

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

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**Fourth Session of the Forty-Eighth Parliament  
(1996)**

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Parliament, which adjourned on 1 August, was prorogued by proclamation dated 27 August. By proclamation dated 27 August, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday 1 October, and the fourth session began on that date.

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**Tuesday 1 October 1996**

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. G.M. Gunn) presiding.

The Clerk (Mr G.D. Mitchell) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.15 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the speech of His Excellency the Governor. They returned to the Assembly Chamber at 2.15 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

**The SPEAKER:** I have to report that the House has this day, in compliance with a summons from His Excellency the Governor, attended in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency has been pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which speech I, as Speaker, have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be printed.

**PORNOGRAPHY**

A petition signed by 76 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to ban the sale of pornographic material was presented by Mr Meier.

Petition received.

**LOWER NORTH EAST ROAD**

A petition signed by 417 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to provide adequate public transport on weekends and public holidays along Lower North East Road was presented by Mr Scalzi.

Petition received.

**WATERLOO CORNER AND WHITES ROAD  
JUNCTION**

A petition signed by 545 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to improve the road safety conditions at the junction of Whites Road and Waterloo Corner was presented by Ms White.

Petition received.

**REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

**The SPEAKER** laid on the table the statement of the Register of Members' Interests for the year ended 30 June 1996.

Ordered that report be printed.

**AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

**The SPEAKER** laid on the table the Auditor-General's Report for the year ended 30 June 1996.

Ordered that report be printed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**The SPEAKER** laid on the table the following reports:

The thirty-first report of the Public Works Committee on the Burra to Morgan Road upgrade—stage 2;

The thirty-second report of the Public Works Committee on the Virginia pipeline project;

The thirty-third report of the Public Works Committee on the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium upgrade;

The thirty-fourth report of the Public Works Committee on the Daveyston Bypass Sturt Highway upgrade;

The thirty-fifth report of the Public Works Committee on the Royal Adelaide Hospital car park and IMVS new building project;

The ninth report of the Social Development Committee inquiry into prostitution—final report;

The eighteenth report of the Economic and Finance Committee on boards and committees—information systems and a public register, which have all been printed and published pursuant to section 17(7) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

**PAPERS TABLED**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. D.C. Brown)—

Planning Strategy Implementation—Premier's Report on, 1995-96

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

Evidence Act—Report relating to Suppression Orders, 1995-96

Regulations under the following Acts—

Consumer Credit—Principle

Consumer Transactions—Principle

Co-operatives—Principle

Criminal Law Consolidation—Medical Treatment of Pregnancy

Liquor Licensing—

Controls on Consumption and Possession

Dry Areas—

Port Lincoln

Tumby Bay

Victor Harbour

Retail Shop Leases—Landlord and Tenant Act

Subordinate Legislation—Postponement of expiry

Trustee—Principle

Young Offenders—Detention of Youths

Rules of Court—District Court—District Court Act—

Appeals Residential Tenancies Act

Summary Offences Act—

Dangerous Area Declarations

Road Block Establishment Authorisations

By the Treasurer (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Auditor-General's Department Independent Audit Report, 1995-96

Budget Outcome—1995-96

Department of Treasury and Finance—Report, 1995-96

Friendly Societies Act—Confirmation Pursuant to Section 10—General Laws

Gaming Supervisory Authority—Report, 1995-96

Liquor Licensing Commissioner—Gaming Machines Act—Report, 1995-96

Lotteries Commission of South Australia—Report, 1995-96

Motor Accident Commission—Report, 1995-96

Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme—Report, 1995-96

Police Superannuation Board—Report, 1995-96

South Australian Asset Management Task Force—Report, 1995-96

South Australian Government Captive Insurance

Corporation—Report, 1995-96

South Australian Government Financing Authority—Report, 1995-96

South Australian Superannuation Board—Report, 1995-96  
Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia—Report, 1995-96

By the Minister for Police (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Firearms Act—Regulations—

Compensation

Variations—General

South Australian Commissioner of Police—Report, 1995-96

Statistical Review, 1995-96

By the Minister for Mines and Energy (Hon. S.J. Baker)—

Mines and Energy South Australia—Report, 1995-96

Regulations under the following Acts—

Mines and Works Inspection—Principle

Mining—

Precious Stones

Principle

Petroleum—Revocations and Variations

By the Minister for Industrial Affairs (Hon. G.A. Ingerson)—

Explosives Act—Regulations—Principle

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare—Regulations—  
Petroleum and Mining Work

By the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing (Hon. G.A. Ingerson)—

Recreation Grounds (Regulations) Act—Regulations—  
Principle

Rules of Racing—Racing Act—Harness Racing Board—  
Swish Whip

Carbon Dioxide Level

By the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development (Hon. J.W. Olsen)—

Regulations under the following Acts—

Passenger Transport—

Regular Passenger Service—Exclusions  
Variations

Road Traffic—Principle

Summary Offences—Method of Referring to Offences

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

ETSA Corporation—

Charter, 1995-96

Report, 1995-96

Statutory Authorities Review Committee—Response to  
the Second Interim Report—Review of the Electricity  
Trust of SA

Sewerage Act—Regulations—Principle

Waterworks Act—Regulations—Principle

By the Minister for Health (Hon. M.H. Armitage)—

Regulations under the following Acts—

Dentists—Qualifications

Medical Practitioners—Fees

Optometrists—Principle

Psychological Practices—

Fees

Principle

Public and Environmental Health—Notifiable Diseases

South Australian Health Commission—Interpretation

Various

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

Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee—  
Report, 1994-95

Regulations under the following Acts—

Crown Lands—Principle

Environment Protection—Waste Depot Levy

National Parks and Wildlife—Hunting

Wilderness Protection Act—Report, 1995-96

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

Freedom of Information Act—Report 1994-95

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

Education Act—Regulations—

Suspension and Expulsion of Students

Teachers Registration

By the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. R.G. Kerin)—

Consolidation of Legislation Relating to Livestock Health,  
Animal Identification and Compensation—White  
Paper, 1996

South Australian Timber Corporation and Controlled Enti-  
ties—Financial Statements and Reports, 1995-96

The Advisory Board of Agriculture—Report, 1995-96

Regulations under the following Acts—

Agricultural Chemicals—Principle

Apiaries—Registration as beekeeper

Fisheries Act—Constitution of Fisheries

Poultry Meat Industry—Principle

Stock Foods—Principle

By the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations (Hon. E.S. Ashenden)—

- District Council—
  - By-Laws—
    - Strathalbyn—
      - No. 2—Repeal and Renumbering of By-Laws
      - No. 3—Streets and Public Places
      - No. 4—Street Traders
      - No. 6—Garbage Removal
      - No. 7—Height of Fences Near Intersections
      - No. 8—Park Lands
      - No. 10—Caravans Tents and Camping
      - No. 11—Animals, Birds and Poultry
      - No. 12—Bees
      - No. 13—Nuisances
      - No. 14—Vehicles
      - No. 15—Dogs
      - No. 16—Cemeteries
      - No. 17—Inflammable Undergrowth
    - Yankalilla—
      - No. 1—Permits and Penalties
      - No. 2—Repeal and Renumbering of By-Laws
      - No. 3—Streets and Public Places
      - No. 4—Street Traders
      - No. 5—Moveable Signs
      - No. 6—Garbage Removal
      - No. 7—Height of Fences Near Intersections
      - No. 8—Park Lands
      - No. 9—Caravans, Tents and Camping
      - No. 10—Animals, Birds and Poultry
      - No. 11—Bees
      - No. 12—Vehicles Kept or Let for Hire
      - No. 14—Cemeteries
      - No. 15—Foreshore
    - Mallala—Waste Disposal Policies Plan Amendment
  - Report—Report by the Minister on the Interim Operation
  - Development Assessment Commission—Crown Development Report—on the Proposal by SA Services for the Redevelopment of the Belair Primary School
  - Regulations under the following Acts—
    - Development—Port Adelaide Enfield—Case Metals Zone
    - Local Government—
      - Expiation Fee—Post Box
      - Parking near Post Box
    - South Australian Housing Trust—Water Rates.

### STATE BUDGET

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The 1996-97 budget was the second consecutive budget introduced prior to the end of the financial year. As a consequence, estimated results for 1995-96 were included in the 1996-97 budget documentation. The 1995-96 budget results document which I have just tabled presents and analyses the 1995-96 actual results against the 1995-96 budget tabled in Parliament in June 1995. The original budget did forecast an underlying deficit in the non-commercial sector of \$114 million. When we tabled the 1996-97 budget, the estimate was \$106 million. I am now pleased to report to the House that the actual underlying deficit for the non-commercial sector for 1995-96 was \$101 million—a \$13 million improvement on our original estimate and a further confirmation that the Government's budget strategy is on track.

The improvement in the budget position for 1995-96 principally reflected lower current payments due to reduced interest costs of \$64 million, timing delays experienced by many agencies and lower targeted voluntary separation payments. This was offset, in part, by increased superannuation payments. An amount of \$582 million was paid to the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation—

\$172 million greater than the budget. Of this amount, \$221 million was in respect of superannuation liability associated with past service of employees. Capital outlays were lower than expected, mainly associated with timing delays in many capital programs, including the Bolivar to Virginia pipeline, diversion works associated with Adelaide Airport, metropolitan health facilities and information technology health application projects. This reduction was partially offset by an increase in outlays associated with the centralisation of the Government's motor vehicle fleet with Fleet SA.

Total receipts of the non-commercial sector were below budget by \$5 million in 1995-96. A \$40 million improvement in taxation receipts mainly from gaming machines and tobacco was offset by lower income distributions from commercial trading enterprises to provide greater consistency in dividend pay-out ratios and a lower operating surplus of non-commercial trading enterprises. Net proceeds from the sale of Government businesses amounted to \$973 million, including proceeds from the sale of BankSA and SGIC. After including asset sale proceeds, the public sector recorded a surplus of \$839 million. Public sector net debt as at 30 June 1996 was reduced to \$7 752 million or 22 per cent of gross State product, compared with \$8 467 million or 26 per cent of GSP as at 30 June 1995. The reduction in net debt is the direct result of the Government's policies of applying the proceeds of the sale of Government businesses to debt reduction and progressively reducing the underlying deficit of the non-commercial sector through budget policy. South Australia's GSP rose more strongly than anticipated in 1995-96. Growth of 3 per cent was forecast in the budget but the actual outcome was 4.7 per cent. This was the second strongest rise among the States and exceeded the 3.8 per cent in the comparable income based measurement of national gross domestic product.

Moving now to the State trading enterprises, total contribution paid to the Government was \$236.6 million, representing the net of dividends and subsidies of about \$153 million and tax equivalent payments of about \$84 million. Following the recommendations of the Commission of Audit, the Government is publishing an unaudited whole of Government statement of financial position (balance sheet) and abbreviated notes as at 30 June 1996. The statement is unaudited, as much of the data collected from agencies was received prior to finalisation of the audit of their accounts. During 1996-97, all South Australian Government controlled entities will have to move to accrual based accounting or reporting, and it is expected that many of the current deficiencies will be resolved.

The balance sheet reveals that the South Australian public sector has a consolidated net worth of \$9.2 billion. In addition, the guarantees and contingent liabilities of the Government have continued to decline substantially with the reduction of about \$1 900 million to \$10 843 million as at 30 June 1996. The change reflects the continued reduction in guarantees and off balance sheet exposure related to the sale of BankSA and the State Government Insurance Commission. Also, the level of off balance sheet exposures for the South Australian Government Financing Authority and the operations of the South Australian Asset Management Corporation have been significantly reduced.

I will be pleased to provide the Opposition with a more detailed briefing on the budget results should it so desire. It must be emphasised that, whilst there was an improvement in the budget results for 1995-96, the underlying deficit

forecast for 1996-97 of \$60 million remains the likely outcome. However, there is no room for complacency, given the developments in the wages area and the State's fiscal contribution to meet the Commonwealth budgetary targets. In conclusion, I thank those employees within Government and the various agencies who have assisted the Government to achieve a better than forecast budget result for 1995-96.

### COMMONWEALTH BUDGET

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** The next ministerial statement is about the Commonwealth budget. I have been asked on several occasions to outline what budgetary measures the Government—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister must seek leave again. Unfortunately, as the Minister would know, Standing Orders provide that he must seek leave on each occasion, even though the Chair is of the view that it is slightly archaic.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I have been asked on several occasions to outline what budgetary measures the Government is making as part of the State's fiscal contribution to the Commonwealth budget targets discussed at the Premiers' Conference and reflected in the Commonwealth budget. The outcome of the discussions at the Premiers' Conference indicated a reduction in general financial assistance and specific purpose payments to the State of the order of \$83 million. An initial analysis by Treasury and Finance of the Commonwealth Department of finance budget figuring has revealed a number of significant anomalies when comparing these figures with our own estimates at budget time and estimates provided to State line agencies by their own Commonwealth counterparts.

Preliminary discussions with the Commonwealth indicate that the Commonwealth Department of Finance figuring masks the true extent of the State's position due to funding growth in new and existing targeted programs (which reflect Commonwealth priorities), changes in parameters, differing assumptions regarding allocative mechanisms and changes in accounting treatment and coverage of special specific purpose payments. Given these anomalies, the impact of the Commonwealth budget on State Government finances is unclear.

Accordingly, I have instructed the Department of Treasury and Finance to undertake a more comprehensive study and full reconciliation of the Commonwealth Department of Finance data for both the actual 1995-96 outcome and the 1996-97 budget estimates to clarify the precise impact on the State's budgetary position through further consultation with all Commonwealth and State central and line agencies.

I will inform the House of how the Government will manage the Commonwealth funding reductions at the conclusion of the Treasury and Finance exercise, which is still expected to take several weeks.

### ASER PROJECT

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I seek leave to make a further ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I wish to update the House on the progress of resolving the future of the ASER complex. I reported to the House on 26 March 1996 that the Government

had embarked on a process to unravel the complicated financial arrangements underlying the Adelaide Casino and the Adelaide Station and Environs Redevelopment (ASER) project.

The immediate task then was to reverse the decline in profitability of the Casino and ASER generally, and steps are being taken in that direction. As a subsequent step, agreement has been reached in principle with Kumagai Australia Pty Ltd to acquire Kumagai's interest in the ASER complex. The Government's objective throughout this process has been to prevent a continuing deteriorating situation from causing further damage to the interests of this State.

This proposal to purchase Kumagai's interest was subject to formal legal documentation, due diligence investigations and the final approval of the Government. Due diligence was undertaken by the Asset Management Task Force (AMTF), assisted by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, BT Corporate Finance Ltd and Phillips Fox. These due diligence investigations revealed a number of legal, financial and planning problems within the complex ASER corporate structure. These factors, the impact of gaming machines in hotels and clubs, and the opening of casinos in other States have resulted in the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation (SFMC) taking a further provision on its exposure to ASER. This provision relates to SFMC's obligations as a guarantor of certain bank loans to the ASER group.

The Government has approved the transfer of the SFMC's ASER investment out of the contributor risk superannuation schemes to the three 'Government risk' accounts. The ASER investment was transferred at a value of \$71.9 million—its value as at 30 June 1995.

I advised the House earlier this year that it was expected that this amount would be written down to zero. As a result of the aforementioned factors, SFMC has made a further provision of \$31.2 million on this investment. Put simply, this means that the SFMC's investment in ASER has declined by around \$100 million in the past 12 months. Further, as I advised the House earlier this year, the South Australian Asset Management Corporation (SAAMC) has also written its investment in the ASER group down to zero. Despite this write-down, SAAMC has reported a \$72.1 million profit for the 1995-96 financial year as a result of a responsible wind-out process of the assets of the former State Bank. While the key components of the ASER Group—the Adelaide Casino, the Hyatt Hotel and the Riverside Building—continue to operate profitably before interest and tax, the revenue flows are proving insufficient to service the interest payments on the heavily debt burdened structure.

These provisions have been made on an investment that was Labor's big bet on the future of property development and the casino industry. This project was a Bannon brain-child, and this Government is left holding the dirty nappy.

Clearly such write-downs are of great concern to the Government, and all efforts are being made to ensure that the interests of South Australian taxpayers are protected to the greatest possible extent. As a result of the findings from the due diligence investigations, the Government has resolved not to proceed with the purchase of Kumagai's interest as proposed. Instead, the Government is working together with Kumagai and the SFMC to address the problems and achieve a restructuring of the ASER complex.

It is intended on completion of the revised restructure that the ASER complex will be placed on the market for sale, using the proven AMTF procedures to maximise the return to all taxpayers. Shortly, I will be meeting with Kumagai in

Tokyo to discuss the proposed restructure and resolve the next steps.

In conclusion, through the actions taken since my last report to the House on this matter, the Government has avoided falling into the same traps as the former Government. We will continue the cleaning-up process of another Labor Government mess, and I will keep the House further informed of progress.

### SUPERANNUATION BOARD

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Treasurer):** I seek leave to make a final ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** Among the annual reports which I have tabled today is the report of the South Australian Superannuation Board, which is responsible for administering the main schemes relating to public servants. In practice, the board has relied exclusively upon the services of the State Superannuation Office, which is part of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

When this Government took office, I found that superannuation administration was another area of mismanagement and neglect by the former Government. The section had been poorly resourced over a long period and was some three years behind in producing reports to members. Information was held on card systems, and calculations of many benefits were being done manually. Wages and superannuation details were not being supplied accurately or in a timely fashion by some agencies.

While significant progress has been made, it has not been sufficient. As part of this Government's financial reform process, a review of the State Superannuation Office was commissioned and an internal audit of the office was also conducted with the assistance of an external accounting firm. These reviews have highlighted deficiencies in the capacity of the office to carry out its responsibilities and to provide an adequate level of service to members of the schemes which it administers.

Essentially the office has had too few people at senior management level, with the result that inappropriate operating procedures have been adopted and scarce management time has been diverted to resolving difficulties of a procedural nature instead of addressing the challenges which are constantly emerging in the superannuation environment.

As a result, the board and the Department of Treasury and Finance have agreed to strengthen the management structure and upgrade information, accounting and records management systems to enable the office to provide members with statements of entitlement and advice in a timely fashion. This will necessitate an increase in fees for members of the SSBS and SSS schemes but, even after the increases, the fees will be low by industry standards.

The structural arrangements for administering the State schemes are also being addressed and the board is considering contracting out the administration of at least the newer schemes and possibly for some of the functions common to all schemes. While recent improvements are encouraging, there is a need to accelerate considerably the rate of progress in bringing the administration of these schemes to standards which members have a right to expect and which meet the national benchmarks for superannuation administration to which we are committed.

**Mr LEWIS:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. I represent 22 000 people in this Chamber. When it is import-

ant—which I think is the whole of the time—for us as members to understand what is being said to us, then the audio system we employ to provide that needs to be adequate to the purpose. This system is atrocious. I could not hear anything the Treasurer was telling the House, and I think that is an appalling abrogation of the capacity of this Chamber to act—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr LEWIS:** —as a representative Chamber for people democratically elected to it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair—

**Mr LEWIS:** I believe that something needs to be done about that.

**The SPEAKER:** —has had enough of the member. He will resume his seat. I warn the member. Order! I would suggest to the member that he has been here long enough to know that the manner in which he has just carried on is unacceptable. He is casting aspersions on the people who do their very best to ensure that this Parliament operates effectively and efficiently. At the present time, the staff and other people are operating under great inconvenience. All the member needs to do is quietly come to the Chair and the Chair will do everything possible to ensure that every member can hear. Therefore, the point raised by the honourable member gives a clear indication that it will be even more out of order for anyone to interject today.

### COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID

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

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** Yesterday on behalf of the State Government I released extensive documentation concerning South Australia's bid for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, following a request under the Freedom of Information Act made by the member for Hart. In releasing these documents, the Government has provided the Opposition with greater access to documentation than is strictly required by the legislation. The Government has done so to ensure that the public is fully aware that its Government at all times has acted responsibly in this matter.

The major issue over which there has been a considerable amount of discussion during the parliamentary recess has been the Commonwealth Games Association's 'Endorsement Contract', which this Government would not sign unconditionally. The documents released indicate that the Government was required to give a confidentiality undertaking to the Australian Commonwealth Games Association in order to obtain the endorsement contract. Consequently, the various versions of the contract cannot be released under this FOI request. However, as I have stated in my letter to the member for Hart which accompanied these documents, should he secure the consent of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association, I would be able to provide him with these contracts.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform members of this House of the circumstances that led to the South Australian bid being ruled out of contention without having the opportunity to present our bid and have it judged on its merit. The decision by the South Australian Government not to sign the Australian Commonwealth Games Association endorsement contract by July 1996 in an unamended form was because of major deficiencies in the contract. The Government received this advice from the Crown Solicitor,

from solicitors for Australian Major Events and from senior Government officials. We refused to accept an open-ended liability without any proper controls and accountability for the taxpayers of this State. We expressed our concern to the Australian Commonwealth Games Association in relation to the unlimited financial implications and the lack of control we would have over the funds.

Following the advice of the Government's legal advisers and officials, the South Australian Government executed, within time, an amended version of the endorsement contract to put in place reasonable financial controls. The Australian Commonwealth Games Association contract would have required South Australian taxpayers to write an open cheque to completely underwrite the cost of the games without any real controls or have any say in how the money was spent. It would have been irresponsible for the Government to sign this controversial endorsement contract unconditionally. However, because the Government demanded that controls be put in place to protect the taxpayers of South Australia, we have been ruled out of the bidding process.

I should also like to put on record that the Western Australian Government refused to sign the Australian Commonwealth Games Association contract for similar reasons, having its bid similarly ruled out of contention. On behalf of the South Australian public, the Government is disappointed that it has been denied the opportunity to pursue its bid for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. However, the State Government, for its part, has had no option but to act in the public interest in dealing with this matter, and in particular the uncontrolled financial risk to which taxpayers would have been exposed.

### LISTERIOSIS

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Health):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** As members would be aware, there was an outbreak of listeriosis in Adelaide during the month of September. As of today, five cases associated with the current outbreak have been reported to the South Australian Health Commission. One of those cases has died, although the exact cause of death has not been established given that the patient was extremely ill with a malignancy.

*Listeria monocytogenes* is the bacterium which causes listeriosis in humans. It is a very common organism in the environment and it is common in food. It generally does not cause problems in otherwise healthy populations but it can cause illness in people with compromised immune systems, such as people undergoing transplants and cancer treatment, and in unborn children if the mother is infected. It has an incubation period of between three and 70 days, which can make source identification very difficult. In the most recent outbreak, all five cases involved people with compromised immune systems who were very ill. There have been 14 cases confirmed this year compared with three in 1995, four in 1994, and three in 1993. Prior to 1 July 1993, listeriosis was not notifiable in South Australia. Four deaths have occurred this year.

Earlier in the year, the Health Commission carried out epidemiological investigations, but no link was reported between cases up to that time. However, in the September outbreak, the commission began investigations into a common source when one case of listeriosis and two possible cases were notified on Friday 20 September. On Saturday

21 September, two possible cases were confirmed. A link was made between those cases and the Royal Adelaide Hospital where they were patients, and food histories were taken. Diced chicken was identified as a possible source.

On Sunday 22 September, the cases were reviewed, the RAH kitchen was inspected and food samples were taken. Two out of the three RAH cases were found to have eaten chicken sandwiches. Diced chicken was withdrawn from the RAH menu on that day as a precaution. On Monday 23 September, the fifth case, which was not connected with the RAH, was reported. Investigations to find any further cases were instituted.

On Tuesday 24 September, diced chicken samples from the RAH proved to be positive for listeria by enzyme immuno assay. Officers from the Health Commission's food section visited the plant where the chicken was processed, and the manufacturer agreed to stop production of chicken products pending further tests. On the same day, a public health alert was issued to doctors warning them of an outbreak. The Health Commission issued a warning through the media to pregnant women and to those with compromised immune systems to avoid high risk foods including diced chicken. The public was advised of a 24 hour telephone advice line.

On Wednesday 25 September, obstetric and gynaecology units throughout the State were specifically alerted, and dietary advice for their patients was reinforced. On Thursday 26 September, microbiological testing confirmed that the listeria serotype from the diced chicken sample was *listeria monocytogenes*. The manufacturer made arrangements for a voluntary recall on that day. On Friday 27 September, genotypes of *listeria monocytogenes* 01 in four of the cases indicated that the same strain had infected all four cases. Results from the fifth case are not yet available. Samples taken from the Australian Convenience Foods factory proved positive for listeria.

Following the confirmation of these tests, it was decided that there should be a formal recall. The Australian New Zealand Food Authority was alerted, and local government environmental health officers were also alerted to ensure that premises were inspected to ensure that chicken products from the processor were removed. A press conference was held, a media statement was issued and advertisements were booked for the weekend to inform the public and retailers of the recall. A hotline for the public was set up on Friday afternoon, and more than 100 calls were received during Friday evening and over the weekend.

On Saturday, enzyme immuno assay analysis of three other chicken processors proved to be negative to listeria. No new cases have been reported to date. That is a potted history of the outbreak and the Health Commission's response to it. I am advised that a sample of local government areas reveals that the recall has been effective. I will keep the House informed of any further developments.

## QUESTION TIME

### STATE BUDGET

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Premier explain fundamental criticism of the authenticity of the State's budget figures in the Auditor-General's Report tabled this afternoon in the light of the fact that the Auditor-General has said:

In terms of the presentation of the State's finances, I would observe that the discussion of \$300 million recurrent savings in the 1996-97 financial statement cannot be readily reconciled to the trends in the audit analysis.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The answer is quite simple. The Auditor-General understands well the fact that we deal with thousands of figures, each of which move in a different direction in terms of—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I have not had an opportunity to go through the audit—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** If members would keep quiet for just a second—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The Auditor-General was provided with mountains of material because he asked this question: 'How do we reconcile?' We gave the Auditor-General mountains of material. I have not read the Auditor-General's Report, so I do not know what is stated in it, but I will study the report tonight and reflect upon any statements that it contains. I assure the House, however, that the budget is on target, that the underlying deficit is being removed, and that there will be a surplus next year. The extent to which we can reconcile all the individual figures—and there are thousands of them, each with their own level of complexity—to come up with the magical figure which the Auditor-General or any member of this House would wish to look for is akin to mission impossible. You can only take the large quantum we are using and make allowances. I remind members that we did finish in front of budget: we did a bit more—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I have not actually read that and I understand that the Leader of the Opposition again is gilding the lily just a smidgin—

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

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will have an opportunity to question me when I have read it and I am happy to answer any questions on the Auditor-General's Report. We will be doing that tomorrow. I will read his comments with great interest.

## MINING AND EXPLORATION

**Mr CUMMINS (Norwood):** Will the Premier advise the House of the economic and social impact on South Australia as a result of the doubling of mining and exploration activities in the State of South Australia?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** This Government has driven very hard an expansion of the mining and petroleum industry in this State. It is interesting to note that exploration has increased threefold under the Liberal Government.

*Mr Atkinson interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Just listen to what the Governor said this morning: since we were elected, exploration has increased threefold. In this session of Parliament we will have the indenture agreement to allow Roxby Downs production to increase from 150 000 tonnes of copper a year under the present indenture up to 350 000 tonnes of copper. In other words, potentially we will be taking it from the

present 85 000 tonnes of copper a year up to 350 000 tonnes of copper, which will be more than a fourfold increase. This Government has put down an objective to double the size of the contribution of mining to the State's economy over the next 10 years. What does that mean to South Australia? It means another 2 000 permanent, direct jobs and many thousands of other indirect jobs. It means another \$800 million in real terms added to our exports each year, which is about equal to the total production of grain, forestry and fisheries for the whole State of South Australia. It means approximately another \$1 000 million being added to the State's economy. Under this Government, that is a very realistic target over that 10 year period. In respect of the \$800 million increase in exports, \$600 million will come from Western Mining alone. Clearly, we will create the 2 000 jobs over that 10 year period.

In relation to petroleum, a doubling of exploration in the Cooper Basin has been committed for the next three years—\$200 million. We have seen total mineral exploration lift from a mere \$15 million a year when we came to government to an anticipated \$35 million a year for next year. This Government is driving a number of industry sectors very effectively. For example, tourism—under the Minister for Tourism—information technology, and our food and wine industries, and now our resource industry is starting to reap the real benefit of this Liberal Government and to create the jobs.

## AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition):** Given the Premier's promise and continued claims concerning no increases in State taxes, does he agree or disagree with the Auditor-General, whose report has been tabled this afternoon, that, if the Government changes legislation and, as a result of those changes, there is an increase in Government revenue, that change in legislation is a tax increase?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** We have been through this process before. We gave the undertaking: it was clear. The changes have taken place as a result of the increased contribution of the various sectors. I remind members that the greatest increase we have received from taxation happens to be in gaming machines. Every member agreed to the changes here—

**Mr Atkinson:** No, I did not.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I am sorry, the member for Spence was the only one. The largest increases in the taxation revenue have been from gaming machines and tobacco. The Leader of the Opposition well understands the debates that we have had on this issue previously.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ASSET MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

**Mr WADE (Elder):** Will the Treasurer provide details of the financial performance of the South Australian Asset Management Corporation? The SAAMC inherited residual impaired assets of the old State Bank, which required a \$3.15 billion bail-out by the former Government. SAAMC had the task of disposing of these impaired assets with the view to obtaining the best possible return to the State. Will the Treasurer give us a run down on how it has fared?

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** It has fared exceptionally well. As we would all recognise, the South Australian Asset Management Corporation was set up by this Government to

operate from 1 July 1994 and we put in some very talented people to manage the affairs. It was left with \$8.4 billion to handle, being the total assets under its control as at 1 July 1994. At 30 June 1996 that amount had decreased to \$2.9 billion and of that there are accounts under active management of some \$500 million. The rest are Treasury assets or Treasury operations which are mainly overseas and which will have to remain with Government into the next century. From that position of \$8.4 billion, we are now down to a small amount.

The important part of the operations of the South Australian Asset Management Corporation was an after tax profit of some \$72.1 million. We are delighted with that result. It reflects the amount of vigour which has been exercised and the guidance by the Government on this issue to clear up the mess of the past, the residual of the assets of the old State Bank—the bad bank. Eighty four per cent of the total assets currently on the SAAMC balance sheets are made up of liquid or near liquid assets as a result of the successful cash collection program during the past two years. Importantly, the number of legal entities held by the South Australian Asset Management Corporation has reduced from 164 at July 1994 to 25 in June 1996. Litigation cases have reduced from 171 to 51. There are more impressive statistics, but I congratulate everyone associated with the South Australian Asset Management Corporation on the very fine results they have achieved for this State.

### CHILD CARE

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition):** Has the Premier protested to the Federal Government about the impact upon South Australian families of the decision by the Howard Liberal Government to cut spending on child care by more than half a billion dollars and, if not, why not? The August Howard budget abolished the operational subsidy for community based child care and introduced means testing of the child-care rebate. The national association of community based children's services says that parent run centres will face fee increases of up to \$50 a week as a result of these decisions. Perhaps the Premier can respond to this question.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** The Federal Liberal Government was elected with a very strong mandate to bring about some changes to this country and it is in the process of doing some of those things. The specific issue of child care is a matter that falls principally under the responsibility of my colleague in another place the Hon. Rob Lucas, and I will refer the question to him.

### NURSING HOMES

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition):** Does the Premier support the introduction of entrance fees to nursing homes and what action is he taking to ensure that South Australians are not disadvantaged by the decision of the Howard Liberal Government to allow nursing homes to impose up-front fees? There seems to be some disquiet about who is answering the question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** The August Howard budget cut \$440 million from nursing homes and has allowed nursing homes to charge up-front entry fees averaging \$26 000 and rising to as much as \$88 000. In addition, nursing home residents with a private income of over \$2 548 per year will

be liable for a daily fee of up to \$34. South Australia has the highest proportion of people over 65 of any State in Australia—over 13.7 per cent—and they want to know what the Premier has been doing about this situation.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Elizabeth had more than a fair go. She knows the consequences. The Minister.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As Minister for the Ageing, I am pleased to be able to inform the House and particularly the Leader of the Opposition that discussions are taking place between the Federal Minister, other State Ministers and me. Indeed, one opportunity for these discussions to take place—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Is the Leader of the Opposition interested in the question or not? No. All State Ministers will meet—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Do you want an answer or not?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** All State Ministers will meet with the Federal Minister next Friday to discuss issues that have been raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** Quite properly, the discussions at this stage should be between the State and Federal Ministers. A number of points regarding the Federal budget—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** —are yet to be clarified and I will be able to inform members, including the Leader of the Opposition—if he is interested in an answer—when I have had those discussions with the Federal Minister next Friday, as well as ongoing discussions. Particularly with more responsibility being transferred over the next two years from the Federal Government to the State Government in regard to ageing, I can give an assurance to this House that, as Minister for the Ageing, I will be doing everything possible to ensure that older people in South Australia are not disadvantaged in any way, shape or form. Already, I have a commitment from the Federal Minister to ensure that that is the case. The Leader of the Opposition is going to have to be patient until those discussions have taken place so that I can inform him and members of the House exactly what the situation is in regard to aged care in the future in South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** When the House comes to order we will proceed.

### TOURISM ADVERTISING

**Mr LEGGETT (Hanson):** Will the Minister for Tourism inform the House about the South Australian Tourism Commission's new television advertising campaign that has gone to air this week?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** I thank the member for Hanson for his question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** It should be a red, white and blue week and you could be suffering, but we will wait



and see. One of the things about Centrals is that we do not get cocky early in the week, unlike the black and whites. I am pleased to advise the House that on Sunday evening a new campaign was released for tourism to bring into context the whole issue of the promotion of tourism direct to the community and to indicate what effect the number of visitors has on our State and our economy in particular. It is based around the 'Come to your senses, come to South Australia' and the 'Shorts' campaigns and it is very much regionally targeted.

The campaign is to let South Australians know a lot about their own State, about how they can travel around the State and what significant economic value results from their doing so. It also shows clearly that the \$1.8 billion target that we have set in terms of tourism is going in the right direction, because we are having \$5 million a day being spent on tourism here in South Australia. In essence, every \$1 spent generates \$4, so the \$5 million a day is generating \$20 million a day in economic value to the South Australian economy.

The television program is a continuing program to ensure that all visitors—national, international and South Australians—recognise the continuing advantage of the tourism dollar to our economy in South Australia.

#### ORGAN DONATION

**Ms GREIG (Reynell):** Will the Minister for Health inform the House of the Government's efforts to promote organ donation within the South Australian community?

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** I thank the member for Reynell for her question and I acknowledge her role along with that of the members for Unley, Spence and Giles on the parliamentary committee, a year or so ago, which looked at this matter. Perhaps like no other health service, organ transplantation and donation relies on a great measure of support from people who indicate their willingness to donate their organs, support from the medical staff to be alert to the potential for organ donation and certainly support from the families and friends of people who are dying.

Organ transplantation has enormous benefits for the community, and this was certainly brought home to me yesterday when I was privileged to be asked to open the Fifth Australian Transplant Games held at Fort Largs. The games involve a group of athletes who have overcome enormous challenges—pain, illness and disease—before they even get to the track. In fact, there were more than 150 athletes from across Australia and one from New Zealand competing in 12 sports including athletics, swimming, tennis, golf, lawn bowls and cycling events held over 10 days. The games provide a significant boost to the South Australian economy and everyone there recognises that the transplant games are a very positive way of selling a message to the community about how important it is to donate organs.

Our commitment to organ donation has been encapsulated by the formation of the South Australian Organ Donation Agency, which is the first in the nation and which is leading the way because it is being keenly looked at by Ministers and other jurisdictions. South Australia currently provides 16 donors per million people. The Australian average is 10 donors per million people, which in world figures is appalling. With the birth of this State agency, we believe we could be expected to climb to 25 or 26 donors within three years, with a goal of 30 donors per million people by the start of the century. The Organ Donation Agency is staffed by dedicated

people headed by Professor Geoffrey Dahlenberg and it has four medical organ transplant donor coordinators in the four major hospitals working on a part-time basis.

The unbelievable good news, about which perhaps we should be wary at this stage because it is so early in the life of the Organ Donation Agency, is the very promising trend. In the first six months of this year, there were eight organ donors in South Australia. In July and August—the first two months of the operation of the South Australian Organ Donation Agency—there were 10 donations compared with eight donations in the previous six months. Everyone is excited about that. We recognise that the figures go up and down but that is certainly an exciting and a promising trend for people needing organ donation. The Organ Donation Agency is unique in that it does carefully look after the families of people who make a donation. Specific assistance has been offered to those families to understand and cope with the emotion and that is done by OCAR. So, there are very promising signs on the horizon for the approximately 2 000 people around Australia who at the end of 1995 were on waiting lists for an organ donation.

#### HECS CHARGES

**Ms WHITE (Taylor):** Does the Premier believe that, to attend university, South Australian tertiary students should have to pay HECS charges up to 125 per cent higher than those levied last year and, if he does not, has he protested to the Howard Liberal Government over this move? The Howard budget increases HECS charges from \$2 440 to \$3 300 for courses such as arts and nursing; from \$2 440 to \$4 700 for engineering and science; and from \$2 440 to \$5 500 for medicine, law and dentistry.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** The Federal Government has responsibility for universities, as the member for Taylor would know. The Federal Government has argued that people who benefit from a higher income as a result of attending university should contribute towards the cost of that education. That is its policy and that is what is being implemented.

#### SENIORS' CARD

**Mr BROKENSHERE (Mawson):** Will the Minister for Family and Community Services provide details on when the 1996-97 Seniors' Card directory will be released?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources.

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Deputy Leader will be in the dark. The honourable Minister.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I am very pleased to provide my colleague the member for Mawson with information regarding the 1996-97 Seniors' Card. Because we are talking about matters relating to older South Australians and particularly in line with a previous question, it might be appropriate first to reiterate that the 10-year plan on aged services that was brought down earlier this year set out very clearly this State's commitment concerning older South Australians. An important part of this comes under the Home And Community Care program.

The Leader of the Opposition might be interested to know that, in the three years that this Government has been in

office, funding of services to frail or older people through the HACC program in South Australia has on each occasion exceeded the national target—which is a lot more than can be said for the previous Government. We are well on track to accomplish that for this year as well.

It is totally appropriate that the member for Mawson should be seeking details about the 1996-97 Seniors' Card directory, for two reasons. The first reason is that today I have had the pleasure of launching Seniors' Week for 1996, and the second is that today is the day set aside by the United Nations in recognition of senior citizens throughout the world. Seniors' Week is a special occasion in this State, because South Australia has the fastest growing ageing population of all Australian States. I am happy to inform the House that the mail-out of the 1996-97 Seniors Card directory involves 185 000 Seniors' Card holders this year, and will commence today. I am also very pleased to inform the House that more than 200 businesses throughout the State have now joined the Seniors' Card directory by offering a range of discounts and benefits for our older people in this State. These include discounts in accommodation, banking, automotive, dining, hotels, legal services, real estate and many other services, which discounts can help cut the daily living expenses of older South Australians.

It is important to realise that the over-60s market is a very powerful consumer force in Australia. They own more than one-quarter of the wealth in the country and are a selective, yet I suggest an extremely loyal, consumer base. In fact, many businesses are increasingly recognising older people as a vital component of their customer base. That is why the Seniors' Card is so important in this State in particular. We should keep in mind that the Seniors' Card scheme is strongly supported by several industry associations, including the hotel and hospitality industry, the Retail Traders Association and the Motor Trade Association. It is my hope that many more businesses in this State will come on board and be part of the scheme to provide even more financial assistance for the older people in South Australia.

#### DENTAL SERVICES

**Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth):** What action has the Minister for Health taken to provide adequate dental treatment to South Australians following the axing of the \$10.4 million Commonwealth dental program for pensioners and health card holders by the Howard Liberal Government? A report by the Department of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide states that, while the waiting time for the elderly, disabled, single parents and other pensioners as well as the unemployed was 9.5 months at July 1996, it is likely to increase to 1½ years by June 1997 and to more than five years by June 1998. The Council on the Ageing indicated that the dental program had improved emergency treatment and waiting lists for pensioners and low income retirees and was helping to prevent problems among seniors, where dental health is a major issue.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** I thank the member for Elizabeth for her question. I do not do that very often, but I do so in this case. The blow-out that she talks about is theoretical at this stage; I acknowledge where the figures come from, but we do not yet know their final size. The honourable member's question allows me to highlight that if there is a blow-out it will not be due to the State Government. We have made a commitment—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There will be no further interjections, otherwise the member for Ridley and others will not be able to hear adequately. The Minister for Health.

*Mr Clarke interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** We made a commitment at the beginning of the program, and I have spoken with the Director at SADS as to how we will repackage our commitment (which is all we can do: we are still making that commitment) to try to overcome the dilemmas.

#### LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE

**Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Given the Minister's undertaking to the House on 30 July that the report by Professor Lane on the outbreak of legionnaire's disease on Kangaroo Island would be made public, when will the report be released and why is it being withheld? The Opposition has been informed that Professor Lane delivered this report to the Minister early in August.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** The Opposition is incorrect again. I am informed that Professor Lane's final report may well have arrived at the commission literally yesterday, not in August. I have not seen it. So, the Opposition's informant is 100 per cent, totally, unadulteratedly wrong again—as simple as that. Given what I have seen of the early drafts of the report, I am very much looking forward to tabling it, and that will be within the next couple of days.

#### PRISONERS, TRANSPORTATION

**The Hon. H. ALLISON (Gordon):** Will the Minister for Correctional Services give the House details of Australia's first partnership between a State Government and private enterprise with regard to the movement of prisoners and juvenile offenders and also with regard to their in-court management, such as is happening in South Australia?

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** I thank the member for Gordon for his question, which has particular relevance to the South-East as I will detail in the answer I provide. I am pleased to advise the House that after a process of competitive tender Group 4 Correction Services has been selected to privately manage prisoner and young offender transportation and in-court management in South Australia. Through this contract South Australia has moved to the forefront in this type of work by becoming the first jurisdiction in Australia and (according to those companies which bid for the contract) possibly the first jurisdiction in the world to outsource the entirety of this work.

The work involves four agencies—the Department for Correctional Services, the Police Department, the Courts Administration Authority and the Department for Family and Community Services. Work involving those four agencies is now under one contract. I acknowledge the role of the respective Ministers in ensuring that their staff were able to work in a constructive manner through the tender process to achieve the result which I am announcing today.

Group 4 already operates the State's first privately managed prison to date and has done so very successfully. Collectively, the work which will now be undertaken by Group 4 involves the annual movement and management of some 70 000 prisoners and young offenders. The contract involves intra-institutional transfers; transportation to and

from various courts (for example, Youth, Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts); transportation of prisoners from police holding facilities; transportation and security of prisoners for hospital visits; and in-court management (except at the Sir Samuel Way complex).

A transition plan has been developed to ensure an orderly transfer of the function to Group 4. This method has proven to be the most practical way of introducing such a service in other jurisdictions. Group 4 is expected to take over operations in the metropolitan area and Mount Gambier by mid-December and full implementation should have occurred by the end of the year.

Group 4 Correction Services has extensive experience in prisoner transport in the United Kingdom providing close to 500 000 prisoner transport movements per annum, utilising 1 200 staff and 200 vehicles in that country. In Australia, as well as successfully managing Mount Gambier Prison, Group 4 was a key company in the consortium which won the contract for the design, construction, finance and operation of the 600-bed men's metropolitan prison presently being constructed at Laverton, Victoria.

The company operates two prisons in the United Kingdom with a total of 670 beds and has recently been successful in winning further contracts in that country for 600 beds for sentenced prisoners, young offenders and remand prisoners, and two secure training centres for young offenders.

The contract with Group 4 is for a five-year period and contains severe penalties for failure to perform to the required standards, including cancellation of contract. As with the Mount Gambier Prison contract, penalties could result in cancellation of the contract for an excessive number of escapes.

Group 4 expects to employ up to 90 full-time and casual staff throughout South Australia. It will establish offices in Adelaide as well as in the member for Gordon's region of responsibility at Mount Gambier and also in your area, Mr Speaker, at Port Augusta. The company placed employment advertisements in Saturday's *Advertiser*. Further, the company will deploy a fleet of specially designed and constructed secure vehicles which will be purpose built in South Australia. It will also utilise the latest computerised logistics, including satellite global positioning equipment. The facts speak for themselves: administratively and logistically this is good news for South Australian prison management.

#### RURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**Mr LEWIS (Ridley):** Has the Minister for Primary Industries agreed to undertake an investigation into the Rural Partnership Program for the Murray Mallee? *Hansard* records over many years show that I have been concerned about enhancing the prospects of rapid appropriate redevelopment of rural South Australia in the best ways to deliver a wide range of Government services to rural regional South Australia. This House has considered many motions and Bills which other members and I have put before it. At my instigation we have formed a task force in the rainpad agricultural areas of the Murray Mallee, following on the heels of the successful Eyre Peninsula task force.

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable member, like a considerable number of members today, was commenting at the end of his explanation. The Minister for Primary Industries.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** I thank the member for Ridley for his question and acknowledge the role that he has played

in seeking a regional strategy for the Murray Mallee. As a result of his representation I initially met with a delegation from the region, and subsequent meetings have been held to progress a strategy.

Members are aware of the regional strategy implemented on Eyre Peninsula and the progress that has been made under that strategy. The strategy resulted from extensive community consultation and cooperation at local, State and Federal levels. The Murray Mallee has been identified by the local community as a region which would benefit by having a clear strategy for its future. A farming practices survey, which was completed by the Murray Mallee Soil Board in March 1996, showed a need for a better understanding of a range of related farming issues in the district. A summary of the survey findings which is in a report entitled 'Farming Practices in the Northern Mallee—Issues and Prospects' is now available for community comment.

While the survey is only a snapshot of farming methods and issues after the dry 1994 season, it provides an excellent platform for discussion on a wider range of issues including stubble retention, rotations and crop nutrition. As we all know, many challenges are involved in farming in the Mallee and farmers need to see at first hand the best practice components of the systems which may be suitable for use in the region. There is a challenge for change using programs such as right rotations, weed management workshops, property management planning, grain gain and other group training packages.

We have established a community task force (to which the honourable member referred) to look at a regional strategy for the Murray Mallee. The task force is being chaired by the Hon. Jamie Irwin from the other place and has held its first meeting. This is a good opportunity for the Mallee community to identify the problems which could be hampering development of the region. Hopefully, this will result in a course of action and a framework to improve the economic returns to farmers in the Mallee and help them to focus on long-term solutions for the viability of the region and its primary producers.

#### LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE

**Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth):** Given the Minister for Health's statement that the inquiry into the outbreak of legionnaire's disease on Kangaroo Island would be based on world's best practice, why did he engage a person who has no practical experience in the management of epidemics to inquire into this matter?

During his visit to Adelaide, Professor Lane told the Opposition that he did not claim 'experience in risk management or bureaucratic management', that he had no practical experience in managing epidemics and had never worked with legionnaire's disease directly 'either scientifically or administratively'.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** One does not need to be a practitioner in legionnaire's disease to review the practices of another jurisdiction. The CDC at Atlanta is recognised as one of the world's best possible services in disease control, and it seemed completely appropriate to go to it. Professor Lane has a world reputation from the Atlanta CDC and it is quite appropriate that he would review the processes, as will be quite clear—

*Ms Stevens interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Elizabeth.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** —when the report is tabled.

### APPRENTICES

**Mr ANDREW (Chaffey):** Will the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education inform the House whether there are any moves to abolish the traditional training arrangements for apprentices in South Australia?

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** I thank the member for Chaffey for his important question. The Federal Government is committed to a new system of training for apprentices and trainees under the acronym of MAATS (Modern Australian Apprenticeship and Traineeship System). As part of that program, the Federal Government is also committed to abolishing what are called declared vocations which are the traditional way in which apprentices are trained. All States and Territories (except New South Wales) have agreed to look at going down that path.

However, in so doing, and in agreeing in principle, from South Australia's viewpoint, I am determined that it does not happen unless appropriate safeguards are in place, that the training that is provided is appropriate according to national standards and that, in order to meet the needs of industry in terms of having people with a multiskilled background, we do not in any way jeopardise the quality of training and, where licensing is required, that that can still be accommodated within the system.

So, we are in an era of rapid change in relation to the training of apprentices and trainees, but I emphasise that South Australia will be part of that system only with appropriate safeguards to ensure quality training and that the young people involved in that system are protected in terms of wages and other conditions.

### LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE

**Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. What benchmarks were used by Professor Lane to assess the risk management strategies used following the outbreak of legionnaire's disease on Kangaroo Island, and who did Professor Lane interview during his investigations? During his visit, Professor Lane told the Opposition that he was not taking advice from the public or the media, and that the Garibaldi case was 'ancient history'. Professor Lane said that he had been engaged to take 'a quick and dirty look at it'.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** I have already indicated that the report will be tabled in the next day or so, and it would be appropriate for the member for Elizabeth to look at that report to see exactly what Professor Lane said. I repeat that Professor Lane is an international expert who, in discussion of these matters, was in touch with international experts and even, I understand, attended a forum while he was in Adelaide where there were a number of international surgeons.

*Ms Stevens interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Elizabeth has had a fair go today. She will not be on the list tomorrow if she keeps that up.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** This is nothing more and nothing less than an attempt from a person who knows absolutely nothing about public health to slur the reputation of a world expert who has made a career out of communicable diseases control and is recognised as one of the world

experts from the CDC in Atlanta, which is recognised as the absolute touchstone of disease control. I know who I would back in a competition about disease control. If I were asked to put my money on either the member for Elizabeth or Professor Lane, I would back Professor Lane every time.

### TUNA FARMING

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** Given the continued incidence of injuries within some tuna farm diving operations, will the Minister for Industrial Affairs inform the House of the actions the Government is taking to improve the safety of employees engaged in occupational diving within the tuna farming industry?

**The Hon. G.A. INGERSON:** I thank the member for Flinders for her interest in this major concern. This issue started just over 18 months ago when it became apparent through WorkCover that an extraordinary amount of claims were arising in the tuna diving area. The Department of Industrial Affairs and WorkCover decided to look at the occupational health and safety practices of the industry. Unfortunately, this year there have been 12 diving injuries and one fatality which occurred in March. These injuries are of a recurrent nature and are primarily due to some of the work practices adopted by some of the divers.

It is important to note that a lot of diving occurs, but there are just too many accidents occurring in this area. The program, which was set up by DIA and WorkCover, involved four on-site audits of diving operations. Training sessions have been set up for employees, divers and supervisors. We have been providing information through professional divers to employers, the Tuna Boat Owners Association and manufacturers. We have been getting excessive feedback on the industry's diving operation manual, and the department is assisting in setting up a new procedural manual for the diving task. We are also establishing and funding a two year study which will help identify the decompression profiles of safe operating procedures for the diving task. The decompression procedure is a major issue in most short-term accidents.

During the program, which is being carried out from March to December, the number of injuries has dropped to four. Unfortunately it has started to rise again, and there is a need to continue working with the industry to make sure that a code of practice for diving in the tuna industry is implemented and that a final industry code is developed so that the workers and employers have practices which will enable the industry to grow into the future. Most diving accidents occur in the farms themselves, and it is due primarily to the divers going up and down very quickly and not recognising the difficulties in so doing.

The package of support is very important to the industry, and we are working also with the Department of Primary Industries to make sure that an excellent program is developed for this very important industry. It is important that Parliament is aware that some occupational health and safety issues are being looked at by WorkCover, DIA and Primary Industries to make sure that we remove almost entirely this major concern that is occurring at the moment.

### TAXI INDUSTRY

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport in the other place. Has the Minister for Transport received a taxi industry report entitled 'Taxi Drivers South Australian Taxi

Association Position Paper' and, if so, could the Minister say when her office received the report?

*Members interjecting:*

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** Yes, I would, but she is not here, so I am asking the Minister who represents her in this place.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** I am quite entitled to do that.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member has not been assisted in asking her question by some unhelpful interjections from both sides. However, that does not excuse the honourable member's actions in starting to comment or make a mini speech. I ask the member to explain her question or leave will be withdrawn.

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** Given the urgency of the situation, will the Minister for Transport say when a response to the aforementioned proposals will be forthcoming from the taxi industry, and I seek an answer to my question by Thursday of this week?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Chair would suggest to the member for Torrens that she may think it is smart to make those comments at the conclusion of her question, after the Chair has dealt very leniently with her, but she may have to learn a rather severe lesson if she thinks that those sorts of comments will be ignored by the Chair.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The same ruling applies to members on my right.

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE:** In the absence of the Minister for Manufacturing, Industry, Small Business and Regional Development today, I represent the Minister for Transport. Recognising the time frame that has been laid down, I undertake to obtain a report from the Minister in good time.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mrs KOTZ (Newland):** Can the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources inform the House of steps being undertaken to ensure the future of the city's waste management needs? A number of concerns have been expressed by the community over the standard of landfill operations and whether there is sufficient capacity to meet the city's waste management needs over the longer term.

**The Hon. D.C. WOTTON:** I thank the member for Newland for her question and for her interest in this matter. I have said on a number of occasions that many landfill operations in this State, particularly throughout the metropolitan area, have historically left much to be desired and that it was time to clean up their act. That message is now starting to get through. Certainly, the new waste management strategy for metropolitan Adelaide will help us to achieve just that. It would be fair to say that landfill development in South Australia occurred on a somewhat *ad hoc* basis, leaving us with a number of undesirable environmental and social legacies. The EPA and the State Government are serious about dealing with the issue and are tackling it head on. As part of its drive to encourage best practice with regard to waste management, the EPA recently moved to restrict the height of Adelaide City Council's Wingfield depot, it has closed the East Waste landfill at Highbury, and it has also opposed the establishment of a landfill by the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority.

While these decisions will result in better landfill standards for the future, they certainly have placed pressure on

existing landfill space, particularly in the metropolitan area. It is vital that this Government plans now for the next 20 years and beyond so that we can leave a legacy to future communities that is environmentally better than the legacy we inherited. It is also time to give some certainty to the waste management industry as to what is expected in respect of the standard of operations and the infrastructure required, and it is our intention to do just that.

To help implement the waste management strategy, the Environment Protection Authority has developed a partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Waste Management Association of Australia and the community to plan for these future needs. This partnership will look at identifying appropriate and prescriptive criteria for waste management sites, as well as criteria that takes into account all environmental, economic and social considerations. These guidelines are vital to ensuring the future direction of an industry that is worth many millions of dollars and which is an essential aspect of urban living.

As much as we would like to be able to say that landfill is now not necessary, that is not the case, and it will be needed for at least another decade. Realistically, landfills in various forms are here for up to perhaps 20 to 30 years. There is no instant alternative but, while waste reduction strategies will ensure that more material is recycled—and again I point out that South Australia is further advanced in the area of recycling than most, if not all, other States in Australia—there will be a requirement for landfill well into the next century. Because of this, strategic directions are needed, and these are being worked on as a priority. I am pleased to be able to inform the member for Newland that much progress has been made in working with the private sector to ensure that in the future landfill in particular is of a world best standard so that we can have much more environmentally acceptable facilities for this purpose.

## COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT

**Ms HURLEY (Napier):** Is the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations satisfied with the level of information coming from the Commonwealth in Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement negotiations, and will he ensure that extensive public consultation occurs before South Australia signs any new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement? In interstate newspapers it has been widely reported that New South Wales, Queensland and even Victoria have expressed strong misgivings about the direction of the proposed reforms—nothing has been heard from South Australia.

**The Hon. E.S. ASHENDEN:** I am happy to answer the question because, as the honourable member probably knows, I have just returned from a meeting of housing Ministers, at which the Federal Minister was present, as were Ministers from other States. I would like to assure the honourable member that she must be reading pretty old newspapers, because all the Ministers who attended that conference have signed an agreement in relation to what occurred. New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, along with South Australia and other States, are happy with the stage that we have reached.

I would like to pay the Federal Minister a large compliment because she came to that conference very much prepared to listen. She sat there and took on board all the concerns the State Ministers expressed to her. As a result of

that we have received a number of assurances: funding will continue this year at the same level as that of last year; there will be a phase in, phase out period of three to five years; and we can now go ahead with some firm planning for housing. However, more importantly, she has established a task force which will look into all the issues that were raised by the Ministers at that conference. There is to be a further conference on Friday 1 November, at which we will be advised of the results of that task force and the Minister's deliberations on the points we have raised. I went to that conference with some misgivings, but I left feeling that the Federal Minister was prepared to listen. I hope that the points we made to her will be reflected in the decisions that come down in the not too distant future.

### ROXBY DOWNS

**Mr VENNING (Custance):** Will the Minister for Mines and Energy provide details of the importance of the new borefield B pipeline which has been installed by the Western Mining Corporation? I am aware that the Minister recently officially commissioned the pipeline, which I understand is an important component of the \$1.25 billion expansion planned for the Olympic Dam copper, gold and uranium mine.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! And most of the pipeline just happens to be in the electorate of Eyre.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I must congratulate the honourable member's rise to power on the Printing Committee. The commissioning of the pipeline to borefield B was a significant event in the history of Roxby Downs. It is significant from two points of view: first, it marks the commitment of Western Mining to the expansion of the mine and spending \$1.25 billion.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** I shall talk about the amount that is being taken out. Secondly, it reflects an environmental commitment by the company to ensure that the take of water for Roxby Downs is appropriate and is manageable.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The member for Torrens keeps chortling from the back bench but, if she had done some research, she would clearly understand that the Great Artesian Basin operates under significant pressure and water is lost from that basin on a daily basis.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Torrens.

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER:** The figures are readily available, if the honourable member wishes to look at them. The daily replenishment of the South Australian section of the basin is approximately 420 megalitres, compared with the current daily extraction of natural flow from springs of about 234 megalitres. The rest of it is pressured out of the system, evaporates and gets lost wherever. Also 132 megalitres relates to pastoral bores, and 14 megalitres relates to Olympic Dam at Roxby Downs. It is essential that there is sufficient water for the Roxby Downs expansion. Importantly, Western Mining has incorporated a whole new range of water management practices, so the utilisation per unit of output—and, indeed, in the town itself—is much lower. Savings of about 10 or 15 per cent have already been achieved as a result of better management techniques. The company has clearly stated its commitment to treat the water as a precious resource. I congratulate Western Mining. The event was a

great day in the sun. It marks another commitment to this State, and I am sure everybody in South Australia will benefit from that mine expansion.

### CRIMINAL LAW (UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS) ACT

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I lay on the table a ministerial statement made by the Attorney-General in another place on the Criminal Law (Undercover Operations) Act 1995.

### STANDING ORDERS

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I move:

That for the remainder of the session, Standing Orders be so far suspended as to provide that:

- (a) at the conclusion of the period for questions without notice the Speaker may propose the question 'That the House note grievances.' Up to six members may speak for a maximum of five minutes each before the Speaker puts the question.
- (b) the motion for adjournment of the House on Tuesdays and Wednesdays may be debated for up to 20 minutes, provided it is moved before 10 p.m.
- (c) the motion for adjournment of the House on Thursdays—
  - (i) may be moved later than 5 p.m.;
  - (ii) may not be debated.

Motion carried.

### GRIEVANCE DEBATE

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

**Ms HURLEY (Napier):** In response to my question about the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the Minister said that I was reading old newspapers. Perhaps that is so: the old newspaper came out the day after the meeting on the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement to which he referred. The article in the *Australian* states:

The State Governments agreed yesterday to work with the Federal Government on a model for the radical overhaul of public housing policy. The agreement to set up a joint State-Federal task force was struck at a Housing Ministers' conference in Darwin and came after months of public disagreement over the viability of the reforms. State housing Ministers agreed to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth, but several came away dissatisfied with the lack of detail provided by the Federal Minister for Social Security, Senator Newman, who is responsible for public housing.

The article states further:

However, after division within Cabinet ranks over funding levels and grumbings over the direction of the reforms from Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales, it decided against laying its cards on the table.

This is exactly what I am complaining about. For several months, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales have been speaking very publicly and vocally about some of the worst aspects of the Liberal Federal Government's proposed housing reforms, but we have heard nothing from the South Australian Premier or the South Australian Housing Minister. This is an outrage when one considers that a number of residents of Housing Trust accommodation, many residents of cooperative housing and many other concerned individuals have approached me because they are very worried about the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement and the proposed reforms.

This Government has sat on its hands and said and done nothing to allay the fears of those residents. South Australia has the highest level of public housing in Australia, so you would think that it would have a strong voice publicly and in these sorts of forums, but we have heard nothing whatsoever from the Premier while Premiers of conservative States such as Victoria and Queensland have spoken out quite strongly against the Federal Government proposals and the Labor Minister from New South Wales has been very adamant that he will protect housing interests in his own State. What have we heard from our Premier? Absolutely nothing! What have we heard from our Housing Minister? Absolutely nothing!

Housing groups and tenants in this State have not been consulted, and there has been no indication whatsoever that there will be any consultation with these groups. Housing Trust tenants and other low income tenants in this State have every right to be concerned about what is proposed by the Commonwealth Government. An article in the *Australian* of 9 September, which was slightly earlier than the meeting, reports that the Federal Government was considering the reform. The article states:

The Treasurer, Mr Costello, and the Finance Minister, Mr Fahey, want the overhaul to deliver budget savings which could run as high as \$1.2 billion a year.

The article also reports that the push has been resisted by the Minister for Social Security, and it goes on to raise questions about the ability of the Minister for Social Security to sustain that opposition. The Minister for Social Security, of whom the Minister for Housing spoke so highly, might have appreciated a little support from the South Australian Minister for Housing in her bid to withstand the push by Treasury and Finance to reduce public housing. Would it not have been nice if the South Australian Premier and the South Australian Minister for Housing had said that they would not tolerate any reduction in funding for public housing in this State, increased market rents and increased homelessness? Would she not have appreciated a bit of support at that crucial stage? What sort of support did she get at this meeting, or did our Minister for Housing just sit there and listen to what was being dictated to him by his Federal Liberal colleagues from Canberra? It is just not good enough that we hear this deafening silence from the other side when all the assets that we have built up are in jeopardy.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** It was interesting to listen to the member for Napier, because I did not hear her fighting for support for people in Housing Trust homes when the Labor Federal Government under the then Prime Minister Paul Keating decided to cut back support and funding ratios for our State. She knows that, just as the Leader of the Opposition knows that what the Labor Party put out recently in all the electorates in the south when it held its Housing Trust summit was nothing other than scaremongering, scaring people in Housing Trust homes, saying that rents would rise with massive increases and that they would be forced out of their homes. What a straight out lie that was by Mr Rann, the Leader of the Opposition. He should be condemned for it, as should the rest of you who support him. Plenty of people have been ringing my office saying that they are absolutely outraged because the Leader of the Opposition after three years in Opposition has learnt nothing more than to continue to go down the scaremongering track that he used prior to the last election. Mike Rann has learnt nothing in the past three years, and the sooner they get rid of him and bring on Mr Quirke, the better.

**Mr FOLEY:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I ask you to rule on the Standing Order that requires members to refer to other members of Parliament by their parliamentary title and not by name.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The point of order is upheld. Members should be referred to by their electorate or by their parliamentary status—in this case, the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I accept the point, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will be interested to raise that point of order when the member for Hart calls out 'Premier Dean' across the Chamber during Question Time.

*Mr Foley interjecting:*

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** He says he is his mate. If he wants to show that sort of arrogance and rudeness to the Premier and the Leader of this State, he stands to be condemned.

I would like to congratulate our Government, particularly the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, on the new anti-litter measures that Minister Wotton recently introduced. There will be increased penalties for littering, the compulsory covering of trailer loads, and a number of other initiatives that have come out of a comprehensive task force with which I was lucky enough to be involved. We know that there is an increasing presence of litter today, particularly on our road sides, but we also know that legislation can achieve only so much.

We have heard in the media during recent months that plastic bags have been signalled out by the community for their visibility in the litter stream and in our waterways and reserves, and we know about the devastating effect that they have on wild life, particularly marine animals in the gulfs. This is a classic example of what we need to do now to get the community involved at grass roots level with environmental issues, because litter is a people issue first and foremost. This point was borne out at the Morphettville Racecourse recently at a meeting of interested parties convened by the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources to explore the issue further. I believe that we will now see a decrease in the use of plastic bags. Retailers and the industry sector are well aware of the community interest in this issue. The marketplace is market driven, so I believe that retailers will respond to community demands.

I believe that very soon we will see retailers launch their own campaigns publicising and promoting alternatives to plastic bags. This is already happening in areas such as Mitcham. At one of my school fetes the other day I saw the DENR office promoting paper bags instead of plastic bags. Education of retail staff is needed and we need to move on from that to offer a choice of bags whether they be calico or other more environmentally acceptable forms of plastics.

If the community is concerned about the issue, there are alternative bags which can be used and which some of the community groups are now marketing. An industry code of practice has also been suggested. Special promotions such as a 'No bag day' and trials and pilot programs to promote alternatives to plastic bags are initiatives that we need to support and implement. In conclusion, one clear message coming from that meeting was the need for an ongoing public education program. That program needs a broad focus not only on the environmental damage caused by the bags but on the available alternatives, the retailers giving greater prominence to the alternatives. Once one retailer takes the lead, others will follow. This State is already heavily legislated. In my opinion, bans and deposit systems on plastic bags are too cumbersome and present a logistic nightmare.

**Mr ATKINSON (Spence):** If we were to summarise in one phrase the effect of the Brown Liberal Government on the western suburbs of Adelaide, one would have to say, 'The Liberals—bad for the west.' I want to run through some of the blows to residents of the western suburbs that have been rained on them by the Brown Liberal Government in recent times. The first is the closure of Findon Primary School, ordered by the Minister for Education and Children's Services. It is a closure which is not justified, one which would not have occurred had Findon Primary School been in the Liberal Party's eastern suburban heartland, but I will have more to say about that closure on another occasion. Secondly—

**Mr Brokenshire:** Who caused the debt?

**Mr ATKINSON:** The member for Mawson asks, 'Who caused the debt?' The member for Mawson is saying that Findon Primary School is closing because of the budgetary situation, but that is not what the Minister for Education and Children's Services told the western suburbs. The Minister said that Findon Primary School is closing for the good of the students and parents of the school, that it is for their own good that those students go to another school.

The second matter is the demolition by the Liberal Government of historic Tenterden House at Woodville South, one of the few remaining heritage buildings in the western suburbs. Tenterden House would not have been demolished had it been in North Adelaide or the eastern suburbs. The third matter of concern to the western suburbs is the proposal of the Hon. Dr Bernice Pfitzner and the so-called technical majority on the Social Development Committee to corral all Adelaide's brothels into the industrial and commercial suburbs of the inner west. I will say more about that Liberal Party plan on another—

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**Mr ATKINSON:** Yes, brothels do exist. They exist in Gilberton, North Adelaide, Norwood, Burnside and Toorak Gardens but, under Dr Pfitzner's proposal, they will become illicit prostitution and those brothels which now operate discreetly in the Liberal Party heartland will be forced to move into the inner west—into Mile End, which Dr Pfitzner has proposed as the new red light district.

**Mr Meier:** Have you seen the Bill?

**Mr ATKINSON:** Yes, I have, because I am a member of the committee. Fourthly, I refer to the proposal of the Liberal Government to transfer 1400 semitrailers a day that now come from Victoria along the South Eastern Freeway and along Portrush Road and Hampstead Road, which is the traditional national highway route through metropolitan Adelaide to the northern and western suburbs. The Government proposes to transfer these semitrailers to South Road.

**Mr Brokenshire:** That's fair enough.

**Mr ATKINSON:** The member for Mawson says it is fair enough to send one heavy rig a minute along South Road in the western suburbs. If members have not noticed, South Road is already chock-a-block and it has not been widened and improved north of the Torrens River. Yet the Liberal Government proposes to send 1400 semitrailers a day across the southern suburbs of Adelaide, along Cross Road or Glen Osmond Road and Greenhill Road, then to turn right and proceed up South Road through Ashford, Keswick, Mile End, Thebarton, Hindmarsh, Ridleyton, Croydon, Renown Park and Croydon Park. Why are these heavy rigs to be diverted though the western suburbs? It is because those rigs now travel through Liberal electorates. It is one of the spoils of Government, one of the exercises of naked power, to take

those semitrailers off their traditional route along Portrush Road and Hampstead Road and to shove them into the western suburbs, onto a road that does not have the capacity to carry them.

Moreover, this change is being suggested by a workshop to which three Liberal MPs from the eastern suburbs were invited, a workshop to which no members of Parliament of either political persuasion from the western suburbs were invited. The member for Hartley was invited to the workshop, but Portrush Road does not go anywhere near his electorate. The honourable member is not affected by any of the proposals, yet he was invited. Neither I nor the member for Peake were invited. The Liberals are very bad for the western suburbs, and I will be telling residents of the western suburbs by direct mail what the Liberal Party is doing to them.

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** As announced by the Minister for the Ageing, today marks the start of Seniors Week. This is a good time to remember some of the trials and tribulations of the people who helped to develop this country. It is difficult for us in this modern time to remember what it was like back 100 or even 50 years ago, and it is even more difficult for our children to remember. The improvements in technology over the past 100 years are particularly hard to imagine. This is why organisations such as the National Trust are so important. It has been said that a nation that forgets its history does not have a future and I believe that we have a great future. The National Trust museums in the electorate of Flinders have benefited greatly from Government grants and work schemes funded by both State and Federal Governments and also local governments, which have supported the valuable recording and preservation of history undertaken mostly by volunteers.

Cowell's museum is housed in the former post office and postmaster's residence, which was built in about 1882. Cowell was a major shipping centre for business and industry prior to the building of railways and the formation of trafficable road systems. The parkland setting for Cowell's agriculture museum is ideal for displaying collections of static and restored machinery. Among the items is a restored 1910 Ruston Steam Traction Engine, which, despite its size (more than 2 metres in height), is not a powerful machine. The branch, organised by chairman Alan Hanson and secretary Ross Guthleben, has built a shed to protect some of these exhibits. Chairman Trevor Dreckow and secretary Alison Turnbull head the Cleve branch of the National Trust, which has its museum in the original council chambers in Third Street just off the main highway. There is a large display of early farming implements and tractors, including many Bulldog models. Numerous implements were made by local industries when settlers were isolated by distance from other areas of the State.

The northern road into Tumby Bay passes the C.L. Alexander National Trust Museum, which houses sectional exhibitions with photographs, sketches and histories of the pioneering days in the district. A particular item of interest is a copy of the first title issued under the Torrens Land Act 1957-58. The system was devised by Sir Robert Richard Torrens, who came to South Australia in 1849 and was appointed Collector of Customs with a seat in the Legislative Council. He was a member of the first ministry under the new self-governing Constitution of South Australia in 1857. The Torrens system of land titles has been copied by other Australian States as well as countries overseas and it is very appropriate that it be remembered. There are also early



records of the Mortlock family, at least two of whom served in State Parliament.

Tumby Bay branch officers Ivy Freeman, Audrey Morris and Jean Brock all have pioneering family connections dating back to the last century, so they are well placed to run the branch, which also owns the Provis Memorial Park and Stokes Methodist Church, both in the Koppio hills. The Port Lincoln Mill Cottage Museum is situated in Flinders Park, which is part of the original holdings of Captain Bishop who came to Port Lincoln in 1839 aboard his ship Dorset. Mill Cottage was built in 1866 and houses many Bishop family artefacts, being looked after by resident caretakers Eric and Pearl Beinke. The committee chairperson, Bett de la Perrelle, is a descendant of some of the first settlers in the district last century.

Captain Bishop began the construction of a flour mill, but work stopped when the men rushed to the Victorian gold-fields and, therefore, the building was never completed. It is now a landmark sited a short distance from Mill Cottage. A settler's cottage was built in the park grounds in 1986 as a Jubilee 150 Training Project for Youth. Along with general building skills, participants were taught the almost forgotten art of cutting and dressing stone. Koppio Smithy Museum, on the site of Tom Brennand's restored blacksmith shop and cottage built in 1903, reflects farming activities prior to the late 1940s.

Other restored buildings are a pine log thatched roof shepherd's hut, Koppio school furnished as a school room of the 1930s era, a wheat agent's shed, a bank agency formerly situated on a farm, and a post office. The sheds around the perimeter of the grounds house one of the largest collections of restored tractors in South Australia, along with a 1915 International solid rubber-tyred truck, which makes one thankful for the invention of the pneumatic tyre. The active Koppio National Trust committee, headed by Norm Jericho and Betty Duns, has gained several grants which have been used to upgrade the museum or to add valuable items to the exhibits. Perhaps one of the reasons why people in my region look to the future with hope—

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

**Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth):** Today the Minister for the Ageing launched Seniors' Week, an initiative of the Council on the Ageing, which has been going for a number of years in South Australia and which has the full and whole-hearted support of the Opposition. As we know, Seniors' Week is a celebration of older people, their role and their contribution to our society. But this year's Seniors' Week takes place in the setting of massive changes to the support and funding of aged care programs in our country. I noticed today, when the Minister in Question Time referred to Seniors' Week and South Australia's older community, that he referred to the fact that we had the fastest growing older population in Australia. He referred to the fact that people over 60 years of age were loyal consumers and a vital component of the customer base of much of our retail and other consumer sectors.

The Minister referred to the fact that we have many people in that age group and that that number will increase. He said that older people play an important economic role in our community, but he did not refer to the fact that the Commonwealth Government in its recent budget has dealt a severe blow to these very people and has put in doubt many of the basic services they require. I will now quote briefly from a

newspaper article by Mr Ian Yates, Executive Director, Council on the Ageing (*Advertiser* 30 September) as follows:

The really appalling bottom line is that cuts to the Federal Government's aged care programs alone will remove nearly \$600 million from services to older Australians over the next four years. Add dental health to that and we have the oldest and most frail in our community contributing \$1 billion to the deficit. How does the Government reconcile this with the growing numbers and needs of the oldest and most vulnerable in the aged community?

I found it interesting that the Minister for the Ageing did not actually refer to that matter, because I know that among older people in our community today these issues are the most concerning issues they are facing. Even though this is not the direct responsibility of State Ministers, they need to be getting in there and fighting for aged people. Today in Question Time I specifically referred to the Commonwealth Dental Health Program which, as I mentioned before, has been completely axed by the Commonwealth Government in its budget. Certainly, I will be spending much more time talking about this issue. If we recall the Federal Minister's statement in the budget, he actually curtailed this program because it was working. The waiting times, the waiting lists, had been reduced and so it was time to remove the funding.

As I mentioned in Question Time today in my explanation, this means that those people who are most vulnerable in our community will suffer. That health program was introduced in 1994 in response to documentation about social inequities in oral health and access to dental care among Australian adults. The program targeted cardholders, the poor and not those referred to as middle-class welfare recipients. We know that the people who will be most affected will be pensioners, the unemployed and other poorer people, but what did the Minister for Health say in response to my question? First, he said that my projections in terms of waiting times were only theoretical, and he virtually said there was not a problem. The Minister did not say that the cuts were a disgrace and that he would be fighting and taking this issue up to the Federal Government. No, the Minister for Health was not able to utter those sentences. He was not able to say that these cuts were wrong. The Minister made a lame excuse for the actions of his Federal counterpart.

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

**Mr ANDREW (Chaffey):** Today, I want to raise the issue of the current management of Lake Victoria, a major water storage source for South Australia. This is a matter of real concern to Murray River irrigators, it is a concern I share and it is an issue on which I want to assure irrigators in my electorate that I am doing as much as possible to ensure that the future quantity and quality of irrigation water in South Australia will not be threatened by the current issues affecting Lake Victoria. By way of background, I point out that over 12 months ago a significant number of Aboriginal burial remains were found in Lake Victoria. Naturally, and appropriately, the area needs to be protected and, consistent with this, I understand that the New South Wales Land Council, in conjunction with the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, is progressing positively with a management plan that will take one or two years to develop. Already over \$1 million has been spent on implementing measures to protect these grounds. This includes keeping the level of the lake at the current EL 23.6 metres level.

However, in addition to this two more recent events have affected the situation. First, at EL 23.6 metres further

Aboriginal artefacts of archaeological significance have been discovered on Talgarry Island. This formally categorises the area on the island as an 'occupational surface'. This has also meant that under the New South Wales legislation, because the lake is in New South Wales, special approval would have to be provided by the New South Wales National Parks Director under the authority of the New South Wales Minister for Environment. As this is currently not forthcoming, the level of Lake Victoria at this time cannot be raised above EL 23.6 metres. This has necessitated a renewed strategy from the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

The second aspect that has affected the situation in recent weeks is that the level of the Murray River is in a mini flood situation, with about 70 000 megalitres coming into South Australia at the moment. It needs to be kept in perspective that 23.6 metres in the lake leaves the lake at only 50 per cent capacity. The high river has meant that hydraulic and ground water pressure has resulted in the lake being at a lower level than the river itself and this has resulted in significantly increased salinity levels occurring in the lake. From an irrigator's perspective the current lack of capacity in the lake and the potential increase in salinity pose a potential threat to the future quality of water and provision of water from the lake. The river level has increased significantly in the last couple of weeks, and I have taken the opportunity to make appropriate representations to State Ministers on the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council.

I was pleased to ascertain from them that they were working very diligently on the matter and particularly pleased that South Australia's lead Minister on the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, our Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, provided me with satisfactory and appropriate assurances. These included, first, the assurance that there is no threat to South Australia's water entitlement for the coming irrigation season (I also note that it is a seasonal bonus that the Medindie lakes are full at the moment); and, secondly, with respect to quality, that appropriate actions are being instigated.

I am particularly pleased that, subsequent to this discussion, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, in conjunction with the New South Wales Government and the New South Wales Land Council, has agreed to raise the level of the lake temporarily and so give it an adequate and appropriate flushing. Thirdly, I have been given assurances—and acknowledge that in the short to medium term this is the current plan or strategy—that an EIS will be prepared on the effect of EL26 covering Talgarry Island. On this basis, naturally, the intention is to provide long-term protection for the burial grounds and the relics at Lake Victoria.

The issue is sensitive and needs to be resolved with the cooperation and support of all parties. I know that our State Ministers are working very hard to ensure that both the quality and quantity of water coming to South Australia will be protected. I commend the Murray-Darling Ministerial Council and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission for their positive actions to date and their current plans with respect to this issue at Lake Victoria so that all parties' interests will be protected in the medium to long term.

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

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The Speaker and Messrs Atkinson, Brindal, De Laine and Meier.

Printing: Messrs Blevins, Brokenshire, Clarke, Rossi and Venning.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I nominate the member for Peake to move an Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech, and move:

That consideration of the Address in Reply be made an order of the day for tomorrow.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANTATION

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** On behalf of the Minister for Health, I move:

That the Select Committee on Organs for Transplantation appointed by this House on 4 May 1994 have power to continue its sittings during the present session and that the time for bringing up its report be extended until Thursday 5 December.

Motion carried.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON LIVING RESOURCES

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I move:

That the members of this House appointed to the Joint Committee on Living Resources have power to continue their considerations during this session.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON PETROL MULTI SITE FRANCHISING

**Mr CAUDELL (Mitchell):** I move:

That the Select Committee on Petrol Multi Site Franchising appointed by this House on 26 October 1995 have power to continue its sittings during the present session and that the time for bringing up its report be extended until Thursday 3 October.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON YUMBARRA CONSERVATION PARK RE-PROCLAMATION

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** I move:

That the Select Committee on Yumbarra Conservation Park Re-proclamation appointed by this House on 10 April 1996 have power to continue its sittings during the present session and that the time for bringing up its report be extended until Tuesday 3 December.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PULP AND PAPER MILL (HUNDREDS OF MAYURRA AND HINDMARSH) (COUNCIL RATES) AMENDMENT BILL

**The Hon. S.J. BAKER (Deputy Premier):** On behalf of the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations, I move:

That the Select Committee on the Pulp and Paper Mill (Hundreds of Mayurra and Hindmarsh) (Council Rates) Amendment Bill appointed by this House on 4 July 1996 have power to continue its sittings during the present session and that the time for bringing up its report be extended until Tuesday 22 October.

Motion carried.

## ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

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

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** I am sure that all members on both sides of this House will share with me a deep sense of shock, horror and revulsion at the cold blooded murder of taxi driver Mr Andrew Mordowicz. I am sure I speak for all members of Parliament in expressing heartfelt condolences to Mr Mordowicz's family and children and to the rest of his family and friends. There has been a lengthy history of physical attacks on taxi drivers. These have been well recorded on national and State media and in Government and police reports. It is evident that owning or driving a taxi is perhaps one of the most hazardous business ventures or occupations in Australia today. Beatings, shootings, stabbings, threats from syringe-waving patrons and abuse from those affected by alcohol and, if that were not enough, people running off without paying their fares are enough to break the heart of any taxi driver and their will to stay in the industry. I have seen numerous requests to the State Government from taxi industry representatives for changes to assist the industry.

An industry representative recently expressed his dissatisfaction at the rate of progress by the State Government in addressing a report titled 'Taxi driver safety: South Australian Taxi Association position paper'. The report, dated 30 June 1996, forms the base of the taxi industry safety committee's recommendations to the State Government. The safety committee was formed approximately 12 months ago and comprises taxi industry and passenger transport representatives. The State committee forwarded a report to the Government via the Passenger Transport Board. The report considered by the safety committee (titled 'Taxi driver safety: South Australian Taxi Association position paper', to which I have referred) advocates some very positive suggestions to strengthen future industry safety. The first of these points is that all sedan type taxicabs shall have fitted internal boot releases to enable a driver who is locked in the boot to open it from the inside. The next point is that all taxicabs within the Adelaide metropolitan area shall have operating an audio alarm connected through the radio to the centralised booking service.

The next point is that it should be compulsory for all taxicab drivers to undertake, before renewal of their accreditation every five years, a refresher training course which includes a revised module on driver safety. This module should be expanded to cover to a greater degree such areas as attitudinal testing, controlling customer aggression and calming procedures. The next point is that all taxicabs operating with accredited centralised booking services within the Adelaide metropolitan area—and this is most important—should be fitted with Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Another point—and these are only some of them—is that all metropolitan taxicabs should be fitted with on-board video surveillance cameras. Further, there should be an advertising campaign on the rights of taxi drivers, passengers and taxi companies. Another point is that the introduction of critical incident debriefing should be made a priority.

**Mr Brindal:** What about trauma counselling? You have not mentioned that.

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** That is a very important point; I agree. I will mention that later. When sent to the Minister for Transport, the report was dated 30 June 1996—it is now

October. Industry concerns at Government inactivity are now reaching major proportions. Patience is running out. The draft report states:

The association has made fruitless efforts in obtaining assistance from the Passenger Transport Board in the area of driver safety.

We have to ask ourselves: why is the Minister delaying a response on the implementation of taxi driver safety regulations? If it is not being delayed—and in the hope of avoiding additional tragedies—when will the taxi industry receive a formal response to its recommendations? The taxi industry has cited the enormous costs that will be incurred by businesses to improve driver safety in the taxi industry; for instance, \$5 000 and \$7 000 for taxi meters, two-way radios, data screens, EFTPOS, GP systems, and the like. Proposed surveillance equipment costs could be within the vicinity of \$10 000 per cab. The cost of protective plastic shield screening is likely to run into thousands of dollars. Therefore, it is not surprising that the industry is calling for the construction of a purpose-built, internationally recognised taxicab. Of course, the cost of these safety improvements will weigh heavily on the industry.

Many taxi plate owners are single owner operators with limited profit margins. The draft report proposes a 1 per cent increase in taxicab fares and calls for a subsidy of \$1 000 per taxicab from the Government. The Government has said that it supports small business. Given that the taxi industry base is relatively small with approximately 900 vehicles, a grant of \$1 000 per taxicab is not an unreasonable request. One wonders, given the enormity of expense required to secure greater safety for taxicab drivers, whether \$1 000 in funding assistance will be enough to stop small taxi owners from going broke. The industry believes that funding could be made available from 'either the Passenger Transport Research and Development Fund or from the taxicab licence next year'.

If the Government decided to support the proposal for a \$1 000 grant per taxicab, will the Government assure the people of South Australia that funds will not be taken from the social wage and/or groups funded to assist the less well off in our community? The proposals outlined in the Taxi Driver South Australian Taxi Association Position Paper seem sensible and well considered. Could the Minister therefore explain to the House and to the taxi industry why so little progress has been made on proposals to date? Given the industry's concern at the lack of any positive and formal forward movement by the Government on the proposals to date, could the Minister inform the House when the response to the industry's proposal will be forthcoming?

I support the taxi industry. As I said, it is a major support industry to the health, tourist and business communities. It is essential at this time that the Government makes the safety of taxi drivers a first priority and that it responds positively to the South Australian Taxi Association's proposals as a matter of urgency. These changes probably would not have saved Mr Mordowicz's life; however, as the July 1996 SATA newsletter points out:

... God forbid, that the next taxicab driver who gets murdered is from Adelaide and these initiatives have been deferred. . .

As I pointed out earlier, many in our community, including our aged and disabled, rely on the taxi industry to go about their normal daily life—not to mention the fact that they need to get to hospital and to medical appointments. So, they rely on the taxi industry. My brother-in-law is a taxicab driver. On many occasions my mother-in-law and the rest of my family are absolutely traumatised when we hear that another taxicab

driver has been attacked, because we fear that it could be a member of our family.

I think that these issues need to be dealt with. I notice that the member for Unley is shaking his head and waving his hand, but he did mention the issue of trauma counselling which is important not only for taxi drivers who are traumatised but also for their families. This issue must be addressed and addressed now.

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** I am very pleased that the member for Torrens is capable of grasping points that I throw to her across the Chamber, but she does not need to hector and lecture me on facts that I already know.

*Mrs Geraghty interjecting:*

**Mr BRINDAL:** The member for Torrens quite wrongly interjects and asks whether I would support those measures.

*Mrs Geraghty interjecting:*

**Mr BRINDAL:** Yes, I would.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The remarks by way of interjection and the response by way of interjection are both out of order.

**Mr BRINDAL:** I recently returned from overseas and I note that, while I was overseas (as were some of my colleagues in various capacities), the *Advertiser* seemed to express a great deal of interest in our movements. I thought it most appropriate that at the first opportunity after my return I should inform the House of some aspects of my trip. I am disappointed that representatives of the *Advertiser* are not as interested to be here today as they were to chase people hither and thither around the globe when we were in recess.

I had the great honour to be selected by this Parliament to represent the South Australian Legislature at the forty-second Commonwealth CPA Conference in Kuala Lumpur. I would commend the experience to all members. Many members more senior than me have taken such trips in the past, and it was they who encouraged me to seek Parliament's endorsement to attend on this occasion. I am glad that those more senior people suggested it and that Parliament afforded me the opportunity to attend. It is a great privilege and a useful exercise for anyone who wishes to contribute seriously to parliamentary democracy.

I would say to members who have not been in Parliament for quite so long that, when the time is right for them, they should seek to share such an experience. It is worthwhile. You meet many people from the Commonwealth. In other than an academic fashion, it reinforces the different ways in which the same institution can work in other countries. It was amazing to hear the contributions from India, both the regional parliaments and the national parliament; to hear contributions from the various parliaments in Africa; and to hear the members say that we are all a democracy but to realise from the levels of contribution that the concept of democracy itself varies with the parliament.

My observation is that our definition of democracy is nowhere near the same as the definition of democracy in some developing countries. This dialogue concerning what a democracy means and how we as members of parliament should act in a democracy was good for all sides—good for parliaments such as this and our learning experience, and good for countries that are not so far down the road as we are. I enjoyed the experience, and I am honoured that Parliament chose me to attend the conference. In the fullness of time I will report.

Before I realised that the *Advertiser* was so interested in our comings and goings, I met a delegate from the Isle of

Man who said that he regularly attended CPA Conferences. Coming from a small parliament, he is the permanent delegate. When I asked him what his electors thought about that situation, he told me that he tells his electors that, if they want to see their member in the pub every Friday night, they ought to elect someone else. He believes that the best way he can represent them is by acting as an ambassador for the people who have elected him and learning what is happening in the world, bringing back good ideas to the Isle of Man and bringing back warnings about what is bad in other places.

He basically says to his electors, 'If you don't want me to get out there and do the best job that I am capable of doing, then get somebody who goes down to the pub'—basically one of them. 'If you want somebody like that, then don't have me.' I found that a very interesting point of view, and it is one that I commend to the House, because it disturbs me that, in all the commenting in the paper, I believe there was a certain amount of parochialism.

Anyone who has travelled, whether in a public or private capacity, would realise it is a great learning experience. Some people are lucky enough to be granted that privilege by the people of South Australia through election to this Parliament—and that is what it is. No-one would deny that such travel is an enormous privilege, and I do not think that any of us would seek to exercise that privilege lightly. There is a lot to be gained from travel, through the contacts that are made on a formal basis and through the many things that one sees on an informal basis.

What worries me about the *Advertiser's* reporting is that we are told on a daily basis in this Chamber and in our media that we now live in a global village. We cannot afford to be introspective and parochial. We are supposed to get out there and sell South Australia to the world. We are supposed to be as good as any of our neighbours and better. We are supposed to outdo the growing tigers of Asia, but if we listened to the *Advertiser's* convoluted line of logic we would believe that we are supposed to do all of that without ever leaving our back porch.

Ministers in this Government and in the last Government get out there doing the job. Some Ministers in the last Government went to Asia and there are Ministers in this Government who have gone to Asia. The Premier has just led a delegation of members of Parliament to Italy, Crete and Greece. This Premier is doing a very good and valuable job for South Australia. His Ministers are doing a good and valuable job for South Australia. If this Parliament is to scrutinise the work of Executive Government, some of us have to get out there and see what is going on in the world. It would be dangerous if Ministers were to go hither, thither and yon, telling us to get into the real world, and we had to take their word that that is what the real world is like.

Travel is a privilege, but it is an important part of the functioning of this Parliament, and I am greatly saddened that the *Advertiser* has sought to reduce the travel allowances and the travel privileges of this Parliament to such a trite level. It is almost as though it has decided to award a prize; that it will not criticise the member who comes back from overseas and writes the fanciest report. If the *Advertiser* is looking for a particularly fancy report from me, I am afraid that it will be very disappointed. I will give a good and detailed account of my trip. I believe that I have picked up some excellent ideas, which I will contribute in this House, privately to Ministers or in my Party room as ideas for policy in Government, but I will not write them in a report to give to the Opposition, because it can go out and get its own ideas.

I believe that ideas are the most valuable tool in politics. If I picked up some ideas overseas, I will give them to the Ministers and to my Party, and I will try to have them introduced for the betterment of this State as Party policy. However, I will not try to write the best report, just for the *Advertiser*, so that it can say that my money was well spent. I will leave it to my electors to decide that.

I hope that all the electors of South Australia are a little wiser than to be taken in by some of the cheap buffoonery that passes for journalism. When they have no story they pursue a particular populist attitude—the cut down the tall

poppy syndrome that seems to be popular in Australia. It does not enhance journalism, it does not enhance leadership and it does not do this or any Parliament in this country much justice. I would rather see some of the journalists go overseas and learn a bit more about the levels that some of their profession practise in some overseas newspapers. A bit of travel for them might do them as much good as, hopefully, it will do us in this Parliament.

Motion carried.

At 4.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 2 October at 2 p.m.