

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**Second Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament
(1998)**

Parliament, which adjourned on 27 August, was prorogued by proclamation dated 17 September. By proclamation dated 17 September, it was summoned on Tuesday 27 October, and the Second Session began on that date.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 27 October 1998

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. J.K.G. Oswald) 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 12.10 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the speech of His Excellency the Governor. They returned to the Assembly Chamber at 12.45 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

[Sitting suspended from 12.46 to 2.15 p.m.]

WRIGHT, Hon. J.D., DEATH

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. J.D. Wright, a former member of the House of Assembly and Minister of the Crown, places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

In moving this condolence motion to the Hon. Jack Wright, OA, I acknowledge his contribution to South Australia. I am sure that many Government and Opposition members alike will rise to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Jack, their friend and colleague alike, and formally place their thoughts and recollections of Jack on the parliamentary record. I suspect that members opposite will be able to elaborate in more detail on the life and times of Jack Wright.

Although fiercely South Australian in his outlook and determination, Jack Wright was born in Toowoomba, Queensland on 28 January 1927. Brought up during the Depression and having left school at an early age to go shearing, Jack soon became involved in the Australian Workers Union. Jack Wright's involvement with the Australian Workers Union spanned many years—an appreciation of which, I understand, he had his whole life. It was an

example of devotion to a cause in which he believed strongly and fervently. Jack's involvement with the AWU saw him rise through the ranks, earning the respect of his colleagues along the way. Jack progressed from organising in 1957 to working as branch secretary, branch president, convention delegate and ultimately national executive member.

For those attending his funeral service it was fascinating, interesting and challenging to hear of Jack Wright's experiences within the union movement throughout those years. It could be said in all honesty that Jack had many great loves in his life: his wife Norma, his son Michael, his grandchildren, the Australian Workers Union, the Australian Labor Party and the Norwood Football Club. On this point it is evident that both Jack Wright and I shared a love for Australian Rules football but not the same football club. Jack believed ardently in the labour movement and, in consequence of that, the Australian Labor Party.

It was this devotion to both causes that perpetuated Jack as a prominent labour figure respected by many, but particularly those who shared his ideology. Jack would go to any lengths to further the cause of the labour movement, and more specifically the Labor Party. On this point I have often heard Jack referred to as a 'Labor luminary'—a befitting title, indeed. Jack was first elected to the House of Assembly in 1971 following his successful bid to win the seat of Adelaide.

In 1975 Jack became a Minister of the Crown under the Dunstan Administration. I have heard him described as a great listener and that fact ultimately contributed to his tenure in this place. He was, as has been described to me, the consummate Labor politician. He will leave a long and lasting impression on this Chamber and all those who have the privilege to occupy it. Jack's service to the South Australian Parliament spanned some 14 years. During his time in this place, Jack served his Party loyally in the portfolios of Minister Assisting the Premier in Industrial Democracy, Minister for Labour and Industry, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Emergency Services, and from November 1982 until July 1985 Jack served as Deputy Premier. It is a widely accepted fact that Jack left this Parliament prematurely in 1985 due to ill health.

Whilst we may sit on opposite sides of the Chamber, and the common perception is that there is sometimes unrivalled hostility between the Labor and Liberal Parties, that is not entirely the case: many friendships are forged across the Chamber in this place despite differing political ideologies. It is also very common for those on opposite sides of the Chamber to regard one another with a mutual sense of respect. It is this respect that many on this side of the House felt for Jack Wright, and I am pleased that Jack was able to enjoy some 13 years of retirement away from the stresses, strains and occasional pains of public life. I am told that Jack indulged one of his great loves during his 13 years of retirement—playing endless rounds of golf. I am pleased that he was able to enjoy his retirement after his years of hard work.

Jack was also a great family man, devoted to his wife, Norma, and son, Michael, and I am sure that Jack would be proud of his son Michael, who has followed in his father's footsteps and now sits in this Chamber. Those who spoke at Jack's funeral spoke highly of a man whom they respected. Some comments at the funeral bordered on the lighter side of life—something I think that Jack would have appreciated. For example, one of the speakers commented that, as the workers at Centennial Park were AWU members, Jack would be assured of a good plot and would be well looked after. I am certain that Jack would have appreciated that light-hearted interlude. Undoubtedly, Jack Wright touched many lives throughout his journey and clearly he will be sadly missed by his family, friends, mates and colleagues.

On behalf of the Government, I formally place on the record our appreciation and thanks for his contribution to the South Australian Parliament and the South Australian community in general. Also on behalf of the Government I express my sincere condolences to Jack's wife, Norma, Jack's son, Michael, and his family, and other family members. In summation, Jack Wright has left his mark on this place, the labour movement, the Australian Labor Party and the South Australian community.

Honourable members: Hear! Hear!

Mr WRIGHT (Lee): I second the motion. Jack Wright was a truly remarkable man. Dad had a very rich life, not rich in monetary terms but in what he was able to achieve during his lifetime and the mark he left wherever he went. Dad had many passions. His greatest loves were the trade union movement, the Australian Labor Party, his mates, sport and his family. Dad was born in Toowoomba, Queensland, on 28 January 1927. His formal education was at Marist Brothers College, Charters Towers, but his education for life occurred through the shearing sheds from Barcaldine to the South-East of South Australia. It was the shearing sheds that ignited the flame of unionism and started Jack Wright upon a path which saw him never lose touch with the battlers. The shearing sheds were a period of great learning, a time that helped shape the key principles by which he operated publicly and privately. It was in the shearing sheds where dad first crafted his wonderful organisational skills, his ability to be able to work with people, to lead people and to remove unfair working practices that disadvantaged workers.

Dad became a member of the Australian Workers Union in 1942 at 15 years of age. He was a continuous member until the day he died. He was immensely proud that he was one of a handful of AWU life members. In 1945, at 17 years, Dad was secretary of the shearers' strike committee in Queensland and from 1949 to 1957 he held every position of the locally

elected AWU pastoral workers committee in Broken Hill. The Australian Workers Union was strong in Broken Hill in the 1950s and 1960s and it was unheard of for someone so young to hold such prestigious positions. It was during this period that Dad commenced his lifelong friendships with people such as Mick Young, Keith Plunkett, Jim Dunford, Clyde Cameron and Don Cameron. They would all go from the shearing sheds to either the State or national Parliaments. Their mateship was based on the old-fashioned principles of camaraderie, loyalty and solidarity.

In 1957 Dad became an organiser for the Australian Workers Union in Port Augusta. From 1957 to 1966, Dad organised from Port Augusta to Alice Springs. He looked after the Commonwealth railways, State Government, local government, pastoral areas, quarrying and mining, and construction. But Dad was much more than an organiser for the AWU. His philosophy was to help people and, when people in Port Augusta needed help, they knew where to go. When help was needed, Jack Wright was the first person many turned to, both AWU members and others in need.

1965 was a watershed for the South Australian branch of the AWU. When the State Secretary, at the command of the Federal office, sacked the organisers, the members would not cop it. All were reinstated by the court, due largely to a leading South Australian QC, Roma Mitchell. History might not be the same if Jack Wright and his mates had not been reinstated to their legally elected positions. Jack Wright left Port Augusta a hero and, even to this day, some 32 years later, they still remember what he did and what he stood for.

From 1966 to 1971, Dad was organiser, industrial advocate, President and Secretary of the Australian Workers Union. The AWU's coverage included rabbit trappers, road workers and the shearing sheds. At that time there were more than 12 000 members of the South Australian branch of the AWU and it was the biggest union in the State. The AWU also had some small influence upon the selection of people in the ALP.

One of Dad's great strengths was to give young people a chance. He was prepared to take a punt on young people and he encouraged them to run for positions. I remember when we were in Port Augusta and Don Dunstan came to town in the early 1960s. Dad's words went something like this when he spoke to others about Don Dunstan: 'There is this young skinny bloke. He gives us some real hope after so many years in the wilderness.' Dad always played a constructive role. He believed we must bring people together, not push them away. As in so many other ways, Dad was a step in front of others in this important, fundamental area of bringing the trade union movement and the political wing of the Labor Party together.

On 3 July 1971 Dad was elected in a by-election to represent the State electorate of Adelaide. For the next 14 years he developed a very close relationship with the local community, providing strong representation and forging many close friends and allies throughout the community. On 10 June 1975 Dad was elected to the Dunstan Ministry. From 1975 to 1979 he served as Minister for Labour and Industry in the Dunstan and Corcoran Governments. From 1982 to 1985 he was Deputy Premier, Minister for Labour, Public Works and Emergency Services, and Chief Secretary during the Bannon Government. He was a Minister who knew what he wanted and in which direction he was headed.

All through his working life, Dad had a fundamental commitment to the needs and rights of working men and women. Now that he was a Minister, that was not about to

change. He was uncompromising in his support of basic Labor issues and the trade union viewpoint. Dad's first phase as Minister commanded a lot of time in settling disputes. His great strength was to get people around the table to listen and to broker a compromise. He was a great negotiator, with a mix of toughness, humour and fairness; and, whether it be the employer or the union representative, his attitude was that when you gave your word, you had to stick to it: your word was your bond. Mainly through his efforts at brokering agreements between employer and union groups, South Australia had by far the lowest industrial disputation rate in the country.

From 1982 to 1985 Jack was responsible for significant legislative reforms and highlights. There was the police complaints legislation, introducing progressive ideas and methods into the police employment and recruitment practices; for example, he was able to persuade the Police Commissioner of the day to abolish the prohibition against re-entry or recruitment of police officers who had resigned from the service. This was particularly important in enabling young women who had chosen policing as a career to leave the force to raise their young families and return to their chosen career.

As the Minister responsible for the Metropolitan Fire Service, Jack was able to continue his earlier work in ensuring that the MFS was well equipped, properly funded and truly professional. South Australia had and still has a fire service that is the envy of the country. Jack then turned his attention and skills to reforming and upgrading the Country Fire Service in the wake of the Ash Wednesday fires and the inquiries that proceeded following the fires. This resulted in improved coordination between the two services.

However, my father will be best remembered for his work in the portfolio of Minister for Labour, and he would want it no other way. He was the doyen of Labour Ministers in the country. The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, which adopted some of the recommendations of the Cawthorne report, increased workers' rights, made it easier for workers to get matters before the commission, removed the employer's rights to take civil action against a union with whom it was in dispute, strengthened the powers of the Industrial Commission to prescribe preference for unionists, placed wrongful dismissal cases before the Industrial Commission rather than the Industrial Court, and opened up avenues to a worker who was found to be unfairly dismissed. So important was this area of reform to Jack that he made special mention of it in his last speech to the Parliament. On 30 October 1985, he said:

I am a very strong supporter of the conciliation and arbitration system—mostly, of course, putting the emphasis on 'conciliation'.

In 1982 Dad introduced a job creation scheme and, when Federal Labor came to power in 1983, the Federal Government modelled its community employment program on South Australia's scheme. In its first year, our State received \$21.7 million and created over 5 000 jobs. Jack was very proud of helping people get a job and also of lasting achievements such as the refurbishment of the *Failie* which was one of his proudest projects. A degree of democracy was introduced at the working place involving occupational health and safety issues. Those reforms passed into laws in 1986 after Jack's retirement. They were in no small measure due to Jack's work in 1983 as Minister when he established the tripartite steering committee to advise on occupational health

and safety reform. The legislation made it everybody's—not just managers'—responsibility for a safe working place.

His greatest legacy is in the area of workers compensation, which upon retirement he described as the single most important industrial relations area. Jack Wright demanded a system that was fairer for workers, where workers would be treated fairly and equally and where greater emphasis would be placed on rehabilitation, as well as a system that would address the rising costs of premiums to employers. Above all, he wanted a system that was not a lottery for workers. This could be achieved only by removing common law claims through a no fault principle. He set up a tripartite body and was able to get the mood for change going. Jack Wright was the architect of a workers compensation system that was the fairest in the country and took away the uncertainty that existed for workers. He had an appetite for reform.

Jack Wright was a powerhouse in South Australian politics and was the best friend the working class ever had. He loved every minute of being a politician. His glittering career was perhaps climaxed by an Order of Australia (AO) in 1986. Jack Wright never lost his zest for politics. He never lost his faith in the Australian Labor Party and, whether in Parliament or not, he best represented the grassroots tradition of the Labor Party.

In retirement, after Dad's health improved, he continued to play a role. He became Chairman of the Australian Council on Employment and Training, Chairman of the Lotteries Commission, Chairman of the Harness Control Board and Chairman of the Player Retention Committee for the South Australian National Football League.

Jack Wright was a very generous person, but in politics you have your ups and downs, and even in retirement Dad had his disappointments. As Chairman of the Lotteries Commission, he took an active part in the debate about who should control poker machines should they be introduced into South Australia. He paid a high price for his opinions. I remember his disappointment at the lack of support and loyalty from some quarters in the Labor Party. He was saddened that his own loyalty was not returned. Like always, he handled any adversity with great poise.

Dad had a great love of sport. He was both a participant and a spectator. He grew up with rugby but quickly became a convert to Australian Rules when we shifted to Port Augusta. In Port Augusta and in Adelaide, before entering Parliament, Dad played competitive tennis and table tennis. In retirement he had been a regular golfer at the Glenelg Golf Club. Dad was a great supporter of the Norwood Football Club and the South Australian National Football League. He also loved watching the AFL. We loved going to watch Norwood, but perhaps what we enjoyed most of all was the Adelaide Oval test match. It was simply automatic for Dad and me to get there early, share each other's company and watch the cricket.

Dad also loved horse racing and was a keen racegoer and strong supporter of the racing industry. In his younger days in the shearing sheds, he had been a fairly successful punter, but in recent years his great mate and bookmaker, Marty Miller, often said after Dad had backed a loser, 'There's no doubt about you, Jack, you could stop a train without flags.' Dad also used television to help satisfy his insatiable appetite for the football, cricket, tennis, rugby and golf.

Dad's list of friends is legendary, and there were no boundaries to his friendships. He valued each one of you. He made you feel important in his company because you were important. People gravitated to Dad, and why wouldn't they?

It did not matter whether you were rich or poor, where you worked or lived, or the colour of your skin: Dad treated everyone the same. What did matter to him were your principles—whether you could be trusted. If you broke your word, you did not get a chance to do it again. Dad put great stress on his belief in integrity, honesty and mateship. If, of course, you were a member of your appropriate trade union, voted Labor and barracked for Norwood, you had a head start! Everyone loved Jack.

Despite all the pressures in his public life, Jack Wright was a devoted family man. He had an uncanny knack of making sure that the family did not suffer the pressures he faced. He was a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law and ‘Gramps’ to his two grand daughters.

I spoke earlier of Dad’s great network of mates, but his best mate was his wife, Norma. Norma Joan Forby came from Wasleys, but she met Jack in Broken Hill—where else? Mum and Dad had the perfect marriage. He could not have wished or asked for anyone better, and he knew it. Mum was Dad’s best supporter but also his most honest critic. They knew each other inside out, cared for each other and helped each other. They were perfectly suited to each other and loved each other fiercely. For near on 46 years they had the strongest, happiest partnership you could ever imagine. With Dad’s passing we have all lost something, but sadly the biggest loss is for my mother.

It has always been a privilege and honour to say that Jack Wright is my father. I have often wondered why Dad was such a great father. Was it because his father left home when he so was young; was it his upbringing; the shearing sheds; his personality; or, his values? Perhaps it was a combination of all these. Maybe it was because he was a great man who had a special compassion for people but knew you had to work at being a parent if you were to be a good father. He was more than good: he was simply the best.

Since Dad’s death we have received several hundred letters and cards from people all over South Australia and beyond. All of the messages have been special, but one in particular struck me and I would like to share some of it with the House. It is dated 31 August 1998 and states:

Dear Michael and Norma,

I first met Jack 19 years ago. Our paths crossed when the Party established a committee to review the terrible result of the 1979 State election. We were both elected to that committee. Jack of course was already a stalwart in the AWU and the Party and it was a rare privilege for a newcomer like me to work with him. Though we had just been humiliated at the polls, I was struck by the quality Jack brought to our deliberations. He wanted no gratuitous witch-hunt to nail blame; he wanted no character assassination of individual Labor members; but, equally, he wanted no whitewash. He insisted that we analyse every aspect of the campaign but that it be done positively and constructively.

Over the months we worked on that review I saw something of the spirit and leadership which during a lifetime of struggle had endeared Jack to his thousands of union and political constituents. I was drawn to his humour, his honesty and to his heart. He was often called ‘big Jack’. He was massively shouldered, but neither his height nor his thick set build seemed to me to warrant that name. However, very quickly I realised that it was not just his physique that was big: it was his determination, his loyalty, his straight-forward approach, his fighting spirit, his sense of what was fair and decent—his commitment. He was big hearted. That is why he was called ‘big Jack’.

Following those early meetings I had the honour of working with Jack after we won back Government in 1982. His relationship with Bannon was the best example I have ever witnessed of political team work, and as a staff member in the team I found it inspirational. Whether in the parliamentary Party, in the Party as a whole, or in the Centre Left as well as among the unions and the community, Jack’s loyalty and team play was exemplary. I grew to love Jack over the

years. I admired his open mind and curiosity for new ideas. I envied his family unity. We shared the pleasure of barracking for the Redlegs. Most of all I respected his integrity, judgment and sense of fair play. In my tribe he was an elder. Jack will live on as a role model for all of us.

The letter is signed ‘Ron Slee’. Speaking for myself, Jack Wright had many great strengths: courage, honesty, loyalty, persistence, commitment, optimism, judgment, vision, courtesy, charm, compassion, modesty, an understanding of people and a big helping of common-sense. He used all of these attributes to great effect to enrich our lives and help make South Australia a better place for all.

Dad’s funeral brought together his great web of mates and his family. We are very proud that Dad had a State funeral, but we are also proud that so many people were able to express their love and respect for him. We thank South Australia for this honour bestowed. Dad would have been very proud of his send-off and would probably say something like, ‘Not bad for an old shearer.’ Jack Wright is the most wonderful person I have ever met, and I have not the slightest doubt that he will remain the greatest human being I will ever know. Aren’t I lucky that Jack Wright is my father!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services): I also pay tribute to Jack Wright. What a marvellous word picture Michael Wright painted of Jack in the House today. As someone who was shadow Minister to Jack—and very much just a shadow—I would have to say that what he said truly paints exactly what Jack was like. He was larger than life, both in stature and in character. He was one of the great characters of the Labor Party of the 1970s, particularly from a Labor background, with people such as Des Corcoran, Hugh Hudson and Geoff Virgo. As a very green shadow Minister for Labor I sat for three years looking at Jack and trying to respond to him in this House. In many ways no-one taught me more about industrial relations than Jack did—not always agreeing, in fact invariably disagreeing, but his knowledge, his understanding and his commitment to the workers made me appreciate that I had to change my thinking in many areas.

I want to pay tribute to Jack’s commitment, first, to the Australian Workers Union, and most importantly to the workers, but also to South Australia. He was one of those great labour figures: the sort of person with whom you would shake hands on an issue after you had disagreed, and he would stay true to his word. You would go to the billiard room when you had a major problem for a constituent, and you would talk to Jack over a game of billiards. He invariably won, although I think I can recall once having the honour of beating him. And I think I lost my issue on that occasion. But you would play your game of billiards, you would bring up your two or three problems and you would solve them. And that was to the great benefit of the people of South Australia.

Michael mentioned certain pieces of legislation, including the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. I can recall hour after hour arguing with Jack in this place about different clauses. He had a passion and a vision of what he would like to achieve in that legislation, and he reformed that legislation very significantly. Then there was the area of workers compensation. One area with which he had great difficulty—and I am sure my colleague sitting alongside me appreciates this—was that of shopping hours. I also had great difficulties with shopping hours. I do not think there has been any Minister for Labour or Industrial Affairs who has not had difficulty with shopping hours.

On one occasion I can recall coming out of a deadlock conference. We had been arguing and negotiating to settle the issues for seven or eight hours over several days. Finally, we reached what I thought was a better than reasonable compromise, and I can recall Jack shaking hands on it. Although we had disagreed pretty strongly with each other, I think that each of us appreciated the other's viewpoint at the end of that conference. He was passionate about people and their needs, and that was his great love and what he committed his parliamentary and public life to. Today I want to pay tribute to him. Michael put down a superb record that many of us will cherish, and my special thoughts go to him, his mother and the family.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): I want to add my condolences and support the remarks of both Michael Wright and the Premier about Jack, and to extend our condolences on behalf of the Opposition to Norma, Michael, Meredith and the kids. Jack Wright was the first South Australian politician I met. I had been recruited from New Zealand by Jack's close friend throughout his life, Phil Bentley, who was head of the Industrial Democracy Unit of the Premier's Department. Jack was the co-Minister. Phil got me over to South Australia and very shortly afterwards I met Jack in one of the pubs in Peterborough. I say 'one of the pubs' in Peterborough because after that trip I was always sure that there were eight pubs in Peterborough: I think there were four but I went round twice!

Jack instilled in all of us who met him an extraordinary generosity towards people, particularly towards young people. Jack would embrace, nurture, encourage and support those people who were interested in the Labor Party and the labour movement. Later, I spent three years working for Jack as his staffer in opposition as well as working for John Bannon. There were many hours of work, but every Friday there would be a famous lunch. Over the years those lunches involved all sorts of people, including Bob Hawke and, obviously, Jack's great friend Mick Young, whom he had met in June 1953 while shearing in Broken Hill. There was an extraordinary collection of colourful people, including bookies, people from the Public Service and journalists, and Jack would tell the stories of the labour movement and the Labor Party.

It is a very important process in any political Party that endures, as the ALP has, over 100 years to know the history, the traditions and the values. Jack Wright deserves enormous credit not only for trusting people but also for encouraging them and giving them his support and generosity. Michael has eloquently detailed Jack's record in government, and in industrial relations he is absolutely right. If you asked Ian MacPhee, the former Federal Liberal Minister for Industrial Relations, he would be the first to pay tribute to Jack Wright's contribution to arbitration and conciliation. Clive Jenkins, who was the President of the British Trade Union Congress, had an enormous love and regard for Jack Wright.

Jack Wright was greatly respected not just in South Australia but also interstate and overseas. I remember him telling me how he had been booed the first time he spoke to employers about industrial democracy, about involving workers in decisions that affect their lives, and recognising that not only shareholders but also workers make an investment in a company or enterprise. A couple of years later he heard the same employers talking about the need to involve the workers in turning round companies in difficulty. Again, it was Jack Wright with Don Dunstan who were the national

pioneers in that movement about ideas and concepts that are now accepted by modern management.

Michael mentioned the SUR Scheme (the State Unemployment Relief Scheme). If you go round country South Australia to Port Augusta, Whyalla or Coober Pedy as I did in May with Lynn Breuer, they were talking during that visit about what Jack had done for Coober Pedy by using money from the SUR scheme. There was one underpinning value in all the things that Jack did; that is, jobs were the core of the Labor Party. The Labor Party was about jobs, but it was also about giving the children of working class people the opportunity to make the most of their God-given potential. Time and again in countless different ways, Jack, through a variety of his portfolios and in his work in the Labor Party and through the AWU, was involved in that struggle.

The other point made was Jack's loyalty. At those lunches sometimes there were blues with people, but Jack did not hold a grudge. If there was a blue, Jack would sort it out. The one thing that he would not tolerate was someone who broke their word. He would say to a public servant, 'We are going to do that to assist this industry (or infrastructure or town) because I made the commitment to do so'. However, if someone broke their commitment to Jack or ratted on him in any way, that was the one thing that was never forgiven.

Another area that has not been mentioned is small business. Jack played an absolutely pivotal part for the Opposition between 1979 and 1982 as John Bannon's Deputy in rebuilding the Labor Party and in returning Labor to government. Jack was also shadow Minister for Small Business. It was not an area that at first he welcomed but, when he went out and talked to people, he realised that he was dealing with battlers in the same way and he became a huge champion for small business. It was Jack Wright's idea, by the way, to establish the South Australian Small Business Corporation, which still endures as the business centre in this State.

Certainly when a dispute or problems occurred during Don Dunstan's Government, Don would say to industry, the unions and Ministers, 'Go and see Jack Wright', because Jack Wright had the commonsense, commitment and fortitude to sort things out. I also want to pay tribute to Michael's wife, Meredith, who, at Jack's funeral, recounted his favourite poem, 'The Old Unionist' by Henry Lawson which, I think, finishes with the following words:

But I've been Union twenty years,
And I'm too old to 'rat'.

Jack Wright was a big South Australian. 'Big Jack' was big in every way. All of us are better for having known him and our State has been honoured and graced by his presence in our community.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Bragg): It is a privilege for me today to say a few words in this tribute to Jack Wright. We differed significantly in our views on industrial relations and particularly on matters relating to workers compensation. However, we did have one thing in common and that was the view that, whatever the legislation, it had to be fair and reasonable. As I said, Jack and I differed in the way that the legislation should be implemented but, at the end, we in this place would all have to recognise that it was Jack Wright who introduced our current workers compensation scheme. Whilst that scheme has been modified many times over the past few years, the basic fundamentals remain and it is a tribute to Jack that the scheme was set up.

I would have to agree with everything that Michael said about his father in terms of his word, his trustworthiness and his ability to talk to individuals who had absolutely diametrically opposed views. Jack had one major fault in that he barracked for Norwood. Those of us who did not barrack for Norwood—and it is a bit like barracking for Port Adelaide—did not like Norwood very much because it always did so well. Jack and I had a standing bet in that, every time Central Districts played Norwood, the loser would buy the \$5 lottery ticket. We would laugh that one day the newspaper headline would read, ‘Ingerson and Wright win lotto’, but it never occurred.

I spent three years with Jack on the South Australian National Football League’s Retention Committee. During those three years I got to know him as a person and not as a politician. We would laugh after the meetings about the politics of football, commenting that it was easy in the Parliament compared with this game where we were trying to help so-called football politicians. It is interesting that, when we look at other parts of our community, we see the politics of life: it applies not only to this place but right through our whole life.

Michael knows that I have one regret and that is that I was not able to see Jack in his last week as I had planned. Jack was a very good golfing friend of mine. He would always beat me because his handicap was grossly higher than it should have been—but many people know that that happens to a lot of golfers. Jack was a good bloke and I liked him for that. Michael, Judy and I pass on our best wishes and personal condolences to Norma, to you and to the rest of the family.

Mr FOLEY (Hart): I first offer my sincere condolences and those of my wife, Cathy, and my family to Norma, Michael, Meredith, Alexandra and Victoria. In the mid 1980s I developed a friendship with Michael Wright, who had just commenced working for my local Federal member of Parliament, Mick Young. I was soon to meet Jack and Norma Wright who, over the years ahead, became close personal friends of my wife, Cathy, and me. Whilst I had watched and admired Jack Wright from afar in my early years in the Labor Party, it was quite another thing to know the man personally and to become his friend.

Much has been said by people who have known Jack for longer than I, and by many who have been a part of his long and distinguished political career, both in the union movement and in Labor politics. However, my experience with Jack was special to me in that over the years I knew Jack he seemed to me to be more interested in my career and my views on politics than in discussing his own career and experiences. Jack was extraordinary in that he was someone who had an enormous body of political expertise and knowledge but was nearly always more interested in my views and opinions than in giving his own.

That was not to say that there were not the odd moments when he simply had to express a view and, boy, when he did, did you know it. He would sometimes ring me at home at times of political controversy, not to give advice but simply to ask my views and to discuss the political issue at hand. For someone like myself, whose involvement, experience and career in Labor politics was but a shadow of Jack’s, that was really something quite special. He had a genuine interest in the views of others: to me that was Jack’s special quality. Here was this political icon of local Labor politics keenly seeking the views of someone so new to Labor. It was an

insight into what made Jack such a great Labor person, a great politician and a great friend to me and my family.

I will miss the opportunity to talk with Jack: it was not always about politics, as Jack was a strong Norwood supporter and would always love to have a crack at Port Adelaide. I know that I am a better person for having known and learnt from Jack. If all of us leave this Parliament with the same record, achievement and personal standing in the community as did Jack Wright, we will all have made a truly great mark in this Parliament. I was honoured to have been asked by Norma and Michael to help carry Jack to his final resting place. Jack is now reunited with his great mate, Mick Young. Cathy, Ryan, Ben and I are so fortunate to have been his friend.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): I join with other members in paying my respects to the late Jack Wright. I extend my sympathy to his wife, Norma, and especially to you, Michael, to your wife Meredith and to your family. I appreciate that you have lost a loving father and grandfather—‘Gramps’—and quite clearly you have lost a very supportive and close mate. Much has been said about Jack in this House and in another place, and I wish to share a couple of reminiscences. When I came into Parliament in 1982, Jack was just commencing his career as the new Deputy Premier. As the Hon. Carolyn Pickles said recently in another place:

Some of us remember Jack as a figure of whom we were a bit fearful.

As a new member I was in that category, but I slowly saw another side of Jack. I asked my first question of Jack in his role as Minister for Labour and Industry in March 1983, some four months after I had come into the House of Assembly. My question related to an issue in my electorate concerning cleaning contractors of Government offices and the fact that they had to join a union. As I had asked Jack to review the legislation and abolish compulsory unionism, Jack could have taken me to the cleaners, but he did not. Instead, he commenced his answer as follows:

The honourable member is relatively new in this place and, therefore, I will give him a reply that I may not give to other members.

He proceeded to detail the then Government’s policy and, surprise, surprise, he did not agree to my request to review the legislation. I was interested to hear the Minister for Human Services comment a little earlier that when Jack was Minister for Labour and Industry he was somewhat green in his shadow portfolio. In fact, in looking back at my question I notice that Jack said:

All major employers in South Australia—and when I say ‘all’ I mean all—now have preference clauses for unionists.

The then shadow Minister (Hon. D.C. Brown) interjected, ‘Absolute rubbish!’ To that Jack responded:

There might be one and one only that you could name. As we are well aware, most employers offer preference in an occupation to unionists.

On another occasion I had the problem of a new engineering firm in my electorate being hassled by Department of Labour and Industry safety inspectors, who wanted shields and protectors on most of the machinery. The employer had five employees and, as I said to Jack, if the safety standards had had to be implemented in the following three to six months, most of them would have had to be put off because the employer could not have afforded the cost of the changes. Jack asked me to leave it with him and when I went to see

him again he posed this question: 'John, what is the majority in your electorate?' I said, 'Several thousand votes.' He asked, 'Can't you afford to lose one or two?' I thought for a moment and said 'No.' To his credit, Jack waived the safety requirements for a further six months but he said to me, 'John, if an accident happens on site during the extended six months, you realise that I as Minister will have to accept full blame.' It left a lump in my throat and I will never forget Jack for his help in this and many other matters. Rest in peace Jack Wright.

Mr De LAINE (Price): I will make a brief contribution to this condolence motion and pay my respects to the late Hon. Jack Wright AO. Jack was a unique person, having come up through the ranks of the trade union movement. He was a long-time member of the Australian Workers Union, having joined when he was a shearer. He became an organiser with this union and progressed through the ranks to become Secretary and President. His contribution to the trade union movement and particularly to the AWU was enormous. Jack was a very capable and tough trade union official but, at the same time, he was very compassionate towards his members and their families. If, for whatever reason, a member or their family fell on lean times, Jack, ably assisted by his devoted wife, Norma, would get together a hamper of food and other of life's necessities and take it to them, even though, at times, it was many kilometres away. He was a true, dedicated worker who had great compassion and love for his fellow workers.

Jack decided that he could do more for the workers of South Australia and their families in the State Parliament, so he nominated and was successful in gaining preselection for the Australian Labor Party for the seat of Adelaide. He was elected to the South Australian Parliament as the member for Adelaide on 13 July 1971, a position he was to hold for the next 14 years. I will not go through the other achievements of Jack and the portfolios he held because that has been more than adequately covered. Jack retired from the Parliament at the 1985 election because of ill health and commenced what was to be 13 years of well earned retirement. A decision had been taken in 1984 for Jack to contest the safe seat of Price on the retirement of George Whitten. He was preselected as the ALP candidate for Price for the 1985 election but ill health forced his early retirement. I felt very honoured to gain preselection and to take Jack's place as the ALP candidate for Price.

Jack was a tough politician, as he was a tough union official, and an excellent Deputy to John Bannon. I had enormous respect for Jack and thoroughly enjoyed discussing issues with him during his years of retirement. I pay tribute to the enormous contribution made by Jack to the Parliament, the trade union movement and the people of South Australia, especially the working-class people. He will be greatly missed. I offer my sincere condolences and those of the ALP Caucus members to Norma, Michael, Meredith and grand daughters, Alexandra and Victoria.

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I wish to pay tribute to Jack Wright and to say a few words in support of the condolence motion. However, I bring a slightly different perspective from that of many of the members who have spoken in this House and the other Chamber. While many members opposite knew Jack from their days in the labour movement and the Labor Party, and a number of members from both sides of the House knew him from his

parliamentary activities and service in this place, it was during my time as a journalist and as a political reporter that I came to know him. There is absolutely no doubt that he was a big man of real presence and was certainly a very skilled political operator in the cause of the Australian Labor Party. He would often go to great lengths to convince those of us who were reporting on politics in those days of the virtues of the labour movement and the Labor Party, and it was in his attempts in those causes that we established what I would call a very good working relationship.

I would have to say that I agree with so many of the things that Michael has said but, as journalists, many of us were subjected to a very wicked sense of humour and shocking pranks at times, but it would not be appropriate for me to relay some of them to the House. However, I put on the record one particular time when, I fondly recall, Jack and his old shearing mate came to my rescue. Both Jack and Mick Young had to vouch for me. I had been assigned by Channel 7 to cover the State Conference of the Australian Labor Party following the defeat in 1979. I was held up at the door by a very belligerent union official and Jack and Mick saw me standing there trying to put my case. Jack came over and said, 'I will let you in kid, but you have to show me your financial membership of the AJA.' Fortunately, I happened to have it. I showed it to him and he checked it thoroughly. Mick said, 'Yeah, well, we will let you in but we will sit each side of you to make sure your report is good tonight.'

They then went on to tell me that I was definitely there on trial and, if my report did not suit, I might find it difficult to get in the following year. I was then lectured about the information I needed to learn about covering Labor Party conferences. That learning curve had to be conducted, in preference, at the Colac Hotel, during which time I was to be instructed in the ways of the trade union movement, the value of union membership and the need for workers' rights.

As many members have said, above all else Jack was two particular things: a great family man and a great Labor man. I note that the Hon. Robert Lucas and the Hon. Carolyn Pickles in another place spoke of his great support for his wife and his family and for Michael and his family. I am sure, as we have all said, that Jack would have been very proud of seeing Michael sitting where he is, and I join so many other members of this House in paying tribute to Jack. Vale.

Mr CLARKE (Ross Smith): I also offer my condolences and those of my family to Norma and Michael Wright on the death of Jack Wright. I first met Jack in 1969 in the Cumberland Arms Hotel in Waymouth Street. It was just after the Federal election in October of that year when the late Senator Don Cameron had been elected to a casual vacancy in the Senate and Jack was to succeed him as the Secretary of the Australian Workers Union.

Michael Wright in his contribution referred to the small influence of the AWU within the ALP. As all of us within the ALP would know, the AWU is pivotal within the ALP not only now but was even more so during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It would be fair to say that the Dunstan decade could not have taken place without the active support and encouragement of the AWU and its leadership through people such as Jack Wright, both when he was Secretary of the AWU and when he entered the Parliament, first as a backbencher and then as a Minister. The influence and role of that union, and in particular of Jack Wright, was such that it was able to buttress the reformist policies of the Dunstan decade and to get many of his policies through the various Party forums of

the Labor Party, which, at various times in its history, particularly in the social area, has been somewhat conservative. I do not think it is an overstatement by any stretch of the imagination to say that, without people such as Jack Wright supporting Don Dunstan, many of his policies, which were not only electorally popular as it turned out but so right, could not have been enacted.

As a former union official, I know how hard Jack worked in the area of industrial relations reforms, and that has already been referred to. I want to deal in particular with workers compensation and rehabilitation. Without doubt he was the father of the current legislation. He had an overriding ambition to secure justice for injured workers. Under the lottery system of the common law processes that applied prior to the 1986 Act coming into force, it was okay if a worker happened to be on the receiving end of a good payout, but for many workers that was not the case and they were left with financial insecurity.

In addition, Jack Wright was also keen on occupational health and safety and the responsibility of an employer to provide a safe working environment for all of his or her employees. Essentially he was also the father of this State's occupational health and safety legislation, which dramatically improved the legislative requirements on employers to provide a safe and healthy working environment and gave enhanced rights to elected representatives of workers to stop a job in an unsafe working environment without detriment to themselves.

Jack Wright had to overcome a lot of opposition to get his legislation through. He was not in Parliament when it was eventually carried but, prior to that legislation being carried, he had done the necessary groundwork to ensure its passage. It required an enormous amount of negotiation and debate within the forums of the Labor Party and in the trade union movement, in particular. A number of entrenched interests in the Labor Party did not want to see the system born, some for good reason as they saw it, and others who ascribed monetary benefit to themselves as good enough reason for it.

Jack had to battle not only the natural conservatism of the Liberal Party but also a lot of reluctance within some sections of the Labor Party and the trade union movement itself to see this legislation enacted. Notwithstanding the various atrocities that the present Liberal Government perpetuated on WorkCover, the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act stands as the best in Australia. It could and should be better, but that is not Jack Wright's responsibility or fault. He brought in the best scheme in Australia, and all of us within the Labor Party would want to return that legislation to its original concepts.

In closing, there are just two further points that I would like to make. When the Labor Party in this State lost the election in 1979, it could very easily have gone the way of the British Labour Party after its election loss, when it fragmented and adopted policies and preselected candidates that would have made it unelectable for a generation. The Labor Party in this State did not, and that was because people such as Jack Wright and others whom he was able to rally behind him ensured that there was sufficient support in the Labor Party to repel the type of reaction resulting in political Parties from an electoral loss, that is, where they go from one side of the spectrum to the other, destabilising the Party and allowing their political opponents to profit. The actions and influence of Jack Wright—even though by that time, as I said, he had been outside the Australian Workers Union for just over a decade—and that of his union and others, ensured that the

Labor Party in South Australia did not go the way of the British Labour Party in the early 1980s, and for that we can all be grateful.

My final point is a personal one. Notwithstanding his own difficulties and his own health problems, the last time I spoke to Jack was at the opening of Michael's electorate office very shortly before his father died. His only questions to me concerned my health, how I was going and wishing me the best, and for that I am very grateful. Michael's mother Norma, on the day of the funeral, with all the considerations that she had to put up with and all the emotions that she was going through on the day of the funeral of her husband of 46 years, had the time to pull me aside, kiss me on the cheek and wish me the best. That is the type of people they are and for that I am eternally grateful.

Ms KEY (Hanson): The first time I met Jack Wright I was a teenager and I was very much the junior member of a deputation for the Women's Electoral Lobby to talk about equal opportunity legislation with my local member, Jack Wright. Firstly, Jack Wright questioned us—the lobbying went both ways—and I found his questions of me very interesting. He wanted to know what my credentials were. He was very pleased to hear that I came from Port Adelaide and that I was shop steward for my relevant union. He wanted to know what my father did for a living but he also wanted to know what my mother did for a living and whether they were trade union members as well. His other question was that, if I had not already joined the Labor Party, when was I going to do so and become an active member in his sub-branch. That was my introduction to Jack Wright.

He went on to be someone who always asked what I was doing, what work I was interested in, and what sort of political issues I thought were important, not only as a sub-branch member, which I later became, but also as a fellow trade union person at union meetings. For me, he was one of the heroes of the labour movement. He did not talk just to men in the labour movement: he also made time to talk to young people, and at that time some of the younger women were starting to take their place in positions in the labour movement in South Australia.

He was very interested in making sure that, when he had the opportunity to appoint people to committees (and that was before Governments thought of the idea as a serious proposition), women should be appointed to those committees. As a result, I am honoured to say that I was on the Community Employment Program committee, which was very successful in job creation, which was close to his heart. I was also the only woman on the steering committee that conducted an inquiry into occupational health and safety, in 1984. Jack Wright also made sure that the skills and commitment to workers of a number of other women were appreciated in different consultations and committees that the Labor Government set up.

Jack Wright was very interesting. I worked at the Working Women's Centre for a number of years in the early 1980s and, after he heard that our office had been broken into, Jack came around the next day with some locks, and said, 'I think I have a ticket that will cover doing this, but I will replace the locks on your doors so that you do not get hassled again.' I had had a conversation with him the night before at the Trades Hall bar and told him that our office had been broken into and what a problem it was. He made sure that he was around the next day to fix up the security of the Working Women's Centre.

He continued to be a great supporter of women in the labour movement, and I know that he was one of the people who explained to me the importance of lobbying, the importance of networking and the importance of ginger groups. As much as he did not obviously or publicly make a big deal about the Workers Health Action Group, which in those days was made up of a number of professionals in the health and safety area as well as trade unionists and workers, he made sure that we understood what was happening and invited us to participate in the process of forming what is now very important legislation in the workers compensation and occupational health and safety areas.

Jack's position on industrial democracy and the idea of cooperative work was way ahead of its time, and I was certainly impressed with the information he made available to us in the labour movement so that we, too, could find out about some of his international experiences and study he had done on some of his field trips. He was always a supporter of progressive equal opportunity legislation and, again, he quietly made sure that those of us who were concerned about this got the support, information and resources we needed to be successful lobbyists.

My relationship with Jack has been a long one. He has always been a supporter. I have never felt patronised by him. As Kevin Foley has already said, rather than give you advice, he would always discuss issues with you and encourage you to come up with your own views on solutions. He had an amazing style in that way. Also, when I became the shadow industrial affairs spokesperson for our Party, he gave me some terrific advice—and in this case it was advice—regarding how I could survive. He gave me some information about shopping hours, which has stood me in good stead. I will not reveal that information now, but I will do so in the coming weeks when we debate that issue. As I said, my friendship with Jack Wright spanned a long period, and I feel that he is one of the greats of our movement. I really will miss him. I would like to thank him for his input. I think he is still here with us somewhere. My condolences go to his family and to the labour movement, because we will all miss him greatly.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I rise in support of the motion and express my condolences to Mrs Wright, Michael and his family. I was overseas at the time of Jack's death. Very little news gets through, but this news was sent to me by my Secretary. I said to my wife, 'This is a grey day,' because Jack was a big part of all our lives, particularly of young politically active people in our early days. Howard Venning, my father and Jack Wright were opposite in every way—they were on opposite sides of the spectrum and from opposite sides of the fence. They first met on a shearing board. I was there when Jack appeared to check the tickets of the shearers. My father and I both knew that one of the shearers did not have a ticket. The games that were played then will always stick in my mind because Dad was trying to protect the shearer. The shearer had an excuse to leave to count his sheep but Jack was persistent to see the tickets. In the end, they came to a compromise that the shearer would get his ticket, although I am not sure that he ever did. Of course, later in life Jack Wright and my father served in this place together, again on opposite sides.

As a young person in those days, I remember that Jack often came into our home, and on at least one occasion he stayed overnight, whilst he was in the area in his capacity as a Minister looking into water supply problems, and so on.

Dad always referred to Jack as Big Jack and, when things were not too flash, it was Big Bad Jack. They got on so well—genuine friends. Dad had many friends opposite, but there are two the memory of whom sticks in my mind—there was Jack and the late Hugh Hudson. Dad always said that Jack was the most reliable and consistent member opposite. He played it hard but he played it fair, and he was a good friend of all his colleagues in this place.

I particularly appreciated Michael's speech today. I know how difficult it is to make such a speech, because I had to do the same thing here 2½ years ago. It is a unique opportunity—indeed, a privilege—for you and I, Michael, that we can speak in this place on our fathers' behalf. As I said, it is very difficult, and you handled it well. As I said to Michael, Jack and Howard were opposites but they got on very well, both inside and outside this place. I hope that the same thing can be said of Michael and me when our political careers are finished. Again, I express the sympathies of this House and of our families to the Wright family. A great South Australian is no longer with us. Vale, Jack Wright.

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): I would also like to speak briefly on the passing of the Hon. Jack Wright. As has already been said, Jack had a great love for the Norwood Football Club, and I had the great privilege of knowing Jack for many years—for some 10 years when I was on council and particularly for the 6½ years that I was Mayor of Kensington and Norwood. Jack and Norma were always at the Norwood home games, and they always sat in the same seats in the western stand. Going to the football at the Norwood oval will not be the same without seeing Jack. We spent many happy hours discussing the great Norwood Football Club, the efforts of coaches Neil Balme and, more recently, Peter Rhode and, of course, the great Garry McIntosh whom we both admired greatly. The great thing about Garry McIntosh—apart from his good looks—was his loyalty to Norwood.

Some members opposite, including the Premier and the member for Bragg, who were guests at the Norwood oval knew that the Mayor's parlour was always the place to be. We often had more people in the Mayor's parlour than we had on the oval. The catering was very good and the company was great. Jack was always humble and, even though he had been the Deputy Premier of the State, he never assumed that he could go into the parlour. Even though he had an open invitation, I always had to go up and drag him down there. As I have indicated, we spent many happy hours talking about Norwood and sometimes, when Mick and Mary Young were there as well, we had some great sparring times about the differences between the Norwood and Port Adelaide Football Clubs.

Jack was a great supporter of mine. When I was agonising about whether I should become involved in politics, the council was going through its amalgamation and I thought that that really was where I should be and did not really think that I wanted to be a politician. Jack knew that I had a healthy disrespect for politicians and the way they behaved. He had great confidence in me and, even when I had finally decided to run for Norwood and the polls were not looking very good—even the member for Spence, Michael Atkinson, had made a bet that I had no hope of winning Norwood—Jack Wright said, 'Don't worry mate; you'll be right. You show those bastards that you can do it.' I was glad that I was able to show Jack that I could do it, and also the week before that Norwood won the premiership.

Mr Atkinson: Whom did you beat?

Ms CICCARELLO: We beat Port Adelaide, and it was great that we were able to rejoice in that premiership. Michael, to you and Norma I offer my condolences, and I will always remember Jack with great fondness. Other members have expressed well their sentiments about him as a member of Parliament. He was a great South Australian, and he will be sorely missed by all of us here and particularly by the supporters of the Norwood Football Club.

The SPEAKER: I thank members for their remarks. If we could all be remembered in life the way that Jack Wright has been remembered here this afternoon, we would have all done very well indeed. I knew Jack for over 20 years. I came into Parliament in 1979 and had the pleasure of witnessing the contribution of a man who was both strong and positive yet compassionate. After that length of time in public life, you get a feeling for various individuals, to some whom you never give another thought while others you know will make an indelible impression on you, whether it be as a political opponent or simply because you believe in them. Jack also happened to be a constituent of mine for many years, and he used to thank me for my electorate newsletters and then tell me that they would hardly influence his vote, and I can understand that.

I cannot let the occasion pass without paying tribute to Jack as a figure in the community, for his work in the shearing industry, his work in public life, the change of direction he brought about in this State and the influence he had on his family, Norma, Michael and the children. I had the great privilege of presiding here during the last Address in Reply debate and, although others may not see it, it is from this position as Speaker that one can see the body language that goes on in this Chamber. I recall an observation I made when Michael Wright, as the member for Lee, stood up in this place to make his maiden speech. The body language of the old man sitting in the gallery was superb. If ever I have seen a man proud of his son, it was then. Not many of us will have the opportunity in life to have a son follow us through this place, but to be an icon in the trade union movement, and for politics to mean so much in that family, when Michael delivered that maiden speech, I can tell you that, from where I sat, Jack's body language really said it all.

Michael, would you convey to your mother and family my greatest sympathy and sincere condolences on the passing of your father. Much has been said here this afternoon and I know it has been said with great sincerity. I ask members to support the motion by standing in their places in silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 3.32 to 3.45 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

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

Ordered to be printed.

TORRENS PARADE GROUND

A petition signed by 313 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to preserve the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide as a military museum of South Australia's military history was presented by the Hon. M.D. Rann.

Petition received.

CRIME, PENALTIES

A petition signed by 207 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to introduce harsher penalties for those carrying out violent crimes against society and reinstate corporal punishment was presented by Mr Lewis.

Petition received.

SENTENCING LAWS

A petition signed by 98 residents of South Australia requesting that the House urge the Government to amend the Criminal Law (Sentencing) Act to take into account the safety of the community when sentencing convicted criminals and releasing persons under sentence of indeterminate duration was presented by Mr Meier.

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 1998.

Ordered to be printed.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Auditor-General for the year ended 30 June 1998.

Ordered that report be printed.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The SPEAKER laid on the table the 78th, 79th and 80th reports of the committee which have all been printed and published pursuant to section 17(7) of the Parliamentary Committees Act.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. J.W. Olsen)—

Auditor-General's Department—Report on the Operations of, 1997-98

Commissioner for Public Employment, Office of—Report, 1997-98

SA Public Sector Workforce Information, June 1998

Premier and Cabinet, Department of—Report, 1997-98

Promotion and Grievance Appeal Tribunal—Report of the Presiding Officer, 1997-98

Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations of 1998—

No. 2—Ministers of the Crown and Officers and Members of Parliament

No. 3—Auditor-General, Electoral Commissioner, Deputy Electoral Commissioner and Employee Ombudsman

By the Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development (Hon. R.G. Kerin)—

Agriculture, Advisory Board of—Report, 1997-98
 Dried Fruits Board of South Australia—Report, 1996-97
 Electrical Technical Regulator—Report, 1997-98
 Electricity Act—Regulations—Various
 Gas Technical Regulator—Report, 1997-98
 Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia—
 Report, 1997-98
 Soil Conservation Council—Report, 1997-98

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. Dean Brown)—

Architects Board of South Australia—
 Report, 1995
 Report, 1996
 Report, 1997
 Dental Board of South Australia—Report, 1997-98
 Development Act—
 City of Port Lincoln, Report on the Interim Operation
 of—Lincoln Cove Plan Amendment Report
 City of Prospect, Report on the Interim Operation of—
 Local Heritage Places Plan Amendment
 Enfield General Cemetery Trust—Report, 1996-97
 Highways Act—Lease of Properties—Transport SA
 National Road Transport Commission—Report,
 1997-98
 Regulations under the following Acts—
 Development—Private Certifiers
 Highways—Highways Fund
 Housing and Urban Development (Administrative
 Arrangements)—Aboriginal Housing Authority
 Motor Vehicles—Drivers Licences
 Road Traffic—Declaration of Hospitals
 South Australian Health Commission—Prescribed
 Hospitals and Health Centres
 Third Party Premiums Committee—Determinations of

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

Classification Council, South Australian—Report,
 1997-98
 Courts Administration Authority—Report, 1997-98
 Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal—Report,
 1997-98
 Police, Commissioner of, South Australia—
 Report, 1997-98
 Statistical Review, 1997-98
 Public Prosecutions, Director of—Report, 1997-98
 Regulations under the following Acts—
 Coroners—Coroner Daily Fees
 Dangerous Substances—Principle
 Liquor Licensing—Long Term—Moonta—Port
 Hughes
 Police Act—Principle
 Subordinate Legislation—Postponement of Expiry
 South Australian Water Corporation—Corporation Charter
 State Electoral Office—
 Report, 1997-98
 Statistical Returns for General Elections—11 October
 1997
 Surveyors, Australian Institution of,—South Australian
 Division Inc—Report, 1997

By the Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training (Hon. M.R. Buckley)—

Budget Results, 1997-98
 Construction Industry Training Board—Report, 1997-98
 ETSA Corporation—
 Charter, 1998-99
 Report, 1997-98
 Funds SA—Report, 1997-98
 Gaming Machines Act—
 Liquor and Gaming Commissioner—Report, 1997-98
 State Supply Board—Report, 1997-98
 Gaming Supervisory Authority—Report, 1997-98
 Government Captive Insurance Corporation, South
 Australian—Report, 1997-98
 Government Financing Authority, South Australian—
 Report, 1997-98
 Motor Accident Commission—Report, 1997-98

Optima Energy—Report, 1997-98
 Regulations under the following Acts—
 Education—Teachers Registration
 Petroleum Products Regulation—Subsidy Rate
 Public Corporations—
 ETSA Transmission Corp.
 Treasurer
 Southern State Superannuation—Various
 Technical and Further Education—Principle
 Tobacco Products Regulation—Smoking in Dining or
 Café Areas
 Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme—Report, 1997-98
 SA Generation Corporation—Charter, 1998-99
 Superannuation Board, South Australian—Report,
 1997-98
 Treasury and Finance, Department of—Report, 1997-98
 University of South Australia—Report, 1997

By the Minister for Industry and Trade (Hon. I.F. Evans)—

Athletics Stadium, South Australian—Charter, 1998-99
 District Council—By-Laws—Southern Mallee
 No. 1—Permits and Penalties
 No. 2—Moveable Signs
 No. 3—Council Land
 No. 4—Caravans and Camping
 No. 5—Creatures
 Local Government Act—Amendment of Rules—
 East Waste Management Authority Inc.
 Southern Eyre Peninsula Controlling Authority
 Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia—
 Report, 1997-98
 Local Government Grants Commission of South
 Australia—Report, 1997-98
 Regulations under the following Acts—
 City of Adelaide—Elections and Polls
 Local Government—Local Government
 Superannuation Board—
 Approved Authority
 Members Salary
 Racing Act—Rules of Racing—Harness Racing—Driving
 Tactics

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. M.K. Brindal)—

Local Government Boundary Reform Board—Report,
 September 1998.

DRIVING, DRUGS

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I lay on the table a ministerial statement about drugs and driving made today in another place by the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning.

STATE BUDGET

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training): I lay on the table a statement about the 1997-98 budget results made today in another place by the Treasurer.

QUESTION TIME

BERRI FRUIT JUICE COMPANY

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Does the Premier stand by his statement that he had no prior knowledge of the plans of the Berri fruit juice company to move its headquarters and 42 management jobs from Adelaide to Melbourne despite receiving a \$2 million State Government incentive package just 10 days earlier, given that both the company's chief and the Premier's own Industry

Minister have said that the relocation of Berri's headquarters was canvassed during negotiations between Berri and the Government?

In a radio interview on 16 October, the Premier stated that he had no knowledge of these job losses. On the same day, Berri chief executive John Cook was asked how long the Premier had known about the move of the head office to Melbourne. He said:

'We've actually been working with the South Australian and Victorian Governments for a number of months. . .'

In a media report of 17 October, the Industry Minister said that the Government had attempted to offer additional assistance to the company to keep the 42 jobs in South Australia. He said, 'We didn't win.'

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: When I did the interview with Jeremy Cordeaux on 5DN, he asked me whether I was aware of a statement that had been reported in Victoria of a major South Australian company shifting from this State, and I said 'No', that I was not aware of any such statement. He did not mention Berri in his interview at all. When I got off the phone, in fact, I rang back to Australia and asked someone to make some inquiries for me. In relation to Berri, yes, we did know. The point is that it was reported in the *Murray Pioneer* in December 1997 and the *Advertiser* carried a report in relation to it in April 1998—hardly secretive. What this Government did is pro-actively stop the shift of major job opportunities from Berri in the Riverland to interstate. Yes, we did invest a couple of million dollars and, yes, we have saved most of the manufacturing jobs in Berri. Instead of nitpicking, opposing, criticising and carping, I would have thought that this Opposition—

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: —would say, 'Well done: you've actually saved Berri and manufacturing jobs to put in a production line that will create export markets for South Australia.' That is what we have achieved. As for the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition, I want to go back and repeat that, when I was asked on that program whether I knew anything about a major company shifting, my answer was 'No', I did not. Cordeaux did not mention to me at all during that interview that it was related to Berri or any other specific company. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to check the accuracy of that—although I am sure he does not because it destroys his question—they are the facts of the matter.

I repeat that that incident was reported twice and, if we are to lose 15 jobs in a head office in Adelaide versus a couple of hundred jobs in Berri, I will take the couple of hundred jobs in Berri and sustain them every day. And I make no apology at all for investing \$2 million of taxpayers' funds to ensure that the Berri manufacturing operation continues in this State and that employment in that facility continues in this State.

ETSA, INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): Will the Premier advise the House of the issues that have led to the stop work meeting being held today by employees of ETSA and Optima, and will he further advise whether the stop work meeting will result in any disruption to electricity supplies to consumers?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I will take the second part of the question first. The answer is 'No'; there will be no disruption to power supplies. In saying that, I want to acknowledge that

the unions involved in representing the work force have cooperated with management in making arrangements for the stop work meeting to ensure that that does not occur. I thank them for that and acknowledge that that is a responsible course. In relation to the issues that are being discussed at the meetings, I advise the House that over several months negotiations have been held involving representatives of the Government, the management of the utilities and the unions that represent the employees. The purpose of these meetings was to reach agreement on the terms and conditions of employment that would apply at the time the new owner took control of the various disaggregated companies. In the main, the key issues discussed during those negotiations have been resolved although, clearly, on a couple of points there remains disagreement.

I would like briefly to explain the proposals that the Government has put forward. The Government has sought to protect the interests of the work force through a combination of a certified agreement and the proposed legislation for the sale of the utilities—and they have to be taken together. We have agreed that each of the companies will enter into a certified agreement under the Federal Workplace Relations Act prior to sale, which will include the details of the agreements that have been reached. It is proposed that the agreement will run for two years post sale.

However, under the provisions of the Federal Workplace Relations Act, the agreement will continue until it is renegotiated by the new owners, the unions and the employees. We know what the circumstances are if there is no agreement: it continues to operate. Through this method we believe that the no forced redundancy guarantee we have given to employees up to the point of sale will be continued after the sale takes place. We have also put into legislation specific arrangements concerning employees' superannuation entitlements and ensured that the terms and conditions of employment, including accrued leave entitlements such as sick leave, annual leave and long service leave, must transfer with the employee once the sale takes place.

In regard to superannuation, we have agreed to establish an electricity industry superannuation scheme to replace the existing ETSA scheme. The new arrangement will maintain existing net benefits for members, with the scheme being managed by a board, similar to the current arrangements but without Government membership. The schemes will be fully funded, provision being made in the sale and purchase agreements for the purchaser to fund over a short period their liability for the benefits already accrued. In order to ensure that employee benefits are secure with such agreement, it is intended that the Government, through the Treasurer, will enter into a deed with the Superannuation Board to provide underwriting support for the initial unfunded liability amount, to ensure that the money will be received by the Superannuation Board.

We have also agreed to a number of other points, including, for example, that there be no forced relocations and that new owners will be required to provide employment for employees with workers compensation claims at the point of sale. These arrangements have been set out in a newsletter that is being sent to all employees today by the managers of the respective disaggregated companies, and I can make available copies of that newsletter to any member who wishes further information. I was very concerned to read in the material that has been sent out to employees prior to the stop work meeting the claim that the Government is attempting to increase the sale price of the asset at the direct expense of job

security for employees. That is not true, and I have outlined both through the certified agreement and through the legislation itself that we are making sure that job security is protected.

The literature also referred to concerns on the part of the unions regarding the security of superannuation moneys. As I have outlined, a new industry superannuation scheme will be established that will ensure that employees are not disadvantaged. The scheme will be fully funded and underwritten by the Treasurer. Our principal objective has been to ensure that conditions of employment are maintained and that, importantly, security of superannuation entitlement continues after the sale. We believe that our proposed arrangements do provide job security and maintenance of benefits and conditions for employees.

CLARKS SHOES

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Premier confirm that the Clarks shoe company has received taxpayer-funded State Government assistance of as much as \$550 000, and will there be any attempt by the Government to retrieve part of this funding as a result of the company's decision to sack 64 of its workers? In 1996 the Clarks shoe company was given assistance to get the company to consolidate its Australian manufacturing operations in South Australia. The Opposition understands that the final six figure payment to Clarks occurred on 1 October this year, just 13 days before the company announced the sacking of almost one-third of its work force.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Government is negotiating with Clarks. I must say that I am somewhat disappointed at the company's policy decision. Last year in all good faith, with goodwill and conscience on behalf of the South Australian work force at Clarks—which looked like either being relocated to Victoria or substantial changes being made to the establishment—in a proactive sense we sought to protect the interests of Clarks and the jobs. I would at least ask the Opposition to give us some credit for attempting to do that. We did. We are somewhat disappointed, to say the least, at the current decision.

I will not take the issue further publicly while officers are with Clarks attempting to negotiate a position that protects, as best we can, existing jobs and the Clarks facility in South Australia. It is my understanding that as yet all payments have not been made. I stand to be corrected but I understand that perhaps one final payment is to be made. That might or might not be the case: I stand to be corrected. However, at this time officers of the department are currently negotiating with Clarks to look at its future. We do not want to take any precipitous action that might put in jeopardy other jobs within Clarks in South Australia.

First, we want to give protection to taxpayers' investments so that they get, for their investment, what we wanted, that is, job security. If not, we would look at what other provisions might be negotiated with the company to give further protection to current or existing employees post this recent policy decision. That was why last year we took on the TCF tariffs question with the Federal Government with a bit of vigour: we knew the impact on a range of companies in South Australia and employment in this State.

If the tenor of the two questions from the Opposition is, 'You are giving incentives to companies and you are losing jobs', I ask the Opposition to be at least objective. Yes, we are, and they are existing companies in South Australia. We

are using every endeavour at our disposal to legitimately and carefully invest taxpayers' money for job security as these companies go through their adjustments in meeting the global marketplace. None of us can put our hand up and stop the globalisation or internationalisation of our economies. We must assist companies in the transition to ensure that we provide greater security for jobs in South Australia. That is what we are attempting to do. If we invest a couple of million dollars in companies A, B, or C and if, at the end of the day, we are not successful, at least we have tried, and I make no apology for that.

We have tried to keep the jobs and the investment in South Australia and will continue to do so. However, we will also place some responsibility on the companies to ensure that, where we have entered into good faith with them, they act in good faith and meet the commitments on which we both signed off in the interests of South Australia.

EMPLOYMENT

Mr CONDOUS (Colton): Will the Premier and Minister for State Development outline to the House the level of investment created over the past 12 months in South Australia and how many jobs that has created? Recently the Opposition has criticised the Government for failing to attract to and keep companies in South Australia. However, recent indicators would suggest that this criticism is unwarranted.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Department of Industry and Trade, particularly during the period when the member for Bragg was Minister, has turned out for the financial year some pretty good results. The department secured 75 projects, securing new investment in this State.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Labor Party jests about this but let us look at its investment track record in the late 1980s and early 1990s when all the companies were going east. Companies were leaving us in droves. You cannot turn around the drought of companies and investment of the 1980s and early 1990s overnight. For five years this Government has pursued aggressively a strategy of attracting new private sector capital investment. In the 1997-98 year, as I have said, the investment figures look pretty good, with 75 projects secured during the year—4 600 direct jobs—and, if one translates that to associated jobs, it is a total of 12 000 direct and indirect jobs, and new private sector capital investment in this State of \$335 million. That is the sort of track record we must repeat in years to come to ensure that we tackle the level of unemployment in this State.

If we look at the first quarter of 1998-99, we see 1 644 direct jobs, approximately 3 407 jobs in total and a direct investment of \$87 million. That is a clear signpost and direction that new private sector capital investment is being put in place in South Australia. It did not happen overnight. When you negotiate with these companies, the investment does not come in in the next month. By the time you get board approval, then go through the process of locational identification, development of plans, construction of the facility and the employment of the employees, there might be a lead time of two to three years.

As a result of the work that we have been doing for five years, we are starting to see the benefits on the ground in the construction of factories and new investment taking place. I put to the House that, if members look at the economic indicators for the latter part of the last financial year and the first quarter of this financial year, they will see that they are

starting to point in the right direction for South Australia. That does not mean to say that we have not got a lot more to do—and I am the first to concede that. But, instead of the signpost going in the opposite direction, we have turned it around. It is looking prospective; more work needs to be done; and the benefits at the end of the day will be jobs for South Australians.

TELETECH

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition):

Given his answer to the previous question by the member for Colton, and given South Australia's urgent need for more jobs, can the Premier tell the House when Teletech will establish operations at Science Park and whether the company will still employ 1 000 people by 2001 as promised by the Premier in a major announcement on 9 October—just two days before the last and historic State election—and as supported by the Opposition?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: It is my understanding that negotiations are continuing, principally with the purchaser of the Australis building at Technology Park, namely, Optus.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Well, the member for Hart interjects. The member for Hart danced on the grave of Australis from the first day we put in the investment, and if there is one thing the member for Hart wanted it was for that project to fall over. Every time he had an opportunity, he would laud it up and say, 'This will collapse.' That is all that the member for Hart wanted: never mind the couple of hundred jobs out there.

Well, as a result of some good management by the departmental officers concerned—and I give them credit for this—proactively with the receivers on the Australis property, they had Optus come in to take over the asset. It was not the loss that the member for Hart kept running around the media with; it was not the loss that he wanted to anticipate for the media. It was disappointment for the member for Hart, I know; he lost a bit of a political point there, I know. But, we have been able to negotiate with the receivers as it relates to that property with Optus and a public announcement has been made in relation to that. In addition, as it relates to Teletech, negotiations have been continuing. They have been protracted negotiations, but the negotiations are still continuing.

MOTOROLA

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Bragg): Can the Premier update the House on the latest investment decision by software giant, Motorola, and any plans by the company to become involved in educational courses for software technicians? During the Premier's recent visit to the United States, the Government and Motorola signed a memorandum of understanding which will lead to the doubling of jobs at the software centre in Adelaide.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The signing of the MOU represents just what can be achieved if the Government actively pursues major companies such as this: new industry and more. When the Motorola facility at Technology Park was established, it was one of four worldwide software development centres. We secured one in South Australia. That was a very significant coup for the State.

We have seen very significant expansion and development of that facility. Coincidentally, it is the most productive of its software development centres worldwide—something like

five times more productive in Adelaide than similar facilities elsewhere in the world. It is now recognised among software engineers in Motorola as the preferred location because of the lifestyle, quality of living and low cost of living in South Australia.

Based on that, and during a visit there 10 days ago, Motorola signed a MOU which will see a doubling of the size of its facility. Under our factory built scheme, we will be negotiating the construction of a second wing which will double the size of the current facility. In addition, Motorola has taken an option on adjoining land at Technology Park; I am not sure who the owner of the land is, but it has taken an option on land next door for further expansion.

That expansion brings with it further opportunities. I will demonstrate the worth of travelling to and having discussions with senior levels of management of these companies. If a senior bureaucrat was sent to these companies, he would not get to have a meeting with the President or Vice President of Motorola—which we were able to do. During the course of lunch, they raised with us a project that they are putting in place in Korea. As a result of the shortage of software engineers worldwide, they are looking at implementing a project which will train technicians to work with the software engineers. So, you have one software engineer working with two technicians. The technicians can be high school students undertaking one year's training and then securing a job.

Motorola has told us that, if we put that scheme in place here, it will give a guarantee about the number of positions it will take at Technology Park. We would look optimistically at Motorola having close to 500 software engineers within the next three to four years. If we can match that 500 with 1 000 technicians, we will have created a new industry sector for South Australia.

A range of other companies are also having difficulty attracting software engineers, and the salary base of software engineers is therefore escalating substantially. In fact, as I understand it, to meet the requirements that exist the President of the United States will be making a presidential decree (or whatever the President does) offering citizenship to approximately 200 000 software engineers who would like to live in the United States permanently. This indicates the seriousness of the situation in the United States concerning the dearth of software engineers.

Motorola has indicated in discussions that it is prepared to look at working with the South Australian Government to implement a similar scheme here—and there is only one other location in the world. That, in an innovative sense, will give us some opportunity to create possibly up to 1 000 jobs for our school leavers. Last Thursday the Vice-President, the Minister for Industry and I—and Bob Such also joined us—had a meeting with the Education Department to examine how we might put in place the system beginning in TAFE in January next year to meet their demand. That demonstrates the value of going and talking to these people, looking at the opportunities and asking them to be partners in South Australia in developing those opportunities. In my view, that justifies the attraction of Motorola to South Australia and its expansion in this State, and long may it be so.

ELECTRICITY, PRIVATISATION

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Why has the Premier broken his unequivocal guarantees of no forced redundancies of electricity workers if privatisation goes ahead? The Premier in his previous answer failed to

address the commitment he gave to electricity workers on 17 February 1998 when he stated:

I give the clear commitment—which I will be pursuing in any sale, lease or float of the company—that there will be no forced redundancies for any employee. No forced redundancies will apply relating to the employees.

This commitment was subsequently reiterated in statements by the Premier and his senior Ministers. However, in a letter to unions dated 8 October the Premier was only prepared to state that there would be no forced redundancies for two years. The Premier's letter states:

I am not willing to consider providing the undertaking in any other form.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: What the Deputy Leader has to learn is that, if she wants to move up to take over the Leader's job, she has to be able—quickly on her feet and before coming into the Chamber—to change a question that has been typed in advance.

Mr Conlon interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: We understand this is the case. We understand that there is a little bit of to-ing and fro-ing going on. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come back to order.

Mr Conlon interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition leaves the second floor to come to Question Time with a typed question, if the first question from the Government side answers that question, it is a good idea to get another question or at least have the capacity to change the question and obtain the answer. All I say to the Deputy Leader is: 'Look at the answer to the first question in *Hansard*: it answers your question exactly.'

The SPEAKER: The member for Fisher.

Mr Conlon interjecting:

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

ADELAIDE BRIGHTON CEMENT

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher): A little more grace than some people.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: Will the Minister for Industry and Trade respond to media reports that Adelaide Brighton Cement has had to shed many staff, and can he also indicate whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to that company?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The honourable member's question gives me an opportunity to clarify the motives and the decision behind what Adelaide Brighton has announced. It is true that the company has announced a program to improve its competitiveness in the world market. Unfortunately, that will mean reducing its South Australian work force by some 60 to 80 employees, and that will be spread across the Birkenhead and Angaston plants and also some administration areas.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: No; what I will tell the member for Elder is that when you are in a global market you have to respond to that market. If the honourable member had followed the Stock Exchange or bothered to contact it about

a media release issued by the company he would be aware that the company stated:

Faced with a huge surplus in production capacity by Asian cement plants, the industry in [the whole of] Australia is fighting to maintain competitiveness. The Birkenhead division of ABCL is taking measures which are essential if we are to maintain our manufacturing capability in South Australia.

What it is really saying is that, in the long-term interests of the business, it must make some decisions that might cause some pain in the short term. Having been in business myself, I understand that sort of position having to be taken from time to time.

Importantly, this will give the company a chance to take stock and, when the surplus of the cement in the Asian market is used up, ultimately it will be in a strong position to re-enter the market. I think that is a responsible long-term view to take. Management and the unions are talking about how best to effect the redundancy program. This is an 18-month, long-term process which will allow the company to consider a very strong retraining and redeployment program for the employees, and that is a very responsible approach for the company to take. The honourable member raised the matter of Government assistance. The company received some minor financial assistance way back in 1983. It has also received a small amount of Federal money through AusIndustry in 1998. To my knowledge the company has not breached any of the terms or conditions applying to that grant.

EMPLOYMENT FORUMS

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Given the Premier's latest announcement on 19 October of a program of regional job workshops, will he tell the House what were the outcomes of the employment forums previously announced by his then Employment Minister, the member for Newland, in June last year? A media report of 17 June 1997 stated that the first employment forum was to be held in Mount Gambier in the same week during which there would be another jobs forum in the Riverland, and that eventually a series of forums would be held in the metropolitan area. An August 1997 press release from the former Minister stated that the forums would also be held in Eyre Peninsula, the Far North and the Mid North.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The initiative by the then Minister, the member for Newland, was very much appreciated in regional and country areas of South Australia. Its achievements included involving the business community with Government agencies, explaining a range of Government programs that were available to them, securing the endorsement of significant business leaders in this State and therefore producing a better understanding of the programs that were available. I have absolutely no doubt that, as a result of those forums throughout country and regional areas—as well as in the metropolitan area of Adelaide—people were better informed of the range of Government programs. We have put together a \$100 million jobs package in this budget which introduces a range of new programs. The task we had was to communicate these programs, thereby giving people encouragement and access to take them up and to employ.

The small business community in particular took up 1 000 or 1 500 positions within six or seven weeks of the program's commencement on 1 January this year. That is why we have repeated the exercise in the budget process of giving support to the tune of about \$4 000 for small business to take on an

additional employee. The task is to communicate, first, to the small business sector and, secondly, to the regions and other localities throughout the State the benefit of these programs and how to access them, and to give encouragement for people to employ more. I would have thought that if the Deputy Leader really wanted to assist in reducing the unemployment levels in South Australia she would help in marketing the Government's programs.

DENTAL SERVICES

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen): Will the Minister for Human Services outline to the House the process for the planned review of public dental health services that has received some publicity of late?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Earlier this year I highlighted to Parliament some of the problems with the increasing waiting list of the public dental service in this State as a result of the Federal Government withdrawing from the dental health program. Members will recall that in 1996 the Federal Government withdrew the \$10 million a year that it put into dental treatment for public patients. As a result, there has been a significant blow-out in the waiting list to the point where over 80 000 people are now waiting for treatment for an unacceptable period. I indicated to the House that, as a result, I would set up an inquiry. That inquiry has been established and I would like to bring to the attention of members the terms of reference for the first stage of that inquiry. I expect that there will be two stages, and the first stage has the following terms of reference:

1. To review and to inquire into and report to the Minister for Human Services on the provision of dental services in South Australia. This will involve consideration of the current cost and provision of services and investigation of waiting lists.

2. To determine population need for dental services and to identify priority need groups with a particular focus on the dental needs of Aboriginal people.

3. To examine and make recommendations on service requirements for dental services including the balance between emergency, general, denture and hospital services for children, adults and people with special needs, and, considering service requirements, due regard will be given to equality issues.

The South Australian Government makes a bigger commitment than other States to public dental services. We put \$55 per head for adults in this State into the public dental service. The national average is only \$44 per head. That shows that we make a much bigger commitment than the average for the whole of Australia but, despite putting \$26 million or more into public dental services, we have considerable problems as a result of withdrawal of the Federal Government.

The terms of reference for the first stage have been set. A very broad-ranging group of people are involved in it, but I will not go through all the details of those people. About 10 people are members of the review group and they represent a broad cross-section of both public and private dentists in South Australia, the dental profession and the public themselves. If any members of the public or any members of the House would like to make an input into the review, I invite them to do so as a matter of urgency.

FEDERAL TAX PACKAGE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Will the Premier table his Government's analysis of the impact of the Howard Government's proposed tax package and GST on the State's finances and South Australian families? Why did the Premier support the tax package before he had adequate assurances from his Federal Liberal colleagues that the State would not be disadvantaged by the Howard tax plan? A media report on 22 October states—

Members interjecting:

Mr FOLEY: I will start again, Sir. A media report of 22 October states that the Premier—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order so that the Chair can hear the question.

Mr FOLEY: A media report of 22 October states that at the November Premiers' Conference the Premier will ask the Federal Government to prove that the Howard tax package will not disadvantage South Australia. The report described the Premier's support for the Howard Government as 'conditional'.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: That was the basis of a press release put out by the Leader of the Opposition last Friday morning at 9 o'clock just prior to my appearance on Jeremy Cordeaux's 5DN program, so the member for Hart is a bit tardy. He is recycling the Leader's previous releases. Consistent with my view before and after, I sought assurances from the Prime Minister that South Australia would not be any worse off, and I have replied in this House on the modelling that has been put forward by the Commonwealth Government that over the 10-year time frame there will be an increase in GST revenues.

There are no expected increases in revenues in the first three years of the operation of the GST but, from years four to 10, there is anticipated to be an increase in the revenue base from the GST. That being the case, I and a number of other State Premiers sought and obtained an assurance from the Prime Minister that South Australia and other States would be no worse off with the introduction of a GST. We got that: we sought it and we got it.

I go back to the 13 November Premiers' Conference, wanting to reaffirm the position agreed to before, not to get a new position at all but simply to reaffirm the position agreed to. Also, South Australia took up the issue of horizontal fiscal equalisation. We took it up with Victoria, in particular, to get one of the Premiers of one of the larger States, which pay and compensate us under HFE, to agree to its retention. Victoria did that. (That was the night when the 36ers won their national championship, and I was not granted a pair to attend.)

That night, having got an assurance from the Victorian Premier that he would support horizontal fiscal equalisation, in a subsequent meeting with the Prime Minister in South Australia I sought and obtained from the Prime Minister also a commitment to maintain horizontal fiscal equalisation. For the benefit of members who might not be fully aware of the base of HFE, it ensures that the largest States compensate the smaller States so that the provision of essential services can be on an equal standard between the States. That will be maintained in this. Officials of the Government have been working as late as yesterday with officials from other States and the Commonwealth on the program for Premiers to consider during the 12 and 13 November conference. This

will be the basis of the Premiers' Conference where we will be looking at the fine detail.

I simply want to reassure the House that the position I put down before, in terms of ensuring South Australia's interest is taken into account, will be maintained prior to the election, after the election and during the implementation of this scheme.

PILCHARDS

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Deputy Premier put on the record the latest information surrounding the pilchard deaths in South Australian waters?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I thank the member for Flinders for her question and her concern about what is happening in this matter. I take the opportunity to put on the record facts about this serious issue which is of concern not just to fishermen but to the public in general and to correct some of the speculation and unsubstantiated information which has been put around concerning what is happening with pilchards. The kill began on 6 October and since then has spread at an even rate east and west across the State. The kill is similar to what we had in March 1995, where it finished up having spread to northern New South Wales and the lower west coast of Western Australia. On 12 October the Director of Fisheries closed the fishery because, if we allowed pilchards to continue to be caught and they were used for bait in areas not affected, we could risk spreading the virus.

As to the spread as it currently is, today we are surveying the coastal seas west of Streaky Bay. An initial report suggests that the mortality may have spread to the South Australian and Western Australian border. Certainly, we are still getting fresh mortality in St Vincent Gulf, and sightings have been up to 30 miles south east of the Murray mouth. Some loose statements have been made regarding the spread of the kill, to other species. Whilst there have been reports of dead juvenile squid, blue crabs and cockles, tests have shown that there has not been any connection. It has also been suggested that imported pilchards may be responsible for the introduction of the herpes type virus. However, there is no evidence to support that. Imported pilchards have been sent away for pathology examination and no pathogens have been found. Some of those statements predictably have come from opponents of the tuna farming industry.

The Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong has confirmed the presence of the same virus which was implicated in the 1995 kill, and the South Australian Health Commission has reissued its advice that dead fish, including pilchards, should never be collected for consumption by humans or pets, and direct contact with pilchards should be avoided as a precaution.

Investigation of the incident is being coordinated on a national level through the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases, which convened on 16 October. It is looking at several hypotheses, for example, the possibility of the virus being naturally occurring. It is also looking at the possibility that it was introduced through an agent such as ballast water or aquaculture feed, through the import of pilchards or that it is a further outbreak as a result of what happened in 1995. The possible causes have been explored, and we are now looking at ways to stop this sort of thing happening again in the future. I would like to commend our departmental officers and the other scientists who have been working around the clock to try to identify the cause of the fish kill. Last time this happened, the stocks recovered

reasonably quickly, and we certainly hope that that is the case again.

Mr HILL (Kaurana): What action has the Minister for the Environment and the EPA taken to protect the biodiversity of South Australian waters and the sustainability of fish stocks following the mass death of pilchards, and will the Minister tell the House what percentage of the pilchard population has been wiped out? On 22 October 1998, it was reported that dead pilchards were thigh deep on the sea-bed off Venus Bay, and today's media reports that dead pilchards now stretch over 2 650 kilometres of the southern coastline.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Much of that question has already been answered. Each year we have been doing considerable work. Scientists estimate the biomass of the pilchards, and from that we set the quota for what is allowed to be caught and allocate the quota from there. Obviously as a result of this—and we had to do this with the last pilchard kill—extensive surveying will be required to come up with what will be a sustainable catch for next year, which is normally based on 10 to 20 per cent of the biomass.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Yes, there are other pilchards left. Strangely—and more work needs to be done on this—a lot of the pilchards seem to be about the same age, and that is giving scientists a bit of a lead that it may well be those that were affected by the 1995 virus. However, that is yet to be totally confirmed. A large percentage of the dead pilchards are the same size, and that is one of the areas they are looking into. No efforts are being spared to make sure that we get any information we can.

Mr HILL (Kaurana): Given that foreign pilchards imported for the tuna industry have been named as the possible source of a virus and the likely cause of the deaths of up to 5 000 tonnes of pilchards in South Australian waters and because of this the potential for a conflict of interest by the Minister for Fisheries, will the Premier immediately establish an independent inquiry into this environmental disaster?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: 'No' is the answer to the question, and I fail to see the conflict of interest. The honourable member might like to write to me and indicate what it is.

TOUR DOWN UNDER CYCLING RACE

Mr VENNING (Schubert): Will the Minister for Tourism inform the House what overseas teams will be participating in the inaugural Tour Down Under cycling race next year, and what has been the reaction of the international cycling community to this race? I understand that significant support from the major events arm of the Tourism Commission has been provided to this event with the goal of attracting many top quality riders to generate international media coverage.

The Hon. J. HALL: I thank the member for Schubert for his question—and I know that it has some particular relevance to his electorate. Today is a particularly exciting day for Australian cycling because, as I am sure most members of the House would know, the Major Events arm of the State Government Department of Tourism has procured this particularly special and large international cycling event for South Australia. For those members who do not have it marked in their diary, it is to be held from Tuesday 19

January through to Sunday 24 January. This event is particularly significant, as it is the first of its kind ever to be held in Australia. It is the largest event of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and more than 100 riders will participate.

This morning I joined my colleague the Minister for Recreation and Sport when he announced a number of particularly relevant and exciting developments, which I would like to share with members of the House. This included details of the teams that already have been confirmed as participating in the Tour Down Under, including the Lampre and Saeco team from Italy; HomeJack and Jones from Denmark; Telekom from Germany, the biggest cycling team in the world (and we were told this morning that it has an annual budget of more than \$20 million, and we hope that it spends a lot of that here in South Australia); Credit Agricole and Big Mat from France (Credit Agricole is the team of Stuart O'Grady, and Big Mat is the team of Jay Sweet); and there is a composite World Team. The Australian Institute of Sport Track Squad, the Australian Institute of Sport Under 26 Squad and the Australian Cycling Federation composite team will also join the international teams.

It is really great news that two of the overseas teams have already announced that they will come to Adelaide to train for the two weeks prior to the event—and, for those of you who are particularly interested, that is the HomeJack and Jones team from Denmark and Telekom from Germany.

This morning's breakfast announcement was particularly significant, because it covered so many great achievers. Members would be very interested to know that among the guests were people who had won 10 Commonwealth Games medals, and they included gold medallist Jay Sweet, and Stuart O'Grady and Phil Anderson, the only two Australians ever to wear the leader's yellow jersey in the Tour de France—and they displayed them very proudly at the Hilton Hotel this morning. Our own cycling legend, Mike Turtur, has been appointed as the race director.

It was also announced this morning that Stuart O'Grady will be the tour ambassador, and I am sure that all members of the House would acknowledge that he will do a superb job in promoting this great tour. I am also pleased to inform the House that Phil Liggett—who I am sure all of us know is an accomplished author, journalist, commentator, cyclist and is, I understand, recognised as the voice of cycling—has been confirmed as the commentator for the event, and he is currently viewing the tour route during his stay here in Adelaide. It has also been confirmed that his commentary will be screened on the Channel 10 network, and internationally through Eurosport.

The member for Schubert will be very interested to know that, on day five, the tour will cover 162 kilometres, looping around his Barossa Valley, and I sincerely hope that many members of this House will join various parts of the tour. The enormous value of this tour to South Australia cannot be underestimated, and I believe that it is of great significance to note that already the tour has obtained a rating of 2.4 from the Union Cyclist Internationale, which I understand is the highest award rating ever given to an inaugural tour.

I know that all members of the cycling community have agreed that Tour Down Under is certain to be a success here in South Australia, and Phil Liggett said this morning that he thought we would be turning them away the second time around. I sincerely hope that many members of this House will be able to participate in this very great achievement for South Australia.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Will the Minister for Government Enterprises advise the House of any recent information technology initiatives to assist the delivery of Government services to the people of South Australia?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: I thank the member for his very important question. As we approach the information economy age, it is clear that the use of information technology appropriately does allow us to expand the provision of Government services to South Australians. In the current environment of growing acceptance and access to the Internet as a mechanism for eCommerce, as it is known, we think it incumbent upon Government to utilise tools and technologies to make sure that the State services are accessible and convenient for the community.

Governments around the world are realising that the Internet is no longer an optional extra for providing services, information and general assistance. Indeed, not a day goes by where IT does not impact upon each and every one of us in some way. Accordingly, I was very pleased to announce last week that SA Water customers are now able to make customer inquiries and, importantly, pay their water accounts over the Internet. South Australia is one of the first utilities in Australia to provide this leading edge service, and it is certainly the first such facility to be offered by a public utility in South Australia. The Internet address, for those people who want to look it up in *Hansard*, is www.pay.sawater.sa.gov.au.

Interestingly, on the Internet recently, I noted an article from America which queried how they would be able to put their utilities, customer inquiries and water account facilities on the Internet. This is yet another example of South Australia leading the way. We have done it. The new system will give our customers greater flexibility and enable them to pay their accounts using a credit card from their home or office. Obviously the benefit of doing it on the net is that it is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Of course, everyone can still pay by post, in person at Australia Post or SA Water offices or via the recently introduced BPay system.

This initiative is simply another way of providing another convenience to the people of South Australia and one which is expected to become increasingly popular as Internet usage grows. It is just another example of this Government's drive to keep South Australia ahead of the pack.

MODBURY HOSPITAL

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): Is the Minister for Human Services concerned by the recent sacking of senior staff at Modbury Hospital? Can he tell the House what better outcome for patient care has been achieved now that five experienced staff are no longer looking after the interests of patients at the hospital?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: The management of the staff and the operations of the Modbury public hospital are the responsibility of Healthscope. The State Government, through the Department of Human Services and the Health Commission, has a contract with Healthscope to deliver certain services at that hospital to a certain standard. In fact, the Government is maintaining a close brief to ensure that those services and standards are in fact fully met. We would want to make sure that the contract is implemented as required, and certainly we continue to do that on a day by day basis.

For instance, there have been rumours—and I would have to say no more than rumours—that the intensive care unit or

the accident and emergency provisions at Modbury Hospital were about to close. In fact, I saw a briefing where there had been some wild speculation that the Accident and Emergency Department had been closed for a 24 hour period. In fact, there is no truth in that at all. I hope that the honourable member would inform anyone who is spreading that sort of false rumour that there is no truth in it.

In fact, the situation is just the opposite: the Accident and Emergency Department at the Modbury Hospital has dealt with a record number of people during the first three months of this year. So, it is just the opposite to closing down: it is dealing with a lot more people than have been dealt with previously. I assure the honourable member that the questions she asks should be directed to Healthscope. The Government's interest is to make sure that services, quality and standards are maintained—and we are doing that.

I point out that earlier this year I went to Modbury Hospital to present an award because the hospital has received accreditation for the next three years in terms of quality.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: That's right. This is the standard that has been set up through the whole of Australia, not just South Australia, in terms of accreditation. I have presented awards for accreditation to a number of hospitals including Modbury. So, that is proof in terms of standards.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (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 BEDFORD (Florey): This year, Australia has recognised one of South Australia's most exciting high achievers—the tall poppy who has given us reason for great pride, the kind of pride we feel when we share in the rewards for hard work and sheer tenacity, when one of us takes up the challenge and wins through, the sort of pride we felt when many of our State's sport teams brought home the prize for being the best in their field.

This year we have joined together to celebrate the birth, 100 years ago, of Howard Florey, a man to whom significant numbers of people owe their lives. His work at the frontier of scientific research became the saviour for many who would otherwise have had their time cut short. What enor-

mous human potential has been saved by his work in perfecting the production of the 'miracle mould', penicillin.

Howard Florey is rightly hailed as one of South Australia's greatest citizens. He was a South Australian Rhodes Scholar in 1921. He is one of only nine Australian Nobel Prize winners and was the winner of countless other awards and prizes. In his capacity as a leading Australian scientist and academic, he was instrumental in the foundation of the Australian National University during the prime ministership of John Curtin. He also served as Provost of Queen's College, Oxford and in 1960 he was the first Australian elected to the prestigious position of President of the Royal Society where he was known as the 'Bushranger President'. He was made Baron Florey of Adelaide and Marston in 1965 and served as Chancellor of ANU from 1965 until his death in 1968.

While the above accolades provide more than enough reasons for his place in history to be held perpetually with pride, it is as the leader of the team of scientists that developed penicillin—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I ask members to either leave the Chamber or be seated.

Ms BEDFORD:—that Florey will be most remembered. It was for this achievement that he shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945 with Sir Alexander Fleming and Ernst Chain.

Launching an appeal for the establishment of the Florey Memorial Visiting Fellowships on 14 February 1969, Dr H.C. Coombs, then Chancellor of ANU, and Lord Blackett, President of the Royal Society, said:

Millions of human beings have since owed their lives or their health to treatment with penicillin and related antibiotics whose production became possible as a result of his pioneering work. The consequences for the good of mankind even today have yet to be fully realised, and Florey is rightly honoured throughout the world as Jenner, Pasteur and Lister were honoured before him.

The groundbreaking work began in 1935 when as Professor of Pathology at Oxford University Florey gathered together a team of research scientists to begin work on a project of immense significance—at a time when working together on scientific research was quite uncommon. His team commenced a careful investigation of the properties of antibacterial substances produced by mould.

One member of the team, Ernst Chain, found in a medical journal an article by Alexander Fleming about his work, and this prompted the team to begin looking at penicillin, the first antibiotic used with success to treat serious bacterial infection. In May 1940 they performed one of the most important medical experiments in history, treating four mice infected with a lethal dose of streptococci bacteria with a new experimental drug. By 1941 they had carried out successful tests on nine human patients and quickly went about arranging manufacture and large-scale production in the United States. In terms of the early days of the Second World War, the lives of four mice may seem insignificant. It was their rescue by penicillin which led to the treatment of allied soldiers as early as D Day in June 1944 and almost certainly influenced the outcome of the war.

During the parliamentary recess, on 24 September, the South Australian academic community celebrated the Florey Centenary to mark the one hundredth year since the birth of this great South Australian—an ordinary person, the son of an English shoemaker. Florey remained to his life's end a humble man, describing his achievements in an interview in 1967 as involving a terrible amount of luck. He stated, 'All

we did was to do some experiments and have the luck to hit on a substance with astonishing properties.' It is refreshing to find a personality in the pages of history who, though undoubtedly counted among the greatest scientists of the modern age, continued to be an unassuming individual, and it is an example which we as his beneficiaries should enjoin our fellow citizens to follow.

South Australians can be proud of their achievements in many areas as well as sport. Intellectual achievements similar to those of Howard Florey are not beyond our grasp if we continue to stress the humanitarian importance of scientific research, to encourage our bright young scholars of the future and to provide the funds necessary to ensure that his example can be followed. We penny-pinch at our peril. It is a false economy for which we will pay dearly.

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

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I cite a positive story which does not involve my district but which deserves acknowledgment. Army personnel have transformed the remote Aboriginal community of Oak Valley, in the north-west of our State. When they left this community, its transport, health and supporting facilities had been upgraded and improved. Work included reconstructing a 1 200 metre airfield to an all-weather, day and night strip, building roads, landscaping, constructing a football oval and providing health services. The Army also conducted health courses and training in backhoe and semitrailer operation. These are legacies that will continue to benefit the community long after the Army has left the area.

The Oak Valley project is an excellent example of how the Army is actively involved in projects that provide both tangible and intangible benefits to the community in the long-term. The Army is doing the work as part of a 1998 training schedule. The project comes under the ATSC Army Community Assistance Program and Oak Valley is one of 10 communities which was accepted for inclusion. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission met material costs estimated at \$1.9 million, while the Army provided the manpower and expertise to carry the various projects to fruition.

A combination of Army units was involved in management and construction with a number of other units being involved in contracting work, primarily the Army Reserve. Projects of this kind are an extremely valuable and practical training experience for Army Reserve personnel. Between 60 and 90 Army personnel were on site at any one time. Reconstruction of the 1 200 metre airstrip included installation of pilot-operated lighting, which allows Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft to land at all hours. The rebuilt airstrip can now accept aircraft as large as the Hercules C130. Six roads in the community that were bush tracks have been built and are now eight metre wide, well delineated, all-weather roads. The project included construction of three houses by a local contractor.

Other Army work included landscaping and revegetation to help provide a more attractive environment. A 30 000 litre water tank has been built, and it is fed from a local bore. The rubbish tip has been fenced, community toilets built, a community football field established and security lighting provided within the community centre around the shop, administration buildings, workshop and children's play area so that children can play outdoors on hot nights. A new school building has replaced the two caravans that were

providing school facilities for up to 80 students. The Army has left members of a community whose daily lives are benefiting from easier mobility and greater knowledge of preventive health measures.

This exercise is only one of many of which the Army and Army Reserve can be justly proud, and I am delighted to see our Army resources employed in such constructive projects in times of peace. I commend the efforts of our Army to the House. It would be wonderful if such constructive work were being undertaken by other armies around the world. When one sees the TV news at night, one is grateful for where we live. We are indeed a lucky country.

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): In the week following Youth Week, I refer to several matters relating to young people and the community responsibility to assist young people to live their lives with self-respect and in a manner that recognises their obligation to conform to the laws of our community. I want to say at the outset that less than 5 per cent of young people ever commit a first offence and, of those, about 70 per cent never re-offend. Unfortunately, this is not the picture of young people that is portrayed by our media. Occasionally, we hear success stories of young people who have undertaken an outstanding achievement, such as sailing around the world single handedly. We see our young people winning gold medals at the Olympics, but they are usually described as athletes, not as young people, and their accomplishments are not seen as representative of the considerable achievements of the youth of our nation.

However, we need to look at the position of young people who are at risk of not being able to develop their talents and to live in harmony in the community. We must first look at the young people who are the victims of crime. In fact, while young people are important in terms of offender statistics, they are equally important, if not more so, in terms of statistics relating to the victims of crime. Information based on data from a 1996 ABS report on recorded crime in Australia shows that teenagers are the persons most likely to be the victims of crime. Teenage males are most likely to be the victims of violent crime; regarding the crimes of rape, robbery and assault, teenagers are more frequently victims; and regarding the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery and assault, and rape and sexual assault, teenagers are the least likely to report a crime. This is an aspect that we have to remember as we seek to develop and protect our young people.

We also need to review what we are doing to support those who are at risk of developing a very unsociable and unsatisfying life. In this regard, I want to acknowledge the achievements of family conferences. These initiatives of the former Labor Government have existed for long enough for us to be able to have some idea of their success. I am very pleased to welcome the report of the Attorney-General, the Hon. Trevor Griffin, on juvenile apprehensions and the success of the family conferencing system.

In 1997, a total of 1 792 juvenile cases were referred to a family conference. In an overwhelming majority of these cases (88 per cent) the outcome of the conference was classified as a success, meaning that the conference resulted in an agreement. These agreements involve a range of activities, including apologies and undertakings of some sort. In 83 per cent of these cases the undertakings were completed within the allotted time. The amounts of compensation varied, with two-thirds involving less than \$100 and five cases involving the payment of more than \$1 000. It is very

welcome indeed to see that these young people were able to come to grips with the impact of their crime on both themselves and their victims.

In August I spoke about a project called 'Risky Business' that had been run in the southern area by the Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Service. It had been evaluated with great success.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Stuart.

An honourable member: And a good member, too.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I'm going to be here as long as I want. There is nothing you or your mate, the member for Ross Smith, can do about it, either.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, the member for Stuart!

Mr Clarke: Come back next time.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: Whenever you want to; you are most welcome.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the member for Stuart wish to make a contribution to the House?

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: In due course; I've got plenty of time.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I will talk about that when I make a 10 minute adjournment debate contribution.

Mr Atkinson: Well, there's one coming up in a minute.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: Perhaps in the next few days. I suggest that the honourable member look at the Labor Party vote in Port Augusta.

Mr Atkinson: It's terrible.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: Yes, that's right; absolutely. I think we have achieved great things up there. I hope members opposite keep going up there, because their vote has been going down. I want to talk about a more serious matter this afternoon, namely, the difficulties that many defenceless people walking around the streets have with villains who attack them. I was most perturbed to read in the *Advertiser* of 8 October about a gentleman who alighted from a bus and was assaulted by two youths with baseball bats.

Mr Atkinson: In my electorate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Spence will cease interjecting.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I am most concerned by the spate of thefts of women's handbags. My constituents are suffering because of the activities of these irresponsible louts. If people are to use baseball bats, I think the time has come to put the baseball bats back on them. I really do believe that if we allow people to attack decent, law-abiding citizens walking the streets, wherever that might be, those citizens are entitled some protection. The police are doing their utmost to contain and control these people. In many cases the police are at wit's end, because these villains have no regard for people's property or their person.

Only last night in my constituency someone tried to drag a 12 year old girl into a van to attack her. The time has come to deal with these people. The community expects this Parliament to stiffen itself up, to have a bit of guts and to deal with these people. The statistics are trotted out to us. I have been loud in my criticism of the lack of protection for decent,

law-abiding citizens against villains who break into their houses, attack elderly people and vandalise their homes.

Elderly constituents have complained to me that villains have been on their roof in the middle of the night and we do not have the gumption or the political courage to deal with it. I am of the view that it is long overdue for these people to be given a bit of their own medicine.

I mentioned the poor constituent of the member for Spence who was going about his lawful business getting off a bus and was accosted by two villains with baseball bats. I believe that the time has come when these people should be made to pay, because people cannot walk the streets or live in their house without someone breaking in and terrorising them, as is happening in my constituency.

When you drive around the streets of Port Augusta you can see the security screens, lights, fences and dogs because people are concerned that sections of the community have no regard for other people's property. I have accompanied the police and the police are doing their utmost. The police are patrolling the streets. When offenders are caught many of them are under age. Some offenders are very cunning. The Housing Trust, in its wisdom many years ago, established walkways and, of course, when offenders see the police they whip down these walkways. The police patrols cannot get down these walkways, and by the time they travel to the other streets the offenders have disappeared. So, there are real problems, and we need to give the police more resources in this area. Instead of putting speed cameras between Iron Knob and—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired. I call the member for Hart.

Mr Atkinson interjecting:

Mr FOLEY (Hart): I thank the member for Spence for referring to me as a good member. I want to make a short contribution about the Premier's recent decision to reshuffle his Cabinet. I will make a few initial comments and then elaborate further. From the outset I want to say that I am personally disappointed—and I speak for many members on my side—that the member for Schubert has yet again been overlooked for a position within the ministry. That is a shameful decision by the Premier. More importantly, the member for Schubert has been a long-standing supporter of the present Premier through those wilderness years when he was nothing more than a Cabinet Minister and not the Leader, and what has the Premier done? The Premier has 15 Cabinet positions—not 12, not 13, but 15—and still he cannot find room for the member for Schubert.

I am distressed for the member for Schubert, because I think he is the only member from the class of 1989—or was it 1985—and the by-election of 1990 not to receive a position on the front bench of this Government—or the B Grade, as the Opposition refers to the junior ministry. But what is even more concerning is that the member for Schubert was beaten by the member for Mawson. If you were pipped at the post for a position in the ministry you could sort of cop it if you were beaten by someone of outstanding ability and quality. But, fair dinkum, when you get beaten for a position in the ministry by the member for Mawson, that is pretty hard going. I felt very much for the member for Schubert.

We will reserve judgment on the ability of the present Minister for Police, although I notice that his first foray into the police portfolio was to say that signs will indicate that drivers were about to enter a speed camera zone. That initiative lasted about eight minutes before, no doubt, the

Police Commissioner got on the telephone and said, 'Minister, that is not a particularly clever idea.' The new Minister for Police will no doubt be a disappointing Minister because all of us in this Chamber have witnessed his performance as a backbencher and his petulant behaviour after he was beaten as candidate for Presiding Member of the Public Works Committee. We will no doubt watch with much amusement as he makes mischief in his portfolio because he is simply not able to handle it.

I would be more confident with that portfolio in the hands of our good friend—my good friend—the member for Schubert. I just think that it is about time that John Olsen repaid his old mate but, anyway, who am I to say anything? No doubt, it would not have gone unnoticed by Dean Brown.

I also want to comment on the fact that I am a humble person. I am not someone who is into bragging but I must tell the Parliament that, as shadow Minister for information technology, I am now shadowing five Ministers for information technology. This Government is making an absolute joke and a mockery of its information technology policy. Obviously, the Premier as Minister for State Development has an important role when it comes to industry attraction for IT. He is Minister No.1. Secondly, no doubt the Minister for Industry, as a Minister responsible for attracting industry, has a role. Then we have Minister Armitage, who has the title of Minister for Information Economy—the big picture, whatever that means. But, then we still do not have sufficient Ministers.

The Hon. R.G. Kerin interjecting:

Mr FOLEY: Robbie Kerin interjects that he has a role. We then have Robert Lawson in the other House in charge of administering IT contracts in Government. But, the specialty of them all is the Minister for the millenium bug. What a nonsense! That is not to underscore the importance of the millenium bug but, surely, Wayne Matthew is capable of handling that as well administering IT in general. I am not often in this place giving Minister Matthew much kudos at all, but I will say this: his understanding of IT in this State is much more than Robert Lawson's in the other place and certainly more than Minister Armitage's. To be stripped of IT and to be left with the sole responsibility of the millenium bug is an embarrassing, humiliating position for Wayne Matthew. Clearly, it is done out of spite by John Olsen.

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

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): I want to share an orgasmic experience with the House, but before I do that I say that I think it is high time that members stop referring to each other by our family names and use the title of our electorates. We are not here as individuals: we are here as representatives of 22 000 other people. It shows our lack of understanding of the institution of Parliament when we see each other as personalities rather than as representatives.

More about the experience. Samulnori is part of the traditional music of Korea. It is not harmony of melody because it is basically performed on percussion instruments. It is over 3 000 years old, and possibly 7 000 to 8 000 years old according to carbon dating techniques on the instruments discovered in some relics. However, its similarity to western percussion instruments and its role in musical rendition and performance ends there. It is symbolic of the elements of the weather and is allegorically woven into a complex statement of themes in music about life. Its impact on many people, after hearing it for the first time, is often described by them as orgasmic. If members do not believe me, ask the member

for Bragg, who accompanied me to Korea earlier this year and for the first time heard samulnori being played. One thing is certain: when people speak about their first experience of hearing samulnori, they describe it as unforgettable and mind blowing.

The four instruments are two types of drums and two types of gongs. One of the drums, which is conventionally shaped, is called puk. The Koreans think of the sound of puk as the clouds and it has a role of covering everything on the earth below and holding the other sounds of the music together in the rendition. The other drum, which is an hourglass shaped drum, is called changgo and is symbolic of the rain and its sound and effect on the earth and nature is the rhythm. The larger gong is jing and it is meant to be the image of the wind. It embraces and controls all the other sounds, holding them together whilst the kwang-gari, the smaller of the two gongs, resembles the sort of stunning effect of lightning and thunder and the similarly dramatic events in life that are woven into the themes of each of the compositions.

The combined sounds produced by these instruments played in any rendition of samulnori run through each other as fibres in a thread, I guess, and they are woven with other threads in the cloth—a fabric of relationships that are symbolically portrayed in music about life. They have different rhythms and tempo, yet the themes come together in harmony—a harmony of sounds and rhythm—so that at the end of each movement of tension comes a melodious relaxation in harmony, and that is the kind of thing which, when it reaches the crescendo, causes people to describe it in the way I have suggested. Altogether they represent the ethereal confluence of cosmic harmony in the Korean cultural consideration of their relevance.

Samulnori is therefore a great Korean traditional form of folk music, and those who have heard it love it. I point out to the House that, after a couple of years of hard work, I have arranged for the provincial Government public servants of the Province of Chung Chong Nam-do (with which South Australia is paired) to come to South Australia to learn and work with their opposite numbers. Some of the members of that 27 member delegation coming in November are expert players of samulnori. I am arranging a performance in the Balcony Room on the first floor so that members will be able to get at least that much exposure to Korean culture and understand something of their musical history.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

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

Printing: Mr Hamilton-Smith, Ms Hurley and Messrs Koutsantonis, Scalzi and Venning.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I move:

That Mr Scalzi be appointed to the Public Works Committee in place of the Hon. R.L. Brokenshire.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I nominate the member for Gordon to move an Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech. I move:

That consideration of the Address in Reply be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT SAFETY

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the members of this House appointed to the Joint Committee on Transport Safety have power to continue their consideration during this session.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr ATKINSON (Spence): Since Parliament last sat we have had a Federal election. I congratulate the Liberal Party on being returned to office, although the Labor Party won a majority of the two-Party preferred vote. Among the seats lost by the Liberal Party was the Federal Division of Kingston. The incumbent, Ms Susan Jeanes, lost to Labor's David Cox by about 600 votes.

The biggest free vote of the last Federal Parliament was the Andrews Bill, a Bill by Liberal MP Kevin Andrews to stop the practice of active voluntary euthanasia in the Northern Territory. Ms Jeanes was prominent in that debate, supporting active voluntary euthanasia (as is her right), publishing her views in the press and speaking on radio. Ms Jeanes went further than any other MP in the debate by asserting that no Parliament had the authority to legislate against active voluntary euthanasia.

Mr Lewis: That was a mistake on her part.

Mr ATKINSON: Yes; I agree with the member for Hammond that Ms Jeanes is mistaken in her constitutional interpretation. Ms Jeanes's ardour of 1996 cooled by the general election of 1998. She was outraged by my writing a letter to hundreds of her constituents, as follows:

One thing all the election propaganda won't tell you is whether your local candidates are in favour of making the lethal jab (euthanasia) a regular part of medical practice in our hospitals, nursing homes and hostels. I opposed legalised euthanasia and led the opposition to the Bill moved in State Parliament in 1996. We were of course successful in defeating that Bill. As you probably know, the proposal for active euthanasia (the lethal jab) in the Northern Territory was defeated in Federal Parliament. I have no doubt that, after this election, the supporters of active euthanasia will want to change the law to allow euthanasia in the Northern Territory and anywhere else in Australia.

Your MP, Ms Susan Jeanes, is an active supporter of euthanasia. In Parliament she's been outspoken in her support of the lethal jab. Debating the Euthanasia Laws Bill, Ms Jeanes said, 'Any intervention by this Parliament on the right of Northern Territorians to have the opportunity to choose euthanasia is a tyrannical intervention. . . . No one individual, no organised church or community group, no one member of Parliament should have the right to deny them that opportunity.'

The letter sources the quote to the House of Representatives *Hansard* of 21 November 1996. The letter continues:

She then went on to vote to allow euthanasia in the Northern Territory. Votes on euthanasia are not taken on Party lines. You can't tell whether a candidate is for or against euthanasia from the Party

to which he or she belongs. Ms Jeanes is being opposed by David Cox. I know David well and he is opposed to the legalisation of active voluntary euthanasia.

The letter goes on, but it is a most unremarkable and restrained piece of political propaganda. I sent this letter to people who had petitioned me in 1996 to oppose John Quirke's voluntary euthanasia Bill, so there was no need to persuade those voters of the demerits of active voluntary euthanasia: they were already opposed to it.

After the election Ms Jeanes complained about the letter. She had a story published in the *Advertiser* by Matthew Denholm, entitled "'Killers' gibe angers MPs'. The only difficulty with that story was that I had not called anyone a killer, nor implied that Ms Jeanes was a killer. I did not say that Ms Jeanes wanted to bring about the kind of euthanasia practised in Holland, nor did I imply it. What I do say is that a policy proposal can start with pure intentions but can change in practice, and it is relevant to consider how active voluntary euthanasia operates in the only country that practises it. Let us say, for example, that the Beazley tax plan that featured in the most recent election had been implemented in another country and had been operating there for 20 years. Would it have been unfair for the Liberals to cite examples from that country of how the tax system operated in the only country that practised it? I venture to say that it would not have been unfair, and I am sure that members opposite recognise that.

I am pleased to say that the *Advertiser* by letter from its Deputy Editor, Mr Rex Jory, has now apologised to me for the headline, "'Killers' gibe angers MPs'. Mr Jory writes:

You are correct in pointing out that the headline could have been misleading, and this has been taken up with the night editor, who was overseeing the pages. Please accept our apologies for any embarrassment the heading may have caused.

My letter to Kingston electors was carefully written. It was of course a campaign letter designed to switch people's vote or make them feel better about voting for Mr Cox.

No-one who received one of those letters has complained. I think my intervention in the Kingston campaign was both fair and effective. My letter was not defamatory, it was not misleading and it was not a breach of the provisions of the Electoral Act. If it was good enough for the voluntary euthanasia societies to run Dr Philip Nitschke in the Federal Division of Menzies against Mr Kevin Andrews and seek to defeat him by making active voluntary euthanasia a Federal election issue, surely it can have no objection to my writing to people who have petitioned me on the subject of active voluntary euthanasia pointing out the stark difference in values between Ms Jeanes and Mr Cox. It is what politics is all about. Alas, members will not be surprised to know that the voluntary euthanasia advocates do have an objection to my intervention, as do Ms Jeanes and her political mentor, the member for Hindmarsh, Mrs Gallus.

There is no conscience vote or free vote I have ever cast in this House of which I am ashamed or which I wish to hush up; nor is there any vote of mine in Parliament I would not be happy to explain in public debate even if it were contrary to current public opinion. I wrote a similar letter to the Kingston letter to my own constituents in the 1997 State election. No-one objected to it then. The Liberal Party knew about my 1997 letter and admired it so much that it did the same thing for its candidate in the State District of Hanson, Mr Stuart Leggett, who was an opponent of active voluntary euthanasia. Mrs Gallus did not complain about it then.

That is not the worst aspect of Mrs Gallus's and Ms Jeanes's complaints about my letter to Kingston electors. Mrs Gallus argues that the letter should have been sent to all 80 000 Kingston electors instead of the 375 who petitioned me. Mrs Gallus told 5AA listeners that she never used targeted direct mail, that is, she never sent electoral propaganda to fewer people than her entire constituency. Mrs Gallus immediately corrected herself and admitted that she sent special letters to elderly voters in the electorate. Just to jog Mrs Gallus's memory, she also sent targeted direct mail to Greek-Australian constituents dealing with matters of concern only to them. She did not send the same letter to Anglo-Australians or to Turkish-Australians or to Slav-Macedonian Australians, and I suggest that if she had sent the letter that she sent to Greek-Australians to them they would have thought she was barmy.

It is common knowledge that the Liberal Party uses databases and computer-generated campaign letters on a grand scale. Mrs Gallus has extracted names and addresses from petitions and membership lists and has written to those people canvassing for votes about the topic in which she knows they are interested. To send my letter to every Kingston elector would have cost \$40 000 instead of the \$200 it actually cost. Perhaps Mrs Gallus has a lazy \$40 000 to spend on postage or, more likely, a lazy \$40 000 of taxpayers' money in the form of her Federal member's postal allowance. I stand by the letter.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I am pleased to report to the Parliament on my recent trip to California in the United States where I was privileged to investigate many areas of interest to my electorate and to the State. The prime reason for the trip was to assess the sustainability of the current success of the Australian wine industry. Secondly, I was privileged to be a guest of John Deere at Moline and Waterloo in Illinois, and I had discussions with that huge company about its future operations in Australia, particularly whether the company would again consider manufacturing machinery here in Australia or in a joint venture with South Australian companies. I refer particularly to Horwoods in Mannum and Popes in the city. Many other companies have expressed interest and a study will be done, which, if it is carried further, will be partly funded by the Government.

I also studied many areas of interest to me as Presiding Member of the ERD Committee, prominent among them being the United States road safety strategy, speed limits and the relevant data, ecotourism and the future of farmers in the United States, which is pretty bleak. There were three or four other minor issues, including grain movements and the study of barges on the Mississippi. I will discuss only one area now, that is, the wine industry and whether Australia is running a risk of over producing and, therefore, reduced prices and therefore a decline in our premium industry. I am pleased the member for Elder is present tonight in case he wishes to comment on what I have to say as I recognise his appreciation of good wine.

First, I am pleased to report that Australia has a significant lead in the quality of super premium wines. I say that on two fronts: first, it is based on my own experience, that is, from drinking the wines; and, secondly, there is an understanding by the United States industry that Australia has the edge both in quality and in research and development. The test is with the US wine with the best reputation, that is, Opus One. Robert Mondavi is Mr Wine in the United States and I tasted his wine Opus One and I would rate it as a good premium

wine and certainly not a super premium wine. I do not know whether the member for Elder has drunk Opus One but I would rank it similarly to Mount Edystone. After testing, I would rank these as good premium wines but not in the super premium class. I have brought some wines back with me, so there will be an opportunity for members to judge for themselves, and I invite the member for Elder to test the wine I brought back.

Many other US wines that I tested could be described only as good table wines, yet their prices are much higher than our prices. It is the same price without the difference in the currency. I believe that our wines are undervalued because, as United States wines are at a cost similar to our wine, with the parity difference in terms of the value of their dollar and ours, we are getting our wines very cheaply and we are selling them on overseas markets far too cheaply.

My first realisation is that Australian wine is still underpriced on the world market. I visited many of the Californian wine regions, including the Nappa and Sonoma Valleys and others. Many thousands of hectares are now planted. It was mind boggling to see, especially as much of it was brand new plantings. As far as the eye could see there were vineyards. One family vineyard had 7 000 acres of vineyards. Most members would know of the Galo Company, which grows more wine than all the production of Australia put together. It has three wineries that would blow the mind of anyone and it is just about to build a fourth. The Galo Company is enormous but the quality of its table wine could be classed only as average.

I was concerned by companies like Galo and Geiser Peak, which may be known to members. Six or eight years ago Geiser Peak did not rate on the Stock Exchange and did not rate in the quality wine stakes. It did not rate, yet a few weeks ago while I was in the United States it was sold for \$100 million to Robert Mondavi and the winemaker was handed a very handsome amount of cash. That winemaker is none other than Daryl Groom, brother of a former member of this Parliament, Terry Groom. He has done extremely well. I tried the product and brought some home with me, and I will ask members to taste it. Mr Groom has done an exceptional job in making a wine which lines up favourably and which is good value and remarkably good.

It concerns me that a company like Galo, as huge as it is and with as much vineyard as it has, realised it had a problem because it now has one of the top wine chemists in the world, none other than Terry Lee from the Wine Industry Research Centre at the Waite Institute. I raised this matter with Mr Lee and others, and I was told that I was a bit precious. However, the future of the Australian wine industry depends on our maintaining our market share, and we can do that only because we have the edge on quality over most other regions in the world. Why should we have Australians over there assisting them in getting up to date therefore threatening our advantage?

The wine industry is quite large. Certainly, we will not out produce American winemakers and we will not be able to match them per dollar because they have so much water. When you fly into Chicago you see a huge lake that is all fresh water—Lake Michigan. So, we will not be able to compete with them in that area. However, we know that they over water. We have advanced technology in what is known as partial root zone dryness, which is a superb technology—and, incidentally, we are not saying too much about it—and which allows us to water the vine and get the higher production, and it also guarantees the quality of the grape. The

technology basically fools the plant into thinking that it is going through drought conditions while you are pushing the water into it. It is clever technology, and it is South Australian. I just wonder how long it will be before another of our scientists goes over there and tells them about this. Even though I was told I was precious, I am concerned because we will maintain our market only as long as we can keep our advantage on quality.

I do not think it matters a tick how many acres of vineyards we plant here, as it matters nought in the total world production. We grow about 3 per cent of the world's wines, and there is so much capacity there for us. The American market is huge. The Americans drink about half the amount of wine we do per capita, and we can regard about 10 per cent of the market as soft. If we got 3 per cent of that, we could never produce enough. It would be totally impossible to produce enough. Given the price of our wines, a little more marketing in America alone will certainly assist in our sales.

I walked into a wine shop in Sacramento and asked the manager of the wine store, 'Do you have any Australian wines?' He replied, 'No, we don't have Australian wine. We have all Californian wines.' I asked, 'What's that?' as I could see a bottle of St Hallett's on the top shelf and, further along, a bottle of Tollana. He said, 'I didn't realise that was Australian wine.' It is time we had a recognisable Australian wine label. On the top of the neck we could have a mark that designates that the wine is Australian. It should be a distinctive marking, displayed on all quality Australian wine. I was totally amazed that he did not know that it was Australian wine.

When most Americans realise where you are from they admit that we are the pacemakers in relation to world quality wines. As the member for Elder would know, a wine such as 707 has no peer in America. There is no wine of similar quality in America, but they are getting close with their Silky Oak cabernet sauvignon, and I brought a bottle of that back with me, too. I understand that they are making huge advances.

We also need to address other things that the Americans do better than we do, namely, accommodation and tourism in their wine growing areas. However, the most important aspect is access. To get to these regions over there, you can go by train or bus. They will even fly you short distances of 40 to 70 kilometres, and we did that because that is the program they had for us.

We need more Government R&D into varietal types, because there has been a strong swing to Italian style wines. As we eat more and more Italian foods, we will consume more of the style of wine that goes with it. We need to put more effort in there. We need to tell industry, 'You'd better watch this.' The Government should do some work on this and other new varietal types. We should not leave it to industry alone, because they will not give you this information. We should gather it ourselves as independent information. I have tremendous faith that we can maintain an industry, that we can grow extra vines with some confidence, and that our industry will go from strength to strength.

Motion carried.

At 5.53 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 28 October at 2 p.m.