

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 25 August 1994

**The SPEAKER (Hon. G.M. Gunn)** took the Chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING (PRESCRIBED PERIOD)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Daylight Saving Act 1971. Read a first time.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I move:

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

This Bill seeks to remove the present provision in the Daylight Saving Act that permits the Government to vary the period of the year when daylight saving will apply. The reason for the Bill is obvious. This Government has used the present provision to extend daylight saving to an extent that was probably never envisaged, and without consulting the public.

Over the past few months, we have seen the Government move from one unacceptable position to another. The Premier first floated the idea of moving South Australia to Eastern Standard Time; he later backed away from this. The Premier then announced he had extended the period of daylight saving from four to six months; he later backed away from this position. We now have the proposal of daylight saving being extended for four weeks every year apparently to accommodate a two week extension for the biennial Adelaide Festival of Arts and the annual Melbourne Moomba festival.

Although I support the Adelaide Festival of Arts, I cannot for the life of me see how daylight saving can have any effect on it one way or another, certainly not enough to warrant a month's additional inconvenience every year. As regards the Moomba festival, I am appalled that the Premier would even consider extending daylight saving in South Australia, when I am sure that the people of Melbourne would not even know or care what the time was in South Australia. The Premier has placed the State in this mess by trying to harmonise the time zones in eastern Australia. Whilst there may be some merit in this, the fact is the eastern States cannot even agree amongst themselves. At least this proposal means that our daylight saving will be the same as New South Wales.

It cannot be denied that the people of South Australia have supported daylight saving by way of referendum. However, there has been no testing of public opinion for a permanent four week extension. It is my view that the people of South Australia do not support any extension of daylight saving. This is certainly the case in my electorate. Having explained to my constituents that the reason for the extension was to benefit the Adelaide Festival of Arts—I think members should note it is the Adelaide Festival of Arts and not the South Australian Festival of Arts—and also the Melbourne Moomba festival, they are understandably outraged.

This Bill will mean that if the Government wants to change the prescribed period of daylight saving, it will have to bring the matter to Parliament by way of legislation and not regulation, and I can see nothing wrong with that. This Bill is in identical form to a Bill introduced in the last Parliament. Given that members opposite have had very many months to consider it, I look forward to it going

through the House with the minimum of delay. I commend the Bill to the House. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Clause 3: Amendment of s. 2—Interpretation

This clause provides that 'the prescribed period' (that is, the period during which summer time operates in this State) means the period from 2 a.m. South Australian Standard Time on the last Sunday in October until 2 a.m. South Australian Standard Time on the first Sunday in the following March.

Clause 4: Repeal of s. 3a

The repeal of section 3a is consequential on the change to the definition of the prescribed period.

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

**YANKALILLA SIGNS**

**Mr CUMMINS (Norwood):** I move:

That By-Law No. 34 of the District Council of Yankalilla relating to movable signs, gazetted on 23 June 1994 and laid on the table of this House on 2 August 1994, be disallowed.

Members may remember that the question of movable signs has been dealt with previously. I gave the explanation last time that the Legislative Review Committee took the view that that particular provision was not within section 370 of the Local Government Act which empowers councils to prohibit and to regulate movable signs. We take the view that that does not, in fact, empower councils to license movable signs, which this By-Law No. 34 purports to do. The House has previously dealt with this matter in relation to other councils. I commend this motion to the House.

Motion carried.

**SHOP TRADING HOURS (EXEMPTIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Shop Trading Hours Act 1977. Read a first time.

**Mr CLARKE:** I move:

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

My Bill basically gives the opportunity for members opposite and for this Parliament to debate the issue of extended shopping hours on Sundays. I regret that I have had to have this matter debated by way of a private member's Bill rather than through the promised legislation that the Government announced in the Governor's speech on 2 August this year, stating that it intended to introduce legislation to debate the issue of extended trading hours. Because of the failure of the Government to honour its commitment with respect to introducing legislation and allowing the Parliament to decide this issue, the Opposition—

**Mr Quirke:** And the weakness of the backbench.

**Mr CLARKE:** And the weakness of the backbench on the Government side, that is true—has been forced to do what the Government should have done, that is, introduce legislation to allow Parliament to decide. The amendments put forward by the Opposition overcome the disgraceful situation whereby the Government has issued certificates of exemptions for businesses operating in the central business district from 1 November 1994.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr CLARKE:** I note that members opposite are very courageous today in their interjections. However, I would like to point out to them, because their memories seem so short, that the last time there was an extension to trading hours on weekends was to bring in all day Saturday trading in 1990, under the former Labor Government, when legislation was introduced into this House which allowed the Parliament to debate the issue and for members of both Houses of Parliament to vote on it. Indeed, the members for Unley and Newland and another Opposition backbencher, as they then were, whose name escapes me for the moment, voted against Saturday trading. I am giving them the opportunity to vote against Sunday trading.

*Mr Brindal interjecting:*

**Mr CLARKE:** The member for Unley says that that is rubbish; this is not an opportunity to vote with respect to Sunday trading. It is, because what we seek to do in this amendment is simply to bring about the situation whereby certificates of exemption can be reviewed by either House of Parliament through being issued as a regulation and therefore able to be subject to disallowance. We have not sought to take away the power of the Minister to grant exemptions, because there will be times when exemptions are necessary and appropriate, such as the Grand Prix time leading up to Christmas. That can be done and will not be disallowed.

The reality is that the amendments are also necessary because the Liberal Government cannot be trusted on this or, for that matter, any other issue. Notwithstanding its pre-election promises in the lead-up to the 1993 State election, this Government and in particular the Minister have shown complete disregard for commitments made prior to the last election. On 14 July last year, at a meeting organised by the Small Retailers Association at the Adelaide Town Hall, the present Minister, the member for Bragg, then Opposition spokesperson, made a promise that there would be no extension to existing shopping hours for the life of the next Liberal Government. On 8 December 1993, just three days before the State election, at a rally organised on the steps of Parliament House, that same person gave an unequivocal commitment that there would be no extension—

**Mr BRINDAL:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. The Bill introduced by the honourable member is the Shop Trading Hours (Exemptions) Amendment Bill and, as the honourable member has quite clearly said, it deals with the Minister's power to regulate—

**An honourable member:** What is the point of order?

**Mr BRINDAL:** The point of order is relevance—whether all this debate about Sunday trading is relevant to the Bill before this House, and I contend that it is not.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot uphold the point of order. When members introduce private members' or any legislation, a considerable degree of tolerance is given to the mover in explaining their reasons for doing so, particularly in the second reading speech. Therefore, I cannot uphold the point of order. I do ask the member for Ross Smith to ensure that his remarks are linked up.

**Mr CLARKE:** They very much are, Sir. The member for Bragg, as he then was, gave an unequivocal commitment to that rally on 8 December that there would be no extension of shopping hours while he was the Minister. In a media release on industrial relations on 26 October last year, headed 'Longer supermarket trading hours; hundreds of small business jobs to go,' Mr Ingerson as the Opposition spokesperson said:

For a start, the Shop Trading Hours Act requires the Government to consult with shopkeepers affected by this move before there is any extension.

He was referring to section 13. He continued:

Unless the Government is about to ignore the Act, there can be no immediate introduction of extended hours.

The shadow spokesperson said in October 1993 that the extension of Monday to Friday trading hours for supermarkets would cost hundreds of jobs in the industry, yet he announced that he would grant certificates of exemption for businesses operating in the CBD for Sunday trading and that an extra late trading night in the suburbs would create thousands of new jobs. Obviously, the Minister has again contradicted himself. This whole fiasco has been created by the Minister because while in Opposition he made too many different promises to too many different groups. To the small retailers he promised no extension of trading hours; to the big end of town, that is, the major retailers in their boardrooms, he promised that he would open the door once they were elected.

Many members of the parliamentary Liberal Party know this to be factual and are deeply embarrassed by the behaviour of the Government and the absolute abrogation of its solemn commitment made publicly to small retailers and shop workers prior to the last State legislation. The Government realises that it faces a split in its own parliamentary ranks on this issue and does not want the matter debated in Parliament and in particular does not want to see a good number of its House of Assembly backbenchers crossing the floor and voting with the Opposition with respect to forcing the Government to maintain its pre-election promise. It also knows that it does not have the numbers in the other place, hence its desire to avoid Parliament and to try to go through the back door and secure an outcome that it could not get by coming through the front door.

The Government did commit itself to introducing election legislation on extended shopping hours, and that was referred to in the Governor's speech on 2 August. The Government then recognised the huge opposition to extended shopping hours, particularly within its own Party room, and has sought to escape through the back door. The Government will say it is merely emulating what previous Labor Governments did with respect to the issuing of certificates of exemption. However, that is a furphy to try to cover its own scandalous behaviour.

Many certificates of exemption were granted over the years with respect to Sunday trading. However, they were issued for specific purposes and for a limited period, for example, on the Sundays leading up to Christmas, the Grand Prix, the John Martin's Christmas pageant and the like. The last occasion on which weekend trading was extended was in 1990 when the then Labor Government specifically introduced amendments to the legislation to provide for 5 p.m. closing on Saturdays and allowing both Houses of Parliament to vote on the issue. The Government's actions have now been questioned as to whether it has lawfully gone about its business, and that matter is subject to proceedings in the Supreme Court. I commend the Opposition's amendments to the House as they provide a safety valve to curb the excesses of Ministers of the day who might attempt to circumvent the intentions of the Shop Trading Hours Act; and they allow sufficient flexibility to enable exemptions to be issued where *bona fide* reasons exist to do so. They provide that ultimately Parliament will decide these issues and not ministerial edict.

I will refer to a couple of further points, namely, that the survey commissioned by the committee of inquiry set up by the Government with respect to shop trading hours found that 80 per cent of the population were either happy with existing shopping hours or in fact wanted reduced shopping hours. A further survey was conducted in which the same people were interviewed and asked to nominate issues of concern to them. In an unprompted fashion they stated that shop trading hours ranked seventeenth out of a list of 19 issues of concern. Their overwhelming concerns were unemployment and crime. Shop trading hours ranked seventeenth out of 19 issues. With respect to prompted questions put to those same persons, in which the survey deliberately tried to obtain a desired result, shop trading hours ranked seventh out of nine issues.

We have heard the Minister and many of the proponents of extended trading hours say that tourism is of great benefit to the State and that the extension of shop trading hours is the panacea for all our ills. I draw the attention of the House to pages 37 and 38 of the shop trading hours inquiry. On page 37 the committee of inquiry referred to the importance of tourism and to how vital it was for South Australia to secure its share of the market. On page 38 the second to last paragraph of the report states:

From discussions with tourism authorities in this State it is clear that the central area of Adelaide is a tourist destination and has the attractions and accommodation to be classified as a tourism precinct. The committee was disappointed that no submission on this matter was received from the Adelaide City Council nor the South Australian Tourism Commission.

The Minister is responsible for Industrial Affairs and also Tourism. The issue of tourism was so important to the Minister that he did not even write a memo to himself to get his other portfolio, namely, Tourism, to write to the committee of inquiry and make a submission on the importance of extended shopping hours to tourism. That shows the nonsense in that argument when the Minister, wearing both hats, cannot even reconcile that issue, yet it forms the foundation stone for the Government to declare the central business district open on a Sunday from 1 November.

Another very important point that should not be lost in the whole debate is the fact that members of Parliament on the other side were elected on a clear pledge that they gave as members of the Liberal Party and their Government gave to not extend shop trading hours. The Minister did it on two occasions—one only three days prior to the election. During a rally on the front steps of Parliament House on Sunday, Mr Brownsea from the Small Retailers Association revealed that the Minister had given him an assurance on 9 February that there would be no extension of shop trading hours on Sundays.

**An honourable member:** When did he say that?

**Mr CLARKE:** On 9 February this year. I refer to the Liberal Party policy speech given by the Premier (the then Leader of the Opposition). On page 2, in bold type and underlined, the then Leader of the Opposition said:

We will not betray your trust. As your Premier I will not betray your trust.

I could not close on a more eloquent term. I simply say to members opposite that this Bill is about Sunday trading and the extension of shop trading hours. They are either for it or against it. Their constituents will want to see how they vote and we will let them know how they voted in *Hansard*. A division will be called. We expect members opposite to honour the pledge that they made to their constituents at the last election, the promises and commitments made by their

shadow spokespersons and the commitments made by the then Leader of the Opposition at that time in writing, in blood. They were elected in part on those pledges and they must honour them.

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

### EASTER (REPEAL) BILL

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to repeal the Easter Act 1929. Read a first time.

**Mr ATKINSON:** I move:

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

The Easter Act 1929 sought to fix the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. The Act has never been proclaimed. The name 'Easter' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Of course, her festival was celebrated in the northern spring. Christians celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ at the Passover, also in the northern spring. The name 'Easter' came to be given to the Christian Feast of the Resurrection. The Council of Nicea (AD 325) fixed this feast as the Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, being 21 March, one of two occasions in the year when day and night are of equal length. This means that Easter in the Western Church's calendar can fall between 22 March and 25 April.

The Western Church kept Easter about the same time as the Jews kept Passover, but the Orthodox Church preferred to let Passover (part of the old covenant between God and man) be celebrated first and the Feast of the Resurrection (the new covenant) after. Orthodox Easter can be the same as Western Easter, one week later, four weeks later or five weeks later. This is a matter of great importance to me, because my electorate is the only one in the State where the greatest number of Christian worshippers in any denomination is Orthodox. I am prepared to entertain amendments to fix the date of Easter in accordance with the Orthodox calendar.

In 1928, the League of Nations, in another of its wildly successful schemes, sought to take the fixing of Easter away from the religious calendar and fix it in the secular calendar as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April. Two Conservative MPs introduced the United Kingdom's Bill for this into the House of Commons. Yes, even in the 1920s absurd international treaties were sought to be inserted in our domestic law against the known preferences of the citizenry. The two MPs were the member for the City of Oxford, Captain Bourne, and the member for the University of Cambridge, Sir John Withers. They argued that, owing to industrialisation and its uniform timetables, the moveable feast of Easter had become an inconvenience—a relic from our agricultural and Christian past. Captain Bourne said that his Bill should not be proclaimed until other 'civilised countries', such as the dominions, passed his Bill. South Australia dutifully passed his Bill in 1929 but, as I said, it was never proclaimed.

The Bill was opposed in the House of Commons by Sir Henry Slessor, KC, a Labour member representing Leeds South-East. He said that, if the Bill became law, Christians' attendance at church on Good Friday would have to be during working hours. He added that most of the Christian calendar depended on the date of Easter.

Another opponent of the Bill described it as 'an absolute cranks' Bill'. The proposal did not gain enough support from

the churches and other countries to justify proclamation, to which I say, Amen. It is time that the Easter Act 1929, this excrescence of 1920s liberalism and secularism, was struck from our statute book.

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

#### LOTTERY AND GAMING (TWO UP ON ANZAC DAY) AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Lottery and Gaming Act 1936. Read a first time.

**Mr ATKINSON:** I move:

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

I reintroduce the Lottery and Gaming (Two-up on Anzac Day) Amendment Bill, which was defeated 18 votes to 21 votes in the last session. The Bill seeks to legalise two-up on Anzac Day subject to conditions. These conditions are that there must be no admission charged, no banker and no deduction from the pool for overheads or for any other reason. The Bill preserves the principle of true odds. Two-up is the fairest gambling game because, if you lose in two-up, your mate wins.

The Bill requires that all players must be aged 18 years or over, and exempts from the definition of 'common gaming house' any hotel or Returned Servicemen's League club that hosts a two-up game on Anzac Day.

I hope that the Bill will enable ex-servicemen to play two-up in RSL clubs and to introduce the game to a new generation of Australians so that the tradition might live. I hope that, if the Bill is passed, some RSL clubs might stage two-up games between the dawn service and the march, and again after the march, without fear of prosecution.

The Rats of Tobruk to whom I have spoken tell me that their zest for the game would not be undermined by its being made lawful. It has been suggested to me that the Bill might have passed last session had I restricted two-up games to RSL clubs as in other States. My proposal is inspired by the Rats of Tobruk who drink at the West Croydon/Kilkenny RSL club and who on one day of the year drink at trestle tables under the grandstand at War Memorial Drive. On that occasion, the benches are laden with brown bottles, the floor is damp with spilt beer, and the master of ceremonies is unable to be heard over the din.

My mother and I drank with them this year. I like to think of their sneaking away to a secret location for a game of two-up, perhaps the path down behind the scoreboard at Adelaide Oval. That is why I have not specified where the game should be played, but I am prepared to accept such an amendment if that is what is required to get the Bill through.

Two-up is a game of chance. It is played with two pennies. The object of the game is to toss the two coins in the air and to have both land on the heads side. For more details on the game's rules, history and slang, members should refer to page 253 of the *Hansard* of the First Session of this Parliament. Owing to two-up's being illegal now, it is necessary to post one person as a look-out to warn of the approach of strangers or the police, and this person is known as the cockatoo.

When the Bill was last debated, I do not think many new members were aware that it was a conscience vote, and they dutifully followed their Ministers, who did not contribute to the debate nor listen, to this side of the House. The arguments

against the Bill were remarkable. The member for Lee who, alas, is not in the Chamber just now, said:

The people who played two-up during the Second World War would be about 72 years of age now. Of course, we have had 50 years without this legislation, and another couple of years would not hurt them.

Most ex-servicemen hope to outlive the member for Lee's proposed timing of their death. But the member for Lee also said, in a speech of about one minute:

I oppose the Bill for the simple reason that gambling is a bad thing for young people.

The member for Newland, who also opposed the Bill, said:

We still have a recession within our suburbs. We have a situation today where schools and school councils in our own areas are preparing breakfasts for kids who no longer have sustenance given to them before they leave for school.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs Kotz):** Very important it was, too.

**Mr ATKINSON:** Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker. Most of the ex-servicemen I know are grandfathers. If they were preparing breakfast for their children (and those children would be in their 40s or 50s and would not be going to school) I do not think they would be impeded by Anzac Day losses at two-up. However, they might be impeded from preparing and eating breakfast on the morn of 26 April for other reasons.

Children will not go hungry because of the Bill. The member for Newland is still the muddled conservative of the House. The member for Gordon condemned the Bill as another dreadful expansion of gambling by the Labor Party and reiterated his worries about children becoming addicted to gambling. Like him, I voted against the introduction of poker machines in South Australia, but I cannot see this Bill's leading to gambling addiction among minors. The idea of school aged children following men in their 70s and 80s into an RSL club and acquiring a gambling addiction—not from poker machines but from two-up—is risible.

The member for Gordon, dwelling on past extensions of gambling, told the House that the Australian Labor Party had caucused on the Casino Bill and that all ALP members had supported it. I was here for that vote as a reporter for the *Advertiser*, and I can assure the member for Gordon that three Labor MPs voted against the Casino. The ones I recall are Kevin Hamilton, Peter Duncan and the present Leader. Liberals who supported this massive extension of gambling were the Speaker (as he now is), Ted Chapman, Allan Rodda and Michael Wilson. Without that Liberal foursome, the Casino Bill would not have become law. The member for Florey said:

The game will be left to entrepreneurs who will quickly realise that one day of the year, on Anzac Day, they can legally play the game but they will quickly take over the game.

The member for Florey had not read the Bill, so he did not see subclause (2) of clause 2, which says that the game is unlawful if any commission on, percentage of or fee for bets or winnings is given or sought by any person. In the same subclause the Bill says that the game is unlawful if any payment or other benefit is given or sought, directly or indirectly, for the right to participate in the game. I ask the member for Florey: how were the spivs and entrepreneurs going to exploit the game for profit with these provisions in our law?

There is no room for the entrepreneurs in Anzac Day two-up, except for the skilled spinner and punter, and that is as it should be. I was impressed by and grateful for the support for

the Bill from the members for Adelaide, Reynell, Frome, Elder, Unley, Colton, Norwood, Ridley, Flinders and Hartley. The member for Norwood said:

I find it incomprehensible that people can stand in this House, some of whom supported poker machines, and are not supporting this traditional Australian game.

I think the member for Norwood was referring to the member for Peake. The member for Norwood continued:

My view is that we should support a tradition which is uniquely Australian, that of two-up, and we should support the men who fought in the wars who want to play this game. To stand in this House and potentially make a 70 year-old war veteran the subject of possible criminal prosecution for playing a game which is traditionally Australian, and probably one of the only traditional Australian games one could really claim, I find quite incomprehensible. I repeat: this Bill has my complete and total support.

I endorse the words of the member for Norwood and only regret that he has not yet come across Australian Rules football. Like so much else that is good, we inherited two-up from the United Kingdom—Newgate Prison, to be precise. The member for Colton came to the debate intending to vote against the Bill. He said:

The reason I am going to change my mind is that it is for only one day of the year and it gives this right to a lot of guys who went away and fought for the freedom and democracy of this country.

The member for Colton has a feeling for political issues and for public opinion in his electorate that is not widely shared in the Liberal Party. The members who voted for the Bill did not share the media condemnation that was the lot of the members for Lee and Newland when the division list for the Bill became known to reporters. The member for Ridley noted:

Two-up is institutionalised as part of the activities undertaken by many returned servicemen on Anzac Day, and I accept that.

I commend the Bill to the House. I remind members that my understanding is that the vote on this will be a conscience vote so the Party Whips do not apply. I invite members to do the Bill the courtesy of having a Committee stage by allowing a second reading. I look forward to a lively Committee stage with amendments from members who opposed the Bill last time or abstained. I intend by the Bill that two-up be encouraged on Anzac Day only, and that it be introduced to a new generation that has never served its country in battle.

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

### **CITIZEN INITIATED REFERENDA**

**Mr LEWIS (Ridley):** I move:

That the Legislative Review Committee report be noted.

The interim report of the Legislative Review Committee is interesting for a number of reasons. It notes that on 12 May a reference was restored to the Notice Paper seeking this interim report and, accordingly, we have it before us. It provides us with the detail sought, that is, the extent to which the previous committee undertook any research or sought any information about the matter from the public. That previous committee had the reference from this House not just for a month or a few months, but for years. However, it did nothing about it. In fact, one will see that it treated this House and its proposition with absolute contempt, if one looks at the evidence that is to be found here.

The members of the previous committee who were appointed in the last Parliament and to whom the reference had been made were the Chairman, the Hon. Mario Feleppa;

the Hon. John Burdett; the Hon. George Weatherill; the Hon. Mr Gunn, the member for Eyre; Mr Colin McKee, who was at the time the member for Gilles; and Mr Meier, the member for Goyder. Under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mario Feleppa, the matter was never discussed. No evidence about the proposition was sought from the public, and that is an important point to remember and one which I will come back to in a minute. The committee, of course, did not publish any report prior to its dissolution, because it never even considered the matter. That to my mind is quite astonishing.

I refer to the inaction of the committee again by pointing out that, notwithstanding the fact that it had done nothing and that it had attempted to do nothing about this matter, it was provided with evidence from people who presumably either read *Hansard* and/or the *Advertiser* or listen to the news, knowing that such a reference had been made to that committee by this Chamber. Those people were: Julien Beare, Neil and Judith Bittner, M.D. Brooks, A. Burge, the Citizen Initiative and Referendum Council of Australia (CIRCA), the Citizen Initiated Referendum for South Australia (CIR for SA), P.W. Davis, Adrian Hicks, Jean Koch, Peter McCallum, C.C. North, Chaye Oliver, G. Quinton, Shane Riggs, I.L. Rogers, J. Rylance and Marilyn Smith. In addition, the committee also received correspondence in support of CIR from a further 13 individual citizens and that quite clearly indicates the strength of feeling there is in the wider community for the proposition to have CIR.

It is noted that all those people and organisations who made contact with the committee, gratuitously providing it with their opinion, were in favour of CIR: none of them was against the proposition. Notwithstanding any of that, and notwithstanding the arrogant statement of the member for Playford made in this House that the reference was given to the committee and that it was meant simply to ignore the reference during the course of the last Parliament—that was precisely the substance of what he said—I believe that any reference made by either of the Houses of the Parliament ought to be taken seriously and ought to be dealt with diligently by that committee.

Otherwise, why on earth does this Parliament establish such committees? Does the tail wag the dog? Are these committees self-serving? Are they meant to be servants of the interests of other organisations and instrumentalities, or are they meant to be organs of this Chamber where they are entirely comprised of members of this Chamber? The Legislative Review Committee is not comprised of members of this Chamber alone; it is comprised of members from both Chambers. I believe, and I am sure members of the general public believe, that committees are appointed to do the work relevant to their charter as defined in the Act and according to references given to them by either or both Houses. Indeed, the Act explicitly states that they shall do, as a matter of priority, the references given to them by either or both Houses in priority over the propositions which they may take up on their own motion.

For those foregoing reasons I am therefore astonished to find that the Legislative Review Committee says in its report:

The committee is firmly of the view that the present terms of reference are unsatisfactory.

For goodness sake, the present terms of reference simply state the explicit points. We could have stopped the proposition where the word 'committee' first appears and it would thus read:

That this House resolves to refer the matter of CIR (citizen initiated referenda) to the Legislative Review Committee.

The House went on from that point and resolved also to give a particularised agenda for the committee to look at. That was not an exclusive agenda. It was not the full extent of matters upon which the committee could comment. It sought information about frequency, the form questions ought to take, how to decide if a question should be put, whether attendance at a poll in the referendum should be voluntary, and any other relevant matter. That leaves the committee with complete discretion to go ahead and consider any other relevant matter. It is therefore astonishing to me that the committee then says that the terms of reference are unsatisfactory and argues in the very next sentence of the report:

By addressing procedural matters without first determining the question of principle, viz., should CIR be adopted in this State?, the terms of reference put the cart before the horse.

I think the committee is being a bit arrogant in that respect. It does not put the cart before the horse.

**Mr QUIRKE:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I quite clearly heard the honourable member describe the standing committee as being arrogant. I believe that is a reflection on a standing committee of this House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr LEWIS:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I know the member for Playford behaves in churlish ways at times. In this case he knows he has no point of order. I am indeed reflecting on the committee and its report. That is what this motion is all about: to note the report. The committee reflected on the integrity of this Chamber by gratuitously giving the Chamber advice about whether or not the committee thought that the reference was adequate. I think the House is the best one to judge that. However, it is my intention during the course of this debate to have that amended, and I move:

That this House notes the interim report of the Legislative Review Committee, commends it for the information so far provided, notes its concern about the terms of reference and accordingly seeks its prompt consideration of evidence and opinion from the public in support of, or in opposition to, the introduction of CIR.

That would enable the committee to continue with the matter as it wishes, with the assistance of evidence and opinion provided to it by the people concerned. Another point made by the committee is somewhat at odds with reality. The report states:

The fact that none has yet passed into law shows that the issue is controversial and opinion regarding the matter is by no means unanimous.

It may not be unanimous and it may be controversial, but it does not alter the fact that already legislation has passed at least one House in the Commonwealth of Australia; indeed, whilst the ACT is not strictly a State, it has nonetheless enacted a measure, and it will pass in other States in the fairly near future. There is substantial support in other legislatures for the idea of CIR.

We are not debating here the merits of CIR but debating the committee's report and the matter of enabling the committee to get on with the job of collecting evidence from the general public concerning CIR, the committee's views ultimately to be considered by the House. The House should have the benefit of the committee's inquiry into those other matters already referred to which remain for the committee's consideration. This is an interim report, and the committee now requires the measures in the form that I have suggested.

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

## ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** I move:

That this House advise the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission that its policy for naming State Districts should give priority to city, town and district names ahead of the names of deceased South Australians.

The Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission is now deliberating on the boundaries of the 47 State electoral districts that comprise the House of Assembly. As its report is due in October, there is still time for this motion, if it is dealt with sensibly and expeditiously, to influence the commission. It is better that we instruct the commission on this matter than leave it to make the decision without our advice.

**Mr Clarke:** Can I move an amendment that we draw the maps as well?

**Mr ATKINSON:** No, the member for Playford may not. Members of this House will worry and pray about the boundaries until October. These electorates are our bread and butter. A shift of boundaries or a change of name could put one or more of us out of work. Craven will be the queue of members at the Assembly attendants' office in October waiting for the issue of the commission's report. I well remember the scene last time. My surname starts with 'A', so I was well up the queue. As I got my report a colleague whose name was further down the alphabet walked with me to get a look at his seat. 'Line of sight it looks okay', he said as he departed from me. How wrong he was—he departed from the House.

I have been a member for almost five years and during that time I have observed how voters recognise or, rather, do not recognise electorate names. I doorknock at least 50 homes each week and I have tested the matter. My constituency, Spence, covers the Hindmarsh, Croydon, Woodville and Findon areas. Spence is named for Catherine Helen Spence, a nineteenth century writer, suffragette and advocate of proportional representation. The electorate has been so named for 24 years. Before that it was Hindmarsh.

The name Spence has appeared on most election leaflets, posters, newspaper guides and advertisements, and on how-to-vote cards, for 24 years. Yet after all this time the great majority of my constituents do not know that their State district is called Spence and they do not relate to the name Spence as they do to the Federal electorates in Spence, being Adelaide and Port Adelaide, and to our local government body, which is the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville. The Federal divisions of Adelaide and Port Adelaide are two of the few geographic names left in the Federal Parliament and my district is lucky to have them. This is a typical doorknocking dialogue:

'Hello! Mick Atkinson's my name. I'm your local member for the State seat of Spence.'

Householder: 'What's Spence?' or 'Where's Spence?'

*Mrs Rosenberg interjecting:*

**Mr ATKINSON:** I thank the member for Kaurna for that suggestion. That is possible, but it has not happened to me yet—perhaps they are not sufficiently interested. But if I phrase it differently I get a better result:

'Hello! Mick Atkinson's my name. I'm the member of State Parliament for the Croydon and Woodville area.'

Householder: 'Oh, yes. You're the local bloke, then.'

At one time, State districts all had town, suburb or district names. I admit that some electorates embrace such diverse territory that it is difficult, if not impossible, to choose a descriptive local name. The passage of this motion would not compel the commission to name all State districts after a city, town or region. The motion asks only that these kinds of name be given priority over the names of deceased South Australians, names that I describe as abstract names.

Most State electorates are not so diverse or differentiated that one or two local names will fail to describe the electorate with reasonable certainty and without local controversy. In the 1970s, some intellectual in the Boundaries Commission decided that State districts should have their names changed from town, suburb and regional names to those of famous deceased South Australians. Indeed, these famous deceased South Australians need not have had any relation to the district that was named for them. Catherine Helen Spence's connection with the area I represent has escaped historians. We now have only four State districts named in an intelligible way: Adelaide, Norwood, Unley and Elizabeth. The 1991 redistribution foreshadowed the end of those four names at the next redistribution.

Other electorate names that seem to denote some aspect of their district are Torrens, Light, Eyre and Bright. All the other names are abstract and, to my way of thinking, meaningless. On election night, when a listener to the election broadcast hears that there is a big swing in Lee, what scenes form in his or her mind's eye? None, I suggest. However, Lee voters knew that they were in the State district of Albert Park even if they lived in West Lakes. I do not think that many of these people know that they now reside in the electorate of Lee and, even if they do, it makes no sense to them.

Nearly all Federal electorates are named after famous deceased Australians or Poms. Political activists love to dream up abstract electorate names. When these matters are fought out in the secrecy of the Electoral Commission, it is an exciting elitist game, rather like being a member of a lodge, I should think.

**Mr Brindal:** Aren't you one?

**Mr ATKINSON:** No, Sir. It is the activist's way of honouring their heroes or their canon of political correctness or, as in the Reg Withers scandal, a way of kneecapping your National Party opponent and rescuing a Liberal Party mate. Few members will recall Reg Withers' attempt to retain the name of the Federal division of McPherson much less the reason for his clandestine move which cost him his ministerial position. Soon, when all Federal divisions have an abstract name, it will be useful to distinguish a State district from a Federal division if the State district has an intelligible local name.

If the South Australian Electorate Districts Boundaries Commission continues to remove local geographic names, any distinction between Federal and State electorates will be lost. I hope it remains the policy of the Premier and the Liberal Party to promote the Federation and thus distinguish the State Parliament and its electorates from the Federal Parliament and its electorates. We should do what we can to remove confusion among voters so they understand our political system. I do not want the States to become merely smaller and inferior versions of the Commonwealth—that way lies unitary Government.

In my opinion, city, suburb and regional names not only help the voter to identify with the electorate but also help them to identify the member of Parliament with the electorate. When Kevin Hamilton was the member for Albert Park

and you, Mr Deputy Speaker, were the member for Mount Gambier, those electorate names were registered trademarks, in a way that will never be the case for the member for Lee and the member for Gordon. Of the 47 House of Assembly seats, 36 are held by members of the Liberal Party. I would have thought, therefore, that, with three years of incumbency on the clock after the redistribution, Liberal Party members would have an interest in supporting the motion. Three years is a longer term than most members of the House have enjoyed since 1938. I urge Liberal Party members to think carefully about this motion. Labor members can please themselves. This motion is in their interests also, but it may not be in the interests of those who would join them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, do not let anyone try to tell you that a change in the policy of naming electorates will have any influence on the question of whether the coming redistribution is thoroughgoing or merely an adjustment of the 1991 boundaries. That has been decided on the evidence, the time for which is now over, and I will wager that the lines are already on the map. The job of naming the electorates is a trimming that will come last but an important trimming for the future of members. Members should be aware that changing the electorate name on corflute signs is easy. An inexpensive run of stickers will do the trick, or a stencil and a can of spray paint.

Members who ventured into the west during the last election campaign might have known why the new edition of my corflute posters did not mention the Australian Labor Party, but until now they might not have known why they said, 'Michael Atkinson, your local M.P.', not 'Michael Atkinson, member for Spence'. Three years is plenty of time to run down stocks of stationery with the old name. In any event, a member remains the member for the electorate for which he or she was elected, until the next election campaign when he or she issues material with the name of the new electorate.

**The Hon. J.K.G. Oswald:** No sense of history.

**Mr ATKINSON:** In any event, there is a chance one's electorate name will be changed in a redistribution even under the current policy. The Minister interjects that I have no sense of history. Well, indeed, many of the local towns, suburbs and regions are named after historical figures, so it is a choice between two types of historical name. For instance, if my electorate were to revert to being Hindmarsh, it would be named after Governor John Hindmarsh, so where would that be lacking history? Indeed, he is more an historical figure than Katherine Helen Spence.

The fallacy of the Minister's argument is rather like the fallacy of Mikhail Gorbachev's argument against changing the name of Leningrad to St Petersburg. Mikhail Gorbachev whinged that to change the name from Leningrad lacked a sense of history, but St Peter, the first among the disciples, is as much an historical figure, if not more so, than Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. So, just as population patterns and boundaries change, so do heroes and canons of political correctness. The Federal division of Kingston, named after Charles Cameron Kingston, may not survive puritan feminism, and if the devil's advocate turns up something on Mother Mary during the canonisation process, a member for MacKillop may not always be with us.

All constituencies in the House of Commons are named for counties and towns. Some of these names are long, but they are euphonious, interesting and, for the Minister's benefit, historical. Amongst these electorate names are the Vale of Glamorgan, Old Beasley and Sidcup, Bethnal Green

and Stepney, Altrincham and Sale, Tweeddale Etrick and Lauderdale, and Bexhill and Battle. If the Poms and their Speaker can cope with long, descriptive electorate names, so can we and you, Sir. It is a crime that the apt and descriptive Murray-Mallee was changed to the abstract Ridley. I ask members to give this motion their earnest and swift consideration. I ask them to vote in accordance with their self-interest.

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

### KOSMALA, LIBBY

**Mrs KOTZ (Newland):** I move:

That this House notes the outstanding achievements of South Australian sportswoman Libby Kosmala at the recently held world championships in shooting events at Lenz, Austria, on 26 July 1994 and congratulates her on achieving the world record score in the air-rifle prone open event amongst a field of 45 shooters from 26 countries.

I believe that it is always appropriate to recognise the talents and achievements of South Australian athletes. In this case we have a very fine athlete in the form of Libby Kosmala. The whole of South Australia has been enthralled by the achievements of many Australians during the past week at the Commonwealth Games, and I am sure that they will receive the acknowledgments they deserve when the games are officially over. The world record success of Libby Kosmala has not yet been recognised publicly in this State, and I trust that this motion will assist to rectify what is a very disappointing attitude, to realise that almost three weeks ago we had a world champion and that the public of South Australia was not given this information by the media. The achievement of Libby Kosmala has led the way for this House and for all South Australians to acknowledge that on 26 July Libby became world champion in the prone air-rifle match with a world record score. Ms Kosmala was the only woman in a field of eight finalists.

The competition was world class, and I am sure that members would appreciate the very fierce nature of that competition. Ms Kosmala's match score of 599 was only one-tenth of a millimetre from being a perfect score of 600. During the finals, which was a shoot of 10 shots held seven hours after the competition on the same day, Ms Kosmala never lost the lead. The finalists fought out what was truly a close encounter. The previous world champion (Jakobssen, from Sweden) was beaten by Ms Kosmala by a margin of only two-tenths of a point, Jakobssen scoring a 102.9 to Ms Kosmala's 103.1. Ms Kosmala explained to me that the facilities at Lenz were top class.

A number of high-tech computer systems was used to assess the scores, which meant that in the finals, when the individual competitors had their shoot of 10 shots, each time a shot was fired the target would be put through one of the computer processes and assessed to the proximity of the absolute centre of the target. Having 10 shots of 10 points scored meant that it was then available for other points to be scored because of the reassessment with this high technology.

**Mr Brindal:** Is it a shoot of 10 shots or a shot of 10 shots?

**Mrs KOTZ:** It is a shoot of 10 shots, and it is not very easy to say if you have to repeat it more than once. I am explaining why the technology to assess the targets, which sounds absolutely marvellous, actually meant that the scores I am quoting were over 100. It was due to this technology that they could assess the greater range of accuracy of each shot fired. In this case Jakobssen, who is as I said the previous

world champion, scored a 102.9 to Ms Kosmala's 103.1. The final score of 103.1 gave Ms Kosmala the world record, with a final score of 702.1.

Ms Kosmala tells me that the shooting range at Lenz was magnificent and especially equipped for the disabled. The competitors included amputees and people with spinal injuries. The Australian team of three included Ms Kosmala and two men. With a record number of competitors from 26 countries, the team's overall position was a very creditable fifth. I am sure the House will join with me in expressing congratulations for what is a really magnificent achievement, and all South Australians can feel proud of Libby Kosmala, world champion.

**Mr De LAINE (Price):** I am very pleased to support this motion moved by the member for Newland and briefly to add my congratulations to Libby Kosmala for the latest of many ongoing achievements by this outstanding sportswoman. I am sure all members of the House will also support this motion.

Motion carried.

### FACTOR VIII

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** I move:

That this House calls on the Federal Government to recognise the need for a national approach to determine the quantity, source and provision of Factor VIII to ensure efficient and equitable allocation and as part of this approach suggests consideration of the cost implication of the supply of recombinant or synthetic Factor VIII as a new product in the treatment of haemophilia.

Shortages of Factor VIII have resulted in a compromise in treatment methods for all haemophilia patients. Many people with severe haemophilia and inhibitor patients on demand therapy have impaired joint function and in the future will require extensive joint surgery. Despite the use of 1 500 units per kilogram per year per patient, joint disease and hepatitis C impair the health of these patients. Increased supply of uncontaminated Factor VIII could alter this picture dramatically and would no longer make haemophilia the crippling disorder that it is. In my electorate is a family with four children—three boys and a girl. The eldest boy and the girl are in fine health, but the two younger boys suffer with severe haemophilia and, from blood transfusions, they also have hepatitis C.

Tristian and Adam have frequent internal bleeding into various joints and muscles which require intravenous transfusions to stop the bleeding. Tristian is 13 years old and has had 748 infusions, and Adam is 10 years old and has had 324 infusions. The boys receive their infusions at home at the rate of two to three per week per child. Tristian has had 239 internal bleeds into his legs, due to injuries to his knees, calf muscles, ankles and feet. He has also had 210 internal bleeds into his arms. Adam has had 116 internal bleeds into his legs and 41 into his arms.

Tristian and Adam are frequently absent from school due to their bleeding episodes. When the boys have a joint bleed into the legs they become immobile for a few days and the injured leg is splinted. During this time the boys become fully dependent on their parents to meet their basic needs. When the bleeding has stopped and the pain and swelling has settled down, the boys can then manage to bear weight and physiotherapy and hydrotherapy become an important component in the boys' daily rehabilitative care. Without this treatment the boys could have permanent joint damage, resulting in a crippling disability by the time of young adulthood. Their treatment helps restore muscle power and control, restores a



range of joint movements and prevents further injury to susceptible joints. In 1990 both boys became infected with the hepatitis C virus. As this is a progressive, potentially disabling infectious disease that can be fatal, the family decided to move from Whyalla to Morphett Vale so that they could be closer to the boys' specialist and the Adelaide Children's Hospital.

The family believed that living in Adelaide would provide closer observation for Adam and Tristian and therefore be an advantage for the family. In moving to Morphett Vale, the family sold their family home in Whyalla, gave up their employment, their local school and their circle of friends, and sadly they had to cut ties with a very strong family support network in Whyalla. I guess you can imagine the stress and the loneliness this family is living with, and their new start here in Adelaide has proved a not so successful event.

Tristian is on prophylaxis treatment, which means he must have three infusions a week for the next three months to try to prevent permanent joint damage in his elbows. It is impossible to say when the parents need to be on hand, as bleeds can occur at any time without warning. I would like to quote Professor Kevin Pickard from the Factor VIII symposium, which was recently held in Adelaide and which gained much publicity both here and internationally. The Professor states:

Haemophilia treatment is fundamentally dependent upon anti-haemophilic factor products, which to date in Australia are plasma derived, therefore making the haemophilic population in turn totally dependent upon the generosity of blood donors and, while haemophiliacs in South Australia, in fact in Australia, are most grateful for the continued efforts of blood bankers and fractionators in this area, satisfactory standards of the two basic criteria—quantity and quality have not been maintained.

The lack of adequate supplies of product has resulted in the failure to introduce long term continuing prophylaxis (especially for children) and the induction of immune tolerance for people with inhibitors to Factor VIII.

The obvious and logical answer to the question of supplementation is already available; it has been extensively trialled and is licensed internationally. This product is Recombinant Factor VIII.

Recombinant Factor VIII is the largest plasma ever cloned and produced by Recombinant DNA technology and is a monument to human ingenuity and progress of science. This product meets all the requirements for therapy of haemophilia, namely a high purity product with excellent degrees of safety and an inability to transmit human viruses.

It is important to note that Factor VIII was cloned independently nearly 10 years ago by two biotechnology companies and they have now produced sufficient amounts of Recombinant Factor VIII for extensive in-vitro characterisation of the biological properties of the molecule and to conduct extensive clinical trials in haemophilia.

We should encourage the Federal Government with all speed to proceed with the introduction of new modalities of therapy—products that possess high purity are safe and extremely effective. The most logical and optimal of these new therapeutic modalities is Recombinant Factor VIII. This possesses all the qualities necessary to meet Australia's obvious need for supplementation of Factor VIII supplies.

It is time for a change and time for new thinking in haemophilia care. There is also the benefit of the knowledge of safety. Patients would know there is no chance of exposure to human viruses and there would be a greater reduction in anxiety levels of both patients and, if the patients are children, the anxiety levels of their parents. All this would have enormous benefits on compliance with treatment modalities. A person with haemophilia in Australia, unlike his counterparts in other developed countries, has literally never had a

choice of product for the treatment of his haemophilia. Such a choice is now possible and should be available.

**Mr De LAINE** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### MEMBER FOR LIGHT

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** I move:

That this House congratulates the member for Light and his wife Kathryn on the birth of their first son, Alexander Robert Beeton, on Thursday 28 July 1994.

If this motion appears at first sight to be somewhat unusual, I crave the indulgence of the House to explain the reason. In this place, especially in private members' time, we move a number of motions and often praise people, quite rightly, for the contributions they make to society in sporting events, social welfare and a number of other areas. We rarely come in here and praise each other. There may be members who would say that the member for Light and his wife have not done anything very unusual in producing a first son. While the birth of any baby is not particularly unusual, it is one of those ordinary events which is nevertheless one of the most important events cumulatively for our whole society. It is an event which often is very important to the couple and family concerned but which tends to be ignored by society as a whole because it is a relatively common occurrence.

It is very pleasing that we should have a member entering this Parliament and at the same time embarking on life not only as a new father but as a relatively new husband as well. The House can be assured that members such as you and me, Mr Deputy Speaker, who have probably longstanding arrangements and are considerably older than the member for Light, can at least be encouraged by the fact that we have a young married person's perspective on the way the world should be working. If this place, no matter what we say and the points that we score off one another, ever gets to the point where there are only Liberals, only Labor or only one faction of the Labor Party, it will be the poorer for it. This House does best when it has cross-sectional representation from every possible point of view. I sincerely congratulate the member for Light and his wife on the birth of their son.

I will not detain the House much longer. However, I should like to congratulate all members who have children and who have to cope with the problems of bringing them up and being members of Parliament. I do not know how other members feel, but I get a little sick and tired of going outside this place and hearing the constant carping and criticism about our being whingers, bludgers, not earning our money and being parasites on society. When I look around this Chamber at my colleagues, and even when I look across the Chamber at some Opposition members, I realise that most members who have had the good fortune to be elected to this place work very hard and diligently for those whom we are elected to serve. I do not think that we always make the right decisions and perhaps not everyone says the right thing. I do not think that I am right all the time—and that is a big admission coming from me. Nevertheless, I doubt whether there is any member here who does not try to do their best.

In the past five years, with people such as the member for Spence and many others, I have seen the cost that that can have on family life. It is easy if you have a job with regular hours to go home and devote a great deal of time to bringing up a family, but it is much harder in our job. I hope the member for Elizabeth will have this experience, too. Having been a teacher and watched a great variety of parents, I have

seen some excellent parents among my colleagues on both sides of the House. As members' children suffer because of the time commitments of the job, the efforts that some members put in to see that their children, when they can give them time, are given quality time is to their credit.

I will detain the House no longer. I congratulate the member for Light on the birth of his son in this Year of the Family. I wish him and his wife and their son a very happy life and a long and successful marriage together. In doing that I commend all members who are fathers and mothers and who, as is the Minister, are bringing up or have brought up children—

**The Hon. D.C. Wotton:** Numerous children.

**Mr BRINDAL:** Numerous children, the Minister says. I can assure him that had I had four children I, too, would consider that to be numerous. Those people are bringing up, or have brought up, their children under sometimes difficult and trying circumstances and they are continuing to play their part as active participants in a family life. However, they do that without in any way detracting from their duties as a member of Parliament. All those people deserve to be commended, and this motion in saluting the member for Light seeks also to commend those other members of this House.

**Mr De LAINE (Price):** I am very pleased to support the motion moved by the member for Unley in congratulating the member for Light and his wife, Kathryn, on the birth of their first son. I do not know the honourable member's wife, but I certainly have respect for the member for Light.

As the member for Unley said, many negative things are raised in this House and it is nice to have a happy motion, especially one such as this, in the International Year of the Family. I am sure that all members in this House will support the motion, and I am very pleased to do so.

**Mr BUCKBY (Light):** I rise briefly to thank the mover and seconder of the motion. It has been a particular joy to both Kathryn and me to have a son, and to have one who is very healthy. I again thank members on both sides of the House who have passed on to me and to Kathryn their congratulations and sincere best wishes for Alexander's future.

Motion carried.

## HOCKEY TEAM

**Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth):** I move:

That this House notes the decisive win by the Australian women's hockey team, the Hockeyroos, at the World Cup final in Dublin and congratulates all players, now the world champions, for their dedication and outstanding contribution to Australian sporting achievements.

On 25 July in Dublin, we won. This victory saw the final triumph for our team and helped to erase the disappointment of the last Olympics and the 1990 World Cup. Gold medalists at the Seoul Olympics, Australia lost to the Netherlands in the final of the last World Cup in Sydney and then failed to reach the finals of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

However, Australia's precise teamwork, speedy passing and astonishing work rate has now become the benchmark for nations with pretensions to an Olympic medal in Atlanta in 1996. Many of those teams—including the bronze medallist, the USA, and fourth placed Germany—are now lining up to tour Australia early next year to learn from the No. 1 team.

This tournament also saw the advent of a new order in world hockey: Australia is the only traditional power to have

survived the onslaught of the emerging teams of Argentina and the United States.

I would like to name the women in the team and the coach. They are: Rochelle Hawkes (captain), Juliet Haslam (the vice captain and a South Australian), Michelle Andrews, Alison Annan, Sally Carbine, Renita Farrell, Tammy Ghisalbarti, Karen Marsden, Jenny Morris, Jacqui Parera, Nova Peris, Lisa Powell, Katie Starre, and three further South Australians—Alison Peek, Justine Sawry and Katie Allan. I want to congratulate them on their victory. In true Australian spirit, they showed teamwork and dedication; they hung in when things were tough; and they came through in the end. They truly are an inspiration to us all.

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** Like the member for Elizabeth, I would also like to pay tribute to the Hockeyroos, in particular, Juliet Haslam, Alison Peek, Katie Allan and Justine Sawry—four leading South Australian sportswomen and key members of the Australian women's hockey team. As I mentioned in my Address in Reply speech, the outstanding achievement of the Hockeyroos in winning the recent eighth women's hockey world cup in Dublin is a great achievement for sport and greater still for Australia.

Australia's status at international level in the sport of hockey has now been reinforced following on from the gold medal victory in Seoul in 1988. The Hockeyroos are current world champions, a title which is worthy of the commitment and dedication of these young sportswomen in their pursuit of excellence. As a Government, we are very proud of the achievements of the Hockeyroos, and personally I am very proud of the recognition the Hockeyroos have given to women's sport.

**Mr VENNING (Custance):** I want to rise in support of the motion and pay tribute to our Australian hockey players, particularly those mentioned, namely, Juliet Haslam, Alison Peek, Justine Sawry and Katie Allan. My interest is that I know these people personally, and because our daughter plays hockey at State and Australian level. It is great to realise that in both sexes Australia is now seen as a world champion in hockey. The men have just returned from Sydney and, apart from one bad match, they would have got a gold medal there, too. Their record has been exceptional. Australians are seen as excellent hockey players, purely because we are seen as athletically fit people and as having a great desire to win. The problem is that South Australia is not and very seldom has been at the high level of the competition in Australian hockey.

Time and again I have been to interstate competitions with my daughter, from SAPSASA level in primary school right through to the under 21s where she is now, and we always seem to come third or fourth. I often wonder why. I feel it is because we do not have the facilities in our State to enable young and older men and women to play the game right across the State. We have only four pitches with the synthetic turf, which is used in international hockey today, particularly—and I have to be parochial—in our country areas.

As many members would know, we have replaced the pitch out at the lovely new complex, the Pines, and, luckily, the old pitch went to Mount Gambier. I was not quick enough, but I would like to have picked that up for Port Pirie, Whyalla or Port Augusta.

It is a fairly high priority to lift the sport in South Australia by providing at least one or two synthetic pitches in regional South Australia, because our regions have

supplied some excellent hockey players, particularly compared to Queensland, the premium hockey State in Australia. Most of their players, particularly their ladies, come from the regions. They breed them pretty tough and very fit. We are losing the potential, because I am sure that a pitch, particularly at Whyalla (in Giles District), because Whyalla has always produced excellent hockey players, particularly ladies would be desirable.

The young people in that area suffer a distinct disadvantage—in fact, they are almost discriminated against—because they learn to play the game on grass, and they come to Adelaide, having excelled on grass, get onto the synthetic turf and they think that it is a completely new game. They are at a distinct disadvantage: the game is twice as fast and different conditions come into play because it is a different game. So many of these people get disillusioned, and they do not continue with the game. In my case, I was lucky because my daughter came to Adelaide at year 8, went onto the synthetic pitch and adapted from one to the other very well.

Players in years 10 and 11 have a much more difficult task than that. I know that the Riverland sends many players to Adelaide, particularly women, and their adjustment to synthetic turf is very difficult. I hope that when our State gets back on to an economic level of success we are able to look at these situations and provide three or four synthetic pitches in various regions of our State: the Riverland; the Mid North; the Upper North, particularly Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie—the natural hub of hockey; and maybe one on the west coast. I know it is difficult because synthetic pitches are very expensive—we are looking at a minimum layout of \$250 000.

In South Australia we are now excelling at this sport; we are the world champions. We have the players here and, if we can provide them with the facilities in the future, I am sure South Australia can be up there with the best from interstate. I am sick of hearing that Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales are always winning these tournaments. I want South Australia to be in there. I have much pleasure in supporting this motion. Hockey is a great sport. Australians are seen as the best in the world in this sport and I want to see South Australia up there with the best of them.

Motion carried.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

**Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna):** I move:

That this House strongly supports and urges the Federal Government to investigate and take action on ways of increasing the number of Australians in private health insurance, including tax concessions to members of health funds.

The reason for the necessity of this encouragement is to relieve the pressure on the public system, which has resulted in unacceptable waiting lists existing in our hospital system today. After 11 years of Labor 8 500 people are waiting for surgery in South Australian public hospitals, with an average waiting time of 3½ months.

People are leaving the private health system in droves. Over the past 10 years the number of people covered by private health cover has reduced from 80 per cent to 37 per cent of the population. In 1992 the Federal Government received the Hunter report, which recommended that the Federal Government should be lobbied to hold an urgent apolitical summit meeting to consider issues relating to the public versus private mix of services. Our Government's policy was to immediately start negotiating with the Federal

Government to encourage more people to take out private health insurance.

As recommended by the Hunter report, this negotiation should aim to secure joint Federal-State support for policies to increase private health insurance. A report prepared by Access Economics says that the cost of private health fund premiums is up by 20 per cent since 1991 and, at the same time, private health fund profits have increased from \$600 million in 1991 to more than \$1 billion last year. The report blames the Federal Government for this by slashing the financial support to private insurers. Examples of the mismanagement are cuts to bed day subsidies and cuts of \$100 million annually contributed to the insurers' reinsurance scheme. Mr Roger Killmar of Access Economics said:

Insurers pass the costs straight to the members resulting in sharp increases in premiums.

Mr Killmar also said that private funds had continued to increase prices despite the dramatic fall in inflation during the past three years. He said that private funds were losing the younger, healthier people, and their risk profile was getting worse so premiums were going up even more. The private sector faces collapse unless the Government takes steps to improve the system and increase support. Since public coverage was established private coverage has dwindled to 37.6 per cent, which represents only 6.6 million people. One of the biggest recent loss areas was that of family coverage. Health insurance premium increases must be addressed or there will be no product for them to offer.

The other background reason for the necessity for this encouragement is a recent report by the Federal Minister for Health, who stated recently that the Federal Cabinet would consider measures to encourage people to return to private health funds, and I hope that will happen.

The Federal Minister said that the private health industry had put propositions to the Government, which basically would ensure that it had a better ability to negotiate with hospitals and doctors about the price of products. This would enable the companies to get a fair share of the reinsurance dollars on the basis of the composition of their membership. With this in mind we should be in the business of encouraging and supporting the Federal Government in this activity. Medicare, when introduced in 1984 by Labor, was intended to provide a simple, fair, affordable and universal insurance scheme that provided basic health cover to all Australians. Since 1984, private health insurance paid benefits principally for hospital services, medical practitioner services, dental services, chiropractic and physiotherapy services, aids and appliances and also for ambulance services.

Since the introduction of Medicare the proportion of population covered by basic private health insurance has declined. Following an initial rapid decline in the proportion of Australians covered by basic private health insurance from 63 per cent in 1983 to 50 per cent in 1984, coverage has now continued to decline steadily to 42 per cent in December 1991. Since March 1987 the proportion of the population with supplementary insurance cover has fluctuated around the 38 per cent mark. If the current rate of decline in membership of the basic table continues, its membership will equal that of the supplementary table in March 1995.

National levels conceal marked differences between the States and Territories in the proportion of the population covered by private health insurance and in the rates of change in coverage since 1984. In December 1991, coverage by basic private hospital insurance was highest in New South Wales,

with 45 per cent of the population covered, and lowest in Queensland, with 33 per cent covered. Between December 1984 and December 1991, coverage by basic private hospital insurance declined most in South Australia, by a figure of 26 per cent. The rate of decline in Victoria has increased markedly also, with the proportion of population with basic hospital insurance falling from 51 per cent in December 1990 to 44 per cent in December 1991. That is a 13 per cent decrease in one year.

In 1990-91, health expenditure by Australian Governments and individuals amounted to \$30.9 billion, which is an average of almost \$1 800 per person and which represents 8.1 per cent of the gross domestic product. The rates of premiums for health funds have also been difficult to compare. Health funds have varied packages over time and are in competition with one another. Roger Killmar of Access Economics and Bill Kinnane of the Private Health Insurance Council both confirm the impossibility of providing accurate data in this area. Their impression is that health insurance costs have trebled since the introduction of Medicare, and that is some way above the general levels of inflation.

Although the proportion of the population holding only basic hospital insurance cover has declined, the proportion of the population holding both basic and supplementary cover has been stable. This suggests that those people who want private hospital insurance want more than simply a choice of doctor in public hospitals. They appear to want extra benefits, which the supplementary cover gives them; for example, the choice between public and private hospitals and the ability therefore to avoid the public hospital waiting list.

It is possible for patients with basic hospital insurance to be treated in a private hospital, but they are liable for the difference between the cover level of basic insurance and the private hospital charge. It appears that most people are averse to large out-of-pocket health costs. The reasons for choosing private health insurance are largely borne out by the responses to a question in the 1990 ABS Health Insurance survey, which asked people why they had private health insurance. The reasons given were: 'choice of doctor', 40 per cent; 'allows the use of private hospitals', 38 per cent; and 'shorter waiting list to treatment time', 28 per cent. Of those with supplementary hospital insurance cover, 37 per cent reported that they had insurance to provide benefits for ancillary services. Overall, 43 per cent reported the reasons for having private health insurance were security, protection and peace of mind.

Recent market research indicates that, if the segment of the population holding supplementary hospital cover were faced with significant increases in price for hospital insurance, very few would change down to the basic cover; that is, they are price insensitive. Those who hold only basic cover are quite price sensitive. The remaining segment with no private hospital insurance are price insensitive, as few report that they would take up insurance if there was a significantly lower hospital insurance rate. If the price of hospital insurance continues to increase, as it has in the past six years, it appears that the trends in hospital insurance cover will continue.

There are policy issues that need to be debated on this. It has been suggested that making premiums tax deductible would form a way of encouraging people to take out private health insurance. Obviously, this has no effect on those who do not pay tax, so, as a stand alone idea, it will not work. Some within the industry have called for a relaxation of some of the regulations of the industry, particularly the community

rating policy, which prevents insurance providers from offering cheaper rates to classes of clients unlikely to make claims. Others call for a greater level of direct Government funding, and recent newspaper reports suggest that the Commonwealth Government is considering changes based on achieving greater efficiency in the industry in order to encourage people back into private health funds.

Regardless of which of those or other possible methods the Federal Government adopts, it is incumbent upon this House to support any measures—and to lobby the Federal Government—that encourage those people who require private health insurance to come back into it. I particularly refer to the older people and to families, who represent the largest numbers moving out of the health insurance private sector at the moment, which I think is a great danger for our public health system.

**Mr De LAINE** secured the adjournment of the debate.

### ECONOMIC RECOVERY

**Mr MEIER (Goyder):** I move:

That this House congratulates the Government on its excellent record in attracting a multitude of new industries to South Australia after a decade of economic disasters and job losses by the former Government, and notes the massive number of new jobs that have been created through this positive approach to business and the economy.

It is a pleasure for me to move this motion. Who would have thought that, back on 11 December when this Government came into office, there could have been such a dramatic turnaround in such a short period with respect to economic development and economic confidence in the State of South Australia? Whilst I had complete confidence in my own Party and in the Government, even I did not believe we would be able to achieve such absolutely phenomenal results in this short period. What are the results? An additional 17 500 full or part-time jobs were created in South Australia between January and July of this year—a huge increase.

Members may recall that at the last election the Liberal Party promised that in our first year of Government we would seek to create an additional 12 000 jobs. We have not only achieved that result: we have far exceeded it. I am indeed happy for those 17 500 people who are now employed but who would not have been working without our initiatives and without the developments that have occurred.

There have been many developments and I would like to highlight some of them for the House. Members will recall that in February this year, at a meeting in Tokyo, Mitsubishi Motors shareholders assured the Premier that they would be maintaining their manufacturing activity in Adelaide beyond the life of the current Magna/Verada sedan and wagon. Mitsubishi's confidence has improved enormously under this Government.

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**Mr MEIER:** As the member for Ross Smith would know, a new deal has been struck and the company is encouraged by the Liberal Government's policy to foster greater export from South Australia through the 50 per cent payroll tax rebates for new manufacturing production for export. We are delighted to offer the 50 per cent payroll tax deductions, but I am sure that not only Mitsubishi but many other companies will take advantage of that. Also, I refer to the plant opened by the Premier in my electorate at Balaklava in early March. I was delighted to be present when the Premier opened the

Gilmac hay processing plant worth \$1.8 million. The plant is primarily there to add value to rural industry production.

Again, the State Government's initiatives include payroll tax incentives of up to 50 per cent for new value added exports and grants of \$2 000 to allow a business to get professional help in developing plans, and these all contribute to businesses thinking positively about setting up in our regions and the metropolitan area.

It is important to appreciate that this plant was set up in a regional area; it is the Government's plan to set up as many new industries in the regions as possible, and I will comment more about that later. Certainly, the Government has been having discussions with companies, and, although it would not be appropriate to detail full information now, I remind the House that the Liberal Government was elected to implement and achieve four clear objectives:

1. to rebuild the economy to create real jobs;
2. to put the State's finances in order and reduce debt;
3. to restore confidence in the accountability of Government and the Parliament; and
4. to re-establish pride and standards in key Government services.

Members will recall that our \$29 million rebuilding South Australia jobs package has been fundamental in giving employers the incentive to take on additional workers. As well, the WorkCover and payroll tax incentives have been and will continue to be crucial in creating new jobs for long-term unemployed and school leavers.

In May, Adelaide won the Australis Media National Customer Centre. In simple terms, it means that Adelaide has been chosen as the host city for that organisation's national customer service centre and it will involve 1 000 jobs by the year 2000. That is a fantastic achievement and the employment generated will spill over into other areas and will further boost our economy.

Members will recall that Motorola announced that Adelaide had been nominated and chosen as the site for a \$100 million software centre employing up to 400 staff. The Australis and Motorola decisions were secured through a high level of commitment and professionalism by this Government, resulting from intense negotiations taking place with those and other companies.

Certainly, incentive packages have been offered reflecting land and payroll tax concessions and, if necessary, special assistance for training South Australians. The Premier and the Minister have both gone out of their way to identify to companies what is available. I believe that more and more companies around the world are realising that South Australia is again open for business; that South Australia is going to become the central State in Australia and a central State from the point of view of economic development, unlike under the previous Labor administration of some 11 years when the State drifted, with the economy progressively going down and debt continuing to increase. Of course, we had to take over the massive debt from Labor. Members would all be well and truly aware that currently we have an interest debt of near enough to \$1 million per day in this State; that is, \$1 million of taxpayers' money goes to paying interest immediately. It is a massive task for us to get rid of it and we will work towards that objective. It is appropriate, I suppose, that this notice has come up on budget day, and in a few hours we will be hearing many more things as they relate to the budget.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr MEIER:** It is interesting to hear members on the other side interjecting. I would have thought that they would keep their mouths very closed and not make any interjections, because they surely must feel a sense of remorse for having been part and parcel of a Government that created the economic mess that we are in. I would hope that they would appreciate that the decisions we have to take are hard and tough decisions, but they will be in this State's best interests. We are bound to hear from the Opposition some criticism about some cut somewhere, but it was the former Labor Government that got us into the mess that we are in now. When we have to correct the damage, members opposite will probably attack us and simply be knockers. I hope that will not occur; I will wait and see what their reaction is to the budget this afternoon. I hope it will be a responsible one and that, if there are to be cuts anywhere, they will be the first to acknowledge that they had to occur because of their mismanagement, because of the way they mishandled the economy, and because of the feeling of despair that South Australians had under the previous Government.

As to further examples of developments here, it was fantastic to see another rural venture back in May when a \$10 million redevelopment of the Penfolds Magill Estate Winery was announced. Certainly, this was a real fillip for South Australia and for the wine industry as a whole. In fact, wine exports out of South Australia are on track and possibly will exceed the industry's national target of \$700 million by the year 2000. It is full compliments to the wine industry for what they have done. This will mean significant investment in vineyards—of between \$300 million and \$400 million over the next few years—leading to the creation of hundreds of new jobs for South Australians in vineyards, wine production and exporting/marketing. We know only too well how important exporting is.

More recently we had the announcement by the Premier of a joint venture agreement between South Australia and Malaysia which would create jobs for South Australians and generate new export income through the Malaysian company, Proen Design Asia. That is a joint venture company between Adelaide-based Proen Design Australia and Malaysian company, Namas Noor Sdn Bhd. It will provide Malaysian industry with Australian skills and resources for product design, development and management. Of course, we have to continue to be the clever State here, and if we can export our management skills and our product design skills it will not only help our country but, again, the spin-offs will come right back to our own people and, after all, it is people that we are concerned about first and foremost.

Another Malaysian investment was announced on 3 June with an international class hotel, a 350 berth marina, a residential development and an upgraded convention centre being key features of plans for a major expansion of the Wirrina Cove Resort, worth up to \$200 million in the first instance. That redevelopment will create more than 400 jobs in the construction phase and an additional 100 direct permanent jobs in the hospitality industry. This will be a massive fillip to South Australia and to the southern part of this State. I am sure we are all awaiting that development with eager anticipation.

Again in June, an Adelaide company reached an agreement to supply components for the lucrative Chinese car market. Who would have thought 10 years ago that we would be providing components for the Chinese car market. This is an \$8 million deal with the Shanghai Automotive Industries Corporation (SAIC), the largest car manufacturer in China.

It is fantastic to see another project under way in that country. I am sure that many would know that, for quite some years, we have been making goods for car component manufacturing companies, certainly in Japan and Europe. Many General Motors parts are sent to those countries and rear view mirrors from Britax Rainsfords. We export crates and crates of rear view mirrors to Japan, and in many cases they come straight back.

South Australia, again in June, signed a \$20 million irrigation deal with an Asian water resources body to provide Australian irrigation equipment and know-how to the Chinese. Again, we are able to help a country such as China, and it is able to help our economy at the same time. Likewise, a Japanese scales manufacturer has agreed to make a significant technology transfer to South Australia. Japan's A&D company (which in South Australia operates as A&D Mercury) has agreed to transfer its high-tech weighing and balancing platform manufacturing to South Australia. This move is expected to generate export sales of at least \$4 million annually with a total investment value of A&D and its subsidiaries in South Australia of about \$1.5 million. This will see the extension of the Thebarton factory, and direct employment in South Australia will rise by 25 per cent to more than 50 employees—fantastic! Again, this project will help people. All these economic developments help people because they put more money into people's pockets. BHP-Whyalla will be upgraded with a \$40 million expansion.

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

**Mr De LAINE** secured the adjournment of the debate.

### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**Mrs ROSENBERG (Kaurna):** I move:

That this House urges the Federal Parliament to make such legislative and administrative changes as necessary to require recipients of Social Security unemployment payments for 12 months or more to perform work for a proportion of each week either for local government or in a community service program within the locality in which they live, if not already in an approved training course.

This motion was placed on the Notice Paper during the last session but was not debated by the other side. I encourage members opposite to take the opportunity to debate it in this instance. I move this motion because of the number of unemployed in Australia and the effect that this is having on the community.

I would like to use some of the time available to talk about the statistics that support this motion. Australia's unemployment level has doubled over the past four years from 500 000 in 1989 to one million. Prior to the election of the Keating Government and during the whole of the election campaign, we heard the promise that the Federal Government would find jobs for all Australians, that Keating would get them back to work. On the night of his election win he actually said that he would try to get them jobs but that if he could not he would look after them.

I said in my maiden speech that the majority of people in Australia who are unemployed do not want to be looked after; they want to make some positive contribution to the country. The more tragic aspect of this is the long-term unemployed who account for 40 per cent of those unemployed in the workplace. This is about 375 000 people. The impacts of unemployment on society are devastating, and I will mention some of them.

The Federal Government's own Green Paper admits that, the longer people are out of work, the harder it is for them to get a job because they lose contact with the labour market, they lose touch with the community and they find less opportunities coming their way. Their skills deteriorate, their confidence wanes and their morale is sapped. Employers believe that, the longer a person is unemployed, the less employable they are, and this compounds the problem. All this continues to put the long-term unemployed further back on the queue. The long-term unemployed therefore obviously become alienated and begin to feel alienated.

The links between unemployment, poor health and social problems are clearly shown in many research topics. The labour market functions less efficiently because sometimes the less qualified are closely aligned to the system of vacancies rather than those who are best qualified because of the poor way the CES matches the labour force and the unemployed. I seek leave to have a statistical list inserted in *Hansard*.

**The SPEAKER:** Can the honourable member assure me it is purely of a statistical nature?

**Mrs ROSENBERG:** Yes, Sir.

Leave granted.

Shares of long-term unemployment by age group long-term unemployed > one year

%	Age group
4.5	60+
6.0	50-54
	& 55-59
9.0	45-49
8.0	40-44
9.0	35-39
10.0	30-34
11.5	25-29
20.0	20-25
7.5	15-19

**Mrs ROSENBERG:** I include the table in my contribution because it lists the long-term unemployed, that is, those unemployed for longer than one year, by age groups in the community. The 20 to 25 years age group, at 20 per cent, makes up the lion's share of the long-term unemployed. That fact is particularly important with respect to what I have to say later. A total of 89 per cent of South Australian managers say they would be prepared to employ long-term unemployed people. However, 61 per cent of managers in South Australia have never hired a long-term unemployed person.

Recently, 500 of South Australia's top managers were surveyed and 71 per cent said they had never employed a long-term unemployed person. Of those managers who had employed long-term unemployed people, 68 per cent had done so on a contract basis, 37 per cent on a three month contract, and only 22 per cent were prepared to employ them as a permanent employee. A total of 34 per cent said they had expected or had experienced difficulties employing the long-term unemployed.

Of those experiencing difficulties, the most commonly mentioned factor was that the long-term unemployed in their employ lacked motivation. In fact, 67 per cent lacked motivation, 39 per cent lacked training in their particular area, 34 per cent had irregular work practices, 33 per cent lacked initiative, 22 per cent had an inability to conform, 19 per cent showed absenteeism, 17 per cent had poor interstaff dealings, and 14 per cent had a record of lateness. I place those figures on record because they are the reasons why employers are saying they are not taking on the long-term unemployed. It reverts back to the whole reason why the long-term unem-

ployed get further and further down the queue. They lose all of those things like regular work practices, initiative, and the ability to conform because they are out of the work force for so long. It is a double-barrelled problem and it is reinforcing itself the entire time.

The top four factors that influence managers in deciding to hire the long-term unemployed are whether they are suitable for the job, whether they have good references, whether they have good work history, and whether they have the ability to perform the skills that are asked of them. These are the same factors that are considered when people decide to take on non long-term unemployed, but the long-term unemployed are missing out because they have not had the ability to keep up their skills in those four main areas. Obviously if they are long-term unemployed, they will not have good references or a good work history and again they will be put at the bottom of the queue. The long-term unemployed are between one and two years in Australia now, and in 1993 numbered 375 000 people, whilst those who had been unemployed for longer than two years numbered 320 000 people. They will continue to be pushed down the queue. The young in society do support a work for the dole scheme.

A study by the Australian Youth Institute, conducted recently in Sydney, showed that two-thirds of those interviewed in the 18 to 25 year bracket favoured some sort of work for the dole scheme, and half those interviewed were already long-term unemployed. The same number of people supported some sort of compulsory training scheme, and 69 per cent were dissatisfied with the Government's efforts to get them into either training or work. To the direct question, 'Should people have to work in return for unemployment benefits?' 66.4 per cent said 'Yes' and 19 per cent said 'No'. Work for the dole was supported by 75.9 per cent of full-time workers and 60.3 per cent of part-time workers, 56 per cent of those unemployed. The survey results were drawn up in time to present to Mr Crean for inclusion in his deliberations for the Government's white paper on unemployment, which was released at the last budget.

The overriding comment of most people interviewed was 'We would support anything that helped a person's motivation and self-esteem.' That is the most important issue for us to consider. We need to enable them to make a positive contribution and allow them to continue their skills and gain more skills to keep their opportunities open. The effect of long-term unemployment has a family link. This is clearly shown by much research. Those people who live with an unemployed spouse or partner are most likely to remain unemployed. Sole parents are particularly hard hit by long-term unemployment, representing 6.6 per cent of the long-term unemployed. A detailed profile of long-term unemployed workers shows that those in unemployed families are more likely to become unemployed themselves. So, if a child is being brought up in an unemployed family, it is more likely also to remain unemployed.

Education, age and birthplace also have a significant impact on people's chances of employment. The irony of it is that the majority of long-term unemployed are seeking work as labourers or tradespeople, the areas that represent the highest incidence of long-term unemployment. Ironically, those people who are long-term unemployed are seeking work in areas that traditionally have the highest unemployment levels, so they are defeating their own purpose. Education has an effect, and there is plenty of research to show that suicide rates are now starting to be linked to male

unemployment levels. In the 1980s and 1990s the upsurge of suicide in males in the 20 to 24 age group correlates very highly with that level of age group being the highest unemployed.

The Australian Institute of Health Studies showed that the mortality rate per thousand of unemployed males was 17 per cent greater for those who were long-term unemployed, compared to those in employment. Professor Burrows' address to the Mental Health Foundation of Australia indicated that his research showed that long-term unemployment would have long-lasting effects on the mental health of young Australians. He described the stress levels as near crisis point. This group of teenagers was showing strongly in the crime and mental health statistics in Australia. Doctor Abbott, President of the World Federation of Mental Health, said recently:

Youths needed to work at least one or two days a week, perhaps for voluntary agencies, to have a feeling of correctness with society.

The Federal Government has recently announced its \$6 billion jobs package, and something was in the paper recently that I would like to talk about. I believe it goes some way towards addressing the issues that I have highlighted in this motion, and I am very pleased about that, but I must acknowledge that it has gone only some way to addressing these issues. The problem is that it has not addressed the long-term unemployed, particularly giving further incentive for employers to get out and take on those people as permanent employees. These are the two issues we have to address—not the bandaid issues of the \$6 billion jobs package.

Let us look at where that money is going. There is a big claim in that package that there has been a radical shift in the dole payment from a hand-out to a reward for effort mentality. I wonder why? When you really examine what the Government proposes to do, I doubt that that is truly the case. There are plans to put 559 000 people into subsidised positions for six months. It is just like the current training programs that we constantly give to people as a hand-out now and say that at the end of three, six or 12 months they will go back on the unemployment scrap heap. And that is not good enough. It is proposed that \$40 million be used to teach 500 CES managers how to manage those on the CES list.

Now we are to spend \$40 million also to teach 500 of them how to do their job better. Another \$23.5 million will be used by the Employment Service Regulatory Agency to encourage and regulate competition. It is an absolute irony that we are spending \$23.5 million to replace competition, which Labor has spent the past 10 years destroying. It took it all away and now it will pay \$23.5 million to put it all back. An amount of \$187 million will be spent to rebuild the CES information technology system so that finally it can effectively put those people who need a job with those who are trained to do the job. Finally, they will start giving the jobs to those who have the talent to do the job.

The \$6 million package merely attempts to hide the unemployment numbers. It fails to deliver jobs; it has no significant employment programs; it provides lower payments for young people being trained, and that is a particularly non-Labor thought; and it was opposed absolutely adamantly before the previous Federal election. Most importantly, the \$6 million package fails to do two things: it does not appraise the long-term unemployed and it does not give any incentives for employers to put people into jobs. I commend my motion because, after all the Federal Government's rhetoric, we will

still have unemployment greater than 10 per cent in all the problem areas in the community, as well as all the problems that are associated with this unemployment level. It is simply not good enough. I commend the motion and encourage members opposite to debate this issue during this session so that it can be voted on and a message sent to the Federal Government.

**Mr De LAINE** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### **DIXON, KELLY**

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** I move:

That this House congratulates Kelly Dixon on her magnificent achievement on being the youngest Australian person to swim the English Channel and notes the pride of all South Australians in her exceptional feat of 42 kilometres in 9 hours 38 minutes.

I am very pleased to move this motion. Every so often in this place there is cause for both sides to join together and congratulate a remarkable South Australian. Kelly Dixon's swim across the English Channel is one such cause. The swim completed by this remarkable 14 year old shows the tremendous commitment this young woman has to achieving goals she sets herself. Her parents, Gay and Gary, and those who assisted during her training must also be very proud. We must recognise the important part they played in this feat. I know that all her friends, indeed all South Australians and members in this place, pass on their congratulations.

To complete the arduous swim in less than 10 hours is a remarkable achievement in itself, but in fact Kelly surpassed this and completed the swim in 9 hours 38 minutes. In doing so she has beaten the previous Australian record. Such determination in one so young is truly amazing. The rigid timetable she would have needed to set herself in preparation for the swim would have been enough to deter most of us, but she fulfilled the strenuous timetable with enthusiasm, and the rewards in her doing so are evident. There is no doubt that we will hear much more of Kelly Dixon and her achievements in the coming years. I wish her all the very best for her future endeavours and extend the congratulations of all in this place.

**Mr BASS (Florey):** I support the motion moved by the member for Torrens, one of my constituents. Kelly Dixon, the young Australian who achieved this feat, is to be congratulated on a magnificent achievement. As a youth, many stone lighter and many years younger, I lived on the river and many times swam the Murray River to reach friends on the other side. The distance I swam was about 500 metres which, at the age of 15 or 16 years, was quite a long way and an achievement.

I have crossed the English Channel on about nine occasions on the old car ferries and on the modern hovercraft that goes from Dover to Calais. On several occasions on those trips I got tired simply from walking around the deck of the ferry. The concentration and application needed to train initially and then to swim the channel is a great example of a fine young Australian. As the member for Torrens stated, her parents must be very proud of her achievement. They have every cause to be proud. I, and I am sure all members on this side of the House, congratulate Kelly and support the motion.

Motion carried.

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

#### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

#### **SECOND-HAND VEHICLE DEALERS BILL**

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

#### **HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY BELLS**

**The SPEAKER:** We are still experiencing some difficulty with the bells due to the building work that is taking place in the building. Everything possible has been done to rectify the matter. I ask members to be particularly careful about divisions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that the member for Ross Smith should be particularly careful today, and also the member for Hart.

#### **SUNDAY TRADING**

A petition signed by 608 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government not to allow general Sunday trading where restrictions currently apply was presented by Mr Clarke.

Petition received.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

A petition signed by 713 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to order the decontamination of the ANR site at Islington, stop the development of the Collex waste plant at Kilburn and stop obnoxious odours emitted from factories around Grand Junction Road was presented by Mr Clarke.

Petition received.

#### **SODOMY**

A petition signed by 63 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to criminalise sodomy was presented by Mr Condous.

Petition received.

#### **MURRAY RIVER**

A petition signed by 52 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to provide clean, filtered water to households and other users depending on water from the Murray River was presented by Mr Lewis.

Petition received.

#### **FILM AND VIDEO CENTRE**

A petition signed by 895 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to retain the South Australian Film and Video Centre was presented by the Hon. M.D. Rann.



Petition received.

### X-LOTTO

A petition signed by 70 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to establish a X-Lotto agency at the Hectorville Continental Deli at 27 Hectorville Road, Hectorville was presented by Mr Scalzi.

Petition received.

### TRADING HOURS

A petition signed by 510 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government not to change existing shopping hours was presented by Mr Scalzi.

Petition received.

## QUESTION TIME

### GENTING GROUP

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** My question is directed to the Treasurer. Does he still have doubts about the integrity of the Genting company and its association with the Adelaide Casino and, if so, will he say what his concerns are and what investigations of Genting he has initiated since the State election? If he no longer has doubts about Genting, will he explain why he has changed his mind? In a sustained parliamentary attack last year, members of the Liberal Opposition raised serious allegations about the Genting company and its association with the Adelaide Casino. This attack included the tabling of a leaked NCA document on 4 March 1993. On 24 March last year, the current Treasurer told the House:

All the evidence suggests there is a cloud over Genting as to how it got the licence and how it got the licence for 20 years.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Yes, I did raise some concerns about Genting over a period prior to the last election and, yes, we had been provided with pieces of information which would cast some doubts about Genting's association with the Casino. Indeed, the issue of Genting's suitability or otherwise will be subject to a review after I have finished with the budget process.

### CAPITAL WORKS

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** Is the Premier aware of claims that the State Government is cutting capital works spending, and can he inform this House whether those claims are correct?

*The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BRINDAL:** My office has been approached by a number of electors who, although one clearly described the informant as a 'mischievous Labor stooge determined to wreck this State', are concerned enough to have their fears allayed.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is commenting. The Premier.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I heard with some interest the Leader of the Opposition on radio this morning carrying on about his record and the money he had allocated for capital works in South Australia. I checked exactly what the figures were over the past three full years of the Labor Government and—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:**—found that it had a clear pattern of deliberately putting excessive amounts of money in the budget papers as capital expenditure and then grossly underspending it. In fact, Labor underspent by more than 10 per cent. Over its last three years, Labor underspent by more than \$365 million. It was a bit like playing a poker machine—

*The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will resume his seat. I warn the Deputy Leader. This is an important day, and I will be ruling on interjections.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I was pointing out that under Labor—

*Mr Becker interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Peake.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:**—it was a bit like playing a poker machine: each year a certain amount of money would be put in but then at least 10 per cent would stay there and never get spent. Let us look at the sort of programs that Labor put up under its last capital program: it allocated \$5 million for the bridge at Goolwa, knowing only too well that that money could never be spent in the 1993-94 year. It allocated an enormous amount for the MFP, involving a total of \$58 million over a number of years, of which it spent only \$12 million.

I can recall last year's budget, which, of course, was an election budget for the then Labor Government. It brought in this massive capital works program, allocating the funds to the MFP, and one month later, during the Estimates Committees in the House, we had the then Premier retreating and saying that he could not spend all the moneys allocated for capital works for the MFP. That is how dishonest last year's Labor election budget was concerning capital works. In sharp contrast to that, the Liberal Government in this year's budget has allocated a 14 per cent real increase in expenditure compared to the amount spent last year.

We have allocated an extra \$170 million in capital funds so that we have better schools, we have better hospitals and we can carry out the urgent maintenance work that is so essential because of 11 years of neglect by Labor.

### GENTING GROUP

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** Has the Treasurer or any member of the State Government had discussions with Genting officials in Australia or Malaysia in relation to the establishment of casino facilities at Wirrina and, if so, what was the nature of these decisions?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Neither I nor anybody else in this Government has had such discussions.

### ELECTRICITY TRUST

**Mr CAUDELL (Mitchell):** In view of the recent publicity about different payment cycles for ETSA accounts, can the Minister for Infrastructure explain what changes may have occurred during the past six months and what are the future plans for meter reading in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The Electricity Trust has put in place a new system for meter readers in an endeavour to improve productivity, efficiency and customer service. As a result of that, an occasion has arisen where the billing cycle has changed, but it is a once-only change to that billing cycle. The board made a decision to decentralise metropolitan meter

reading to area service centres. That means that meter readers work in smaller teams in a set geographic area, rather than from a central group ranging over the whole of the metropolitan area. That was designed to bring about efficiencies and required a once-only change in the billing cycle of the Electricity Trust of South Australia.

Customers were advised by mail before the change in the reading date, and the account given to customers also contains an explanation from ETSA. ETSA will consider any extenuating circumstances where, as a result of the once-only change to the billing cycle, a variation occurs in the size of the account and where customers may face difficulties in making the payment for the larger bill than would be normally expected. In addition, four contractors have been engaged for a period of 12 months to undertake the equivalent work of 20 ETSA meter readers in country and metropolitan areas. Work by these contractors began on 22 August this year. That will bring about some substantial savings in the operation of the Electricity Trust of South Australia.

In addition, ETSA is also trialing a new computer system to read meters, and 75 houses at Osborne have been connected to this new remote system which, if effective, will become part of a meter reading system of the future. Incidentally, that system has been designed in South Australia. In summary, I reassure ETSA customers that the slight disruption to the normal meter reading cycles of 90 days is a once-only occurrence; it is part of a change process as ETSA moves toward greater efficiency, better customer service and reduced costs for consumers; and it is the reason why, on 1 July, the Government was able to announce reductions of 22 per cent in electricity tariffs for small to medium businesses and a reduction of 15 per cent in off-peak tariffs for residential customers in South Australia, and that will directly benefit those who rely on electricity for hot water services.

#### TAFE FUNDING

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Further to my questions to the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education on 21 April and 2 August, can he now advise the House how the Government will avoid cuts to Commonwealth grants for vocational education and training in South Australia following further requests from the Australian National Training Authority to provide information on the extent to which South Australia will not maintain its commitment to TAFE in 1994-95, and will the Minister now rule out categorically any handing over of responsibility for TAFE to the Commonwealth as a result of these difficulties?

Under agreements with ANTA, South Australia must maintain its level of commitment to access Commonwealth grants. Cuts to State effort mean cuts to Commonwealth grants. On 21 April the Minister told the House that the State Government would maintain effort in the TAFE area, but there has been correspondence from the Australian National Training Authority expressing concern at the information supplied by the South Australian Government regarding its commitment to TAFE. This, together with moves by the New South Wales Liberal Premier John Fahey to trade off TAFE for an increase in State powers over school education and home and community care, has heightened concerns within both TAFE and the community that a Commonwealth takeover might occur.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** The Government is having discussions at the moment with ANTA to determine a

formula. I am confident that we will be able to maintain effort. No State has agreed with the proposal from ANTA in terms of maintenance of effort at this stage. The criteria are being reviewed and consideration is being given to such things as capital works expenditure. At this stage the formula has not been determined. The Government has no intention of handing TAFE to the Commonwealth.

#### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mrs KOTZ (Newland):** Will the Minister for Health inform the House of any measures the Government is proposing to minimise the impact of reductions in State outlays for health on the important area of services to the public?

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** Due to the difficult economic circumstances we now face—thanks to the previous Government—in all dealings we have had with the Health Commission and the units we have insisted that they attempt to maximise the outcome for patients whilst making budgetary savings and efficiency dividends. The Government and the Public Service worked for a long time to minimise the impact on services. We have obviously given them a number of tools with casemix and contestability, health unit self-management of workers compensation, which will save \$2 million, and so on.

At today's combined annual conference of the Hospitals and Health Services Association and the Australian Council of Health Executives I was pleased to announce that the hospitals and health services are forming an umbrella specialised purchasing agency, with Health Commission backing, which will allow economies of scale in purchasing more major items such as heart valves, implants, prostheses, and so on. Such items do not usually fall into large volume numbers. Hospitals obviously purchase items such as bandages and every day items in bulk and hence get economies of scale, but with these more specialised items they do not have that opportunity.

I am pleased to announce that, under the aegis of the Hospitals and Health Services Association of South Australia, this specialised purchasing agency will be formed. It will lead to savings conservatively of between \$1.5 million and \$2 million across the system. It is another example of giving the system a challenge and asking it, 'How can you meet this?' I am confident that the people within the system are intelligent, lateral thinking people who want to do the very best for the patients, and as such they have met this challenge and have come up with this innovative idea. The possibilities are endless. This agency may purchase for the private sector as well, and potentially even interstate if the items are purchased from overseas. With the push for health exports there also is potential to expand this into an overseas purchasing agency. It is very good news for the health system.

#### TAFE FUNDING

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Following his answer to the previous question, can the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education categorically rule out that Federal funding for TAFE under the formula will not be reduced as a result of staff and budget cuts to his department by the State Government? The Commonwealth, States and Territories agreed in July 1992 to pool their resources for vocational education, but allocations to each State will be made on the basis of a negotiated

and approved State training profile. It is believed that the South Australian training profile will reveal budget cuts in DETAFE of \$4 million to \$5 million, which is likely to mean a smaller share of Commonwealth funding.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** In respect of the budget, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will have to contain his enthusiasm for a little bit longer. He might be surprised at some of the aspects of the budget. One of the difficulties we face in South Australia in relation to maintenance of effort and the formula being developed is that the previous Government did not maintain or provide the output that was required. We are now in a position where we face a catch-up situation. We have to try to catch up on what the previous Labor Government did not do in respect of training. So the Deputy Leader and his successor have a lot to answer for in regard to what they did not do when they were in office.

As I indicated in an earlier answer, the formula has changed and is changing and new elements are coming into the criteria. All the States are currently negotiating with ANTA to try to come up with a realistic and appropriate set of criteria to establish the funding, particularly for growth moneys. We are in that process at present. There is a ministerial council meeting next month and the issue will be resolved then, but I am confident that we will maintain effort. We are increasing productivity in TAFE because we have an excellent staff who are committed to training and, as Minister, I am proud of their efforts and achievements. I am confident that we will maintain effort and secure Commonwealth growth funds.

#### DEVELOPING NOARLUNGA PROJECT

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** Will the Minister for Family and Community Services advise the House what additional funding has been approved for the Developing Noarlunga project? The Department for Family and Community Services, the Noarlunga council and representatives of each of the five neighbourhood houses—Hackham West, Christie Downs, Woodcroft, Reynella and Beachside Community Centre—make up the Developing Noarlunga group. Over a number of months this group has met regularly and put together a management program that will not only make its new funding arrangement work but also obtain the best neighbourhood development outcome possible.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am very supportive of the principles on which the Developing Noarlunga project have been based. This project has come about as a result of a strong partnership being built up among community centres, local government and the State Government, as the honourable member has said. When we talk about community centres, I recognise the input to those centres of the volunteers who work in them and the strong community support they have in the Noarlunga area.

Also, I commend the Noarlunga council for its promotion of the project, because it has been very supportive in a number of ways and I have appreciated the opportunity to work with the Noarlunga council in this project. A number of community centres in the Noarlunga area have been working with the Noarlunga council and the Department for Family and Community Services to develop an innovative model of service delivery. This model makes the best use of available funding and I am keen to see it extended to other areas. It is important that local government has a greater input into determining priorities with community centres and organisations as to appropriate funding.

The Developing Noarlunga group has closely examined administrative costs in community services in the Noarlunga area and has been able to keep these costs to a minimum in this innovative program so that the maximum amount of available funding can be devoted to services on the ground. Of course, all members would realise the importance of being able to do that. I commend the members for Reynell, Kaurna and Mawson for the strong support they have given to the project and the strong representation they made to me as Minister. I am pleased to advise the House that a commitment has now been made to provide to this project extra funding of \$20 000 a year for three years. This will bring the total financial contribution to Developing Noarlunga to \$132 000 a year. Again, I commend members and the community in Noarlunga, because this is an excellent initiative and one that I hope, being an important model, I will see recognised in other parts of South Australia.

#### COMMONWEALTH GAMES

**Mr FOLEY (Hart):** Will the Premier, on behalf of the State Government, join with the Lord Mayor of Adelaide and host a civic reception to honour the returning South Australian participants of the Australian Commonwealth Games team? I have today written to the Lord Mayor of Adelaide respectfully suggesting that he, in conjunction with the State Government, host a civic reception for our athletes as a fitting tribute to their success in Victoria, Canada.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** First, I have already sent letters congratulating the successful South Australian participants. They have done extremely well and I am proud of the way they have represented this State in their sporting arenas. Let us give them a hero's welcome. The State Government will be hosting a special reception, as a State Government in its own right, where the community, and particularly the sporting community, can pay tribute to those great South Australian sports people.

#### FRUIT-FLY

**Mr ANDREW (Chaffey):** Will the Minister for Primary Industries explain what progress has been made to ensure that South Australia remains free of fruit-fly? The Commonwealth has allocated \$595 000 to be spent over the next four years for fruit-fly eradication. I understand that most of these funds will establish a laboratory to breed up to 20 million sterile Queensland fruit-flies per week to be used for the eradication of any outbreaks which are detected in fruit-fly eradication free zones, and importantly that includes the Riverland area of South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and there is more! I thank the member for Chaffey for his interest in this matter. I will come to the member for Ross Smith in a moment. However, it is very important to not only his electorate but the whole of South Australia that our fruit-fly vigilance should be kept up. One of the important things in our favour, when we are exporting produce from this State, is that we have that fruit-fly free status which other States do not have.

We have instigated a tri-State agreement where the three States are working together. New South Wales and Victoria, with some help from South Australia, which has a world class regime for eradicating fruit-fly, are working together to set up this new laboratory which will be established in New

South Wales and which will release the treated flies. It will help greatly. I would like the members for Giles and Ross Smith to listen very carefully, because the guts of it all is in my following comments, so all members should concentrate. The control of an outbreak requires the release of large numbers of sterile flies into the outbreak area and, through the simple strength of numbers, the sterile males mate with any wild females who subsequently lay only sterile eggs.

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** The member for Ross Smith should concentrate, because this could mean him. By this means, and provided the initial population is low, the wild population will readily die out. As members know, that will eradicate the problem quite quickly. Not only will this method be used but adequate signage will take place as it does at present, and there will be bins and inspections. It is interesting to note, on a much more serious note, that 70 tonnes of fruit was confiscated at the South Australian borders last year, and 61 cases of fruit-fly were confirmed during that inspection. So, it is terribly important.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** It is yet to be confirmed whether or not they were sterile. It just goes to show that South Australia is at the forefront of some of these new inspection methods and we are doing everything in our power to make sure that exports from our State can go worldwide unfettered.

### ARMY EXERCISES

**Mr QUIRKE (Playford):** Will the Premier advise the House as to the source of his information for his claims about the damage caused by the Army's operation Desert Tiger, including his claim that 100 leopard tanks were involved? The Opposition has been advised that, while the Premier made the claim that 100 tanks were involved, as few as 12 were actually there. In fact, the Army's entire complement of leopard tanks is less than 100 Australia-wide, and we would like to know if the Premier is the one generating the bulldust.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I point out to the member for Playford that he was not asking a question but commenting. The Premier.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** First, my source of information was the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** There was a clear understanding between the department and the Australian Army as to the conditions that would apply to this exercise. As I said yesterday, eight specific commitments were given, five of which were breached. Not only was the source the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; the land-holders involved were also telephoning and complaining about this matter. My office first received the complaint from the land-holders themselves, in particular the owner of Mount Vivian Station, who lodged a very bitter complaint about the behaviour of the Army there and the damage it has inflicted on the site.

I would have thought that the honourable member would want to stand up on behalf of the other members of this House and condemn any action carried out by the Australian Army resulting in any widespread damage, particularly in such a sensitive environment in the pastoral lands of South Australia. In this location there are areas of saltbush and

bluebush, which are very delicate and which take years to generate, and it is grossly improper of the Australian Army to drive tanks and armed personnel carriers through that country and inflict that sort of damage.

### AUSTRALIAN HOLOGRAPHICS

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I address my question to the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development. Following the South Australian Museum's use of a small South Australian company to develop 3D images, or holograms, to portray extinct species of animals, what other business success has this company had with exports?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** This is another South Australian small business success story that is making it on the international stage. The background is that the company Australian Holographics was started five years ago by David Radcliff, an Adelaide scientist. Having been inspired by the use of large holograms seen in France, he returned to South Australia to develop the technology. Two years ago, with support from the Managing Director, Simon Edhouse, new markets were opened up in science museums through the Asia Pacific region. The technical side of this production involves skills involving physics, photography, lasers and optics.

The company has a factory at Kangarilla, where it uses a 6 metre by 5 metre platform, which floats on air so that there are no vibrations in processing a master copy and duplicating it. That platform can take objects of some 25 tonnes. The process is ideal for replicating rare pieces of art or equipment rather than transporting those valuable whole objects. It has many military applications as well. The company is now experimenting with new technology whereby walking through parts of the hologram will activate other visual displays related to the object.

This small South Australian company was supported by the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing, which assisted the company with \$30 000 for marketing expenses and the development of a business plan. It is now exporting 90 per cent of its work and is recognised as the only company in the South-East Asia area that is able to produce holograms of this size and quality. It was used in South Korea for Expo 93, billboards for transport systems in Singapore, military displays and trade fairs in Changi Airport. Displays in the new business lounge and children's area will be put in by this company, and it is now tendering for a history of aviation in the new buildings in Changi Airport. It has been requested to do a unique portrait of President Suharto of Indonesia; General Motors-Holden's Corporation is using it in its new car release; and Mitsubishi in London is using it for the release of its station wagon on that market.

All in all, it is a South Australian company which fits the Government's concept of a smart State image. It is now employing 15 people who have developed a world-wide reputation as a result of support by a range of Government agencies, such as the Centre for Manufacturing, whose track record is setting the pace in the development of the AUSINDUSTRY schemes being put in place by the Federal Government.

### DOWN'S SYNDROME

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** Will the Minister for Health now rule out the proposal to stop Down's syndrome screening

at the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital? On the ABC's 7.30 Report on Thursday 11 August I challenged the Minister to rule out—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Question Time is not about challenges; it is about asking questions and seeking information. I ask the honourable member not to continue along that line.

**Mr ATKINSON:**—four proposed cuts to patient services at the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital that he had refused to rule out in Parliament that day. The Minister's reply was, 'I rule them out now.'

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** As the member for Spence would know, having read the document that was released within the Women's and Children's Hospital quite openly, it was a series of suggested changes which may be taken to meet the casemix funding targets. As he would know, the casemix funding target was \$4.03 million, and as he would also know from reading that document approximately \$2.5 million of those savings had already been achieved in TSPs before he made his fairly poor point. The hospital was already two-thirds of the way there before it made any of the other changes that were contemplated.

As the member for Spence would further know, another \$3 million (from memory) of savings was identified in that area. Obviously it is up to the management of the hospital to manage as it sees appropriate. Importantly, I would refer the member for Spence back to the article or the briefing to the chiefs of staff from which he was quoting. On the first page the Chief Executive Officer says that all these savings must be taken from areas where there will be no decrease in patient services.

#### MOBIL FUEL CARDS

**Mr BASS (Florey):** Will the Treasurer inform the House of what action the Government is taking to ensure that fuel purchase credit cards issued by Mobil are being used correctly by Government employees? I understand that Mobil has recently changed its system so that Mobil fuel credit cards can be swiped through the petrol pump without the user having to provide any information to the service station attendant; for example, vehicle description, odometer reading, and so on.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I thank the honourable member for his question. We discovered, after Mobil had changed the system, that the card recognition was external to the cash register and therefore there was no check on the actual vehicle receiving fuel. When we became aware of it, we immediately contacted Mobil and said that we had to ensure that all Government employees reported to the desk and provided the details as required under the Treasurer's instructions. Mobil said it was sorry for what it had done and for not having consulted the Government. In fact, it had not consulted a number of employers who, I suggest, would have the same concerns. Mobil has readily agreed to change the system to reject Government cards, so that any Government employee filling up at a Mobil pump will not be able to have a Government card accepted by the machine. Such persons will still have to enter the premises and provide the details as required under my instructions. There will be a sign on the pumps saying that Government cards are not accepted and that the transaction must be conducted at the cash register rather than swiping the card through the machine and walking away. I am not saying there was going to be any abuse, but it certainly takes away the temptation.

#### VULCAN BONAIRE

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development now advise the House whether his efforts to maintain Vulcan Bonaire's presence in South Australia as a major employer in the northern suburbs have been successful? On 22 March this year, in reply to a question from me, the Minister advised the House that the Government would 'leave no stone unturned to ensure that we maintain that facility in South Australia'. However, since that time rumours—hopefully untrue—have persisted in my electorate that Vulcan Bonaire will be proceeding with plans to relocate its South Australian operations, involving 200 jobs, to Victoria. This is causing anxiety in my electorate and obviously it would be a devastating blow to the northern suburbs and the State.

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** I can assure the House and the honourable member that this Government will not only undertake every initiative it can to ensure that it maintains the existence of that facility and the employment of those people within South Australia, but it will go one step further and attract a consolidation of that facility within the State. Negotiations are continuing between the Government and the company, and I trust they will come to a successful conclusion in the not too distant future. I am confident that as with Australis and Motorola, AWA Defence Industries, Cathay Pacific at Adelaide Aviation College, Sabco, and the Tomlin company relocating from Victoria to South Australia—all success stories of this Government in the past eight months—we will be able to add another to them in the not too distant future.

I can assure the honourable member that we will not allow the circumstance of the Grand Prix disappearing off into Victoria to worry us. We are about bringing businesses back to South Australia and the expansion of job opportunities here for South Australians. I can give an absolute commitment to the honourable member, who indicated that he had raised this matter previously on behalf of his constituents and people employed in that plant, that the Government is genuine and has certainly worked assiduously through the Economic Development Authority and other agencies of Government to bring about a successful conclusion.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMMUNITY ADVISORY SERVICE

**Mr EVANS (Davenport):** Has the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources done anything to support the work of the Environmental Law Community Advisory Service since coming to Government? The Government's pre-election policy on the environment states:

It supports the Environmental Law Community Advisory Service in giving the community access to free legal advice so that the whole community has the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and the development and implementation of environmental law.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** As Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources I am particularly interested in doing what I can to ensure that our community has appropriate access to legal advice and representation in relation to environmental law problems or queries.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am sure that the honourable member who interjects on the other side on many occasions—

*The Hon. Frank Blevins interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Giles will come to order.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** —would have found it necessary to consult this organisation on behalf of his constituents. The Environmental Law Community Advisory Service (ELCAS) was established in 1992. It was officially launched on 4 June 1992, which was the eve of the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. ELCAS, which operates from the Bowden Brompton Community Centre on Thursday nights, is a voluntary association made up of lawyers and non-lawyers. It was established to give all sectors of our community access to free expert legal advice on environmental law, and for 'disadvantaged persons or for classes of persons for whose needs the services of lawyers in private practice are inadequate'.

I am a strong supporter of ELCAS and, in particular, a supporter of its efforts to help the community in South Australia to understand environmental laws, and to understand how they can effectively and constructively participate in the decision-making process. I have been impressed with the fact that ELCAS has focused strongly on helping people to resolve problems and conflicts in a constructive and efficient way. ELCAS relied upon some modest grants from the Australian Centre for Environmental Law in Adelaide and, also, the South Australian division of the National Environmental Law Association in originally getting off the ground.

The demand on the voluntary service has been considerable, which has stretched its resources to the limit. As a result, in order to ensure that the service is able to consolidate this critical stage in its development, I have decided to allocate some \$10 000 per annum to ELCAS for the next three financial years. I am sure that each member of the House has had constituents raise problems with them that have involved questions of interpretation of environmental laws. Some of those members have indicated to me their complete satisfaction with responses they have received from ELCAS.

This service is of benefit to the whole community throughout South Australia and, in particular, those who are unable to afford to pay for legal advice. It is a service that I am sure will be welcomed by every member of the House. The Government supports very strongly the work of ELCAS, and we wish that organisation well.

### DISABLED PERSONS

**Mr QUIRKE (Playford):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. What does the Government intend to do to help those persons who suffer disability in our community and, in particular, what can the Government do to help persons with physical disability obtain access to public buildings and places of public entertainment? It has been 13 years since the Year of the Disabled, yet many places of public entertainment have not provided access for the disabled. In recent weeks the disabled have been calling for assistance, especially since the comment by Arthur Tunstall—the Joe Rossi of international sport.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** I believe the honourable member's question is particularly important. In relation to the honourable member's comment at the end I indicate that, as

the Minister responsible for the disabled, on the day that Mr Tunstall made his infamous comment I immediately faxed Senator Faulkner, the Federal Minister for Sport and Recreation, expressing my belief that it was inappropriate that Mr Tunstall hold his present position, given that the whole thrust of society today is to increase access for the disabled so that they can have as full a life as possible.

The honourable member makes a valid point in that access for the disabled to buildings often conforms to the letter of the law but, unfortunately, is often not accompanied by thorough planning and forethought. It is a fact of life that perhaps the law needs to be looked at with respect to things like slopes of ramps, and so on. If one speaks to architects and asks, 'What is the required slope?', they are able to tell you, 'One in 14' very easily, but that is the upper limit at which disabled people can access buildings. Obviously if ramps were made in a more graded fashion it would be more appropriate.

The other important point is that access needs to be to all parts of the building rather than just to the building itself. In the recent past I spoke with someone from DPI (Disabled Persons International) who is in a wheelchair and who indicated to me that they recently attended a place of entertainment in Adelaide where there was disabled access to the building, but the toilet facilities were on the second floor and there was no lift. It meant that people with disabilities had to go outside the building, into the next building, up the lift, and obtain a special key to get through the door between the second and the first buildings—that is unacceptable. We will certainly look at those sorts of facilities.

One of the most obvious things that needs to be done is consultation with people with disabilities, local government, architects and so on to make sure that more thorough planning goes into this aspect of access. Unfortunately, that is not always easy to organise because sometimes planners get awards for buildings which have wonderful foyers—in fact, one building was highlighted in some local media recently—beautiful doors, and all these sorts of things, but the door for the disabled is around the back, next to the rubbish bins. Yet, under our present access code that building would be classified as having disabled access.

From the tenor of the question from the member opposite he and I would both regard that as unacceptable and we will certainly see whether that can be changed. I recently announced the formation of the Disability Advisory Council, which has a very broad spectrum of interest represented on it. It is chaired by Dawn Brooks from the Brain Injured Network of South Australia. That is exactly the sort of issue I will ask that council to look at, as well as other things that I have already put on its plate, such as post-school options, and so on. It is an important question because I am sure that everyone in this House would recognise that the disabled deserve equal access.

### COOBER PEDY

**Mrs HALL (Coles):** Can the Minister for Mines and Energy inform the House what progress has been made to implement the undertaking to restrict access to the Coober Pedy precious stones fields?

**The SPEAKER:** The Chair is also very interested in this question.

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the honourable member for her interest in the question and her interest in mines and energy matters generally. It

being your electorate, Mr Speaker, I will address you in the answer. We have all heard about the tragic death of a tourist who accidentally fell into a mine shaft in 1992. I know that you, Mr Speaker, as the local member, made representations to the previous Administration to get something done about it. However, nothing was done about it. I am now happy to inform the House that some money will be spent.

Cooper Pedy is a very good tourist attraction, as well as contributing a lot of wealth in precious stones to the State's electorate. It is very important that people who visit that area are aware of the problems and are helped as much as they can to stop them from falling down a shaft accidentally, as happened in 1992. Some \$170 000 is being provided—some of it by Treasury and some of it by Mines and Energy, Tourism and Industrial Affairs, as well as contributions from local communities—to help fence off this area. We have been most impressed as an Administration in the way that the local community has got behind this whole project. The intention is to fence off those access roads and put adequate signage on them, not only for the fruit-fly but to indicate the dangerous mine shafts, and to make tourists aware that they are entering a dangerous zone. The \$170 000 should be spent within the next few months, and it will ensure that those casual tourists who visit this area in your electorate, Mr Speaker, do so safely.

#### AUDIT COMMISSION

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Giles):** My question is directed to the Premier. What is the estimated expenditure the Commission of Audit has incurred to date on consultancies? What consultancies have been awarded, and can he provide the details of their assignments, the names of the consultants/firms and the number of tenderers from which they were selected? How many consultancies have been awarded by the Commission of Audit without competitive tendering? How many consultancies have been awarded to Roger Sexton, a former employee of Beneficial Finance and the State Bank, by the Commission of Audit, Ministers or agencies of Government since the 1993 State election?

**Mr LEWIS:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. I am having great difficulty hearing the honourable member but, of the odd words that I pick up, I suspect there is a question on notice about this matter.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair was also having difficulty hearing the honourable member. I do not have a Notice Paper in front of me, so I am unaware whether there is a question on notice in relation to this matter. I will allow the question, but I point out to members that it is contrary to Standing Orders to ask questions in relation to a question that is already on the Notice Paper.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I thank the member for Ridley for his contribution; it helped. The Premier will perhaps remember this question as it was put on notice on 8 March this year, almost six months ago. The question is not on the Notice Paper now, but I was wondering whether the Premier has any intention at all of answering it. He certainly did not answer it when it was on notice. It is now a question without notice and I am just having another try.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Mr Speaker, like you and like every other member, I could not hear most of the series of questions asked by the honourable member. It seems that for some reason the honourable member did not want an answer today because he asked his questions in a manner that indicates that he and he alone should know what the question

was. However, I assure the honourable member that I will look at his question and give him an answer.

#### STATE SUPPLY

**Mr MEIER (Goyder):** What action is the Treasurer taking to ensure that State Supply staff properly recognise South Australia's Aboriginal population? I have been informed that a parcel recently sent from State Supply to the Ernabella School in the Far North was addressed to 'the Ernabella Coon School'.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** About a week ago a parcel did arrive at that school and, in fact, it was addressed to 'the Ernabella Coon School'. The school, obviously very upset, notified State Supply and the Director of State Supply took immediate action. As a joke—a very bad joke—the person responsible wrote that on a box that was being sent to the Ernabella School. The person responsible has been identified and stood down for four weeks, and he is going to send an apology to the school.

I had second thoughts about whether we should raise this matter in a public fashion, but I think it is important that it be pointed out that, even if it was a joke, it was a very bad joke. The employee concerned is a hard working person. He presumed that the label was going to be taken off, but it was not taken off and it actually got to the school, and there is no excuse for that. The Government is saying quite clearly that that behaviour is not going to be tolerated, and that is a message for everyone. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect, and that is the way that this Government will operate.

#### PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

**Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith):** Will the Premier advise the House whether it was he or a person acting under his authority who instructed Parliamentary Counsel to draw up a Bill to repeal the Government Management and Employment Act 1985, to be known eventually as the Public Sector Management Act 1994 and, if so, what were the Premier's instructions with respect to the tenure of employment of all public servants and with respect to the retention or otherwise of the existing promotion and grievance appeal procedures?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The honourable member asks a question about a very preliminary draft of a Bill that was prepared. That draft Bill has not yet been endorsed by Cabinet to be introduced into the Parliament. There has been no consultation with the union movement as I have promised. There has been no consultation with the Government employees as I have indicated will occur. First, let me assure the honourable member that I have already set down a procedure for the handling of this Bill, and when a suitable draft is ready it will be sent out to all trade unions involved, including the PSA, and it will be available for all Government employees to go through very carefully and to comment on.

The Government intends to set up a hot line and a program to allow Government employees to work carefully through the Bill and understand its ramifications. There has been already quite a deliberate attempt by the union movement to grossly distort what is contained in the Bill. For instance, the union claimed in the *Advertiser* on Monday morning that the Bill, as it currently stands—and I suspect that it had a very old draft indeed—will apply contracts to all levels of Government employees. In fact, that is not the Government's intention at all. Contracts will apply only to the executive levels of Government and to certain key appointments. There

are several other claims made about the legislation which just plainly are not true.

So, as I said, there will be wide consultation when a suitable draft has been prepared, and I suggest to the honourable member that he sit back and wait. It will also come before the Parliament when he will have adequate chance to comment on and debate the Bill, and to move amendments if he wishes.

### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

**Ms HURLEY (Napier):** Does the Minister for Health stand by his claims that new hospital funding arrangements will lead to major improvements in health care for older South Australians? On Monday this week, two of my constituents called in on their way back from the Royal Adelaide Hospital. These pensioners were very distressed by a situation in which the husband had been admitted and prepared for major surgery. His wife had been at home and, with the support of friends and family, was waiting during what she thought was the period he was beginning this major surgery. Shortly afterwards she was phoned by her husband and asked to collect him. The surgery had been cancelled not because of a shortage of staff or a major emergency but because of a lack of beds in the intensive care unit of South Australia's major hospital. How will the Minister rectify this problem?

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** First, let me say that this was good management by the hospital—and I know about the case to which the member refers—because, as I understand it, the patient was due to have cardiovascular surgery, and people who have that type of surgery need to have an intensive care bed for a short time before they are sent back to the ordinary wards. The simple fact of the matter is that, under this Government—as under the previous Government—there are 14 intensive care beds available for this sort of facility.

I do not know whether there had been a major accident or something of that nature prior to this patient's being admitted, so I am uncertain as to why those beds were occupied to the maximum level. I understand that, unless there is an urgent demand, the hospital keeps one or two intensive care beds free in case they are needed following an accident. However, I understand that those beds were filled, as they were on many previous occasions under the former Administration. I point out that this Government has not cut the number of beds at all from the number which the previous Administration provided in intensive care. So, it is not a matter of funding at all. As the member said, it is a matter of the number of beds available, and the hospital has exactly the same number as provided by the previous Administration.

I am pleased to say that I have taken action already. I am told, according to the hospital rather than other allegations, that the surgery of the constituent of the member for Napier was cancelled the other day for the first time and he is to be readmitted on 5 September. I wish him well.

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table by the Treasurer (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

- Financial Statement 1994-95  
Ordered to be printed (Paper No. 18)
- Estimates of Receipts and Payments 1994-95  
Ordered to be printed (Paper No. 9)
- Economic Conditions and the Budget 1994-95

- Ordered to be printed (Paper No. 11)  
Capital Works Program 1994-95
- Ordered to be printed (Paper No. 83)  
Lotteries Commission of South Australia—Report, 1993-94
- South Australian Superannuation Fund Investment Trust—Report, 1993-94
- State Government Insurance Commission—Report, 1993-94
- Department of Treasury and Finance—Report, 1993-94
- Bank of South Australia Ltd (BankSA)—Results, 1993-94
- Group Asset Management Division—Operating Results, 1993-94
- South Australian Asset Management Corporation—Results, 1993-94.

### APPROPRIATION BILL

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the financial year ending 30 June 1995, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I move:

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

In doing so, I present the budget for 1994-95. This is a budget which signposts a new era of economic opportunity for South Australia:

- a circuit breaker with new solutions to old problems.
- This, my first budget, represents our commitment to:
- restoring the health of the State's finances and reversing the uncontrolled growth in debt of recent years;
  - providing greater certainty for the delivery of essential services; and
  - focussing on our determination to broaden the economic base of the State.

The past four State budgets have:

- forced up Government debt;
- reduced private sector jobs; and
- slashed services across the board.

The first four budgets of this Government will reverse those trends.

We are turning the State around.

This budget will encourage investment in existing industries and help attract new, exciting industrial opportunities for our State.

This means more jobs.

This budget will contain the deficit and establish the fundamentals for sustained debt reduction.

This budget will accelerate the pace of reform in the delivery of key services to the community.

This is a *Recovery through Reform* budget which sets the South Australian economy on a track of sustainable, long-term growth.

It signals, in the clearest terms, to the Parliament and to the people of South Australia that the priorities are economic growth and debt reduction to ensure a better future for our State.

With this budget, the Government is continuing the strategy adopted immediately upon our election.

With this budget, the Government reinforces its commitment to rebuild South Australia's economy and to repair our State finances.

The targets for repairing the State's finances were set out in my May Financial Statement.

Already, the economy is responding to the new directions of the Government.



This budget predicts full-time employment growth double last year's.

The massive underlying deficit that we inherited demanded reform.

We had no choice.

To do nothing would have left a spiralling debt burden and an ever increasing interest bill for our children.

This budget reduces expenditures and it delivers essential public services through increased productivity and new methods of management in the public sector.

It adopts the path of reform to underpin a long term recovery.

#### ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

During the next 12 months in South Australia, the economic recovery is expected to strengthen.

Employment growth is forecast to increase and to underpin continued growth in consumer spending.

This budget's revenue assumptions are based on the creation of 10 000 additional full-time jobs through the 1994-95 financial year.

Business investment is projected to recover strongly and to bring about a sustainable improvement in South Australia's economic growth.

The latest survey by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that businesses are planning a significant lift in investment in South Australia.

Since the election of this Government, some very significant investment plans have been foreshadowed in key industry sectors including motor vehicle manufacturing, mining, tourism and wine.

The State is also on the brink of a far reaching expansion in information technology based on the Australis Media and Motorola decisions and outsourcing of a major proportion of the Government's operations in this sector.

In summary, there are strong signs that a recovery in private sector activity in South Australia will be well under way during the coming year.

It is absolutely vital that the Government's budget strategy encourages this new potential for private sector growth to the maximum extent possible.

#### BUDGET STRATEGY AND DEBT

To prevent Government debt becoming a continuing drag on economic growth and job creation, the Government is committed to eliminating the underlying budget deficit in the State's non-commercial public sector over the next four years.

Removing the underlying deficit is one of two ways the Government will guarantee a sustained reduction in debt.

The other is a carefully managed program of asset sales.

In tackling the deficit and initiating asset sales, the Government will cut the State's debt in real terms by 1998 and ensure debt reduction is sustainable over the long term.

The forward estimates in the budget papers show the Government's financial strategy is on track.

The underlying deficit in the non-commercial sector will be eliminated by 1997-98.

That is, the gap will be wiped out between the revenue and spending needed to provide adequate levels of services to the South Australian community.

Spending priorities will be met from revenue—not from borrowings which add to debt and interest payments.

For the future, any borrowing would be limited to support for commercial activities and infrastructure where a financial or major social return to the community can be identified.

The Government is also confronting the issue of unfunded superannuation liabilities.

This budget provides \$274 million to meet accruing superannuation liabilities and \$107 million as the first instalment in eliminating unfunded liabilities.

These decisions reflect the Government's determination not to burden future generations of South Australians with debt and other liabilities for which they are not responsible.

#### 1994-95 BUDGET

My May Financial Statement set the following targets:

- a reduction to \$290 million in the underlying deficit for the non commercial sector; and
- savings of \$170 million off the forward estimates of outlays.

This budget sticks to these targets, despite further interest rate increases which have added almost \$75 million to this year's cost of paying for Labor's debt.

We also maintain these targets without any increase in tax rates—or any new taxes.

New taxes would have increased the cost pressures on families, damaged consumer confidence and stalled economic recovery and the creation of jobs.

The financial strategy remains on track because the Government has been willing to quickly initiate major reforms and to take the hard decisions on outlays.

It must be remembered that the average personal income in South Australia is below the national average, but the level of Government outlays is above the national average.

I now turn to some of the main details of the budget.

#### REVENUE

In the Financial Statement, the Government endorsed the advice of the Audit Commission that the budget adjustment necessary to repair the State's finances must be achieved 'principally through reductions in outlays, not through increases in revenue'.

At the same time, it is important that the Government protects the existing revenue base to ensure an appropriate balance between outlay reductions and revenue in the adjustment process.

Accordingly, the budget contains two measures affecting land tax and payroll tax.

It was the former Government's practice to increase rates of land tax to offset the impact of falling property values.

This year's land tax collections are based on 1993-94 values which fell again.

Without a change, the real level of revenue in 1994-95 would have been less by \$7.5 million than in 1993-94.

However, this Government is not prepared to increase marginal tax rates again to offset the revenue loss.

Because land values generally have fallen, the Government will lower the general exemption from land tax from \$80 000 site value to \$50 000.

Even then, revenue from land tax in 1994-95 will be lower than for the previous year.

The estimated collection this year is \$2.7 million below the level required to maintain receipts in real terms.

The exemption for the principal place of residence, introduced by the last Liberal Government, will be maintained.

Legislation to implement the change in the exemption level will also close off a loophole which has enabled effective land tax exemptions to be obtained for allotments subject to house and land package contracts through the use of trust arrangements.

The budget provides for a reduction in the payroll tax rate in South Australia from 6.1 per cent to 6 per cent.

This sets our rate well below the 7 per cent in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania, and equal to Western Australia.

At the same time, to prevent the erosion of the payroll tax base, the Payroll Tax Act will be amended to include employer contributions towards superannuation in the definition of gross wages liable for tax.

Employer contributions to recognised superannuation funds have not been subject to payroll tax.

Because of the impact of the Commonwealth Government's compulsory superannuation guarantee arrangements and changing remuneration package practices, where cash salaries and other benefits increasingly are traded off against employer contributions to superannuation schemes, the payroll tax base has been subject to increasing erosion.

The net impact of the decisions to reduce the rate and to include superannuation contributions for payroll tax calculations will be to increase private sector payroll tax revenue by only \$8 million this financial year in a total collection of more than \$400 million.

These changes will take effect with respect to remuneration payable on or after 1 December 1994.

In considering payroll tax, the House will recognise that the Government is forgoing significant revenue following the introduction, from 1 July this year, of the 50 per cent rebate of payroll tax on additional new exports of manufactured goods.

This is on top of the 10 per cent rebate applying to previous exports of manufactured goods from 1 January, and makes South Australia the most competitive State for the manufacture of export goods.

I turn now to the major items of budget spending.

#### OUTLAYS

The Government's priorities for economic growth and job creation are clearly reflected in this budget.

It provides for a substantial increase in economic development and infrastructure spending.

At the same time, the Government has been very careful, in its spending decisions, to limit any adverse impact and to attend to social, environmental and other priorities.

For example, the Government is giving the highest priority to the needs of families and children at risk.

This budget maintains funding for non-government agencies in the welfare sector and for departmental services to those in need.

The needs of children who experience abuse, are abandoned or who are at risk of harm will receive special attention.

More than \$39 million will be allocated to services for these children and their families this financial year.

As we work to meet needs like this, the House will recall that the findings of the Audit Commission also imposed on the Government an obligation to revise previous commitments to ensure achievement of the goals of economic growth and debt reduction in the interest of all South Australians.

In meeting their savings targets, Ministers have worked with their agencies to ensure adequate levels of service can be maintained consistent with the overall financial position.

This work has focused on outcomes rather than inputs.

We have considered, very thoroughly and on a case by case basis, how savings can be achieved while the direct delivery and quality of services is maintained.

As a result, in a number of areas, reforms will increase the quality of services while costs are contained.

In education, health, building management, housing and urban development, public transport, correctional services and in the Government's trading enterprises, major reforms are under way.

#### EDUCATION

Achievement of the 1994-95 education savings target of \$22 million will mean a reduction of 422 teaching positions.

This will result in an increase on average of 1 student in the primary and junior primary school staffing formula and an increase in the secondary school practical class size averaging 1.5 students.

These formula changes would mean (based on 1994 enrolments) that almost 75 per cent of all junior primary and primary schools would not lose a teacher at all and the remaining primary and junior primary schools would lose a maximum of 1.1 teaching positions.

After these adjustments, South Australia is still likely to have the second lowest pupil/teacher ratio amongst the States and remain well below the national average: we are better than the national average.

Other measures to achieve savings targets include a small reduction in school support officers and changes to school card and other departmental operations including school cleaning and transport.

The education budget also provides funding for a number of new initiatives.

These include additional resources to make the early years of education the number one priority of the department; an extra \$2 million over the next two years to help tackle discipline problems in schools; and \$4.7 million over the next three years to implement the new curriculum statements and profiles in schools from next year.

The capital works program for education and children's services provides for spending of more than \$90 million—a major increase over the \$76 million spent in 1993-94.

#### HEALTH

As with education, even after adjustments to the health budget this year of \$35 million, spending on health care in South Australia is expected to remain above the national standardised average.

Major reform in the health sector, including the introduction of casemix funding, will maximise incentives for hospitals to provide services in the most cost effective way while standards of patient care are maintained.

The Government's commitment to halve public hospital waiting lists in our first term is on track.

Under casemix funding, the major hospitals will have \$7.5 million available to reduce elective surgery lists via the booking list pool created under the hospital service improvement strategy.

In addition, hospitals will have access to \$2.5 million to increase their workload over the previous year for non-booking list cases.

Casemix funding will also provide another \$1.5 million for new primary health care initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles and to bridge the gap between hospital and community based health care services.

As a means of lowering hospital operating costs, capital investment in hospital infrastructure and information technology will be boosted.

The budget allows for spending in 1994-95 of about \$82 million on capital works for the South Australian Health Commission—well above the \$77 million spent in 1993-94.

Within the health budget, there is also increased funding for breast X-ray services, palliative care and mental health and home based services in rural areas.

#### PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

As outlined in the May Financial Statement, the adjustments in total budget outlays will require reductions in the public sector work force in addition to the 5 000 full time equivalent positions budgeted to be cut by the former Government between 1992 and June this year.

This Government has announced a minimum of 5 500 work force reductions over the next three years and achievement of the 1994-95 target is already well advanced.

The Government has decided to extend the targeted separation scheme until 23 December 1994.

This decision reflects the particular need to deal with human resource management aspects of outsourcing and restructuring of agency operations.

A revised voluntary separation package scheme, in line with arrangements operating in other public sectors, will now commence on 27 December this year.

The fact that a significant number of separations have occurred at the beginning of this financial year helps to minimise the adjustments in Government services needed to meet budget savings targets.

The Government has been left with no choice but to make these further reductions in public sector employment.

This is not to devalue the role of the public sector in rebuilding our State.

Indeed, public sector employees have a vital role.

Without the cooperation of the public sector, and without the energy and ideas of dedicated Public Servants, our State's recovery would be in jeopardy and the quality of service delivery would reduce markedly.

However, after the lessons of recent years, this Government is unequivocal in its commitment to helping to create jobs in the private sector.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The budget provides for expenditure of over \$150 million on economic development programs in 1994-95.

This spending is carefully targeted to attract investment and jobs.

We have targeted activities where there are prospects of a sustained competitive advantage for the State.

The budget includes:

- over \$60 million for the Economic Development Advisory Board, the Economic Development Authority and the Economic Development Program;
- \$31 million for developments associated with the MFP including \$3.6 million for the creation of an Information Technology Centre of Excellence to foster this new industry for South Australia;
- \$28 million spending on the Industrial and Commercial Program by the South Australian Housing Trust;
- \$24 million for the South Australian Development Fund; and
- \$12.5 million for the Government's 'Let's Get South Australia Really Working' programs.

The Government's priorities for assisting the expansion of existing industries are reflected in the following allocations from the Economic Development Program:

- \$8 million in new funds for tourism infrastructure and marketing;
- for the mining industry, a further \$3.9 million to support the South Australian Exploration Initiative; and

- \$12 million in new funds to support the Manufacturing Modernisation Program.

The budget also allocates a further \$2.8 million bringing to \$10 million funds available for the Adelaide Airport re-development.

This and other infrastructure commitments demonstrate the Government's strategy to ensure essential facilities are in place to encourage and support future economic growth.

To open up future employment opportunities for young people, the Government will establish a Youth Training Scheme with a target of up to 700 new trainee positions in the State public sector over the next two years.

The total cost will be \$8.5 million.

Up to half of these trainee positions will be made available in the education, children's services and health sectors.

There will be spending of more than \$1 100 million on capital works in 1994-95 throughout the public sector.

Capital outlays from the budget increase by 14.6 per cent in real terms.

This includes:

- \$90 million for schools, pre-schools and child-care centres;
- \$82 million for health facilities;
- \$17 million to extend the Art Gallery of South Australia;
- a \$5.8 million residential facility at the Regency Park Institute of Vocational Education for students attending the International College of Hotel Management;
- \$1.5 million for the second stage of the Southern Region Sports Complex at Noarlunga;
- \$1.3 million to begin work on upgrading Torrens Building to accommodate various community groups; and
- \$1 million to start work on cleaning up the Patawalonga and the upstream catchment area.

Honourable members will appreciate that within the financial constraints it has inherited, the Government is responding to a range of social, environmental and other community needs as well as to economic priorities.

The capital works program will generate additional employment estimated at about 2 000 jobs during the next 12 months.

#### ASSET SALES

In funding its programs, the Government will end the practice of its predecessor of winding down the capital assets of the State to prop up recurrent spending.

This budget reaffirms the commitment to apply the proceeds of asset sales to debt reduction.

The Government's shareholding in AMDEL Limited was sold in May 1994.

During this financial year, the Government expects to complete the sale of the Pipelines Authority and Enterprise Investments.

Work is also well under way to sell the SGIC and Bank SA, most likely in 1995-96.

#### SUMMARY

With this budget, the Government is demonstrating its commitment to the hard work necessary to restore the State's finances.

The long term financial strategy is being built on a firm foundation of on-going savings—not on short term one-off measures.

Moreover, it is a budget which clears the way for economic expansion and job creation.

It is directed to securing lasting benefits for the State and South Australians.

In summary, it is a strategy to achieve financial, economic and social benefits that will last.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the co-operation of Ministers and their officers in working with the officers of Treasury and Finance on what has been a most difficult and challenging task.

I commend the budget to the House.

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

Leave granted.

Clause 1 is formal.

Clause 2 provides for the Bill to operate retrospectively to July 1994. Until the Bill is passed, expenditure is financed from appropriation authority provided by Supply Acts.

Clause 3 provides relevant definitions.

Clause 4 provides for the issue and application of the sums shown in the schedule to the Bill.

Sub-section (2) makes it clear that appropriation authority provided by the Supply Act is superseded by this Bill.

Clause 5 is designed to ensure that where Parliament has appropriated funds to an agency to enable it to carry out particular functions or duties and those functions or duties become the responsibility of another agency, the funds may be used by the responsible agency in accordance with Parliament's original intentions without further appropriation.

Clause 6 provides authority for the Treasurer to issue and apply money from the Hospitals Fund for the provision of facilities in public hospitals.

Clause 7 makes it clear that appropriation authority provided by this Bill is additional to authority provided in other Acts of Parliament, except, of course, in Supply Acts.

Clause 8 sets a limit of \$50 million on the amount which the Government may borrow by way of overdraft in 1994-95.

Mr QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### LAND TAX (SCALE ADJUSTMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act 1936. Read a first time.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I move:

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

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

Leave granted.

In the 1993-94 Budget, the previous Government extended its policy of limiting growth in land tax receipts to no more than estimated inflation for a further three years beyond 1993-94.

Implementation of the policy has required increases in the land tax scale in each of the last three years to offset the impact of falling land values.

Land values have fallen again in 1993-94.

This Government is not prepared to increase marginal tax rates again in order to offset the impact of declining land values. To achieve in real terms the same level of land tax receipts in 1994-95 as in 1993-94 would require an increase in tax rates sufficient to yield extra revenue of \$7.5 million. Instead, the Government has decided to maintain aggregate land tax receipts in 1994-95 at close to their nominal level in 1993-94. To do this, the Government will lower the general exemption from \$80 000 to \$50 000 at an estimated revenue yield of \$4.8 million in 1994-95.

The general exemption of \$50 000 will remain significantly more generous than in Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT (where respective exemptions of \$9999, \$1000 and zero apply) and relative to land ownerships held by companies and trusts in Queensland (where no threshold applies on ownerships above \$40 000).

The Government has also decided to close off a tax "loophole" whereby land subdividers are obtaining effective land tax exemptions through trust arrangements. By placing subdivided land into separate trusts for each title the benefit of the general exemption is gained for each allotment subject to a house and land package contract. Such arrangements tend to be capitalised into the value of the land

providing windfall gains to existing landowners rather than price reductions to home buyers.

Given that the reduction in the general exemption will raise less revenue than would be required to maintain the real value of land tax receipts, the Government has decided to defer for one year consideration of its undertaking to exempt for a one year period valuation increases arising from land subdivisions.

Explanation of Clauses

The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

*Clause 1: Short title*

This clause is formal.

*Clause 2: Commencement*

The measure will be taken to have come into operation at midnight on 30 June 1994, being the time at which land tax is calculated for the 1994/1995 financial year (on the basis of circumstances then existing).

*Clause 3: Amendment of s. 4—Interpretation*

This is a consequential amendment that relates to proposed new section 15A.

*Clause 4: Amendment of s. 12—Scale of land tax*

This clause adjusts the scales upon which land tax is calculated on the basis that the level of the general exemption will be reduced from \$80 000 in taxable value to \$50 000.

*Clause 5: Amendment of s. 13—Minimum tax*

It is proposed to raise the minimum amount of land tax payable to \$10.

*Clause 6: Amendment of s. 15—Tax in cases where there are two or more owners*

This clause is consequential on clause 7.

*Clause 7: Insertion of s. 15A*

It is proposed to enact a new provision relating to multiple ownerships. The current provisions are found in subsections (2)—(6) of section 15. The new provision basically replicates those provisions, but excludes from the qualification to the principle of aggregation under the Act a trust that arises because of a contract to purchase or acquire an estate or interest in land.

Mr QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### PAY-ROLL TAX (SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS AND RATES) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Payroll Tax Act 1971. Read a first time.

The Hon. S.J. BAKER: I move:

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

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

Leave granted.

Employer contributions to recognised superannuation funds are currently not subject to pay-roll tax. It is clear that such contributions are an increasing leakage from the pay-roll tax base.

This is due to:

- the Federal Government's Compulsory Superannuation Guarantee Scheme, where scheduled contributions will rise from 5% currently to 9% by early in the next decade;
- remuneration packaging practices where cash salaries and other benefits are traded off against employer contributions to superannuation schemes.

Wages and salaries paid in respect of employee contributions to superannuation schemes are currently included in the pay-roll tax base. Both anecdotal evidence and the inquiries being received by the State Taxation Office indicate that many organisations have removed, or are preparing to remove, employee superannuation contributions from gross wages and thereby from the pay-roll tax base.

Employer contributions towards superannuation are a form of remuneration for labour and it is not appropriate for their pay-roll tax treatment to be different from other forms of remuneration.

Accordingly, the Pay-roll Tax Act will be amended to include employer contributions towards superannuation in the definition of gross wages liable for tax.

Generally speaking, taxes will be less distorting the broader the base and the lower the rate of tax.

This extension of the pay-roll tax base is to be undertaken in concert with a reduction in the marginal rate of pay-roll tax from 6.1% to 6.0%.

These changes will take effect with respect to wages payable on or after 1 December 1994.

The net impact of the rate reduction and the extension of the tax base is to increase pay-roll tax revenue by \$16 million in a full year (\$8 million in 1994-95).

The reduction in the rate of tax to 6.0% confirms South Australia's position as a low taxing State with respect to pay-roll tax. The rate of pay-roll tax is 7% in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT, 6% in Western Australia and 5% in Queensland.

#### Explanation of Clauses

The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

##### *Clause 1: Short title*

This clause is formal.

##### *Clause 2: Commencement*

The measure will come into operation on 1 December 1994 (and so the changes effected by this legislation will apply to wages paid or payable on or after 1 December 1994).

##### *Clause 3: Amendment of s. 3—Interpretation*

This clause enacts a definition of "superannuation benefit", and specifies that "wages" includes a superannuation benefit, as defined. The definition is principally based on the definition of a superannuation fund under relevant Commonwealth legislation and is expressed to include payments by employers under the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* of the Commonwealth, and other payments to a superannuation, provident or retirement fund or scheme.

##### *Clause 4: Amendment of s. 4—Application of Act to service contracts*

This clause provides for amendments to section 4 of the Act. This section addresses the issue of service contracts by providing that payments under certain service contracts will be taken to be wages paid by an employer to an employee. Consequential amendments must be made to this section by virtue of the decision to include superannuation benefits within the concept of wages.

##### *Clause 5: Amendment of s. 4A—Employment agents*

This clause provides for amendments to section 4A of the Act. This section provides for the creation of an employer-employee relationship in respect of employment agents and their contract workers in defined circumstances. As with section 4, the concept of wages must be expanded to cover superannuation benefits. (The opportunity is also taken to provide greater certainty and consistency in the drafting in relation to the operation of this provision to benefits generally.)

##### *Clause 6: Amendment of s. 4B—Third party payments*

This clause provides for amendments to section 4B of the Act. This section relates to third party payments. As with the previous clauses, consequential amendments must be made.

##### *Clause 7: Amendment of s. 4C—Agreement, etc., to reduce or avoid liability to pay-roll tax*

Section 7 of the Act is a special anti-avoidance provision. Consequential amendments must also be made to this provision.

##### *Clause 8: Amendment of s. 9—Imposition of pay-roll tax on taxable wages*

This clause provides for a reduction in the rate of taxation from 6.1 per cent to 6 per cent in respect of wages paid or payable on or after 1 December 1994.

##### *Clause 9: Amendment of s. 13A—Meaning of prescribed amount*

This clause provides for amendments to section 13A of the Act that are consequential on the change of rate of pay-roll tax. These amendments are related to the operation of sections 13B and 13C of the Act. Section 13B of the Act allows an adjustment to be made to the liability of an employer under the Act when it appears that an incorrect amount of tax has been collected over a whole financial year. Section 13C allows an adjustment when an employer ceases to pay wages during a particular financial year. The formulae set out in the amendments relate to the imposition of the tax over the relevant period. Two notional "financial years" are required for 1994-95 due to the change in the rate of tax. The changes to items C and D update the relevant amounts to 1994/1995 figures.

##### *Clause 10: Amendment of s. 18K—Interpretation*

This clause amends section 18K of the Act in a manner similar to clause 9, except that these amendments relate to the grouping provisions.

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

## MINING (ROYALTIES) AMENDMENT BILL

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER (Minister for Mines and Energy)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Mining Act 1971. Read a first time.

**The Hon. D.S. BAKER:** I move:

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

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

Leave granted.

The object of this small Bill is to have a portion of the royalty, currently payable on extractive minerals, paid into Government revenue.

Under the present *Mining Act 1971* 100% of the royalty on extractive minerals is paid into the Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund (EARF) which is available to the mining companies for subsequent rehabilitation work.

This proposal will split the royalty evenly such that 50 per cent will go into the Fund and 50 per cent will go into Government revenue.

In its review of the *Mining Act*, the MESA Review Committee determined that a common royalty rate of 2.5 per cent of the assessed value should apply to all minerals and that the different rate (5%) for extractive minerals should no longer apply.

The Review Committee also considered that the present arrangement with regard to royalties on extractive minerals could be perceived as inequitable, in that the extractives industry was not contributing directly to Government revenue by way of royalty as a result of mining the Crown's minerals.

It was further agreed by the Committee that the currently assessed value for extractive minerals of \$2.00 per tonne was far too low and that there was a need to raise this in line with other mineral assessments and those prevailing for similar commodities interstate.

In discussions with industry generally and with the Extractive Industry Association in particular it was agreed that a more realistic assessed value (on an ex mine gate basis) for most extractive minerals would be \$8.00 per tonne.

At 2.5% royalty, the proposed common rate, this would yield a royalty of 20¢ per tonne which is considered fair and reasonable at this time.

The effect of this Bill will be to split the 20¢, such that 10¢ is payable into the EARF (as is now the case) and 10¢ is paid into State revenue.

This will mean that in a full year, with annual production of extractives of about 10 million tonnes, approximately \$1.0 million will be paid into the EARF (as is now the case) with a further \$1.0 million paid into revenue.

As part of this proposal it is intended to review the assessed value of extractive minerals throughout the State and determine a more realistic assessed value of \$8.00 per tonne to be effective from the date of operation of this Bill.

#### Explanation of Clauses

##### *Clause 1: Short title*

Clause 1 is formal.

##### *Clause 2: Commencement*

This clause provides for commencement by proclamation.

##### *Clause 3: Amendment of s. 17—Royalty*

This clause has the effect of fixing the level of royalties paid on all minerals (whether extractive or otherwise) at 2.5 percent of their assessed value.

##### *Clause 4: Amendment of s. 63—Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund*

This clause provides that 50 percent of royalties received by the Treasurer from extractive minerals (instead of the whole amount) is to be paid into the Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund.

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

## ADJOURNMENT

At 3.33 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 6 September at 2 p.m.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 23 August 1994

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### FORMULA ONE CHALLENGE

**10. Mr BECKER:**

1. What negotiations for a challenge race between Formula One Grand Prix cars and Indy cars have been undertaken, over what period was it discussed and what was the outcome?

2. How much taxpayers' money was to be made available as prize money and what were the estimated costs associated with such a race?

3. Has such an event been approved and, if so, when and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:**

1. Negotiations for a challenge race between Formula One Grand Prix cars and Indy cars was undertaken between March and July of 1993. As a result of these discussions between parties it was resolved that such a challenge race was not supported given the differing technical specifications between the cars.

2. As the proposed challenge was never finalised, the basis of prize money was not resolved. Any costs associated with the race would have been borne within the board's then approved budget for staging the 1993 event.

3. The event has not been approved due to the reasons given above.

#### GOVERNMENT VEHICLES

**21. Mr BECKER:**

1. What Government business was the driver of the vehicle registered VQN-560 attending to whilst parked in Commercial Street, Mount Gambier and seen to be eating food on Tuesday, 24 May 1994 at approximately 7.55 p.m.?

2. To which Government department or agency is this vehicle attached and is it leased from State Fleet or owned by the department/agency concerned?

3. Is provision of the motor vehicle part of a salary package and, if not, why does the driver have access?

4. Were the terms of Government Management Board Circular 90/30 being observed by the driver of this vehicle and, if not, why not and what action does the Government propose to take?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:**

1. The driver of the vehicle registered VQN-560 was in Mount Gambier conducting an approved Engineering and Water Supply Department course on occupational health, safety and welfare. The driver has since taken a separation package and is unable to be contacted. However, as he was required to stay overnight in the town it is assumed he was in Commercial Street at that time to have his dinner.

2. The vehicle is owned by the EWS and is normally garaged at the Hope Valley water filtration plant.

3. As the officer was required to carry out training courses at various locations around the State, access to a vehicle was essential. These courses at times necessitate an absence overnight, dependent on location, as did this case.

4. There is nothing to suggest that the terms of the Government Management Board circular 90/30 were not being observed.

**29. Mr BECKER:**

1. What Government business was the driver of the vehicle registered VQP-661 attending to when the vehicle has been parked near the bottom of a creek bed on the entrance road to the Cobbler Creek office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the following occasions:

- (a) Wednesday, 18 May 1994 at 8.30 a.m.;
- (b) Wednesday, 18 May 1994 at 11.50 a.m.;
- (c) Thursday, 19 May 1994 at 2.15 p.m.;
- (d) Friday, 20 May 1994 at 9.00 a.m.

2. To which Government department or agency is this vehicle attached?

3. Were the terms of Government Management Board Circular 90/30 being observed by the driver of this vehicle and if not, why not and what action does the Government propose to take?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:**

1. Records show that on 18, 19 and 20 May 1994 the vehicle was being used for water meter reading duties in the Salisbury East and Pooraka areas.

It is normal procedure for a meter-reader to drive to a location, park the vehicle and walk through an area reading the water meters. The hand-held computer used to record meter readings, automatically records the date and time the meter was read. These computerised records confirm that the meter-reader was on duty in the Salisbury East area on 18 and 20 May 1994.

On 19 May 1994 the meter-reader's vehicle could not have been parked in the Salisbury East/Cobbler Creek area as he had parked the vehicle in Pooraka before 2.09 p.m., some 7 kilometres away, and computerised records show that he was reading water meters in Royal Avenue and other streets in Pooraka between 2.09 p.m. and 2.52 p.m.

2. The vehicle registered VQP-661 is an Engineering and Water Supply Department (EWS) vehicle, which is attached to the meter reading group at the Thebarton depot.

3. I am advised that the EWS requires all employees to observe the provisions of Commissioner's Circular 30.

Unfortunately, the meter-reader to whom the vehicle was issued on the days in question has accepted a voluntary separation package and as he is no longer employed by the EWS they have been unable to speak to him about this matter.

On the evidence available it can only be concluded that the vehicle was on legitimate Government business on the dates and time indicated.

#### OVINGHAM RAILWAY CROSSING

**35. The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD:** When is it anticipated that the Ovingham Railway Crossing will be completed to a standard sufficient to ensure safety to pedestrians and vehicular traffic using it?

**The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:** The Acting General Manager of TransAdelaide has advised that reconditioning of the road and pedestrian rail crossings at Ovingham is programmed for 27 and 28 August 1994.

#### RENAISSANCE TOWER RESTAURANT

**44. Mr ATKINSON:** Does the Treasurer intend to preserve the legal right of the Renaissance Tower Restaurant to operate poker machines on its premises?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Yes. The Gaming Machines (Prohibition of Cross Holdings, Profit Sharing etc.) Amendment Act 1994 will be taken to have come into operation on 1 July 1993, the day on which the principal Act came into operation.

However, section 3 of the Act, which changes the eligibility criteria for holders of general facility licences to apply for gaming machine licences, will be taken to have come into operation on 1 August 1994. Since the Renaissance Tower was granted a gaming machine licence on 30 May 1994, its licence will not be affected.