

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY****Tuesday 15 February 1994**

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

**SUPPLY BILL**

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

**GRAFFITI**

A petition signed by 694 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to restrict the sale of materials used for graffiti was presented by Mr Atkinson.

Petition received.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

A petition signed by 124 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to reintroduce capital punishment for crimes of homicide was presented by Mr Becker.

Petition received.

**ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

A petition signed by 337 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to phase out intensive animal husbandry practices was presented by Mr Becker.

Petition received.

**TRADING HOURS**

A petition signed by 17 180 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government not to allow the extension to the trading hours for shopping centres and supermarkets was presented by Mr Becker.

Petition received.

**MILK BOTTLES**

A petition signed by 1 264 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government not to allow the use of plastic milk bottles was presented by Mr Becker.

Petition received.

**HOMELESS YOUTH**

A petition signed by 320 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to ensure that a program for supported accommodation assistance to homeless youth continues was presented by Mr Cummins.

Petition received.

**ALDINGA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A petition signed by 362 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to retain current staff and class structures at Aldinga Primary School was presented by Mrs Rosenberg.

Petition received.

**PAPERS TABLED**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Classification of Publications Board—Report, 1992-93.  
Commissioner for Consumer Affairs—Report, 1992-93.  
Evidence Act—Report of the Attorney-General relating to Suppression Orders—1992-93.  
Legal Practitioners Complaints Committee—Report, 1992-93.  
South Australian Office of Financial Supervision—Report, 1992-93.

By the Treasurer (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Friendly Societies—Amendments to General Laws and Rules—Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Grand Lodge of South Australia.

By the Minister for Infrastructure (Hon. J.W. Olsen)—

Electricity Trust of South Australia Contributory Superannuation Scheme—Report, 1992-93.

By the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations (Hon. J.K.G. Oswald)—

Corporation By-laws—  
Port Adelaide—No. 12—Moveable Signs.  
Walkerville—No. 36—Moveable Signs.  
District Council By-laws—  
Clare—No. 2—Moveable Signs.  
Murat Bay—No. 16—Moveable Signs.  
Willunga—  
No. 1—Permits and Penalties.  
No. 2—Moveable Signs.

By the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. D.S. Baker)—

Fisheries Act—Regulations—Marine Scalefish—  
Transfer of Licence.

By the Minister for Correctional Services (Hon. W.A. Matthew)—

Correctional Services Advisory Council of South Australia—Report, 1992-93.

By the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education (Hon. R.B. Such)—

The Flinders University of South Australia—  
Report, 1992.  
Amendments to Statutes.

**HOUSING TRUST RENTS**

**The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD (Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD:** I inform members of a new process for assessing and reviewing at uniform times the circumstances of all Housing Trust tenants paying reduced rents. The trust provides income-based reduced rents to assist those tenants who are unable to afford the full rent applicable to their accommodation. At present there are some 40 000 trust tenants paying reduced rents, whose circumstances are reviewed at regular intervals. This has been done on a rolling basis, the month of review being determined by the date the concession first applied. Under this method many tenants with similar incomes pay different rents, depending on the month in which their rent is reviewed. Some tenants have up to five months before their rent is increased, compared with other tenants whose rent is increased earlier as their review date happens to fall closer to the pension or benefit increase.

The trust has long been concerned about the inequity in the current method of assessing reduced rents and, from this

year, will align all rent reviews so that they occur in the month following adjustments to pensions and benefits by the Department of Social Security. These usually occur in March and September so, in future, trust tenants paying reduced rents will have their rents adjusted in April and October each year. All tenants paying reduced rents will be scheduled for review in April 1994. The time period between reviews for those tenants reviewed in January, February and March this year will be progressively shorter (namely, three, two and one month respectively) than the usual six month period. Tenants are being notified of the new arrangements.

The trust estimates that there will be a net increase in rental income of about \$2.3 million in a full year (based on average pension and benefit increases over the past five years) as a result of earlier increases for some tenants, but this is a relatively small amount compared to the cost of providing rental rebates (\$114.6 million in 1992-93). It is important to note that the trust is not changing the way in which reduced rents are calculated; tenants will not pay higher rents, but the month in which their rents are reviewed will change.

The trust also intends to use the implementation of this new rent assessment process as a basis for initiating discussions with the Department of Social Security to develop an efficient method of confirming the incomes of mutual clients, because approximately 84 per cent of those tenants paying reduced rents receive a Commonwealth pension or benefit.

#### OLYMPIC DAM

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER (Minister for Mines and Energy):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I wish to advise the House of the identification of water seepage at the Olympic Dam tailings dam and action being taken to deal with the problem. Western Mining Corporation's Olympic Dam operations commenced in June 1988 at an annual production rate of 42 000 tonnes of copper. Following two stages of optimisation, production has increased to 65 000 tonnes of copper per year. Over the next two years, this will increase to 84 000 tonnes per annum. It is the largest underground mine in South Australia, employing 840 people.

Members will be aware that under the terms of the indenture legislation, which has facilitated the establishment and expansion of this project, the South Australian Government has certain statutory obligations in relation to monitoring activities at Olympic Dam. In fulfilment of those obligations, representatives of the company, the South Australian Health Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Mines and Energy meet on a quarterly basis. At the November 1990 meeting of the representatives the company reported:

Water levels in deep (monitoring) bores have risen. The variations present are difficult to interpret as rises also occurred across the project as a whole.

The matter was further discussed at the next meeting in February 1991 when the company reported that the drill hole water samples showed no indication of coming from the tailings dam. Assays showed no enhanced radioactivity above background or contaminants that could be attributed to tailings dam leakage.

The levels in the monitoring bores continued to rise gradually and heavy rainfalls in 1989, 1990 and 1992 were initially believed to be the cause of the water level rise. In May 1993 it was agreed that the company would undertake

a water balance to compare the water pumped to the tailings dam against evaporation and water retained in the tailings solids. The final results were completed on 20 August 1993 and pointed to the possibility that the tailings dam could be leaking.

On 1 September—that is, within two days of the results being finalised—the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy advised the former Minister of Mineral Resources as follows:

WMC (Olympic Dam operations): Potential problem—tailings dam

- the water level in the monitoring bores around the tailings dam is rising
- an initial water balance (i.e. water pumped in—evaporation—depth of water pool in tailings dam) shows a water loss from the tailings dam
- there is no visible indication of a leak or that the clay lining of the dam is deficient.

Further investigations are taking place. WMC are drafting a press announcement to cover the eventuality of the matter attracting attention before further investigations are completed.

Signed Ross Fardon, Director-General, 1 September 1993.

I note that two days after this advice the former Premier and the former Minister of Mineral Resources visited Olympic Dam where they announced an agreement between ETSA and the Western Mining Corporation over the price of electricity supplied to Olympic Dam. It was certainly open to the former Government at that time, or subsequently, to raise any concerns it had about this matter. I also note that in the *Advertiser* of 2 December last year (just over a week before the election) the former Premier said his Government was committed to the continuing expansion of the mine.

I put these facts before the House because they stand in stark conflict with the public statements by the Opposition's spokesperson on the environment, the Hon. Carolyn Pickles, alleging that the Opposition did not become aware of this problem until yesterday and that monitoring at Olympic Dam was inadequate.

To return to the sequence of events after a loss of water from the tailings dam was identified, in December last year the company engaged AGC Woodward-Clyde, a leading Australian ground water consultancy, to carry out an independent water balance. The report from AGC Woodward-Clyde was received late last week. This matter was raised with me for the first time last week. I immediately authorised discussions between all Government departments and agencies with a responsibility in this matter with a view to a public statement being made explaining the situation at Olympic Dam. The company readily cooperated in this matter.

To deal with the seepage, a number of remedial actions must be taken. Three are under way and a fourth is being developed. First, the company is making operational changes to the tailing deposition method that will increase the evaporation of tailings liquid. Secondly, the company will pump out any ponds of water forming on the tailings dam and evaporate the liquid in the disused number one tailings dam. Thirdly, 16 specific purpose monitoring bores will be drilled around the tailings dam. They will be completed within two weeks to give better information on water quality at different depths. The fourth remedial action is the design of another tailings retention system based on past information. The new tailings retention system will incorporate all the local geographic factors and information gained from this incident. The company has advised me that it intended to build this facility within a year anyway and that efforts will now be

made to accelerate construction. Discussions will continue with Government officers on further measures to increase the efficiency of the existing tailings dam, particularly with respect to water ponding.

In closing, it is necessary to deal with public statements about this matter by Dr Dennis Matthews of Flinders University. He has alleged that the tailings dam water will soon reach the town of Roxby Downs. Dr Matthews was a member of the Radiation Protection Committee from May 1985 to December 1989. During this period he was fully briefed on the Olympic Dam project and visited the site. The Radiation Protection Committee was involved in the approval process for the design of the tailings dam. While Dr Matthews is not an expert on ground water, he would be aware from the involvement that I have explained that his statements are alarmist and untrue. This matter is a setback to the project, but it does not represent any threat to public health or public water supplies.

### QUESTION TIME

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling on questions, I wish to advise that in his absence any questions directed to the Minister for Health will be taken by the Deputy Premier.

#### OLYMPIC DAM

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Premier instigate a full and independent technical inquiry into Western Mining's operations at Olympic Dam with particular reference to issues surrounding the massive leak of contaminated water from the tailings retention system—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** I have asked for a full and independent technical inquiry.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** —and the failure of the monitoring systems to detect a leak at the sides of the Barossa reservoir at a much earlier stage?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition obviously had his question prepared before he even heard the ministerial statement, because the ministerial statement made absolutely clear that the suspected leak has been known about for some time, that the former Minister was notified in September 1993, and that the former Government failed to take any appropriate action whatsoever in terms of notifying the public or, it would appear, any other ministerial action at Cabinet level. It would appear that other members of the then Labor Government were not even notified of the possibility of the leak. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition will explain publicly why he as Premier did not ensure that this information was brought out publicly and some action taken at that time.

I go back to the specific question raised by the Leader of the Opposition, and I make the point that the Government, through the Health Commission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Mines and Energy together with the company, is thoroughly investigating the matter. If at any stage we think it is appropriate that there be an independent investigation, certainly we will carry it out. However, I assure the Leader

of the Opposition that the actions of the new Liberal Government have been far more diligent than those of the former Labor Government and that, in fact, we have brought it to the public attention. I also highlight, because of public concern, that the so-called contamination, as outlined by the Minister, is at this stage of no threat to the environment, to any human or to any potential source of water that may be consumed by animals or humans.

#### AUDIT COMMISSION

**Mr BUCKBY (Light):** I direct my question to the Treasurer. What progress is being made by the Audit Commission in its inquiries into State finances?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I thank the member for Light for his question. I am pleased to report to the House that the Audit Commission is very much on track. As members present would well remember, the Audit Commission was appointed two days after we attained Government in this State—much to the relief of the population. Of course, the Audit Commission will look at the state of our finances and a whole range of other related issues.

Not only was the Audit Commission formed within two days but it has already made significant progress at least in gathering much of the information relating to Government departments, authorities and financing. It is important to understand that not only are we doing an overview of the whole of public sector finances but also we are doing individual exercises and looking, in particular, at three of our largest departments, namely, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Education Department and the Health Commission.

Already one set of questionnaires on financing has been returned and the Audit Commission is processing that material, which involves information ranging from workers compensation, staff training programs, capital planning, and pricing and charging policies. Indeed, it was quite wide ranging. A second questionnaire is also being returned and is being looked at and recorded. That questionnaire deals with the more complex financial issues facing this State.

So, it is pleasing to report that the commission was mobile very early. It is receiving very good response from all departments. The information sought is being provided readily and we thank everyone responsible for their cooperation in this exercise. Of course, the exercise will shape the future of this State in many ways. It will form the basis of our economic and financial statement, following its release, and it will be a document of great importance to the people of South Australia.

#### OLYMPIC DAM

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition):** Is the Premier satisfied that Western Mining Corporation briefed the Government and relevant authorities about the leakage from the tailings system as soon and as adequately as was practicable and, if not, at what stage did Western Mining Corporation advise the Government that it first became aware of the magnitude of the present problem?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Deputy Premier. The Leader of the Opposition.

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** Executives from Western Mining Corporation have briefed the Opposition privately and stated publicly that they—the corporation—first became

aware of the problem reported yesterday in January, and briefed the Government on the situation last week. Western Mining Corporation's 1993 annual report released last year also made no reference to a leakage from the tailings system and failure to report such a leak—had it been known—would have been in breach of Corporations Law.

However, the Minister for Mines and Energy, in a radio interview this morning, indicated that he believed that Western Mining Corporation was aware of the magnitude of the problem last year and had briefed the former Government of the magnitude of the problem last year, notwithstanding the advice publicly from Western Mining Corporation yesterday.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Again it would appear that the Leader of the Opposition prepared his question well before the ministerial statement was made and that he certainly did not listen to the statement.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Not at all. The ministerial statement clearly indicated that Western Mining Corporation notified the former Labor Government in November 1990. So, it is quite clear that the company fulfilled its obligations at that meeting and that it notified the relevant Government departments. In terms of when the present Government first knew about this, the Minister is quite correct: we were notified in very late January. Immediately we asked for a meeting with the company.

**The Hon. M.D. Rann:** I thought it was last week. You said—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! We will deal with one question at a time.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The Deputy Leader might contain himself. We know his opposition to the Roxby Downs project. We know that 13 to 14 years ago he was the man who did his very best to stop the project from even proceeding. We were notified in very late January. Immediately we organised a meeting and on Tuesday last week the Minister met with the company and went through a very detailed assessment of what the problem was and what the latest evidence showed. Immediately we started to take action to inform the Health Commission and the department of environment and mines of the latest information.

The Minister has already set out for everyone to hear quite clearly what had occurred previously. The Leader of the Opposition has had the affront this afternoon to stand up and accuse Western Mining Corporation of not being up-front and honest in telling the Government of the day what was going on. If anyone was guilty of failing to tell people what was going on it was the former Minister for Mines and Energy, who was notified in September last year. So, if ever there was any guilt about hiding information on this particular issue, it lies quite clearly, as explained by the Minister this afternoon, with the former Government of this State—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** —just like the State Bank.

### BUSHFIRES

**Mr VENNING (Custance):** My question is directed to the Minister for Emergency Services. Is South Australia prepared and satisfactorily equipped to handle bushfires similar to those which recently occurred in New South Wales?

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** I thank the member for Custance for his question; I am aware of his keen interest in

this issue, particularly in relation to the Country Fire Service volunteers in South Australia. The CFS and the MFS are well prepared to handle bushfires and, indeed, any other fire in South Australia. I believe that through the combined resources of those fire services we are very well served indeed. Both services have assured me that they can withstand fire threat of expected proportions throughout the remainder of this season.

However, if we were faced with a disaster of the proportions that we have recently witnessed in New South Wales, it would be necessary to have further contingency plans in place, and our fire services have ensured that such plans indeed are in place. Those plans include sharing of resources between States and obviously between the CFS and the MFS. An incident management control system is in place, and that has been tested fully in the recent New South Wales fire and has been proved to be very successful. Further, the New South Wales experience proved the benefits of commonality of equipment. Our fire services were able actually to change crews whilst still using the same vehicle in New South Wales because the equipment that each crew used was the same. I have now received a full briefing from the CFS on the level of bushfire threat in South Australia; I have inspected the Mount Lofty region in particular, on foot, by road and later by air, and I have inspected by air other areas within the immediate vicinity of Adelaide that have a potential to cause bushfire difficulties.

Later, I will investigate some country areas which may also present us with a similar difficulty. We are well equipped, but I would like to note also the fine effort that was put in by MFS and CFS volunteers interstate, particularly the cooperation between those two groups. We saw an unprecedented cooperation between the MFS and CFS in New South Wales, and it is to be remembered that the MFS firefighters went to New South Wales as volunteers also. I am also pleased with the other levels of Government involvement, such as that of National Parks and Wildlife and Woods and Forests, which put in considerable effort in combating the New South Wales fires.

### URANIUM ENRICHMENT

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Does the Premier intend to honour—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! To whom is the Deputy Leader addressing his question?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** My question is directed to the Premier. Does the Premier intend to honour the undertaking he gave on 24 September 1992 to develop the uranium enrichment plant in South Australia? On 24 September 1992, the then Liberal Leader, now Premier, told South Australians that, on becoming Premier, he would proceed immediately with uranium enrichment and that, in doing so, he supported statements by two previous Opposition Leaders in this State—of course, enrichment being the centrepiece of the Liberals' energy plans for the past three State elections.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** For the clarification of the Deputy Leader, can I point out exactly what I was—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** There is no embarrassment whatsoever. During a speech I made that afternoon to the Chamber of Mines I pointed out that I believed there needed to be a feasibility study into the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Just wait for the answer. If ever there was a man who needs a new script writer, it is the Leader of the Opposition, who has just stood up and embarrassed his own Party by asking a series of questions about Roxby Downs, the answer to which had already been given but which simply highlighted to the public of South Australia that the Labor Government of South Australia continually hid every single piece of evidence that it possibly could. It did not matter whether it was Roxby Downs, the State Bank or any other area: they sat on as much information as they possibly could.

I come to the point of the speech I gave to the Chamber of Mines. That speech highlighted the need for South Australia to have a feasibility study carried out as to the possibility of establishing a uranium enrichment industry in South Australia. As I highlighted to the luncheon, because it had been raised with me in previous discussions, there was no immediate scope for a uranium enrichment industry to be established in South Australia, because the world demand for enriched uranium was satisfied for the next 10 years. Therefore, I indicated that, should there be a change in demand over that 10-year period and in particular at the end of that period, the elementary work needed to be completed so that we could undertake the establishment of a such an industry, if it were feasible.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.D. Rann:** You said 'proceed immediately'.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** What the Deputy Leader is doing is taking one sentence out of the interview and trying to highlight it. During the interview, I had emphasised the need to make sure that the feasibility study proceeded immediately.

#### McLAREN VALE TOURIST CENTRE

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** When does the Minister for Tourism expect the tourism centre for McLaren Vale, proposed under the Liberals' tourism policy, to be established, and will he be involving the local community in a working party to establish the centre? Often constituents have said to me that many job opportunities for our southern area have been missed by the lack of support for a tourism centre from the previous Labor Government. Therefore, my constituents see the centre as a priority.

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** I thank the member for Mawson for his question, because it was principally his submission that enabled the Liberal Government to look at this important project in the McLaren Vale area. It is an area of the south which has been neglected by the previous Government. It is only with the election of the member for Mawson and two other colleagues, the member for Reynell and the member for Kaurana, that we actually now have some very positive things happening in the south. The amount of \$750 000 will be made available this year to enable this project to be completed by the end of 1994. It will enable many jobs to be created in the southern area, provide an opportunity for young people to be employed in the tourism industry and, more importantly, highlight the wine industry in that area as a tourist attraction.

The member for Mawson will be appointed chairman of the local working committee, which will also involve the members for Kaurana and Reynell. It will be the first important tourism project of this Government—a tourism project

which will be completed, unlike the many other projects from the previous Labor Government.

#### URANIUM ENRICHMENT

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is again directed to the Premier. Given his reply to the previous question, does the Government now intend to proceed immediately with the feasibility study into the development of the uranium enrichment industry in South Australia, given that the Federal Coalition's policy on resources and energy was reversed in January and is now opposed to the establishment of a nuclear enrichment industry in Australia? Indeed, John Hewson's shadow Minister on this issue, Peter McGauran, said the prospects for the establishment of a \$1 billion enrichment industry in South Australia are zero.

In January this year, the Federal Opposition dropped its support for a policy supporting the nuclear enrichment industry. The Opposition spokesman for resources and energy, Mr Peter McGauran, said the policy had been changed because there was no prospect for either nuclear power or enrichment plants in Australia. His announcement represents a major shift in Federal Liberal policy, because immediately before last year's March Federal election senior members of the Coalition said they were holding talks with a consortium interested in developing a nuclear enrichment plant in Australia. I am aware of the sensitivity of this matter, because of the major donations given to the Liberal Party by Western Mining at the last election.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The answer to the question is, 'Yes, we will proceed with the feasibility study as appropriate.'

**The Hon. M.D. Rann:** 'Immediately' or 'appropriately'?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** 'Appropriately' or 'immediately'; we will start in the very near future. I have already highlighted, as I did in the speech on the day, that there is no hurry for this, because there is no immediate demand for uranium enrichment on an increased capacity worldwide for about 10 years. So, of course, we will go ahead and look at it. It is interesting because it was, in fact, the Labor Party of South Australia, back in the 1970s, through the then Premier Don Dunstan, which very strongly went out and canvassed the possibility of establishing an enrichment industry.

As Don Dunstan pointed out to this House, based on work on which his own Government did research, in those days developing a uranium enrichment industry was about as safe as running the Chrysler plant down at Tonsley. I specifically recall the then Premier's giving that analogy between the Chrysler plant and the uranium enrichment plant. There is a large potential industry, which will provide a considerable number of jobs, with virtually no risk whatsoever, except for the risk that would be involved in any normal industrial plant.

It is the policy of the Liberal Party to look at the feasibility of that. We have had that policy here in South Australia for quite some time and will continue to have it. In particular, we will look at the feasibility of adopting such an enrichment plant.

#### HELPMANN ACADEMY

**Mr TIERNAN (Torrens):** In view of the many years of delay in the commencement of the Helpmann Academy for

Visual and Performing Arts in South Australia, will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education provide details of the recent developments relating to that academy?

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** I am delighted to be able to indicate that the Helpmann Academy is under way. The proposal has been around for many years, and in a matter of eight weeks this Government has managed to get the academy under way, and it will be offering programs as from the beginning of next year. I must commend the universities and the Adelaide Institute of Vocational Education for their cooperation in getting this academy going. David Meldrum (who was a senior officer in the Education Department) started work yesterday as the facilitator/coordinator, in premises kindly offered by the University of Adelaide, which reflects the new spirit of cooperation that will result in the academy's operating as from the beginning of next year.

When this news was communicated to Ms Sheila Helpmann, the sister of the late Sir Robert, she was delighted that at long last the Helpmann Academy would become a reality. We can all sympathise with the Helpmann family that the name of the late Sir Robert has been bandied around year after year with no resolution but, at long last, this Government has delivered and will deliver, in cooperation with the universities and the TAFE sector, high quality training for the visual and performing arts in South Australia.

#### OLYMPIC DAM

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable member for Giles.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many interjections on my right. The honourable member for Giles.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles):** You'll have to wait till the end of Question Time. Keep tuned in. In light of leakage from the tailings retention system at Olympic Dam, has the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources investigated whether the construction and operation of the system fully complied with the environmental impact statement requirement, and will he give an assurance that any proposed extension or modification to the tailings retention system will be subject to further detailed environmental assessment?

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I might point out to the member for Giles and to the other members of the House that my department has only just received the information regarding this issue. The matter that the honourable member has raised will be brought to the attention of my Chief Executive Officer and the department, and I give an assurance that I will bring back a report on this important issue to the honourable member and to the House.

#### CAR INDUSTRY

**Mr CONDOUS (Colton):** Will the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development advise the House of the results of the annual Federal Chamber of Automotive Industry awards for the best car industry suppliers and, in particular, indicate whether any South Australian companies made the finals?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** South Australians can be very proud that three South Australian companies figured prominently in the 1994 Federal Chamber of Automotive Industry awards. Not only did Bridgestone Australia and Walker Australia share the award for Car Industry Supplier of the

Year, the criteria for which are on the basis of quality, timely delivery of products, cost containment, cooperation with the customer, customer satisfaction and design capability, but it is a recognition that these companies and component manufacturers are now very competitive suppliers.

That is a very significant commendation for not only the management but the workers in those plants for the way in which they have been able to respond positively to the challenges that the automotive industry in Australia has had over the past decade, giving clear future prospects, continuity of jobs and, of course, a contribution to gross domestic product and export earning potential for South Australia. A further company was recognised in these awards, that is, Steering Systems Pty Limited, a division of Air International. That company, which employs around 80 people, has a turnover of about \$21 million and was acknowledged as the best supplier in its first year of operation.

For a South Australian company in its first year to be able to chalk up an achievement such as that speaks volumes for it. That company has recently won continuing contracts, as has Walker Australia. With the member for Mawson and the former Premier I attended the opening of the expansion of Walker Australia's plant when it won the Ford Australia contract. Last week Walker Australia won the Holden VT Commodore exhaust business. So, further significant gains are being made by these component manufacturers, which underscores the need to be internationally competitive. Where there is a real challenge, South Australian companies, employers and employees can clearly demonstrate that they have met and can meet those challenges.

#### OLYMPIC DAM

**Mr M.J. EVANS (Elizabeth):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Minister for Health. Can the Minister assure the House that the monitoring procedures undertaken by the South Australian Health Commission will be adequate at Olympic Dam to detect any radioactive contamination that may arise?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I thank the honourable member, who will not be with us much longer, for that question. Again—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The one-day wonder! It was rather interesting that the dogs were barking prior to the election that they wanted to move the member for Bonython out and the member for Elizabeth in and, of course, it—

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The weather's not too good in Canberra just now.

**The SPEAKER:** If the Minister is going to answer the question—

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Nothing is much good in Canberra! This is an important question and, whilst we realise that this is probably one of the last questions the honourable member will ask in this House, it deserves a proper answer. The member for Elizabeth would have recognised what was already said in the ministerial statement on this matter. All the relevant departments have been called together. Immediate action was taken to have all those with some responsibility for this area briefed on the matter and, in fact, they are forming themselves into a group to ensure that all standards necessary to maintain the safety of employees and the quality of our water supplies, all those important issues, are properly dealt with in a very constructive fashion. On behalf of the

Minister for Health, I assure the honourable member that is exactly what will happen.

### TOURISM REGIONS

**Mr KERIN (Frome):** I direct my question to the Minister for Tourism. What progress is being made to change the structure of tourism regions?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** The Minister and the Tourism Commission next week will be starting to visit all the country areas to explain to the regions the need for a better marketing plan, better promotional plan and better advertising plan for them to be part of the national and international program that had been promised for so long by the previous Government. We intend to work with the Regional Tourism Board to make sure that this very exciting marketing plan can be implemented by June of this year. It will enable all South Australia, not just Adelaide, to be part of a national and international marketing program. It is a very exciting opportunity for all the regions in South Australia to be part of this excellent and, if I might say so myself, quite brilliant marketing scheme.

### OLYMPIC DAM

**Mr QUIRKE (Playford):** Will the Minister for Mines and Energy advise the House how many years it will take for Western Mining to remove the massive leakage into the Acoona quartzite aquifer at Olympic Dam requiring the water table to return to its former and safer level? Will it take two years, five years or 10 years, and is the estimate based upon further leaks?

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I was wondering when I would get a question from members opposite about this matter. Western Mining has been a responsible corporate citizen in this whole event. It did inform the previous Minister in a confidential memo, which the Premier read out earlier today. But what happened? The former Minister kept it confidential: he did not come clean to the public of South Australia. He kept it right under the hat. It might be like the State debt, because they did not tell the former Premier about the State debt.

Two days after the former Minister was told about the issue he and the then Premier visited Roxby Downs and no doubt stood on the side of this dam. One would think that the Minister whispered in the Premier's shell-like ear, 'There is a bit of a problem underneath, I think, Mr Premier.' He did not say a thing: he kept the Premier in the dark.

Only now, when we were advised about the problem, have we put something in action. That is how we intend to govern South Australia: get something going. In the time that the investigations have gone on Western Mining has implemented four remedial measures to fix this problem. Not only are there 88 bores around this dam that they are monitoring but a further 16 are being put in, and when they report to the quarterly meeting—

*The Hon. Lynn Arnold interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I ask the Leader of the Opposition to not interject. When they report to the quarterly meeting there will be a full plan of action as to how long it will take to fix it. Members opposite should not have sat on this for so long. They should have done something about it. This Government has now done something about it, and it is a credit to it.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

**Mr BASS (Florey):** What progress can the Minister for Industrial Affairs report in the amalgamation of the Occupational Health and Safety Commission with WorkCover?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** Later this month we intend to introduce into this House some very significant changes to the workers compensation legislation in this State. The most important part of that legislative change will be the bringing together of the Occupational Health and Safety Commission with the WorkCover Corporation. It is a very important move because for the first time it will place a focus on not only the accidents that occur in the workplace but the need to recognise that safety in the workplace is a very important issue. It will bring together both of those areas so that they can be sold and marketed together in the workplace. At the moment, one group, on the one hand, goes in on one day and another group, on the other hand, goes in at some other time to look at the same workplace situations. It is a very important change of direction as far as workers compensation and occupational health and safety is concerned in this State, and it will be introduced in legislation later this month.

### OLYMPIC DAM

**Mr QUIRKE (Playford):** My question is directed to the Premier. Will the Government reject a plan by the Commonwealth Government to establish at Olympic Dam a national repository for radioactive waste, including large quantities of radioactive material from the Lucas Heights reactor in New South Wales? The Premier is aware of a submission by the Commonwealth to establish a single national repository for radioactive waste and contaminated instruments. The Commonwealth Government approached the former South Australian Labor Government last year with a request that Roxby Downs be the final repository for radioactive waste from all over Australia. That waste would include contaminated material used in laboratories, hospitals and in industry, as well as tonnes of irradiated soil and other material from the Lucas Heights reactor in Sydney. The South Australian Labor Government at that time did not accede to the request.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The position is this: about three or four weeks ago it was brought to my attention that the Commonwealth Government made such a request of the former Labor Government. I was aware that the former Government rejected that proposal. I asked for a detailed briefing on the background to that matter because the original minute simply informed me of that fact and provided no background whatsoever.

I have yet to receive that detailed report from the department. When I do I will no doubt report to Cabinet upon the matter. I think it is inappropriate to indicate our reaction until we have seen the nature of the request. At this stage I am not even aware of the specific nature of the request that came from the Commonwealth Government. So it is inappropriate for me to comment further until I see the full details.

### LAKE EYRE BASIN

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** What action has the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources taken to advise the Commonwealth of the South Australian Government's attitude to the proposed world heritage listing of the Lake Eyre region?

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** The State Government has advised the Federal Minister that it is not interested in the world heritage listing of Lake Eyre for a number of reasons. This is despite recent outbursts by the Federal Minister with threats and bully tactics in an attempt to have the South Australian Government proceed with the world heritage listing of the Lake Eyre Basin.

*Mr Becker interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** She is still trying to find the white board as far as this issue is concerned. It is the Government's view that adequate protection of key areas of the Lake Eyre Basin can be provided through existing State legislation. It is also our intention to allocate, in the first two years of coming to office, \$1 million to ensure full protection of this important area and the very special areas within the Lake Eyre region, including the Coongee Lakes region and within the arc of the Mound Springs.

The Government is also seeking active cooperation from other States and the Northern Territory in the total catchment management of the Lake Eyre Basin, which is vitally important to South Australia in particular. We are working cooperatively and constructively with pastoral lessees in the Lake Eyre Basin to assist them in voluntarily implementing protective management strategies in significant areas.

The Government's decision that it will not pursue world heritage listing for the Lake Eyre Basin has removed a considerable amount of uncertainty for mining and pastoral interests in the Lake Eyre Basin, and we on this side of the House recognise that as being vitally important.

#### OLYMPIC DAM

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles):** Does the Minister for Mines and Energy believe that the Olympic Dam operations have complied fully with all provisions of the indenture, and in particular clause 11 (7) relating to 'sudden and unexpected material detriment to the environment'? If so, will he table the program provided by Olympic Dam operations for investigation of leakage from the tailings retention system?

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I could throw the question back to the former Minister. When the then Minister of Mineral Resources received this confidential memo on 1 September, which said, 'Western Mining Corporation (Olympic Dam operations)—Potential problem, tailings dam', did he believe that it was against the indenture recommendations or the agreement and, if so, what did he do about it? He sat on his hands. Even two days later, when he visited the area with the then Premier, did he whisper in the Premier's ear that something was wrong? We will never know. Of course, he did not even tell him about the budget blow out then.

The indenture agreement, I am informed, is being adhered to and any matters pertaining to that are under investigation. It has taken four months for someone to do something about it. I might ask the member for Giles why he did not do something about it.

**An honourable member:** He did nothing, but he did it well.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### 0055 NUMBERS

**Mr ANDREW (Chaffey):** What action has the Treasurer taken over the apparent proliferation of television competitions involving the use of 0055 numbers, and can the

Treasurer explain whether these competitions are legal and whether regulations are in place to ensure they are properly run? I have become aware that a range of competitions similar to lotteries are being advertised on television and that viewers are being encouraged to use the 0055 facility to lodge their entry.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** This is quite an interesting question. Something that only recently came to my attention is the extent to which 0055 may or may not be circumventing the lotteries rules that prevail across the whole of the nation. Members would be well aware that in order to conduct a lottery in this State, and in fact in every other State, one needs to be licensed and to conform to the various conditions laid down in both the legislation and the regulations. It has been brought to my attention that 0055 may be a means of circumventing the lotteries rules, although as yet we have not been able to ascertain whether that is the case.

My understanding is that 0055 is run by Telecom on an agency basis, and that any person or company wishing to use that service can do so by a variety of means. Members will know that for telephone polls or when the opinion of people is sought one can ring a 0055 number. The practice has grown in recent months and probably during the past year, and 0055 is now being used for competitions. The extent to which those competitions are pseudo-lotteries is the question that is occupying people's minds. It has been suggested that the use of 0055 for competitions to which prizes are applied could be regarded as a lottery. Of course, that would depend on the circumstances and whether a considerable amount of cash profit is earned from the telephone calls themselves which can be applied to prize winning and the promotion of a particular scheme.

Although we have tried to contact Telecom to get some details, I am not in a position to answer the question definitively as to whether a lottery is being conducted, because we are not aware of the margins that exist with these telephone calls or who are the major beneficiaries. I think that the existence of 0055 numbers and their use in competitions is a fair means of product selling and advertising and should not be regarded as—

**The Hon. M.D. Rann:** Political research?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Political research, yes. In terms of polling, the Deputy Leader is correct. The 0055 number is a boon for communications in Australia, and I do not necessarily conclude that the use of 0055 for competitions is circumventing the rules or, indeed, is such a bad thing. The problem is that we do not have enough details.

I understand that there will be a meeting next week in Victoria at which departmental officials will look at the rules pertaining to trade promotions on television, particularly to see whether such promotions are within the rules laid down under lotteries and other trade practices legislation. We will continue to research the matter. We hope that more answers will be given to us following the interstate meeting than we have today. It is important to understand that, unless members can tell me otherwise, I am not aware of any competitions that have emanated from South Australia: I believe most are conducted from the eastern States.

We do not have a handle on how these competitions are conducted, what margins exist and what rates Telecom charges for each one. So, in answer to the question, more research will be done. My officers are looking at the matter right now. Because this is a national issue, obviously if some repairs are to be made to the legislation or the regulations they will have to be generally agreed between all the States.



### OLYMPIC DAM

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier in the absence of the Minister for Health. Will the Minister say whether the Health Commission is satisfied that the radioactivity levels of soil in and around the tailings retention system at Olympic Dam conform with acceptable levels for such an operation or has the leakage of water from the tailings dam resulted in the leaching of radioactive material into the soil at Olympic Dam? The announcement by the Western Mining Corporation yesterday stated that the water sampled to date is of the same quality as the natural water from the underlying aquifer. However, experts in this field have indicated that this may be due to the leaching of radioactive material into the soil.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Again I ask: are members opposite suffering from a severe case of deafness? What has been outlined to the House is the action that was taken within a matter of days when the former Government had months in which to determine what methods were necessary to control this leakage. Whilst the member for Hart may well have a very good point, the fact is that we have called together the so-called experts, the people who understand some of the technical and engineering aspects of this problem. They come from a range of areas that have already been mentioned. We are not only involving health and the environment but my colleague the Minister for Tourism has some of his occupational health and safety people involved in the process as well.

So, we are trying to cover all aspects of this problem—unlike the previous Government. There seems to be mounting pressure on the Liberal Government, which has been in power for just over two months, to suddenly take this matter on board. We have, but what I cannot understand is why we are being asked these questions from the other side of the House and the nature of them when clearly members opposite have been at fault. When they were told about the changing water levels they did not take any action. In September, when the Ministry was informed of the problem, no action was taken. It is an interesting reflection on a has-been Government that has become a has-been Opposition. We will do the job properly. These issues are important, but they should not become part of the political arena as though somehow the blame can be shifted from the other side of the House to this side. We know where the blame lies: it lies directly with members on the other side of the House.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE

**Mr ASHENDEN (Wright):** Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education indicate whether there have been any difficulties in relation to tertiary student places being offered by the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre this year and, if so, what is being done to address those difficulties? I have been contacted by a number of constituents, particularly parents of students who are looking for positions, who have expressed to me that they have been told there are problems. Will the Minister address this issue for those constituents?

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** I thank the honourable member for his question and interest. Yes, there have been problems with SATAC procedures this year involving two aspects: first, calls from disappointed students and their parents about their inability to secure a place or a place of their choice; and,

secondly, concern about interstate students obtaining places in this State. In relation to the first point, we must realise that the end of last year marked the completion of the introductory period for the new SACE certificate, and that that has created problems for SATAC which are quite significant. For example, last year about 100 corrections had to be made to the results forwarded to SATAC.

This year until 10 February about 1 600 corrections had to be made by SATAC. Obviously, that has put SATAC under tremendous pressure and, as a result and in order to avoid the problems that have occurred this year, a deputy executive officer is being appointed by SATAC to provide additional support. In addition, SATAC is spending \$300 000 on a new telephone system that will provide 48 lines for inquiries and other information. Incidentally, that is one line for each Liberal member of both Houses, and that will more than adequately cover any queries from members of the Opposition. That system will be fully operational before the start of the admissions session next year. Members have to realise that SATAC is run by the three universities under an indenture agreement: it is not run by the Government, but we are very willing to cooperate and assist in whatever way we can to facilitate the smooth running of the operations.

The other aspect I alluded to was concern about places being taken by interstate students, particularly in the area of medicine. This year is the first year in which Flinders University has not taken any undergraduate medical students. Some parents and students have expressed concern that medical students from other States have been getting places here in Adelaide. The answer is that those places are funded by the Commonwealth Government and as a State Government we have no control over the issuing of the places. This issue will need to be taken up at the Federal level, but at this stage, as a State Government, we have no say in the matter and interstate students are able to apply and be accepted at training and university establishments in this State.

Those two very important aspects are being considered and dealt with, and it is regrettable that inconvenience was caused to the parents and students. However, as I indicated, the universities through SATAC are addressing them urgently and they will be in place before the end of this year so that we can avoid those sorts of problems in the future.

### GULF ST VINCENT

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** I direct my question to the Minister for Primary Industries. Given that the Gulf St Vincent prawn fishery has been closed for two years, what scientific data was provided to the Minister that convinced him that random trawling in Gulf St Vincent would not cause irreparable damage to an already crippled fishery? Did he seek the opinion of a Department of Fisheries marine biologist and, if so, what was the advice? If not, why did he not seek that advice, given the well-known fragile nature of the fishery?

In a press release dated 17 December 1993, the Minister for Primary Industries announced that he had approved a proposal from the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Committee to allow trawling to take place in the gulf prior to Christmas.

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I thank the honourable member for his question, but again he has it a little wrong. The fishery has been closed for two years, because it virtually collapsed. That fishery has incurred quite considerable debt to the taxpayers of South Australia—some \$3.5 million.

The decision was supposed to be made in November to open that fishery, but the previous Minister could not make a decision. So, we had to do something about it. When I became Minister I approved an extended survey for five nights to see whether we could find out what was in the fishery. I would have to say that it was encouraging. In consultation with SARDI, the Fisheries Department, the fisheries and, of course, the Chairman of the management committee, Mr Ted Chapman, we have instigated another survey to be undertaken in less than a week. That will then give us an idea of how many fish can be harvested from that fishery. This issue has been an ongoing saga because of various problems, primarily inaction by the previous Government. However, I can assure the honourable member that something will happen, and this next survey will show whether or not that fishery has long-term viability.

### WOODS AND FORESTS RATES

**The Hon. H. ALLISON (Gordon):** Can the Minister for Primary Industries advise the House what progress has been made towards the payment of rates to local government on land occupied by State-owned forests now held by Forward Industries and formerly by the Woods and Forests Department, bearing in mind that this problem has been in suspension for quite some time following a period of inactivity by the previous Minister—a period of indecision?

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I thank the honourable member for the question. He has had an ongoing interest in this matter as have I, as the local member for the adjoining electorate. Once again—and I guess it falls on deaf ears on that side of the House—it is the inaction of the previous Government that has led to a problem that has gone on for years. In fact, three previous Ministers who were handling this matter failed to come to a decision, they failed to negotiate properly and they failed to make up their mind about what they would do.

I made some pretty strong statements in the electorate and as shadow Minister before the election: I made quite clear that on coming to government, if I were the Minister, something would happen. I immediately instigated a meeting with the LGA and said that the principle of the Government's Woods and Forests Department paying rates to councils would be the first issue to be addressed. I gave them a time limit in which to agree to that, and they did that within the time limit provided.

So we have established that principle, and many of the councils in the South-East and other areas of South Australia will be the beneficiaries. Other matters are to be negotiated—and the honourable member would know what they are—and they will be negotiated in the normal course of events. The excuse put up by previous Ministers was that nothing could happen in relation to the principle of Government forests paying rates until some very minor matters were dealt with in negotiation. For years that was used as an excuse to block progress and commonsense in this industry. That has now happened and I am proud that we can get on and negotiate the minor issues that remain to help councils in South Australia.

### PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Will the Premier say which precedents underpinned his decision to appoint the Hon. Julian Stefani as a parliamentary secretary without statutory authority; how much has it cost to set aside and furnish a room at the Office of Multicultural Affairs for the Hon. Julian

Stefani; and has the Office's library had to be relocated to accommodate him?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** It is interesting. It appears that, as soon as one steps away from the way in which the former Government did things and tries to include members of one's own Party in the administrative role and having a greater contact with the public, in this case with the ethnic communities of South Australia, the former Government fails to be able to grasp such concepts. In fact, the precedent comes from the Federal level, from the Victorian level and, I think, also from the New South Wales level.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is not true. It may be in some cases that they are sworn in but there are other cases where they are not. I point out to the honourable member that I made the appointment under the authority of the Premier. Certainly, I will look at the point. In fact, we have asked the Crown Solicitor to look at whether there may be some value in endorsing it through Executive Council. I have no objection to that whatsoever. It is not costing the taxpayers anything extra—there is no salary—and it is part of making sure that this Government is much more in touch with the community of South Australia.

One or two clear things came through as soon as we came into government and got into the State Administration Centre. The first is that ever since mid-1990 the former Labor Government had shut itself off from the Public Service let alone from the community of South Australia. Secondly, it failed to make any decisions of any significance whatsoever: it just put them all onto the treadmill and hoped that the issues would go away—as it did with the State Bank, as it did with the State debt and as it did with so many other issues, including the Hindmarsh Island bridge and Roxby Downs. All these issues—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** All these are crucial areas where the former Government just failed to make any decisions whatsoever. It was part of putting itself into a cocoon just in case anyone happened to come along wanting assistance. Of course, one of the very fundamental reasons that this State has suffered so much economically is the extent to which the then Premier and his Ministers cut themselves off from the community.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I have already said that no extra salary or relocation costs are involved whatsoever.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** It is interesting that the former Premier actually asked the honourable member to accompany him overseas to visit ethnic communities. I find it astounding that the former Premier wanted the same particular member of Parliament to travel with him overseas to meet ethnic communities, yet the Opposition is now objecting to the fact that I have asked that same member—with no increase in salary whatsoever—to help liaise with the ethnic communities in South Australia and that he be given a desk, a chair, a pad, a pencil and a telephone in the office.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I wonder what are the real priorities of the now Labor Opposition of South Australia when it wastes the time of the House on such trivia.

### HINDMARSH ISLAND BRIDGE

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development):** I lay on the table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to the Goolwa-Hindmarsh Island Bridge link made by my colleague the Minister for Transport in another place.

### OLYMPIC DAM

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** In a ministerial statement made earlier today, the Minister for Mines and Energy read out a confidential memo that was sent to me by the Department of Mines and Energy. I hope all members will take note of that, because it gives absolutely no indication of the magnitude of the problem that Western Mining has now discovered.

At that time I had every confidence in the Department of Mines and Energy to advise me on this issue and to continue to liaise with Western Mining Corporation and advise me on the timing of any necessary public announcement, and that is referred to in the briefing. I still have that confidence. It is clear from the briefing given to the Opposition yesterday that Western Mining Corporation, I assume with the agreement of the Department of Mines and Energy, in the light of further information, deemed February 1994 to be the time to make a public announcement; and I have no quarrel with the timing of that announcement by Western Mining Corporation, I assume, with the agreement of the Department of Mines and Energy.

### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

The Legislative Council notified its appointment to standing committees.

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Flinders and remind members that this is the honourable member's maiden speech; I request that the normal courtesies be extended.

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I move:

That the following Address in Reply to Her Excellency's opening speech be adopted:

May it please Your Excellency—

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to the matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

In the year of the Centenary of Women's Suffrage, it gives me great pleasure, as a woman, to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I follow in the footsteps of some very influential women including Mrs Jessie Cooper, Mrs Joyce Steele and Ms Jennifer Cashmore, all of whom I understand gave their maiden speeches as the Address in

Reply. I express my condolences to the family of Mrs Jessie Cooper.

I congratulate Her Excellency on her speech and I support her words, particularly those on the importance of women being given greater opportunity to participate fully and equally in all levels of decision-making. On election night I was particularly pleased to hear the new Premier, Mr Dean Brown, in his acceptance speech support the importance of the family to South Australia. To me it is of great significance that the Year of the Family has coincided with the Centenary of Women's Suffrage. It will provide an opportunity to give greater prominence than perhaps would otherwise have been possible to those issues that are so closely related—women and the family, and their position in modern society. To bring balance and a different perspective, women from all walks of life must be heard within all forums. As a farmer's daughter, a former schoolteacher, a public servant, a small business person, and a wife and mother, I believe that I and my women colleagues in both Houses will be able to help provide this balance and perspective and therefore add to the greater understanding of the problems we face today and, through understanding the problems, help solve them.

My predecessor, Mr Peter Blacker, who was the sole National Party representative in this House, is to be commended on his representation of the electorate of Flinders for over 20 years. He worked hard to serve his constituents and I wish him well in his new endeavours. There is great need for change in South Australia, and the people of Flinders have shown very clearly that they have faith that I and the new Liberal Government team will best be able to achieve this change. We will not let them down.

For the first time Kangaroo Island has been included in the rezoned seat of Flinders. This is an historic change, as Kangaroo Island has always been represented by a member from the Fleurieu Peninsula. However, I accept the challenge and the chance to represent fully in this Parliament the people from Kangaroo Island. The electorate includes most of the Eyre Peninsula and all Kangaroo Island—a total of nine council regions. I consider it a great honour to have been elected by these people, and I undertake to represent them to the best of my ability. I take this opportunity to thank them for putting their trust in me. I would also like to thank my husband Geoff, my daughters, Susan and Katrina, and the many relatives, friends and Liberal Party members who supported me. These people supported me when others had lost confidence in the possibility of bringing Flinders back into the Liberal team.

I believe that a major contribution to the real economic recovery of this State and this nation will come from the country regions. It always has in the past and it will again this time. The potential of our State depends on providing people with the opportunity to develop our resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. We must not take as narrow a view of this development as we have in the past. We must realise that, if we are to sustain our rural communities, we must broaden their economic base. We must see that our rural towns are no longer solely dependent on one or perhaps two products. We must increase the range of products we produce, and we must take control of the processing of these products—at least where there is an economic gain—before they leave our towns. This will enable us to keep our Government services in these towns, and become price makers and not just price takers.

Our country towns have tough, resilient, innovative and determined people living in them, and they have the infra-

structure in place to readily develop value-adding industries, but to the extent this has been encouraged it has involved large industries in Adelaide and regional industrial cities. For years the country people have paid their taxes and got on with life. They expected that they would be treated at least equally with the people in the cities and that the importance and value of their product to the State and to the country would be recognised, but their trust was misplaced. Federally, in recent years, the Labor Government has raised interest rates and pushed up exchange rates without considering the effect on our rural Australia and its exporters, who cannot increase their prices.

The Federal Labor Government has now increased fuel prices, ignoring the heavy penalty people in isolated areas suffer when they cannot pass on these costs. In South Australia we have suffered a similar fate from our past State Labor Government. Over many years our regional arterial roads have been neglected. Education and health funding has been concentrated in the cities, and Government advisers to our major export industries have been withdrawn. Regional development is a priority of the new Liberal Government, and some positive discrimination must occur to put the country regions back in a position once again for them to be recognised as generators of new wealth.

While the member, I will be encouraging each town to develop some form of alternative income source to provide jobs and money to keep alive their town. What we have seen happen in the regions with the downturn in farming is the young leaving to find work. This is illustrated in two of the district council areas by the fall in population, within one decade, of approximately one quarter. The average age of farmers is now around 57 years. The people leave, and with them go their families, the Government services, teachers, police and health workers and their families. Soon the businesses in the town close. Once gone, these people are very difficult to get back because the town no longer has the services to provide an attractive place to live. This must stop. All businesses, both great and small, need to be encouraged within the country regions in order that the downturn in the major industries never again affects so greatly the viability of our towns.

The importance of small industries must be recognised as they are critical to the survival of the country towns and collectively have a significant economic impact. Within Flinders, we already have alternative farming of deer, goats, emus, ostriches, marron, yabbies, wild flowers, exotic flowers, grapes and native trees. Once legislation has been introduced, farming kangaroos and wallabies will be possible. Kangaroo meat is very low in fat and cholesterol, and I am not one to shy away from an industry just because it means farming our wildlife. They are naturally suited to their environment and will do far less damage, with potentially less disease, than the European animals we now farm. Europe is crying out for game meat, particularly as theirs has been polluted by radiation and chemicals, while our meat is some of the best in the world. New value-adding and manufacturing industries are also starting with biscuits, jam, clothing, eucalyptus oil and honey, just for starters.

The initiative of the businessmen in Kimba, in starting the Sturt pea growing venture, is a prime example of what I believe must happen everywhere. They now have a successful small business employing local people and adding to the economy. In addition, it has been the catalyst for another business person to look into providing potting mix. This mix is now being produced using, in part, the grain dust that was

only recently being dumped at the rubbish tip. More jobs are thus created, and a waste product is being recycled.

The main industries on Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island have been farming and grazing. However, because both areas have extensive coastlines and clean water, fishing and aquiculture have become very important. Light manufacturing can be developed much further, while mining, based on past and planned survey work, may have tremendous potential.

I now turn to the cereal industry. Only a few years ago, Eyre Peninsula as a whole produced 10 per cent of the nation's wheat harvest. That gives some idea of just how important one part of the grain industry is to the electorate of Flinders. The very size and nature of Eyre Peninsula's and Kangaroo Island's grain industry underlies my concern that the farmers get the support necessary to continue. The future of Flinders lies in maintaining its farming and grazing industries. We all recognise that it is much easier to maintain an already efficient industry than it is to create a new one and attract investment to it. These farmers are some of the most efficient in the world, and this industry and its people must still be there to help produce the wealth for our State when the inevitable improvement in price occurs.

Farmers have suffered from a run of poor seasons and low prices. Many of these farmers have now had two disastrous seasons where their incomes have been slashed. Excellent crops have been devastated by unseasonable rain, followed by mice and then frost. It is normal to have a periodic bad season on Eyre Peninsula, with one year in five being expected. Farmers could plan and adapt to this in the days when the margins on grain were much higher than those of today. This year the wheat price dropped by one-third from the level in 1985 in real terms. What other industry has had to survive under these conditions? Ownership of the shipping belts, which move our grain from the silo system to the waiting ship, is important in minimising costs for these cereal growers.

The logical outcome would be for these to be sold by the Department of Marine and Harbors to the South Australian Bulk Handling Cooperative. I would be concerned if a third party gained ownership and control of these shipping berths. When this Government is contemplating selling assets in its debt reduction program, I would mention that the shed used by Elders at its Gillman wool store is also now owned by the Department of Marine and Harbors. Why the previous Government purchased wool stores from private companies at Gillman is beyond my comprehension.

Whilst on the subject of wool, I would be remiss if I did not mention the plight of the graziers who are reliant on the price of wool and point out that there is a difference between those industries that produce real export income for this country and those that do not. Kangaroo Island runs 1.3 million sheep and produces approximately 10 per cent of our State's wool clip. It is necessary, during this time of adjustment, to ease the pressure on these people where possible, while their industry adjusts to the new circumstances. They have been a major source of wealth for this country; they will be needed again and cannot be discarded like used rags now that times are tough.

An alternative area for growth in the sheep industry that is at an early developmental stage is antibody production for serum vaccine. Sheep have many advantages over horses, and South Australia is a leader in this field due to our relatively disease free environment. Future production could involve perhaps 50 000 sheep producing for local and overseas

markets. Sheep milk and cheese production potentially worth many millions could also be developed. A farm on Kangaroo Island is already a leader in this industry.

Rural South Australia is undergoing a rapid and forced change in line with other farming regions of Australia. Low commodity prices and international best practice policies are forcing many farming families into new and alternative lifestyles. In the electorate of Flinders, families are either choosing new directions or being forced into shifting away from their family and friends into new and uncharted lifestyles. New jobs, new careers, new schools and, often, totally new environments many miles away from former homes have considerable impact on rural families. Funding for rural counsellors and, where there is a complete breakdown, for women's shelters and social workers must be maintained.

Where it is inevitable that people have to leave the land, grief counselling needs to be provided. There is major grief and loss where farms are sold that have been in families sometimes for many generations and people feel that they are failures. In the case of bushfire the whole country is sympathetic, but of the plight of those leaving the land little notice has been taken, yet one is fast and clean cut while the other is slow and agonising and, in terms of anguish, far greater.

A major industry within the Flinders electorate is fishing. Port Lincoln is home to the biggest fishing fleet in Australia. The electorate produces some 60 per cent of the State's fishing income. Seafood produced from the waters around Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island includes abalone, rock lobster, oysters, pilchards, prawns, shark, tuna and whiting. The industry has been particularly enterprising over the years with development into new fisheries and, now, into tuna farming and aquaculture.

The Port Lincoln tuna farming industry has developed over the past four years to the point where it is employing at least 400 people directly and many more indirectly. The value adding through farming the southern bluefin tuna for a minimum of three months is enormous. By feeding the tuna in enclosed nets until their skin size, colour and fat content suit the market, the value per kilo can be increased from \$1.50 to about \$50 per kilo. The industry is expected to export over \$50 million worth of tuna in 1994, much of which is air freighted chilled direct to the Tokyo markets. I am pleased to say that the Liberal Government has already planned well ahead with this industry.

In September 1993 the Liberals signed an industry agreement with the tuna farmers, providing for the pilchard catch to feed the tuna to be increased under controlled conditions to minimise the imports from interstate and overseas; to undertake a comprehensive research program on the impact of tuna farming; and to encourage the development of a pellet feed plant to supplement the pilchards. It is anticipated that in future additional jobs will be provided through greater processing of the tuna before export. With the export of most of the bluefin tuna catch, the Port Lincoln cannery has developed a wide range of products based largely on imported fish.

Abalone is a major wild fishery for Flinders. In addition, with some Government assistance plus venture capital, Port Lincoln businesses are developing a hatchery and aquaculture industry that intends to breed and grow abalone to 90 millimetres for specialised markets. The northern zone of the rock lobster industry of South Australia is a very well managed industry, which currently exports large quantities of crayfish, both live and frozen. This industry, in conjunc-

tion with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the southern zone, has undertaken a \$3.5 million research project to gain a better understanding of the life cycle and development of lobster.

The Spencer Gulf and West Coast prawn industry has a history of sound and efficient self-management. This industry has provided leadership in management of this type of industry, and its methods have been adopted by other State fisheries. It is recognised nationally and internationally as one of the world's best managed fisheries. Continuing research is being undertaken by the industry to optimise the harvest. Pilchards have become important with the development of the tuna farming industry, and the legitimate interests of the people who have pioneered the industry will have to be taken into consideration with the issuing of future licences.

I must raise another issue of great concern to me and to many people in the electorate. There are many groups with competing interests in our inshore scale fishery. Activities of the professional net and line fishing industry, combined with those of the local and tourist recreational fishermen, have seriously depleted the fish stocks. Besides causing a fall in professional line fishing incomes, this has adversely affected the tourist industry, which is based on recreational fishing. People are no longer making places such as our delightful Coffin Bay their holiday destination. I seek support from this House and from this Government to put in place controls to preserve what fish stocks we have left. The King George whiting stocks, for instance, are estimated to be down by more than 90 per cent to between 4 and 7 per cent of the original stocks. Experts consider that anything less than 20 per cent is dangerously low.

Oyster production commenced in a small way in Coffin Bay many years ago, replacing the natural oyster that had been fished out. There are now approximately 81 leases in South Australia, most of which are in Flinders. These have the potential to produce over one million oysters a year each within two or three years. An oyster hatchery should soon be able to provide local spat, bringing both greater convenience and a reduction in the risk of importing diseases. To enable the industry to expand fully, it is essential that the clean water program be completed to allow the ready export of oysters interstate and overseas.

In light of the above existing potential development, I wish to express grave concern over the potential for the discharge in ballast water of algae, Japanese sea stars and other exotic creatures with the potential to ruin all these shallow water based industries. I believe that the first action should be to increase the existing penalties from \$200 to a more realistic \$200 000.

I turn now to mining. The geology of Flinders is very complex. There have been small mining operations in the past, the latest being the graphite mine south of Port Lincoln, now on a care and maintenance basis due to poor prices. There are substantial reserves of gypsum, mainly near Streaky Bay, which could be developed with an improvement in price. Thanks to new technology, the mining potential of both Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island has recently been recognised and detailed surveys are being done near Streaky Bay and on Kangaroo Island. The potential for another Roxby Downs or Kimberley diamond mine is now possible.

With respect to tourism and retirement, Flinders has a vast tourism and retirement potential. We just have to let the world know what we have, provide the necessary facilities to accommodate them and convince them to come. Superb national parks, coastlines, beaches, sailing, boating, fishing

and flora and fauna—we have it all. The distance from population centres resulting in higher transport costs is a problem for both Kangaroo Island and Eyre Peninsula. However, the exploitation of tourism will employ more people within our towns and provide another source that will help reduce the effect of the severe rural downturn we are currently experiencing.

According to the Bureau of Industry Economics, the multiplier effect means that every dollar spent by a visitor generates income of \$2.62 in the local economy. Already tourism, which injects \$55 million into the region, is the third ranking industry after grain and fishing on Eyre Peninsula. With Seal Bay, Remarkable Rocks and Flinders Chase National Park, the potential on Kangaroo Island is just as great.

The Liberal Government has placed the management of funds in the hands of the regional tourism organisations, so it is now up to us to decide how we are best able to use those funds to promote our regions. Most of the visitors to Flinders come from within the State, and the people of Flinders must take up the challenge to entice these tourists to stay an extra day or two and encourage them to return. Statistics show that most of them do.

It is also for the people of Flinders to build on the very favourable response to the region and encourage people to make their homes there. On Saturday nearly 400 people arrived in Port Lincoln in 54 yachts. At the presentation of prizes for this 45th Adelaide to Port Lincoln yacht race the Commodore of the Port Lincoln Yacht Club appointed me the Commodore of the North Terrace Yacht Club. As Commodore I will soon be issuing invitations for you to visit our fair city as my contribution to encouraging the members of this auspicious House to live there.

I turn now to manufacturing. Enterprise bargaining will be a tremendous plus for people living in country areas. The smaller businesses and the resulting closer relationship between the people in these businesses has resulted in lower unionisation and a much reduced tendency to strike action. With the high cost of infrastructure we cannot afford to run our plant and machinery for only eight hours a day. If we can double its usage, we will be able to employ twice as many of our people and improve the viability of our industries.

The incentives offered to expanding export oriented businesses by the Liberal Government, including a 10 per cent payroll tax rebate for existing exporters and a 50 per cent rebate on new exports, combined with the WorkCover rebates, will stimulate additional activity especially in the larger firms, with a flow-on effect to the smaller firms. The shipbuilding of Port Lincoln Ship Construction is of world class and, although currently in hard times, I am confident it will recover to take its place as a major industry within South Australia.

I turn now to Kangaroo Island. Although Kangaroo Island has only just over 11 per cent of the population of my electorate, I believe it deserves special mention. In my campaign I made a commitment to do what I could to have the island incorporated in the electorate of Finnis. The reason for this commitment is that, although the island and Eyre Peninsula have similar problems resulting from isolation, similar industries in farming, grazing, fishing and tourism, Kangaroo Island's natural association has always been with Fleurieu Peninsula.

While the grazing, agriculture and fishing industries on the island will continue to be the backbone of its economy, tourism has considerable potential to provide employment.

Kangaroo Island is a tourist destination of world class, with visitor numbers tipped to double in the next 10 years. Seals, wallabies and a wide array of native animals thrill visitors from around the world. The romantic nature of being on an island adds further to its charm as a tourist destination. It has a fox and rabbit-free environment and, with the elimination of feral cats and the restriction of house cats, it could be further developed as a refuge for a wide range of endangered native animals. This would enhance its attractiveness for tourists. The absence of predators could also make the island suitable for special livestock projects.

For tourism, Kangaroo Island being an island is an advantage; for the other industries it is a major disadvantage. While the air links with Adelaide are excellent, it is the sea links that are critical for maintaining viable businesses on the island. The people are entitled to the same links with the rest of South Australia as other cities, towns and regions.

The island is currently served by three efficient ferry services: two private enterprise operations between Penneshaw and Cape Jervis; and the third, the *Island Seaway*, is a heavily subsidised service between Port Adelaide and Kingscote. Many people on the island want all services retained as they are complementary to one another. The *Island Seaway*, with direct links to Adelaide, thereby avoiding the narrow roads north from Cape Jervis, is particularly suited to heavy freight. Naturally the subsidy paid to support the operation of the *Island Seaway* will come under very close review by this Government, and I support this. I have written to the Minister for Transport (Hon. Diana Laidlaw) seeking the financial figures in relation to the *Island Seaway's* operation. While there is a strong argument that funding this service is as much a Government responsibility as providing roads, I believe that, if this operation is to survive the more stringent tests for the expenditure of Government funds applied by a Liberal Government, it must be made viable.

Before the election I researched recommending the *Island Seaway's* operation from Kingscote to Port Lincoln, thereby linking two great primary industry and tourist destinations with synergistic benefits to both areas. Properly marketed, I believe this could benefit the abattoirs on Kangaroo Island and the sheep industry on Eyre Peninsula, and also the tourist industry in both areas. I will also seek to have the *Island Seaway* berth at Outer Harbor, saving considerable time and cost on the journey between the mainland and the island.

Kangaroo Island has many other advantages that I would like to outline for members. I need not remind members that the clean environment of the island enables the production of free range and organic products which now attract very large premiums in the marketplace. The island has an excellent climate for timber production, and plantings are increasing in this industry. Besides the value of timber production from the plantations, they will make a significant impact on lowering the watertable on Kangaroo Island and help correct some salinity problems.

While on the subject of water, I point out that the island is ideally suited to marron farming, with production already being sold on the mainland. Many of the island's bays and estuaries are also suited to oyster farming, and there is potential for widespread seeding of scallops, razor fish and abalone. This technology has already been proven. It is an exciting new industry, one which because of our clean image we can fully exploit, creating further wealth and growth for our State.

Despite the high rainfall in parts of Lower Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, much of the electorate has relatively low rainfall, and like the rest of the State it will increasingly suffer from water shortages. The new Liberal Government has already approved a new scheme to provide high quality filtered water to Kingscote using innovative Australian technology. I must mention the work being undertaken at Streaky Bay, where there is a particularly bad water supply problem. To overcome its water shortage it is presently conducting a feasibility study into the use of solar energy to distil sea water, as well as other options of turning brackish water into drinkable water. With Government support it could be successful in solving its water supply problems. This investment in new technology could bring huge benefits to South Australia.

I refer now to Aborigines. As there is a large population of Aborigines in the city of Port Lincoln, I would like to spend some time outlining some of their recent achievements. There is cause for much optimism in the way in which the Port Lincoln Aboriginal community is tackling its problems. It has an effective organisational structure with some very worthwhile corporate plans and achievable goals and some outstanding leaders who are working to improve their lot. It has its own sporting club and its own football team which is affiliated with the Port Lincoln Football League. This team has had considerable success, having won more than its share of premierships.

The Aboriginal community has in place its own community infrastructure which is tackling women's issues, crime prevention and substance abuse. The Port Lincoln Aboriginal Organisation (PLAO) has recently taken control of the nearby Wanilla Forest. It has ambitious plans to develop the forest, to treat and sell the timber and to value add some of the more exotic species. There are plans for a tourism development within the forest. It has also bought some of what was Poonindi Mission land, and it has a management plan and a development plan formulated for this area. Poonindi Mission was the first native training institution in Australia. These plans demonstrate the Aboriginal community's interest in commercial enterprises and will go a long way to achieving its goal of getting off the welfare system.

A large number of the community now participates in the work for the dole program, a Liberal initiative which started in closed Aboriginal communities many years ago. Port Lincoln was the first city in Australia to pioneer this community development employment program called CDEP. I strongly support this being extended to the rest of the State's unemployed and would be happy to see a pilot program in Flinders. The benefits to the self-esteem of the participants and to the community are immeasurable. I commend the work carried out by the Port Lincoln Aboriginal community.

I turn now to transport. I believe the isolation of both Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island justifies my spending some time discussing the question of transport. Roads in both areas have been significantly neglected over the past two decades of mainly Labor Government. Therefore, it is particularly pleasing to have the promise of the new Liberal Government to seal all rural arterial roads within a decade. I am in the process of preparing a submission to have the major roads in both areas included in this program.

The railways on Eyre Peninsula are probably the only Government run railways in Australia that operate at a profit. While the profit in past years appears to be due partly to inadequate re-investment in the maintenance of rolling stock

and tracks, recent statistics show much improved efficiency and a substantial investment in track maintenance. With the advent of the National Rail Corporation and the emasculation of Australia National, I urge the Government to be vigilant regarding the future of this system. In 1990 it appeared there was a chance that this railway would be closed, as have so many of our small rail systems.

With respect to ferries, Kangaroo Island has been adequately covered, so I will concentrate on Eyre Peninsula. The proposal to link Eyre Peninsula with the South Australian mainland via a ferry link through Cowell to Wallaroo is one of the most exciting announcements for Eyre Peninsula for many years. There are many potential benefits from reducing the relative isolation of this region, including direct and indirect employment, increased tourism and the development of a retirement market. The road trip from Adelaide to Port Lincoln is equivalent to driving from Adelaide to Melbourne. Therefore, if this venture can be viable it has my full support. Eyre Peninsula has traditionally been linked by sea, and funding of the infrastructure should be considered on the same basis as arterial road funding.

With respect to air freight, both Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island have an increasing dependence on air freight to transport live or chilled sea produce and flowers to overseas markets. Products of this nature gain premium prices on these markets only if they arrive in premium condition. I strongly support all efforts to improve the air freight service from Adelaide Airport as a matter of urgency as transshipping goods of this type at other airports can result in considerable loss to our exporters.

I refer now to centres of excellence and, first, tertiary education. Few people in the city would appreciate the cost and sacrifice that country people incur in order to send their children to tertiary study in the city. There is not only the financial cost of accommodation and fares never covered by the reducing benefits under Austudy but also the trauma of forcing immature children to fend for themselves in a foreign environment. The success rate of country children is much lower than that of city children through starting with both a lower standard of education and lack of parental support.

I believe that TAFE colleges should be able to provide at least the first year of education, and that over time Flinders University should develop in Port Lincoln a full university campus specialising in marine studies. Port Lincoln which, as I stated earlier, has the largest fishing fleet in Australia, a very wide range of wild fisheries and now the development of fish farming and aquaculture, all centred around a harbor five times larger than Sydney Harbour, should become a centre of excellence for marine studies for this State, Australia and internationally.

Accommodation on a commercial basis should be provided for both people on the coast and those from countries in Asian regions who seek to obtain an education in an English speaking area. They often prefer their students to study in English speaking countries because English is the main science and business language. Proficiency in English is therefore essential. This would provide a major new industry for the town and very relevant research and courses for people in the industry.

I refer now to the marine science laboratory. Flinders University has recognised the importance of the fishing industry in this region by the establishment of a small marine research laboratory in Port Lincoln. This may be contrasted with the siting of the marine laboratory at West Beach at, I understand, double the original budgeted cost of \$8 million.

While the Port Lincoln laboratory has clean water, the West Beach facility is sited next to the Patawalonga outlet, the Glenelg sewage works outlet and the Torrens River outlet. The decision to construct this expensive facility at West Beach instead of at Port Lincoln appears to have been an attempt to offset another of the previous Government's bungles. This decision has denied Port Lincoln much needed technical expertise based in the region. The management costs of the West Beach facility are funded by a policy of loading licence fees, with more than 50 per cent coming from this electorate.

I turn now to dry land farming and, first, the Minnipa Research Station. This research station provides valuable research for the rural sector. The marginal farming areas desperately need any information that will assist them to improve productivity and reduce costs. These skills are needed throughout many areas of the world. We presently lead the world in dry land farming technology and as such we should be maximising our opportunities to promote and sell this technology to others. It is interesting to note that the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Lynn Arnold) said in 1989 that this station would be funded to become a centre of excellence in dry land farming. I strongly support this concept and look forward to its development during the term of a Liberal Government.

Another establishment that provides excellent services to the farming community is Sims Farm in Cleve. This is a 355 hectare farming property donated by the late Clarence Gordon Sims. It provides the State of South Australia with a teaching resource for dry land agriculture equal to any in Australia. Cleve Area School has a successful two-year certificate in agriculture course for years 11 and 12 students based around Sims Farm. Sadly, the previous Government did not fully recognise the value of Mr Clarence Gordon Sims' gift to the South Australian people, and Mr Sims' will is open to interpretation. The previous Government used this fact to attempt to sell off part of this valuable gift.

While representing the seat of Flinders it is my intention to see that the Government introduces legislation casting in stone ownership of Sims Farm, thereby making its bequest to the people of South Australia safe. I will be endeavouring to see that the Cleve Area School and the Minnipa Research Centre become renowned as world class centres of excellence for research development and education in dry land farming.

I wish to comment briefly on the importance of the State Bank to the people in the electorate of Flinders. Whatever decision is taken on the future of the State Bank, I want to place on the public record my concern that competition be maintained in the provision of banking facilities to rural South Australians. In the electorate of Flinders, the State Bank presently operates branches at Cleve, Cowell, Cummins, Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay, Wudinna and Kingscote. Altogether, the State Bank employs about 80 people in my electorate. Some of the commercial banks have recently closed their branches in the rural towns. I would be concerned if any plans to restructure the State Bank or find new owners also included any lessening of representation in the areas covered by the electorate of Flinders.

In my campaign I said that I would make Flinders important again. To the people who live in Flinders and to me it is already the most important electorate, with vast untapped potential. We must communicate more with our city cousins. It is very apparent that the city has little understanding of the country regions, yet the country regions, I believe, are so important to our economic survival. Therefore, I suggest that

the city and the country editions of the *Advertiser* should be combined with a compromise on content so that the city people learn more about the realities of the country regions and not just hear about them when there is a major disaster. ABC television could concentrate some prime viewing time on the positives of country life.

The importance of the income from the country regions needs to be further recognised and rewarded if the country is to fulfil its potential as a major real income generator for this State. An investment in our country regions will be bountifully returned to South Australia and the nation. Without this investment the country regions will continue to wither and die, and Australia will suffer the consequences.

People ask, 'What can you achieve with so little money?' I reply that to cut red tape costs little and will go a long way to returning some of the incentives for people to go out and to achieve great things. The change in attitude towards business by the Liberal Government is, again, free of cost, yet it is so encouraging for the people who have been striving to achieve, almost in spite of the former Labor Government. A change in the emphasis of Government expenditure and the elimination of the waste of public money will help to build confidence in our Government.

It is time to remember that we must become profitable again. It is also time to remember that taxes are paid on profits and that without taxes we cannot afford all the things we want for ourselves and our communities. Teachers, nurses, police and pensions are all paid from the public purse. I do not believe that Governments can tax profits more: the answer is to make more profits. This will provide more jobs and will help to solve many of the social and physical ills of our people.

The Liberal win in South Australia has clearly introduced a new feeling of hope after the despair resulting from our failure in the Federal elections. We must build on this to provide a future for our children.

I conclude with a quote from Abraham Lincoln that I have carried with me for many years. He said:

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing what they could and should do for themselves.

It has been my honour to move this Address in Reply.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call on the member for Reynell, who will be seconding the motion. I remind the House that this speaker, too, is making her maiden speech. It is traditional to hear such speeches in silence and I ask members to honour that custom.

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** I second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate Her Excellency on such a distinguished and well-driven address to the people of South Australia on the role of her Government in the direction that we as a State will be taking over the next four years. In seconding this motion, and as a new member of this Parliament representing the electorate of Reynell, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I hope that we will conduct ourselves as an effective Parliament for the benefit of all South Australians, who have given us the responsibility to represent them and to provide a new direction for our State.



To our Premier, his ministry and backbenchers, the Leader of the Opposition and his team, members of committees and parliamentary staff, I hope this Parliament sees the fulfilment of the expectations of all South Australians for growth and prosperity. The policies put forward by the new Liberal Government during the election campaign will result in significant improvements to the way in which we all live.

I feel that our first priority is to be accessible and to listen to each and every person. Every person in this State will have a major role along our road to recovery. We have all had to share this State's debt: nevertheless each and every one of us should have a reason to be proud of our State. As a goal, we should work towards the improvement and security of our lifestyle and the growth of our community. We must have pride in the total achievement of our most valuable asset—people.

'In a vision of the future, I see the individual and his encouragement and recognition as the prime motive force for the building of a better world': these were the words of Sir Robert Menzies who, some 45 years ago, won office federally in Australia. He assumed office in a turbulent year at the end of a traumatic decade. This relates somewhat to our State and the road to recovery from 11 turbulent years. Menzies wanted to see not only the best elements of society in Parliament but a group of members representing a cross-section of society. He also said:

The task of a democratic Parliament was not to follow but to lead, but a leader has to remain in contact with his people if he is to lead them effectively. Remember always that a great deal of principle and occasionally a little expediency is much better than impractical principle and a million times greater than unprincipled expediency.

It is 1994 and we are all paying the price for 11 years of unprincipled expediency, for incompetence and for negligence. It can never be allowed to happen again. On 11 December 1993, the Labor Government was put on trial. Need I remind members of the charges: the \$3.15 billion loss by the State Bank; the \$350 million loss from SGIC; the \$60 million loss from the Scrimber project; the \$50 million loss from various computer projects; and more than \$10 million from Marineland.

I want to remind members of Marineland, because I was part of it. I was Chairperson of Friends of the Dolphins, a group of 450 people representing a large proportion of South Australians. I will admit that that involvement is part of the reason I am here today. It opened my eyes to deception, distortion of the truth, destructive manipulation and the strength of minority groups. I also learnt who really controls the ALP. I watched a Government destroy a \$30 million project—and it was one of many that was lost to this State. The Marineland project that was lost was of world-class standard and would have provided not only a valuable tourist asset but also an educational, research and marine hospital facility like no other in Australia.

I watched a family's livelihood jeopardised, its future held to ransom and years of accumulated knowledge and skills with marine animals lost from this State forever. The saddest part of all was that helpless marine animals were destroyed because of the ignorance and lack of understanding shown by a Government with its own selfish agenda at stake. Some in this House may think that the death of those animals was quick and expedient. However, those of us who were there saw how long it took some of those animals to die, not only from lethal injection but also from stress and trauma and lack of husbandry knowledge in the day-to-day care of the animals

once skilled and experienced people were removed from the Marineland site.

Lost to the people of South Australia was an opportunity to learn, conserve and protect marine ecology—a marine ecology that belonged to us all. The price was high for the lack of Government vision and it is the people of South Australia who have paid. In one way or another all South Australians are victims of Labor's failures—the young South Australians living in a State with the highest youth unemployment in Australia; the more than 8 000 people on public hospital waiting lists; the 1 200 fewer teachers; the elderly at risk of break-ins; and the 43 000 people on Housing Trust waiting lists. Labor lost our money, destroyed our economy and sabotaged our jobs.

It is a new year and a new Government with a new direction. South Australia needs a fresh start so that we can regain self respect and begin to have national influence again. My electorate of Reynell quite happily can boast that it is nestled comfortably in the middle of the better part of South Australia, with the Gulf St Vincent on our western side and, to the east, the infamous Southern Vales. I can understand the envy felt by those in other electorates when they taste our wines and enjoy our beaches.

The electorate was named after John Reynell, who settled in Adelaide in October 1838. He was a foundation member of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia. He began pastoral operations on Reynell Farm in 1840 and planted vines in 1841. He pioneered the export of claret and burgundy to New Zealand. In 1854, he sold part of his farm to the township of Reynella. Reynell is a new electoral district contested for the first time at the 1993 election. The area is approximately 35 square kilometres with 20 444 electors on the roll.

Community safety, public transport and lack of recreational facilities are amongst the most pressing problems confronting the southern suburbs. Road access to the south has been a source of increasing frustration and inconvenience for southern residents for many years. Despite promising a third arterial road from Darlington to Morphett Vale since 1984, the succession of Labor Governments have not honoured their promises.

The southern electorates welcome the return of operational police to our suburban police stations, reversing the trend in recent years to centralise the allocation of police resources. The southern suburbs have been ignored by the past Government, and consequently southern residents have felt vulnerable in their own homes and neighbourhood streets. Similarly, public transport has become less accessible and the feeling of isolation among people living in the southern fringes has grown. At the hand of past Government, the southern suburbs have not been given a fair go, but even though we have been isolated for so long it has given local communities the empowerment to stand up and fight for what is rightfully theirs.

The residents of Woodend Estate, Trott Park, live in a community development of over 800 home sites. Woodend began in May 1985 when the Hickinbotham group purchased 56 acres from the land commission and commenced development of a community that included housing, a shopping centre, a kindergarten and a school. In 1986 discussions were held between the Hickinbotham group and the Education Department concerning the siting of a school in the Woodend area. In order to achieve a well designed and planned community, a plan which combined a shopping centre site, a school and a kindergarten that formed the nucleus of the

Woodend community was approved. In 1991 the residents of Woodend were informed that there was no intention to pursue the school at Woodend, and last year's budget allocated \$380 000 to extend the Sheidow Park school. The residents of the estate worked hard trying to convince the then Minister that she was making a big mistake. I am proud to say that I was able to work with the residents, and very shortly the interim management committee will start on the planning of the new Woodend school.

I have two community centres within the electorate, and they are Trott Park and Hackham West. Both centres have very strong community management committees, and very soon, under the able planning of Jann Bennett and the Christie Downs steering committee, we will see a third centre up and running in the Christie Downs community. I have purposely included the community centres, because shamefully over the years they have been the poor cousins for funding allocations and it is vital that over the next few years we recognise the importance centres such as these play in the day-to-day life of our community. Our electorate can also boast high quality programs for the aged at Wakefield House and Christie Downs. Southside Youth Centre maintains notable programs for youth in our community, and a community as young as ours has a long way to go in fulfilling the needs of our young people, which is an area of priority.

'Let's make Noarlunga a better place to live together' is the catchcry of Healthy Cities Noarlunga Incorporated. Healthy Cities has brought to Noarlunga a process which has provided community members with the opportunity to raise and address, with representatives of both the public and private sector, health issues which affect the city of Noarlunga and its community. Healthy Cities Noarlunga has already made a significant contribution to the health of the city and has been a leader in the establishment of the Network of Australian Participating Cities. With that involvement has come strong links internationally with the World Health Organisation's European office and participating cities in other countries. Because of the work of Healthy Cities Noarlunga, Adelaide tonight has the honour of hosting a visit from Professor Leif Svanstrom, who is a representative of the World Health Organisation Collaboration Centre on Community Safety Programs from the Department of Social Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. The collaborating centre was responsible for organising the first international conference on safe communities held in Falkoping in June 1991 and was also one of the organisers of the second conference held in Glasgow in September 1992.

The organisation of networks for community programs is one of the main responsibilities of the centre at the Karolinska Institute. To achieve world-wide acceptance of community safety programs it is necessary to establish networks among Governments, regions, local communities and experienced individuals. Network agreements have been established with Wang Khoi in Thailand, Toulouse in France, Esbjerg in Denmark, Lidkoping, Motala and Falkoping in Sweden and, Castlemilk and Corkehill in Glasgow, Scotland.

More communities, including Noarlunga, will be involved during the coming years. Australia has been nominated to host the third world conference on injury control in 1996, and Noarlunga has been nominated as a host city to conference visitors. As a Government, I believe, we have to get behind Noarlunga and its nomination to the safe communities network and have the World Health Organisation flag flying before 1996. It is not only community groups that have given the southern area recognition: I feel we have to recognise the

individual contributions by community members who have helped make Noarlunga a better place to live. They include people such as Ray Gilbert who is Mayor of Noarlunga, for his tireless efforts for the recognition of southern suburbs; Bon Darlington and Rex Manson for creating an awareness of catchment care; Val Lewin and her clean water campaigns which were fought over many years; Rudi Schutze for his gift of knowledge to our southern environment needs; and Michael Webber for his work with our Aboriginal community. Michael is now an elected member of the ATSIC council and I know he will work hard not only for the Aboriginal community but for all of South Australia in the area of needs, education and cultural acceptance of aboriginality. We must also recognise the infamous Brian Wreford, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for gaining us a hospital in Noarlunga.

When you talk about Reynell or, in fact, any of the southern seats you are talking about personable communities—communities that do not sit back and complain. We are talking about real grass roots people who want a quality of life that should be available to all. At this point it would be remiss of me if I did not thank my electorate—my community—for giving me the privilege to work on their behalf in this Parliament over the next four years. I would also like to thank my friends and helpers and members of the community who worked through that torrential downpour of 11 December to assist me. Most importantly I would like to thank my family who endured 15 months of sheer pandemonium through the campaign.

Before I close, I feel it is my duty to recognise 1994 as women's suffrage centenary. I am sure one would agree that good government in a democracy requires all sections of the community to have access to decision-making. In this regard it is crucial that women have a strong presence in our Parliaments. There have been gratifying increases in the number of women in Federal, State and local legislatures across the land. Women bring different and important strengths to Government and, without a balance, we will not realise our full capacity as a nation. Historically women have been under-represented in elected Governments in Australia. It is encouraging to see that more women are actively participating in our political system. Women make up 51 per cent of the population. Governments should reflect different kinds of people in their communities, including women and young people. The situation is improving, but Government still does not have many women or people under the age of 40.

To many of us this appears to indicate a less than effective use of the resources of our society, a lack of recognition of the talents available, even by women themselves at times, and to a degree a failure on our part to accept responsibility for the Governments in our country. Rightly or wrongly, most women in Government feel that there are not enough of us for all sorts of reasons—economic, social and political. Women still form only a small portion of the elected representatives. Even without canvassing the feminist argument of equal opportunity and equal capacity, by and large women often tend to have a greater sense of community than many men. Women can bring a different perspective to Government. They can be proficient in all areas of decision-making and they make a great contribution to the increasingly important grass roots democracy—a real involvement in what are the everyday concerns affecting all South Australians.

I also pay tribute to a lady called Vida Goldstein, who was the major leader of the Australian women's suffrage

movement. She devoted herself full time to the suffrage cause, speaking, lobbying and publishing the *Australian Women's Sphere*. Women received the right to vote in Federal elections in 1902. In 1903 Vida Goldstein became the first woman in the British empire nominated for Parliament. She ran five times and, although never elected, Vida used her campaigns as opportunities to educate the public on women's issues.

In closing, I would like to emphasise that I am pleased to be a member of the Liberal team in South Australia and to serve alongside Dean Brown. I appreciate his determination to get this State moving again, his appreciation of the needs of the individual and the courage to meet the challenges that lie ahead. He has a high expectation of himself, of us and of the State. Some tough decisions lie ahead for this Government, and with this the team will work alongside our Premier to see them through.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before calling on the member for Florey, I remind members once again that this is the honourable member's maiden speech and ask them to observe the traditional custom of listening in silence.

**Mr BASS (Florey):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to Her Excellency's speech opening this, the forty-eighth Parliament. I compliment the member for Flinders and the member for Reynell on their maiden speeches. I would like to begin my first speech in this House by paying tribute to the late Hon. John Charles Burdett, M.L.C. Although John was a member in the other place, he was a tremendous help to the Florey Liberal team and to me as the candidate during the 1993 election campaign. Although he was suffering the effects of recent cancer treatment, John arrived at the campaign office at 9.30 each morning and left late each afternoon, only after I returned from my day of campaigning. John did not restrict his assistance to the Florey electorate: his advice was freely given to other candidates when requested, and I know my colleague the member for Newland will support my comments. His wisdom, vast experience in campaigning and gentle nature, as well as his dedication to the position he held as a representative of the people of South Australia, will long be remembered and appreciated, especially by his wife Jean, his large circle of family and friends, and colleagues from both sides of this place and the other place.

As the newly elected member for Florey, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and ask that you pass on my congratulations to the Speaker on his election to the Chair. I have no doubt that under your control, Mr Deputy Speaker, or that of the Speaker debates in this House will be lively but fair. I reaffirm my loyalty to Australia, the Australian flag, and to the people of South Australia, especially the people of Florey, whom I have been elected to represent. I congratulate the Premier on leading his Party to such a resounding victory and also the newly appointed Ministers who all played key roles as shadow Ministers and an effective Opposition. I also congratulate my parliamentary colleagues who are joining me on the back benches of not only the Government but also the Opposition. Opposition members really do not have enough among them to make a back bench, but nevertheless I wish them all the best and a long and rewarding time in Parliament—especially on that side of the House.

I must congratulate both the Liberal Party organisation and the Liberal Parliamentary Party on an excellent campaign based on honesty and truth. After the 1993 Federal election,

one could be forgiven for wondering whether a campaign could be based on honesty and truth. However, South Australians were too knowledgeable in the Federal campaign and again in the State election to listen to a desperate Government's campaign of terror and scare tactics. At this point, I acknowledge the past member for Florey, who threw everything into his campaign. I know he must have used everything available to him, because when I moved into his office it was devoid of pens, paper, stationery, envelopes and all other items of Government-issued stationery.

I will say a little about the campaign. Although it was long, it was rewarding, to say the least. Facing a deficit of 2.4 per cent, I believe achieving a margin 12.8 per cent was, indeed, gratifying. When one considers my opponent was a Minister of long standing, coupled with a campaign of half-truths in some cases and downright lies in others, one finds it even more gratifying. Nevertheless, I am now the member for Florey, the first Liberal member to hold the seat and the first serving South Australian police officer to enter the South Australian Parliament, and I think the first full-time union secretary to enter politics as a member of the Liberal Party.

These achievements were gained only with the help of many from the electorate and the Liberal organisation, and I wish to acknowledge all who assisted in the great victory. However, it is not my intention to single out people, as it was a complete team effort by many. But, in addition to our late colleague, the Hon. John Burdett, I must pay tribute to my manager, Mr Vito Natale, whose dedication, enthusiasm and innovative ideas not only kept me as the candidate focused on the job at hand but kept the whole team united. To the rest of the team, I publicly acknowledge their contribution and that of my family who were always willing to put on hold their own activities in order to support me in what was a long and gruelling campaign. I would like recorded in *Hansard* my commitment to the members of the public who make up the State seat of Florey to represent all constituents irrespective of political persuasion, ethnic background or religious belief, and I reinforce my commitment to be accessible and accountable not only to my electorate but to all South Australians.

I would now like to make comment on my electorate. Florey was created prior to the 1970 election and replaced much of what was the district of Barossa, subdistrict of Highbury. The representative at that time was Mrs Molly Byrne, who chose to stand for the new district of Tea Tree Gully. The first member to be elected to represent Florey was Mr C. J. Wells, who won the seat with 64 per cent of first preference votes on an electoral roll of some 16 700. Mr Wells held the seat through the 1973 and 1977 elections. His 1977 win was still 60 per cent of the first preference votes on an electoral roll of some 18 000.

In 1979, Mr H.H. O'Neil became the member after winning only 43 per cent of the first preference votes. He was replaced by Mr Bob Gregory who won the seat in 1982 with 51 per cent of the first preference votes. Of course, we know that Mr Gregory retained the seat until December 1993. It is interesting to note that in 1989 the seat was retained by Labor with only 41 per cent of the first preference votes on an electoral roll of some 23 300.

The result of the 1993 election was without doubt a signal from the South Australian public that enough was enough and, notwithstanding the redistribution of boundaries in Florey that indicated a 2.4 per cent Labor seat, Labor managed only 32.4 per cent of first preference votes. The South Australian electors did not show a sign merely of discontent in the manner in which they voted: they rejected

the Labor Party totally, and to blame such a rejection entirely on the State Bank debacle would be a failure to come to grips with the past Government's shortcomings and lack of forward planning.

I digress: I was speaking about the electorate of Florey, the Liberal-held electorate of Florey. Florey is a delightful area, nestled below the Adelaide Hills. It is a predominantly residential area, with several shopping centres located within it, two high schools, seven primary schools and one large medical establishment, the Modbury Hospital. Florey has no police station, railways, reservoirs or heavy industry of any kind, which probably contributes to its charm, as heavy industry can bring the problems of traffic and noise pollution. We are unique in that we have what is no doubt the best people mover in this State, the O-Bahn, which terminates in my electorate—another Liberal initiative which was once criticised by Labor as a waste of time and money. The Florey electorate is serviced by three local councils: the Tea Tree Gully council, ably lead by Her Worship, Lesley Purdom; Salisbury council, lead by His Worship, David Plumridge; and Enfield council, lead by his worship David Stock. I compliment all councils on their excellent services to their communities, and I look forward to working with them towards achieving a better Florey.

As I have mentioned, Florey has two high schools: the Modbury High School, which caters for students in years 8 through to 12, and the Heights school, which caters for children from CPC through to year 12. So, it is a high school plus and has three subschools within its structure. Both schools are a credit to the community, as are the other schools in the electorate, notwithstanding the lack of sufficient maintenance funding received over the last decade.

I now wish to speak on several other subjects, and I do so as an individual member of this House and not on behalf of the Government. Children are our future, not only of this State but of all Australia, and when their education is jeopardised by Government inaction in maintaining the places of learning and, even more disturbingly, in having teachers who are not subject to management on a regular basis and who in many cases are teaching a subject in which they are not qualified, it makes one wonder what the Labor Government had been doing over the past 11 years.

I reaffirm my commitment to education in South Australia. Education must be of a quality needed for the State's future leaders to progress to higher education, and that education must be delivered in buildings of a high standard which are fully maintained and which are staffed by educationalists who are trained and have skills in the subjects they are teaching and who are constantly upgrading those skills in order to keep pace with the changing world. My comments are not intended to demean the majority of qualified and dedicated schoolteachers, as most are just that. But those who are below standard must be made to improve so that no child is disadvantaged during its formative years.

I now turn to the subject of health, another area that has suffered due to a Government more akin to an emu with its head in the sand. Modbury Hospital, an establishment much maligned—and unjustly so—is the centrepiece of health care in my electorate. Any criticism I may make of the services delivered by the Modbury Hospital is in no way meant to reflect on the many highly trained and dedicated staff who deliver the service.

I myself have spent the odd holiday within the confines of the Berri Hospital, and if it were not for the talented staff there I would not be able to be rude when the occasion

demands, as it was at that hospital that the top of my index finger was replaced. If it were not for a small piece of skin I would have taken the finger into the hospital in a brown paper bag. As with education, the past Government has allowed the health service to decline and disadvantage all members of the public, especially the elderly and those with young families. I commend the Government on the announcement last week, which I am sure will reduce hospital waiting lists and improve services and, again, I reaffirm my commitment to work for health funding that will be sufficient to maintain services of a high standard.

I now turn to what is my pet subject: law and order. Having spent nearly 33 years (over 65 per cent of my entire life) in the industry, it is a subject on which I can speak with some credibility and knowledge. Again, let me state in this place what I have said many times in the past: South Australia has always had and presently has a police force that is without a doubt the best in Australia, if not the world and, contrary to the continual bleatings of one former member of the other place, a police force free of organised crime. In any large body of men and women there will always be some who will be tempted by opportunity and break the very laws they are supposed to uphold, but these members are very few and far between, a lower percentage, I would say, than in most other occupations, considering the work they do and the opportunities they have to be tempted.

I again reaffirm my commitment to the officers of the South Australian Police Department, who must be given the support, the resources and the powers to return this State to the safe place it once was. It is my opinion that the Police Department was allowed to become a personnel resource for the previous Government and has been forced to take on too many non-police related tasks, which has reduced the ability of the police to perform their core function, that is, to maintain law and order by reactive and pro-active methods. The time has come to refocus on what these core activities are and to concentrate on these areas and cast aside roles that could and should be taken by other trained non-police personnel.

I welcome and support the commitment of the Government to have in its first term of office 200 additional operational police on the road. As I alluded to earlier, we must have our police officers doing core police work, but this alone is not sufficient. They must have the resources, the powers, the leadership and the support to enable them to perform their task. The resources and powers are a matter for the Government of the day and, notwithstanding the debt legacy inherited from the previous Government, I am certain this Government will ensure that our police are well resourced and have the necessary powers. Leadership must come from the ranks of the police, and I urge all police officers holding senior rank to become pro-active leaders, to lead by example and to support the police members who are at the coal face, as these are the ones who are subject to the abuse and the dangers and the ones who pay the ultimate price for their dedication. I urge the Government, the Opposition and citizens of South Australia publicly to support the police—our police—who can make South Australia the safest and best place in which to live.

As a natural progression, I turn to the subject of correctional services and our goals, and again preface my remarks by stating that I admire the members of the Correctional Services Department, who are also doing a fine job under crowded and trying circumstances and who, in the past, have been without the support they deserve. In the past it has

seemed that offenders receive better treatment and consideration than do their victims and, although there has been a push of late to look after victims, a move that I applaud, the time has come to make our prisons do the job they were meant to do.

During my career in law and order I have seen prisons such as the old Adelaide Gaol go from being barbaric, inhumane establishments to establishments that are a deterrent to very few criminals. Irrespective of the comments heard from many quarters over the years, that prisons are just for rehabilitation, I must disagree. We have a legal system that gives offenders many opportunities to rehabilitate themselves long before prison becomes an option. Cautions, fines, convictions without penalty, suspended sentences with supervision, are all opportunities to rehabilitate oneself and, in my opinion, when one reaches the prison system, as well as rehabilitation it must be a place of punishment.

It must be a place where prisoners work and earn privileges rather than having everything on tap without making any effort at all. Prison should be a place to which people go knowing exactly what their term of incarceration is; a term that reflects their crime; and a clearly defined system of behaviour management which, if followed, gives a prisoner the opportunity to earn time off the head sentence after serving a definite minimum period. While incarcerated, people should have the opportunity to learn a trade or skill which will be of some use to them when they are finally released. Prisoners who spend time walking up and down a tennis court, not working, and having more privileges than our elderly citizens are not being punished, nor are they being retrained for anything other than continued law breaking. I welcome the promised review of the sentencing procedure, as mentioned in the Government's election campaign, and look forward to seeing total control of our prisons being returned to the correctional services officers.

I suppose I must now turn to another area on which, I have no doubt, my views will be different: unions and the role they play. Nevertheless, I will speak my mind. I have always been a great believer in organisations that take up a cause and work on behalf of the people they represent, and I will continue to support such organisations. But when these organisations become involved in areas outside their expertise they lose their effectiveness and their credibility.

I have supported and will continue to support any union that works for and on behalf of its members, and as an example I will cite the union of which I had the pleasure of being the elected Secretary for five years, the Police Association of South Australia, an association with voluntary membership of over 99 per cent of all State police: a union that always maintained its stance of being non-political and one that worked solely for the benefit of, and providing a service to, its members. That, in my opinion, is how all unions should be: apolitical and involved in matters that affect their members' wages and conditions.

Unfortunately, a majority of unions these days are not apolitical: they are becoming involved in many areas whether or not they affect their members, and they rely on compulsory membership to maintain their numbers. I reaffirm my stance for non-compulsory unionism; for the right to work, whether or not a member of a union; for fair and equitable conditions for all workers; and for the right to be represented in wage and condition negotiations. However, let me say this: if unions want to be involved in politics and are part of a political Party, they do not always attend to the wants and needs of the majority of their members. I will not dwell on

voting at elections; I will simply reiterate my belief that it is time elections were decided on facts and honest debate.

Mr Speaker, I thank the members of this House who have listened to this my first speech. When next my dulcet tones grace this Chamber it will not be for the sake of hearing my own voice but to support the new legislation to be introduced during this session of the forty-eighth Parliament, legislation that is long overdue and an absolute necessity if South Australia is to recover from 11 years of Labor mismanagement.

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Ross Smith, I point out that this is a maiden speech and I ask that the normal courtesies be extended to him.

**Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith):** In supporting the proposition concerning the Address in Reply speech, there are a few points I would like to make. I certainly welcome the views of the member for Florey with respect to the role of trade unions, and I will dwell on those points in just a few moments. I also note that the member for Kavel is currently sitting in the Premier's seat, and I must say that I grieve for him because, but for two rats within his own Party a short time ago, he would be the Premier of South Australia today. I am sure that we on our side of the House share with him the disappointment that he must feel at the fact that some of his colleagues promised their vote to two candidates.

I would like to briefly pay tribute to the former member for Ross Smith (Hon. John Bannon), who represented the district since 1977. A great deal has been said since the collapse of the State Bank, and I am sure a lot more will be said by the Government in particular over the coming months and years with respect to the former Premier. However, what can be said quite accurately is that the former Premier was a man of integrity, he was extremely hard working, he was electorally successful and he led the Party back into Government in circumstances where he was able to achieve that victory after only three years in Opposition. I note that the member for Kavel is smiling. He had three goes and missed on each occasion,

**The Hon. J.W. Olsen:** Two.

**Mr CLARKE:** Two occasions; I apologise.

**An honourable member:** This is a maiden speech.

**Mr CLARKE:** With respect, Mr Speaker, I am quite happy to handle interjections. I see no reason why I should be afforded any more protection from the Chair in this House during my maiden speech than I am afforded protection in the forums of the Labor Party as President of that Party. I am not afforded that courtesy there, so why should it apply here?

The former Premier, Mr Bannon, worked his electorate very well and he is fondly remembered by that electorate. Even those who may have been politically opposed to him nonetheless respected the work that he did for that electorate, and I am pleased to have succeeded him. It is a bit of a trifecta that Mr Bannon's predecessor was the Hon. Jack Jennings. He was the member for Ross Smith for many years and was elected to the Parliament at the same time as the Hon. Don Dunstan in 1953. The Hon. Jack Jennings was a member of my union, the Federated Clerks Union of Australia South Australian Branch. He was a branch councillor of that union, and indeed up until his retirement he was the union's returning officer.

Today as the member for Ross Smith I have almost completed a 10 year term as Secretary of that union, and I am currently a joint national President of what was the Federated Clerks Union of Australia. As a result of certain union

amalgamations, it is now known as the Australian Services Union. I am very pleased to see the historical carry-over of membership of the Federated Clerks Union and its involvement with the seat of Ross Smith.

I would also like to briefly refer to the Party workers in Ross Smith and thank them for their support in a very torrid election campaign, because without their support obviously I would not have prevailed. I would also like to pay tribute to my union—which for the sake of convenience I will refer to as the Federated Clerks Union—for the work of the officials, staff and many of the branch councillors and rank and file members in assisting me in that campaign in their own time and at their own personal expense. I would also like to extend my appreciation to them for the opportunities that that union gave me over the 20 years that I was a paid official in being able to represent a tremendous body of working men and women—predominantly women—in areas which were generally low paid and in areas which were generally open to exploitation. It was an honour and a privilege to work for working men and women in the clerical industry. Without their support I would not be here today.

In the lead-up to this moment I often wondered what I should talk about in my maiden speech. At one stage I thought, 'Should I make a very detailed analysis of either the electorate or some detailed study on philosophy which would impress members of the media and the like concerning the brilliance of the member for Ross Smith.' I realised it was likely that the media would not be available because they would be otherwise engaged in giving sycophantic applause to the current Government, and likewise they would not be able to understand any deep sort of philosophical argument, and I say that based on the sorts of superficial coverage they gave to so many of the issues in the lead-up to the last State election.

I recall the words of the member for Florey in his maiden speech when he referred to members on this side and wished us well, and he said that he hoped that we would stay for a good number of years on this side of the House. For the information of the member for Florey and for other members opposite I point out that we new members on this side of the House survived 11 December 1993, so we know we will be back here in 1997, but there is a very large question mark as to which members opposite will return here in 1997.

We look forward to the redistribution that will occur in the not too distant future to find out how 37 of you will seek to fit into what you would regard as 24 reasonable seats. We will watch with interest the preselection manoeuvrings and the like that will take place on your side of the House. How many relatives, friends and extended family from throughout the State will each member opposite invite to become members of the Liberal Party in a particular electorate, even though they may be much removed from any interest in that electorate or live outside of it? I can just see members opposite writing out cheques with wild abandon to pay for the membership of these people in order for them to vote for their preselection. We will watch with interest what occurs with respect to that matter, and we will not be slow in pointing out the various dubious goings on that will undoubtedly occur under the auspices of the 'Class of 93'. As I have already said to the member for Florey, both the member for Playford and I will be only too happy to join the 'Class of 93' to assist the honourable member in organising his faction.

Having discarded the idea of making some detailed analysis or indulging in a philosophical discussion, which I think would be beyond the wit of the sycophantic press that

we have in Adelaide, I have decided to turn my attention to a few of the issues which we will be debating and addressing in this House over the coming weeks. I look forward to the contribution of the member for Florey because, as he said, he is the first full-time union official to be elected to this Parliament as a representative of the Liberal Party. I am certainly familiar with the Police Association, which has a very good association with the United Trades and Labor Council. It is a very good trade union. It plays a proper, effective and responsible role within the United Trades and Labor Council and the ACTU.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr CLARKE:** I say that with all seriousness, because I knew a former Secretary of the Police Association, Mr Ralph Tremethick, a very fine person who served as President of the United Trades and Labor Council. I have the greatest admiration for the work that association has done for its members.

The member for Florey will have to tackle his conscience when the issue of WorkCover comes before the House. I have not seen the Bill that has been drafted regarding WorkCover, but from the scuttlebutt that one hears from employers it appears that the Minister for Industrial Affairs has concentrated his consultations with his social partners purely on the employers' side of business. He has had detailed discussions on the WorkCover legislation only with employers. As the member for Florey will find out when he sees the legislation, it will effectively remove stress as a compensable injury.

In other words, under the legislation, members of the Police Association, who work in one of the most stressful occupations that any worker could have, will never be able to make a claim for stress. Police officers will not have access to stress claims. Nurses, ambulance drivers and ambulance attendants, all of whom work in a field of employment which by its very nature is highly stressful, will effectively be denied the right to be compensated for stress as an injury. Any mental illness whatsoever will be discarded as a compensable injury even if it arises as a result of a person's employment. I will be interested to see how the member for Florey votes on that issue when one takes into account the fact that for many years the members of his association paid his wages as secretary to look after their industrial pursuits and rights.

I would like to touch on some other points, such as the issue of compulsory unionism which we hear so much about; compulsory voting; the right to work; and a range of other political philosophies which will come from the other side of the House. I must be careful when I use the term 'the other side of the House' because I am also referring to those on my left as a result of the spill-over effect. I do not think they have jumped the fence and joined us.

The Liberal Party is very big on rights, the small 'l' Liberal rights: freedom of association; the right not to be compelled to vote; the right of a citizen to stay at home and not play an active role in the political affairs of their State; and the right of freeloaders, those who do not wish to join a union but who wish to receive the benefits. Members opposite want to be able to look after the rights of those people. On the other hand, this is the same political Party which in the mid-1960s was happy to fight an election on the compulsory conscription of young men into the armed forces to kill or to be killed.

**Mr Atkinson:** With no right to vote.

**Mr CLARKE:** And with no right to vote. The Liberal Party opposed the reduction of the voting age from 21 years

to 18 years. However, this Party of civil libertarians, these small 'l' Liberals, who are opposed to compulsion on anything, were delighted—and were up to their armpits in blood in their delight—to conscript young men who were not of voting age. You put them into khaki and sent them overseas to kill or to be killed. This is the Party of civil libertarians.

When we deal with the issue of compulsory voting, let us also look at the Liberal Party's main motive, these democrats who opposed the extension of the adult franchise into the Legislative Council right up until 1973 when only property owners could vote and when there was voluntary voting only for the Legislative Council. It was vigorously resisted by this Party that gave birth to the Hon Ren DeGaris, who, as far as the Legislative Council was concerned, believed in the permanent will of the people elected on a narrow and undemocratic franchise. Yet that Council, elected on that franchise, was put up to thwart the will of the people's House, namely the House of Assembly.

Since their election on 11 December 1993, the views of members opposite regarding the Legislative Council have apparently changed: they might even support its abolition. The Government is motivated by purely selfish political interests because members on the other side of the House believe that voluntary voting will bring them political benefits. Let us examine some of those points. The President of the United States is elected with only slightly over 50 per cent of citizens who are entitled to vote actually voting. The successful candidate ordinarily receives just over half the votes cast by the 50 per cent who actually vote. That does not have to be the case, because it is based on an electoral college and not on a direct popular vote. So, about 26 per cent of American citizens decide who the President of the United States will be. In congressional elections, the percentage of citizens who participate in the vote is even less. On average, about 40 per cent or less of citizens participate in voting for seats in the congressional House of Representatives.

It is nonsense in a democracy, whether it be a president, a congressman or congresswoman, to say that they represent the views of their constituency when about 60 per cent of constituents do not bother to go to the polls. In the main, who are the people who do not go to the polls? In the United States it is the blacks, the hispanics, the poor, the less privileged and the less well educated, the very class of people who most need to be protected and to have their representatives in Congress. This system creates an insidious and destructive process by which minority groups can exercise power disproportionately to their actual numbers on congressmen and congresswomen in the United States. In the United States you have members of the lunatic right such as Jerry Falwell of the so-called Moral Majority who, through selective electioneering campaign techniques of direct mail and the like, put undue pressure on the elected representatives of Congress to bring about legislation inimical to the interests of the overwhelming majority of the population.

For example, the National Rifleman's Association, with its large membership and selective campaigning techniques in various seats of Congress, has been able to thwart legislation when every opinion poll since the assassination of John Kennedy in 1963 has shown that the overwhelming majority of people in the United States want stronger controls over guns. After every assassination or attempted assassination—whether it be of Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, former President Ford or George Wallace—and after all the publicity as a result, there is a huge surge of public opinion calling for

stronger gun controls. But every time that happens, the National Rifleman's Association gathers its adherents, targets selected senators and congressmen and congresswomen and pours inordinate amounts of resources into key areas to defeat the legislation. Why? It is because the congressmen and congresswomen and senators know that on election day only about 40 per cent of citizens vote. Many of that 40 per cent will be motivated by single interest groups promoting one issue and targeting one particular congressman or congresswoman. That is extremely dangerous and it is not something that we in this House or in this Parliament should support.

Non-compulsory voting in local government sees less than 20 per cent voter turnout. In the first election after New South Wales abolished compulsory voting in local government, just 60 per cent of voters participated in local government elections and that figure is declining. That type of attitude is the very antithesis of democracy.

We on this side of the House do not support compulsory voting for narrow political advancement: we recognise the fact that every citizen has not only a right to vote but also a responsibility. As a citizen of this State and of this nation, we have a responsibility to exercise that right by going along to the polling booth. The law does not compel citizens to vote for any of the candidates if they do not wish to: the law requires them to front up to the polling booth and to be given a ballot paper. If they do not like any of the candidates or the Party they represent, they can strike through the ballot paper—they can mark it informal. However, we do expect citizens to turn up to the polling booth and at least to think for a few moments before they cast their vote—whether informally or formally, as do the overwhelming majority of citizens. I do not think that we as a community are expecting too much of our fellow citizens in saying, 'You have a responsibility.'

We in this Parliament pass laws and impose certain restrictions on citizens, such as stipulating that people can drive only on the left-hand side of the road, that we cannot murder or rob one another, that if one wishes to file for a divorce certain things must be done, and that as citizens we must pay taxes according to a certain schedule. Is it too much for this society to say to our citizens, 'You have a responsibility at least once every four years—or in the Federal system, every three years—to front up to a polling booth and exercise your democratic right to vote'? That is not an onerous task and it is not undemocratic. It is supported by prominent members of the Liberal Party, such as former Senator Chris Puplick of New South Wales, who has spoken extensively on this particular point—and I am in complete agreement with him on that.

There is also a great deal of discussion about the right to work and the 'Right to work' States of the United States. This is what the Liberal Party would like to introduce here in South Australia. It is a misnomer, of course, in so far as the right to work is concerned, because effectively that United States legislation disfranchises workers from joining unions of their own choice. For example, it forbids union organisers in, say, a retail area, from even stepping into the car park of a shopping centre to talk to employees as they arrive for work or leave work or from handing out a leaflet to one of those workers advising them of the advantages of becoming a member of a union and of seeking a union contract relating to their conditions of employment.

That legislation has been used systematically to debase wage rates and working conditions in those States. It has been used systematically to exploit migrant women and illegal aliens

and to create this drift—almost an avalanche—of jobs from the more unionised northern States of the United States into the so-called ‘Right to work’ States. Indeed, those workers in those States do have jobs but with conditions of employment and wage rates that are barely above subsistence level and barely above the minimum wage rate prescribed in United States Federal legislation. That is what ‘Right to work’ legislation is all about: it is about enslaving workers; and it is about ensuring that, in terms of the balance of power between employer and employee, the employee has no power and is totally at the mercy of the employer, particularly in areas of high unemployment and in semi-skilled and unskilled work environments.

We will hear a great deal of debate over the coming weeks on the issue of compulsory unionism. It is a funny thing; we hear chants like a mantra from the Liberal Party with respect to this issue. They know, as we know, that about 70 per cent of the work force is non-unionised in the private sector in this State. So where is this compulsory unionism? It is a total falsehood and it is playing to the gallery. Where all workers at a particular enterprise are members of a union, it is because the workers themselves on site have collectively decided that they want an all-union shop to enhance their bargaining power with their employer, to ensure that their wages and working conditions are not reduced and, hopefully, to see that those conditions are improved over time.

Yet the Government has stated in its public pronouncements before and since the election that it wants to abolish that: it wants to take away the collective right of workers to decide amongst themselves that they want an all-union shop and to ensure that new workers coming into that place understand that that agreement was entered into, in most cases many years ago, and has been working effectively and with the consent of the employer. Employers in large enterprises in particular are happy for the work force to be unionised so that they can deal with an established channel of communication rather than having to deal with 300, 400 or 500 individuals.

We will also hear that this abolition of so-called compulsory unionism will free up the labour market. I heard the member for Flinders talk about the rural areas of her constituency and how much her constituents were looking forward to enterprise bargaining. In the area that I covered as a union secretary, we had such a thing as the State Clerks Award which is a common rule award and which applied to all clerical occupations in the State that were not bound by some other award or industrial agreement. It was a minimum rates award, a rate of pay which has been deemed by the Industrial Commission of South Australia over the last 70-odd years or more and which has been arbitrated, assessed against costs of living and assessed against the skills and the responsibilities of the workers concerned, based upon a decision by an independent arbitrator—the Industrial Commissioner—that that is the lowest rate of pay that a person performing that sort of work should be paid. Anything less than that award rate of pay would deny that person the right to a fair remuneration according to their skills, their responsibilities and the costs of living. It is a minimum rates award.

When this Government talks about enterprise bargaining, it is an excuse to talk about greater innovation, higher rates of pay and the like, because it wants ideas, such as those involving shop trading hours referred to by the Minister for Industrial Affairs, for driving wage rates lower. Deregulated shopping hours without a deregulated labor market and a reduction in penalty rates and take-home pay for the workers

cannot work. Yet, that is the area of employment most occupied by women, many of whom are migrant, who are in the lowest paid category and who often are sole supporting parents.

They are the people from whom the Government wants to take money—not the highly paid fliers and not your tycoons earning \$100 000 a year or more but people earning, particularly if they are casual or part-time workers, as little as \$15 000 a year. They are the people from whom the Government wants to take the money and for whom there would be a reduction in conditions of employment—the little people. Members opposite say that their Party is dedicated to the individual, yet they want to put them into economic slavery, to turn the clock back and to take things from working people by turning the clock back on consumer protection and other legislation enacted by Labor Governments during the 1970s which protected working men and women in this State.

You hanker for the old days of the 1950s and the early 1960s. That is what you want to go back to and that is what your manifesto is based on. You are not going to find that an easy task because, whilst we are small in number on this side of the House, we will be exposing you and what you stand for every inch of the way, and at the end of the day you will still have to face the people in four years. As I said when I commenced my address, we know we are going to be back. We have reached the pits; we are at the bottom of a trough that can get no lower in terms of numbers, but when I look around me I see a lot of oncers. I wish you well over the next four years, but please keep your press clippings, please keep your resumes hot and please make sure you order the *Advertiser* on Saturday to look in the employment pages, because you are going to need them. You are going to need them, because we will be coming back and we will be looking at a lot of vacant spaces.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr CLARKE:** Not so long. Of course, we know that the member for Colton will be in a more advantageous position than most because of his extended family and friends; in any preselection contest he will be able to enrol at least half the State into his electorate to ensure that he wins preselection.

**Mr Atkinson:** And his new office.

**Mr CLARKE:** And his new office. Whatever electorate the member for Colton decides to stand for will probably be safer than the one he currently holds, and certainly it will not be a seat for which Bob Randall may be a possible contestant. It will be one where his branch membership will be astronomical by any comparison. I want to tidy up a few loose points.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr CLARKE:** I am glad that the Deputy Speaker has become involved. I also grieve for the honourable member—a former Education Minister under the Tonkin Government who has progressively been denied higher office by others who have been able to climb up the slippery slope a little bit faster and with greater alacrity than he has been able to do. It is a tribute that he has got as far as Deputy Speaker, no doubt due in no small part to you, Mr Speaker; you were able to get to the top of the pole a little more quickly than the member for Gordon.

**The SPEAKER:** I hope that the honourable member is not casting any aspersions on the Chair.

**Mr CLARKE:** No, Sir, not at all, but your ability to count numbers is obviously far better than that of the member for Gordon. The other point, and I will conclude on this—



**An honourable member:** No, don't conclude. We like it.

**Mr CLARKE:** My colleagues have talked me into it, Sir. It would be appropriate to pay respect to the women's suffrage movement, this being the centenary of their gaining not only the vote but also the right to stand for office. I should have linked these comments to my earlier statements about compulsory voting, because a number of us, particularly members on the other side of the House, attended a service at St Peter's Cathedral last Friday in honour of the achievement of women's suffrage and their gaining the right to stand for office. I thought how curious that in 1994 so many members of the Liberal Party were present celebrating that event when they are so intent on trying to wipe out active participation in politics in this State through the abolition of compulsory voting and on trying to anaesthetise the electorate by having people not turn up to the voting stations in order to pursue their policies. That is indeed ironic.

I do pay regard to those pioneers for the achievement of votes for women and their right to stand for office. It is fitting that it be celebrated and celebrated in some style. As I said earlier, I was Secretary of the former Federated Clerks Union of Australia; about 75 per cent of our membership were women and they played a magnificent role in the development of the trade union movement in this State and in this country. They were forever pushing, quite rightly, for equal pay. Again I find it ironic that, when members opposite were in government during the 1960s under Playford, they opposed equal pay. Their political Party, when in office federally under Sir William McMahon as Prime Minister, sent advocates into the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, as it then was, to oppose the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in that landmark decision in 1972.

It was not until the gaining of office by Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister in 1972 when Clyde Cameron became his Minister for Labour that equal pay for work of equal value was implemented. A great deal of leadership was shown by the Australian Labor Party in those days in making sure it flowed through to the private sector by making the Commonwealth Public Service a pacesetter in that regard.

It sounds very hollow, indeed, Mr Speaker, to listen to the outpourings of members opposite of gratitude, love and compassion and about how wonderful it is that women have gained the right to vote and the right to stand for office when their industrial relations policy wants to place women into economic servitude, when their political Party opposed the granting of equal pay for work of equal value and when their masters, that is, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Employers Federation, year in and year out, have opposed unions such as my own in seeking equal grading rights for women in the clerical industry. Just recently, in line with the minimum rates adjustment process, under a centralised wage fixing system, to which the Liberal Party is opposed, we sought to equate certain aspects of what was traditionally regarded as women's work—for example, stenographers, typists, word processor operators and the like—with the base fitter's rate into our clerks award.

Employer organisations totally opposed that concept, and said 'How impossible! How could you compare my secretary or my general accounts clerk with a fitter and turner?'—someone who had done four years of trade school—'How could you put them on the same wage rates?' Many of their views were echoed by the Liberal Party. Indeed, that is what enterprise bargaining under the Liberal regime is all about; it would break down the centralised wage-fixing system

which enabled those benchmarks to be achieved for all women. The women in this State in those clerical industries are overwhelmingly non-union but they receive the benefits under that award; they receive that benchmark rate to take them up to at least the level of a fitter and turner. If we take away that centralised wage-fixing mechanism and introduce purely an enterprise bargaining situation where people can be strong-armed and coerced, through fear of loss of job, into having to accept it—particularly in country towns where alternative employment is scarce if not an impossibility—we will find that that wage rate will drop behind that fitter and turner's rate. We will be turning back the clock.

So, for all their piousness and for all we hear members opposite saying how happy they are to see the hundredth anniversary of women obtaining the right to vote and stand for office, while it is true that they favour that, they are not keen to reward them economically, to be fair to them and give them wage justice or to give them justice for their skills and attributes associated with their work. They want to take that right away from them and reduce those people to economic servitude. They want to make this a low-wage State, a serfdom.

I note that I have only 17 minutes left to speak. Many members opposite may think that an eternity, and I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that I could make it an eternity. However, I would like to just wind up on these few points. I note that the member for Kavel is pleased with my winding up my remarks, and I am sure he appreciates how I grieve for him at not being Leader of his Party.

**Mr Atkinson:** What about the two by-elections?

**Mr CLARKE:** Two by-elections occurred as a result of his vacating the Senate to come back to lead the Liberal Party, except that he was ratted upon by his mates and then found the member for Finnis in his place. I look forward with relish to invigorating and lively debate in this Chamber, particularly on matters which are dear to my heart, for example, industrial relations, WorkCover, the rights of workers, the rights of trade unions and the rights of ordinary citizens for a fair go. Governments are put in office to make things better for people. That is basically a philosophical difference between us and the members of the Liberal Party. We believe that there should be Government intervention, that there should be laws governing consumer protection, for tenants in private rental accommodation or in public housing and for a level playing field with respect to workers' wages and working conditions. We also believe that everyone is entitled to a proper education, with decent facilities, and that it should not merely be left to the exclusivity of private schools which so many members opposite have enjoyed in the past.

We believe that there should be laws for the safety of workers and proper compensation laws if a worker is injured at work. If workers are injured while travelling to or from work, they should be entitled to coverage by way of compensation. They should have the right to be able to claim, in high-stress occupations such as that of a police officer, if they are injured in some form as a result of stress or because of the nature of the job. They should not be thrown on the scrap heap; they should be given a helping hand, picked up and assisted. They should be brought back into the work force, into the community. Those are some of the philosophical differences between us and members opposite. The Labor Party is a very broad church.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr CLARKE:** Yes, a very broad church, with a range of interests.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr CLARKE:** Exactly—so broad that the member for Norwood found succour and assistance when he was a delegate for the State Council of the ALP. Well I remember it. I well remember a certain State Council meeting of the ALP, when the President of the Party at the time addressed the State Council and asked, ‘Delegates, will the owner of Alfa Romeo registration number such and such please go out to their car because their lights are left on?’ We all waited with bated breath and wondered, ‘Who is it?’ It was none other than the member for Norwood, who was then a member of the Labor Party. Unfortunately, when he realised our preselection processes were a little more particular than those of the Liberal Party, he decided it would be far more preferable if he jumped ship and became a member of the Liberal Party. I understand—fortunately for himself—that he has not had to sign up as many members of his extended family as has the member for Colton to ensure his preselection.

However, not wanting to be too provocative in my maiden speech, I would just like to finish on this note. I know I have said it three or four times already, but I am sure you, Mr Speaker, will bear with me as there is only 13 minutes left, and I do assure you that I will finish my speech in time. I am not afraid to say it: I am quite content to be a democratic socialist on this side of the House, within our pluralistic Party. Although I admit that from time to time some of my colleagues within the Labor Party have expressed certain doubts as to my commitment to democratic socialism, nonetheless, there is that underlying philosophy within our Party of a fair go, a fair go for the battler, providing help and assistance to those who need it most, and ensuring that those people with the greatest ability to assist others who are in need pay their fair and just amount to society.

I know that is the very antithesis of the Liberal Party’s philosophy and that we will hear a great deal of hogwash from members on the opposite side during various debates. I look forward to that with relish, and I am sure that, during those debates, Mr Speaker, I can seek your ever merciful protection from the Chair as we point out the hypocrisy of the Liberal Party’s policies in a whole range of areas because, eventually, they too will tire or, if they do not tire, the public certainly will tire of their always blaming the former State Government for all the ills and woes of this State. Government members themselves will need to start taking responsibility for their own decisions, rather than establishing inquiries for this, that and the other purpose, constantly blaming others for their own ineptitude and selfishness, and wishing to subjugate the work force of this State.

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the resolution for an Address to Her Excellency contained in the House of Assembly’s message.

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling the member for Norwood I point out to the House that this is a maiden speech, and I ask that the normal courtesies apply to the honourable member. The member for Norwood.

**Mr CUMMINS (Norwood):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. After listening to the member for Ross Smith, I thought for a moment that I had suddenly been whisked off to the US Senate, because I think we heard more about the USA than we heard about South

Australia. I assume from that that the honourable member has just come back from a union paid trip to the USA.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr CUMMINS:** I suspect that there is a bit of self-interest in what he is saying about non-compulsory unionism, because he knows as well as I do that, if we get rid of compulsory unionism, the likes of him will have fewer trips to the USA. It was interesting listening to him today, because it has confirmed my view that the trade union movement has not really changed its attitude for 30 years and that it still comes forward with the same old ideas it used to when, as the honourable member rightly points out, I was a member of the Party. It may well be that thinking people here will imagine why I left, when they have to listen to what we have just had to listen to here for the past half hour.

The member for Ross Smith says we should keep our *curriculum vitae*. I can assure the honourable member that I have a good *curriculum vitae* and am quite capable of getting employment without climbing on the back of the working man to earn an income as the member for Ross Smith has done, being a trade union secretary, sitting on a good income and having the use of a car for many years. I am told by my Whip that the convention here is to listen in silence while someone is speaking, so I appreciate the member for Ross Smith’s listening to me in silence.

The other thing I thought amusing about the honourable member’s speech was that the attitude towards females in the trade union movement, the ALP, has not really changed much either in the past 30 years. I thought it amusing that the honourable member said his colleagues told him he had to talk about the women’s suffrage movement. That is the attitude of the trade union movement: it always has been and always will be. It has not changed. It is nice to see that it is still there and acting in the same old way it was 30 years ago.

Having dealt with that, perhaps I can get on with what I intended speaking about in the first place. I wish to thank the people of Norwood for the trust they have placed in me. I wish to thank the Italian and Greek communities, in particular the Greek community of Prophet Elias, the Italian people at the Altavilla Club and the Campagna Club, and the committees that celebrate the St Pellegrino Festival and the Festival of St Anthony. I also wish to thank them for the hospitality they have shown me in that electorate.

I am fortunate to represent Norwood, which is probably the most cosmopolitan and interesting electorate in South Australia. The electorate has been ably represented in the past, and I have no doubt that I will be able to continue to give the best possible service to the people of Norwood. I also wish to thank my campaign manager and campaign committee for the work they have done, and also certain people who are sitting here tonight who have made major contributions to my campaign. On this occasion I wish to recognise members of my family who have served in this House.

William Patrick Cummins was the Liberal member for Stanley from 1896 to 1907. He was a farmer from the mid-north, and 1896 was a period of bad depression in South Australia. In his maiden speech on 28 October 1896 he addressed the House and insisted on the need to look after the poor and people on low wages during the depression. I hope that I will share his humanity in this House. I also wish to mention William (Bill) Denny, a Labor member of this House in the years 1900-1933. He was Attorney-General in the first Labor Government in 1910, and his picture is at Trades Hall.

If my friends ever want to be reminded of me, they can go into the room and have a look.

One of his notable achievements was the founding of the suburb of Colonel Light Gardens, which was an attempt by the Labor Government of the day to provide cheaper housing for the people of South Australia. He was also a holder of the Military Cross and an author, and he made his maiden speech on 19 June 1900.

I now wish to turn to areas of particular interest to me. One is the marketing of South Australian intellectual property rights in Asia, and Japan in particular. I also wish to deal with the issues of environmental technology, medical research and marketing.

One has only to look at Canon Inc. to realise the cost to South Australia of the loss of intellectual property rights. That company owes a great deal of its world leadership to South Australian intellectual property concepts in the field of colour processing. The reality is, unfortunately, that, because of the time my friends on the other side have been in power, there is no culture in South Australia for the marketing of particular intellectual property rights.

I refuse to believe that South Australia cannot eventually, through the assistance of Government, market its products, and in particular its intellectual property rights, internationally without the selling of those rights, which has been happening in the past. It may be that initially the marketing will need to be done on a joint venture basis. It is critical, if we are to succeed in this State, that we eventually market our medical discoveries, including drugs, instruments and research results, internationally. The Government, perhaps with the MFP, must ensure that business develops those skills, and in my opinion that has not been done so far.

One of the problems of marketing products, whether they be intellectual or otherwise, is to ascertain where the need for the market is. There is also a need, for example, to ascertain who may be in the market for the results of research. There seems a crying need for Government to act as a catalyst in setting up a database so that business institutions have on-line access to the information they need to market a product, seek a joint venture, or obtain a product. The cost to do that would not be great. The Liberal Government has had the initiative to set up a stall at the World Trade Centre, Sydney, which the Labor Party never bothered to do when it was in power.

The World Trade Centre database has 600 000 corporations on-line. Companies seeking products or markets or seeking partners in ventures and research are in that data bank. In addition, various chambers of commerce in South Australia have databases. The Italian Chamber of Commerce has access to Globus which is based in Rome and which enables South Australia to have access to firms in Europe. Some companies have benefited from that. One company in particular is a South Australian company that now markets a silk fabric which is marbled in South Australia. It markets that fabric to Milano. We all know that Milano is the centre of the world in relation to value added textiles. That is some achievement for a South Australian company.

It shows the importance, I stress, of having a proper database. The capital costs for setting up such an office and running it for a couple of years would probably be about \$300 000. That is a task that the MFP could possibly look at. If we are serious about marketing into Asia and Japan we will have to take seriously the task of ensuring that our students understand and appreciate their culture. In addition, we should as a State get behind and encourage the learning of Asian languages in our schools. There is also a need for an

exchange program of Asian and Australian students. This program should encompass high school and university students and it should be undertaken with the assistance of Government and business. The Government should be the catalyst in this.

If one has dealt with Asians, either in business or as friends, it would not have passed an astute observer that they are slow to trust. Equally, once that trust has been established they will do anything for you. Personal contact is the way to establish that trust. If an Asian realises you appreciate his culture and language the relationship and trust will be further cemented. The future potential market for products in Japan is immense. Some people who trade with the Japanese say it takes 10 years of dealing with them to reach the required trust level. I think that may be an exaggerated viewpoint but it illustrates that there are problems dealing with Asian countries, particularly Japan.

If South Australia is to take the Japanese market seriously there is a need for a South Australian representative in Japan. Queensland, we know, has benefited immensely from Japanese investment. It has a representative in Japan at commissioner level who liaises with the Australian Embassy. The role the commissioner will play provides the flux between the Japanese and business and the South Australian Government, whether they be manufacturers, researchers or tourist operators.

One of the problems of dealing with a delegation of Japanese business people is to ascertain who is the leader of the group and who makes the decisions. The Government should act as a catalyst, ensuring business understands how the Japanese and Asians do business. The Japanese operate under a ringey system of collective management. Decisions are made from the bottom up and a decision can be at five or six levels of consensus. In other words, the South Australian delegation may be pitching a deal to a chairperson of a board but the real decision may be decided by the second or third tier of that organisation.

The Japanese level of politeness also has to be looked at. It requires attention. As the level of politeness increases you go up the corporate ladder. It is very easy to offend Asians, as the Prime Minister of Australia found out recently. A commissioner, who is sensitive to the Japanese culture of politeness and who has built up a relationship with Japanese business leaders in Japan, can smooth the way for South Australian Government delegates and South Australian business people operating in Japan.

I want now to turn for a short period to the market for environmental technology. Pierso Holding and Pierson, the merchant banker, is based in the Netherlands and has 17 offices in 14 countries. According to their research report, environmental research departments will spend \$US400 billion in the year 2000. That is a growth of about 11.25 per cent annually. The investment in purification and waste management in Asia will be 25 per cent; 44 per cent in Europe; and 23 per cent in the USA. Therefore, Asians spend \$100 billion in that area, and those figures are supported by the Federal Department of the Environment.

We have technology in this State for sewerage and industrial waste water systems. The EC has fostered low waste technologies and products. If the European Community is doing that, and has given directions that way, then that will be eventually the yardstick to be used in Australia and also in Asia. Public opinion will eventually force Australia and Asia to follow suit. South Australia has expertise in water systems, water quality systems and soil quality programs.

Many Asian areas are not connected to mains sewerage or electricity. Asia is on the way to becoming environmentally aware and the tiger economies have the money to buy. Those factors provide, in my submission, for a massive potential market in Asia of our knowhow in environmental technology.

In addition, we have now developed in South Australia a sculptured glass house system which can be used in developments in isolated areas and alternatively in densely populated areas. This system is a solar aquatic system, creating artificially high density weight wetland in a series of tubs and glasshouses which pass grey water through a series of tubs which take out the various chemicals and pollutants. By natural plant means the water at the end of the process is ready to be recycled for shower, bath or garden use.

Norway and Sweden lead the world in the development of environmentally friendly housing and the marketing of same. South Australia can do the same in Asia. We all know that South Australia has to some extent led the world in solar energy. Flinders University recently was chosen by a Swiss company to do joint research in relation to the receipt and storage of solar energy by using chemically treated plain glass panes. In other words, the glass windows in a normal house, once this technology has been developed—and it will not take long—can actually be used for the receipt of solar energy. This technology will revolutionise the collection of solar energy.

The Japanese had approached the Swiss Institute to do a joint venture, but the Swiss chose instead to do a joint venture with Flinders University. The technology that comes from this will be of international significance and of great commercial value. The effectiveness of this collecting of solar energy is four times greater than the current technology. Electricity generation and transport are a major source of air pollution, accounting for 60 per cent of sulphur dioxide, 80 per cent of nitrogen oxide, 55 per cent of carbon dioxide and 40 per cent of non-methane hydrocarbons. We solve that problem to some extent if we go towards solar energy. I firmly believe that, if the Norwegians and the Swedes can play that role in Europe, we can play that role in Asia. It seems to me that the multifunction polis should play a role in doing what I am suggesting.

I turn now to an area that has caused me some concern for a long time, and that is the lack of support for our research scientists and in particular research scientists in the field of medical science. These people were neglected for many years by the former Government. Recently, when the Department of Labour negotiated a contract with the scientists association, it quibbled at a \$3 000 increase. You have to understand the quality of research we have in this State. Some of these people who are on \$60 000 or \$70 000 a year, if taken to the United States, would start off on salaries of US\$250 000 or US\$300 000. These people stay here because they have a commitment to this State and because they love the quality of life in this State.

The opportunities blossoming in the area of medical research must be grasped by South Australia. The Japanese are investing hundreds of millions of dollars in research and development and realise the huge potential of the market and are constantly approaching our research facilities to try to buy intellectual property rights. The extent of our research can be illustrated to some extent by the four departments at the Women's and Children's Hospital, namely, the departments of microbiology, immunology, cytogenetics and chemical pathology. Recently those four departments have made world discoveries, including a vaccine for pneumonia and the

discovery of a method to ascertain genetic defects in unborn children. All these discoveries have gone internationally commercial; all have gone overseas. This occurred when the previous Labor Government was in power.

The question then has to be asked: how can South Australia retain the opportunities it has in intellectual property rights? For a start, researchers should be given financial incentives by giving them shares in profits from intellectual property sales. Researchers should be separated from the general pathology test specialists in hospitals and treated in a different way. I mentioned the difference between what the head of a department would get here and what he would get in the USA. We therefore should try to keep these people here.

Medical research in South Australia is going all over the place. There does not appear to be any coordination of what medical research is going on, and there is no database as to what is happening in this State. One research institute here does not know what the other is doing. That can be translated nationally across Australia. Research is carried out here on medical science at places like Flinders Medical Centre, the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, the Hanson Centre, and the Women's and Children's Hospital. Medical research facilities require wet floor areas, taps and power points.

In my opinion, and in the opinion of world renowned research scientists in South Australia, there is an urgent need for a research centre for medical research—in other words, to put all these research people together. A facility is available in South Australia which will provide the base for such an institute, and that is the old Queen Victoria Hospital building. In my opinion, it should be placed under the umbrella of the MFP and used for that purpose. I understand that SGIC has an option on part of the building. The option is due to expire in April, and I understand that it was renewed several times under the previous Government. What a waste, it seems to me, to allow a building suitable for medical research to be used as an insurance office, particularly an insurance office with the history that SGIC had under the lack of control of this Government.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr CUMMINS:** Sorry, the previous Government. It was there for that long that we almost became numb to the fact it was there. We cannot believe it has gone. It is so good, we keep forgetting. I know scientists of such world standing in South Australia who could attract research groups to this State to take up space and get those groups to bring their own financing with them. The project could also bring back from overseas some Australian scientists who have left. The sad fact is that the top 10 per cent of our PhDs go overseas. The cost to educate them is in the region of \$300 000 per student. Unlike many people, and like members of this House, they are not necessarily attracted to the place because of the money. With the right scientific and intellectual environment we will attract them back. They would also be attracted to Adelaide because of its lifestyle and the cheaper cost of living compared with, say, living overseas or in Sydney and Melbourne.

The worrying aspect of scientific research in South Australia is that the institutes that carry out the research sell their property rights before we know the full potential of the intellectual property. They are granting first right of refusal to overseas and Australian companies on all intellectual property rights discovered, without having any regard to what they may be, that is, the intellectual property rights that

eventually develop, and the economic value of them. They have to adopt this practice because there is no proper career path for scientists, and the blame for that lays at the feet of the previous Labor Government because, first, it refused to give these people a proper career path; and, secondly, they refused to separate people like pathologists. I have always had a view about the Labor Party's approach to intellectuals, and its attitude towards the scientists in this State proves that.

Scientists are sick of having to spend too much valuable time applying for grants. Further, no structures are set up to ensure that scientists can devote all their time to research rather than to administration. The consequence of losing intellectual property rights to overseas companies can be easily illustrated by looking at the research currently being carried on at the Hanson Centre on Frome Road. The centre is currently a world leader in bone marrow transplant, gastroenterology and, most importantly, it leads the world in relation to a method to retard cell growth. The significance of the latter research should not be passed over. Cancer can develop only by new blood vessel formation. If that formation is interrupted, the problem of cancer can be solved. In all probability that problem can be solved in 10 years, according to the researchers at Hanson.

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

**Mr CUMMINS:** Before the break I was talking about the question of cancer and the fact that the Hanson Institute in South Australia is currently doing research in relation to the retardation of new blood cell formation. As I said, if that formation can be interrupted the problem of cancer is solved. They tell me that in all probability that problem will be solved within 10 years. One would not have to be an intellectual giant to work out the commercial value of such a discovery. A Japanese company has not yet managed to purchase the first right of refusal for that research.

Some members may know of AMRAD Corporation Limited. AMRAD was established by the Victorian Government six years ago to seek biomedical innovations with commercial potential. Institutes can become a member or associate member of AMRAD and obtain a shareholding in AMRAD with the granting to AMRAD of preferential access to projects. AMRAD sales for the year 1993 amounted to \$45.3 million, a 30 per cent increase on the previous year. In that group are research institutes in Victoria, two in New South Wales, one in Queensland, one in the Northern Territory, and one in Western Australia. AMRAD has approached research institutes in South Australia. In fact, the Hanson Centre has been approached to join AMRAD, but at this stage it has not agreed to join.

It is important, therefore, that in South Australia we establish an organisation similar to AMRAD to keep intellectual property and medical research in this State. In my submission, the MFP could adopt that role. The greatest asset that we have in this State is our youth and their intellect. There is no doubt whatsoever that the research that is going on in this country is as good as if not better than any research in the world. In other words, our research people are probably our greatest asset. The intellectual property they produce potentially is one of the greatest bonanzas this State will see in the near future. It is my suggestion that we grasp the opportunity at this stage to bring intellectual property in this State under one umbrella so that research that produces it can be fostered. This will have the consequence of attracting further researchers to this State. We will benefit from the

commercial exploitation of intellectual property rights and the sales that will ultimately result.

Unfortunately, I note that the member for Ross Smith is not here tonight. Before I finish I want to reply to two matters raised by him. He painted the picture that the Labor Party cares for the poor and the battlers. We all know from the collapse of the State Bank that the battlers will be paying a debt per household in this State of \$20 200. So much for the care of the working people and the battlers in this State by the Labor Party.

The member for Ross Smith also said that the Labor Party cares about working people. The reality is that it does not. The simple test is to look at WorkCover. There was some conversation on the other side of the House about WorkCover. Peterson put the ALP to the test. There was a Bill before the House which the ALP could either accept or refuse. When it was put to the test, the Labor Party accepted the terms of the Bill. The reason it accepted the terms of the Bill was that it did not want to go to an election because it knew it would lose. In other words, members of the Labor Party were looking at their own pocket.

Just look at the consequences of what they have done. There has always been a fundamental right at common law to sue for common law damages. We now have the absurd situation of a law, which they promulgated because they did not want to go to an election, under which, for example, a man who is badly injured by an unregistered forklift in a factory and becomes a quadriplegic would have a claim to WorkCover payments of a few hundred dollars a week with a small amount for pain and suffering. If the same accident happened in the street and this man was injured in exactly the same way and became a paraplegic he would have a claim for probably \$3 million or \$4 million, depending on his age.

The member for Ross Smith talked about the Labor Party looking after the battlers and the working class. What a farce. He wants to know why I changed sides and why I am standing here tonight. It is because of the attitude of people like him who have sold out the fundamental rights that his Party purports to believe in.

I am sorry that the honourable member is not here now. He breached a convention. He is supposed to stand and talk and we are supposed not to interrupt. However, he chose to breach a convention by attacking me and the Liberal Party. In law, when someone does that we say that they have waived their rights. Frankly, what I have said indicates the level to which the Labor Party has sunk and, looking at members opposite who are still here and who have always been here, the Labor Party is certainly not rising at this stage.

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling the member for Hart, I remind the House that this is his maiden speech, and I ask that the normal courtesies apply to the honourable member.

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. It is an honour to have been elected to serve in this Parliament, and I would like to thank the people of Hart for their support and the trust that they have placed in me. I believe that I will serve them well and will endeavour to put their interests and needs first in this House at all times. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to your position and I wish you well in that position over the life of this Parliament.

My election to this Parliament came after a long and difficult campaign, one like no other that I have experienced in my time in politics. Whilst I come into this Parliament at

a low point for the Labor Party in South Australia, I believe it will be an exciting time of rebuilding and refocussing as a political force in this State. Whilst members opposite will enjoy a large majority over the next four years, they should not underestimate the ability of the Labor Party to carry the fight in any political arena: we will be an effective and constructive Opposition.

The anti Labor swing was no less significant in the electorate of Hart at the last State election as compared to the State-wide result. Having survived a massive swing away from Labor, it is important that I understand and acknowledge the reasons and work towards regaining the confidence of our traditional supporter base on the LeFevre Peninsula.

There was much anger and disappointment from those who had relied upon the ALP to protect their interests, and they felt that we had let them down. The vote was not a ringing endorsement for the Liberal Party in my electorate, as the Government's vote showed only a marginal increase, with the bulk of the anti-ALP swing going to Independent candidates.

I do not intend publicly to canvass my views on what went wrong, as clearly there was much more to our election loss than the State Bank issue. The place to do that analysis is internally within the ALP, and our Party has moved swiftly to establish a committee of review to undertake that task.

Clearly, the major challenge that my colleagues and I will face during the next four years will be the restoration of the confidence and credibility of the Labor Party as managers of this State's finances. I must also say that the electorate clearly held the former Government accountable for the terrible State Bank losses, and we have paid an enormous political price for that. As a Party we must face this reality with a determination to learn from past failures and ensure that we demonstrate a greater degree of vigilance in scrutinising our State's financial institutions. This will be a heavy responsibility for us in Opposition as well as on the Government because the public will expect no less from all of us in this Parliament and, indeed, it deserves no less.

Having said that, what I want to be about in this Parliament is the future, but for us to face that future and regain the confidence and trust of the community we must learn from the past, and I can assure the electors of Hart and the South Australian public that I have heard their message and I will not let them down.

As all of us know, the road to becoming a member of Parliament can be a long, difficult and frustrating one. We rely on the support and help of many friends, supporters and, most importantly, family. As my family knows, my career has been 10 years in the making, with the past couple of years being the most difficult. Certainly, I would not be standing here now had it not been for the support given to me by my wife Cathy, who has had to juggle her own career, a young family and a husband consumed by politics.

I must also mention my two young sons Ryan and Ben who, whilst not really knowing what was going on, helped me through a tough period. I want to give special thanks to Cathy, Ryan and Ben. Without the special support given to me by my family and our parents, the job of campaigning would have been much harder. My thanks and appreciation go to Don and Dulcie Ballard and, of course, to my father Jack Foley. Dad brought me up to believe in Labor, and this is probably one of the few times in my life that I took his advice. Unfortunately, my mother, who passed away a few years ago, cannot be here. I am sure that she would be more than pleased with my election to this Parliament.

I have also been fortunate to have a group of supporters and friends to help and guide me throughout the past 10 years of political involvement. Whilst I could name many who have encouraged my career in the Labor Party, there are three people who have had a special impact on me. As a young political activist in Port Adelaide in the early 1980s I ask 'Who could not fail to be influenced by Mick Young, the former Federal member for Port Adelaide?' I have developed a great friendship with Mick and will always respect and admire his great contribution to the Australian Labor Party. But probably more importantly I have learned from Mick the importance of having a commitment and a belief in the Labor Party as the only political Party capable of improving our society for all, not just a select few. To me Mick Young has always been about helping others, a quality that I hope I have learnt from him. Mick and his wife Mary gave a lot to the community of Port Adelaide that went far beyond being the local member of Parliament.

In the early days Mick Young put me in touch with the local President of the ALP at Semaphore, Rod Sawford. Of course, Rod has gone on to become the Federal member for Port Adelaide, and I have enjoyed a long and lasting friendship with him. I remember the early 1980s when Rod and I had our job cut out for us just keeping the ALP active on LeFevre Peninsula. It is pleasing to see us both now representing the area in the State and Federal Parliaments. My thanks go to Rod for his support and guidance over the years.

I would also like to mention the member for Taylor and Leader of the Opposition, who for the past six years has been my boss and, for that matter, still is. There can be no better apprenticeship for a member of State Parliament than to work for a politician such as the member for Taylor. We have been up and down the roller coaster ride together over the past six years and I can only become a better politician for that experience.

My local sub-branch worked extremely hard behind the scenes during my unsuccessful campaign in Semaphore in 1989 and, of course, during the last State election campaign. There are too many members to name individually, but I would like to mention the tremendous support given to me by my campaign manager, Mark Keough, my campaign team and, in particular, the support over many years of Pat Hansen. I must also give special thanks to Jean and Claude Chapman, who have been loyal and true supporters of the Labor Party over many years.

I would like to talk about my employment background prior to entering Parliament—an employment background that is perhaps a little different for a Labor politician. Whilst most of my friends went on from school to be tradesmen, I realised that I was pretty hopeless with my hands. I chose to leave high school when I was 16 years old and joined ANI Austral Steel on Port Road at Albert Park as a stock records clerk, which was the most basic clerical position in an office of over 100 people. Austral Steel is the largest supplier of steel products to South Australian industry. I was fortunate enough to be promoted into the sales department of Austral Steel very early in my career. This led to a 10-year association with the company in capacities ranging from sales clerk and sales representative through to sales supervisor in the BHP Steel Division. This provided me with daily involvement with a broad cross-section of South Australian business and industry.

Throughout this period I developed strong associations and relationships with many companies in South Australia and interstate. I learnt first-hand what it takes to run a

successful manufacturing business in South Australia, and I learnt very quickly of the frustrations and difficulties associated with operating a business.

I also found that the most progressive and successful companies in the manufacturing and construction industries were those which had good work force relations and which used the talents and initiative of their workers to improve the company's performance for the benefit of all. These progressive companies work well with the trade union movement in a spirit of cooperation, not confrontation. I was responsible for accounts which were turning over many millions of dollars in steel products and had to compete in what was one of the most competitive industry sectors in this State. I learnt how to operate successfully in a low margin/high volume turnover industry.

Having commenced my career in business and worked 10 years with the one company, I became a bit restless for change, which saw me make a couple of career moves in a short space of time. Those moves gave me further exposure to other industry sectors in this State. I worked for a short time as a trainee sales manager with the Cadbury Schweppes group here in South Australia and had exposure to the high volume food industry. Following that appointment I took up a position with the Boral group as sales supervisor with the Boral Cyclone Division, being responsible for rural and industrial sales.

Whilst I had had exposure to the rural sector when I was at Austral Steel, my period with Boral Cyclone saw me more extensively involved in this sector. This experience gave me an even greater understanding of the needs of and difficulties faced by the rural community in South Australia. From there I took a position with the Australian Trade Commission—Austrade—based here in South Australia. I found this to be an extremely useful appointment as it rounded off my commercial experience, which to that time had been primarily involved in the domestic industry in South Australia and Australia. I had an opportunity to learn very detailed knowledge, and I gained extensive experience dealing with export oriented firms. I very much enjoyed the short time I was with Austrade.

By this stage of my working career I had become very active in the Labor Party in Port Adelaide and was being drawn towards a full-time commitment to Labor politics. I was keen to apply my commercial experience to the Labor movement and the Labor Party and was successful in gaining a position with the member for Taylor as a ministerial adviser in his capacity as Minister for State Development. These six years that I spent with the member for Taylor again broadened my understanding of the needs of business and the work force and exposed me for the very first time to the workings of Government. It also allowed me to develop a broader and more detailed understanding of economic policy both in macro and micro terms and how specific industry policy impacts on South Australian business and its work force.

I wanted briefly to mention my background by way of explanation because it has amused me a number of times to hear members opposite, particularly the Premier, talk about their business experience, as if only Liberal politicians were capable of working in the business sector. Whilst I have no doubt that the Premier was a successful operator with his consulting firms, he is not the only politician in this House who has had experience in the business sector. I feel it is important to explain to the House that on the Labor side of Parliament we too have quite extensive experience in the business sector. I would feel more than confident comparing

my background and credentials when it came to business and understanding business with those of any member opposite. In fact, I would go so far as to suggest that my background in business is probably more extensive than that of most of the members opposite, so in the future when we come to debating issues affecting business and industry policy, the Government will need to have done its homework, because I will be using this experience critically to analyse every economic proposal put forward by this Government.

I now refer to the electorate of Hart, which until the last election was known as the electorate of Semaphore. As most members would know, my electorate is situated on Le Fevre Peninsula and is part of the Port Adelaide council area. I was born on the peninsula and have lived in the area for most of my life. It is a unique area and could best be described as a large country town. It is a close community but a changing one. The electorate of Hart is very industrialised, with major manufacturing operations centred upon the eastern border of the electorate facing onto the Port River. We have Adelaide Brighton Cement, which is one of Australia's largest producers of cement and which employs many hundreds of locals in what is a traditional South Australian business that is adapting quickly to the changing dynamics of the world cement industry.

My electorate is also the home of the Australian Submarine Corporation, and I need not say much about that, as most members would be aware of the magnificent facility at Osborne and the great addition to South Australia's manufacturing capacity that that company provides. Spin-offs from the Submarine Corporation have seen new factories built on the peninsula, and of particular note is the Pacific Dunlop factory, which employs many locals in the production of batteries for the common class submarines.

A few years ago there was a management buy-out of the old ICI soda ash operations at Osborne, and the company was renamed Penrice Soda. We have seen significant growth in that company since 1989 and, again, Penrice is an example to all South Australian industry of what needs to be done in this rapidly changing world economy. In 1989 its sales were 5 per cent of the export market, and that had grown to 25 per cent in 1993, with most of that product being exported to the Asia-Pacific region. We have also recently seen the acquisition of the Port of Adelaide situated at Outer Harbor by the Sea-Land group, which is providing significant injections of capital and energy into Port of Adelaide. This will see the success of the transport hub proposal, which was initiated under the former Labor Government.

As in any electorate, a number of small businesses are operating very successfully, and one of these came to my attention in the past couple of weeks. It is an example of very effective small business which is doing what all the State and Federal Government's talk about, but of course most of them go unnoticed. I refer to a company called Allan Smith and Associates at Peterhead which produces portable ramps for disabled people that are used mainly in train systems. In 1993, sales were approaching nearly \$1 million, 90 per cent of which were exported, mainly to Japan for use by Japan Rail. I mention that company by way of example to show that small companies are seeing their future in the export markets, most importantly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Le Fevre Peninsula, having been home to some traditionally based industries, has obviously been affected by the restructuring that has been occurring in our economy. One of the major employers on the peninsula until about a year ago was the CSR sugar works at Glanville, but that has fallen

victim to a national restructuring by CSR which has meant a rationalisation of its operations Australia-wide.

We have seen the Government winding back its involvement in the Department of Marine and Harbors on the peninsula, and that has also had an effect on the community by way of loss of jobs. This restructuring, whilst perhaps necessary, is nonetheless extremely painful on a community which has relied upon these jobs for generations. That is why it is imperative that the Government make available new jobs quickly in areas such as mine.

We have also had a major residential and marina development in the electorate of Hart in the past 15 years. It is worth noting that the North Haven development is truly a quality development. Every time I go for a walk along the marina or have a glass of beer at the Sailmaster Tavern overlooking the marina I cannot help but wonder why people would object to such quality development along our coastline.

I refer briefly to the transport hub proposal, which was initiated by the former Labor Government; early indications are that the new Liberal Government will continue this project. The shipping coming into South Australia is now almost exclusively centred upon the berths at Outer Harbor, with only the occasional ship coming into the inner harbor. The Federal Government has provided significant funding for a new rail loop to service the Port of Adelaide, and a world class container facility is being operated by the Sea-land group which will more actively market the Port of Adelaide throughout the world. I want to put on the public record that I fully support the transport hub proposal as I believe it is absolutely critical to the development of this State's broader industry base and, more importantly, it is critical in maintaining a significant maritime industry in my electorate. However, with such expansion comes the difficulties associated with residential development close to the port facility and, more fundamentally for the rest of the electorate, the question of the flow of traffic throughout my electorate.

The present Government has before it a proposal for a supplementary development plan which will allow for expansion of port facilities onto the existing North Haven golf course should it be required in 15 to 20 years. In turn, the golf course will be able to expand onto other portions of land nearby. This will enable a significant buffer zone to be established between the residents of North Haven and the port facilities at Outer Harbor. I reiterate that the Government has an obligation to ensure that the residents are sufficiently buffered from port activity. Quite a lot of work must be done in the early stages of the hub proposal to ensure that a significant buffer is created before the port itself expands, and I will be keeping pressure on the Government to ensure that it fulfils that obligation.

Equally, with the expansion of the port will be the question of how we handle the increased traffic flow on the Le Fevre Peninsula. The peninsula is a narrow strip of land which essentially has only one road access to the port, and that is Victoria Road. There are two ways to access Victoria Road: one is through the city of Port Adelaide itself over the Birkenhead Bridge and the other is through what we call the causeway road, which is slightly west of the Birkenhead Bridge. I am of the view, as are many locals, that the inner Port Adelaide area and the Birkenhead Bridge are totally unsuitable for heavy traffic usage. They present a significant risk to pedestrians in the inner Port Adelaide area and the Birkenhead Bridge, which is now many years old, surely must be feeling the effects of heavy tonnage pounding it on a daily basis. All heavy traffic must be diverted away from

the inner Port Adelaide area and the Birkenhead Bridge, and for the short term that traffic can be accommodated on the causeway road at Glanville. However, the causeway road at Glanville can be only an interim measure to absorb this extra tonnage: as it presently stands, it is not suitable as a long-term access road to Victoria Road and will require extensive upgrading and the construction of significant buffer zones if houses in that vicinity are to be protected.

Clearly, if the transport hub is to reach its full potential, it is imperative that the Government make a decision in the very near future as to how it will provide for easy, quick access by road to the Port of Adelaide. I do not believe that will be provided by the existing road network: it requires the construction of a bridge across the Port River to allow traffic coming from the northern suburbs of Adelaide quick access into the transport hub at Outer Harbor and to provide for traffic coming from other parts of Adelaide and interstate a simple diversion around the city of Port Adelaide, thus avoiding heavy traffic coming through the more densely populated areas of my electorate.

Initial work has been done on the feasibility of such a bridge, and clearly it can be done, but obviously with an associated cost. If our transport hub is to become a truly world class, inter-modal system, rapid transport of containers on road will be required, and that cannot be done through existing infrastructure: it must come through the provision of a bridge somewhere along the Port River. My personal preference would be for the bridge to be constructed as far north as possible from the Port River, somewhere closer to Osborne or Taperoo, which would limit the distance travelled in my electorate by these heavy vehicles.

There has been an argument that, should the bridge be constructed over the Port River, it would eliminate the opportunity for vessels to come into Inner Harbor, thus depriving Inner Harbor of regular visits of naval vessels to provide a much needed tourist attraction. In any proposal like this there have to be trade-offs, and it would simply mean that visitors and tourists would have a little further to drive to visit the naval ships at Outer Harbor, but that would in no way diminish the attraction of the Inner Harbor as both a residential and tourist area. I say to the Government that, in its deliberations in its capital works budget over the next few years, I would strongly argue that it should start giving consideration to the construction of such a bridge. I would go as far as to suggest that whilst Mr Jacobs is undertaking his inquiry into whether or not a bridge should be built across the river at Goolwa to Hindmarsh Island, I would be more than happy to say to the Government, 'Please build the bridge over the Port River in my electorate and perhaps save some money from the ongoing inquiry.'

Of course, when there is such a heavy concentration of industry in residential areas, there are associated environmental problems, and we have experienced for many years now significant discomfort from the level of air pollution in my electorate. However, I must acknowledge that industry itself has done much to address this problem both through direct action in improving the facilities in which it operates and in its community consultation process. The work of Adelaide Brighton Cement and Penrose Soda in their community consultation processes should be acknowledged. However, there still remains an environmental problem with the amount of air pollution in the electorate. I shall be talking to all major industries on the Le Fevre Peninsula over the next six months to ascertain what further work can be done to minimise or eliminate the impact on our community.



Another area of real concern in the environment is the disgraceful condition of the Port River. When I was campaigning in the 12 months leading up to the election one of the most consistent complaints put to me by constituents was the condition of the Port River. I am pleased to see the Minister for Environment in the Chamber tonight. I hope that the State Government shows as much interest and desire to improve the waterway of the Port River as it has shown in wanting to clean up the Patawalonga, albeit the Port River flows through two Labor electorates. Whilst I understand that the Pat may be a more immediate priority to the Government, it is my intention to maintain pressure to ensure that remedial work is undertaken to clean up the Port River and that direct Government action is taken to ensure that what I consider to be Adelaide's premier waterway is improved substantially.

When we look at the industry on the Le Fevre Peninsula we must, of course, comment on the high concentration of petrol depots by some of Australia's major oil companies. It is a major concern to me that we have this high concentration of a very explosive product so close to residential housing. We have seen in other States and, indeed, other countries the horrific disasters that have occurred as a result of petrol and chemical operations neighbouring residential estates.

Because of this, Port Adelaide has a disaster plan. I suspect that it is probably the only area in Adelaide that has such a disaster plan, but, with the high concentration of petrol depots and other quite toxic industries, the potential for a disaster is ever present. While the Port Adelaide disaster plan is well documented, I suspect that very few within the community understand what it means or what we should do in the event of a disaster. I think that a far greater education process should be undertaken immediately to ensure that all residents on the Le Fevre Peninsula fully understand what they must do when they hear the warning siren. We should not expect people to have taken the time to inquire for themselves about the disaster plan. With that, I would make representations to the Government to commence an education process on the Le Fevre Peninsula as an urgent priority.

An exciting part of the Le Fevre Peninsula is the redevelopment of the Semaphore Road and foreshore area. Semaphore has a proud history, but it is fair to say that over the past 20 years or so the attraction of Semaphore has greatly diminished. However, with the work in recent times by a number of local residents and shop traders, together with the local council, the State Government and the Federal member for Port Adelaide, Mr Rod Sawford, we have seen a substantial injection of capital funds. With that we have seen a major upgrade of the Semaphore Road, the refurbishment of the Semaphore library, the redevelopment of the Semaphore foreshore, and possibly we will see the redevelopment of the old Semaphore Palais, very much an icon to local residents.

I could not talk about Semaphore without briefly mentioning the Semaphore jetty. Midway through last year, we saw some substantial damage to the jetty and we saw some 30 metres ripped off the end of the jetty. The Semaphore jetty and the Largs Bay jetty are both in urgent need of substantial amounts of money to upgrade. Of course, the former Government had committed itself to a major upgrade of the Semaphore jetty, but equally the Largs Bay jetty will require funding to ensure that the structures remain both safe and viable as a tourist attraction. I am interested to see the proposal by the new State Government to hand over responsibility for jetties to another Government agency and not for it to remain in the Department of Marine and Harbors. As a member for seaside suburbs, I do not have an immediate

problem with that. I simply say to the Government that it must ensure that capital funds are earmarked for ongoing maintenance of these jetties and that the Government recognise the importance that they have to a seaside community such as mine.

My electorate relies heavily upon public transport. We have seen some changes to bus routes in the electorate but, whilst providing some much needed services to parts of the area, they have unfortunately proven to have caused significant discomfort to communities that have relied on their previous service. I point to residents in the Fletcher Road area of Peterhead and Birkenhead who have seen their services go and to the residents of Mary Street, Ethelton who have seen the imposition of buses onto their street—a street clearly not designed to carry such heavy loads and it is certainly not an area which deserves to have the intrusion of up to 40 to 50 buses a day. It is an issue that I have taken up with the former Government, and I am also now taking it up with the present Government and the local council, and I am confident that a resolution to this problem will be forthcoming very shortly.

However, it has taken a fair amount of effort to convince the bureaucracy of the need to change this particular bus service, and I sometimes wonder whether the bureaucrats who run our public transport system actually take into account the effects of their policy changes on local residents. I would also refer to the STA's decision to take a bus service away from Semaphore Road. Semaphore Road must be about the only regional shopping precinct in the metropolitan area that is now not serviced by a direct bus route. Why the decision was taken to remove the buses, I have no idea. However, in conjunction with local shop traders, we have organised a petition of local residents and shoppers and we were surprised to receive over 2 000 signatures calling on the return of buses to Semaphore Road.

This petition was presented to the STA just prior to the last State election, and the STA advised me that after its initial survey work the return of the buses to Semaphore Road was not warranted. I cannot help but think that the STA had prepared its questions to ensure it received the answer it wanted, and that clearly was that the buses would not be returned. However, I am confident that the new Minister for Transport, in her wisdom, will see the necessity for an improved bus service to this important shopping precinct in my electorate and that we will see the return of the buses in the not too distant future.

LeFevre Peninsula is also very fortunate to have an effective train service. This provides an important means by which local residents are able to travel to the city and to other points in between. I know it is welcomed by those parents in the area whose children have to travel out of the electorate daily to go to school. The Outer Harbor train line has been and will always be a very important piece of local infrastructure and it provides a much needed and much appreciated community asset.

Some 12 months ago, the Glanville railway station, which is the second to last railway station before you leave my electorate when heading into the city, was upgraded into a transit link facility. What that sees is an express service from the Glanville railway station into the city, together with the linking of all major bus routes on the peninsula into that railway station. I support the transit link. I think it is an excellent utilisation of both bus and train services. However, a conclusion that has been drawn by local residents—and I must say by myself—is that the upgrading of the Glanville railway station is the first step in the closure of the railway

line from Glanville all the way through to Outer Harbor. I can only assume that the STA's thinking is, 'We don't need to run a train service all the way down the peninsula: we can simply provide feeder buses into the Glanville interchange and then provide an express service to the city.' Well, I have news for the STA. That is a totally unacceptable idea, and local residents and myself will be absolutely vehement in our opposition to such a move that would see our train service taken away.

I raised this issue when I was a candidate with the former Government leading into the last State election, and I received a written commitment from the then Transport Development Minister that under a Labor Government that train service would remain open. I have since written to the new transport Minister in the Liberal Government asking for her written assurance that the train service will remain open. I have yet to receive a reply.

I can only hope that the Minister for Transport will see the need to maintain that service and will give me that written assurance. I know that there are many within the STA who will strongly urge her not to give such an assurance. I repeat that, if I have any inkling that the STA or the Government is moving towards the closure of the Outer Harbor railway line, they will be confronted by strong opposition from the local member and the local community in general.

On the subject of possible closures I must comment on the future of primary and secondary schools on Le Fevre Peninsula. There are a number of schools in my electorate that do not meet the criteria as laid down by the Minister of Education, who, as the then shadow Minister, said that only schools with more than 300 students will be safe under a Liberal Government. I urge the Minister of Education to clarify this position immediately with schools in my electorate that have fewer than 300 students. I will be taking that issue up with the Minister in the near future. For the record, I must say that I will not, as a local member, accept any school closures in my electorate and will fight and resist their closure at every point.

During my time in this Parliament I will become a strong voice for the north-western suburbs of Adelaide. We have many problems that need urgent attention, and the Government is on notice that I will vigorously pursue the interests of this part of Adelaide at all times. Whether or not you call it parochial, people in Port Adelaide think that occasionally they get a raw deal, and by that I do not just mean in football. I do support Port Adelaide's bid to become the second South Australian side in the AFL. I am sure that I am joined in that by the member for MacKillop (the Minister for Primary Industries) and also by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Playford, all of whom show good taste when it comes to football if not necessarily when it comes to politics.

As our economy improves, we will see new jobs created, and once those jobs are created the difficult task for many of my constituents will be their ability to grab them. During my time in this Parliament I will work towards improving opportunities for people in my electorate to develop their skills to the fullest potential. The attitude of the academic community and institutions also will need to change, with a greater recognition from them that the youth from working-class backgrounds are as clever and deserving of opportunity as any other young adult in this State. For too long the system has not sufficiently encouraged or assisted young people in my area to go on to higher education, be that in university or in TAFE.

The myth that you are only suitable for university studies if you have been to a private school or have lived in the eastern suburbs is clearly wrong. There have been many fine graduates from my area but they are too few. The universities and centres for higher learning must make a greater effort to take what they are offering into communities like mine, and encourage young high school students to aim towards higher learning. Parents of children in my area also have a responsibility to foster this environment of encouragement, and this is an area in which I will have much to do as their local member.

I would now like to turn to the issue of most importance to all South Australians: jobs and the economy. The South Australian economy is going through a massive period of restructuring and it is still too early to tell what final shape our economy will take when this restructuring is completed. Industries in our State are being exposed to world markets and the international trading economy at an unprecedented rate. Whilst much of our industry has enjoyed significant tariff protection and Government assistance, this is now being wound back by deliberate Federal Government policy. There has been much debate about the final rate of tariff protection and the speed with which it is being reduced, as well as the efforts and influence of Federal Government policy, particularly towards the car industry.

The car industry in this State is poised to make a major leap into the global economy which will mean new jobs and an exciting new era in this State's largest manufacturing sector. Other industry sectors, such as the whitegoods, manufacturing and textile, clothing and footwear sectors, have not been as successful in making this transition. With the exception of the automobile industry, jobs growth in our economy will not come from our traditional manufacturing sectors, which we have relied on for decades to boost our economy. The urgent task before us is to create new and lasting industries for the future. We must, as a community, develop a maturity and purpose in the way we approach the economic development of our State. We are being forced to compete and survive in the world economy. The security and protection we have enjoyed in the past is gone. We can no longer afford the luxury of opposing any new investment proposal for the sake of it.

We must break free from the parochial, insulated and somewhat insecure attitude that has been a prominent feature of this State's culture for too long. Federal Government policy and the globalisation of the world economy are dictating change in South Australia whether we like it or not. If we fail to meet this challenge we will be doomed to a rapid deterioration in our living standards. If we want to be a vibrant and sophisticated economy we must break free from the shackles of the past that have been consistently reinforced by the Adelaide establishment and the small town attitude of some of our opinion makers, who would like South Australia to remain in a state of unreal isolation, oblivious of the changing world around us.

We must open up our economy to the changing world and welcome new investment. We can no longer afford to thumb our nose and criticise any new initiative because it dares to break new ground and does not conform to standards set by certain interest groups in this community. We must learn from the folly of lost opportunities if we are to create jobs for our children and their children. Whilst I do not mean to offend the individuals concerned, as I am sure their work and intentions are well meant, the SA Great campaign is to me an

example of a style that reinforces the very insecurity of which this State needs to break free.

I cannot help but think that any State that has to continually remind itself that it is great suffers from a degree of insecurity. As a State we will become truly great when our trading partners in the global economy recognise us as great. Whilst there may have been a time when the SA Great campaign was needed, I think that its time has long gone. I have talked tonight about the globalisation of the world economy, but what is it and what does it mean for South Australia and its citizens? The high value wealth generation of the future lies in the brains and the skills of a nation's work force. Intellectual capital either has overtaken or is overtaking physical capital as the key asset of any nation's economy.

For any nation, let alone a small State like ours, the major sources of wealth generation in the global economy lie in general with the development of added value industries; more specifically, by being able to participate in the expansion of the new science based high technology industries such as pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, computers and information technology, specialised medical and scientific equipment, aerospace and environmental waste management. Because no developed society can survive without these and many other manufactured products, Governments in virtually all industrialised societies now take an active interest in trying to facilitate links between their own domestic firms and the global networks of these new industries.

This may mean trying to attract or build firms in areas where the Government thinks it is feasible either to exploit an existing advantage or to develop one in the foreseeable future, or it may mean encouraging partnership arrangements between local firms and international companies. The overall goal is to ensure that the nation's manufacturing sector remains actively abreast of the speed of technological change world wide and is able to participate in some significant way in the global economy. The aim of such intervention is to avoid the marginalisation of an economy. By that, I mean becoming a spectator rather than a player.

What I have been saying is not intended to sound like a lecture in economics, although I am sure it does, but I am simply putting into perspective where the future of our State lies. If we accept that we want our economy to look like what I have just said in 10 to 20 years, we had better get to work very fast. To achieve this goal we must have a vehicle from which we can attain it. The MFP is clearly that vehicle. What has concerned me greatly is that until recently our new State Government was putting at risk such an opportunity to transform our economy. The MFP has been the subject of much public criticism and, at times, ridicule, and it is fair to say that in the past the concept was poorly marketed to South Australians.

It was also used as a political football at the last two Federal elections and, unfortunately, at the last State election. The Premier fell for the easy political option of knocking the MFP and making loud noises about how he would essentially scrap the project when he came to office. The Premier has since seen the foolishness of his policy position on the MFP and done an enormous backflip—

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

**Mr FOLEY:**—by his announcement earlier in the year that Gillman would be scrapped and the MFP name scrapped and replaced with the name SA Technopolis. I will be careful and not respond to those interjections, but I suspect that the next time I will be forced to.

I did not think it was possible to get a clumsier and perhaps a sillier name than the MFP, but I must say that with SA Technopolis our new Premier found one—and, of course, there is the establishment of his centres of excellence. I am yet to work out exactly what they are. Something has clearly happened in the past month or so since the Premier's policy announcement. What we now have is a joint statement between the State and Federal Governments announcing that the MFP is back on track. Gillman will still be utilised, albeit not as quickly as I would like and the funny name of the Premier's has simply disappeared in a puff of smoke.

I can only assume that in the past few weeks the MFP board and the Federal Government have finally convinced the Premier that we stood to lose this one in a million chance to transform our State's economy. It also is apparent to me that the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development (the member for Kavel) has also played an important role behind the scenes in getting the MFP back on track. I think it has to be acknowledged that the State's industry minister has a far better appreciation of what it takes to participate in a global economy than does his Leader.

In the words of a former Federal industry minister—and not the one with the sandwich shop—the MFP is South Australia's economic development future, and he is right. Australia's former senior trade commissioner to Japan, Mr Dennis Gustin—who was one of the original architects of the MFP—was also right when he said recently:

To lose the MFP would not leave Adelaide's economic revival impossible, just bloody difficult.

The MFP gives us a chance to offer a competitive advantage to attract investment in new industries. These new industries will not be attracted by offering financial inducements on their own; they will need to have an environment that is conducive and supportive of their aims.

I must also comment on the Premier's proposal to develop centres of excellence. I am confused as to what these are given that the Federal Government already funds a number of centres of excellence in this State along almost exactly the same lines as the Premier is talking about. I am sure this will be clarified once the industry minister has had the chance to repackage the Premier's somewhat confused policy statements and turn them into something of substance. The proposal of the Premier to simply increase the support provided to existing infrastructure, such as Technology Park, Science Park and the Waite Institute, is to my mind a narrow view and a mistake.

Such centres operate in every major city in every developed country in the world. We have to offer something broader and more dynamic than what the Premier is proposing to have a chance of attracting international capital. Whilst I agree that a greater emphasis should be placed on investment attraction as against urban development of the MFP we should still see the Gillman site as a vital and integral part of this project. Let us remember that the MFP is a 20 to 30 year project and not something that can be fully operational in five years. Projects similar to the MFP in France and Japan have taken 20 years to reach anywhere near full potential and are now providing thousands of highly skilled jobs to their local communities.

I would like to spend just a few more minutes discussing the Gillman site and its suitability for economic development. It is interesting when you consider the history of the Gillman site that the 1950 Greater Port Adelaide Plan, developed by the then South Australian Harbors Board, under the guidance

I might add of the former Premier Sir Thomas Playford, highlighted the Gillman site as a priority for the creation of a new industrial, commercial and residential estate. It in fact advocated the acquisition of considerable amounts of property at Gillman and also the acquisition of the Dean Rifle Range for the purpose of converting them into commercial and industrial areas. I think the former Lord Mayor of Adelaide, the member for Colton, would be interested to note that the Dean Rifle Range was talked about being acquired back in 1950.

The plan has extensive commentary on the commercial benefits of developing such a site that is close to port facilities and its proximity to the city of Adelaide. Indeed, Sir Thomas Playford was a man of vision, as he could clearly see the potential for developing our State's economy by the proper utilisation of the huge Gillman site. I would hope that a Premier who has publicly mentioned on many occasions his admiration and respect for Sir Thomas Playford and the vision he put in place to industrialise our State's economy would see the obvious benefits of the Gillman site to this State's economic development.

In conclusion, I would like to say once again that I am proud to serve as a Labor politician in an electorate steeped in Labor history. It has been important to me to have the support of a broad cross-section of the community but more significant has been the support I have received from the maritime unions of Australia, both the seamen's division and the waterside workers.

These unions have been the backbone of the industrial movement on the Le Fevre Peninsula for many, many decades. Although they have been suffering from the pressures of restructuring, they have never wavered in their support for the Labor Party.

I was also fortunate to have the support of Mr Jack Tapping, the brother of the late member for Semaphore, Mr Harold Tapping. Jack still works on our polling booths for us, at both State and Federal elections, and he still works in various community groups, and may I use this forum to congratulate Jack who has only recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday.

Finally, I would like to wish my predecessor the former Speaker of this House, the Hon. Norm Petersen, and his wife Carol, the very best in retirement, and as the new member for Hart I look forward to calling on Norm occasionally for a little bit of advice.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Venning):** Before calling on the member for Hanson, I remind the House that this is the honourable member's maiden speech and as is the custom I ask that he be heard in silence.

**Mr LEGGETT (Hanson):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate Her Excellency the Governor on her presentation of her address at the opening of the forty-eighth Parliament on Thursday 10 February. I also convey my congratulations to the Speaker on his election to the high office of Speaker of the House and to thank him for the help and tolerance that he has already extended to me and, no doubt, other newly elected members. I also offer my congratulations to new members and those re-elected to the House. My personal thanks is extended to the Clerk of the House, his deputy and staff for their assistance to me since becoming the member for Hanson.

As a former history teacher, it was both interesting and amusing to read in *Hansard* that a former member for Florey, when making his Address in Reply in 1970, referred to a

similar problem that I too have—a very poor sense of direction—yet good enough to find my seat in this historic House for many, many years to come. I, like Mr Wells and countless others before and after him, have been thankfully rescued by a very caring and patient parliamentary staff. I trust the new member for Florey does not emulate his predecessor.

I congratulate the Premier, Dean Brown, his Ministers, the Liberal Party Executive and the staff of the Secretariat for operating such a magnificent State election campaign. The advice and help that they gave to me as a candidate and to my campaign team was invaluable. The overall State-wide swing was tremendous, to say the least, and meant, of course, that all the western suburbs—all of them—some of which were regarded as heartland Labor seats became Liberal and will be Liberal for a long, long time contrary to the comments of the new member for Ross Smith, which were somewhat vague and disjointed.

To all of my helpers, door-knockers, letter-boxers, polling booth attendants and office helpers in Hanson, I thank you for your many hours of voluntary work. To my President, Mr Lin Andrews, my campaign director, Ms Lenore Triplow, and to my wife Marion and family in particular, I pay a personal tribute. December 11 may have been wet, but, oh, how the sun did shine on Sunday the 12th. I look forward to working with my enthusiastic team during the next four years to ensure that Hanson remains safe with the Liberal Government well into the twenty-first century.

I am honoured to be elected the member for Hanson: only the second such person. The first member for Hanson was Heini Becker, the now member for Peake. I thank Mr Becker for the encouragement and wise counsel that he has given to me since being elected and especially during my time as candidate for Hanson. Mr Becker was an outstanding member for Hanson for 23 years and never forgot that first and foremost he was the servant of the people. He has always been widely respected by the people of Hanson and I know that he will continue to give the constituents in Peake outstanding service in the future.

I have big shoes to fill—11½ triple Es (small canoes)—and I can assure my electorate that I will be a strong voice for them both in the community and in this Parliament. *Hansard* records that Mr Becker was the first member for Hanson. He was also the first Manager of the Bank of Adelaide elected to the House of Assembly. I have no banking background. Most of my working life has been spent in secondary education and counselling and, although perhaps I am not the first, certainly one of the few ordained ministers of religion elected to this House.

The seat of Hanson comprises 24 square kilometres. It is a long way to walk. On 11 December, at the election, 22 119 people were on the electoral roll. Hanson includes the suburbs of Glandore, Kurralta Park, Ashford, part of Keswick, Mile End, part of Cowandilla, Netley, Plympton, Camden, Richmond, West Richmond, part of Brooklyn Park and Marleston.

There are many struggling small businesses in my electorate. I look forward to this Government's reforms that will remove the limitations to business expansion and so improve the prospects of further employment in this State. Hanson has numerous light industries, and within its boundaries lies Adelaide Airport. In her address Her Excellency said that this Government intends to upgrade Adelaide Airport for both passenger and freight use. This is critical for South

Australia so that we can stimulate tourism and promote the export of perishable products.

Hanson has a large number of high and primary schools, together with church schools, within its boundaries. All parents and teachers are clearly waiting for the Government to improve school discipline through, as Her Excellency mentioned in her address, the introduction of a fair discipline code to signal a stronger approach and the need for greater cooperation between schools, students and families. As an experienced educator of more than 20 years, I am familiar with problems between students, teachers and parents. In recent years, as deputy headmaster of a private school, I have dealt with students who have been expelled from other schools, and I have seen remarkable changes in their lives. This has been due to the loving discipline and caring attitude of staff and individual or family counselling.

Hanson boasts two excellent community centres: the Camden and Glandore community centres. Both centres provide outstanding programs for people in the southern and western suburbs. Three local councils are also situated in Hanson: Marion, with Mayor Colin Haines; Thebarton, with Mayor Ms Annette O'Rielly; and West Torrens, with Mayor George Robertson. The electorate also boasts one league football club, West Adelaide, with its home ground at Richmond.

The Hanson electorate was named after a most distinguished South Australian, Sir Richard Davies Hanson. Born in London on 6 December 1805, and admitted as a solicitor in 1828, he wrote for the *Globe* and *Morning Chronicle* newspapers, and was active in promoting Wakefield's scheme of South Australian colonisation. In 1838 he accompanied the Earl of Durham upon his appointment as Governor-General to Canada. Upon Lord Durham's death in 1840, Hanson went to New Zealand, landing with the first settlers at Port Nicholas, now Wellington, and was Crown Prosecutor there until 1846. He settled in South Australia in that year and became one of its most distinguished public men. Advocate General from 1851, he drafted the Constitution for Responsible Government which was granted in 1856.

Sir Richard was Attorney-General in the first Cabinet in 1856-7, Premier and Attorney-General from 30 September 1857 to 9 May 1860, and was prominent in securing some of the early reforms which made South Australia famous, and which also included the Insolvency Act and the Real Property Act. He was the second Chief Justice of South Australia from November 1861 and was the first Chancellor of the University of Adelaide from 1874 until his death at Woodhouse, Piccadilly, on 4 March 1876. Sir Richard's death was a national loss. He was not only one of South Australia's greatest intellectuals but on the authority of an eminent barrister he was the greatest constitutional lawyer Australia had in his time.

Essentially a Liberal, Hanson stood out conspicuously among his contemporaries and the reformers of his day. A testimony at the time of his death was:

He leaves behind him enough to mark him as one of the first Australian Statesmen.

The *Register* (now the *Advertiser*) in its eulogy stated:

He exercised the greatest influence over the destinies of South Australia, and it would be difficult to name any man who has done so much to mould the future of the colony.

Since the declaration of the poll for Hanson on 22 December 1993 I have enjoyed the opportunity to assist many constituents and organisations with a variety of problems. A number of these are parochial issues sometimes needing to be referred

to a Government Minister. I would like to thank Government Ministers for their prompt action and concern for my constituents when I have had cause to correspond with them.

This year, 1994, is the International Year of the Family: a most strategic time. In her address Her Excellency referred to the fact that this Government is preparing a number of programs to mark this event. Former Premier David Tonkin, in his Address in Reply on 21 July 1970, as the member for Bragg, said:

Many young people are forced by lack of family communication and support to attract attention to their difficulties. These young people inevitably wound up in trouble.

That was 23 years ago, and still we have the same problems in our society that must be addressed. We can no longer ignore this dilemma of western society. We band-aid our problems in the hope that they will go away, but enormous social issues continue to remain and haunt us, and unless they are dealt with positively they will continue to remain for many years to come.

It is hardly surprising that one of the most significant sources of anxiety of the contemporary Australian concerns the widespread breakdown of family life. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 24 November 1993 reported a snapshot of the 1990s family in Australia, as follows:

92 per cent of all couples are married; 68 per cent of *de facto* relationships are aged between the years of 15 and 34; 202 900 families contain stepchildren; 56 per cent of married couples lived together before they were married (this is four times as many as in 1973); 12 per cent of persons over 15 years do not pay rent or board; 43 per cent informal child care is provided by the grandmother; 87 000 families contain a stepchild, adopted or a foster child.

What we conclude from these statistics is that many people still desperately look to the family for security and support, but on the other hand the quality of that life has been eroded by the pressures of permissiveness and a widespread neglect of Christian values and commitment, values which are not prudish and out of date but which are basic commonsense and foundational to society's well-being and survival. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, said:

All man's problems were created by man and can be solved by man.

There are three points which have helped to destroy family values in Australian society. They are:

1. Rising levels of unemployment and changing patterns of employment opportunities.
2. The invention of invisible money and credit has revolutionised our financial structures. Rapid distribution of household money is creating a new rich class and a new big poor class, or our middle class is shrinking and a dream of egalitarianism is under threat.

3. As the economic structure breaks down there is loss of hope for the future coupled with the stress of poverty that contributes to the breakdown of family relationships.

Families are still seen as having the potential to provide the emotional security of a permanent relationship as well as a strong sense of identity arising from such a relationship. The role of parents is fundamental in terms of both rights and responsibilities. Author Margaret Mead says:

Parents have the duty to provide for their offspring and they are usually the best judges of their children's needs.

Mead goes on to say:

Family policy must be built upon a foundation of economic growth.

All responsible parents love their children, and it is a privilege to be a parent—a great privilege.

Family life is not a matter of legislative battles, judicial decrees and executive decisions: it is a fabric of helping

hands and good neighbours, household budget balancing and loving one's kids. It is downright hard work with responsibility meaning that no-one ducks for cover or takes the easy way out. In past Government legislation we have made the painful issue of divorce much easier on families, but no divorce is easy. Much suffering occurs with delicate emotional issues involved. I believe that these days much better counselling is available than was the case in the past, but this facility should be given greater prominence so that couples who have a chance to stay together can receive the necessary help to enable them do so.

Perhaps rather than just teaching schoolchildren the physical aspects of male/female relationships, a social education course needs to include the more important issue of the advantages of permanent relationships, that is, how to maintain love and friendship. Love is not automatic. It is a conscious learning process, and so much can be achieved in our education system to prepare young children for the future.

From an abridged version of the Bauer report, a report to Ronald Reagan in December 1986, the author states:

The experience of history shows that family and liberty are natural companions, not enemies.

The family should be the primary training ground for individual responsibility, for self sacrifice, and for seeking a common goal rather than self interest. Without those virtues democracy breaks down in an unrestrained battle of each against the other.

In my time as an educator it has been blatantly clear that children learn most by example, and much of that example is demonstrated in the home, especially in the early formative years. Men, too, have an important role to play in the family. Men must give women the respect and freedom they deserve and must fulfil their role as husband and father in a loving and nurturing way. The feminist movement would never have occurred if men had been more understanding and treated their women as equals. Men and women should work side by side, not one lauding it over another.

I would especially like to see an end to violence in the home. The degree of sexual abuse to both women and children is disintegrating the personalities of so many young people that their ability to form normal relationships, and later marital relationships, is all but destroyed. Many such abused young people turn to drugs, end up in mental institutions or prisons and need special help. I would like to see an improvement in the rehabilitation programs for battered wives and abused children so that quality of life can become a reality to these disadvantaged victims of family crime.

The single parent who arises from broken relationships is in a difficult situation. Support from the Government is only one avenue of assistance. We must also encourage community and church organisations as well. I would also like to see large businesses provide child-care facilities so that their employees have an opportunity to develop their working careers and gain much needed independence. For the improvement of the quality of family life there needs to be an end to the exploitation of women.

A minority group in our society declares that we should be able to read and see whatever we like. I suggest that not one of us is free to do as we like. As a family community—a fact from which there is no escape—we are responsible to one another. The old saying 'to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves' should be our goal in life and the basis of our legislation in Parliament. For this reason I would offer my congratulations and support to the Attorney-General for his stand in banning the film *Salò*. His move had nothing

to do with religious piety or preventing so-called liberty, but it is a necessary curtailment on the violated community standards that affect the quality of human relationships.

I believe that we must return to some of the fundamentals of the past that form the basic foundation to life together as individual families and the wider family of the community.

I would like to read an extract from a letter printed in the *Advertiser* of Saturday 12 February this year from respected educator Mr Dudley Burton, as follows:

The Brown Government has shown signs that it will govern with authority. After all, that is what the verb 'to govern' means. Our community wants a return of authority to the Police Force, to the courts, to the schools, to the homes, on the roads and in the streets. We enjoyed this authority in the past and we want it again. For this, I shall be labelled 'authoritarian', and rightly so. For 85 years I have believed in and lived with authority, obedience, discipline and respect for myself and for others. The binding power of this is love—love of family, love of home, love of one's fellow men and women, love of sane living. May this Government bring back authority, discipline and respect. It will need to be impervious to the clamour of the ideologists who howl for rights and liberties but are silent on the corresponding responsibilities. Let authority and freedom be in balance.

In his report to the United States President, Bauer said:

The standards of behaviour are not private. They are the key to citizenship.

This applies whether it be in the United States of America, Australia or South Australia. The way we live our private lives affects our ability to get a job and to hold regular employment. It affects our productivity, and it affects our ability to find a spouse; to be responsible for and maintain a household; to educate our children; and to contribute in a vital way to the life of our community.

When our culture sent the message to our young people that all these things did not matter it not only failed our young people but also betrayed the public interest. I look forward to my participation on the Social Development Committee as we review crucial issues that affect the future of our society. Mr Acting Speaker, 1994 also commemorates 100 years of women's suffrage in South Australia. In 1894, South Australia led the way when women voted for the first time. Winning the vote for women in 1894 was a milestone in South Australia's history. This pioneering legislation was an inspiration to women in other States and nations. One realises how progressive our State was when we see that history records that women did not vote in the United States until 1920 and that in the United Kingdom women over the age of 21 had to wait until 1928.

I am sure that we all share the views of the Premier when in his speech at the reception for the sponsors and Women's Suffrage Centenary Steering Committee on 25 January he said:

We have the opportunity to make South Australians aware of the richness and diversity of the contribution of women to the past, present and future development of this State.

We are privileged to learn about the resoluteness of women and their courage as they fought for their rights, especially their right to vote. It is also encouraging to see more women in our Parliaments. I believe that the special gifts and the insights that they have to offer will be invaluable to future legislation.

I look forward to my term as the second Liberal member for Hanson. Together with my Hanson State electorate committee and support group, I accept enthusiastically the challenge that lies ahead of us during the next four years and beyond.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Venning):** Before calling on the member for Elder, I remind the House that this is the

honourable member's maiden speech and, as is the custom of this House, I ask that he be heard in silence.

**Mr WADE (Elder):** I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. In so doing I commend Her Excellency on a speech that was directed towards a positive future; it is an inspiration to all South Australians. I congratulate the Speaker on his appointment to that high office and to the role that he will no doubt perform with the highest of integrity. I would also like to acknowledge the former member for the electorate of Mitchell, of which Elder was once a part. I wish him well in his future endeavours.

I congratulate new members on both sides on their appointments, although I must admit I am especially pleased to see so many friends of the same persuasion in this House. Perhaps it is a sign of the times that we have so many friends in so many places, friends who support this Government's drive to achieve the rightful prosperity which has been denied our State for so long. It is a pleasure and an honour to represent the people of Elder. Elder is a new electorate, comprising the suburbs of Ascot Park, Clarence Gardens, Clovelly Park, Edwardstown, Melrose Park, Parkholme, Plympton Park and South Plympton. It also takes in some of Oaklands Park and Morphettville.

As members can see, Elder is a microcosm of this State—a cross-section of the suburbs and the styles of living in this State. For too many years the residents of Elder have been taken for granted by a Government that has allowed them to become the unwilling victims of social, economic and environmental abuse. On 11 December 1993 they placed their trust, their future prosperity, and their hopes and dreams into the capable hands of a dynamic, fresh Administration, an Administration of which I am proud to be an integral and active member.

Part of my electorate comprises small and medium sized businesses surrounded by private and public housing. The positive aspects of such an arrangement are obvious. Local business can rely on a ready supply of local labour, whilst people are able to gain employment within a very short distance of their homes and their families. However, this supposedly idyllic arrangement has sinister, negative aspects that have become apparent over the past decade. The lack of planning and foresight by councils, Government instrumentalities and Government itself has allowed an intermingling of housing and industry. In the suburb of Edwardstown, houses abut industries. There is no planned green belt of separation; there is no unplanned green belt; in fact, there is precious little open space area in the whole suburb. Edwardstown has two areas designated as recreation areas: one is a very small recreation area, the other is a bituminised car park.

The children of Edwardstown have been denied access to recreation areas that are taken for granted in better planned suburbs. Abuse in the storage, use and disposal of industrial chemicals has brought about such environmental pollution that the street gutters in Edwardstown have run green with chemical waste. That is about the only green some residents get to see on a regular basis. On some days the air is so bad that the occupants of houses dare not open their windows for fear of being overcome by the stench. Such a scene is reminiscent of the Dark Ages, when the practice of discarding one's rubbish into the gutter was the norm rather than the exception. Our current urban environmental situation has not occurred due to an absence of State laws and regulations.

We are bound by such laws and regulations. Local councils have established, albeit belatedly, environmental health sections and consultative committees.

One may ask why, with all these laws, regulations and committees, the local community should see fit to establish in 1992 an action group to try to combat chemical, air and noise pollution within the Edwardstown and Melrose Park areas. The Edwardstown and Melrose Park Residents Action Group was established because little had been accomplished by Government authorities charged with the responsibility of maintaining a clean and safe urban environment. No-one was listening to residents' concerns which had been voiced for nearly two decades and which had fallen largely on deaf ears. This has been in spite of a plethora of agencies set up at national, State and local levels, with representation from employers, trade unions and universities. This paralysis of activity was due to a total lack of leadership and direction. Page 11 of Her Excellency's speech will bring comfort to all those who have felt betrayed and isolated in their urban environmental nightmares. Her Excellency states:

Priorities for pollution control and waste management have been established through the office of the Environment Protection Authority. These include the negotiation of environment improvement programs with key industries.

Her Excellency further stated that this Government's State conservation strategy will, amongst other things, 'focus on the future development and conservation of South Australia's living resources'. I will be seeking definitive action by the Environment Protection Authority to conserve the most precious of our living resources—our people, and especially our people of Edwardstown and Melrose Park. I will be seeking assurances that the voice of local industry is fairly heard and that it is an equal partner in environmental decisions. Answers do not lie in removing residents or removing local industry. Both are here to stay, and both have a crucial role to play. Local industry must review its house-keeping practices to minimise noise, reduce exhaust emissions, and ensure safe use and disposal of chemicals. These reviews should be carried out in conjunction with residents and Government in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation towards achieving agreed objectives, not in an atmosphere of recrimination and unreasonable demands.

Council needs to review its administrative mechanisms in respect of zoning requirements, the advice it gives to local industry, its data collection techniques and its handling of residents' concerns. Residents need to take new heart after a decade of being ignored. They must be involved in finding viable solutions to these environmental problems. It is time for all parties to stop being part of the problem and to start being part of the solution. The dark ages are coming to an end. The will is there, the resources are there and we shall supply the leadership.

Elder has many hundreds of small businesses that now have strong Government leadership to raise them from the recessionary doldrums to new heights of business confidence. It was a pleasure to read in Her Excellency's speech on page 6:

A task force is being appointed to undertake a major review of Government property holdings and oversee the identification and sale of under-utilised and surplus assets.

I have to look at only one business on South Road that has wanted to expand its operations and employ more people. It has sought to purchase a vacant block of land at market value near its current premises, a block of land owned by a Government instrumentality. Four years have passed and the company still has not been able to purchase the land at market

value. Development has ground to a halt, no jobs are forthcoming, and the instrumentality maintains its surplus vacant block of land which, I might add, has been on the market since 1990 at an unrealistically high price. Identifying major assets is easy, but how many assets are little plots of surplus land, buildings, plant or machinery that are retained for no other reason than a desire by the department or instrumentality to keep what it has at any cost. The task force is long overdue and the business community of Elder welcomes it.

The Government's comprehensive package to stimulate new investment opportunities and create jobs is a decisive and bold plan that has set this State on the road to reconstruction. These steps will restore consumer and business confidence. They will reduce the cost of employment, a cost that must be paid regardless of the capacity of the employer to pay or the employee's ability to contribute to the product or service. Incentives have been provided for firms which are currently exporting and further incentives are in place to stimulate new export production.

Those who may question these initiatives—initiatives that encourage a new climate of international competitiveness—should compare our business environment with that of our northern neighbours. The Economic Development Board of Singapore offers a number of inducements to firms to set up business. Some of these inducements are that new companies pay no company tax for the first five to ten years; and investment in new plant, machinery and equipment automatically attracts up to 50 per cent tax allowance off company profits. After the tax-free start-up period, companies can still get 15 per cent off the normal 33 per cent company tax for another five years. Small businesses in Singapore can receive low-interest flexible loans or even cash grants to modernise, upgrade, build factories, buy equipment or to cover the cost of developing new products.

Venture capital investments in enterprises, at least half locally owned, can be written off against the venture's other income. The list goes on and on. Similar deals are available in Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and even the People's Republic of China. In most cases, there is the added bonus of a low-cost, well-trained and highly-motivated work force. This Government has created a new and exciting export environment and is well on the way to establishing a successful formula for nurturing and growing our small dynamic business enterprises. The alternative is to let them die on a so-called level playing field.

Public safety and welfare have become almost a laughing stock over the past decade. The population of South Australia increased by only 100 000 people from 1982 to 1991. Within that same decade, we have experienced an horrendous increase in crime. The figures per 100 000 population are staggering. Violent crime is up by 176 per cent; robberies, up by 217 per cent; break-ins, up by 107 per cent; serious assaults, up by 144 per cent. There are now 37 assaults of all kinds, including sexual assaults, each and every day. That is one every 39 minutes, each and every day. Arson and wilful damage offences are up in number by 104 per cent, whilst drug and cannabis offences are up in number by 199 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively. Rape and attempted rapes are up by 205 per cent in that decade. Based on these dark statistics, I think I can safely say that the previous Government failed to protect the community and failed to effectively address both the symptoms and the causes of our spiralling crime rate.

The community reacted to this colossus of crime in the only way that a civilised community can respond. Community-based Neighbourhood Watch branches were established in 1985, followed by Rural Watch, River Watch, Hospital Watch, School Watch, to name just a few. The police and other agencies have given their total support to these community initiatives in crime prevention, at the same time initiating their own programs such as blue light discos and blue light camps, conducted with community support.

Let us be in no doubt that our Police Force is not to blame for this breakdown in community safety. The police must work within the legal system, the court system, allocated resources and Government direction. Our community is thankful that the South Australian Police Force has a long and honourable history of producing efficient and honest police officers.

Elder has four Neighbourhood Watch branches, whose members on a daily basis seek to protect people and property. It is a task they perform willingly without expectation of reward or praise. For example, in September last year a female resident was set upon by two youths whilst walking along the street. One of the youths wielded a baseball bat. One youth went for the woman's handbag, and as she struggled to keep her possessions she was thrown onto the road. Neighbourhood Watch went into action and a Neighbourhood Watch resident—in fact, a former zone leader—heard the scuffle and rang 11444. The police were quickly on the scene and with the help of the dog squad apprehended the two youths. Other Neighbourhood Watch residents comforted the woman until an ambulance arrived and took her to hospital. Already in poor health, the woman, who is in her 70s, suffered a broken wrist, broken arm and other injuries.

In the Children's Court the 16-year-old was released on a bond. The 17-year-old who brandished the baseball bat received 12 months detention. He had already broken into a factory that same morning and was under the influence of Serapax at the time of the assault. It is time for the judicial system to protect the innocent and start imposing appropriate consequences on the guilty. Neighbourhood Watch in Elder is not just about attending meetings: it is an attitude, a state of mind that is community oriented rather than wallowing in self-interest. The community of Ascot Park is indeed proud to have a Neighbourhood Watch area coordinator, Mr. John Berry, whose services to the community span over 45 years and who recently received a well deserved recognition as Citizen of the Year. We all applaud John, who epitomises the dedication and commitment to our community of Neighbourhood Watch residents.

However, making our homes fortresses does not make our streets safe. Neighbourhood Watch residents are indeed watching, and what they need to see is more blue uniforms on the streets of our suburbs: it is the visual deterrent that is the most effective. Crime prevention is mainly local in character and we shall encourage the re-emergence of community police stations. This does not mean a cop on every corner. Neighbourhood policing will provide the police with an intimate knowledge of each neighbourhood and its hot spots. It will forge a closer relationship between police, residents, local government, businesses, schools, welfare agencies and voluntary organisations. The process has already begun. We will give our streets back to the community. We shall restore the respect for people, possessions and the law. Concerns in Elder about the environment, community safety and the maintenance of a strong, expanding business presence



are only a few of the wide-ranging issues that must be addressed by this Government.

Some are complex and will involve a new cooperation between levels of Government and private agencies to achieve long-term, satisfactory conclusions. Demarcation lines drawn between departments that define each role and each responsibility must be reviewed and, where necessary, erased. It is a sad fact of life that such barriers usually protect the department at the expense of the people, and I cite one case which I am certain is but one of many. A dedicated, caring family chose to keep their severely intellectually disabled child at home and raise him in a family environment. Part of the child's continuing therapy is to be given frequent warm baths and showers.

The child is a risk to himself and others because of his extremely destructive behaviour. He is oblivious of danger and will test his surroundings until breaking point—and breaking point is very frequent. The pressure on the family of this constant, demanding and challenging behaviour is enormous, but they are persevering as they have done for the past 10 years. The family lived in a Housing Trust home and transferred to a trust home near Adelaide to be closer to support services, which they obtain through the Intellectual Disability Services Council.

The family received a bill totalling nearly \$1 000 for damages caused by the boy to the first trust home. They also received a rather large excess water bill as a result of the medical treatment required for the boy. The trust rejected the family's request for waiving the excess water bill for medical reasons as it was contrary to trust policy, and rejected an appeal for waiving the damage bill, because it was contrary to the trust's maintenance policy. In normal circumstances these policies are correct, and there is no suggestion that trust officers were not sympathetic to the family's plight. But policy is policy.

The family do not receive any monetary assistance for caring for their son at home. There has been no policy to cover such a situation, although it was the previous Government's policy to keep such children at home. If the family give up the fight and decide to place their son in the care of the Health Commission, it will cost the taxpayer \$160 000 to establish a service in a home for the boy. It will cost a further \$70 000 per year to provide ongoing 24 hour care.

Group homes for such children incur an annual cost to the taxpayer of about \$260 000. At the moment neither the Health Commission nor the Housing Trust takes any financial responsibility for the plight of this family. I have raised this issue as a matter of urgency with the Government and will seek its inclusion in the review that will be undertaken into all services to the disabled. I am of the firm belief that relevant change is absolutely vital if our State is to strive confidently into the twenty-first century and not stagger into third world oblivion. Tonight I have brought some of these required changes to the attention of this House.

It is not my place to stand before you and espouse my personal opinions and my personal view of life. It is my responsibility to bring to this House the views of my electorate and to fairly represent its interests on other matters which may not be directly related to my electorate but which are relevant to the growth and well-being of this State. On this day I wish to acknowledge the magnificent efforts of my supporters during the election campaign: my campaign manager, my campaign team and especially my wife, Anita, and my two daughters, Roxanne and Georgina, who suffered the most yet complained the least.

I thank the people of Elder, for without their faith and support I would not be standing in this place representing their interests. The election process can divide a community. It can open old wounds and create new ones. It may continue to divide and weaken us, if we allow it. We must now take this opportunity to develop our community so that all may benefit and each may achieve their purpose in life. Over the coming years I shall continue to sow the seeds of community involvement so that our children and our children's children will reap the benefits of our efforts. I thank the people of Elder for placing their trust in me and in the new direction that we have embraced. That trust is not misplaced. I will represent the views of my electorate firmly, honestly and without reservation. That is my commitment to the people of Elder. I support the motion.

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling on the honourable member for Kaurna, I remind the House that this is a maiden speech and I ask that the normal courtesies be extended.

**Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna):** I have much pleasure in supporting the Address in Reply. Her Excellency, Dame Roma Mitchell, has advised Parliament of a wide range of initiatives this Government will implement. I have had the pleasure of meeting Her Excellency on a few occasions and most recently in my electorate where she launched the Leap Scheme on the banks of the Onkaparinga. Her interest in the environment and our youth is well known, so it was a fitting occasion, indeed.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the electors of Kaurna for the honour they have bestowed upon me and the opportunity they have given me as a Liberal member in a Liberal Government. I am indeed honoured to have the opportunity to be part of the recovery that will happen under a Liberal Government in South Australia. We have a massive rebuilding program to implement to reverse the lack of activity in business and development and to return incentives to these areas. Debt reduction will form the basis of our policies for the next four years, to recover the lost ground where South Australia finds itself lagging behind other States in consumer confidence, investment and economic activity.

Our only growth industry under Labor was bankruptcy. Economic growth is an extremely important ingredient in ensuring success of a Government—the growth that will occur where appropriate economic climate exists to encourage the risk takers to invest in South Australia. The electorate of Kaurna was created by the most recent boundary redistribution. It is based on the old boundaries of Baudin and takes in O'Sullivan Beach from the Bright electorate and Old Noarlunga from Heysen.

The previous electorate of Baudin was represented for a long time by Dr Don Hopgood. I would like to pay particular tribute to the long service Dr Hopgood gave to this Parliament. Although I did not support his Party politics, I always found him a considerate and pleasant man. The electorate is named after the Kaurna tribe of Aborigines who are recorded as covering the whole of the Adelaide plains, from Adelaide through to Cape Jervis.

Kaurna is rich in Aboriginal culture and sites of significance. Some of these sites are well documented and well known, while others are much less publicised. All my fellow members of Parliament will be familiar with the story of Tjilbruke who was saddened by his nephew's death and walked from Adelaide to Cape Jervis, stopping to cry from place to place and so creating many water holes in the

process. Many of these have been drained and several of the significant sites have already been lost to housing development.

The electorate of Kaurna spreads from O'Sullivan Beach in the north, adjacent to the Mobil oil refinery, to Sellicks Beach in the south. The electorate is vastly different from area to area. In the north O'Sullivan Beach and Christies Beach have the majority of the industry and small business that exists in Kaurna. The Lonsdale industrial area is nearby and employs many people from the electorate of Kaurna.

For an electorate like Kaurna, which is so dependent on small business, the effects of the previous Labor Government's extended shop trading hours was devastating. These hours were acceptable to the big retailers whose employees were under the national award and as a result did not have to pay the overtime. But what of the small business that tried to compete with the added burden of the increased salary requirements? This one uncaring act, implemented swiftly and without consultation, showed how little regard Labor has for small business in this State.

The section of the electorate covering Noarlunga Downs has a large Housing Trust component and encompasses the Southern Sports Complex. The Noarlunga Downs community has a growing focus at the Elanora Community Cafe, which serves an important social function for this section of Kaurna. Many people come into Housing Trust houses now as priority listings, as a result of domestic violence, homelessness and poor income. More and more the Housing Trust is servicing just the growing list of emergency cases, while the overall list increases and the waiting line grows longer. Our incentive for Housing Trust tenants to buy their own homes is an excellent scheme. The appalling neglect of Housing Trust stocks and growing unemployment has seen the waiting list grow to over 40 000 people.

On the other side, the Southern Sports Complex adds a new dimension to Noarlunga Downs and, as the Premier is the No.1 ticket holder for the South Adelaide Football Club, I am sure that he is looking forward to attending the first match of the season in Kaurna. Let us hope it is a home match.

Old Noarlunga is a particularly unique section of Kaurna with the Onkaparinga flowing through the town. This is one of the longest established communities in Kaurna and has lobbied for many years for deep drainage. The requests have fallen on deaf ears, but thanks to a Liberal commitment the area is now to be seweraged in 1995-96. The previous Liberal member for the township worked hard towards that commitment. Labor Ministers in the past were not even prepared to visit the township until Kaurna became a marginal seat. The Liberal Government has also responded to community pressure to make the intersection from the town safe by the installation of traffic lights.

Moving southward, Port Noarlunga, Seaford, Moana and Seaford Rise represent a rapidly growing section of the electorate. This population expansion has put particular pressure on the road systems and the small Saltfleet Bridge across the Onkaparinga River. Very serious and urgent consideration must be given to an alternative river crossing and a bypass of the Port Noarlunga township. Planning must now begin for the rebuilding of those facilities. The planning of the third arterial road is welcomed by many in the south but all the other extensions must also be planned and implemented.

Seaford Rise is a new area which is separated from the older existing areas by a major road. The potential for

integration of these two sections of the community may be further hindered by the upgrade of that major road. There is a unique challenge here for our Government to be particularly careful not to ignore the older communities while servicing the new. The integration of old and new communities is sometimes difficult, but in this case must be encouraged and fostered.

After Moana Heights all the electorate of Kaurna southwards to Sellicks Beach is in the Willunga council area. Having served on that council for seven years, I have a strong understanding of the problems in this area and also the unique opportunities facing it. Past Labor policies have actively discouraged any development in this area by freezing basic services. This has not stopped people wanting to live in this region and indeed has not dampened demand. Our Government policy to protect the Willunga basin and encourage agriculture is a reflection of years of lobbying by the community. The commitment to no urban development to the east of Main South Road shows a commitment to maintaining what is the attractiveness of that area. However, it is not acceptable for governments to refuse to service the basic needs of an area that has been established and housed for so long.

Our Government has committed funds to build the Aldinga Beach sewage treatment works in the 1995-96 budget period. This is a long awaited project for this area, promised many times by Labor but never delivered. As a past member of the Southern Water Resources Committee, I fully support the sensible plan to link sewage treatment to water re-use for agriculture.

Improved transport to this southern area is essential to facilitate job prospects and to prevent serious isolation problems. Those improvements are currently being planned by our Government. Our Transport Minister has shown a true understanding and commitment to the needs of our far south, which is known locally as the 'deep south' because it was ignored for so long by Labor. The Aldinga police station remains a firm commitment by our Government, and I want to pay particular credit to the community for the lobbying support they have given to this issue and to the Minister for Emergency Services for responding positively.

Kaurna has significant environmental areas within its boundaries. The Aldinga Conservation Park and the Aldinga reef are under considerable pressure from urban development. Stormwater retention in areas around the park and land care by improved farming methods will help protect these areas. My masters degree in soil conservation means I have a particular interest in soil degradation and problems associated with stormwater run off. Stormwater is one of our largest assets, currently wasted by being channelled to sea. I applaud our Environment Minister for his policy initiatives to retain stormwater. The Onkaparinga River system has huge tourist potential and is a significant system that must be protected.

The Christies Creek system runs through part of Kaurna and is under considerable stress because the catchment is substantially urban. There is an attempt to produce an integrated catchment management plan for this creek system. Catchment studies in other parts of the State, such as Jamestown, show that an overall catchment system is by far the most successful scheme. Our beaches need protection from effluent discharge, and I look forward to work at the Christies treatment works to address this issue.

Reference to the environment in Kaurna would not be complete without acknowledgment of Mr Rudi Schutze, who was awarded the OAM on Australia Day for services to the

environment. Rudi is a resident of Kaurna in Moana, and is a tireless worker for the environment in the southern area.

The environmental attributes linked to our quality beaches and agricultural backdrop mean that the tourist potential for Kaurna is limitless. Properly planned and developed, this could be the growth industry for our electorate. Planning for tourism and development within Kaurna must be done in close consultation with local government. Our Government, through the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations, last Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Willunga council dealing with the Willunga basin area. This represents an excellent start for our Government to facilitate good relations with local government. My fellow southern members and I will be meeting regularly with both Willunga and Noarlunga councils to maintain this close contact and two-way flow of ideas and decisions.

My agricultural science background, which I share with several other members of this House, together with my research background, makes me very keen to support the implementation of our MFP policy to encourage centres of excellence. I am keen to see more funds channelled into superb research facilities and further development of our universities, the Waite Institute and research hospitals. As a firsthand witness of the research brain drain from South Australia to other States and overseas because of lack of research funds, I will support and fight for research funds in South Australia. My agricultural science background has also given me a sense of one with rural South Australia, and I am keen to see our regional development policies take effect to keep rural towns alive and to support our rural hospitals and schools. The farming community has long been the silent suffering partner in South Australia. It certainly deserves better treatment than it has received from past Labor Governments.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the volunteers of our State, for example, the CFS, Neighbourhood Watch, community transport and neighbour aid schemes. These volunteers save the Government millions of dollars each year, and as a Government we should be immensely grateful to them for the work they do. Community spirit must be fostered and encouraged.

The regional shopping centre for the south is Colonnades at Noarlunga Centre. The complex has superb recreational facilities such as the aquatic centre, St Vincent's bowling alley and Wallis Theatres. Some of these facilities exist because of the foresight of the Noarlunga council. TAFE, the Noarlunga Health Village, the Noarlunga council chambers and the Noarlunga Hospital form the hub for all the southern area, and I feel a particular responsibility having all these facilities within my electorate.

Noarlunga TAFE is full to the brim. The TAFE theatre has become the home of the Backstairs Theatre Company. In the truly devastating recession forced upon this State by the Federal policies of Labor, TAFE has filled an ever expanding role by offering courses for those looking for further education as the answer to their poor job prospects. Unfortunately, it has led to permanent course takers with no prospect of jobs at the end, leading to disillusionment and frustration.

This Government's youth strategy with traineeships and incentives for small business to take on the young unemployed means that now there is real light at the end of the tunnel. The Noarlunga Health Services represents a successful system of overall integration of facilities for the southern area. Housed within the village are various outreach services

and the Noarlunga Volunteer Service. The Noarlunga Hospital has the potential to be a gem within the southern area with its connection to the Flinders Medical Centre and the Southern Districts War Memorial Hospital.

The people of Kaurna have an opportunity to have the best health care in South Australia. Unfortunately, past savage funding cuts by Labor have seen all these hospitals struggle to service the community to capacity. Our Government has made a commitment to rebudget the southern districts to its former level, and I will be looking for further funding improvements for the Noarlunga Hospital to cut the waiting lists urgently. Our Minister for Health has already put this strategy into action. The consultation process is well under way and the new system is to be introduced in July. Waiting lists are a tragedy in South Australia, and the past Government's response is encapsulated in a comment by one former Minister of Health that the waiting lists were decreasing, that some people were dying. That is rather a permanent solution to the waiting list problem, but I do not think it is a satisfactory one.

Unemployment has been the single most devastating issue to hit South Australia. Small business was hit hard by both Federal and State Labor policies and resulted in a shrinkage of the job potential in Kaurna. Unemployment is a morally devastating situation placing people in what appears to be a downhill spiral, broken self-esteem and a sense of personal worthlessness. I believe that Governments should look towards schemes where the unemployed work for a portion of the week if only to keep up the work ethic and communication skills and to give them a sense of achievement. For those members who do not believe there is a need for such a scheme, I suggest they go into my electorate and talk to the unemployed and ask them what they think. I have done so for 12 months in Kaurna and I am confident that such a scheme would be welcomed and applauded by all age groups.

Union opposition is usually quoted as a stumbling block for such a scheme, but unions have become largely irrelevant to the average workplace and the benefit to the individual should override the gain of the union hierarchy. Small business will be the key to increased employment in Kaurna, and I am pleased with the acceptance of our small business initiatives which are detailed in the jobs package. My office already has had many inquiries about these initiatives, and I am confident that attitudes in the business sector are more positive now that we have returned to a Liberal Government in South Australia.

The electorate is looking for positive and strong reform in law and order and the justice system. People believe there must be a return to a system where there is fear in the punishment system. Labour prisons should become just that: the sentences should be true sentences that fit the crime. Christies Beach Police Station is a regional patrol base for the southern area and has been under-resourced in the past. Urgent attention needs to be given to manpower resources. During the election campaign I went on a shift with a patrol from Christies Beach to see at first hand their workload and response times.

Vandalism and graffiti are particular problems in Kaurna, and the recent destruction of the Noarlunga interchange is an example of the wanton destruction. The new community safety policing policy, if piloted at Noarlunga, will be a welcome initiative in that area. Examples of the problems of the judicial system are many, but I will relate just one. A member of the Kaurna electorate was beaten by her husband, who broke her jaw and collar bone. He received a \$300 fine

in court. I wonder what his punishment would have been if he had inflicted that degree of injury on a football umpire. To have gaol space used by fine defaulters is moronic, and I would support strongly the use of more community service orders in order to free up gaols for those who really should be there.

This year is the centenary of the granting of the vote to women and the right for women to stand for Parliament. I welcome my fellow women members of Parliament, as indeed the men, here and in another place. Jessie Cooper stated that women politicians worked two times harder than their male counterparts to become elected, and I believe that largely still holds true.

Many people in the community might believe that women have come a long way from Jessie Cooper's time in Parliament, but it was not until this Liberal Government that it was proposed purposefully to examine the extent of impediments to women standing for Parliament. It was not until this Government that direct measures had been proposed to involve more women in urban planning networks and design issues for housing.

The requirement of all Government legislation to consider the impact on the family is a significant advance for women. Currently women comprise 52 per cent of the Public Service but only 10.8 per cent at the executive level. Clearly, this is not fair representation and will need to be addressed. However, I am mindful of the fact that the overriding issue here, as with all these initiatives, is that merit must still be the key benchmark for selection. I do not accept, however, that the poor representation by women is due to lack of women with merit.

Women in the workplace have become a necessity for many families. The added stress of child-care facilities and costs adds to the pressure facing working women. In all of my past employment I have been lucky to have been able to negotiate flexible working hours around my children without union interference. Others are not so lucky. The introduction of an expanded definition of 'sick leave' to make time for caring for sick children is an essential factor for many women.

This is the International Year of the Family, so what better time to examine closely the workings of departments that administer family support, in particular, the workings of the Department of Family and Community Services? I refer to the ease with which children can leave the family home and be set up independently of the family without parental supervision. The family must be strengthened above all else. We must be spending more money on strategies to keep families together and not splitting them apart. The community deserves to see equal treatment of men and women.

It is time the system was more flexible to allow one by one case examinations, especially in the area of funding for the disabled. I look to this Government to give incentives for those who can help themselves to do so, rather than proliferate the welfare dependent State. I believe that we are all Australians, regardless of colour or race, and we should all be treated equally.

Certainly, I have a special plea to the youth of South Australia: I encourage our youth to seek information and demand answers of their Parliament, become informed and become involved.

Apathy is a poor Government's best ally. I encourage youth to seek open and frank discussion and, most importantly, I ask our youth to contribute to the process. Electorate involvement in policy discussion will mean that the sorts of

scare campaigns we have recently seen by Labor will never again have a chance of success.

Many vexing questions will come before Parliament and the people of South Australia and much debate will be needed. The Liberal Party went to the people with a clear and concise series of objectives and a plan for South Australian recovery. Debt management was the key factor in all policies, and this Government has been given a clear and massive mandate to put major reforms into place in South Australia.

I ask that members of another place remember this mandate when they deliberate on the legislation before them. It is one thing to debate openly but it is another thing to be obstructionist to the will of the people.

Lastly, I want to thank my campaign team for the hours of valuable support given to me during the past 12 months. The Hon. Jamie Irwin MLC was my campaign manager and the member for Ridley was my parliamentary pair. I extend to them my very warm thanks.

I would like finally to thank Kaurna and Ridley SEC's for their support to the South Australian Young Liberals and members of Parliament who supported me in doorknocking. I extend my sincere thanks to the fundraising team, and I extend my special congratulations to the central campaign group for a job well done.

I owe a debt of gratitude to my husband Simon and my children, Danielle and Andrew, who have sacrificed much over the past 12 months. They were always there behind me when I needed their support. I look forward to representing Kaurna with integrity and honesty and to working with my parliamentary colleagues to get South Australia moving in a forward direction. I support the motion.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

**The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD (Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations):** I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** In this debate I wish to follow on from the comments made by my colleague the member for Kaurna in relation to the matter of stormwater retention and the reuse of sewage. However, before doing so, as someone who has been in this in place for just one term, I would like to say how much of a pleasure it has been to sit here today to listen to the new members make their maiden speeches. It is particularly heartening to be part of a Government that for a change does not have to come up with tired diatribes and to listen instead to some fresh and innovative ideas and to be part of a Government that will get this State up and running, because there has been little example of that in the past four years.

I am particularly pleased to note that we have had maiden speeches from three women on this side of the House. I note that, despite the fact that our numbers have not doubled, the increase in women on this side of the House is 150 per cent and the decrease on the other side of the House is 200 per cent. When the Party that sits opposite continues to say that it represents disadvantaged groups I suggest that the public look at its numbers.

It was very pleasing to see that one of Premier's initial moves—and I note that the Minister here tonight is vitally concerned with that move—was to promise the clean up of

the Patawalonga and the River Torrens system, both of which the Premier has very quickly moved to implement. I commend the words of the member for Kaurna to the House, because it is an important problem and a problem which I hope this Government will always keep before it.

We live on a plain from which the natural drainage system flowed from creeks into swamplands. When we settled these plains, the swamplands extended from Port Adelaide to Glenelg and up to Thebarton, and they were blocked by a line of sandhills. In fact, those swamplands acted as a percolating system, and over a 12-month period allowed the fresh water falling on the Hills and the Adelaide Plains to enter Gulf St Vincent. This is important because we have not only drained those swamplands to create space for housing but we have also created a system whereby the flow rate is less than 20 minutes from deluge to injection into the Gulf St Vincent. We have concreted and put on roofs, and the water now pours on to the Hills and the plains and, within 20 minutes, is in the gulf.

This has a serious effect on a gulf, which is, in fact, a closed system. Members may be interested to note that if one goes to the centre at Flinders that studies such matters one finds that nothing much is still known, 160 years after we settled on these shores, of the tidal movement in Gulf St Vincent. We are not sure how the water enters and how it leaves. However, we have found it perfectly adequate to dump so much fresh water into the gulf that we have basically destroyed its fishing systems.

Not only do we allow the fresh water to cascade into the gulf after each rainfall but also we have effectively diverted the Murray River and allowed it to come into what is again a closed system, and to that freshwater pollution—because even fresh water can be a pollutant if it is added to salt water in big enough quantities—we have added our sewage. I know the last Government made much of cleaning up sludge and did little about it. The sludge is still discharging into that gulf today. As usual, the former Minister was great about talking in this place about stormwater reuse and saying that the previous Government would get rid of the sludge, but nothing happened.

The sludge is only part of the problem, though, because the effluent contains nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen. It is those nutrients in the effluent which cause the algal blooms along our gulf and which clog the pores of the seagrasses so that those seagrasses die. The seagrasses die and the sandy bottom of the gulf erodes further and sweeps further up to Largs Bay, and Governments then have the problem of sand replenishment along the gulf. So, it is not a simple problem: it is a very complex problem and one which I hope this Government will address, as it has already indicated it wants seriously to do.

I commend the work of some of the councils and some innovative people around the metropolitan area. The Salisbury council with its wetlands has indeed made a very good move in the right direction. Hickinbotham Homes in the Munno Para arc has done a lot of good work with CSIRO and others in investigating aquifer regeneration and the injection, perhaps eventually of sewage but certainly of stormwater to recharge the aquifer, and I know the Leader of the Opposition is very conscious that that is being diminished at an alarming rate.

So, it is an important matter which I hope both sides of the House will investigate in this Parliament. I would hope that, rather than see the water discharging straight from our roofs into the stormwater, we might come up with a system which

for instance allows people to drill a bore in their back yard and in effect inject water into the aquifer, perhaps with a meter to measure the recharge of the aquifer, so that in the summer months the owner of the property can take back from the aquifer perhaps 90 per cent of what he injects into it in the winter. In other words, private property owners could use the aquifer almost as a storage system from which they could reclaim some of the water in the summer months and so save the stress on the E&WS and do something with our aquifer. I am sure that that is not possible over all of Adelaide, but there are many parts of Adelaide where it is possible and where it would solve a problem.

I note that in my own electorate of Unley there is a serious problem with flooding. The district was settled many years ago and, in the course of settlement, stormwater drains were not put in. This is exacerbated by the problems of settlement on the foothills. There are many times when houses in Parkside and parts of Unley regularly flood because there are no stormwater drains. The council has neither the money nor the infrastructure to put in those drains and no Government has yet had the wherewithal to provide the subsidy to do so. The system I am advocating perhaps represents a viable solution which might be cost effective and which might be environmentally friendly.

I know that the previous Government was committed to this type of approach. I know that our Government is committed to this type of approach, because we have demonstrated very early in the period a real commitment by announcing funds for part of this project, but I hope that all members of the House will consider this matter seriously and will support every initiative of this Government in this direction. Indeed, I would hope the Opposition would play a constructive part in urging this Government to look very seriously at this problem, because we hold this area in trust.

When any of us in this House were growing up, we could go down to the jetties and fish and get good catches. We could catch crabs in the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition quite easily. It is not quite as easy to do those things today. Our fishing stocks are certainly much lower than they were and that is a problem because, if we cannot adequately manage those stocks and if we let them deplete to the point of exhaustion, we are passing on to our children an environment much less acceptable than that which our parents gave us. I for one do not want to leave this Parliament or this State in any worse condition than that in which it was when it was entrusted to me. So, I hope members will consider this matter and that it will form an important part of the ongoing policies of all Governments.

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition):**

Last Friday a constituent came to see me in my electoral office as he was very concerned about rumours he had heard that there might be changes at the national level with respect to Australia's position on the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. He expressed concern because he had heard rumours that there might be moves in forthcoming days for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to be recognised under that name and under its present flag by the Australian Government. He expresses opposition to that course of action. I take this opportunity tonight to reiterate my views on this matter—views I have expressed on a number of occasions.

At the outset, I do not want in any way to deny the right of self determination to the people of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I fully respect their right to have independence. They have been held under the shackles of the

former Yugoslavia and those shackles have been progressively broken in recent years. Slovenia and Croatia have now obtained their rightful independence. We see the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina and we also see the problems taking place in other parts of the country formerly known as Yugoslavia.

The question that has bedevilled the world has involved the republic that has been centred on the capital of Skopje known for the moment as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Star of Vergina appears on the flag and, by some accounts, they also have some territorial expansionist ambitions. This has gravely worried many Australians of Greek birth or descent in this country.

I have expressed views on this matter on a number of occasions and in so doing I have actually lost support from some voters in this State, and prior to the last election that clearly was a very significant factor. A number of those who would regard themselves as Slav-Macedonians indicated they could no longer support my Party because of the stance we had taken on this matter, and they cast their votes to what was then the Opposition. There are two conflicting objectives that I hope can be resolved successfully. First, there is the right of self-determination of the people of that area of the former Yugoslavia. There is the right for them to have independence and nationhood, the right for them to fly a flag and the right for them to protect their particular territory.

On the other hand, those people from Greece are equally justified in their concerns at a number of things. First, Macedonia is a Greek name and it is a Greek concept. It goes back many thousands of years. Macedonia was first spoken about in a number of documents, but we can cite for example the Old Testament. It is also referred to in the New Testament in St Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians in which the Macedonians are referred to on a number of occasions. I had the great pleasure in January 1993 to visit Thessalonika, which is considered to be the main city of Macedonia. On that occasion one particular emblem stood out to me more than any other, and that was an Olympic medal that was, in fact, given to Alexander the Great.

Olympic medals in those days, in the ancient Olympic Games, could be given only to those who were Greeks. Only Greeks could participate in the ancient Olympic Games. Alexander the Great could not have received such a medal unless he had been Greek. Alexander the Great, I need not remind members, was the son of the person we know as Philip of Macedon. All the historic links prove that Macedonia was Greek, is Greek and remains a Greek concept. It is in that context that many Greeks are very concerned at what they see coming from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

First, they see that the Star of Vergina has been put on the flag of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They find that a theft of a symbol, because that symbol appears on the burial urn of Philip of Macedon, and that has a special emotional content for all Greeks, wherever they may now live. Then they find that there are questions of territorial expansionism. I have seen copies of maps that suggest that that area of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia could be amalgamated with other areas in Bulgaria and Northern Greece, and they find that threatening to the territorial integrity of Greece.

I have seen a photograph of a currency note that has been printed—legal tender in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—that contains the White Tower of Thessalonika. The White Tower of Thessalonika is in Thessalonika itself

and it is a very important symbol to all in Northern Greece. They find it offensive to have that symbol taken by another country. Indeed, we would also find it offensive if a neighbouring country to Australia were to print Australian emblems and monuments on its bank notes.

They are the reasons why people in Greece take grave exception to some of the issues surrounding the recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They have been heightened in recent months by the electoral success of Zhironovsky in the Russian Parliament. Members may wonder at first hand what relevance that has. Zhironovsky has proclaimed that the map of Europe should be redrawn, and one of the areas that he has mentioned has been the redrawing of the map to the extent of creating a Greater Bulgaria. The Greater Bulgaria about which he talks would include the Macedonian part of Greece. That to many Greeks and many Australians of Greek birth or descent represents a very threatening position.

The position taken by Australians of Greek birth or descent is shared by many other Australians: first, that Australia should support the right of people to self-determination, and that point is accepted; secondly, that Australia should support the right of people to be free from aggression, and that point is also accepted; and, thirdly, that Australia should support the right of people to fly a flag that is truly a flag of their own, not taking the emblem of another country.

With those points in mind, I have to say that if the Australian Government is about to make some announcements on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, I hope that it will do so recognising all the points that I have mentioned. I hope that it will recognise that the name issue is important, that the symbol issue of the Star of Vergina is important and that the guarantee of respect of boundaries is also important.

From my visit to Thessalonika, it became clear that if there was to be a settlement of the difficulties of this region, that region could become a very powerful economic zone. The port of Thessalonika represents a natural feeding point for trade purposes, both import and export, not only to the northern part of Greece but also to southern Bulgaria and the southern part of what was known as Yugoslavia, and is now known as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I was confident that the Greek people remained committed to seeing those economic links strongly developed. If the right diplomatic solution is found to those problems, the opportunities are enormous for all the peoples of that region.

There is another point that needs to be mentioned. There is an area of concern that I believe has not been properly picked up by the Greek Government. It appears that Slav Macedonians of the area have not had their language rights adequately recognised. It is true that many Slav Macedonians lived in Greece, and a small number still do. However, the recognition of their language, whatever one chooses to call that language, has not been appropriately recognised by the Greek Government. I certainly hope that Australia will take the opportunity in this international debate on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to address that particular matter with the Greek Government.

Likewise, as to those young people who fled their homes after the Second World War—for what ever reason, and I know there is much argument, much polemic, about the reason why they left Northern Greece to go into what was then Yugoslavia—there was much argument about whether they fled or whether they were effectively kidnapped into

former Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, the question remains that they became a dispossessed people, a people who do have some rights to be recognised in the future, and some of those rights, in their recognition, will need to take account of the fact that their ancestry came from the geography that we know as Northern Greece, and I hope the Greek Government will recognise the rights of those people perhaps to return to their homes from which they were forced as young people to flee, for whatever reason.

I raise this point tonight because it is a matter of urgency. It is a matter that my constituent raised with me last week, and I know that others in the Australian community of Greek birth or descent are also concerned about it. Our view on this side of the House has always been to recognise that the historic nature of Macedonia is a Greek nature.

**Mr VENNING (Custance):** I am concerned that this State's rural sector should make the most of the opportunity that presents itself now with the advent of a Government that realises, and has a sympathetic ear for, the value and the needs of our primary industry. After a decade of neglect by a Labor Government, this new Liberal Government has already acted to establish a new direction for the farming sector and has signalled this intention to implement further reforms to ensure the right climate in which our efficient farming industries can give of their best.

Already we have seen a huge lift in the optimism of our farming sector and the rural community generally, particularly in the area of stamp duty relief. I have had many phone calls to my office from young people whose fathers, at long last, are thinking about transferring the family farm to them because they can do that without a huge cost. Previously, the cost of stamp duty for the transfer of an average farm was \$16 000. As the member for Flinders said earlier today, in a very interesting and well-delivered speech, the average age of farmers in South Australia is 57 years. That in itself is an indictment.

The change of Government has been very well received right across South Australia, and particularly in the rural areas. We have just experienced a very good harvest, although this is not reflected in the bank, because world food commodity prices are all down. But there is optimism and an expectation that this new Government will greatly assist. The Government will be greatly aided by being able to deal with a strong, united farming organisation, and an organisation that clearly speaks with a single voice, and I refer to the South Australian Farmers Federation, which has been the voice for South Australian farmers for many years.

The South Australian Farmers Federation exists in the form of the only recognised State-wide farmers' organisation and is being led very capably by yet another West Coaster, Mr Tim Scholz, who is the President. I urge all individual farmers, for their own good, for the good of their industry and for the good of the Parliament to throw their support behind that organisation. If they wish to change, they should change that institution from within and not from without. If ever we wanted a combined rural voice that spoke and thought with a single mind it is now.

Sir, as another West Coaster, you would realise that we certainly need to do things in our rural areas, and this Government is listening. We want to speak with one effective voice, and that one effective voice has to be the South Australian Farmers Federation, because it is the only body that can do that, and farmers must get behind that organisation. Last year, in debate on the Barley Marketing

Act, we saw the problem that they had with that and it did fragment the organisation to some degree. However, it is time now to forget all that and get back together. The South Australian Farmers Federation needs to be seen as the true representative of the whole farming community and farming industry.

SAFF needs to be able, where necessary, to hire the best people for the job. Of course, to do that it needs to be financially healthy with strong membership paying the subscriptions. There has been a drift of membership, as I said, and it is important that this is stemmed right away. I am pleased to see that SAFF itself has acted to address this problem with an innovative networking concept. I want every farmer and the industry to know how important it is to support the South Australian Farmers Federation in the most practical way, and that is by people joining it, paying dues, going to the meetings and having their say. If you want to change you change from within.

As we saw last year, the barley marketing issue was a simmering problem. It was an example of what happens when an organisation's members at grass roots level become lethargic and fail to take any interest. Without across-the-board support and with only sectional interests, the issues become hijacked. I want these people to speak with one voice because I am going to be asking them the questions, particularly about the issues that have already been flagged. We want to be told by the organisation exactly where it is going, because this State, as an honourable member said earlier today, can get out of its economic malaise a lot sooner than it realises. In fact, it could be out of it in three years if the prices for world commodities increased.

You only have to have a grain failure in the United States and the value of our wheat could go from \$160 per ton to \$400—and that is the price it ought to be. What would that do to the economy of South Australia? It would be a huge fillip. There would not be enough machinery manufactured in this State to keep up with the demand: we would see a huge increase. I would say that farm employment would double in a few weeks, because all farms are undermanned, understaffed (or underpersoned). We have personally seen that most farms need staff to repair fences, fix gates, paint sheds and generally get back to the model farms we used to have 20 years ago. Things have changed very quickly. Now that the new Government has been elected there is optimism. I want to make sure that farmers go to their lobby group the past, the South Australian Farmers Federation, and say, 'All right, it is time I joined or rejoined, paid my subs and got active', so that when the Government asks questions their lobby is there and the answers are forthcoming.

I reflect back to the time of Sir Thomas Playford, when you, Mr Speaker would know, two Ministers in that Government (in which my father served) were key people in the then South Australian wheat and wool growers organisation. It was a very effective liaison and the results spoke for themselves. At this point we should stop the falling membership of SAFF. When the industry battles are fought in the public arena it can only do harm. The place for debate on these issues is within the organisation. Settle the issues then and present a united front, and come to Government with a single voice so that we know what the people concerned want. When factions brawl in public no-one wins. Just ask the Opposition: that is what happened to them. I give the Government credit, because for the past four years it has shown what being united can do. Look at the massive majority we have here. It is fantastic that all the new members

are speaking so well today. I look forward to at least another 12 years in Government.

By that time I reckon I would have had enough. For farmers to get their share of the cake the farming industry must be just as organised, and it cannot be unless its own organisation gets unequivocal and wide support. As the unionists in front of me would know, they certainly had the runs on the board by being organised to the nth degree. It is high time that farming communities did the same thing. This State cannot afford to have its efforts fragmented; the farming industry cannot afford to be fragmented. SAFF must form itself into the State's most effective pressure group. Tim Scholz has shown himself to be a very able leader, mediator

and negotiator and deserves to be supported. South Australian rural industries can get us out of this mess a lot sooner than many people think. There only has to be a major problem in another country: if we can get rid of the nonsense we have seen in trading and see GATT come into effect, we will see some massive turnarounds. I want all industry, not only rural industry, to keep close to the Government because together we can achieve success for our State, which was once a fantastic State. For the rural industry I make a final plea: get behind and support the South Australian Farmers Federation.

Motion carried.

At 10.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 16 February at 2 p.m.