

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 29 March 1994

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

ABERFOYLE PARK POLICE STATION

A petition signed by 13 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to establish a police station at Aberfoyle Park was presented by the Hon. R.B. Such.

Petition received.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

A petition signed by 27 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.

QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER: I direct that written answers to the following questions on the Notice Paper, as detailed in the schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 69, 78 and 86.

RUNDLE MALL INCIDENTS

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Premier): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I wish to report to the House on the response by the police and other responsible authorities to incidents in Rundle Mall last Saturday night. Two issues arise from these incidents, which I will now address. They are: the alleged politically motivated violence in the community; and security within Rundle Mall itself. First, I refer to the alleged politically motivated violence. Immediately the Government became aware of the nature of the alleged incidents on Saturday night my Minister for Emergency Services had discussions with the Police Commissioner on Sunday and sought an immediate report from him. In fact, I also spoke to the Police Commissioner personally and asked him to get more information. He then reported back to me on Sunday. In addition, I asked the Police Commissioner to get a more detailed report, and the Minister has now provided me with that more detailed report.

The report identifies the presence of a number of politically extreme groups in Adelaide whose activities are suspected to include graffiti, arson and telephoning and harassing people by voicing racist sentiments. These groups tend to operate in a manner deliberately designed to disrupt public order as a means of highlighting their views. Such serious behaviour is intolerable in a democratic society like ours. The Government will not tolerate the kind of extreme behaviour, that has occurred in some European countries, coming to Adelaide. The police have been making a concerted effort to deal with such behaviour by constantly keeping these groups

under close surveillance and by monitoring planned activities by these particular groups.

Members will be aware that arrests were made on Saturday night and certain matters are before the courts. Accordingly, it is important that what I say in general terms to the House about politically motivated violence does not prejudice court hearings of particular matters.

In relation to the events in Rundle Mall, at 11.17 on Saturday night Police Communications received 10 calls regarding the behaviour of a group of people. The callers told police that this group was behaving violently in the mall and a number of assaults were alleged to have been committed. The group was described to police as being dressed in skinhead-style clothing with the distinctive skinhead haircut. At least one of the group is alleged to have worn a shirt bearing a swastika. A combination of beat patrols and traffic police attended to deal with the situation. In all, 14 police attended. Two persons were arrested and others were reported. All reports from this incident are now being collated by the Adelaide CIB, and further inquiries are being made to determine whether further charges can be laid.

This incident has caused understandable public concern about the safety of people in the mall and its precincts. The Government shares this concern. Indeed, the Government has been working with the police since its election to provide more adequate security in the mall. In considering this matter, the House should be aware that in July last year the Police Commissioner proposed to the former Government and to the Lord Mayor of Adelaide a plan to establish a community policing centre in the mall. At that time it was proposed that the centre carry out three principal activities: the provision of public assistance and information through a public shopfront kiosk; the provision of a police shop counter service and beat patrol duties; and, finally, surveillance cameras to be strategically placed within the area to monitor any criminal or unusual street activity. Similar centres with surveillance cameras operate in Brisbane, Perth and Christchurch, but under the former Government this initiative failed to eventuate. Since the election, the Police Commissioner and the Minister for Emergency Services have set about making this project a reality. They have identified areas from which five police could be redeployed to Rundle Mall from duties that could be undertaken by civilians.

I can now announce details of how this project is to be established. It will be a joint State Government/Adelaide City Council/private sector initiative. It will have the following key elements: Adelaide City Council will provide a police booth in Rundle Mall; South Australian police will provide five additional police officers and associated equipment; and video surveillance cameras expected to cost up to \$400 000 will be provided on a joint funding basis by the Government, the Adelaide City Council (subject to formal council approval), the Rundle Mall Traders and Rundle Mall Committee. This equipment will be purchased and installed as soon as possible. The Government has guaranteed to fund a third of the cost of that surveillance equipment as well as to provide the additional five police.

I have spoken to the Lord Mayor on this matter, and he has given his best undertakings to make sure that council formally approves the allocation of the additional one-third and, equally, the Lord Mayor, as the Chairman of the Rundle Mall Traders Committee, has given his undertaking to get the money from the levy imposed on the Rundle Mall traders. So now, all the approvals are through and, therefore, the purchase of this equipment can proceed as quickly as

possible. This proposal provides the framework to increase public safety within the mall and its precincts. It is certainly regrettable that it has become necessary to install surveillance cameras in Adelaide's major shopping area. However, this decision reflects my Government's determination, with the city council and the mall traders, to provide a safe and secure area for the public and to deter the type of behaviour which occurred on Saturday night and which has so rightly outraged all law-abiding South Australians.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Minister for Tourism): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON: Considerable media coverage has been given to an incident which occurred at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre during the East 17 concert on Saturday 26 March 1994. I have been assured by the centre's management that the matter was blown out of all proportion by the *Advertiser* article of 28 March 1994. Centre management informs me that there was a crush incident briefly when the doors opened for the concert. However, this appears to have been caused by crowd hysteria and not by any lack of care on the part of the Entertainment Centre.

Media claims that 50 people were treated by ambulance officers and that a fleet of ambulances was called to the scene are wrong. Four people were taken to hospital, three of whom were suffering from hysterical reaction and the fourth had a knee injury. On the night, 37 staff were responsible for directing the crowd into the centre, with an additional 19 police present to help with crowd control. This represents nearly five times the staff normally used for functions held at the centre. The crowd control personnel have been performing this function at the centre since its opening 192 events ago. The Entertainment Centre management assures me that the personnel responded in a professional manner to avert a serious incident in light of the crowd hysteria.

The decision not to make seat allocations was made by the promoter to minimise safety problems on the arena floor. This decision was taken following the crowd behaviour at East 17 concerts in other venues where the patrons wanted to dance. It was felt that the presence of chairs on the floor would have presented a considerable risk to the people present and also to the entertainers. The centre routinely reviews each event and will be paying particular attention in its review of this event to entry door procedures. In particular, the centre will be looking at ways to minimise or avoid problems arising out of mass hysterical reactions should they occur again in the future.

DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

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: The Development Act and associated regulations, which came into effect on 15 January 1994, form part of a new integrated planning and development assessment system. I have initiated a review of the Development Act and regulations in order to ensure that this Government's policies are promoted by the legislation. In particular, I am looking for greater certainty and guidance for

investors as well as maximum efficiency in the assessment of applications. The South Australian system should be clearer and more efficient than that of any other State.

The review is to be undertaken by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and will involve two stages. Stage 1 will be an assessment of the effectiveness of the administrative procedures contained in the development regulations and whether these can be further rationalised. Stage 2 will be an assessment of the Act and its linkages with other Acts, including the Environment Protection Act. Public submissions from interested bodies and individuals are to be actively sought at both stages of the review. Furthermore, a monitoring group, consisting of people with practical experience in the development industry, local government and a range of building, environmental and planning fields will be established in order to provide direct and practical advice to me. Stage 1 of the review will commence immediately and stage 2 will begin in June.

The Development Act and regulations are one component of the new integrated planning and development assessment system. The implementation of the planning strategy, the revision of development plans and the operations of the new Environment, Resources and Development Court are all continuing to be put into effect. While the review is in progress, the information program for councils, government agencies, the private sector and the community will continue and be intensified so that the full potential of the new system can be achieved.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

South Australian Research and Development Institute—
Report, 1992-93

By the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources (Hon. D.C. Wotton)—

Clean Air Act—Regulations—Backyard Burning—
Burnside

Dog Control Act—Regulations—Destruction
Applications—Appeals.

NORTHERN ADELAIDE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: I wish to report to the House on aspects of State Government funding of the Northern Adelaide Development Board. The board received \$1.3 million in funding from the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education for a three year pilot project known as the Northern Adelaide employment and training project. This scheme was part of a policy of giving the running of some State Government Labor market programs to local communities. It is important to stress that the scheme, which ran from July 1990 to June 1993, was funded under an agreement with the previous Government. Each project run by the Northern Adelaide Development Board using this Government money required the approval of the board's management committee and the Minister of the day before it could commence. It appears that ministerial approval was not sought in all cases.

It has been left to this Government to see through the final audit on the pilot. As the project came to an end last year, the department reminded the board that a final audit must be conducted by the end of June so that the use of all Government money could be clearly established. The Northern Adelaide Development Board appointed an auditor in July. The department then contacted the auditor, asking that specific issues of administration be addressed. However, when the audit result was provided none of the department's requests were addressed and some information was considered to be inadequate. It appears that this was, in some cases, due to poor accounting procedures on the Northern Adelaide Development Board's behalf. At this stage DETAFE representatives met with the board to seek further details.

By the beginning of this year the department had not obtained satisfactory answers, so it took the appropriate action of seeking tenders from chartered accountants to conduct an independent audit. The four councils involved (Salisbury, Elizabeth, Gawler and Munno Para) were informed of this course of action. The independent audit began in late January and was completed late last week. The audit report suggests that there is about \$160 000 still to be accounted for, although the question of misappropriation has not been raised. It would seem that the former Government did not adequately supervise the use of taxpayer's money for the program. However, I assure the House that the department is continuing to seek further information and, if any money is found to have been used outside the guidelines of the agreement, the Government will seek its return.

QUESTION TIME

DAYLIGHT SAVING

The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition): Did the Premier consult with rural communities and rural members of Parliament before he agreed to the extension of daylight saving from four to six months announced last Friday and the subsequent change announced today by the Premier of New South Wales?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The answer is 'Yes.'

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: This question comes from a former Premier who, together with other Premiers of Australia, instituted six different time zones for the whole of Australia, so that each State of Australia had a different time zone. A number of the other State Premiers and I decided that the stupidity of that, and particularly the stupidity of an earlier date in March, needed to cease as quickly as possible. We needed to be able to negotiate some sort of uniformity as far as we could, realising that with an issue such as this one is unlikely to get across-the-board uniformity.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Well, some sort of uniformity is better than none. South Australia, under the former Government, got on its horse and charged off into the darkness without even bothering to consult with the other States. The Liberal State Premiers met last Thursday night and before the Premiers Conference on Friday morning and informally discussed the matter. We put down a position of principle to take back to our individual States for detailed discussion. We have done that. There was ongoing discussion

between the Premiers over the weekend, yesterday and this morning, and I am delighted to announce that we have achieved uniformity between South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales as to the starting date of daylight saving, which will be the last Saturday of October.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The beginning of October.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: No, it is the last Saturday of October. We have achieved greater uniformity.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: And the second—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The second important point is that at this stage Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia have agreed on the last Saturday in March as the date to finish daylight saving. We have even got the New South Wales Government, which previously had not been willing to consider this proposal, actually to take it to its Liberal Party/National Party Caucus meeting and to consider joining with Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania in ending daylight saving on the last Saturday of March.

It will be a very significant breakthrough if we can achieve that sort of uniformity in at least the south-eastern corner and southern part of Australia. It is a marked improvement on the disarray that occurred this year where South Australia for some time was ahead of New South Wales and Victoria; Queensland was one hour behind New South Wales and Victoria; the Northern Territory was still one hour behind South Australia; and Western Australia was two hours behind South Australia. Tasmania has only just come off daylight saving whereas South Australia did it one week earlier and New South Wales and Victoria did it two weeks earlier than that again. As I said, it was absolute chaos. Airlines, tourist bodies and the media were all in a state of confusion, and rightly so. I would hope that, now we have at least started to gain some uniformity between the States, some of the other States will start to fall into line as well.

RUNDLE MALL INCIDENTS

Mr WADE (Elder): Following the Premier's ministerial statement today, can he identify potential reasons why the violence occurred in Rundle Mall on Saturday evening?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: As I said in my ministerial statement, I was alarmed when I heard on Sunday that this particular attack had occurred. I went out of my way to immediately contact the Police Commissioner and discuss it with him, and he immediately followed up the matter. I was alarmed for two reasons, the first of which was that it was politically and racially motivated and, frankly, South Australia does not want that type of political or racial activity in our streets. We will take—and I am delighted that the Opposition will join with us, from what I hear across the House—whatever action is appropriate to make sure that we stamp out this type of neo-Nazi political activity should it develop in our community. I was briefed by the Police Commissioner on the fact that there was, and will continue to be, ongoing surveillance of the people involved, and I have asked the Commissioner to make sure that that is followed up very vigorously.

The other area that concerned me is that there has been talk for quite sometime about the lack of surveillance within Rundle Mall. This goes back not just to last year but well before that as well. The incidence of violence and assaults within the mall has been on the increase. We, in Opposition,

gave a commitment to increase the number of police on duty. I am delighted to say that, for about the past two months, the Minister has been working through procedures to put that in place and there will now be an additional five police officers in the mall. On top of that, we have reached agreement for the purchase of the crucial surveillance video cameras, and I think that will be a very important step in making sure that the sort of violence we have experienced in the mall ceases as quickly as possible. I have personally become involved in negotiating this with the Lord Mayor and I have given a commitment that our Government will fund, without question, one-third of the cost of the surveillance equipment.

I say that because, when I checked on why the surveillance equipment had not been bought, I found that there had been an actual recommendation from the Police Commissioner to the former Government in about June or July last year in relation to that equipment but that the Government had dithered over the next five months in making any decisions at all, and therefore no action whatsoever was proposed. So, I have personally negotiated with the Lord Mayor that the State Government will fund one-third of the cost of the surveillance cameras and provide the extra five police; on top of that the Lord Mayor has given me his assurance that he will use the best offices and the powers he has to ensure that he gets the additional funding. One-third of the funds would come from the Adelaide City Council and the Lord Mayor has assured me that he will argue that case very strongly. In fact, he thinks that it will involve only a routine vote of the council to allocate the money.

The other one-third of the funds will come from the Rundle Mall Committee—from the levy that the large retailers pay. I am sure that the money will be there and that the retailers themselves and the committee, of which the Lord Mayor is the Chairman, will ensure that the money is there. I am delighted to be able to give a public assurance this afternoon that that project will now proceed as a matter of urgency, with the purchase of the surveillance equipment and the allocation of the five additional police.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Premier. Why did the Government fail to inform the public sector unions of the decision taken by Cabinet on 14 March 1994 to stop all negotiations in relation to enterprise bargaining pending the Audit Commission report and passage of the industrial relations legislation through the Parliament? The public sector unions met with the Director of Public Sector Management, Mr Matthew O'Callaghan, on 16 March 1994 to discuss the enterprise bargaining process. Despite Cabinet's having decided two days earlier to cease negotiations on enterprise bargaining, the unions were not informed of the decision. The decision was apparently kept secret and became known only when a minute to executives from the industrially sensitive Minister for Transport was leaked two weeks later.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The Leader of the Opposition has made certain assumptions or claims this afternoon and, again, he is wrong. In fact, the General Secretary of the UTLC, John Lesses, was informed by the permanent head, apparently, of the Minister's department of that Cabinet decision.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The UTLC, which is the umbrella organisation for all the unions within the State. We

have had this out before. The Government does negotiate with the unions; it tells them what it is doing. If there is a breakdown in communications within the union movement, the Government cannot take responsibility for that at all. The facts are that the Cabinet took a decision and the reasons for that were communicated to the UTLC. As I said, if there is a breakdown in communications, that is the responsibility of the union movement and not of the Government.

PUBLIC SECTOR CREDIT CARDS

Mr BECKER (Peake): Can the Treasurer inform the House of the extent to which credit cards are being used by Government agencies and what efficiencies credit cards offer to the agencies involved?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I thank the honourable member for his question. Credit cards were introduced in May 1992 under the former Government as a result of recommendations of the Auditor-General to save on the paperwork and time normally spent in purchasing goods: getting the authority and then purchasing the goods was a time consuming exercise.

The issue of credit cards is topical, given the circumstances that the Federal Public Service found itself in when checks were made and it was discovered that there was widespread misuse and abuse of those cards. I am pleased to report, at least on the preliminary evidence that I have available to me, that there is not such widespread abuse in South Australia. However, of course, there are some isolated examples where people are using and abusing those cards.

As it stands at the moment, the corporate cards have a \$1 000 limit per transaction and more than 80 per cent of Government purchases are under that amount. During 1992-93, 1 742 cards were on issue to Government departments and agencies and 52 012 purchases were made on those cards to a total value of \$7.11 million. For the seven months to the end of January 1994, 2 721 cards were on issue and there were 62 263 purchases to a total value of over \$8 million. So, as members can see, the use of cards has increased. The cards have been issued under strict Treasury guidelines governing their use. Of course, when a purchase is made, that has to be referred back to the authorising officer to ensure that the proper processes have been followed. There have been isolated cases of improper conduct in relation to those cards. I know of two such examples, albeit relatively minor, but it does not appear that some of the problems encountered in other States and in the Federal sphere have arisen in South Australia. However, it must be noted that there is potential for fraud in these circumstances, and as a new Government we have asked for a review of the guidelines under which the cards are being used. It is my belief that, until we have proper internal audit provisions within the Government departments and authorities, we will not feel entirely secure that all those cards are being used in the correct way.

One aspect that has come to my attention, of course, is the fact that under the old system of authority when a departmental officer purchased goods, a sales tax exemption was obtained with those goods. We have found—and the cards are being altered—that the officers concerned have not bothered to seek the sales tax exemption and that in certain circumstances the Government has been paying more than it should for the goods in question. So, changes are taking place to ensure that shopkeepers and wholesalers are aware of our tax exempt status in that regard. It has been a relatively smooth

introduction, but there is a long way to go towards ensuring that these cards are used in the taxpayers' best interests.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition): My question is again directed to the Premier. Why did Cabinet suddenly decide on 14 March 1994 to stop all negotiations in relation to enterprise bargaining pending the Audit Commission report three months after the commission was established, when enterprise bargaining negotiations began months before that Audit Commission was formed?

The Government established the Audit Commission on 15 December 1993 to review the State's finances. While the terms of reference covered a wide range of financial matters, they did not extend to an inquiry into conditions of service in the public sector. On 14 March 1994 Cabinet decided to direct agencies to stop all negotiations in relation to enterprise bargaining pending the Audit Commission report.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The answer is quite simple: first, the enterprise agreement was an agreement struck by the previous Government during an election campaign. You talk about caretaker government: members opposite rushed into the Industrial Commission during the election campaign to ratify and finalise an agreement. If ever there was a breach of that caretaker role I would have thought that was it. In fact, the new Government has not been involved in any enterprise agreements since the election. There had been some ongoing discussions with CEOs and other senior officers within various Government departments. When that came to the attention of the Minister for Industrial Affairs the Minister then was concerned that a whole of Government approach was not being taken, which is exactly what we are about. It is vitally important that before the Government steps anywhere with an enterprise agreement we should understand what state our finances are in.

We put in place within three days, I think it was, of coming to Government the Audit Commission with its terms of reference. It was up and operating before the first weekend after the election, which shows how quickly it moved. The commission will report within the time frame, which will be within a week or so of now, and I expect to bring that report to Parliament within about three weeks.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I suggest that if the honourable member wishes to try to reflect on the individuals within the Audit Commission he should step outside the House and make that sort of remark.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I invite the honourable member to go outside the House and say that those Audit Commissioners were instructed by the Liberal Party as to the findings that should be brought down. I challenge the honourable member to go outside.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: You said you would.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is answering the question. I suggest to the Premier that he should not invite interjections or comments across the Chamber.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I certainly will not do that. It was only that I was invited to do so by the interjection from the honourable member.

The SPEAKER: Which was totally out of order.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Mr Speaker, the crucial point is that it is inappropriate for the Government to sit down and be negotiating enterprise agreements with the public sector until it knows, first, how efficient is the public sector of South Australia: how does it benchmark with other Governments of Australia? If we are going to have an enterprise agreement that is all about productivity and how that productivity compares with our rivals and counterparts in other States, it would have been a pointless exercise for the Government to be negotiating, not knowing in fact where it stood. The whole purpose of the Audit Commission is in fact to tell us how South Australia compares with the other States in respect of staffing levels, productivity, working conditions and salary levels, etc. Therefore, Cabinet decided to defer any negotiations on enterprise agreements until after the Audit Commission had reported.

TAFE COLLEGES

Mr TIERNAN (Torrens): Does the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education agree with the change made by the former Labor Government in relation to our TAFE colleges, or does he believe that South Australia should return to the use of the acronym 'TAFE', as well as in other States?

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

Mr TIERNAN: You wouldn't understand it, anyway.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will not answer interjections.

Mr TIERNAN: This problem came to my attention in my electorate of Torrens, with a number of my constituents complaining that the local college of TAFE had disappeared. They would telephone their local college of TAFE (which is the Gilles Plains college) only to become confused by a dissertation about the Torrens Institute of Vocational and Further Education, Gilles Plains campus. Following a recent visit to TAFE colleges, I have found that the coalface staff of TAFE have not been consulted about this name change: a typical lack of consultation by the previous Labor Government. Throughout most of the western world and certainly throughout Australia, TAFE is recognised as providing excellent vocational training to industry and commerce, and to give it a funny name like 'institute', on its own, is an insult to the organisation.

The SPEAKER: Order! I would suggest to the member—

Mr TIERNAN: Sir, I would like to put the question—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: I thank the honourable member for almost answering the question. It leaves me time for a 10 second grab. I acknowledge the honourable member's former life within TAFE and his role in the TAFE union in seeking reinstatement of the name. Members opposite, when in Government, lost the Grand Prix and they almost lost TAFE. I am pleased to tell the House that TAFE is back! When you have a good name—and this is the twentieth anniversary of the inauguration of TAFE—and we now have the—

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Spence for continuing interjections.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: We now have the modification that it will be changed from 'technical and further education' to 'training and further education', because that is a more appropriate generic term. The withdrawal of the name TAFE confused the public. People asked, 'Where's TAFE?', and we had gone back to the old railway gauge mentality where each

State had a different name for the same type of institution. It is hard to believe that a decision had been made by the former Government.

So, I am delighted that, in consultation with colleagues around Australia, we are on the road to restoring that name throughout Australia, and that matter will be on the agenda at the Ministerial Council in a few weeks time. The importance of changing the name is that we can again market TAFE not only in South Australia but throughout Australia and also overseas. It has an excellent reputation and it is one that we should not allow it to lose. So, I am delighted to be able to inform the House and the community that TAFE is back and is here to stay.

UNIVERSITIES

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Does the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education agree with the new national system of awarding every Australian university a rating in terms of quality, and is he satisfied with the way those ratings have been made, which sees Adelaide University placed in the top bracket along with five other universities, including the University of Melbourne and the Australian National University, but Flinders University put into the third bracket along with universities such as Griffith and La Trobe, and the University of South Australia placed in the fifth bracket along with Charles Sturt, James Cook and Southern Cross?

The first official ranking of Australian universities has now been released, with institutions being placed into six different quality rankings in terms of a hierarchy. Those universities in the highest brackets will receive a much larger share of the Federal Government's \$76 million in so-called quality funding. I am told that the ranking is already being used in recruiting advertisements overseas and has been touted as a consumer guide for Australia's 500 000 university students. This league ladder ranking has been criticised for its conservative establishment focus, its political and geographic compromises and its methodology—

The SPEAKER: I suggest to the honourable member that he is now starting to comment, and I ask him to round off his explanation.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I have been asked whether the South Australian Government intends to question this rating system introduced by the Australian Education Council, because of its damaging and unfair consequences to two outstanding South Australian universities and tens of thousands of students.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: I thank the honourable member for his question, which is a very important one. It is unfortunate that a rating scheme should have the consequences that he is predicting. We have three excellent universities in South Australia: they are all very fine organisations, they all have good reputations, and they do different things but they do them equally well. Whether their focus has been on research or teaching, they have been excellent organisations and as South Australians we should be proud of them. I would be very concerned if people used those ratings as a guide in terms of determining which university they sought to attend, because there is always an inherent unfairness about a rating scheme.

No rating scheme is perfect: at the end of the day it will be subjective and I think it should be looked at with great caution. I will not endorse the rating scheme presently in

place and will be taking up the matter with colleagues interstate and with the Federal Government.

EDUCATION SPENDING

Mr QUIRKE (Playford): Will the Treasurer give a categorical assurance that the Government will not renege on its election promise to increase spending on education in 1994-95, even though the Audit Commission will report that annual investment in education per student in South Australia is significantly above the national average? Following the Audit Commission's advice that the annual cost per student in Victoria in 1990-91 was \$528 higher than in New South Wales, where the cost is below the national average, the Audit Commission said that \$200 million could be saved by increasing class sizes to New South Wales levels to reduce payments to teachers. The Victorian Government accepted this advice and sacked 6 000 teachers, with a resultant increase in class sizes.

Australian education statistics clearly show that in 1991-92 spending per student in South Australia was \$4 806, marginally ahead of that in Victoria and significantly ahead of New South Wales and the national average.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I thought we were going to be sitting here for the whole of Question Time listening to the question. We gave certain commitments at election time. Obviously, we are under some obligation to meet those policies that we laid down at the time. The process of the budget determination is yet to be completed. More information will be made available on the total budget picture as the Economic Statement is brought down at the end of April or beginning of May.

MILK BOTTLES

Mrs ROSENBERG (Karna): Will the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources detail to the House the progress being made to increase the recycling of plastic milk containers in South Australia? There has been much discussion and concern within the community about the introduction of plastic milk bottles into South Australia. Many members would have been contacted by organisations, particularly MOP (Mothers Opposing Pollution), asking questions about recycling these bottles. The potential pollution of these plastic bottles is detailed as a prime reason for the opposition to their use.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: As the honourable member would be aware, I advised the House earlier this month that, in removing the deposit from plastic milk containers, the industry had agreed that steps would be taken to ensure that a satisfactory collection and reprocessing system was put in place for the containers. I advise that the milk industry, that is, Dairy Vale and National Dairies, acted jointly to establish the Beverage Industry Recycling Fund, the aim of which was to provide assistance to local government and the private sector to facilitate the collection of plastic milk containers. I am pleased now to be in a position to advise the honourable member that there has been a significant expansion of the collection system for those containers in South Australia.

I am advised that two litre plastic milk containers are being collected through kerbside recycling programs servicing over half of Adelaide's residents, and through more than 50 recycling depots, council recycling centres, schools and community groups throughout metropolitan and rural South Australia. I am also advised that the Beverage Industry

Recycling Fund has offered to assist those country councils that are providing recycling services. There is considerable public interest in this matter, and I can assure the honourable member that I will be continuing to monitor this situation closely. Members would also be aware of the recent establishment of the Local Government Recycling and Waste Management Board, which will assist considerably in the coordination of kerbside recycling and also with the development of markets for recycling products, two very important initiatives.

I can assure the House that I recognise the concern there has been in the community regarding the recycling of these plastic milk containers and I will monitor the situation very closely.

BELAIR NURSERY

Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith): Will the Minister for Primary Industries give an assurance that the Belair Nursery or any other nursery run by State Flora will remain open and, if not, why not? It has come to my attention, through John Lamb on the ABC radio gardening program at the weekend, that the Government is considering the future of the 108 year old Belair Nursery. It seems there is a view that it should be closed down, and pressure is being brought to bear from private nursery owners who do not believe that Government-run nurseries should be competing with their businesses.

The Belair Nursery has been providing native plants and expert advice about soil conservation and land degradation in South Australia for more than a century. It provides an invaluable service to the people of South Australia, and there certainly have not been any complaints from anyone (especially those who go there seeking horticultural advice and affordable native flora) other than private nursery owners.

Mr Lewis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ridley will not interject. The Minister for Mines and Energy.

The Hon. D.S. BAKER: I thank the honourable member for his question and for his interest in these rural matters, and I can assure him that all areas of primary industries are under review and will be assessed for their benefit to the taxpayers of South Australia, which we undertook before the election. That is being carried out, and the area to which the honourable member has referred, as with every other, will be looked at to make sure its effectiveness is in the best interests of the taxpayers of South Australia.

HOUSING CONCESSIONS

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): Will the Treasurer inform the House of the extent of stamp duty concessions being provided to first home buyers in South Australia?

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: The first home concessions were in fact introduced by the Tonkin Liberal Government in 1979, and it was one of the great initiatives, as the Parliament recognised, providing very important assistance for all people buying a house for the first time. Since 1979, \$133 million dollars in total concessions has been made available to around 133 000 people to assist in first home ownership. It has been a vital component of the assistance to get people into their own homes, and to have home ownership as an end product rather than the situation in many countries where the majority of the population are in rental accommodation.

The figures for recent times are still quite impressive in that this financial year, up to February 1994, 5 983 conces-

sions have been granted for a total cost of \$7.6 million, with \$1 263 as the average duty per transfer. The scheme is an outstanding success. It has certainly assisted thousands of people in South Australia and, of course, it is our intention to ensure that the scheme continues.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Mr De LAINE (Price): Can the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing tell the House the current situation in relation to the relocation of the South Australian Rifle Association and the Dean Rifle Range at Gillman to another site? For the past 130-plus years, the Dean Rifle Range has been the headquarters of large bore rifle competition in South Australia. Because the range is situated within the core-site of the MFP, it may be necessary for this facility to be relocated, depending on the intention or otherwise of the Government to proceed with the MFP.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: In my discussions with rifle association members—and admittedly they go back some 12 months, as I recall—they stated that initially they did not want to move. But when the MFP came into being, and the Gillman site was suggested, several organisations that were located on that site realised at that stage the writing was on the wall and that they would have to relocate elsewhere. The problem with the rifle range is its size and the rifle butts and the templates that you have to provide. There was always difficulty in finding sufficient area for a new rifle range site somewhere north of the existing facility.

However, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation, Sport and Racing, I recall a suitable site was located, and rifle association members decided to accept the offer of that site. I spoke to them some two or three months ago and asked them whether, given that the MFP would now be relocated in the vicinity of The Levels, they would be interested in staying on the existing site. The reply from one of the senior executives of that association was that they had now gone to the trouble of finding a new site and that they were happy with the site. They realised that, down the track, they would always have problems with a rifle range in that general area. They said that, if they found a new site, they would like to proceed and go to that new site. The club had virtually convinced itself that a move was inevitable and, if there was an opportunity to move and it had at last found a location, it would accept the Government's and the department's offer to assist in the relocation. If the facts I have given to the honourable member are not exactly accurate as of today, I will get a report back to the honourable member immediately. They are the sequence of events to the best of my recollection, and if there are any variations I will report back to the honourable member as soon as possible.

TRAINING

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education inform the House of any significant developments in training that will affect South Australia and other States?

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: Members may appreciate that we are in the midst of a training revolution in which competency-based training will become better known to members of the community. That means that, instead of focusing on the amount of time spent in training, the emphasis will be on the standards, skills and knowledge appropriate to an industry. So the emphasis will be on best practice rather than on

minimum standards. There are a lot of advantages not only for the individuals and employees but for employers and the community so we can be more competitive in terms of the world market and so we can create jobs.

It is important that, in respect of competency-based training, which is a phrase with which everyone will become familiar, we recognise that training is a means to an end and not an end in itself. What we want to seek is a higher standard of living, employment for all our people, and a better quality of life. Competency-based training, while it has many advantages, is not to be seen as the answer to all our training needs. The focus will involve a partnership between industry and providers (whether TAFE or private), and industry will get the training that it wants rather than being told what it should have. In that way we will all benefit and have a system which is not only appropriate for South Australia but which is accepted throughout the whole of Australia.

This morning it was my privilege to be part of the national launch of competency-based training which is now accepted throughout Australia, and it allows people who are trained in a particular industry to be accepted in other States. So we are moving rapidly towards having a national training approach rather than a disjointed one which is focused on individual states.

WILPENA POUND

Ms HURLEY (Napier): My question is directed to the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources. Will the redevelopment of the chalet at Wilpena Pound be subject to an environmental impact study and, if not, why not? The announcement that facilities will now be developed in the fragile environment at the mouth—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Napier has the call.

Ms HURLEY:—of Wilpena Pound made no mention of how existing environmental problems and new impacts from the development will be addressed.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: In answer to the honourable member's question, it is my colleague the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Affairs who will determine whether an EIS is necessary, because that comes under his legislation. However, discussions that we have already had indicate that this will not be necessary. The development currently at Wilpena has been there for a very long time. What is proposed is an extension of that development. Discussions that I have had indicate that an EIS for this extension will not be necessary. However, I will discuss that matter further with my colleague.

POLICE FORCE

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): I ask the Minister of Emergency Services: will he act on the claims of his comrade, the former Police Association Secretary and member for Florey—

The SPEAKER: Order! I suggest to the honourable member that, when he addresses Ministers, he does so strictly in accordance with their title and not use other descriptions.

Mr ATKINSON:—his comrade, the member for Florey, that the Police Force has become top heavy with commissioned officers and that police have no powers of arrest over people who are drunk and disorderly?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: After the derogatory manner in which the member for Spence referred to my colleague the member for Florey, his question hardly deserves an answer. I am happy to report to the House that, from 6 January this year, a new structure was introduced into the Police Force in South Australia. That new structure, as I have previously reported, involved a flattening of the management structure within the Police Force. So, two separate commands (north and south) under assistant commissioners were created.

That new structure has devolved the decision making process and financial accountability to those two areas. Regional commanders now play a far greater role in the decision making process and the financial processes necessary to undertake daily policing duties. I am confident that as that process evolves further we will see the police being able to act more appropriately in the area for which they have responsibility than was the case under the previous Labor Government.

PARKS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mrs HALL (Coles): Will the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations advise the House of action that has been taken following the proclamation of the Parks Community Centre (Repeal and Vesting) Act on 31 January?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: This is an important question for any member who has any constituents who have access to the Parks Community Centre. Negotiations with the City of Enfield have now been concluded, and the council will undertake a 12 month management agent function of the centre with a review to take place nine months from now. The management agent function will be deficit funded under an agreement between the City of Enfield and me in accordance with the 1993-94 budget. Documentation and the detailed arrangements of the transfer of staff to the City of Enfield require the preliminary step of proclamation by the Governor to incorporate the relevant employees of the centre with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The City of Enfield has made temporary offers of employment to permanent employees on salaries and under conditions of employment as determined appropriate under the provisions of the municipal officers award. The majority of the staff have accepted those offers. The remaining four have been assigned to work under the delegation of the City of Enfield. These matters have progressed with ongoing negotiations between the City of Enfield and my department, the appropriate unions and the staff, concluding in an agreement that I signed with the City of Enfield on 4 March this year. The question of the management of the Property Services Office building has been resolved, with the board of the South Australian Housing Trust approving a management agent function for 12 months whilst the Enfield council familiarises itself with the management of the services component of the centre. The formal agreement between the Housing Trust board and me is to be concluded prior to April 1994.

HOUSING TRUST PROPERTIES

Ms GREIG (Reynell): My question is directed to the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations. What steps has the Housing Trust taken to better target its maintenance resources?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: This question will be of interest to all members, because every member has Housing Trust properties in their electorate. The Housing Trust is establishing a database, which will record the condition of its 63 000 properties. The database will allow the trust to assess the maintenance requirements of those properties. All members will agree that this Government, when it came to power, inherited a dreadful situation in the public housing sector with literally tens of thousands of run down properties requiring maintenance. This situation, in a budget sense, where we have to sell existing stock to generate revenue to refurbish old stock, is one which no Government should have to inherit.

As I have said, the Housing Trust is establishing a database on the basis of a census of all stock. This will provide a snapshot of the present condition of the stock which the trust will have to rehabilitate. A pilot survey, known as 'Check It', has been done in four areas: Davoren Park, Pennington, Mount Barker and Loxton. Collectors of the census interviewed trust tenants. Members will be interested to know that there was an 88 per cent response to the survey from trust tenants in those areas. I am sure everyone would agree that 88 per cent is a particularly high figure and that that augers well for the future of the survey.

Having completed the survey in those four suburbs, the next exercise is to carry out a State-wide survey through trained census collectors. We will then be able to collate a composite database and at last make an accurate assessment of the need for maintenance of all Housing Trust properties and then, for the first time in many years, determine the actual cost of updating what is, in many cases, very much run down Housing Trust stock in need of rehabilitation.

PORT ADELAIDE PROJECT

Mr De LAINE (Price): What is the future of the Port Adelaide Centre project and its current Director, Mr Hugh Davies? I believe that some exciting new projects are being planned for Port Adelaide, and it is important that the centre project and a person of Mr Davies' proven ability and vision be retained to oversee these projects.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The Port Adelaide project is very exciting, one which this Government, and I in particular, embrace as such. It has the potential to refurbish Port Adelaide's cultural and historical precincts. It also has huge potential as regards the port and the establishment of marine and aquatic sports and the attraction of major events to South Australia. The Government is in the process of reorganising the way in which it will handle major projects. In the fullness of time, when the whole reorganisation is complete and it can be announced publicly, I will give the House details. Port Adelaide is one such project, which eventually, together with Glenelg and all those other projects which will come on stream, will need to be centrally managed and coordinated.

A coordinator of major projects will be appointed to look at all the State's major projects. Under that coordinator, the State will ensure that those various major projects, one of which will be the Port Adelaide project, come to fruition. Hugh Davies has given an enormous amount of time and effort to Port Adelaide over the years. The local community, the mayor and the head of the community committee have spoken well of him. Mr Davies' contract is about to expire in accordance with the effluxion of time. I have today extended Mr Davies' contract, the expiration of which will coincide

with the appointment of the new major projects organisation within the State. I emphasise that Mr Davies' contract is running out with the effluxion of time. The honourable member should appreciate that without trying to bring any ulterior motive into it.

We believe that in the fullness of time Port Adelaide will become a major focal tourist part of the State. When people visit Hobart, they head straight for Salamanca Place. I hope that when the Port Adelaide project is completed people will come to Adelaide and head for Port Adelaide to see what is available.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: As the honourable member says, it is a magnificent tourist destination, and it has the potential to be a greater one. Some very exciting projects are about to be announced through the Port Adelaide project—as the honourable member would know, as he is the member for the area—including the inner harbor housing development and the No. 1 shed at the wharf. Also, as the honourable member would know, the aquatic festival is about to be established in that area, and that will be announced next week. All in all, it is a magnificent project, one which the Government totally supports.

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development. With the approach of Easter and the highlighting of Easter eggs and other traditions in the media, will the Minister inform the House how the bilby led recovery is affecting small business in the Adelaide Hills leading to an increase in export dollars and helping an environmental cause at the same time?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: This is another business success story. In the small business sector on this occasion—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Not only is it a small business success story but it is also, as the interjection from the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources indicated, creating a pool of funds for looking after the bilby, one of Australia's most threatened species. Therefore, it is a success story not only of a small business but also for developing a fund for looking after the bilby. I know and recognise that Easter is perhaps much more important than bilbies in the whole scheme of things, but Melbas Chocolates of Woodside, which is a small firm started by Graeme and Joy Foristall—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: It happens to be in the great electorate of Kavel, just over the Hills range. Melbas Chocolates has taken over the old Farmers Union cheese factory at Woodside and has developed quite a tourist attraction in itself but, in addition, it is now employing some 19 people. Six additional people have been put on full time in the last few weeks to look after the demand for bilbies, and they have been working 24 hour shifts over the past few weeks. One and a half tonnes of chocolate bilbies are now being taken out of that unit and distributed around Australia, not to mention the benefits that occur from the packaging, the labelling, the transport companies and others that—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I hasten to add that, as it relates to the District of Unley, the Haigh's company also makes bilbies. Great credit ought to go to the Foristalls for the way

in which they have taken an initiative; one-fifth of the proceeds of the bilby sales is going into a fund for the preservation of a mammal that is a threatened species; and, in addition, it is clearly another South Australian success story supported by the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing, which put in place a business development plan for them.

I want to encourage other small-medium businesses in South Australia to look at the programs in our jobs package and at the programs being offered by the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing, which is giving businesses the capacity to put in place these business development plans. We have seen in this instance a husband and wife team building into employment of 19 and growing with unprecedented demand.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: There is not much doubt that, in terms of chocolate, the way the bilby is growing and expanding, it could well set some new records for South Australia.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Leader of the Opposition): Did the Premier mislead the House in his earlier response to my question about enterprise bargaining and his Government's failure to advise unions that all negotiations would cease pending the Audit Commission report? The Premier has just advised the House that the union movement was informed of the Government's decision of 14 March to end the negotiations that have been going on for months. He said that the Minister had advised the Secretary of the UTLC, Mr John Lesses, of that decision. However, Mr Lesses has just advised the Opposition that he has received no contact from the Minister telling him that the negotiations were off. In fact, Mr Lesses said that in February Mr Ingerson had told the unions to get on with enterprise bargaining in the public sector and said there was nothing stopping it. He told unions that he wanted to see enterprise bargaining agreements in place and he indicated his support for the ongoing negotiations.

Minutes of a meeting with unions held on 16 March reveal that the Director of Public Sector Management, Mr Matthew O'Callaghan, advised unions that no enterprise deals would be signed pending the report. There was no mention of negotiations ending. Unions were working on agreements until last Friday, when the Opposition informed them of the Cabinet decision.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The Leader of the Opposition did not even listen to the answer I gave earlier. I did not say that the Minister had notified the Secretary of the UTLC: I said that the CEO of the Minister for Industrial Affairs' department had notified the unions, and that is exactly what my briefing note shows. In fact, the briefing note supplied by the department shows that it has also received an acknowledgment of this from the union movement. I can only go upon the advice given to me by the appropriate department, and it is quite clear—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ross Smith got into considerable trouble last week for continuing to interject. He has shown improvement today, and I ask that he not break his good record.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: It is quite clear that the unions knew exactly what the situation was and, in fact, the Leader of the Opposition has acknowledged that Mr O'Callaghan has also apparently talked to the unions and said that there are to be no enterprise agreements finalised by the Government until after the Audit Commission.

An honourable member: Entirely consistent.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: That is entirely consistent. How are you going to complete an agreement if you are not negotiating? The point is that, as I said, the Government has made its determination, the peak body of the unions knew what the position was and, if certain of the other unions had not been notified by the UTLC, it is up to the UTLC to get its act in order. This is not the only time this has occurred: I think that a situation occurred over the deduction of union dues where there was also consultation with the Secretary and other officers of the UTLC and again it was claimed by some public sector unions that they had not been notified. Again, I stress that the unions themselves, through their peak body, said that they would carry out those negotiations on behalf of all public sector unions. It appears that there is a communication breakdown within the union movement itself.

ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY

Mr WADE (Elder): With the electronics industry being identified as a potential growth area for the South Australian economy, can the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development outline the terms of reference and reporting by the task force appointed to look into the electronics industry and say what the future holds for the industry?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The size of the electronics industry in South Australia is underestimated. With DSTO and a number of private sector companies in South Australia, we have the basis upon which the electronics industry is a major contributor to the economy of South Australia. A contribution of about \$500 million to the State gross product comes from our electronics industry. In addition, it is an industry in which we have developed expertise that can be used in a range of other areas to build on export market potential and in positioning South Australian companies to take advantage of international defence contracts, for example.

Codan, a South Australian based company, has had significant success in recent times with a radio used in desert circumstances. As a result, it is building upon that success, as are a number of other major South Australian companies. The Government took the view that, with the success of a number of these companies in South Australia on an individual basis, it should develop a strategy for the development of the electronics industry as an industry sector so that the Government could develop policy that would have a consistent, predictable, certain and facilitating role for the electronics industry in South Australia.

I have asked the task force, supported by the Economic Development Authority and representatives from the private sector, the universities and further education institutions, to look at the development of a set of proposals which we can consider and which will assist us to facilitate the electronics industry so that it can grow and, in doing so, develop niche marketing. South Australia will never be the biggest State but we can be the smart State—the State of intelligence. We can develop specific industry sectors that dovetail into areas such as those that the electronics industries can provide. I hope the

task force will be able to report towards the end of June-July with a series of recommendations that the Government will take on board in terms of putting in place a strategy to facilitate the growth and expansion of the electronics industry in South Australia.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

The SPEAKER: The question before the Chair is that the House note grievances.

Mr LEGGETT (Hanson): With the cutbacks that have occurred over many years in our mental institutions such as Hillcrest and Glenside and the need for the placement of many handicapped and disabled people into home group situations, pressure has been placed on our society to provide social and recreational activities for many disadvantaged people with emotional and often severe physical difficulties.

There is some local council and Government support for community centres in the District of Hanson, such as the Glandore and Camden centres, which I have mentioned previously. The West Torrens and Marion councils are involved and many churches initiate activities and make available their facilities to help the needy in the community. However, many churches themselves are struggling to pay the minister and to make ends meet and are not given the recognition that they deserve, because they give a tremendous amount of help in the community. Many negatives are thrown at churches of all denominations in our society, the main criticism being that they have lost touch with reality and society and that they are a holy huddle, divorced from the real world.

Of course, that can be the case, but I would like to bring to the attention of the House one church in the Hanson electorate. I refer to the Holder Memorial Church which is very old and which focuses heavily on serving and servicing the community, on a voluntary basis, I might add. For many years this church has provided for the unemployed, the handicapped, the intellectually disabled and the drug addicted, in Hanson in particular but also in surrounding areas. I believe that this cuts across all political and theological barriers. This predominantly Uniting Church, with helpers from other denominations, provides a cheap meal—more than 100 meals are served per week—counselling and community fellowship for people from the age of about 15 years to 70 years on Thursdays, in particular, and on other days during the week. The rostered helpers are there, rain, hail or heat, to provide a strategic and significant service.

As the member for Hanson, and before my election to this House, I have visited that place on Thursday nights; I take my turn to help but I often get rubbished in the process. The church is at bus stop No. 4 on South Road, hence it is called 'Stop Four'. I recommend Stop Four to members whether they be Government Ministers, backbench members or members of the Opposition. They are always welcome to attend, but they must realise that the people there recognise those who are not supportive of them. They identify with the real people who come along, because they themselves are very real with real and significant problems.

Holder Church is one of many undertaking a community service. Of course, there are others providing services

throughout the community. The service started many years ago when the Abode of the Friendly Toad on Henley Beach Road was closed so that the road could be widened. Stop Four moved in and took over that work. I commend Minister Dean Pearce and his helpers; they have a tremendous concern for the community. Many of those people are themselves disadvantaged and they have their own personal problems, but they have a tremendous community spirit and are totally unselfish.

This is a very important year—the International Year of the Family—and the service of this church in the community of Mile End and Richmond is very much a family-oriented operation and is greatly appreciated by the whole community. There should be more churches like that doing this sort of work in the community, whether in Hanson or in any other electorate. I greatly appreciate what it is doing and I recommend the service to this House. I suggest that if members are going that way they should drop in.

Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith): I would like to express some concerns about what the Deputy Premier said in Question Time this afternoon when, in answer to a question from the member for Playford concerning the maintenance of the Government's promise with respect to sustaining expenditure on the education budget, the Deputy Premier said words roughly to the effect of—if I have noted him correctly—there was 'some obligation to keep their promises'. I find it an extraordinary admission by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that a Government that has been in office only three months is already so cavalier about the promises that it made so fondly in the lead-up to the last State election.

It is also indicative of the Government's continuing trail of broken promises since that election. We have had the unedifying spectacle of the Treasurer openly, albeit reluctantly, admitting that, with respect to the maintenance of the rights of the State Bank employees who are members of the old State Bank superannuation scheme, the Government will break its promise—an unequivocal commitment given prior to the election—that those employees would be entitled not only to maintain their benefits under the current provisions of the superannuation scheme but be allowed to carry them on past the date of corporatisation. As it has been reluctantly dragged out of the Treasurer and Deputy Premier, we find that the Government will make those 650 employees the scapegoat and have them accept the responsibility for improving the sale price of the State Bank.

We have also witnessed in debates over the past week the Government's breakdown of its commitments in respect of industrial relations and, in particular, the point that no employee shall suffer any disadvantage as a result of its new industrial relations legislation. We now recognise that 'no disadvantage' should read 'no substantial disadvantage' as set out in the Minister's Bill. Yet, this same Government proudly boasts and continually lectures the Opposition that it has a mandate, from heaven almost, with respect to carrying out any of its policies, no matter that those policies have been considerably modified since the election. I have given only brief examples of that.

It is a very sad state of affairs for this State when a Government, particularly when it came in with so many hopes and aspirations of so many people in South Australia—and it certainly did—so quickly forgets its commitment to the electorate of South Australia and immediately starts to backpedal. Of course, we will witness that in an even more fulsome way after the Audit Commission issues its report

later next month (as we understand from the Premier today), when we will be told what is quite predictable: that the cupboard is bare, that therefore the promises not to slash the number of public servants will be modified and that its promise not to cut services will likewise be modified substantially. For all those reasons, the Government stands condemned by its own inadequacies and by the flippant way in which it makes promises prior to an election but is quite happy to rat afterwards.

With only one minute left to speak, I want to draw the attention of the House to a momentous event that will occur on 30 March, that is, the bringing into force of the industrial relations amendments of the Federal Parliament under a Labor Government. These amendments bring about enterprise bargaining, allow access to the system by non-unionists but, above all, maintain the award safety net in the Federal arena where there is a 'no disadvantage' test, unlike the Bill that is currently before this House. It is a significant milestone in Australia's history and adds to the protections of workers in all States, particularly where they have had, rabid, conservative Governments intent on ripping away the safety net, as we have in this State.

The SPEAKER: Order! I suggest to the honourable member that that sort of comment does nothing for the standing of Parliament or for himself as a member. I cannot rule it out of order, but the Chair cannot condone the continuation of that sort of remark. The honourable member's time has expired.

Ms GREIG (Reynell): During my maiden speech I made reference to a project—the 'Safe Communities' project currently under way in Noarlunga. The manifesto for safe communities was generated at the first World Conference on Accident and Injury Prevention, in 1989. It includes this statement of community participation:

Communities in developed and developing countries have begun effective community actions which have led to safe communities. It is imperative that research and demonstrations for injury prevention and control should involve community programs for prevention. These interventions must reveal how best to achieve safe communities in an efficient manner.

The criteria for a safe community network member are as follows: a cross-sectoral group responsible for accident prevention to be involved; involvement by the local community network; a program covering all ages, environments and situations; special attention to high risk groups and environments; documentation of the frequency and causes of accidents; and a planned program running over a long period. The community must also undertake to utilise appropriate indicators to evaluate processes and effects of change; analyse the community's organisations; involve the health care organisation; involve all levels of the community; spread experiences both nationally and internationally; and be prepared to contribute to a strong network of safe communities.

Healthy Cities Noarlunga has provided an effective process within the city for the community to raise health related issues. There is wide representation on the Noarlunga management committee of community and public sector members. This has enabled Healthy Cities Noarlunga to act as a springboard for safety to be addressed. Injury in Noarlunga was first raised as a city-wide issue in 1990 by the environmental health management plan for Noarlunga's interim report. Using the interim report as a catalyst and the vision created by the video 'Injury prevention in a Swedish

municipality', Healthy Cities decided in October 1991 that safety in the Noarlunga community was based on the WHO Safe Communities model and it would be a major project.

In deciding upon the strategy to introduce the project, it was considered important to reaffirm the current models of good practice; work from a community development model using the principles of the WHO Ottawa charter; establish a strong coalition of agencies and organisations and the community; and ensure that the project was research based.

In addressing the safe communities criteria, the three initial goals of Healthy Cities Noarlunga were: a community telephone survey conducted by volunteer community members, developed and analysed in conjunction with the Flinders University's Department of Social Administration, Noarlunga Health Services and the South Australian Community Health Research Unit; to formalise the involvement of public and private sector partners proposed but not limited to Noarlunga identities, for example, local council, Noarlunga Health Services, the National Safety Council, Southern Employers Environment Forum (which includes major industries in the city, such as A.V. Jennings and the Children's Services Office); and for the project to be launched by way of a conference or seminar which would release the results of the community safety survey and present and reaffirm the current significant safety initiatives being conducted in Noarlunga.

Over the past two decades injury has been recognised as both important and preventable. The challenge of injury prevention has been faced by a wide range of interests, from professional engineers and designers responsible for roads, vehicles and aircraft to consumer products and the individuals who have fought to reduce hazard in their local area. The complexity of the problem has led to specialisation. Road safety and occupational safety, for example, have each developed an infrastructure for injury prevention. Other less well defined areas, such as home and leisure safety, have not received the same attention. This has produced fragmentation and the emergence of a bewildering array of standards, laws and possible hazards and authorities to deal with them. Despite this, the commitment to reduce injury is increasing at all levels, as more efforts are made to find much better technical solutions to decide which behaviours are a problem and how to change them and to put solutions in place in settings as widely varied as roads, workplaces, homes, sports centres and public places.

The burning issue is how to achieve the cultural shift which makes increased safety possible. It has been recognised that expert knowledge of injury prevention has to be translated into practical action and that strategies for implementing wide ranging complementary solutions are required, and one strategy is to use community based programs. I am pleased to say Noarlunga is leading the way with community based injury prevention programs.

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): I want to talk today about personal votes in State districts at the last State election. Since the voters for the House of Assembly districts and Legislative Council have become identical with the 1975 reforms to the franchise, it is now possible to compare the vote in the two Houses in the same booths. This allows us to measure the positive personal vote or negative personal vote of candidates offering themselves for State districts. This measure is quite respectable: it is now used by the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission.

My studies, and those of the Parliamentary Library, of the result on 11 December 1993 give a most interesting picture as to which members and candidates did well on this measure and which did not. The best personal votes at that election were for the member for Ramsay, who scored 6.3 per cent more in the State district of Ramsay than his Party did on a two-Party preferred basis in the Legislative Council; the former member for Albert Park, who polled 6 per cent above his Party; the member for Gordon was the best Liberal with plus 5.9 per cent; the unsuccessful Labor candidate for Wright, Trish White with plus 5.4 per cent; the member for Spence, plus 5.4 per cent; the unsuccessful candidate for Kaurna, John Hill, plus 5.1 per cent; the member for Price, plus 5.1 per cent; the member for Playford, plus 4.8 per cent; the member for Taylor, plus 4.5 per cent; the unsuccessful Labor candidate for Elder, Mr Paul Holloway, plus 4.1 per cent; the former member for Hanson, Mr John Trainer, plus 3.8 per cent; and the former member for Norwood, Mr Greg Crafter, plus 3.2 per cent.

Mr Speaker, you will see from that list that, although the Labor Party was heavily defeated at the 11 December election, many of our candidates polled conspicuously well on a personal basis, and this would indicate that our local campaigns were a success if nothing else was.

Interestingly, though, there were some poor results on the personal vote, which would indicate that certain candidates are rather unpopular in their own electorates or failed to make much headway locally. These include the member for Coles, with minus .8 per cent, up against a very under-funded and under-resourced Labor campaign; the former member for Unley, Mr Mayes, who polled minus .9 per cent (which he will find disappointing given that he was the member for so many years, but of course when the tide is running against you it is indeed running against you); the member for Giles, minus 1.0 per cent; the member for Colton, minus 1.7 per cent; the member for Peake, minus 2.4 per cent (a poor result after more than 20 years in Parliament); the new member for Hanson, minus 3.8 per cent; the member for Wright, minus 5.4 per cent (obviously either not well known or well liked in his electorate); and, of course, the member for Lee, minus 6 per cent. I should add that the Premier obviously found some difficulty in getting around his electorate of Finnis, because he polled 1 per cent less than the Liberal Party polled on a two-Party preferred basis in the Finnis booths.

Mr LEWIS (Ridley): I wish to bring three or four matters to the attention of the House this afternoon. The first, of course, is a real beef that I have which will have a substantial effect on the prosperity and growth of the economy in my electorate but on which members might speculate, given the nature of the subject. That is the fact that at present South Australia does not have a very high standard of international airport terminal. The Federal Government, over the past four decades or so, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars of general revenue building international airports in the cities on the eastern seaboard, as well as in Perth and Darwin, but has not spent anywhere near a *pro rata* proportion here in South Australia. We as a House should take note of the efforts that have been made in recent times by the new Government, particularly by the Premier, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development, for what it has have done already to make the Federal Government understand the importance of providing money to the Federal

Airports Corporation to extend the operational facilities at Adelaide Airport.

We must be able to accommodate a greater number of visitors from interstate and, more particularly, a far greater number of international visitors. We will not get airlines to put Adelaide on their destination schedules unless we have the facilities to cater for them. It is a chicken and egg question. Whilst we have recognised that in the development of international facilities in other locations, we have ignored it as it affects us here in South Australia. This is vitally important to me as a member for an area that probably has within South Australia the most unique and outstanding tourism features to sell interstate and overseas. It is at least equal to anything we have, and is second to none.

We have the Coorong National Park, unique as a geomorphological or a topographical formation (or as a combination of both) anywhere on earth. We have the zoological park at Monarto, with its endangered species breeding program; and, within the same locality, we have Yookamurra in the Mallee, breeding native animals and making facilities readily available through which people can see them in their natural habitat. In addition, Warrawong is only 25 or 30 minutes away in the Hills. Clearly, that, as part of the national parks network to which we can readily provide access across the fragile environment, is an important element in the diversification and further development of the regional economy of the area that I represent. I say 'Godspeed' to the Premier and other Ministers involved: 'Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition. Let us get on with the job. Keating, come clean and give us a fair deal. It is high time.'

I turn now to another matter affecting the people that I represent. Assets, be they as humble as they might be at present with the depressed economy in our area, nonetheless deserve appropriate protection, and in this instance I am referring to protection from fire. To my mind it is unconscionable to think of removing quite roadworthy, serviceable firefighting units from service just because they do not fit the standard. I do not have any qualms whatever about removing them from the CFS statewide fleet that can be integrated in a massive move on any large outbreak of fire, but they ought still to be left in the possession of the communities that own them so that they can respond much more quickly to any fires in the immediate vicinity than would otherwise be possible by a CFS unit coming from 20 or more kilometres away.

To that extent, there needs to be a change in thinking somewhere along the line to ensure that the Country Fire Service does not simply take those vehicles out of service and ban them, and, accordingly, I urge the Minister to listen to the pleas that are being put forward by those people in areas like the Peake District Council, and allow them to keep their older fire units, so long as they are roadworthy and serviceable, for servicing the immediate locality, knowing that that will result in much less damage to life, limb and property.

Mr EVANS (Davenport): I wish to use this grievance debate to stress the need for a larger police presence in the Mitcham Hills area. I am aware that the previous member for Davenport brought this matter to the attention of the House a number of times, but I wish to reinforce the need for policing in Mitcham Hills. I bring it to the attention of the House today because of a letter which I received recently from Mr John Culleney, of Glenalta, some sections of which I will read to the House, as follows:

We had a joint party with another girl who lives adjacent to our home, and 70 invited guests were enjoying themselves at our

daughter's eighteenth birthday in an orderly manner when four carloads of approximately 20 people, both male and female, who were identified as a gang that have taken over the local post office corner, arrived and proceeded to walk into our home and until ultimately challenged started to help themselves to the liquid and food refreshments provided for our guests. . . This gang is apparently well known to the police, particularly a member called Rowan who, I understand, is only 12 years of age. We found the above situation most disturbing—to have such an important occasion as my daughter's eighteenth birthday party in a private home with invited guests ruined by these hooligans, as our guests were on the edge and unable to relax after such a frightening experience. Unfortunately, later in the evening six of these louts, including this Rowan, came back again and repeated the abuse. The police were again called but, unfortunately, by the time they arrived, they had left. It was decided at this point to close the party down.

It seems unbelievable that that sort of thing can go on in today's society. The Blackwood police station was closed in the early 1980s and the policing of the area was then allocated to the Darlington police station, having been shifted previously from Stirling, but no extra staff was provided to the Darlington police station for that purpose. Darlington takes in an area from as far away as Hallett Cove through to Blackwood, and there is simply no way that the current number of police can staff all that area with the number of offences being committed within that area. Certainly, the Minister is well aware that there needs to be an increase in police numbers in that zone.

Recently, there has been an increase in serious crime within the area. There has been an instance of arson at the school; there have been daylight rapes adjacent to the school; and there have been armed holdups at the banks and a number of arson attacks on businesses. In fact, one business has been broken into 24 times in the past 18 months. Some of the business owners have taken the law into their own hands, and currently there are business owners up on assault charges within the Blackwood area. Because of the lack of a police presence, they have decided to take matters into their own hands.

That is regrettable but currently is the state of play in Blackwood. Some businesses have actually closed because they have been broken into so many times they can no longer get insurance for public liability for breaking and entering. They have simply closed their doors, and that is a terrible thing to have to do. Some of the scouts do not wear their uniform down the main street for fear of assault. They have the uniform in their backpack, walk past the group of youths that congregate around the Blackwood Post Office and roundabout and, once past that group of youths, they then stop and change into their scouts uniform behind a tree, and then walk to scouts.

The situation certainly needs addressing and is something that I hope the Minister will take up. I have asked him on a number of occasions to review the policing in Blackwood. It is a matter of urgency and, certainly, the local community is very well aware of the problems. Even the Chamber of Commerce is now calling for dry areas within Blackwood, and I congratulate the Mitcham council on calling public meetings to that end. The Chamber of Commerce is also looking at forming a youth employment network to try to employ as many as possible of the local youths from that group to get them off the street. Our Government has committed itself to 200 more police and a number of community police stations, and I hope that some of those resources can be poured into the Blackwood area, because we

certainly need them.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Health): I move:

That the time allotted for completion of the following Bills: Guardianship and Administration (Approved Treatment Centres) Amendment, Mental Health (Transitional Provision) Amendment, Racing (Miscellaneous) Amendment, Criminal Law Consolidation (Stalking) Amendment and State Bank (Corporatisation) be until midnight on 30 March.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

The Legislative Council transmitted the following resolution in which it requested the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

1. That, in the opinion of this Council, a joint committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the following matters:
 - (a) the reason and extent of any existing impediments to women standing for Parliament;
 - (b) strategies for increasing both the number of women and the effectiveness of women in the political and electoral process; and
 - (c) the effect of parliamentary procedures and practice on women's aspiration to and participation in the South Australian Parliament.
2. That, in the event of the joint committee being appointed, the Legislative Council be represented thereon by three members, of whom two shall form a quorum of Council members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee.

GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION (APPROVED TREATMENT CENTRES) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 9 March. Page 345.)

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): The Bill has been introduced by the Minister out of an abundance of caution. It is good to see a Minister so vigilant in defence of the liberties of citizens. The Opposition supports the Bill.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Health): I have been called many things in my time, but 'abundantly cautious' is not one of them. Nevertheless, I thank the Opposition for its support of this Bill which corrects an unintended consequence, and I am confident that the Bill, once passed, will make things much easier for everyone.

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

MENTAL HEALTH (TRANSITIONAL PROVISION) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 9 March. Page 345.)

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): The Opposition has studied the Bill carefully and concurs with the reasons the Minister gave for these transitional provisions. I should just like to

remark that it was not part IV of the Mental Health Act 1977 that provided for the licensing of psychiatric rehabilitation centres, as the Minister told us in his second reading explanation; it was, in fact, part VI. I mention that to assure the Minister that the Opposition reads his Bills and speeches avidly.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Health): I thank the honourable member for that little rap over the knuckles, and I assure him I had absolutely no intention of misleading the House in this matter. I thank the Opposition for its indication of support of the Bill.

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

RACING (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 10 March. Page 406.)

Mr FOLEY (Hart): The Opposition supports the Government's Bill, but we will propose an amendment that will enhance it. We will move an amendment to bring forward the implementation of reduced tax on bookmakers' turnover tax. The amendment proposes that the turnover tax reduction on metropolitan and country bookmakers, whether on races held inside or outside the State, shall take effect from 1 July 1994. Under the Opposition's amendment there will not be a two-year phase-in period. I will briefly comment on each of the matters contained in the Bill. However, first, the Opposition acknowledges the significance and the importance of the racing industry in this State. Like many industries in South Australia, the racing industry is under enormous pressures as it faces competition from other forms of gambling and entertainment. This is an industry deserving of a reduction in taxation and a reallocation of the resources from which it derives its income.

The Hon. J.K.G. Oswald interjecting:

Mr FOLEY: Well, I'm the new Opposition racing spokesperson. Indeed, a number of these proposals were formulated by the former Minister of Recreation and Sport in this State (Hon. Greg Crafter). It should be acknowledged on the public record that a number of these proposals were put in train by the former Minister. I would now like to comment briefly on each of the changes put forward in this Bill. First, the changes which allow for the President of the Racing Appeals Tribunal to have the discretion as to whether an assessor or assessors are required for certain types of appeals is a sensible amendment. Any move to eliminate unnecessary processes which can reduce costs should be welcomed.

Secondly, the amendment to change the TAB's profit distribution from its current ratio of 50 per cent to the racing industry and 50 per cent to the Government is supported, and obviously that will become 45 per cent for Government and 55 per cent for industry. This is a timely injection of funds into the racing industry and is welcomed by the Opposition. However, it must be noted—and my colleague the member for Spence may wish to tease this out—that the reduction in funds going to the Government could represent some \$2 million plus. Obviously that will have an impact on the capital works budget for hospitals.

I will be interested, as will the shadow Minister for Health and no doubt the shadow Treasurer, to hear how the Government intends to find the money to fund that shortfall to the

hospitals at a time when we have heard much from the Government about the need to increase hospital funding. However, in the context of this Bill, I will not enter too far into that issue; I simply place it on the record.

Thirdly, the proposal to allow funds from the TAB capital fund to supplement distribution to the racing codes is again a sensible move to meet a one-off demand this year. Of course, the emphasis is on 'one-off'. The Opposition's view is that we need to make sure that it is a one-off provision and not something which can be visited each year as shortfalls occur, for whatever reason. I have grouped together the fourth and fifth amendments. They propose to allow bookmakers to offer an expanded range of betting services and to enable a bookmaker to offer betting on any contingency not currently allowed for. These moves are welcomed as an important initiative (and I give credit to the Government for this) to both expand the turnover opportunity for bookmakers and, indeed, offer a more diverse service to consumers. Obviously, the proposal to have bookmaking facilities at a major sporting event is a sensible move and one that will further create opportunities for gamblers.

Sixthly, the Opposition welcomes the reduction in the turnover tax on bookmakers. As I said earlier, the racing industry is suffering significant pressures from other sports and other forms of entertainment. It will also face increased competition for gambling dollars when poker machines finally arrive. So, it is very timely in the face of the current pressure on the racing industry. With the advent of other forms of gambling such as poker machines it is very timely and very necessary to reduce the tax take. The Opposition believes that the tax relief for bookmakers should be immediate.

We will be moving an amendment, as I outlined earlier, for a full reduction in the turnover tax on bookmakers to take effect from 1 July 1994 and not be subject to a two-year phase-in period. As I said, the Opposition welcomes the tax reduction. Given the small amount of money in terms of the whole budget of the Government, it would be an appropriate gesture—one that would not create major financial difficulties for the Government—to implement it fully from 1 July 1994 and not phase it in, as the Government proposes, over two years. Clearly, the bookmaking fraternity and industry in this State desperately need an immediate reduction in their tax.

When we debate that amendment, I ask the Government to consider it in the light of how I am putting it. It is put forward by the Opposition as a measure of goodwill, but we think it is very important that the Government move to alleviate the tax burden on bookmakers immediately and not wait for the two year implementation phase. The final amendment is supported. It is a necessary tightening up of laws relating to the transmission to and from racecourses, and it is self-explanatory in the Minister's second reading explanation.

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): I congratulate the Minister for this Bill. This is one area in which the Liberal Party has sought to fulfil almost immediately its election promises. Those promises were beneficial to the racing industry. Accordingly, I welcome the Minister's prompt action to fulfil his pledge, and I want to place on record that I think that it is splendid that he has done so. Obviously, it is a good thing for the codes that there be an increase in the proportion paid out to them by the Totalisator Agency Board. It is also highly desirable that there be a reduction in bookmakers' turnover

tax. That is welcomed by my friends who carry the bag. It is also desirable to allow betting on sports at sporting venues and on events other than racing and sporting events.

When I was an undergraduate—indeed, when I was a high school student—I was a bookmaker. I recall that my first book was on the 1971 Melbourne Cup when I was a student in class 1A at Unley High School. I am pleased to say that none of my classmates backed the winner, which I think that year was Silver Knight or Piping Lane.

Mr Tiernan interjecting:

Mr ATKINSON: The member for Torrens suggests that I cheated my classmates. The fact is that the winner was available to them at a reasonable price but none of them chose to back that particular horse. Alas, in 1974 the number of punters at my school was so great that in the schoolyard it attracted the attention of the deputy headmaster. The crowd around me divided, I looked up and there he was.

An honourable member: Was it Spike Ashby?

Mr ATKINSON: No, it wasn't Spike Ashby; it was Mr Winter. The crowd around me divided and there was the deputy headmaster looking down on my sheets, not wishing to make a bet and censuring me. Later in the day he invited all those who had placed bets with me to come to his office to collect their stake if they wished. There was a huge pay-out queue snaking from outside the deputy headmaster's door well into the yard. When I was an undergraduate I recall running a book on the papacy upon the death of Paul VI. I am pleased to say that no-one had the winner—John Paul I. Within 12 months I was able to run another book, as history records. I do not think that anyone had Karol Wojtyla, either.

Obviously, the reduction in bookmakers' turnover tax will help bookmakers, but by itself it will certainly not arrest the decline in bookmaking in South Australia. When I go to the races these days, the greatest number of people I see are old people. Those people have been used to going to the races throughout their lifetime, and they have stuck with it.

The Hon. J.K.G. Oswald interjecting:

Mr ATKINSON: The Minister says that things are changing on Sundays. I do not know about Sunday racing because I go to Mass, not that I am a sabbatarian—

Mr Leggett interjecting:

Mr ATKINSON: Sabbatarian not sagittarian, as the member for Hanson says. So, I wonder about the future of racing when those old people die. That reminds me of a story I was once told about a Russian Orthodox priest who was very worried about the decline in attendance at his parish church.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the honourable member puts a price on this priest, I am afraid his dialogue will be out of order.

Mr ATKINSON: It is highly relevant, Mr Deputy Speaker. There was a decline in attendance at his church, just as there is a decline in attendance at racing today. All his parishioners were old people. He went to see the bishop, and he said, 'Your Grace, I'm very worried about my parish. Only old ladies come along to my parish now.' The bishop said to him, 'Father, don't worry, there will always be another generation of old ladies.' I think that is our only hope for the racing industry.

There are further changes in this Bill about which I am more dubious. It is all very well to give a temporary \$1.674 million boost to the 1993-94 financial year by taking that amount out of the TAB capital account and from the Racecourse Development Board, but that strikes me as robbing Peter to pay Paul. During the Committee stage I will

ask the Minister why it is necessary to change the Act to allow him to do this in perpetuity. I will certainly have questions about the changes he proposes to communications from the course to the outside.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD (Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations): This Bill starts to bring together my total racing package in an effort to do something about the resurgence of the racing industry in this State as a viable industry. All members would know that racing probably constitutes the third largest industry in this State. Some people would say that it is the fourth largest industry, but I guess it depends on which statistics one looks at. The fact is that this industry is of immense value to this State. Two years ago, the industry was in real trouble. We had declining attendance numbers at courses; the recession had gripped the State; people were leaving the industry in droves; trainers were unable to employ staff, with a subsequent decline in staff levels; people had less money in their pocket; there was a drop off in yearling sales; and it was difficult to get groups together to syndicate a horse.

We talked to racing administrators, who all said that racing was starting to go downhill at one hell of a rate and that something had to be done to arrest it. The Labor Government of the day started to recognise the problem after debate was raised in this place over and over again, and it began to chip away at the edges. I give the former Minister some credit: he did start to chip away at the edges. I imagine the problem he had in his Party room was that there were not enough realists to understand the value of the racing industry to the community, so he was unable to chip away at the important area of taxation. That is the area in which my package is so different from that of the Labor Party. I actually bit the bullet and started to tamper with the Holy Grail. We went in and said that the industry had to have new funds.

The former Government had started to shift funds from one part of the racing industry to another, saying that it was adding new money to stake money. Members will recall that the former Government agreed to shift \$2 million that had been generated by the racing industry from one part of it to another, saying, 'There you are, you have been given \$2 million for stake money.' In actual fact, it was just shifting across money that had been generated from within the industry; it was not new to the industry. I have endeavoured to create new funding for the industry by foregoing tax revenue for the Government.

The Liberal Party has recognised the racing industry and realised that it was going downhill and that it had to do something about the injection of new money. The new money is in the form of the 55-45 split of the TAB profit. Therein lies the thing that the Labor Party was never able to achieve: it was never able to touch that Holy Grail. I am pleased that the Opposition now supports the line we took.

We ran the risk—and we could see it happening—of bookmakers becoming an extinct breed. The question is asked, 'Why do we want bookmakers on course?', and the answer to the uninitiated who attend races occasionally but who do not understand the racing industry is that we like the colour of bookmakers on course. You cannot have an Australian course without the colour of bookmakers.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member says that he wants the odds, and I am leading to that. He is absolutely right: the whole purpose of having bookmakers on

course, talking very clinically, is that they assist in setting the odds on course and the prices. If members ever go to the races or to the TAB to watch the pools on the TAB screen, they will see that about two minutes before a race a pool might be set for \$2 000 or \$3 000 but, closer to the race time, the amount of the pool starts to increase. In the last 30 seconds that pool can escalate from \$5 000 to \$25 000. One of the reasons for that is that the professional punter or the large punter sees the prices on the bookmakers' boards, looks across to the tote and then lays off and bets on the tote as well.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: No, the bookmaker lays off, but the professional punter will go across and bet on the TAB. The honourable member knows what I am saying and he knows that I am correct. If the bookmaker was not setting the prices on course, I wonder how many professional or large punters would play the TAB, where the prices are not dictated by anything other than the mathematics of where the prices are running: those prices are not linked to the actual form of the horse. Therein lies one of the reasons why I felt it very important that we do something to try to keep the bookmaking industry alive.

The honourable member has telegraphed that he will move an amendment to bring in the tax concession over one year. I have never heard such hypocrisy from any Opposition in my life: six months ago the thought of giving tax relief to bookmakers was so foreign to the Labor Party it would not even countenance it.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member cannot say it is a new member because, on these matters, the Labor Party is locked into its Caucus and locked into the decision making process in the Caucus room.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member mentions reform. I welcome his new-found interest in racing. Over the next few years he and I could achieve a very interesting joint approach to the racing industry so that we could ensure together that racing benefited, because it is certainly one of my passions in life. I welcome the opportunity to take him along to race meetings and let him have the benefit of what is a marvellous sport in this town. The fact is that six months ago the Labor Party was not supportive of giving any assistance to bookmakers; it was prepared to let them die and disappear off the racecourse. The Liberal Party saw what was going on and did something about it. For members of the Opposition to say now that they want to bring in the tax concession over one year in order to make big fellows of themselves in the bookmaking industry when the bookmakers know full well that they got no joy out of the Labor Party on this issue is just a specious argument put up by members opposite to give themselves some cheap publicity out there amongst the bookmakers, whose support they have lost over the past six months.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The fact is that the granting of these tax concessions is based on careful budgetary considerations in the context that we need the industry to survive. We have to look at the loss to the budget compared with the value of keeping that industry alive and the revenue that it generates for the State. The same argument applies to the question of the \$1 million and the impact on the budget, an issue that is to be raised by one honourable member opposite. I remind members that the racing industry has

11 000 odd employees; it is the third largest industry and it contributes about \$175 million to the State domestic product as it turns over. It is a huge industry, and I would have thought that to forgo what is a very small percentage of the budget in revenue to the State to keep an industry of that size alive was a pretty fair price to pay.

I will not agree to bringing it back to one year instead of two, because we have achieved an objective: we have given tax relief to bookmakers, and I can assure members opposite that they are very happy with the concession we are about to give. We can sell it in the two-budget context, because we have budgeted for it carefully.

Mr Foley: We will let you claim credit for it.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I do not have to claim credit for it: every bookmaker in this State knows who is responsible for this budgetary measure. There is no question about that. However, it is a necessary measure and one which I hope at the end of the day all members in this industry will support.

Notwithstanding the argument about bookmakers, which I do not think the Opposition will ever win and on which we will not accept the amendment, I am pleased that the Opposition is to accept the Government's Bill basically in total. The former Minister's contribution was mentioned: members of the Opposition like to be associated with this Bill, because we have brought forward amendments that the Government—

Mr Atkinson: You are in government now.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: It is nice to know, too. And I notice it every day that I am present in this House.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: No, you will be a good new member. The reality is that the former Government has a couple of amendments in this Bill: we acknowledge that they were picked up and carried over into the new Parliament. But the important amendments, the amendments that will put the racing industry back on its feet, are new amendments; they are Liberal Party amendments, and I am very pleased to be associated with them. The important thing about the new money is that I have specifically instructed the racing authorities that the money will be used for what we call the non-black type races—the bread and butter races. That is a very important aspect of this measure, because once again we are trying to keep this new money in South Australia. With those few words, I look forward to a speedy passage of this Bill. Whilst I am disappointed that more speakers did not recognise the size and the importance of this industry to the State—

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member to whom you refer is a very keen member of the racing industry and I have enjoyed her company at the races. She has spoken before. She is a very keen follower of races, as are other members of her family. With those few words, we support the Bill and we look forward to the Committee debate.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 6 passed.

Clause 7—'Application of amount deducted by board under s. 68.'

Mr FOLEY: How will the Government meet the shortfall of funds to its Hospitals Fund that will result from this change of share?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I believe that the Hospitals Fund was created back in the Dunstan era. It is a book entry:

in my view, it is a charade in that money going into the Hospitals Fund actually goes into general revenue. I do not think there has ever been any doubt about that in anyone's mind over the years. We know why former Premier Dunstan brought it in: it was to bring in a new form gambling and then cover the issue by channelling money through the so-called Hospitals Fund into general revenue.

I explained during the second reading debate that the money forgone from Treasury was calculated on the basis that the third largest industry in this State was about to fall over. Because of the enormous job creation capacity of that industry—some 11 000 people are employed—and its huge turnover and profitability to the State, we would have forgone far more than \$2 million if we had seen the demise of the racing industry at the rate that it had been experiencing over the past 18 months. Anyone who does the mathematics and weighs up the \$2 million forgone from Treasury against the worth of this industry to the State will see that the sums add up. I do not believe that there will be too much criticism of our depleting Treasury of \$2 million.

Mr FOLEY: I take it that the Minister has consulted with the Treasurer, that the expected shortfall in funding to the TAB will be fully accounted for in the budget deliberations currently being undertaken with agencies and that that will be considered in total by the Treasurer.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: Prior to the election, when we made the election promise and were planning our future budgets, all election commitments were very carefully costed, first, by our own accountants within our Party structure and also externally by professionals. The forgone revenue from budget has been accounted for and there was a deliberate decision to forgo that money for the betterment of the racing industry.

Mr FOLEY: I take it then that the Minister is saying that the \$2 million shortfall has been taken into account by the Treasurer and that there will be a consequential \$2 million reduction in allocation to a specific portfolio, or will it be raised by some other means of taxation? Will the Minister clarify how this \$2 million is being accounted for?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: We are certainly not raising it by any other means of taxation. It has been accounted for as an appropriation straight out of Treasury. It was budgeted for and will not come into effect until 1 July, because it has been costed to come out of the 1994-95 budget.

Mr Foley: A blow-out in the budget.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: It will not be a blow-out in the budget, because the budget will be drawn up in the knowledge that the \$2 million will not be there as it will have been transferred to the racing industry.

Mr Foley: You have to find another \$2 million.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: No, we do not have to find another \$2 million.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is stretching his questions from three outwards by virtue of interjection, and that is not permitted. And it is not permissible for the Minister to respond, either.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I sat down in deference to you, Sir. It is generally expected that the improved viability of the industry will generate more than the \$2 million that we are forgoing in loss of income. All the statistics and research thus far would indicate that this \$2 million will be well spent in light of the industry response.

Mr ATKINSON: What will be the effect on the TAB capital account of the loss of \$1 million for this financial year? On what is that capital account usually spent, and what

will be the effect on the Racecourse Development Board of the \$674 000 payment from its fund for this year?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I am surprised to be asked this question, because neither I nor the TAB Board liked what happened last year when Minister Crafter came into this House and, on behalf of the Labor Party, said that the Government had made a mistake in its predictions and that the racing industry had a \$1.67 million shortfall. The racing industry asked, 'What will we do? We have budgeted for receiving 'X' dollars for the year, but we have a shortfall of \$1.67 million.' Panic reigned.

The Minister of the day instructed the Chairman of the TAB Board that he would have to find \$1 million to help prop up the racing industry. He also instructed the Racecourse Development Board that it had to find the rest of it. So the TAB was instructed by the Labor Party to find \$1 million to meet the shortfall and the Racecourse Development Board had to find \$670 000 because the Government had not made the correct predictions for the year.

Mr Atkinson: Answer the question.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I am coming to it; I am just giving the background, which will—

Mr Atkinson: Sum it up.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I will not sum up. The honourable member does not like it. We are in this position because the Labor Party got us into it. I was not impressed; I raised the issue in the House and I was criticised for doing so. I was predicting—and the industry was telling me—that we were heading for a shortfall. Every time I went to the races, people asked, 'What will we do? We do not have the money to pay the stake money.' Once again, the reactive Labor Party at the time went to the industry and, instead of getting in new money, raided the TAB piggy bank; it raided the capital reserves. That is how the Labor Party ran the State: if it was in trouble, it would raid the piggy bank and the reserves of the TAB. It issued an instruction—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: You have had a fair go. Let us get down to some serious debate.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. The member for Spence is not in charge of the Bill. There is a dispensation for the member for Hart to speak out of his seat. However, the member for Spence should be conducting the debate from his own seat. So, I advise the honourable member to resume his own seat. The Chair has been remiss in not picking this up before, but I will make amends.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: As I say, we in this House got no joy when the Labor Party said that there was a shortfall of \$1.67 million and we had to do something about it. Then it announced that it was going to raid the piggy bank of the TAB, and instructed the TAB Chairman to come up with \$1 million for the shortfall. The board of the TAB objected—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: You don't want a history lesson because you don't like what happened and how the previous Government absolutely—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: You might think it is all about the future, but the public wants to know what happened, and I think you should listen, being a new member here, and hear what went on and how they raided the reserves of the TAB to try to prop up their inefficient running of the racing industry. If you had been around the place and had

read the press reports, you would know about it. You were not there—you are a new member and I am telling you.

Mr Atkinson: Answer the question.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The board did not want the \$1 million to be raided, it still does not want the \$1 million to be raided, but the industry out there has a shortfall of \$1.67 million and we are now left with an obligation to make up that shortfall. I am left with no option but to legislate, because I cannot order the TAB to pay out \$1 million—no-one can; it has to be done by legislation—and put this clause in the Bill, go back to the TAB and then instruct it to pay the \$1 million. That is what this clause is all about: making good a mistake of the former Labor Government in the way it was running the TAB and racing in this State.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart may be a new member, but he should conduct the debate through the Chair.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: This is a one-off. I have no powers to go back, other than on a one-off basis, and instruct the Chairman of the TAB to pay out the \$1 million. The Bill is very clear about this: it is a once only measure, and it comes out of the reserve account.

Mr ATKINSON: I rise on a point of order, and I refer to Standing Order 127, dealing with digression. What was the effect of the amendment on the Racecourse Development Board and the TAB capital account?

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member does not have a point of order. If the honourable member had refrained from interjecting and baiting the Minister, I am quite sure the answer would have been forthcoming a long while ago. The Chair has been far too lenient with both the old and the new.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: Having explained why we are in this very difficult position which no-one in the racing industry wishes to see, where we were actually going to the reserves and taking this money out of the RDB, I point out that in the short term there are certain expenses and capital improvements, involving TAB activities, that will have to be deferred within the racing program.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member goes, 'Tut, tut': I would say, on behalf of members of the racing industry, that they would share my concern. We do not like deferring facility growth within the industry. There are so many things we could be doing with that money, but we are locked into this position and I am stuck with it, having no option but to deal with the problem given to me by the former Government and legislate. That is what this clause is all about. We have no option but to support it, because the industry has virtually pre-spent or pre-budgeted the money, as it was entitled to do. We have an obligation now to see that, in fact, the money is delivered.

Mr ATKINSON: I thank the Minister for confirming that the former Minister was indeed the author of this Bill. The Minister said in his answer to my previous question that the former Government should have acted to bring in new money. What did he mean when he said, 'bring in new money', and did he mean from Consolidated Revenue?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: It is almost an irrelevant question, but the—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: Well, it is an irrelevant question. It is a hypothetical question.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Members will conduct the debate through the Chair.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: It is a hypothetical question, Sir. All I can do, if the honourable member wants me to repeat the history of the whole thing—

Mr Atkinson: No.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I am sure the honourable member does not. But the reality is that the former Government had to find \$1.67 million and chose to do so by raiding the reserves in the accounts. We have come into Government—

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: At the time we were not the Government, were we? The Government of the day had every opportunity to try to find the money elsewhere. We came into Government and the first thing I did was to change the ratio to 55:45 from the 50:50. I was prepared to go looking for new money for the racing industry.

Mr Foley: That's not new money.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: It is absolutely new money. The honourable member is naive and it is a bit beyond him.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: I warn the member for Hart and the member for Spence.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I suggest he wait until he has been in this place and around the racing industry for some time and can start to understand. Splitting the arrangement from 50:50 to 55:45 creates new money for the racing industry; otherwise half of the 50:50 has gone to general revenue. In fact, 5 per cent of that money—\$2 million—is brand new money, but the money in the TAB reserves is money generated by the racing industry from the profitability of TAB on-course betting. It is brand new money that I am creating, and therein lies the answer to the honourable member's question. The former Government had an opportunity, if it wished, to change the TAB ratio from 50:50 to 55:45 and try to create some new source of money. It refused to do so, the same as it refused to do anything about the bookmakers; because the Liberal Party has gone ahead and done it, they are upset.

Mr ATKINSON: The Minister seems to be saying that this clause is in the Bill owing to the wickedness of the former Minister and the former Government, but this is his Bill and he is the Minister. Why does he bring this clause into the place if it is so flawed?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I repeat for the last time: the industry has the expectation of the \$1.67 million. The board was instructed by the former Government to provide it but could not legally do so. The former Government tried to bring in legislation prior to the election but it did not go through. This is the first opportunity we have had to introduce this legislation.

Clause passed.

Clause 8—'Interpretation.'

Mr FOLEY: What criteria have been prepared or will be in place in respect of the types of events that can be approved under this amendment, and can the Minister explain what types of events we could be looking at in terms of those held outside Australia? Obviously it will be broad: I understand and support that, but there needs to be a point where you rule it off. I would like a bit more detail about the nature of the events that would be included from outside Australia.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: This raises a very interesting area of the legislation. It will help members and the readers of *Hansard* if I give some indication of what we can

already bet on now. Whatever new forms of betting we take on, whatever sports we decide to allow betting on, whatever the venues of those particular sports and wherever that new betting takes place, it will all be controlled by regulation so that the Government of the day still has total control over the type of betting and where it is conducted.

At the moment each of the following is declared to be an approved sporting event for the purposes of part IV of the Act: any South Australian Football League A grade match; any Australian Football League A grade match; any interstate Australian Rules football match; any test cricket or international one day cricket match; any Sheffield Shield or interstate first class one day cricket match or any other first class cricket match; any National Basketball League match; any National Soccer League match; any South Australian Soccer Federation first division match; any FA Cup or World Cup soccer match; any Australian, French, United States or Wimbledon open tennis tournament; any Davis Cup tie; any Australian, United States or British Open golf; any Australian or US Masters golf tournament; any Australian or United States PGA golf tournament; any Sydney to Hobart yacht race; any America's Cup yachting race; any Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix motor racing event; any world Formula 1 motor racing drivers' competition; any Australian 500cc Grand Prix masters cycle event; and any Australian Baseball League open competition.

Members will see from that that we are already betting overseas, and I guess the ultimate decision is with the bookmaker as to where he wants to bet and what sports, either in Australia or outside, he wants to bet on. Out of interest, I think other contingencies likely to be sought by sports bookmakers are the Brownlow Medal, the Magarey Medal, and Federal and State elections. They may choose to bet on the number of seats that the Labor Party will win the next time round, whether it will be nine or eight, or even whether it will lose Elizabeth at the next election. That might be worth a bet.

Then, of course, there are the venues likely to be sought by bookmakers. I would expect that Football Park, Adelaide Oval and Memorial Drive are the types of venues that will be selected. But once again I make the point that, at the end of the day, it is by regulation. So, no venue will be approved unless by regulation.

Mr FOLEY: Whilst we support the opportunity for bookmakers now to take bets on a wide range of subjects, which is a very positive initiative, at present we have one bookmaker in South Australia who is currently taking advantage of this provision in terms of what is already available. I am keen to ensure that this provision is open to all bookmakers and, whilst it may well be that, through market forces, only one bookmaker wishes to avail himself or herself of that, I would like an assurance that, should other bookmakers wish to expand their range of products on offer, they too can easily access this new provision.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The BLB, which is the controlling authority for bookmakers, determines how many bookmakers will field at a particular meeting. For example, it decides that X number of bookmakers will be sent to Oakbank for a particular day or up to Clare, or wherever. The same thing applies as far as sports bookmakers are concerned. At the moment John Thornton has the licence and is the only bookmaker, and it is really up to the BLB to decide whether a second one is warranted. Thornton's turnover in 1992-93 was \$155 692, and you might say that that sounds like a lot of money and therefore a second or third bookmaker in the

field is warranted. The BLB has some very wise heads, and it may interest members to know that bookmakers in that year made a net profit of about 1 per cent of turnover. Whilst \$155 000 sounds like a pretty good turnover, with 1 per cent John Thornton made \$15 000 net profit that year. He does other work, but he made \$15 000 out of his sports betting operation.

Mr Atkinson: It is \$1 500, not \$15 000. It is only 1 per cent.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I need your assistance all the more: well done! The point is that it is only one bookmaker and, if that is the net profit that he is making, it hardly warrants the board's allowing a second, third or fourth sports bookmaker. We are saying that the board will monitor the number of licences to be issued and if, as we hope will happen, some of that enormous amount of money that is flowing out of the State into the Northern Territory (and it is estimated that the Northern Territory sports bookmakers have something like \$13 million flowing in) can be returned to sports betting here in this State, when the time is right the BLB will open it up and allow a second, third or fourth licence.

Mr FOLEY: We are talking about a figure of \$13 million currently floating around in the Northern Territory, and again I compliment the Minister on this initiative, because we now have a chance to access that. I do not yet fully understand how this decision is taken. At what point does the board decide that John Thornton's turnover is such that a second bookmaker is warranted? I should have thought—and I may well be wrong so I will be corrected on this—that when talking market forces on these issues it should be a case of saying that if another bookmaker wants to access this service he or she should have the opportunity to do it. I do not want to see the board simply saying, 'No, we want only the one bookmaker until a certain level is reached.' I am not sure the board itself should be the decision making body.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: In other sections of the Racing Act the BLB has responsibility to ensure the viability of bookmaking businesses. Each Saturday it has access to the turnover of all bookmakers and constantly assesses how many bookmaker stands there should be at, say, Victoria Park next meeting, and whether the turnover at the last Whyalla trots meeting, for example, warranted more bookmakers. I went to Berri races on Saturday, and they had four licensed bookmakers operating there. Someone has to decide how many bookmakers will operate. The BLB carefully assesses the turnover, and it has the turnover coming in after every meeting. Its track record has been pretty reasonable.

You will always get bookmakers complaining that they have not been able to get a stand at Globe Derby on a Saturday night, and they try to get in there. This has been going on for as long as all of us have been around in racing. Some bookmaker always says, 'I have sufficient turnover to warrant getting a licence to go to Globe Derby.' But, in the 'interests of the industry', somewhere in the legislation there must be a requirement that the BLB is charged with looking at the total viability of the industry. I suggest, and only time will reveal it, that with the sports betting licence the BLB will watch the turnover very carefully and, if there is enough money there for a second licence, I would be most surprised if the board did not grant it.

Mr ATKINSON: With regard to approved events not being sporting events, is it possible now to bet on an approved event other than a sporting event at a venue outside a racing or sporting event? For example, if the event were a

Federal election, would it be possible to field at the tally room?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: If my response is not absolutely accurate I will take advice before the Bill goes to another place. A bookmaker might decide to operate at Football Park, so he would approach the owners of Football Park for permission. With respect to an electoral tally room, I would have thought that a bookmaker would have to obtain permission from Andy Becker and then ask the Minister to designate, by regulation, those premises as an appropriate place for him or her to field.

Mr Atkinson: By regulation?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: By regulation. At the end of the day the Minister regulates where the venues are and what type of betting will take place in them.

Mr ATKINSON: Can we take it that the Act as it now stands before we pass this Bill confines fielding on approved events to, first, the races and, secondly, a sporting venue and that the Bill will open up a third category by regulation of anywhere else that the Governor-in-Council allows it?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I understand at the moment that it does not mention any venues at all. Clause 11 provides:

(1) Subject to this section, the board may grant to a person who holds a licence under this part to act as a bookmaker a permit—

(b) to accept bets on approved events made on a day and at an approved sporting venue specified in the permit.

We keep coming back to the fact that, by regulation, it must be an approved sporting venue.

Clause passed.

Clauses 9 and 10 passed.

Clause 11—'Permits for licensed bookmakers to bet on racecourses, at approved venues or in registered premises.'

Mr ATKINSON: Section 112(5) of the Act provides:

The board must not grant a permit under this section to accept bets made on a day and within a racecourse unless:

(a) the conduct of totalisator betting is authorised by or under part III on that racecourse on that day.

As I read that section, you cannot have bookmakers on a racecourse unless you have the tote there. Will the Minister confirm whether my reading of that section is correct? I find it curious because I have been to a number of race meetings in the country. This brings to mind a meeting at Berri where I had a filly running. I can recall bookmakers being there, but I cannot recall a tote. I can also recall going to the Victor Harbor trots, where there was no Totalisator Agency Board facility but a tote was run by the club operating in tandem with the bookmakers. Could the Minister clarify this part of the legislation?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: When you apply for and receive a race date, you also receive a tote licence. That allows you to run the bookmakers on the course but you do not have to run the tote.

Mr Atkinson: The club?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The club applies for a race date. You apply for a tote licence, which also allows you to have bookmakers, but you do not have to have the tote on course.

Mr Atkinson: You don't have to have the TAB?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: You don't have to have the TAB, which is exactly what happened at Berri last Saturday.

Clause passed.

Clause 12 passed.

Clause 13—'Payment to board of percentage of money bet with bookmakers.'

Mr FOLEY: I move:

Page 3—

Lines 29 to 31—Leave out subsubparagraph (B).

Line 32—Leave out '1995' and insert '1994'.

As I indicated in my second reading speech, notwithstanding any prior position of the Labor side of politics in the State Parliament, we now have a new shadow Minister and Cabinet, and the decisions that we are taking are made here and now and are not reflective of the past. As I said in my second reading speech, I fully endorse the package put forward by the Minister. It is both sensible and desirable, and it is quite effective in trying to assist what is an industry under enormous threat.

I am supportive of the Minister's approach, but I am saying that there is a way of improving it. It is not a radical amendment; it is a very modest and simple amendment. I am saying that, as the new shadow Minister for racing, I accept the Minister's argument that the racing industry has come under enormous pressure, and I accept the argument of the industry itself. Whilst it may have been the case that former members of this House on the Labor side of politics did not share that view, I am certainly prepared to accept the view put forward by the Minister. For the sake of \$250 000 of Government revenue, given the totality of our consolidated revenue, that is a minuscule amount. Given that the Government, since it has been elected, has been able to find new lines of expenditure almost on a daily basis with little regard, I suspect, to the final budget outcome, simply allowing another couple of hundred thousand dollars to be passed over to the industry is not a big ask.

I ask the Minister to put aside his views regarding where the previous Minister may have stood and view it in a bipartisan manner together with the Opposition. I do not seek to claim any glory for this; I just think it is a sensible amendment, and I urge the Minister to reconsider his position and be prepared to offer a little bit more assistance to the industry than he has already attempted to do.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: If I had brought in legislation which introduced the ½ per cent in one year, I wonder whether members opposite, in order to recoup some lost ground with the bookmakers, would have said, 'That's not good enough; we want 1 per cent'. They are never happy. We have a debt reduction strategy. I thought that I argued the case very well amongst my colleagues to win even a ½ per cent spread over two years. We have inherited from the Labor Party a debt of between \$8 billion and \$9 billion, and we have just had a cutback from our friend in Canberra (the Prime Minister) who has put another hole in our budget. As a racing community, I think we have done well. The arguments I put forward in my Party room have achieved a lot, even a ½ per cent, albeit spread over two years.

I would like to be able to give the bookmakers their ½ per cent straight away in one year, but we must be responsible about this. The bookmakers are not complaining; they are very happy. If the honourable member opposite wants to be seen as a very responsible shadow Minister—which I know he does—he will come forward and say that, considering the debt reduction strategy and the Government's need to preserve revenue to reduce its debt, spreading this amount over two years is not unreasonable. At the end of two years, the bookmakers will get their tax relief. We could have decided to give them a ½ per cent two years from now. We have not. We will provide some immediate relief, but it will be spread over two years. I will not debate the matter any further. Members opposite know my views. I think we have gone about it in a responsible way considering the debt

reduction strategy and the State debt that we have inherited. At the end of the day the bookmakers will get their tax relief and I think they will be very happy.

The Committee divided on the amendment:

AYES (8)

Arnold, L. M. F.	Atkinson, M. J.
Clarke, R. D.	De Laine, M. R.
Foley, K. O. (teller)	Hurley, A. K.
Quirke, J. A.	Rann, M. D.

NOES (27)

Andrew, K. A.	Armitage, M. H.
Ashenden, E. S.	Baker, D. S.
Baker, S. J.	Bass, R. P.
Becker, H.	Brown, D. C.
Condous, S. G.	Evans, I. F.
Greig, J. M.	Gunn, G. M.
Hall, J. L.	Ingerson, G. A.
Kerin, R. G.	Kotz, D. C.
Leggett, S. R.	Lewis, I. P.
Matthew, W. A.	Meier, E. J.
Olsen, J. W.	Oswald, J. K. G. (teller)
Penfold, E. M.	Rossi, J. P.
Such, R. B.	Tiernan, P. J.
Wotton, D. C.	

Majority of 19 for the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived.

Mr ATKINSON: I note that in the division 10 Government members could not bring themselves to deny bookmakers the benefits proposed for them by the Labor Party. My question relates to the turnover tax in respect of bookmakers who field in the country on interstate races. To try to illustrate the point, I refer to section 114(1) of the Act, which provides:

Every bookmaker shall, not later than 3 p.m. on each Thursday, pay to the board in respect of bets made with him on race-results decided during the week that ended at midnight on the Saturday next preceding that Thursday—

I then go to paragraph (b), which provides:

in respect of bets made with him on any racecourse situated outside the metropolitan area.

Then sub-paragraph (ii) provides:

in respect of races held outside the State, an amount equal to 2.17 per centum of the amount paid or payable to him in respect of those bets.

Looking at clause 13 of this Bill, is it not true that, for the financial year commencing 1 July 1994, the Minister actually increases the turnover tax on those bets from 2.17 per cent to 2.22 per cent?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I think the honourable member will find that clause 13(a) relates to metropolitan bookmakers and clause 13(b) relates to country bookmakers.

Mr ATKINSON: That is right.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: I understand that the honourable member was quoting the Act, which provides a percentage of 2.47.

Mr ATKINSON: No, it states 2.17 per cent.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: No, the Act refers to 2.47 per cent, and this Bill amends it to 2.17 per cent.

Mr ATKINSON: I thank the Minister. I read it as 2.17, but I think that that is due to the poor state of my copy of the Act.

Clause as amended passed.

Clause 14 passed.

Clause 15—'Effect of licence.'

Mr FOLEY: We have referred to approved sporting venues at which bookmakers may operate. Has any thought

been given to venues other than sporting venues at which it may be appropriate for bookmakers to operate, such as the Entertainment Centre, the Glendi festival or other such events where there might be large gatherings of people? Could the provision in relation to venues be a bit broader?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: Until now, this issue has been dictated mainly by requests from bookmakers, and they have not requested to operate anywhere other than sporting venues. The flow-on question is: what would you do if bookmakers requested that they be allowed to field the Entertainment Centre? I suppose, being a broad-minded fellow, that I would say, 'Put up your proposal and we will have a look at it.' But I am also acutely aware that there has to be some reasonable approach to the question of where we allow bookmaking stands, and I would like to think that we are not about to embark upon an open slather whereby there will be a bookmaker's stand at every facility: that will not be the case.

In answer to the question, first, the request will have to come through a bookmaker and, secondly, at present bookmakers' requests relate only to sporting venues, and that is where we will be regulating for their use. If down the track requests are made relating to other venues, we will certainly look at it, but I give no guarantee that we will vary from sporting venues at this stage.

Clause passed.

Clause 16—'Prohibition of certain information as to racing or betting.'

Mr ATKINSON: Will the Minister clarify what the law is under the present Act and how it will differ under this Bill in respect of transmitting information about betting from a racecourse? When one goes into hotels that have the TAB betting service and Sky Channel, one can see betting fluctuations on the tote on a screen in a pub. First, does that violate the current Act and is that why we are amending the Act? Secondly, when I watch the Channel 9 coverage of the Sydney races on a Saturday afternoon, one of the segments involves Kenny Callender turning the knobs on a bookmaker's board to show the betting on races in Sydney. Is that prohibited by this Bill, its being transmitted from Sydney to South Australian television screens? Presumably it is not. Or is the answer that Kenny Callender is, in fact, showing us tote odds, not bookmaker's odds, and therefore it is okay?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The prices you are seeing on that occasion are not bookmaker's odds but tote odds, the same as you see on Sky Channel. It has an estimate of tote odds coming through. This clause prohibits the telephoning of betting information from one course to another. That is what is different.

Mr ATKINSON: I have been going to the races since I was a young child and I remember being in the betting ring and hearing the sound of three beeps and the announcement of interstate fluctuations; someone would give the odds coming from an interstate course. I cannot believe that the Minister intends that this Bill should outlaw the transmission of odds from one course to another, as in his previous answer he said he was prohibiting. If he is prohibiting it, surely it is subject to an exemption for an approved transmitter. Who are those transmitters to be? Will they be the same people as previously? In addition, is there anything wrong now with my going to Cheltenham with a mobile phone, ringing up my mum at home and telling her what the fluctuations are?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member knows that that is an offence. I assure him that it is and I suggest that he does not do it. He would also know that the

on course betting service between Melbourne and Adelaide and Sydney and Adelaide, or wherever, is authorised by the BLB; it is an official betting service that is permitted and authorised. Previously it was not an offence for an unauthorised person to transmit betting information from one racecourse to another racecourse. This Bill provides that it will become an offence to transmit betting information from one course to another course unless one is authorised by the BLB to do so.

Mr FOLEY: This brings us to another point. I would be happy to receive some advice from the Minister as a result of his experience. I take it that this clause is attempting in part to address the issue of these new-found gadgets that everyone seems to be carrying—mobile telephones—to try to reduce or eliminate wherever possible the opportunity for someone to ring up someone outside the course, or wherever it may be, to compare odds, or to pass on other information, between bookmakers.

Again, I am thinking aloud and perhaps that is not the best thing to do in Committee, but I will learn from experience. Should we be addressing the issue of banning mobile telephones from racecourses? It may be that we are getting to a point where this should be considered. We have already seen an incident in the House today where mobile telephones are intruding everywhere. However, given the sensitivities and security required on a racecourse, there may well be an argument that mobile telephones are not permitted inside a racecourse.

The CHAIRMAN: Before I call on the Minister, I advise the honourable member that his allegation was investigated and no evidence of a telephone was detected by the messengers. We may have been under a misapprehension.

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: The honourable member may or may not be aware of an incident that occurred at Cheltenham Racecourse, so I will acquaint him with it. A punter was caught in the car park telephoning a colleague on course in Sydney and transmitting betting information so that the colleague could use that information. When the case went to court, the judge threw it out because it was not an offence under the wording of the Act. This amendment picks up those occasions so that in future, if someone is found on course telephoning unauthorised betting information to a colleague interstate or on another course where betting is taking place, or wherever, it is an offence. So, we can ensure that the only betting information that is remitted off-course to another course is authorised. That is the crux of it: we can ensure that betting information flowing around the Commonwealth is authorised and we do not have people using mobile telephones to transmit that information to other colleagues at other rings on an unauthorised basis.

Mr FOLEY: That is the nub of my question. I do not know how one would police a law such as this. If someone has their mobile telephone at the racecourse and they are simply discussing business or a personal matter, or they are ringing to check the footy score or whatever people do, how does one police such use of a mobile telephone? We are saying that it is illegal to transmit information from the course. I would think that there would be very few cases where one could actually apprehend a person and successfully prosecute a case that they were actually transmitting details from the betting ring. I would have thought that anyone could construct an alibi or argument, or fabricate a reason as to why they were using the telephone that would be sufficient to stand up in court.

My point is that we can put it in law that, if someone is using a mobile telephone at the races and gets caught, they are liable to prosecution. What proof does one have that they were transmitting racing information? Why can they not say that they were talking to their wife about what time they expect to get home? Is there an argument—and I am simply posing the question—that we should ban mobile telephones from the racecourse?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: There are two answers to that. The first relates to the question of how they caught this person. Someone lay under a car and recorded the telephone conversations that were taking place: they had a tape recording of the fact that that person was transmitting betting information. It was pretty much an open and closed case until it went to court. Of course, when it got to court it was found that the Act did not stand up and the case was lost. That is why we have this amendment before us today. However, to try to clarify this point, the SAJC has a local rule as regards the use of mobile telephones on course. One must have the permission of the stewards to operate a mobile telephone on course. They can get around it like that.

I agree with the honourable member that it is difficult to try to prove that someone is not ringing up their mother to say that they will not be home until late or to ask about her health. One really does need to have proof that the person is transmitting betting information. However, if that proof does exist, it is an offence. To get around that, the local stewards have said that permission must be given before racegoers can carry a mobile phone and use it.

Mr ATKINSON: I do not quite understand the mischief of the course-to-course communication that the Minister is trying to remedy. What is wrong with a punter transmitting betting information by mobile telephone from Morphettville to, say, Warwick Farm? What is the cost of that to the industry? I quite understand what the mischief would be if the punter at Morphettville was transmitting betting information to a starting price bookmaker or an illegal bookmaker at the Halfway House Hotel at Beverley. I understand what that mischief would be in that people would go to the pub rather than to the races. However, I do not see the mischief in transmitting information from one course to another. Can the Minister assure me that the clause is not an attempt to establish a monopoly in transmitting betting information and to protect that monopoly?

Finally, where bookmakers are betting at other venues on other events that are not races, and there may not be an admission charge at that venue, what is wrong with punters, or the bookmaker himself, phoning other places with information about betting at that other non-racing venue?

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: There are two parts to the question and it requires two answers. First, there is a responsibility, I believe, to protect the integrity and security of the official bookmaking service—the Bookmakers Prices Service (BPS). I think we have an obligation as the Government to try to protect that service.

On the more practical side, I will quote an example. Many large punters have mates interstate who carry money for each other. The honourable member may have a mate in the Randwick ring on Saturday with \$10 000 of his money.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. J.K.G. OSWALD: Unlikely; it is a hypothetical case. The honourable member could be in the Morphettville ring, see a price and telephone his mate in Sydney and find there is a more favourable price on the board there. He might then say, 'I won't put my money on here in

Adelaide; I'll put it on in Sydney.' So, the mate puts it on in Sydney, and we lose the turnover because it is not going through the South Australian bookmaker.

There are two issues, one involving protection of the integrity of the BPS system that we have in place; and the other is to take away the opportunity for a large punter to see a price in Adelaide. It might be 3/1, so he gets on the mobile telephone, knowing it is 45/10 in Sydney, and his mate in Sydney invests a large sum with a Sydney bookmaker, which contributes to the New South Wales turnover and comes off the South Australian turnover. We have two opportunities to try to stop that particular procedure.

Clause passed.

Clause 17 and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (STALKING) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 10 March. Page 411.)

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): The Opposition supports this Bill. Indeed, it was the previous Labor Government which first introduced this proposed law to Parliament in October 1993. The former Attorney-General saw that there was a gap in the criminal law which allowed behaviour which we characterise as stalking. There has, of course, always been a civil action or tort by the name of 'watching and besetting' but, in the domestic context in which most of these offences occur, civil action is not used. Therefore, it was necessary, I think, to introduce a criminal offence of stalking.

There are two differences in this Bill from the Bill introduced by the Labor Government. The first difference is that it has widened the definition of 'stalking', and the Opposition agrees with the new Government that that expansion of the definition is desirable. The second change by the new Government is that, if the accused is convicted of another criminal offence arising out of the same facts that led to the stalking indictment, the stalking indictment does not proceed. I am not sure that this amendment by the new Liberal Government was necessary, but the Opposition is willing to go along with it. I agree with the Attorney-General's remarks regarding the crime prevention aspect of this Bill. I think his remarks are correct, and the Opposition supports the Bill.

Ms GREIG (Reynell): I have great pleasure in supporting this Bill. To date it has been difficult to get a restraining order against threatening behaviour such as following, watching, and sending letters or unwanted gifts. Outwardly, this behaviour may be seen as being quite innocent, but it is not so innocent: it is threatening, intimidating and in many circumstances frightening. We are hearing more and more frequently about this sort of behaviour.

This Bill differs in two main respects from that introduced by the former Government, both changes having resulted from consultation on the form of the original Bill. The first is an expression of the description of the behaviour that may

trigger the offence. Stalkers vary greatly in the ways in which they may seek to intimidate or harass. The previous Bill listed: following a person, loitering outside a place frequented by a person, entering a property, keeping a person under surveillance, and acting covertly in a way that could reasonably be expected to arouse a person's apprehension and fear. That list has been widened to include: interfering with property of another person; giving or leaving offensive material for another person. Secondly, the procedural aspects of the original Bill have been changed so that the offence of stalking may be charged in the same indictment as other offences committed by stalking behaviour.

Many abused women have survived through constant criticism, threats, bruises, cuts, broken bones and rape. They have managed to hold their families together, and in turn with a little help they have escaped from their nightmare only to find that the cause of their grief is out to haunt them. The former husband, boyfriend or lover has become obsessed with his own feelings of empowerment. It is not enough that he has totally destroyed a major part of someone's life; he cannot let go. This psychological obsession is a crime. Why should victims have to be constantly looking over their shoulder? Why should victims be constantly on the move for fear of constant stalking behaviours?

We are talking about victims, not criminals—victims who, as I said earlier, have already lived through their nightmare and want to be left alone to live in peace. For the past few months I have been working with a lady and her four children who, with the introduction of this new Bill, will be able to sleep at night. The lady's husband was gaoled for sexually interfering with their daughter. His parting words after charges were, 'I'll get you.' This man was released from gaol in August. His wife—now ex-wife—only discovered he had been released by the strange and sometimes obscene telephone calls she was receiving.

The children started to notice cars following them home and, to make matters worse, the husband had been seen visiting the children's school. As time passed the telephone calls became more frequent and headlights would be shining into the windows of the family home late at night. The police had been called, but what could they do? According to law, he had not done anything wrong; he had not harmed anyone. Just because he lives in the northern suburbs does not mean he cannot visit the southern suburbs and stand out the front of a local southern school, or drive down a Morphett Vale street and shine lights through his ex-wife's front window, especially when she is supposed to be in a safe house. Families in this situation are tired of running and tired of hiding, and for some a full night's sleep is something long since forgotten.

These families deserve a new start, free from the fears they have left behind them. On behalf of many women in my local community, I support the Bill.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Kavel): I want to make a contribution to this debate because of an unfortunate experience a member of my staff had not so long ago. In fact, if this legislation had been in place two years ago, a former member of my staff may well still be alive today. I do not want to get into the specifics of that murder, which followed more than three years of calculated stalking and constant death threats. I think the family has had enough grief and anger to come to terms with what happened without being confronted with it yet again publicly. However, it brought home to me in the most awful way possible that politicians as legislators have

been remiss in their handling of stalking. For too long stalkers have been protected while their victims have been left vulnerable with nowhere to turn that could achieve the only result they needed: for the stalker to be removed.

Police saying 'Call us and we can do something if he attacks or breaks in' is a pathetic non-answer, but it was all the police could do, given the restraints of the law. Many police have been as frustrated as victims have. Stalkers have been protected because the law said, basically, that unless someone committed an actual crime he or she could not be stopped, removed or charged, but at last we are identifying that what these people do is a crime, and a hideous one. It is torture of the worst kind. As we have seen for ourselves far too often, stalking can end in death. It does not always, but it may just as well, because the victims who are not murdered by their stalkers are condemned to a living hell.

They have no life, and it is not until you see the physical and mental effect on a person of being constantly stalked that you can really understand how little life they have; that they exist with only one emotion, and that is fear. Imagine for a moment how each of us in this Chamber would feel if we jumped and broke into a cold sweat every time the telephone rang, even at work. I saw that happen with a person. Imagine what it would be like if we had to park our car in a different place or drive to work by a different route each day; if we were forced to rent a home under another name; if we had to explain to authorities why we needed our gas, electricity and telephone bills to be made out under assumed names; or if our credit cards had to be sent to a post box number. What would it be like if we were too frightened to leave the office at lunch time to grab a sandwich, to take a walk on the beach or even to weed the front garden?

Some people are too frightened to go home each evening without a friend to take them there to check each room and window and to stay with them until the numerous locks on the doors have been checked. How can anyone function under those conditions, often for many years, and be told that creating fear is not a crime? Then worse: to be tracked down yet again and to receive daily telephone calls explaining to you exactly how you are going to die and when. We cannot legislate to change human behaviour, and I do not for one moment believe that this legislation will stop stalkers attempting this disgusting form of revenge and retaliation against other human beings, but at least the law will now be able to afford their victims protection.

Stalkers will be able to be charged and dealt with by the process of the law, and will no longer be able to continue with their inhumane form of torture because the law has failed to serve the needs of the community. But we also must be mindful of what this legislation cannot deliver, that is, a change in mindset. When my staff member was murdered, other staff had to deal with some very strange reactions, particularly from some members of the Federal Police, along the lines of 'hysterical women', and women often making allegations of stalking that were either vindictive or grossly exaggerated. This legislation will not remove such chauvinistic, insensitive attitudes, but it will mean that the law can override them.

The stalking legislation now before us is imperative, and I am sure there is no-one in the South Australian Parliament who can disagree with the thrust of it. My only real regret is that this legislation was not in place several years ago, so that the fear, torture, torment and eventual death of someone whom I knew reasonably well could have been avoided.

Mr CUMMINS (Norwood): I have pleasure in supporting this Bill. The need for this offence of stalking has been evident to anyone who has practised in the law. I was in general practice for 12 years and in the course of that practice advised people in relation to matrimonial matters, and also advised *de factos* in relation to problems they were having with partners. Obviously, the Bill primarily is directed at the stalking of females by males. The law historically has been very inadequate in this area. As we know, there is an offence of offensive conduct under section 7 of the Summary Offences Act 1953 as amended. The difficulty with that is that that offence only covers areas such as threatening abuse or insulting and general misbehaviour and is not broad enough to cover areas such as, for example, loitering, which must be necessary, it seems to me, to catch these people who involve themselves in this sort of behaviour.

The other areas of criminal law equally have not been broad enough to cover this area of the law we are now proposing. For example, under the Family Law Act you can get an injunction but, in that jurisdiction, to enforce the injunction where someone is prevented from approaching someone's residence or going near them, you have to go to the Family Court, you have to swear affidavits, you have to go before a judge and it can go to oral hearing, etc. The advantage of this legislation is that when the police apprehend people they can arrest them, bring them before the court and, as a condition of bail, say, 'You cannot approach this person, you cannot loiter near their residence, interfere with their property or give them offensive material or keep them under surveillance,' etc.

By imposing the conditions of bail you have some element of control over them. Of course, if they breach those bail conditions they can be brought before the court and gaoled until the matter comes on for hearing. So, this is a very important area of the law and one that is well justified. The other problem, historically, with this sort of behaviour has been that it generally applies in relation to people either married or in *de facto* relationships, where they have joint properties or properties as tenants in common. There is an offence of being unlawfully on premises, for example, but that does not cover the situation, because if as a matter of law they have a joint tenancy or tenancy in common with the person they are stalking, in this instance a male stalking a female and entering premises, the police say, 'I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do', because as a matter of law they are entitled to be on the premises and, assuming there is no injunction, there is nothing the police can do.

Historically, that has always been the difficulty. Constantly when I was in practice I had females coming to me who were harassed by males, in particular, and I used to have to say to them that, fundamentally, unless they breach the criminal law nothing can be done. It was a very unsatisfactory situation, not only from the female's point of view but more particularly for the effect it has on their children. For there is no doubt at all that this sort of behaviour has a very dramatic effect on the children directly and indirectly because of the effect it has on the female partner.

One of the disappointing things about this legislation is that there is no actual provision for an injunction, but I suppose, as I said earlier, one could impose, as a condition of bail, the fact that the individual is not allowed to do certain things; and, secondly, I suppose, if he is convicted—

Mr Atkinson: Name one injunction under the criminal law.

Mr CUMMINS: You may remember the *Oh, Calcutta!* case, where the Full Bench of the Supreme Court granted an injunction preventing the showing of the program. There is no reason why that concept cannot be extended to the criminal law: it is just a matter of putting it there. But, in answer to the honourable member, I suppose the situation here could be covered by making it a condition of bail, when the person is brought before the court and charged, that they not approach the person, etc. Once they are convicted of the offence, one can equally sentence them for a couple of years and also put them on a bond to be of good behaviour for a certain period, making conditions covering all things set out in section 19 AA(1)(a), namely, not following the people, not loitering, interfering with property, etc.

Of course, if they breach the conditions of that bail, they can immediately be brought back before the court and sentenced. I am happy to support the Bill. I am sure that, with the support of my colleagues on the other side, it will pass. It is about time that we had this legislation.

Mr QUIRKE (Playford): I will not detain the House for very long on this measure. Anyone who has operated an electorate office for any time at all will have had people come into their office and make statements about their circumstances. In many instances they live in women's shelters; and in other instances they are in private rental accommodation. They fear for their life, and they fear for the life of their children. They are constantly in danger. The law has few sanctions to stop this sort of activity. I will give one example of where the existing law is often broken, and I refer to a court order for a person to keep well away from a particular address. Sadly, I have found that an awful lot is lacking in the follow-up to many of those orders. Women have come into my office demanding protection because they genuinely fear for their life. They are often forced to wait a very long time for the attendance of police.

It should also be said that, in many instances, when police have attended, there has not been a significant breach of the peace or the criminal sanction that would allow police officers to involve themselves. We hope that situation will now change with the passage of this legislation. More of this sort of legislation will be necessary, because many constituents have come into my office and been happy to give me their name, address and telephone number on the condition that under no circumstances was it to be divulged to any agency where it was likely that someone would see it on a file or where their ex-husband—usually, but not always—would get hold of it.

Telecom has been good in this regard. A number of people who have a secure telephone line have come into my office and said that the security on that silent line has lasted only a day or two because the ex-husband has accessed the number because either he worked for Telecom or he had a friend who worked for Telecom. In that situation Telecom has, without charge, changed the number. There have been a number of instances where that has caused a lot of problems. In some areas in my electorate—and it is no different from any other electorate—late at night, some people, particularly women, live in absolute fear of their own life and that of their children. This sort of measure will be necessary in the future.

I hope that the Police Force will also take a very close look at its own role in some of the orders, which have already been made in many instances, and will improve its response time, particularly given that a number of people in every electorate are in fear of their life following a family break-

down. In many instances, the environment can be so emotionally charged that it can lead to a serious breach of the peace. A number of examples spring to mind, and one of those, which is before the court—and I do not want to make any comment on it—is the case of the Fain boy. His mother is a constituent of mine. I am sure all members would feel very sad about that incident.

Mr BASS (Florey): The many problems involving the breaking of laws are inherited from the United States, Europe and Asia, and from time to time there is a need to introduce laws that combat these problems. The Bill is one of these examples. As an ex-police officer, I can speak with some authority on the problems of trying to explain to innocent members of the public how one's hands are tied when the police have been advised of a set of circumstances which is causing the victim untold stress and trauma yet, because of the lack of an appropriate Act or insufficient evidence to show an offence, the hands of the police are tied. I can assure members that it is not a very good feeling to see an innocent victim walk away from a police station without receiving the assistance that they have cried out for. To the police it is very frustrating indeed.

In the United States of America there has been an increase in this unpleasant practice known as stalking. Although it has come to the fore in Australia recently, it has been prevalent in South Australia for some time. Stalking can be caused by many things, including a broken marriage where one party cannot accept that a marriage is over, or a case of infatuation whereby a person continually stalks another simply to be close to them or to keep them in view, and that can be very frightening for the person being stalked. Stalking can even be applied to minor criminals. They may have been involved with some minor criminal offence and with a criminal element. A hardened criminal might attempt to force those minor criminals into more serious offences, and I have known where hardened criminals have stalked minor criminals to coerce them into committing other offences. I recently had an incident that was blown out of all proportion in my own electorate following an argument between neighbours. Threats were made and, finally, the wife and children of one of the neighbours was subjected to stalking, which is a frightening experience for the person who is followed.

The charge of offensive behaviour has, on many occasions, been used for stalking offences. However, having a special offence of stalking will make it a more serious offence and also allow a jury to find a person guilty of the more serious offence or, while offensive behaviour is there, the less serious offence. This Bill expands the description of the behaviour that may trigger the offence, and this is needed as stalkers vary greatly in the way in which they intimidate or harass a victim. The procedures have been changed so that the offence of stalking may be charged in the same indictment as other offences committed by stalking behaviour. Experience has shown that stalking legislation, as well as being a reactive tool of policing, can be used in a proactive way in crime prevention, as the member for Spence alluded to.

An alleged offender who has not carried out actions that necessitate an arrest but who has caused concern to a victim can always be warned by police of the consequences of the continuing of such behaviour and, of course, the committing of the final offence of stalking. The Bill clearly fills a gap in the law—a gap that has caused distress to many innocent victims who on many occasions have felt that they were alone in their time of need. The stalking Bill will assist the single

woman, the family who is threatened by neighbours or acquaintances, separated persons, either male or female, and persons who have become involved with criminals in minor offences and who now wish to depart from that environment. Stalking can affect the rich, the poor, males or females—anybody can be subject to stalking. I commend the Bill to the House, and I am sure that it will receive bipartisan support from both sides of the chamber.

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

Mr CONDOUS (Colton): In rising to support this Bill, I think it appropriate that the men in this Parliament speak on behalf of women. Recently, while visiting the Law Society, I saw a sign which said: 'Real men don't hit or stalk women.' How true that is. In my electorate, in a very short space of time, I have seen many women who have pleaded for the Government to change the laws to protect them from stalking by former husbands and *de factos* who cannot accept the fact that the relationship is over and continually inflict what I would term emotional violence on these women night after night, week after week in an endeavour to destroy the very people whom this Bill is meant to protect.

I cite the example of a woman, a very elegant person, who has been coming to my office. Her husband is a high school teacher and a former member of the armed forces of Australia. He has been harassing her on an ongoing basis with constant telephone calls (up to 15 or 20 a night); coming around at 2 am and tapping constantly on the window; sending cabs around at 2 and 3 am; and sending pizza deliveries to her premises at all hours of the night. In fact, he has been constantly harassing her to the point where she is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. These parasites work on breaking down the self-esteem of these women to destroy their confidence and prevent them getting on with their life and trying to do something creative following the devastation of a broken relationship.

These women, who have so much to offer our community, live in constant fear of going out, socialising with their friends or leaving their home because they may encounter their stalker somewhere in the community. I do not believe that, in the past, the law in this State has done anything constructive to protect these women. In fact, one must say that the law has failed to protect these women against stalking. There are many major inadequacies within the current laws. The Attorney-General is introducing this Bill in an effort to remedy this situation. Women to whom I have spoken who have been stalked have said to me that the law has failed them. The time has come for that to change. These women deserve more than just having these stalkers brought before the police and restraining orders placed on them, because within a matter of days those restraining orders are abused and the harassment starts all over again.

Having talked to the general community and to the women who are involved in supporting these women in my electorate, I believe the public is absolutely sick and tired of the fact that there are men in this community who make it a practice of continually trying to destroy the very fabric of a woman once the relationship is over. That is intimidation of women in the sickest form, because to try to mentally distress a person and break down the fabric and beauty of a woman is a disgraceful act. The women are sick and tired of hearing police say, 'He will not do it again, because we have put a restraining order on him, and that is going to solve the problem.'

This community elected us in December for one major reason, and that was that we would take a hard line decision on all acts of crime. This is one of the worst acts of crime, because it involves continual fear, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by inoffensive, defenceless and helpless women. Let us live up to the standards for which we were elected and show the public that we have a bit of gumption to go ahead and instigate laws that are going to put these people out of circulation, not by restraining orders but by gaoling them—by putting them away and saying to them quite clearly that, if they are not prepared to leave that woman alone, we must take them out of the community, and the only place where we can do that is behind bars in gaol. That is the sort of action needed.

When we think about a woman sitting in a house, living in fear and waiting for the next act of intimidation, we realise that this is really nothing but bullying. The particular case that I cited earlier has been continuing for 14 years. Just imagine the distress that this person has suffered over that prolonged period of time. I believe that the Bill adequately covers the aspect of stalking, and I am absolutely amazed that it has taken so long for this Parliament to come up with a sensible Bill that protects these women in society. Thankfully, the one thing we will be able to do is to take credit, as a Government, for having done something constructive. I know that I, and I would assume all of my parliamentary colleagues, would take pride in saying that we have done something to establish that women can live safely in our community even when a relationship has finished, because the men that make an art form of intimidating and bullying them year after year are to be taken out of society. I certainly believe that both sides of this House will adopt this Bill and embrace it with the warmth that is necessary, especially in this the year of women which we are celebrating.

Mr TIERNAN (Torrens): I support the Bill. It is just a single page, but it will have a far reaching effect within society. In my previous occupation I knew of some of the concerns raised in the community about stalking, but when I started the election campaign for the seat of Torrens it was one issue that came up continually. Now that I am the member for Torrens I am amazed at the range of people involved, from elderly couples to young people of 16 to 18 years. One elderly couple had been harassed to the extent that I would be frightened in their situation.

Stalking takes effect in ingenious ways. It amazes me how cleverly people can carry out stalking and harassment yet not get caught. It occurs to the extent where they can convince people that they are doing no harm and no wrong, that the victim's fears live in the victim's imagination and that the victim is fabricating many of the stories. It is an excellent piece of legislation and it is in line with the election promise. Of all the issues raised during the election campaign, the one that attracted the most response was law and order. The Liberal Party received a large mandate from the community, which expects this Government to take a harder line with this sort of behaviour.

I would like to raise some concerns. I am not sure that this Bill goes far enough in helping the police out of their catch 22 situation. Although victims are badly treated in this area, the police today have an absolutely unenviable job; they really cannot do much. I am not sure that we have gone far enough in this measure to give the police more power to combat the situation.

My other concern is that the punishments do not seem to provide enough variation to apply to the different levels of stalking and harassment. I would like to see more room for the courts to apply, in some cases, a much stiffer penalty than is provided under the Bill; I may seek advice from our lawyer friends as to how we could amend that part of the Bill. I commend this Bill to the House and I look forward to its being put into action. I know that the local police at Holden Hill will be delighted to have some power to help victims in this situation instead of the current disastrous frustrations.

Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna): I support the Bill. The introduction of this Bill is essential to the ongoing commitment of a Liberal Government to the protection of our community from those who enjoy harassment and who give women unwanted attention and, regrettably, ultimately inflict violence on those women in many cases. I am particularly pleased that this legislation places clearly on the record that this Government is serious about the unfortunate trend which has become part of our society: that is the trend of increasing violence and harassment generally, and I refer to that increasing trend as it exists in a schoolyard, on the streets, in public transport and, most regrettably, in our homes. We are not paying lip service to the problem and it is important that we are not seen to be doing so.

The issues of harassment and violence in our society are intertwined and must necessarily be opposed with equal vigour. Where a person has been threatened by violence or has suffered actual body harm, there is an obviously recognisable act and it is easy, therefore, for the law and the courts to see that problem and to act accordingly. However, the act of harassment or stalking, as it has been described in this Bill, is more intangible and can be understood properly only by those who have experienced it. Therefore, the courts have always been reticent to take too much action in those cases.

The law has always used the restraining order as a way of taking action against those who seek attention through the harassment that they have inflicted on people. It has been a much easier path to bring a person before the courts if they have physically taken a knife, a gun, or some sort of a weapon to a person. I contend that the weapon of harassment is as damning as is any other weapon. When the harassment is in the form of an unwanted letter, phone call or gift or is simply a person's physical presence, equally unwanted, the threat to the victim is no less real but it is much less easily defined in the courts under present legislation. Those people finding themselves in this situation in the past have found it virtually impossible to seek and obtain help.

There have been very few mechanisms that they could resort to other than the restraining order and, at best, I suggest that the restraining order is just words on paper. I do not believe that those people who have had restraining orders put against them have considered them important enough to stand by and those who have had restraining orders put out against other people do not honestly feel safe under those restraining orders. The reality is that, for those people who are victims in this situation, those restraining orders have never really stopped the harassment. This legislation is therefore doubly important to allow an offence to be placed on this behaviour before the next step, which ultimately in most cases is violence.

It is important that the intimidation threat is covered in this Bill. I acknowledge the attempts of the previous Government to introduce anti-stalking legislation, but I believe this Bill goes much further. This Bill gives a wider explanation of the

behaviour that can be considered an offence and the bottom line is that the offender knows he or she will be causing intimidation and harassment. The expansion therefore includes such as things as interfering with a person's property and distributing offensive material. The limitation of where this behaviour is considered normal and the innocent must be weighed against those who have the intention of criminal activity, and that is also an important interpretation within the Bill.

It is an important element to have this requirement of intention to conduct a criminal act included to set aside those who may be simply using an innocent activity; that is, they are reasonably infatuated with someone and sending innocent letters through the mail. That should not be interpreted as harassment under this Bill and I believe there is a limitation within that for the courts to see the difference between those two. I commend this Bill to the House. I believe it is an extremely important further step for the protection of South Australians, particularly women, who have had no recourse in the past to the courts to prevent this type of unwanted activity.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier): I thank all members who have participated in this debate. It is an important measure. The law has not previously provided for this offence. We all know of circumstances where women, in particular, have been harassed in a way that has made their life hell. I have had some women in my office in that particular situation, as have all members, or as they will have during their parliamentary life. There are ways in which people wish to get back at those who were formerly close to them. It is often the situation where a marriage breaks up or where there is a domestic dispute or a falling out that the male of species quite often takes out his anger in ways that we all regret. Certainly we abhor some of the steps that are taken when people get to the stage where they want to vent their anger and create fear for the weaker members of our community. It is mainly against males, although on a few occasions the victim is a male. However, some 95 per cent of cases involve males, who wish to exercise power over females or children, and they do it in this disgusting fashion.

The law is never perfect; it does not answer all the questions. There are circumstances where proof of these offences will be very difficult. However, it is important that the rights of all individuals are protected in the process. I commend all members of Parliament for the quality of the debate, and I commend the thoughts that have been expressed. This is an important measure. It has been a long time coming. We as a Government will ensure that it has a speedy proclamation so that at least there are measures within the law to recognise that these activities and this reprehensible behaviour will not be tolerated in any shape or form. I thank all members who have participated in the debate.

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

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier): I move:
That the House do now adjourn.

Mr TIERNAN (Torrens): My grievance this evening concerns the electorate of Elizabeth, named after Queen Elizabeth II. I draw the attention of the House to the long neglect of that electorate, an electorate made up of Elizabeth

Downs, Elizabeth North, Elizabeth Park, Elizabeth East, Elizabeth itself, Elizabeth Grove, Elizabeth Vale and Elizabeth South.

Elizabeth was formed in the late 1950s by the initiative of the then Liberal Government led by Sir Thomas Playford, mainly instigating the industrial area of Elizabeth. That area generated a lot of houses and employment and eventually it became a very beautiful city. Many people in Elizabeth worked at the local GMH factory and subsidiaries to the motor industry. There used to be white goods, or washing machine, manufacturers there. It also supplied much of the technical expertise for Edinburgh Fields and weapons research at Salisbury, as well as, in those early days, Woomera and Maralinga. Employment was very high, the whole area was vibrant and growing, and the trees that can be seen today were planted in the late 1950s.

I had the pleasure of living and working in Elizabeth in the early days of 1961-62 through to 1964. At that time there was full employment and the city was well looked after, particularly by Sir Thomas Playford and the then Liberal Government. However, things have sadly changed in the past 15 to 16 years, but particularly in the past 10 years. The whole seat of Elizabeth, particularly the new part, has been sadly neglected. People have been used because of their strong support in one direction to the advantage of the Labor Party. The previous member was an Independent Labor member, Martyn Evans. Most of the people whom I have met through door knocking in the Elizabeth area during the election and since, particularly during the recent by-election, feel sadly let down. They are completely disappointed in their Independent Labor member because they had high expectations that he would start looking after the electorate of Elizabeth.

Unfortunately, that did not eventuate. When we go out and meet people, for example, they say that this is the first time they have seen a politician around the street. In one particular part, Elizabeth South, where some people have lived for 35 years, all of a sudden they have started seeing the doorknockers from the Labor Party. All of a sudden there is an interest in Elizabeth. I wonder why.

It has been a very safe Labor seat for a long period, and now the people living in Elizabeth have begun to realise that this has been to their disadvantage. Some of the disadvantages of neglect are that there is not enough water pressure now correctly to supply the houses in the Elizabeth area with water. That problem and, indeed, the neglect has existed for quite a few years and has not been seen to. The footpaths are badly broken and in need of repair and are dangerous. This is not because the council cannot keep up, but it does need some assistance.

The Housing Trust homes are in need of maintenance, with broken windows and rubbish everywhere, doors off hinges, and fences falling down; all these things are particularly obvious. There is certainly a considerable amount of neglect. When we have been speaking to people in Elizabeth all we have recorded is complete dissatisfaction with the lack of interest by the previous members of the Labor Party. This is one of the prices that they realise they have had to pay for living in such a safe Labor electorate.

Mr Meier interjecting:

Mr TIERNAN: I hope so, because one of the most disappointing things, Elizabeth having been my early stamping ground, is to see it in such a depressed state at the moment, and this is through no fault of the people in Elizabeth. They try hard and they work hard but there is unemployment. The unemployment of the youth in Elizabeth

is the second worse in South Australia, and I think the third worst in Australia.

The people there are disfranchised from the political sphere, and that is felt everywhere you go. I have door knocked around most parts of South Australia, particularly in the metropolitan area, and that is the most disappointing place in which I have had to speak to people. It does not matter which electorate you go to, because it involves the luck of the average: there will be people who will never see a politician all their life, and there is always a percentage in any electorate. However, I have never met so many people in one electorate who have never seen a politician around their district. It has been taken for granted for far too long.

I hope some of the resentment shows up on Saturday, because they have an opportunity on Saturday 9 April to let people know that they should not be taken for granted. It is not fair, just because people are loyal, that they should be taken for granted. It is definitely not on.

Mr Meier: I wonder what Sir Thomas Playford would say.

Mr TIERNAN: Sir Thomas Playford would be turning in his grave. You must appreciate the input of the previous Liberal Governments and how they developed the whole Elizabeth area. However, it is now sadly neglected when it comes to employment. In Elizabeth you could buy just about everything you needed to buy for your house or industry, particularly in the white goods area, an area in which I used to work myself. Now it is sadly neglected and gone.

It is just like the south. Members saw what happened down south. The previous Labor Government totally neglected the south, and we told people that, and eventually they discovered that they had been neglected and taken advantage of. Look at the result: just look at this House and the number of people who come in from the south.

Mr Meier: What have the former members been doing all these years?

Mr TIERNAN: Well, I do not know. There is a bit of concern about the former member, that is, Martyn Evans. He sadly neglected the area of Elizabeth. The people there are very upset. First of all they put him in as an Independent and now his ex-campaign manager is again standing as an Independent Labor candidate. Then, less than a few weeks after being elected into the State Parliament Mr Evans drops the people of Elizabeth like a hot potato for another area, namely, the Federal scene. I suspect that there are a lot of people in Elizabeth, certainly quite a few that I meet—and I have a list of some of the areas I have been to—who are very bitter about how they have been taken advantage of. I say to them: it is time they stood up and were counted.

Those people should not allow people to take advantage of them just because they are loyal. That is a false loyalty and should not be abused in such a manner. I look forward to the election on 9 April and to the people in the electorate of Elizabeth realising that they have a new, young, vibrant and exciting young member standing for the Liberal Party, namely, Stephen Nicholson. Stephen lives in the area. Unfortunately, he is unemployed at the moment, but that gives him considerable empathy with, not sympathy for, the majority of people in the Elizabeth area. I say to those people: it is time you stood up and were counted. Do not allow people to take advantage of your false loyalties. I conclude by saying, in respect for the people of Elizabeth, who have been taken advantage of for so long, I will now conclude and not take any more of their time.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): It is extraordinary to find this sudden and rare interest in the people of Elizabeth from members opposite. The simple fact is that the Liberal Party does not care or give a dam about the people of Elizabeth, but will soon be there trotting trying to claim credit for the police station and the new courts complex that the Labor Government built. It has even had the gall to pretend that it had something to do with an increase in the GMH work force. Do not give me this hypocrisy.

We heard the Premier, whose hubris has set in very early in his honeymoon, criticise the cost of the by-election. He seems to have some short-term memory loss. In 1992 we remember that the Premier and his now Minister for Industry entered this House in some rather strange by-elections. The Minister for Industry has the unique honour of being involved in two State by-elections within one Parliamentary term. Let us remember what happened. The then member for Kavel, now Minister for Industry, caused a by-election in Custance when he was dumped by the Party so that the member for Victoria could be installed as Leader of the Opposition. That was a fairly hapless episode.

The honourable member then went into the Federal Parliament. He was going to set it on fire and be a new Minister in the Government led by Howard, Peacock, Hewson, Bishop or whoever was to be leading the Party. What happened? He did not make the grade in Canberra. A few of them said, 'Look, the bloke we put in to replace you has not done a good job at all. He has made a bit of a galah of himself on TV and up in the Mid North, so please come back and save us. We will give you a third go.' But what happened? We saw two by-elections and a few of the mates of the Minister for Industry do him over, job him and betray him at the last moment, putting the present Premier in as then Leader of the Opposition.

Now we have the poor Minister for Industry daily looking over from four seats down with a strange queasiness betraying his face about where he should have been. The fact is that for the Premier or any people on that side of the House to talk about by-elections is an extraordinary gall.

Today we heard, as revealed by the shadow Primary Industries Minister in another place (Hon. Ron Roberts), of the fears that the Belair nursery, which has been in operation for 108 years, may be closed by this Government under pressure from private nursery owners. The famous Belair nursery, which is located within the Belair recreation park, is operated by StateFlora as part of the Department of Primary Industries. It is quite clear that the Government has been considering the future of the nursery along with several others operated by StateFlora including those at Berri, Cavan and Murray Bridge. Private nurseries have been actively campaigning for years to have the Belair nursery closed.

The former Labor Government simply refused to close it because it was so well patronised and provided an invaluable service to the people of South Australia. The staff, most of whom are qualified horticulturalists, have an excellent knowledge of native plants, soil conservation and land degradation—a fact that has been acknowledged Australia wide.

It is interesting to see a number of Liberal members sniggering here tonight. I will make sure that people who work at the Belair nursery get a copy of this *Hansard*. As I said, the nursery was established in 1886 to raise seedlings for State forest reserves and to encourage native tree plantings. Today it sells plants, encourages the use of native

plants and provides expert advice. It also supplies plants and trees to schoolchildren to enable them to celebrate Arbor Day. So, it was interesting to hear today the response from the Minister for Primary Industries, who refused to give an assurance that Belair nursery would not be closed and that there was yet another review under way.

Yesterday, Joan Kirner, a former Victorian Premier who is Chair of the Australian Centenary of Federation Committee, was in Adelaide with her committee, which includes a number of distinguished Australians, jurists, people from both sides of politics, Robyn Archer, Marilyn Beaumont from the Federal Nurses Federation, journalists, and Phillip Adams, the writer and film maker, who were looking at ways in which we could celebrate the Centenary of Federation in the year 2001.

Of course, what we are doing at that time, on 1 January 2001, is also celebrating the new millennium (that does not happen too often) and, of course, the year 2000 is the Sydney Olympics; so we will be seeing a series of celebrations, and it is very important that we mark those celebrations with some things that are of lasting significance and purpose. Many of us were disappointed with the bicentennial celebrations. It was great fun, lots of parties, lots of dressing up, colonial re-enactments, fireworks, and so on, but people felt disappointed that there were not more visible, tangible and lasting examples of what the bicentenary was about. So, there is no doubt that the turn of the century and the millennium will become increasingly compelling.

It should be a time of national reflection and vision for the future. As we draw closer to the year 2000 I am sure there will be fierce debate in Australia about how we should mark an event such as this. I propose a national millennium project to mark the centenary of Federation, with world class art landmarks in each capital city. Each landmark should celebrate Australia's identity by drawing from both our Aboriginal and multicultural past as well as pointing to the future. We should consider a national project involving landmarks that would be enduring examples of Australia's artistic excellence as well as symbols of our national heritage and values, emphasising both continuity and change as well as ensuring that these landmarks are accessible to the people, not locked away in art galleries: landmarks visible both from the ground and from the air.

This approach would be reinforced by current art directions internationally. There is no doubt that a national public arts project would generate great controversy and debate. I think that it would be stimulating and healthy, both culturally and politically. It would also help focus national attention on what we stand for as a nation and where we are going in the longer term. So, I guess one of the key points is to emphasise that, if we are going to have landmarks of lasting value in terms of the arts scene, we must not ignore our past. We must also look to the future and not exclude Aboriginal Australians, many of whom felt offence at the bicentennial celebrations. Certainly, Aboriginal support and involvement is crucial.

For this project to have credibility and substance, it must draw from our rich heritage of Aboriginal art and culture. I have been delighted by the very positive responses and advice I have received from a number of people including: the Governor-General, Bill Hayden; the outgoing Chair of the Australia Council, Rodney Hall, who put this matter on the table of the Australia Council two weeks ago; arts identities such as Kym Bonython; local sculptor Dora Dallwitz; Richard Grayson, Director of the Experimental Art

Foundation; former New South Wales Premier Neville Wran; the Anglican Archbishop, Ian George; and many other distinguished community and arts leaders.

I want to place on record my thanks to Dora Dallwitz for her support and advice, and for many of the ways she has helped to shape this idea. I hope that, as in Britain, we will debate the millennium and how we can celebrate it. In Britain Lord Palumbo has managed to garner enormous support, including a new national lottery, to be involved in restoring Britain's national heritage. There is a great debate in Europe, in the United States and elsewhere about how the millennium should be celebrated.

We also have the centenary of Federation. Let us do some things of lasting significance and importance. Along with

the Leader of the Opposition I was delighted to be able to talk to Joan Kirner and her committee yesterday; I was pleased, too, that Jennifer Cashmore will obviously be a positive force on that committee. We have a chance to do something that will be of interest to tourists, something that we can really enshrine from our past, as well as looking to the future—something of which we can all be proud. A number of ideas are being put forward. We need to embrace them in a positive way and, in the process of doing so in the lead up to the centenary of Federation, work out where we are going as a nation and work out what we stand for.

Motion carried.

At 8.11 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 30 March at 2 p.m.