollars and cents terms. I do not want the Government to come in here at any stage and start talking doom and gloom or suggesting that the Opposition is responsible for doom and gloom. I purely and simply ask each member on the other side to keep their eyes open and read the press which is coming from such a wide cross-section of the community—the business community, the Government community and all those who have a genuine interest in the future of Australia and, more particularly, in the future of South Australia—and see where they believe we are going at present.

I draw the attention of members to the editorial in the *Advertiser* of 22 January 1990, headlined 'Taxing times for business'. One of the aspects that is picked up is the matter which has been aired here a number of times this afternoon, that is, land tax. It is all very well for the Premier to try to defend his position here this afternoon and publicly in the past week. For more than three years members of the Opposition have been drawing to the attention of the Premier the escalating effect of land tax and the urgent need for an examination of the valuation system, more particularly of the adverse effect of aggregation on business worldwide, particularly in South Australia. The Minister has not found the answer: he has offered a series of sops to the business community that have been spurned. And I say 'Congratulations' to the small business community for having had the courage to come out, put the facts straight and hold tight to those facts which they know are correct and in their favour.

We have a situation to which I want to respond very quickly, one which was alluded to by the Minister of Recreation and Sport this afternoon when he was talking about the prowess of the South Australian contingent that went to the Commonwealth Games. I am very pleased to say that I have known Lisa O'Dea (her maiden name) and her family. She was known as Lisa Martin up until last Saturday, and she is now known by another surname. On behalf of the people of Light in South Australia, I congratulate her, as I do all the people in the squad, on their achievements.

I would like to say that the people of Light—and Gawler in particular—are all very proud of the progress that Darren Lehmann has made with his cricket. It is rather interesting to note that both Lisa Martin and Darren Lehmann went to the same primary school—the Evanston Primary School—

in the Gawler area. It is a great advantage for that school to be able to add its name to the list.

**The Hon. T.H. HEMMINGS** secured the adjournment of the debate.

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Hon. S.M. LENEHAN (Minister for Environment and Planning):** I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

**The Hon. J.P. TRAINER (Walsh):** I will spend the next 10 minutes referring, in the main, to the subject of the centre hall doors, which should provide the main access to this building. My desire to raise this matter was again inspired by some public debate in the press which followed the opening of Parliament and which was inspired, in turn, by the decision that was taken by the Presiding Officer in another place not to permit photographers in there. That led to an editorial in the *Advertiser* on 9 February.

I am sure most of us would not have concurred in that initial decision on the part of a Presiding Officer in another place. Certainly, here in the House of Assembly we have always allowed access to the television cameras, provided they followed certain specified guidelines. We have allowed the same access to photographers from the press, provided that they notified the Presiding Officer so that we could be aware of exactly who was in the gallery with a 35 mm camera, because all 35 mm cameras look alike. However, whether or not we concurred in the original decision of the Presiding Officer of another place, I believe that we are all obligated to uphold his authority to make that decision. Whether or not we concurred, I believe he was upholding the sovereignty of the Parliament.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.P. TRAINER:** You may wish to put the 'empharsis' on a different 'syllarble'. By and large, I believe that we should follow two rules in relation to the Chair, rule No. 1 being that the Speaker is always right and rule No. 2 being that, even if he has made an obvious error, we should refer back to rule No. 1, because it is very important that the authority of the Chair be upheld.

I believe that the editorial in the *Advertiser* was insulting and offensive and that there was an attempt to bully a presiding officer of this Parliament. Mr Akerman denies that that was his intention, but I believe it is the Parliament that is sovereign in this State, not the editors of newspapers. Despite my appreciation of some of the activities that Mr Piers Akerman has taken in support of the Parliament, I very much regret that he allowed the *Advertiser* to have an editorial that was so insulting.

However, some points in there that are not totally factually correct are nevertheless true in spirit. I refer to a couple of them. One is where he pointed out:

Four years ago, Mr Sumner suggested a joint house committee to look at improving the efficiency of the Parliament.

Well, he is not quite right there; the Attorney was talking about a working party to inquire into the efficiency of *Hansard*. The editorial went on to say:

The Council still has not nominated members because of a fear that the independence of the Council will be tarnished.

That is not quite correct either, although it is true in spirit. The fact of the matter is that one particular element of the Council held up that committee by not nominating someone for some period of time. The other point is one to which I alluded earlier, namely:



The main central doors of the Parliament building, opening into a rather fine domed hall, remain firmly shut because the Council and the Assembly cannot agree on which side should provide the staff.

Again, that is only partly correct. There is a disagreement within the building which prevents those centre doors being open for the public, but it is not for the reasons he spells out here.

Members of the public naturally come to the centre doors of this building, expecting that that is the appropriate entrance. But any stranger who comes to the building has to be directed instead to the two small side entrances: one on the House of Assembly side and one on the Council side.

**Mr Ferguson:** Of course, the one on our side is more important.

**The Hon. J.P. TRAINER:** I will not take issue with the member for Henley Beach on that. Associated with those centre doors is a naturally grand entrance that is appropriate for this important public building; one of which, I hope, all members are as proud as I am, and one in which all members of the public, as taxpayers or descendants of taxpayers, have a share. I was very pleased to be able to play a role in the partial restoration of that centre hall which in 1973 had its magnificent ruboleum floor covered over with a horrible ochre carpet. That carpet was taken up last year, the ruboleum was stripped and polished, and some potted palms were installed.

However, it is not just the appearance of the centre hall that is important; it involves also the problem of security. With the concurrence of the member for Light, I will quote from a letter by him in his capacity as Speaker on 28 September 1982 to the President of the Legislative Council where, in relation to security, he wrote, recommending:

Reduction in the number of access points and the permanent manning of the front entrance/s. The need to use the present available manpower in the most effective way and the tendency in other Parliaments to reduce access points to the minimum makes the closure of the side doors, leaving only the centre door open at the front of the building, the most favoured option. Closing the centre doors and using the side doors only would provide some effect in reduction of entrances, but would not be as effective . . .

Unfortunately, that is the option that we ended up with, whereby the centre hall doors have been permanently closed, except on Opening Day, when they are open for His Excellency the Governor, and instead we use just the two small side doors. This is confusing for the public and provides less than optimum security.

That matter of security came to a head in 1986 in the time when I was Speaker, when the then member for Fisher, Mr Tyler, experienced some petty theft in the matter of his wallet being taken out of his briefcase in his room by a member of the public who had wandered in.

**An honourable member:** Someone lost a bottle of wine one day.

**The Hon. J.P. TRAINER:** Quite a few of us have had things stolen in this building but I do not think it is appropriate to mention it at this stage. As a result, I as Speaker and Ms Levy as President of the Legislative Council, discussed the matter with the then Joint House Committee, which, of course, like its successor the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee, had no authority over the centre hall, because that is a matter that rests with the authority of the two Presiding Officers. We wrote a joint letter in December 1986 to Mr Mitchell, Clerk of the House of Assembly, and Mr Mertin, Clerk of the Legislative Council, as follows:

Dear Geoff and Clive,

Following representations made on behalf of members of the Parliament, the subject of the security of the building has been

discussed with the Deputy-Clerks and with the Joint House Committee.

The view has been strongly expressed to us by members that a reasonable degree of security could be more effectively maintained if there was only one central point of entry to the front of the building, rather than two. Reopening the centre doors would have the additional advantage that visitors unfamiliar with the building would be able to go in through the 'natural' entrance and then be directed to their appropriate destination on either the House of Assembly or the Legislative Council side.

We would appreciate the Clerk of the House of Assembly and the Clerk of the Legislative Council conducting an inquiry as to how this could be implemented, what obstacles are likely to arise, and how those obstacles could be overcome in the interests of all occupants of the building.

If this proposal is a practical one, we are hopeful that the alteration could be effected on a trial basis, some time shortly after the Parliament reopens on 12 February. We would appreciate your considered response before then regarding the practical difficulties referred to above that might need to be addressed.

Before any further action could be taken I got a letter from Martin Cameron, the then Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. It read as follows:

Dear Mr Speaker,

I have raised the question with the Party of whether the door of the Legislative Council should be permanently closed for the first time in the history of the building because somebody has lost a wallet, and the answer is a clear, unequivocal 'No'.

The reasons given were too many to list; however, there is one principal reason—that the Legislative Council is a separate institution and there is a very strong feeling that it remain so.

I am informed that closing the door will make difficulties for the staff, so I would strongly recommend that no moves be made to close the door because if they are there there will be a revolution in the ranks of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and the next occasion we will invite you to will be the reopening of the door, but the ensuing row will keep us going over the Christmas period.

I regret we are unable to meet your desire to protect your members who are foolish enough to leave their wallets around. However, for the whole time I have been in this place I have constantly been assailed by security-mad people who don't seem to understand that Parliament House should be open to the people and that the Legislative Council is a separate and distinct entity within the Parliament.

I ask that you leave us alone to run our own affairs.

On 16 December, I responded as follows:

Dear Martin,

I am surprised at your response to what is in effect a feasibility study to determine the best arrangements for visitors entering the parliamentary building which we all share.

A logical exposition outlining various practical difficulties, I could understand. But your emotive reaction to a proposal to follow the sort of entry procedure observed by almost every bicameral Parliament in Australia is quite difficult to comprehend. Nevertheless, I wish you the compliments of the season.

The Joint Parliamentary Services Act under which we operate has one or two weaknesses. I will deal with one, which is the fact that there is a universal veto on the part of any one of the members of that Joint Services Committee, which consists of the two Presiding Officers and one Government and Opposition member from each House, and there must be one Government and one Opposition member from each House to have a quorum. On quite a few occasions over the past four years we have been inquorate. We have had to take decisions and then rely on the following monthly meeting being quorate and validating those decisions retrospectively, and in some cases we were not able to do so because the subsequent meeting has also been inquorate!

We had enough difficulties unintentionally in that respect, but we also were faced with the prospect that the Opposition member in the Upper House would be withdrawn from that committee and make it absolutely impossible for the Joint Services Committee to operate if we went ahead with some measures which were intended, such as opening the centre hall doors. As a result, it was put in the 'too hard' basket. In effect, we now have three Speakers in a row—Speaker Eastick, the current member for Light, Speaker McRae and

myself—who had to withdraw on this proposal. I wish you better luck, Sir.

**Mr S.G. EVANS (Davenport):** In the short time that I have I want to refer to a matter that has created a lot of concern to thousands of people, particularly in the city of Mitcham, and to some degree many of the people who live in the City of Happy Valley, and this was recognised throughout the State. I refer to the proposal to create a new City of Flinders under the Local Government Advisory Commission's report 114.

I want to refer mainly to the report that has been brought down more recently. At the Government's request, the Local Government Advisory Commission was asked to look at a proposal to leave the two councils of Mitcham and Happy Valley as they were before the recommendation for the forming of Flinders.

Before doing that, I should like to congratulate the people of Mitcham and Happy Valley council areas who rose up to make the point that their opinion is important and that local government should be decided by local people, not by another group of people who have no interest in the area other than the jobs that they do, because sometimes there can be a conflict of interest. There is a conflict of interest in normal business or job operations. That is mainly because we appoint as chairpersons of local government advisory committees people who advise local councils on matters of local government and represent them in court cases. Without reflecting on individuals, it does not matter who is selected, they are working in that area.

I wish to go through the report briefly in certain areas because throughout there has been an anti-Mitcham council approach. A judgment has never attempted to be made in relation to Happy Valley, but there has always been an attempt to judge Mitcham and that shows a bias—I do not know the reason why. If I knew, I would state it here, but if others know the reason, I hope they have the courage to state it. Page 37 of the more recent report, under 'Conclusions' states:

The recommendation of the commission, as outlined in Report No. 114—

that is, the first report to create Flinders—

to support the creation of the City of Flinders was based on a belief that the Blackwood Hills area would receive better local government from the City of Flinders than it had received in the past from the City of Mitcham.

What an assumption! Not a person alive could be genuine in that belief, because it depends on who is elected to council, the staff and their attitudes to policies as against the strength or weakness of the appointed councillors, aldermen or mayor. Some of this is assumption and no-one really knows. The report further states:

The commission was of the view that the new City of Flinders would be more sympathetic to the needs of Hills residents, involve them more fully in decision-making, and provide the level of services required in the Hills area.

Again, that is an assumption. Why? Only a small percentage of Hills residents wanted a separate council in the first place and there was no comment about Happy Valley. I have no greater complaint against those councils than I have against any other council and I have had to represent, in part or all, areas covered by Stirling, Mount Barker, Meadows when it operated, Happy Valley, Mitcham, Burnside, and as a member of Parliament every honourable member knows that there are always complaints against local government as there are against Government. There is always a group that is not satisfied; that will always be the case and we know that only too well. Paragraph 6.2 states:

It is apparent through the evidence presented that the City of Flinders does not enjoy support in the Hills area and is the subject of hostility by a sizeable portion of residents in the area.

'A sizeable proportion'—that is moderate language. It knows it was by a huge majority and not just a sizeable proportion. The report continues at 6.3:

The most unusual circumstances of this proposal, however, requires the commission to ask the question—will the City of Flinders provide better local government such that the benefits would significantly counteract the level of opposition presently existing?

That was not its task at all. Its task was to decide what was best for the community and what the community wanted. The Happy Valley and Mitcham people were not asking for Flinders. That was put in there and then it expected me or others to have faith. One cannot have faith. Paragraph 6.4 states:

In considering the weight to be given to community views, the commission has sought to assess the basis upon which those views have been formed, the potential for those views to be modified, and the likely effect of those views on the ability of the council to operate effectively. In addition, the commission has sought to assess the strength of public opposition to the new city.

That was not its task. If it was a big stir, we could go back to what it was. That was not its task. I would like to mention others but, in case I run out of time, I turn to P. paragraph 6.6 which states:

Whilst there still remains a number of inadequacies in Mitcham council's management and decision-making arrangements as they apply to the Hills area, a process of change is taking place.

At no time does it make a judgment about what Happy Valley is doing about its problems—and problems do exist. There is no comment about that. The last part of that paragraph refers to what will happen if the Mitcham council does not do certain things:

If this were not done, Mitcham council could expect a further proposal in the future which, in conjunction with a proposal from Unley council, may involve major structural alterations for the whole of the area.

It holds a threat over the top of the council. Paragraph 6.11 states:

In reaching a recommendation, the commission is also aware of the divisiveness and bitterness which the debate on boundary change has caused. A recommendation to retain, at this time, the existing boundaries of Mitcham and Happy Valley council, is not however intended to preclude future proposals by Unley or Happy Valley councils being considered with regard to the Blackwood hills and Mitcham plains areas. Rather, it may allow those divisions to be healed, and constructive and objective discussion to occur between affected parties in regard to boundary alterations.

In other words, look out, it is not over; it is over for the time being, but we will be back later. In regard to the consequences of the recommendation on further structural adjustment, paragraph 6.13 states:

Because this recommendation is limited to the City of Flinders proposal, the commission emphasises that the comments and conclusions contained in this report should not in any way be regarded as necessarily pertinent or relevant to the consideration which would have needed to be given and may still need to be given to the proposal by Unley council if it were to proceed to be considered.

In other words, on those three points the commission is saying that it would still like to have a go at Mitcham. The commission also has a comment about the financial arrangements of Mitcham, but at no time did it look at the financial arrangements of Happy Valley, nor did it comment on them in this report. The entire report is anti-Mitcham, and I think that that is disgraceful. I warn the people of Mitcham now, as I did nearly 2½ or three years ago that it was not a new council that they needed to be scared about but a split in the Mitcham council. It is still on, the threat

is still there and voters should ensure that they elect people to council who will put their view forward and look after them in doing so.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Albert Park.

**Mr HAMILTON (Albert Park):** In the 10 minutes available to me tonight I would like to address the question of the upgrading of different parts of my electorate. Members will recall during the week I raised a question with the Minister of Transport about the need—

*Mr S.J. Baker interjecting:*

**Mr HAMILTON:** I do have a marginal electorate and I have always worked it as a marginal electorate, just as my colleagues will attest to. I recall that in 1979 I came in here with a margin of 4 per cent. If that is not marginal, I do not know what is. One gets used to the inane interjections from the member opposite who professes to be the Deputy Leader of his Party, but I will not be distracted from what I intend to say about the upgrading of different areas in my electorate.

Ever since I entered Parliament I have attempted to beautify, and be environmentally conscious of, the needs of my electorate. When I first entered Parliament I argued forcibly for the widening of West Lakes Boulevard from Tapley's Hill Road through to Clark Terrace. That has been completed to this juncture, but the widening from the old Sabcro intersection to Port Road is yet to be completed.

I note that the State Government is bidding for the 1998 Commonwealth Games and I hope that we are successful. However, I want to see while I am a member (hopefully before I retire) the remainder of the boulevard widened, as promised since 1968 by successive Governments. That promise was also made under the West Lakes Indenture Act, and I refer to the company and the other people party to that indenture. Certainly, I look forward to the completion of that program and I will be harassing my Minister, as he and other Ministers will know, until such time as the project is completed.

Also, the rest of the Port Road plantation from Old Port Road through to the West Lakes waterway should be upgraded. That is long overdue and, as long as I have been living in the area (since 1968), it is an area that has needed upgrading. Unfortunately, those old concrete drains do nothing to enhance the beauty of the development on either side of Old Port Road, and it is something that I hope will be completed within the term of this Parliament.

There is a need to upgrade that. I do not believe that it would be all that expensive and I hope that the local government authorities and, indeed, the State Government will address that issue. It is important that that area be upgraded because, hopefully, with the successful bid for the 1998 Commonwealth Games, planning has to commence now—there is no question about that. Many facilities in and around my electorate and the electorates of my colleagues, the members for Henley Beach and Price, would cater for many of those sporting activities. I know I am being parochial about my patch, but Football Park would be used for many sports—

**Mr Ferguson:** We want the swimming pool.

**Mr HAMILTON:** Indeed, Football Park is probably one of the best sporting arenas in this country.

*Mr Gunn interjecting:*

**Mr HAMILTON:** The member for Eyre would be well aware that the member for Albert Park was most vocal in representing the views of his constituents. He was a positive force in getting the compromise that permitted the erection of the lighting towers, so the member for Eyre—I was going to say 'hot air'—would be well aware of my involvement in that matter under two successive Governments. It reached a very successful conclusion, and I was applauded by my

constituents, of all political persuasions. I hasten to add. Football Park is a magnificent stadium which is well run by the league.

The West Lakes waterway is magnificent and we know the rowing events and other activities carried out on that stretch of water. Members may recall that some years ago I was involved as Chairman of a working party to investigate the feasibility of a world canoeing championship on that waterway. It has been investigated and the report has been with the Government for some time. I know there are some difficulties in bringing people from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere, but the catalyst for the world canoeing championships may well be the 1998 Commonwealth Games. I hope that that will be the case, because I know that the local people around the waterway are very intelligent, if they are adequately informed.

I have no doubt that they would support that project, which would bring enormous prestige to this State and country, and create many job opportunities. The spin-off from that would mean that many of our youths and adults would also be given the opportunity to mix with some of the best sporting people in the world. I hope that anything I can do will give support to the Government, and I feel sure that the Opposition would be of a similar mind. I hope that we can work towards that end because, irrespective of what Party will be in power at the time, we would all be looking to get as many jobs as possible for those people whom we purport to represent.

Sport is a magnificent leveller. It is no respecter of those people who have money—with few exceptions. In the main, if people have the ability from an early age to participate in sport, I believe very strongly that that teaches a lot of discipline, be it in a football club, on the hockey field, in rowing, swimming, or whatever. I believe that discipline can be taught if it is not taught already in the home. It can be instilled into young children and young adults. I have great admiration for those people who not only achieve success but who participate in sporting activities. When young people get involved in sport, hopefully their parents become involved, because nothing is more reassuring for a child than to have his or her parents watching them participate and sharing in their success. They get a great kick out of their parents' saying, 'Well done.'

So, I look forward to the upgrading of that portion of my electorate. I believe that the remainder of Tapleys Hill Road should also be widened to cater for increased traffic flow in the area. Sooner or later that portion of Tapleys Hill Road will need to be completed.

During the 10 years that I have been in this place, one of my priorities has been to ensure that my electorate has more than adequately benefited by the installation of traffic control measures—not only for local residents but also for people who use these sporting facilities and the magnificent aquatic program of the Education Department which has been operating for many years. A lot of people go there not only to use the West Lakes waterway but to use the magnificent beaches in the north-western suburbs. It is my responsibility as the member for the area to keep pushing for the upgrading and beautification of my electorate and hopefully that impact will flow to other people in the community, so that they can push not only this State Government but the Federal Government to provide additional moneys for upgrading these areas and for recreational and sporting pursuits.

Motion carried.

At 5.21 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 20 February at 2 p.m.