

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

**Fourth Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament
(2000)**

Parliament, which adjourned on 13 July, was prorogued by proclamation dated 10 August. By proclamation dated 10 August, it was summoned on Wednesday 4 October, and the Fourth Session began on that date.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 4 October 2000

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 12.12 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 12.45 to 2.15 p.m.]

SENATE VACANCY

His Excellency the Governor, by message, informed the House of Assembly that the President of the Senate, in accordance with section 21 of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, notified him that, in consequence of the resignation on 15 August 2000 of Senator John Andrew Quirke, a vacancy occurred in the representation of this state in the Senate of the commonwealth. As the parliament of the state was not in session when the vacancy was notified, the Governor informed the House that the place was filled pursuant to section 15 of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia by Geoffrey Frederick Buckland. The Governor is advised that, the place of a senator having become vacant and being so filled within the meaning of section 15, will again fall vacant at the expiration of 14 days from the beginning of the Fourth Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament and before the expiration of the original term of John Andrew Quirke, and that such place must be filled by the houses of parliament sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with the provisions of the said section.

OLIPHANT, Sir MARK, DEATH

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

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Sir Mark Oliphant, eminent scientist and former Governor of South Australia, and places on the record its appreciation of his long and distinguished service to the state of South Australia and that, as a mark of respect to his memory, the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

It is with a sense of sadness that I rise in the chamber today to move a condolence motion for Sir Mark Oliphant, who passed away on 14 July at the age of 99. Born in Adelaide in 1901 and growing up in the Adelaide Hills, Sir Mark showed an early love for study and the pursuit of knowledge. In his early twenties, Sir Mark Oliphant left Adelaide with his young wife Rose to take up a scholarship at Cambridge, joining the world's leading laboratory in experimental physics. Making the most of his considerable talents, Sir Mark worked hard forging a career for himself at the cutting edge of world scientific endeavours.

Working in the exciting new field of nuclear physics, Sir Mark and his colleagues blazed a trail upon which generations of scientists were to follow. Their immensely challenging quest was aimed simply at discovering how the substance of the universe is structured. Indeed, the practical applications of their work were to change our world forever.

It is certainly true that Sir Mark Oliphant regretted some applications of science, particularly his role in developing the atom bomb. Whatever we might think of nuclear weapons, there is no doubting the worthiness of Mark Oliphant's wartime efforts. First with the development of radar and then with the creation of the atom bomb, Oliphant worked in teams dedicated to bringing about world peace and saving lives.

Clearly, the experiences of Hiroshima weighed heavily on Sir Mark. However, history judges the work of Sir Mark well. Later in life he was a tireless campaigner against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoted the peaceful use of nuclear technology. That is what made this scientist even more laudable. He never lost faith in his belief that, through science, man was capable of changing our world for the better.

In 1971, Sir Mark began another chapter in a remarkable life. Coaxed out of retirement, he became the state's first locally born Governor. A man of great honour and principle, Sir Mark often felt compelled to speak out on issues such as religion and conservation. Behind the scenes, he disagreed with the then Premier on issues as diverse as pornography and imperial awards. As Governor, Sir Mark was immensely popular with the public, who respected his integrity and compassion. He was indeed a Governor of the people.

Sir Mark Oliphant's love for his home state survived to the end. He remained until his passing the patron of the Investigator Science Centre, a role ideally suited to one so dedicated to scientific education.

The achievements of Sir Mark Oliphant certainly live on today, and his memory will remain a source of inspiration and a fine example to all of us. Sir Mark Oliphant leaves a legacy to all South Australians that will not soon be forgotten.

On behalf of the government, I formally place on record our appreciation of Sir Mark's outstanding contribution to the South Australian community. I am sure that many government and opposition members alike will take the opportunity to pay tribute to Sir Mark and formally place on record their appreciation of his life and achievements. On behalf of the government, I express our sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of this great South Australian ambassador.

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

Today we pay tribute to Sir Mark Oliphant, not just because he was Governor of this state but also because he helped change life on this planet and then had the conscience to question the ways in which he changed it. In a lifetime nearly as long as the century in which he lived, Sir Mark added his name immortally to those of other South Australians of the sciences, including Bragg, Mawson, Lord Florey, who gave the world penicillin, and, in more recent years, Basil Hetzel, whose work on iodine deficiencies has certainly eased the pain of the world.

Sir Mark Oliphant helped split the atom and thus was a co-pioneer with Einstein, Rutherford and Oppenheimer of that nuclear energy that changed the life and darkened the dreams of half a century of mankind. He was both co-author of and witness to the horrors of nuclear war but, like Einstein, he was a man whose conscience troubled him, confronting ghosts, but his passionate sense of social justice prevailed.

Sir Mark used his scientific expertise to help end the war but he also saw the horror he helped unleash brighter than a thousand suns. He knew what Oppenheimer meant when he said at Los Alamos, quoting from Hindu scripture, 'Behold, I am become Death, the shatterer of worlds.' Sir Mark thereafter fought for world peace and an end to that arms race that took humanity to the precipice.

Sir Mark sought ways to tame the dark angel of nuclear power and make it useful, beneficial and domesticated, no longer the all-devouring beast. That became the great cause of the last half of his long life—the strongest advocate against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Sir Mark was a radical, a progressive thinker, a doer in a world of trimmers and procrastinators. He was not afraid to challenge orthodoxy or to unsettle the comfort zones of the comfortable, to speak out and not hold his peace. He was a figure of authority who challenged authority, and he knew that ivory towers must be shaken for humanity to move forward.

Sir Mark earned the admiration of Don Dunstan, who first submitted his name to Buckingham Palace as his choice for

Governor some years before his eventual appointment. But there were concerns, and this was a man whom lesser minds found unsettling, and he was not appointed Governor the first time around. These were the 1960s, and the Cold War meant that peacemakers like Sir Mark Oliphant were held to be suspect troublemakers—romantics who failed to understand that the world order depended on the power of the few to destroy everything at the push of a button.

Despite his involvement in the Manhattan Project, Sir Mark was denied a visa to enter the United States. His idealism cost him dearly. The mood soon changed however, and in 1971, three years later, Don Dunstan finally got his way and Sir Mark was appointed Governor. But he was a different kind of Governor, a head of state who never failed to speak out—provocatively, controversially, fearlessly, rattling cages—sometimes sharply, but many times with a mischievous wit tinged by a great deal of eccentricity. By doing so, he wrote himself into our history and our hearts as a great Governor, a great activist and a great and much loved South Australian.

Sir Mark's work in the field of education is still paying dividends. He knew, as all of us should know, that it is education that matters. It is the gateway to opportunity. He was also a mentor to many, as became very clear at the memorial service held recently at the University of Adelaide. He was a founding father of a great university, the ANU. In many ways, it was made in his image—questioning, probing and challenging.

Sir Mark Oliphant was a restless spirit. He reached the top in many areas—from scientific research and education, to working to end a war and then fighting for an enduring peace, to public service in its purest sense and also to our environment. But it was as a teacher, and as a teacher by example, that Sir Mark most changed us and moved us. Therefore, he leaves an enduring legacy: a persistent challenge for South Australians to move forward, to do better, to make a difference and to believe that public good is possible and within our reach. He believed that to do otherwise would be to fail in our duty to ourselves and to each other.

Sir Mark did not fail in his duty. He fulfilled it, charmingly, angrily and tenaciously and, in doing so, enhanced our lives. On behalf of the opposition, I offer my deepest sympathy to Sir Mark's daughter, Vivian, his family and all his friends.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services):

I add my condolences to the family, supporting what both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have said. I would like to pay tribute to probably one of the greatest scientists that South Australia has ever produced and a man who, even today, from the research that he did, has had a remarkable impact on our lives. Whilst both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have talked about the very crucial role Sir Mark played in the splitting of the atom, he was personally and directly involved in a number of very significant developments. He was in a team that developed the radar which became so important during the second world war but which is now used domestically to produce safe air travel in particular and also for a whole range of other purposes. Few people understand and relate Sir Mark Oliphant to the invention of the radar. In fact, that same technology became the driving force behind microwave ovens, which we now see in virtually every home. Modern technology goes back to much of the work that Sir Mark

Oliphant did in Britain in particular during the 1930s and 1940s.

We have here a scientist who is of world renown, who has had an impact on the world and who, at the height of his career, took the tremendous sacrifice of deciding to leave the international stage, return to Australia and work in the early stages of developing the Australian National University to ensure that he passed on his enthusiasm for sciences and the education of young scientists within Australia. Again that was an enormous sacrifice which few people understand. In fact, it was Lord Florey who gave him the advice not to return because to return to Australia would mean that he would go into oblivion. He decided that the training of new scientists and the establishment of a national university were more important goals indeed.

Of course, he continued that when he became Governor of South Australia. One of the remarkable things which he did and which few people knew about was that, on a regular basis, he invited a group of young scientists within South Australia to Government House for dinner to participate in a very informal discussion but a very challenging discussion on a whole range of subjects. He talked about the environment, life and death, science and the importance of education. Here was a person who was absolutely committed to wanting to make a difference through science and, at the same time, to ensure that he was part of developing the sciences within Australia.

The *Economist* magazine from London prints an obituary about every two or three editions. It was a real mark of respect for the standing and stature of Sir Mark Oliphant that the *Economist* produced a full page obituary on him. It highlighted his career and his international standing as a scientist. Today, as South Australians and as parliamentarians, we stand and acknowledge someone who has been a great man for Australia, a great man for South Australia and a great man for the world sciences and technology. I certainly add my condolences to those of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in marking with respect what that man has left for future generations, but equally our condolences to the family who live on with exactly the same spirit as we all heard at his memorial service.

Mr De LAINE (Price): I wish to also contribute to this condolence motion. Sir Mark Oliphant AC, KBE was born in the Adelaide suburb of Kent Town on 8 October 1901 and passed away on 14 July this year aged almost 99 years. He worked with Ernest Rutherford in Britain and was acclaimed as one of the great physicists of our age. Possibly his most important achievements were the major part he played in splitting the atom, the discovery of new forms of hydrogen and helium and the development of microwave radar. Not only was Sir Mark a great scientist but a true humanitarian who really cared about people, the environment, human dignity and the pursuit of knowledge and truth. He was a legend in his own lifetime.

He was knighted in 1959 and appointed Governor of South Australia from 1971 to 1976. He proved to be a wonderful and outspoken Governor. Sir Mark was not a religious person in the traditional sense and was a strong supporter of voluntary euthanasia. He told me at one time that, while he was proud of his work and achievements, he was very disappointed and sad that nuclear fission had been used in a war situation. He actively campaigned against the use of nuclear weapons for the rest of his life. On behalf of the

Australian Labor Party Caucus, I offer my sincere condolences to Sir Mark's family.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen): I am pleased to be able to participate in this condolence motion. Sir Mark Oliphant was certainly a great South Australian and a wonderful Governor for this state. Sir Mark Oliphant was certainly a man of the people. Previous speakers have referred to his distinguished service to the state and his significant achievements. I have very fond memories of Sir Mark, most of those memories revolving around his love for nature. As has already been mentioned, Sir Mark spent some of his schooling in the small school of Mylor in the Adelaide Hills. There was nothing that he enjoyed more, particularly in his latter years, than coming back to Mylor to talk to the students about his involvement with the school and his love in particular for the Adelaide Hills.

A very special memory that I have is the day that we were able to dedicate a section of parkland in the Adelaide Hills as the Mark Oliphant Conservation Park. Sir Mark was very emotional on that day. He was delighted that the decision had been made by the government to set aside that piece of land in his name.

I vividly recall the speech that he made from the heart, as was always the case with Sir Mark; how he had enjoyed the walks through the scrubland as a child and throughout his life, and his love for conservation. His absolute commitment for the environment was something that shone out always when Sir Mark had the opportunity to talk about those particular issues.

I also remember clearly the day that South Australia said goodbye to Sir Mark and Lady Oliphant at a reception held in his honour at Government House when he was retiring as Governor of the state and how, as Sir Mark walked from the reception area back into Government House, everyone spontaneously called out, 'Will you come back again?' He was a man of the people. He was a man respected by so many South Australians and, of course, through his achievements, by people throughout the world. I, too, join with previous speakers in passing on my condolences to Sir Mark's family.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 2.37 to 2.45 p.m.]

TONKIN, Hon. DAVID, DEATH

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

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the former Premier, Dr David Tonkin, and places on record its appreciation of Dr Tonkin's service to this state and that, as a mark of respect to his memory, the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I rise today to pay tribute to a personal friend, a man who brought great honour to this place, a man who was a great South Australian, David Tonkin. David's sudden death on the weekend at the age of 71 sadly ended a life devoted to the care of others, be that through his medical career or through his distinguished public life. David always had a concern for others. He was a compassionate man, a likeable man, and, most of all, a man of humility.

Dr Tonkin was Premier of South Australia from 1979 to 1982—a short period of Government which was made all the more difficult at that time by a nationwide economic downturn—but in that time the Tonkin Liberal government

was able to leave an indelible mark on South Australia. It was a government that changed the landscape of this state. By fighting for the Olympic Dam mining development at Roxby Downs against trenchant opposition, the Tonkin government was able to underpin the state economy with a massive development that helped us get through the financial disasters of the ensuing decade. Now the thriving township of Roxby Downs is a testament to the vision of David Tonkin's government and the work of his colleague, the Deputy Premier at that time, who is in the gallery today to witness the condolence motion for his friend and colleague. Together they brought about that major development and, as a result, the whole state continues to enjoy the benefits—and we will continue to do so throughout this century.

As a result of the O-Bahn project, the Tonkin government delivered an innovative transport solution that has fostered the growth and prosperity of Adelaide's north-eastern suburbs. International visitors come to see how we have combined a first-class transport system with a wonderful linear park.

By negotiating land rights for the state's Pitjantjatjara people, the Tonkin government led the way in the process of reconciliation long before that term was in currency. That historic deal handed over 10 per cent of the state to the traditional owners nearly two decades ago. Of course, this was the deal that began under the previous government, but the process had lapsed, and it was not an easy decision. Premier Tonkin then distinguished himself in the negotiations, and a number of my colleagues would not forget the Premier going down to the Victoria Park racecourse to sit down and talk to protesting Aborigines on their own terms at the height of those negotiations. This was a man who believed in unity. He believed in fair play and in equal rights.

One of his greatest achievements was in Opposition in 1974 when he introduced a private member's bill that became the ground breaking, successful and important Sexual Discrimination Act. Many South Australian women remain indebted to David Tonkin today, recognising what a valuable champion he was for their cause in relation to equal rights.

Amongst other things, the Tonkin government also abolished land tax on the principal place of residence; it established our modern law courts facility in what was an old department store—the then Moores building; and it introduced the critical road safety initiative of random breath testing.

David Tonkin's contribution to South Australia is one that we must not underestimate. The Tonkin Government got on with the job, made important decisions and reforms and left the state a far better place. It left us with no ongoing burden of its own making. It served the people of South Australia well.

David Tonkin was a successful eye surgeon before entering parliament in 1970 as the member for Bragg. Skilled as he was in caring for people, he brought that same sense of personal care and humanity to the often boisterous world of politics. He retained the calmness and precision of a surgeon during some tumultuous times in politics.

After two successful careers as a surgeon and then as a Premier, David Tonkin was not content to retire. Rather, he went on to yet another career, spending six years in London as the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He gave that organisation his customary distinguished service and shared the benefits of his immense experience among many democracies around the world.

In later years David Tonkin also headed up the board of the State Opera and the South Australian Film Corporation. The State Opera appointment was made by a Labor government, demonstrating the esteem in which he was held by both major parties. The film corporation position recognised Dr Tonkin's work in helping to foster the film industry in South Australia, with some encouragement from his then arts minister, Murray Hill. But he did not limit himself only to an involvement in the arts: he was also a follower of football, an ardent supporter of the Double Blues and a former No. 1 ticket holder of the Sturt club, and he was glad to see the team return to the Unley oval.

Despite all these commitments and interests, David Tonkin also found the time to write a book on medicine. His service to the public was recognised in 1993 when he was awarded the Order of Australia. Yet, above all else, David Tonkin was devoted to his family. Our sympathies today go out to his wife, Prue, and their children and grandchildren.

David Tonkin fought gallantly in recent years to recover from a previous illness, driven on above all else by a desire to spend quality time with his family. Only last year I had the pleasure with Julie to join David and some family friends for his seventieth birthday celebration, where he made a well delivered speech, despite the impediment of the stroke that he had suffered. It demonstrated his tenacity and his desire to push on and, during the course of that speech, the true David Tonkin whom we had seen on many occasions.

Certainly, Julie and I had seen that when David and Prue stayed at our home in Kadina on visits to such events as the Kernewek Lowender or dinners which we had occasionally as a ministry and which I enjoyed in the latter part of the Tonkin Government term, or subsequent to that period, when he was simply a friend, a colleague and someone who gave encouragement in the political process. That sort of involvement, encouragement and the human hand of friendship is something that is very important in this occupation. Those of us who are in the occupation understand just how important it is.

Just six weeks ago (timely, I guess, looking back now), David Tonkin's lifelong service to the Liberal Party was recognised by the awarding of the organisation's highest award. The Outstanding Service Award was bestowed on him by the Prime Minister, and it was an appropriate and deserved honour for his involvement. I am so pleased and grateful that that presentation to David by the Prime Minister of Australia was able to take place in the past six weeks.

Today we mourn his passing. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends, but most of all we give thanks for David Tonkin's intelligent and compassionate contribution towards the future of all South Australians. In this condolence motion I would also like to acknowledge Prue Tonkin, who is a delightful and charming woman and who has given outstanding support and service to David throughout his career. The acknowledgment given to David today, in part, is due to Prue for the way in which she has, in unstinting terms, given support to David so that he could achieve what he has been able to achieve during his lifetime.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): The untimely death of David Tonkin at the weekend is a shock and a sad loss for all South Australians and for all members of this parliament. I first met David Tonkin when I was working for the then Premier, Don Dunstan, and he was Leader of the Opposition. I think that we met in a tent at the Schutzenfest and he was both friendly and welcoming. He was

having a degree of mirth at Don Dunstan's arriving dressed in lederhosen. At that time and on many occasions I found David Tonkin to be a decent and genuine person who cared about people regardless of their political views.

As the Premier said, David Tonkin was particularly encouraging to young people in terms of their becoming involved in politics and making a contribution, whatever the political party. David Tonkin had a rich hinterland which meant that politics was not the only reason for his existence. He worked hard as a student and was rewarded with scholarships to St Peters College. He then went on to study medicine at the University of Adelaide. After working and undertaking postgraduate studies in New Zealand and London he returned to Adelaide to work as an eye surgeon and he was widely acclaimed in that role by his peers and patients alike.

With colleagues such as Fred Hollows, David Tonkin had a passion for preventing blindness and he was a long-term director of the Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness and an executive member of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness. David continued to practise as an eye surgeon for a while whilst in parliament. I remember the day that his old adversary Don Dunstan collapsed in parliament just days before his resignation in February 1979 and it was David Tonkin who was the first to offer support and medical assistance.

I worked in different ways on three election campaigns in 1977, 1979 and 1982 in which David Tonkin led the other side. In the 1977 election, at the height of Dunstan's popularity, David Tonkin was faced with a formidable task, but he stuck to his guns and performed well in the debates. He was as gracious in defeat as he was generous in victory against Des Corcoran just two years later, and I think that that was the mark of the man. David Tonkin was a politician who kept his word and honoured his commitments. He was loyal to his party, to his parliamentary colleagues and to his state.

As Premier, he will be remembered for many legislative and other achievements, and the Premier has mentioned the O-Bahn, Technology Park, the South Australian History Trust, the Ethnic Affairs Commission and, with the hard-working support of his loyal deputy, Roger Goldsworthy, the Roxby Downs indenture legislation.

I believe that the zenith of David Tonkin's achievements as Premier was his ability and determination, despite deep-seated opposition from many conservatives, to pick up the Aboriginal land rights torch lit by Don Dunstan and then negotiate and pass historic legislation for land rights for the Pitjantjatjara people. David Tonkin's inclusive approach helped ensure a uniquely South Australian bipartisan approach to Aboriginal affairs. Long may his approach endure because it sets us apart from other states and territories where the race card has been played, where justice has not been done and where Australia's image has been tarnished.

Most of all, David Tonkin will be remembered as one of the most decent people in politics. He continued to make a contribution to our state long after he resigned from state parliament. It was his ability to build bridges between people of diverse backgrounds and different political views that led to his appointment as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association based in London.

David Tonkin was also a passionate supporter of the arts and, as the Premier said, the Bannon government appointed him Chairman of the State Opera, a role in which he performed admirably. In 1994 he was appointed Chairman of the South Australian Film Corporation. His enthusiasm for our film industry was both palpable and infectious as he sought

to invite politicians from both sides of the House to see the film corporation filming on set. His passion for the arts continued to the very end. Indeed, I saw David Tonkin at a performance of the Barossa Music Festival only on Saturday night at Peter Lehman's winery.

As the Premier said, David suffered a stroke in 1996. His tremendous courage in dealing with the frustrations caused by his disability and in his rigorous rehabilitation program should be an inspiration to those in similar circumstances. David was one of those people to whom the word 'honourable' is a most fitting title. David Tonkin enjoyed the affection and respect of colleagues on both sides of the House and, on behalf of the Labor Party and the state opposition, I would like to convey our deepest sympathies to his wife Prue, his children and grandchildren.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services): I join with the other speakers in paying tribute not only to a great South Australian but also to a personal friend. I had the privilege of sharing an electorate office with David Tonkin for 10 years (we were in the same common area and our offices adjoined each other), so I got to know David extremely well, as members can imagine. I respected greatly what he contributed to South Australia as Premier of this state for three years from 1979 to 1982. Most of all, David Tonkin loved people and he was very compassionate for people. He enjoyed having people around to his home.

If you dropped around to David's home at 11 o'clock on a Saturday morning to have a discussion with him on some political issues, he would have the music on, the family would be dropping in and out as they went to sport and you would end up having lunch there invariably with 10, 12, or 15 people. It was a mark, I think, of the homeliness of both David and Prue that they welcomed everyone who wanted to come and they would welcome you to stay as long as you would like. The pair were very warm to their friends and to the broader circle of people around them. I saw at first hand the extent to which David cared very much for people.

I guess that it reflected not only in his own family and family life but also in the fact that he was a medical doctor. When David saw an injustice done he would work very hard to overcome those injustices and that is why he took up the issue of equal opportunity for women—it was something that meant a great deal to him in particular through a number of circumstances in life. He did that from opposition. It shows that if you are persistent and if you have very high values, as David had, then you can achieve quite significant gains, even from opposition, in terms of amending state legislation.

I touch for a moment on what was achieved during that period during which David Tonkin was Premier. The Premier has already outlined many of those achievements, which were significant indeed. It was a period of tremendous turmoil, particularly in the manufacturing industry because we had come through the period of protection for Australian manufacturing industry during the 1950s, 1960s and into the 1970s, but industry was very much in decline and employment in the manufacturing sector dropped dramatically in the late 1970s. During that period that David Tonkin was Premier he had the enormous challenge of trying to keep manufacturing industry together in South Australia.

In fact, he did it very effectively. He saw the transition from Chrysler to Mitsubishi and he saw the transition from Uniroyal to Bridgestone and, in those days, those two operations alone accounted for about 8 000 to 10 000 employees in South Australia. They were massive operations

and there were many others. At the same time, David had a vision for our future economy. He was a strong backer of Technology Park. Although many people wondered what was a Technology Park and thought that it was something like a rather elaborate playground, in fact David understood it fully and backed it wholeheartedly.

He backed the O-Bahn busway and made a huge political commitment as Premier and as leader to put in place a high technology transport system which had been trialed in only one other country and which appeared to produce some enormous benefits. In fact, we are seeing the benefits of that today. It was a real breakthrough in terms of what he achieved in that area.

The Premier has highlighted the significance of Roxby Downs and the significance of Aboriginal land rights. I want to stress the role of David Tonkin in starting reconciliation with the Aboriginal people. David had a passion for wanting to overcome many of the disadvantages that the Aboriginal community faced. I know that he went and worked in remote areas, which people often did not realise, trying to do something about the eyesight problems—glaucoma, in particular—of Aboriginal people in their communities. When he stepped down as Premier and resigned from parliament one of the things he did was spend considerable time in fairly remote areas working with those Aboriginal communities.

So today we acknowledge a person who has made a great contribution to this state but, most importantly, we acknowledge that he was a gentleman; he was a decent person who kept his word. After the 1979 election the first thing David Tonkin said to the cabinet was, 'I want you to go back over all the promises and to put them into effect immediately.' He had drawn up a list of priorities and the most important of all was the abolition of land tax on the family home. That was to go through parliament immediately. So, he stuck to his word. It was a very happy cabinet indeed, working together very effectively.

David had a sense of humour, and he also loved music. I can recall on one occasion David and a group of other members of parliament singing Gilbert and Sullivan, or a variation of Gilbert and Sullivan, at a champagne breakfast. The member for Heysen was there and certainly had the outstanding voice, although I think David Tonkin had the volume, and he certainly had the enthusiasm and the enjoyment that went with it.

He was a person who loved life, loved people and lived life to the fullest, but at the same time he left very significant benefits for future generations of South Australians. Both Rosslyn and I pass on to Prue, their children and grandchildren our sincere condolences. We have lost a friend but the memories will live on.

Mr De LAINE (Price): The Hon. David Tonkin AO passed away suddenly on 1 October this year, aged 71 years. David was the member for Bragg from May 1970 until April 1983, was Leader of the Opposition from 1975 until 1979 and, of course, was Premier of South Australia from 1979 until 1982. He was also, as has been mentioned, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association based in London between 1986 and 1992. In fact, he was the first Australian and the first non-British person to hold that post in the history of the CPA, which was a great tribute to David.

David was a true gentleman, was very friendly and had a good sense of humour. He was respected by all sides of politics. I spent some time with David in India in 1991 during

his time as Secretary-General of the CPA and thoroughly enjoyed his company and, I must say, his wisdom. I would like to extend my sincere condolences to Prue and the family.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I wish to support my colleagues in expressing our sadness at the passing of David Tonkin—Tonks, or even Super Tonks to some. I knew David Tonkin for many years and he was a personal friend of my family. My father Howard served with David in this House and he often was a house guest at Montrose during his many trips to Rocky River. He was always a very personable, polite, decent man and a real gentleman.

Way back in the 1970s, I think it was 1977, in the run-up to the state election, my father was under extreme pressure from the Country Party. Three weeks before the election my youngest sister Julie was involved in a serious car accident at Gosford, north of Sydney. Of course, my mother and my father went to her bedside. Out of the blue arrived David Tonkin and he took over the campaign. For three days, from memory, he and I were door knocking at Clare. As a young fellow in my late 20s, I learnt a lot in that time about how a decent man could work and have rapport with both Labor and Liberal people alike, because certainly that was how Clare was made up in those days. I very much appreciated that time.

How could such a decent man be involved in politics? In those days I thought you had to have a certain ruthless sort of character to be involved in this game, but David Tonkin proved that you could be a gentlemen. A few weeks later at the election my father won the seat by 40 votes—I think it was 39 or 40. What David did for us, the family and for the people of Rocky River was much appreciated. David subsequently became the Leader of the Opposition a month later and, of course, became Premier two years later. He was a leader with a compassionate, conciliatory manner. He understood people, and I think that came from his bedside manner as a doctor.

People compare David with Don Dunstan, but David was different. Dunstan was a social reformer but Tonkin knew what needed to be done in South Australia to progress economic growth. It was the Tonkin Liberal government that developed the Olympic Dam operation in Roxby Downs and we have seen that expand into what is today a town of over 3 000 people. It is pleasing to see several of David's colleagues in the gallery today, and one in particular who could see that mirage in the desert.

Other achievements of the Tonkin government are the O-Bahn busway, as we have heard; the Pitjantjatjara land rights, with large tracts of land in the north being given back to the Aboriginals; and also the Adelaide and International Airport.

On one of my very few trips overseas I went to London at the encouragement of David Tonkin, who by that time was Secretary-General of the CPA, having brought great credit to this state when he was appointed to that position. He made welcome any Australian who was in London and organised everything for them, and I certainly appreciated that.

As Premier David had a unique style. Colleagues might remark about this more than I, but I heard about the times that a car would arrive at a minister's place with a blue memo saying that the Premier required you: in other words, 'Be in the car. I need to see you now.' I see a few smiles, but my father often used to say that if a car arrived with a blue memo you were in some sort of trouble. But Tonkin had such a nice way of doing it.

I was shocked to hear of his passing last weekend in the Barossa. To Prue and the family, I join in adding my and my family's sincere condolences. David Tonkin AO, rest in peace.

Ms KEY (Hanson): I was very saddened to hear of the loss of David Tonkin. When I first became the Director of the Working Women's Centre, it was in those days, in the early 1980s, part of the Premier's Department, and both the Women's Information Switchboard and the Working Women's Centre had a very close relationship with the Premier. After getting the job I was asked to go and see the Premier. I must say I had some nervousness about doing so because I was particularly known at that time for being a Labor Party member and also an active trade unionist and I was not sure what to expect from a Liberal Premier.

I am very pleased to say that Mr Tonkin, as I called him—I could call him David—wanted to talk to me about the recently released ACTU Working Women's Charter and was quite accepting of the fact that I had won the job at the Working Women's Centre but was more interested in the concept of an industrial issue. In the early 1980s the ACTU—very wisely, I think—started to talk about a lot of issues that I think previously had not been seen to be part of the industrial arena, issues such as sexual harassment and child care which had just been named at that stage as industrial issues. It was to my amazement that the Premier wanted to talk to me about these issues.

I was already aware of his track record with regard to a private member's bill on the Sex Discrimination Act, which later turned into some of the best legislation in Australia and which probably has an international record of the Equal Opportunity Act 1986. The Premier was keen to ensure that we kept this legislation up to date. In talking about sexual harassment, I must say that one of the issues of concern to the Premier was that sexual harassment was not covered under legislation, and it took a number of years for sexual harassment to be covered. I remember in the early 1980s the Premier being the person who was leading that charge.

The other issue of concern was repetition strain injury. These days the issue of overuse and people having carpal tunnel, tennis elbow and a number of other complaints as a result of overuse or repetitive work was considered to be quite scandalous at the time. I remember, when heading up with a number of other people the launch of the repetition injury campaign, that the Working Women's Centre came under a lot of attack, certainly from some of the employer associations, and in fact a complaint was made to the Premier about my activities in the repetition inquiry campaign.

I am pleased to say that I did not get a blue slip, but certainly I was summoned immediately to the Premier's office, where he asked me about the background to the repetition inquiry campaign and why the Working Women's Centre thought it was a major issue. After that conversation he said that he would support the Working Women's Centre in its quest because he could see that the issue needed a lot of work and that there needed to be not only medical research into the area but also support for people who were unlucky enough to have repetition strain injury.

The last point I make about the Hon. David Tonkin was his way of making sure that the Working Women's Centre and the Women's Information Switchboard, as it was called, were able to network. David Tonkin encouraged the then Jennifer Adamson (now Cashmore) and Diana Laidlaw to be involved in the Working Women's Centre's activities and to

make sure that we had the support we needed. To his credit, he also had no problems with the Hons Barbara Wiese, Anne Levy and Susan Lenehan having an involvement in the Working Women's Centre and the Women's Information Switchboard.

Although it was an unusual experience for a person in their early twenties—getting into the political arena and reporting to the Premier—his attitude and liberal politics have had a great effect on me and made me think that one does not have to be in a combative situation to get across one's point and it is important to respect some of the issues being raised by, and characteristics of, your enemies, rather than simply trying to assassinate them.

The way in which David Tonkin behaved as Premier, as a statesperson and as a politician very much supports some of the feminist principles of operation that those of us who are feminists consider important, where we work through issues and come up with a solution. Despite the fact that he was obviously a man, I think David Tonkin understood those issues and also made sure that there was a way through some of the issues which, in most cases, would have been seen as the issues of people on the opposite side of the fence.

In closing, I record my sadness at the passing of the Hon. David Tonkin for a number of personal reasons that I have mentioned. I also pass on my condolences to his family and his many friends on both sides of this House.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Bragg): David Tonkin, doctor of medicine, eye specialist, member for Bragg, Premier of South Australia, AO: a very special man. David was member for Bragg from May 1987 to April 1993. As a local member of parliament he was considered by those who dealt with him to be one of the best. In looking back over the past few days through some of the files left in my office, it is interesting that some of the issues that are now prevalent in 2000, the most important being the upgrading of Portrush Road, were issues back in the early 1980s. A lot of the other issues were very personal ones and reflected the role and sort of person David Tonkin was.

In discussions over the past few days with people who were directly involved with him, I have heard people say that he was very much a people person and a hell of a nice bloke. Everyone who knew him would tell many stories of his kindness and helpfulness and the fact that he cared about people—the sort of things that have been repeated here today. He was super warm and friendly and did not say a bad word about anyone. That was the David Tonkin whom I knew and the David Tonkin who I am sure all members who worked with him in this parliament knew.

Unfortunately, I was not privileged to be in this parliament at the time he was a member, but I have been privileged to be given a lot of personal advice from him over a long period. One of the things I remember most is the advice that he gave to me on the very first morning I became the member for Bragg when he sat down in my office and ran through all my colleagues and explained them to me and their individual traits. I point out that he was 100 per cent accurate—I know that from many years experience!

As Premier, David Tonkin was involved with Roxby Downs, particularly in partnership with Roger Goldsworthy, in making sure that one of the biggest copper mines, one of the most significant gold mines and one of the most significant uranium mines in the world—hardly a mirage in the desert—was developed in South Australia. He was involved with the land rights and the Pitjantjatjara people, and in my

involvement with Aboriginal people in the districts of Salisbury and Elizabeth David Tonkin's name often came up not only through his involvement with the legislation but, more importantly, in his role in dealing with people, in particular the Aboriginal people.

It is interesting that a member opposite mentioned equal opportunity and women's rights, because when I became Minister for Industrial Affairs one of the very first issues that came before me was the role of the women's centre. When I went out and spoke to the women involved and to people in the department, David Tonkin's name was mentioned and there was a hope that I would continue to play a similar sort of role and have a similar view. I am not sure whether it was exactly the same, but I am sure that the outcome we achieved was in the same general direction. In industrial relations terms, it was a very significant breakthrough in terms of directions for women. David was very much involved in that.

I had the privilege on many occasions of being involved with his role as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London. Many members would know not only of his hospitality but also, more importantly, of the advice he often gave us about how we ought to be doing things and looking at changes in this state as he saw it from a world perspective, and that was important to us, particularly when we were very young.

On behalf of all the people who were personally involved with him in Bragg (and there were a lot of people because in the early days when David was a member we had the biggest single membership of any branch of the Liberal Party in South Australia), I pass on our condolences to his wife Prue and to Anne, Penny, Christine, Peter, James and John and to all the grandchildren. On behalf of all the people whom he represented in Bragg and, in particular, those with whom he had a close relationship in the Liberal Party in Bragg, I express their condolences to the family.

Mr HILL (Kaurana): I was very sad to learn of the death of David Tonkin on the weekend, and I extend to his family and friends my condolences in their loss. I did not know David terribly well but our paths did cross on a number of occasions. The first occasion I recall was when he was Premier during the famous Mitcham by-election in May 1982. In an uncharacteristic Whitlamesque gesture, David decided to appoint the former Attorney-General Robin Millhouse to the Supreme Court and fight a by-election that he hoped to win and thus garner more numbers to his side. That gesture was just as successful as Gough Whitlam's similar gesture with Vincent Gair some years earlier. He lost the by-election. I was the Labor candidate for that by-election and my goal was to try to get the lowest possible Labor vote so that the Democrats could get over the line, and I am very pleased to say that I succeeded admirably. It was certainly the last time that I tried to achieve that goal. In one small way I helped in the downfall of the Tonkin government.

The second time that our paths crossed was in 1986 when I was travelling in the United Kingdom with Greg Crafter, who was then Minister for Education. He was on a British Council scholarship to visit the United Kingdom and see many splendid things there. We had a meeting in the British house of parliament. Having concluded our meeting, we were walking down a corridor and wondering how we could get in to see question time. There was no way of doing that because the queue was a mile long. Fortunately we bumped into David Tonkin, who was then Secretary-General of the CPA. He told us to wait there and about three minutes later he

organised us into question time. It was Prime Minister's question time so we saw Margaret Thatcher demolishing all before her. It was one of the highlights of the trip and it demonstrated the courtesy and kindness that was David Tonkin.

The third occasion on which David's and my paths crossed was in recent years when David purchased a holiday house at Port Willunga, which is in my electorate. That seems to be a phenomenon of members and former members for Bragg. I was pleased to see David and his wife on occasion in the electorate, enjoying the beaches and the local facilities.

Members interjecting:

Mr HILL: It was a holiday house so he was not on the electoral roll. On one occasion I chatted to David about one of the community groups in the area who decided to get some funding. It needed a good patron and, having racked my brain about who would be a good person to approach, I thought of David Tonkin, a former Premier. I rang him about this little community group that needed a good patron. He was very kind and generous but he declined, saying that he did not feel that he would be able to do the job properly because of his stroke. He was very kind and let us down gently.

Members interjecting:

Mr HILL: When he is a former member I might. David Tonkin was a charming and courteous man. He was an old-fashioned Liberal with the right kind of values. He was a pre-Thatcherite Liberal, he was a pre-privatisation Liberal, and those kind of values were exemplified in the things that members have spoken about today. He promoted reforms in Aboriginal affairs, land rights legislation, Technology Park and the O-Bahn: good government instrumentalities and initiatives that showed there is a strong role for government. Many people have said that he was surprised when he became Premier, and I think that was probably true. The look of surprise on his face when he became Premier stayed with him the whole time that he held the office. We appreciate him for it and we will miss him.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen): I join my colleagues on both sides of the House in paying tribute to Dr David Tonkin AO. I think it is great that members from both sides of the House have such great respect for and fond memories of the former Premier. David was a person whom I respected tremendously, both as a friend and as my leader. It was an absolute privilege to serve as a minister in the Tonkin government. Previous speakers have referred to his significant achievements, including his medical career as a well-respected eye surgeon. It is interesting to note that my wife Jill, as a nurse, spent a considerable amount of time with David Tonkin, as a surgeon, well before I met her and I know that she had tremendous respect for him as an eye surgeon. So many people also have respect for him in regard to his achievements in his political career.

Above everything else, I respected David for his leadership skills. He was the sort of fellow who always had an open-door policy. You always felt welcome, as has been said by other of my colleagues. It did not matter how small the issue or how large—David always had time. He listened, and you were conscious that he was listening. On many occasions I recall going into his office as Premier with what I thought was a significant issue, only to talk about it for a couple of minutes and come out thinking, 'Why didn't I think of that?' or 'Why did I think it was such a huge issue?' when David was able to simplify it and come up easily with a response that served the purpose.

Reference has been made to his love of classical music, particularly Beethoven, and I have very fond memories of going into his office with classical music playing in the background. In those days cabinet met adjacent to the Premier's office and, quite often, we carried out our business as a cabinet with Beethoven playing in the background, and I think that had to improve the situation.

Reference has also been made to blue notes. The cabinet of the day used to shudder when those blue notes arrived, and did they arrive! Sometimes we would get five, six or up to 10 a day. As a new and very keen minister, I used to put down everything to respond to those blue notes, until one day we found out from the late Ross Story, his adviser, that the Premier never kept a record of the notes that he sent. From that day on, the blue notes just built up in the drawers until they overflowed. He really meant business and he was a great bloke to work with.

As the Premier and others have indicated, I think that the dinners that we used to have as a cabinet and the barbecues that we used to have at David and Prue's home were some of the happiest times that I can remember as a politician, and I will always remember those days because of their friendliness, kindness and generosity. Those memories will live on. Again I have very fond memories of the time that Jill and I spent in London when David was Secretary-General of the CPA, and again his kindness, generosity and the time that he was prepared to spend with us is something that we will always remember. Along with other members of the House, many who feel this way but who will not have the opportunity to speak today, and with Jill, I pass on our condolences and love to Prue and family and grandchildren.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I entered parliament on the same day as David Tonkin, so I served in this place during the whole time that he was a member. I well recall the happy occasions we had travelling around South Australia and the time that he and his family visited us at Venus Bay where we used to have a beach shack. However, I remember David Tonkin for three much more significant things. I was the member for the area encompassing Roxby Downs during the challenging and interesting times when we were dealing with that significant legislation and I sat on the select committee that eventually recommended that that process go ahead. I was also the member for the district in which the Pitjantjatjara Lands were located, and I recall the occasion on which I was standing alongside David Tonkin at the Victoria Park racecourse when an unruly ruffian threw a pie in his face, which was not a very decent thing to do, although I must say that the South Australian police force in their usual efficient manner dealt with that particular person.

However, the third most significant thing which David Tonkin's government did was to abolish death duties in South Australia. That course of action guaranteed that small family businesses had a future. Without that step, there would be fewer privately owned farms and businesses in South Australia. David Tonkin is on record as having taken one of the most significant steps towards protecting families and their asset than any other Premier has ever taken, and for that many people will be indebted to him.

I would like to place on the record my appreciation of the work that David Tonkin did for the people of South Australia and how I enjoyed being a member with him in this place, and I add my condolences to those extended by other members to his family.

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I support the motion of condolence for David Tonkin, whom I knew for many years as a personal friend and a political colleague. Although I do not want to repeat the many things that have been said about David and his achievements, I would particularly like to endorse the remarks made by other members, particularly the moving tribute paid to David and his extraordinary record by the Premier. However, I thought I would add just a little to the picture of David Tonkin's life that I recall because some of the aspects of it are a little different from those that have been expressed so far. I first met David Tonkin during the late 1960s in his campaign in 1968 to stand for the Labor held seat of Norwood that was represented by the then Premier, Don Dunstan.

David, as we know, was a highly successful ophthalmic surgeon, and it was quite unusual for someone with his professional credentials to stand for what was clearly a very difficult seat to win. It is fair to say that he conducted a very colourful and vigorous campaign. It was during that campaign that I believe David's reputation was established with the then LCL certainly as a minister of the future and perhaps a leader of the future. He had an extraordinary capacity to work with people and he built up a fantastic team of people, particularly his family, but Liberal Party members came from across the state to support him and to work in that campaign—and I concede that some of them did not like the incumbent member. However, what is so amazing in hindsight is that so many of the people who joined that campaign in 1968 stuck with David from that time on. I have a vivid recollection of a strong band of Liberal ladies who formed a very active fundraising committee from 1968 and stayed with him throughout the ensuing years.

The other aspect of the 1968 campaign—and this followed David throughout his future years—was the very strong number of young Liberals who enjoyed working with him, appreciating and strongly supporting the Liberal principles and policies that he pursued in those days. The one which I particularly recall and which has been outlined by the member for Hanson was the issue affecting equal opportunity. Certainly in those days it was not easy for a Liberal candidate—even though most of us believed that he would go even further in that regard—to be expounding some of the principles that he was expounding at the time. Certainly his support of Aboriginal land rights goes back many years, as has been ably outlined earlier today.

However, the interesting thing was his preselection win in the seat of Bragg in 1970. Bragg was regarded as a safe seat, and David won preselection against a very strong field of contenders; and, of course, there was an enormous expectation that he would be very much involved with the group of people who would certainly win in the future. As David Tonkin's personal achievements and the record of his government have been outlined extremely well, I thought I would follow on from what the member for Kaurana has said about David Tonkin being surprised at his election win in 1979. As I have said on a couple of previous occasions, in those days I was a political journalist working at Channel 7. Reference has been made certainly by the member for Kaurana to the surprise win in 1979.

Those students of history, or those who were involved at the time, would remember that that surprise victory had a number of components that affected the final result. I well recall that in 1979 an electronic media blackout took effect at midnight on the Wednesday night prior to polling day. In the lead-up to that election it is fair to say that most people

considered David Tonkin and the Liberal Party to be rank outsiders to win the election. My recollection at the time was that Des Corcoran, leading the Labor Party, called an election after undertaking very little current market research—and I think that is well documented. They went into that election campaign without their great communicator, Don Dunstan, and with no market research. For whatever reason, it was decided that it was opportune to go to the polls.

From my perspective as a journalist covering that campaign, I was particularly interested because you could sense in week two that David Tonkin was making some impact on the campaign, and by week three there was no doubt that there was an expectation that the Liberal Party would do quite well. During the last week of the campaign the sense of concern that undoubtedly was spread right across the senior levels of the then Labor government developed into a sense of panic and an absolute sense of foreboding by the Tuesday of the last week. Remembering that we had the blackout at midnight on the Wednesday, it was very important for the television services that night to get out whatever messages the political parties supposed were the right messages.

Those of us interested at that time remember that there was a bus strike and that freak weather conditions descended on the metropolitan area of Adelaide in late morning and lasted throughout the day. Therefore, the television lead stories that night were amazing vision of people in foul moods getting absolutely soaked standing at bus stops and this covered the electorates from the seaside to the north-east. It was a very interesting phenomenon that was taking place. I recall in particular doing my round-up story of election coverage and outlining the seats that I believed could fall from the Labor Party into either Liberal or Independent Labor hands—because there were a couple of fairly controversial seats at that time. My news editor at the time, who was not known for his Liberal tendencies can I say, told me, first, that I clearly was wrong and letting my bias show through—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J. HALL: —Clive Wood—and secondly, if I was accurate he would congratulate me but, if I was wrong, he would sack me on Monday morning. So that caused me some consternation. On election night at 8.30 I decided that I would go to air and predict the downfall of the Labor government. The second telephone call I received was from one of David Tonkin's senior advisers saying, 'God, do you know something we don't? Could you please tell us what has happened?' What I did not say was that I had an arrangement with a former Labor minister that we would compare two particular ballot boxes—one in his electorate and one that I knew very well—and, if they were going badly for the Labor Party, it was his view that the following seats would fall. I happened to agree with him and made this very brave—some would have said stupid—prediction at 8.30. It was absolutely fascinating because several times during the evening David was on the telephone saying, 'Are you just doing this so you don't get the sack? Could you please tell us why you are so certain that these seats are going to fall and we (being the Liberal Party) are going to win them?' Well, I will not embarrass the person concerned, but the seats that I predicted were dead accurate and I must say it was not just my sense. It was certainly a Labor minister at the time who had quite a reputation.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J. HALL: I would imagine the member for Kaurna knows exactly whom it was. I conclude my remarks

by saying that the following morning, despite all the celebrations by David Tonkin and the Liberal Party, he actually telephoned me to say that he was delighted that the outcome meant that I would not be sacked from my job and that, if there was anything he could do to calm the waters, he would be very happy to do so. Again, that reflects very well on him as an individual in that, with all the things that were going on, he actually took the trouble to give me a call. Over the next year or so, I think it is fair to say that the then Premier and I had several cross words on the way in which I reported stories, but it never ever affected our friendship, of which I am very proud. I am delighted to know that history will record his administration to be one of the most reforming governments that this state has ever seen with long-reaching benefits into the future.

We have heard several references to his time as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London. I would like to recount, finally, one particularly fond memory I have. Indeed, I have photographic evidence of it. It was at a meeting at Harare in Zimbabwe in the late 1980s. David at that time was Secretary-General and he had been invited to attend a conference of commonwealth nations in Africa. Unbeknown to David, my husband (who was then a member of the federal parliament) was attending the conference as a federal parliamentary delegate. I travelled with him to Zimbabwe. I did some work for UNICEF and said that I would go to some social functions with him. Also travelling in Zimbabwe at that time was another South Australian couple, Michael and Jill Wilson. Many members in this chamber would know that Michael was a senior minister in David's government.

On a particular day during some of the conference activities, there was a function at Parliament House in Harare which was to be followed by luncheon. Members can imagine the surprise on David Tonkin's face when he walked into Parliament House in Harare to be met by Steele Hall and Michael Wilson. A number of the Zimbabwean hosts, I must say, were absolutely stunned and intrigued and thought it had special significance that, of the four white males in the courtyard at Parliament House in Harare, two were former South Australian Premiers and one a former South Australian minister. I can assure members that it made for some lively conversations and quite unrepeatably reminisces which went on for the next few hours.

When you have known someone for a very long time, it is very difficult, I think, to say the words that you really want to say about a personal friend. I have been fortunate to have shared many highs and many political lows with David Tonkin and his family. I have admired enormously his commitment and his work on many political issues and so much of his continuing work in public life. I would like to say that we all know, and we have heard, that he was an absolute devoted family man, so to Prue and his children and grandchildren I express my personal sadness and sorrow, and my husband's, for his most untimely death.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Minerals and Energy): It is with sadness that I, too, rise in this chamber to add my condolences to those that have already been expressed by others. I have had the privilege of knowing David Tonkin for well over half my life—indeed, for the past 24 years. There are a number of occasions during which we shared time together and which I would also like to share with the House today.

I remember, vividly, the first time I was invited to this parliament. It was in 1977 when I was one of a group of young people—in fact, I was 19 at that time—who was invited by David Tonkin to the parliament so that he could show us Parliament House and encourage us to think about a political career.

Other speakers, including the Premier, have mentioned that David Tonkin was a man who had a lot of time for young people and believed in encouraging young people to enter politics. That meeting certainly had an impact on me, and I know it also had a significant impact on others who attended it. In fact, David Tonkin was one of the first people to congratulate me when I became a candidate for the seat of Bright in 1988 and when I was elected as a member to this parliament 12 months later in 1989.

I also recall an occasion in 1979 when I bumped into David Tonkin at the closing of the Royal Adelaide Show. He had completed a stint on the Liberal Party stand at the show and was fairly buoyed by the reception he had received. Those of us who knew David Tonkin know that he always enjoyed constant and active interaction with people. It is far to say that he had had a robust day at the Royal Adelaide Show. He had enjoyed the face to face interaction with those whom he met, and he was certainly on an adrenalin high when I spoke with him on that occasion.

I also fondly remember the time I spent with him, as did my wife, in 1990 in the United Kingdom when he was Secretary-General to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He took us to his office and to dinner at Parliament House, and arranged for us to see the Prime Minister's question time. I spent a number of hours with David on that day and certainly feel privileged to have had that time with him.

Much has been said about David Tonkin in this House today, but I think few would disagree that he was a man who was honourable. He was a visionary and he was a determined man. The fact that he was honourable is demonstrated through the recounts of his acts of honesty; the fact that his word was his bond; and the fact that he treated people with respect. I particularly enjoyed the member for Hanson's address to the House today when she shared with us her view of David Tonkin. That address, in particular, highlights the honourable way in which David Tonkin approached his business.

He was a visionary for many reasons, and Roxby Downs and the O-Bahn have already been mentioned. In reflecting upon some of his achievements, I went into the newspaper archives at the time that the Roxby Downs indenture bill was to come before the parliament. Some wonderful quotes are obtainable from the *Advertiser*. Interestingly, the journalist involved with these articles is none other than Greg Kelton. It seems that some things do not change with time, because he is still the political journalist today.

The recounts are interesting. An article appeared in the *Advertiser* on 10 November 1981 which, in part, stated:

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Bannon, [said] the government should be chasing 'here and now' ventures such as Stony Point rather than 'pies in the sky' such as Roxby Downs.

A few days before that, the then Premier had referred to Roxby Downs as 'a mirage in the desert'. An article in the *Advertiser* entitled, 'South Australia "a laughing stock" if Roxby Downs Bill lost' stated:

South Australia would become a laughing stock if the Roxby Downs indenture bill were not passed by state parliament, the Premier, Mr Tonkin, said yesterday. Mr Tonkin told a luncheon

meeting at the Festival Theatre that Roxby Downs was one of the key projects his government was encouraging. 'This giant mine will not mean instant wealth to South Australia,' he said. 'But in less than a decade it has the potential to inject hundreds of millions of dollars into this state's economy.'

In a further article in the *Advertiser*, he is reported as saying:

Opportunities like this occur only once or twice in a lifetime. To turn our backs on the chance now would have a detrimental impact on this state which would be felt into the next century.

The Premier of the day put his views on the record and was ably supported by his Deputy Premier and then Minister for Mines and Energy, Roger Goldsworthy. Unfortunately, Standing Orders prevent my acknowledging the presence of people in the gallery but, if they did, I would acknowledge the presence of the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy.

On 27 November 1981, the then opposition leader Mr Bannon drew on a report from the State Development Council which he claimed showed that the government's direction for Roxby Downs was wrong. An article headed 'Roxby vision not backed by report' in the *Advertiser* on 27 November 1981 stated:

Mr Bannon said the statement should be set against the opinion of the Premier, Mr Tonkin, that Roxby Downs represented for SA 'a beacon on the hill, a light for the future. . . ' I hope Mr Tonkin will take a lead from the STC and stop making extravagant statements about the potential contribution of Roxby Downs to our future wealth and stop playing down the consequences of such resource development that would react against established manufacturers or add new hazards to the environment. . . .

Roxby Downs goes down in the records as being a significant benefit to our state. The Hon. David Tonkin was proved correct, and his other characteristic I mentioned, his determination to push ahead with this, has been well rewarded. As Minister for Minerals and Energy I can report to the House that the total value of production since mining at Roxby Downs commenced is now over \$3.5 billion—a far greater amount than that which was lost by the Bannon government's State Bank disaster. The total royalties received by government since mining commenced have been \$105 million; the total mine work force of Western Mining employees is 1 200; there are 300 contractors; and there are many other value add jobs to our economy. This sort of thing would not have occurred were it not for the determination of people such as David Tonkin. In the face of adversity and criticism they determinedly pushed ahead, and the results are there for all to see.

David Tonkin's determination was also illustrated after he suffered a stroke. I met with him on a number of occasions after he suffered that stroke and was particularly impressed by his determination in regaining his powers of speech and his movement. I could often see the frustration in his eyes as he tried to express himself in the way he used to do, but he would not be beaten into submission by the aftermath of that stroke. David Tonkin's family can be proud of his achievements. I extend my sympathy to David's wife, Prue, and their family, and trust that they will hold their head high over David Tonkin's achievements in this state.

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): I, too, wish to pay tribute to the Hon. David Tonkin, former Premier of South Australia, and give my sincere condolences to his wife, Prue, and his family. I cannot claim to have known David Tonkin for a long time; I cannot claim to have known him as a personal friend. I cannot claim to have known him as a politician. I cannot claim to have known him as an equal opportunity campaigner. I cannot claim to have known him as an Aboriginal land

rights campaigner. I cannot claim to have known him when he established the Ethnic Affairs Commission and many other firsts for South Australia. But, as can many South Australians who came into contact with him, I can claim that coming into contact with him was to have known him as a great South Australian. Such is the greatness of the man that, as we have heard here today, tributes have been paid from both sides of politics. I am sure that many members of parliament from both sides of the House are thinking as I am today that, if we get the same tributes when we leave this earth, that would surely be some achievement as a member of parliament. I was honoured and privileged to have met him for the last time at Sir Mark Oliphant's memorial. For me, to have sat next to him was a great privilege indeed.

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): I wish to pay tribute to the Hon. David Tonkin, mainly because he is one of the major reasons I am here. He spoke at a meeting back in the late 1960s in Tumby Bay, where I was a very nervous 19 year old school teacher. It was on that occasion that I asked my first political question and became interested in politics, which became a lifelong interest. I did not meet with David again until after I had come back from 6½ years in Papua New Guinea and had started the Young liberal movement in Port Lincoln, where we had a very enthusiastic group of Young Liberals. When I heard of David's passing I thought back on it and remembered what I did to him, and I thought, 'My goodness; I hope nobody does that to me.' We had a walkathon and I asked David if he would please come across and walk to the top of Winter Hill which, as anyone who knows Port Lincoln well knows, is the highest hill, just behind Port Lincoln. We made David walk all the way up Winter Hill and, not only that, we made him walk all the way down. We raised over \$2 000 for anti-cancer, and in today's dollars that would be a considerable amount of money. We had a barbecue and it was wonderful. He was a most pleasant and hospitable person.

After that I was a very strong Liberal member and became the Chairman of the Liberal Party in Port Lincoln, much to the horror of some of the men of the district, who could not believe a woman would become President of a mixed gender branch on Eyre Peninsula, which was very conservative at the time—

Members interjecting:

Mrs PENFOLD: It has not changed very much. After we came back from Papua New Guinea my husband and I noticed that there was a problem with the distance and isolation on Eyre Peninsula. In particular we saw children with cross eyes, crooked feet and other quite obvious disabilities that were not being corrected. One of the reasons was that the parents could not afford to pay for the transport to take children to the specialists who were all located in Adelaide, and that also meant paying for accommodation. Many people had not even been to Adelaide in their whole life, and others had been perhaps once or twice. The cost of having these disabilities corrected was insurmountable for them, so there are still people there who grew up with these legacies.

We lobbied to have patient travel assistance put in place just before the Tonkin government came in, and the prospective Liberal government made a commitment. We did not really think they would get in, but we thought that if we could get this commitment maybe we could get patient travel assistance. With great pleasure we saw that when the new government took office that commitment was honoured. That

strengthened my faith and belief in the political process and my understanding of it; and my continued belief in it has made me stand here today and pay tribute to a person whom I thought was a very great man. So, I extend my greatest condolences to his family and friends who grieve for him.

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): I, too, was saddened to learn of what I think was the untimely early passing of David Tonkin. I first met him in the early 1970s in the course of the work that was being done to re-elect Ian Wilson as the federal member for Sturt. Without going into the minutiae of the occasions on which I met him in the course of work in the Liberal Party, I was again fortunate to be closely associated with him when he was paired with me (as it were) as the endorsed candidate for Coles in the 1975 election.

David, Prue and their family were all very supportive and helpful with such an enormous amount of energy, ideas and inspiration, not only for myself but also for the other supporters I had in that campaign, that we were able to shift what seemed like an impossible mountain almost completely and defeat Des Corcoran in his attempt to shift from the seat of Millicent into the metropolitan area to the seat of Coles after Len King had been kicked upstairs to the bench of the Supreme Court. The margin needed was 10.8 per cent. When the poll was taken as a sample (and during that time I was involved in market survey and data collection) on a Wednesday night in 1975—the Hindmarsh Building Society run was on, and so on—we did have the numbers. But ultimately we did not: they had evaporated by Saturday and only 8.2 per cent was obtained.

I again came to know David Tonkin during the time that I was the State Secretary for the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors. I presented to him, on behalf of that federation, its manifesto encouraging the Liberal Party to adopt a policy of using more contract work rather than day labour to procure public works. Now, of course, it is a matter of history that this is seen to be the most cost-effective manner of doing public works. It is supposed to mean that the costs will not blow out. Notwithstanding that, David Tonkin embraced the two principles that I was putting to him on behalf of the members of the fraternity of civil engineers, if you like—the contracting industry in South Australia for construction work—which was not only about contracting out public works but also the need for sunset clauses in government legislation establishing various authorities and instrumentalities so that they did not simply go on forever—so that, just because they were there yesterday, they should remain tomorrow. At some point in time there needed to be a deliberate review by the parliament to determine whether they should remain.

Of all the things that I would say about David Tonkin, he was (and I doubt that members of the Liberal Party in this place deserve what he did for the Liberal Party) a great healer. It was David Tonkin who went out through the branches night after night and met with the people who were members of the Liberal Party, and others in the community who were interested, to reassure them that the party had not lost its way, that it was indeed capable of cohesive government and that he would do anything at all to make it possible, and he did. We won the 1979 election and I was elected at that time.

David Tonkin had, prior to that election, of course, a far wider range of responsibilities than to spend time pottering around in a rural seat, such as Mallee was, and, if it were not possible for us to win it on our own wits with the support of

the local Liberals, then, surely, we did not deserve to. But we did win. I wanted to draw attention not only to Aboriginal land rights, Roxby Downs, the abolition of death duties, the O-Bahn, and so on, but to other things David Tonkin did before he became a member of parliament, and I am surprised that I have not heard much mention of it. Clearly, the Lions International campaign to save sight would not have succeeded had it not been for David Tonkin's deliberate and continuing support for that program before he became a member of parliament, and he is well recognised by Lions for the work he did in that regard.

Equally, David Tonkin, after he was elected to parliament, had the vision to see that if parliament was to be a more effective institution the knock-down, drag-out process of debating the budget in the whole House as a single committee had to change, and he accepted the proposition that estimates committees would be a good way to go. If members of parliament, and ministers in particular, respected what those committees were intended to do, and that is to reveal information about the way in which the departments, the bureaus, are spending money, then I am quite sure that we would still be as well served today as we were when they were first introduced 20 years ago.

As I have said, David Tonkin embraced the concept of sunset legislation and ought to be recognised for that as well. Subsequent to his term as Premier in this state, it was not long before he was again drafted into service of the institution of democracy and Westminster parliaments as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). I think that I ought not to go into that other than to say that he served that institution extremely well during a very difficult time in its development to the point where it now remains relevant. He did a great deal then, not only for his initial career and profession, ophthalmology, but also in such a short time as Premier in South Australia; and, indeed, then, because of the kind of person he was, a very great deal for the whole world through the way in which he not only maintained but built greater cohesion into the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association during his term as its Secretary-General.

We will miss David Tonkin and we will, if we are sensible, follow his example. The mark of the man in my judgment is that he was an astute and inclusive man and that is how he managed to heal the rifts and difficulties that had arisen within the Liberal Party 25 and more years ago. But if I had to choose a word to describe him I would say that he was magnanimous. He was not threatened by the notion that his idea, whatever it may be on the day, did not get up. He made the most of what was provided from the decision that was made to go forward and to make sure that tomorrow was better than yesterday, and that is the duty of all of us, I am sure. David Tonkin was a fine example of how to do that.

More than that, though, he was always good humoured about it. 'Avuncular' is another word that comes to mind to describe him. Altogether, when you examine the life of the man and what he did for people's sight, for people's insight and for people's understanding of each other, regardless of their cultural origins, both within and outside Australia, you have to conclude that David Tonkin was a great man. Along with other members, I offer my condolences to Prue and the rest of the Tonkin family.

The SPEAKER: It was a privilege to know David Tonkin. I place on the public record my respect for the man and my appreciation of his support for the period of time that

I was in parliament between 1979 and 1982. I was a very young candidate in the year leading up to the elections. A couple of weeks ago I found an old photograph in a cupboard when I was cleaning it out. It was a dreadful photograph of me with long hair and a young face, but it was a very good photograph of David. We were campaigning together along Jetty Road at Glenelg at a time when the seat was held by the Labor Party. It was one of those seats that we hoped to pick up in the 1979 election. I say 'hoped' because there was no guarantee of it. At that stage, as was pointed out by the Minister for Tourism, the Liberal Party did not know that it would win the election. David was an immense support and encouragement for me as a young candidate to keep going. Of course, I remember, like many members at the time, when the Liberal Party won the election, the smile on David's face when we came into this place to be sworn in, and that smile continued for many months after.

At that time I sat in the seat occupied by the member for MacKillop. I can remember David saying to me, 'Young fellow (as I suppose I was in those days), all we want you to do is go back down to Glenelg and keep working the seat. If you want to be here in three years' time you will have to do that or you won't succeed.' It was the best advice the man ever gave me because, 21 years later, I am still here. The point made by the member for Heysen, I think, sticks in my mind as well. We look back on those three years of the Tonkin Liberal government as having a very happy and coordinated unit.

I was not privileged to be in that cabinet but I can imagine that the atmosphere there was similar to that in the party room. I put that down largely to the efforts of both Prue and David in the way that they consciously went out to draw the organisation together. The way in which they operated as a team pervaded not only their parliamentary life but also their social and medical life and every other aspect of life that the two took on as a partnership. I really believe that we saw a partnership there.

I would like to extend to Prue and the family, on my behalf and also on behalf of my family, our deep love and affection for them as a couple, and I would like to say that we respect the sad loss that she is experiencing on the demise of David. As I said in opening my remarks, it was a privilege to have known the man, and he has left us with some very fond memories. I invite all members who support this motion to rise in their place in support.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 4.17 to 4.25 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

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

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

That the paper be published.

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the minutes of the assembly of members of the two Houses held today for the election of a member of the Legislative Council to hold the place rendered vacant by the resignation of the Hon. G. Weatherill at which Robert Kenneth Sneath was elected.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

A petition signed by 237 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House make the state free of genetically modified agricultural crops, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Brown.

Petition received.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

A petition signed by 87 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House urge the government to maintain services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Brown.

Petition received.

LIBRARY FUNDING

Petitions signed by 1 531 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House ensure government funding of public libraries is maintained, were presented by the Hons M.D. Rann and G.M. Gunn and Mr Venning.

Petitions received.

PROSTITUTION

Petitions signed by 130 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House strengthen the law in relation to prostitution and ban prostitution related advertising, were presented by Messrs Meier and McEwen.

Petitions received.

MOTIONS, WORDING

The SPEAKER: I advise members who have given notices of motion that there may be argument in some of them and, if so, editing of the wording of those motions will be needed before they appear on the *Notice Paper*.

MEMBERS, INTERESTS

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the statement of the Register of Members' Interests for the year 30 June 2000.

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

That the statement be published.

Motion carried.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the Auditor-General's Report for the year ended 30 June 2000.

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

That the report be published.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the following reports of committees that have been received and published pursuant to section 17(7) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991:

Economic and Finance Committee—31st report on South Australian government assistance to industry;

Legislative Review Committee—Report on Freedom of Information Act 1991;

Public Works Committee—130th report on Robe Terrace upgrade;

Public Works Committee—131st report on Mount Pleasant treatment plant;

Public Works Committee—132nd report on the Hope Valley reservoir rehabilitation project;

Public Works Committee—133rd report on Football Park grandstand;

Public Works Committee—134th report on Le Mans track project.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): I bring up the 135th report of the committee on the Coopers Brewery relocation—final report, and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

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

That the report be published.

Motion carried.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. J.W. Olsen)—

Disciplinary Appeals Tribunal—Report, 1999-2000

Government Boards and Committees Information—

Report, 1999-2000

Promotions and Grievance Appeals Tribunal—Report,

1999-2000

Fees Regulation Act—Regulations—Revocation

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

Advisory Board of Agriculture—Report, 1999-2000

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia—

Report, 1999-2000

Regulations under the following Acts—

Dairy Industry—Licence Fees

Fisheries Act—

Exotic Fish

General

Miscellaneous

Prawn Fisheries Variation

Mining Act—Private Mines

Petroleum—Principal

Petroleum Products Subsidy—Customs

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

Booleroo Centre District Hospital & Health services

Inc.—Report, 1999-2000

Dental Board of South Australia—Report, 1999-2000

Plan Amendment Report—

Berri-Barmera—General Review and Consolidation

City of Norwood Payneham and St Peters, Kensington and

Norwood (City) Development Plan, Local Heritage

(Built Heritage) Review—Interim Operation

Hills Face Zone Amendment—Interim Operation

Telecommunications Facilities Statewide Policy Frame-

work—Interim Operation

- Physiotherapists Board of South Australia—Report, 1999-2000
- Regulations under the following Acts—
- Adoption—Age
 - Controlled Substances—
 - Cannabis Plant Expiation
 - Poisons
 - Prohibited Substances
 - Development—Telecommunications Facilities
 - Local Government (Implementation)—Public Consultation
 - Motor Vehicles—
 - Accident Towing Roster Scheme
 - Fees Recovery
 - Passing Emergency Vehicles
 - Occupational Therapists—Prescribed Qualifications
 - Local Government Finance Authority—Prescribed Bodies
 - Passenger Transport—Exclusions from Accreditation
 - Radiation Protection and Control—Ionising Radiation
 - Road Traffic—
 - Emergency Workers
 - Hospitals for Compulsory Blood Test
 - Inspection Fees
 - No U-Turn Signs
 - South Australian Health Commission—Private Hospitals
- By the Minister for Government Enterprises (Hon. M.H. Armitage)—
- Public Corporations Act—Ministerial Direction—South Australian Ports Corporation
 - Regulations under the following Acts—
 - Dangerous Substances—Application of Commonwealth Regulations
 - Daylight Saving—Summer Time 2000-2001
 - Valuation of Land—Fixtures
 - Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation—
 - Crown Agencies
 - Dispute Resolution—Payment of GST
 - General—Payment of GST
 - Reviews and Appeals—Payment of GST
- By the Minister for Education and Children's Services (Hon. M.R. Buckby)—
- Adelaide University—Report, 1999
 - Flinders University of South Australia—
 - Report, 1999
 - Statute Amendments Allowed by the Governor in 1999
 - Gaming Machines Act—State Supply Board—Report, 1999-2000
 - University of South Australia—
 - Financial Statements, 1999
 - Report, 1999
 - Regulations under the following Acts—
 - Electricity—Industry
 - Lottery and Gaming—Interpretation Variation
 - Police Superannuation—Commutation
 - Public Corporations—Adelaide Convention Centre Corporation
 - Public Finance and Audit—Variation of Bodies
 - Superannuation—Miscellaneous Amendment
- By the Minister for Environment and Heritage (Hon. I.F. Evans)—
- Evidence Act 1929—Report Relating to Suppression Orders, 1999-2000
 - Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act—
 - Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Videotapes
 - National Classification Code
 - Land Board—Report, 1999-2000
 - Reserve Planning and Management Advisory Committee—Report, 1999-2000
 - South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council—
 - Report, 1999-2000
 - Summary Offences Act—
 - Dangerous Area Declarations, 1 April 2000 to 30 June 2000
 - Road Block Establishment Authorisations, 1 April 2000—30 June 2000
 - Wildlife Advisory Committee—Report, 1999-2000
 - Regulations under the following Acts—
 - Bail—Bail Application—Written Reasons
 - Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium—Admission Charges
 - Coast Protection—
 - Eyre
 - Fleurieu
 - Kangaroo Island
 - Metropolitan
 - South-East
 - Spencer
 - Yorke
 - Conveyancers—Cheques Exemption
 - Environment Protection—Weigh Bridge
 - Land Agents—Cheques Exemption
 - Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians—Smith's Snackfood
 - Liquor Licensing—Clare and Gilbert Valleys
 - Liquor Licensing—Dry Areas—
 - Barmera
 - Port Adelaide
 - Victor Harbor
 - National Parks and Wildlife—
 - Administrative
 - Royalty
 - Recreation Grounds—Hindmarsh Stadium
 - Sexual Reassignment—Principal
 - Sheriff's Act—Items on Premises
 - Subordinate Legislation—Postponement of Expiry
 - Rules of Court—
 - District Court Act—District Court—
 - Person Under Disability
 - Application of Schedules
 - Magistrates Court Act—Magistrates Court—Erratum
 - Supreme Court Act—Supreme Court—
 - GST Costs
 - Interest Rate Application
 - Interest Rate Change
 - Performance Indicators
 - Registry Hours
- By the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing (Hon. I.F. Evans)—
- Racing Act—Regulations—The Authority
- By the Minister for Water Resources (Hon. M.K. Brindal)—
- Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee—
 - Report, 1998-1999
 - Water Resources Act—Regulations—Meters
- By the Minister for Tourism (Hon. J.L. Hall)—
- Seventh Australian Masters Games—Report, 1999-2000
 - South Australian Motor Sport Board—Statement of Accounts, 1999-2000
- By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. D.C. Kotz)—
- Boundary Adjustment Facilitation Panel—Report, 1999-2000
 - Local Government Elections—Report, May 2000
 - Local Government Finance Authority—Report, 2000
 - Local Government Grants Commission South Australia—
 - Report, 1999-2000.
- PARTNERSHIPS 21**
- The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.
- Leave granted.

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY: Partnerships 21 is the most significant reform of South Australia's schooling and pre-school system yet undertaken. Implemented at the start of this year, it is already delivering tangible benefits to school and preschool communities across the state. While participation in Partnerships 21 is voluntary, almost half our schools and preschools have chosen to take up the new system. Take-up is expected to rise to 65 per cent by the start of the 2001 year.

Why this spectacular success in the face of a negative, misleading industrial campaign headed by the Australian Education Union? In the first place, the government is giving local communities the say in their affairs they have long deserved. Decisions in Partnerships 21 sites are made at the local level. The government has acknowledged what communities have always known: that they know best what they need for their students. Secondly, funding is going to the areas of greatest need. An enormous effort has ensured that the new funding mechanisms take all relevant social, economic, geographic and other factors into account to ensure that the education dollar is distributed equitably. Thirdly, the process has always been transparent. School communities know what they are getting and why. We have made the distribution of funds a public process. Mechanisms which were previously known only to administrators, mechanisms which in many cases were based on nothing more than historical deals, have been replaced with a process which is transparent, understandable and very public.

A recent call for a parliamentary inquiry into Partnerships 21 is based on nothing but spurious claims by the Australian Education Union which has tried to make much of a document supposedly 'leaked' and 'secret'. This dishonesty is part and parcel of the union's intimidatory, negative campaign against Partnerships 21. The document in question was not secret and the AEU knows that. It was one of a series of drafts and documents providing important input to Partnerships 21 from an open process involving 10 policy shaping groups made up of school and preschool leaders. This consultative and inclusive approach is well used, and indeed well-known, in education circles and ensures continuous improvement.

These groups were widely representative. Many AEU members participated in their work. The AEU itself was specifically invited to be part of each policy shaping group formulating the document, but it declined to participate. Nevertheless, to ensure that the AEU was consulted, DETE met with its president and two vice presidents to brief them on the work of the policy shaping groups. Over 70 school principals and preschool directors from both Partnerships 21 and non-Partnerships 21 sites participated in the policy shaping groups over a three month period. Discussions were open and frank. The concerns of individuals were faithfully recorded. My department is not in the business of filtering out issues that the group said needed to be addressed.

There was a corresponding strategy developed by these groups to address each issue in the document, but the AEU fails to mention any of the solutions recommended. Why? I note that the groundless call for an inquiry came from a member in another place and is now being borrowed by others opposite. I note, too, that yesterday the President of the South Australian Association of State Schools Organisations described the call for an inquiry as 'a sign of desperation'. He went on to say that the call 'reflects the desperation of a recalcitrant union which is losing its battle against progress and the cynical political opportunism of a headline seeking minor party'.

World authority on local management, Professor Brian Caldwell, Dean of Education at the University of Melbourne, has undertaken extensive research in this area. He has assessed Partnerships 21 and concludes that:

Partnerships 21 is a remarkable achievement in school education. It is state of the art as far as comprehensiveness, clarity and commitment are concerned. It superbly balances core values, for example equity, choice, community efficiency and effectiveness.

He continues:

It has primary focus on improved student learning. The evidence is rolling in that schools which take up their new powers have indeed reaped benefits for students, mostly by targeting resources and staffing plans on meeting priorities among learning needs based on the unprecedentedly high volumes of data about student achievement now available to schools.

He states:

Partnerships 21 is consistent with landmark reforms occurring elsewhere in Australia and all comparable nations, but has a refreshing clarity and educational focus not evident in other places.

He further states:

It is fitting that South Australia should have brought it all together as the century begins, having initiated local management 30 years ago. It fits well with the South Australian government's statement of directions that places education and training at the forefront of strategies to secure the social and economic wellbeing of the state. The challenge now is to build the capacity of schools to make the link to these directions and to learning outcomes for students.

The Australian Productivity Commission investigated the Victorian 'Schools of the Future' program in 1998, concluding that:

There are practical limits to decentralisation. It allows improved efficiency and flexibility, increased choice and improved responsiveness, but these benefits must be balanced against the need for accountability.

Our South Australian version of local management, Partnerships 21, will enable schools in their partnerships with their communities to provide enhanced programs which will enable students to reach their full potential. Not unlike other responsible and thinking South Australians, I, too, am irritated by disparate groups who attempt to discredit an internationally recognised and successful scheme which already provides better outcomes for our students and their communities.

I unreservedly reject all claims for an inquiry into Partnerships 21. It is nothing more than brazen opportunism at best. Our move to local management is an expanding success story, unlike the increasingly out of touch teachers' union executive and their devotees.

CRIMINAL LAW (UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS) ACT

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Environment and Heritage): I lay on the table the ministerial statement relating to undercover operations made earlier today in another place by the Attorney-General.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Environment and Heritage): I lay on the table the ministerial statement relating to section 93AA of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 made earlier today in another place by the Attorney-General.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REGISTERS OF INTERESTS

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Minister for Local Government): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: In recent weeks I have watched with great concern events surrounding the local government elected members' registers of interest. Members will be aware that a large number of elected members of councils failed to lodge primary returns for the new public local government registers of interest. The effect of such a failure under the Local Government Act 1999 is that the seat of the elected member becomes vacant. The only available remedies are reinstatement by the District Court or supplementary elections.

Applications were made to the District Court on behalf of the approximately 293 former members of local government councils. I am pleased to inform the House that advice to me at this stage is that all but two have been restored to office. I understand that the two outstanding are overseas, and applications for their reinstatement are yet to be completed and heard.

I commend the local government sector for acting promptly once the problem became apparent. I commend more strongly the 26 out of the 68 councils that got it right and whose elected members submitted both primary and ordinary returns in order and on time. Open registers of interest are a central element of an accountable and responsive local government system in South Australia.

By setting out the major private interests of elected members, the registers provide the community at large with the information they need to be assured that private interests do not dominate public decision making. The establishment of public registers, with new information now required by parliament, following the May 2000 elections, required the extra step of primary returns from re-elected council members as well as new members.

In view of recent public statements, I want to make perfectly clear that after future elections the Local Government Act will require only ordinary returns from people in this position, that is, updated returns from persons who were elected members immediately prior to elections. Both primary and ordinary returns will be required of newly elected members only.

I also want to make clear that the extra step of primary returns from all elected members following the first elections under the new act was both clear and necessary. As most members of this House would recall, the Local Government (Implementation) Act was debated in November 1999, was proclaimed and gazetted on 9 December 1999 and came into operation from 1 January 2000. This means that all members of councils had at least five months before the May 2000 elections to read the relevant legislation and become aware of their statutory responsibilities. Before contesting the May elections, they should have known that there would be a need to establish the new publicly available registers with all the information now required by parliament.

I am extremely disappointed so many members and chief executive officers got this wrong. I am disappointed, too, that it is apparent that some mayors are still insufficiently acquainted with the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999.

These mayors, according to their publicly expressed opinions, appear still not to understand that the implementation provisions for re-elected members were a one-off requirement following the May 2000 local government elections which ensured that the information contained in the register of interests would be brought to the public record.

To suggest that there will be long term problems with duplicated reporting indicates that these mayors have failed to grasp the concept of implementation provisions. It further suggests the need to gain a better understanding of their public reporting responsibilities. This week's experience has shown that the consequences of non-compliance with legislative obligations can be very serious indeed. All councils, elected members, chief executive officers and employees are expected to comply with the provisions of the new acts.

I reiterate the advice I have given to many councils in recent months. If they have questions about any matters of compliance, they may raise these with the Office of Local Government or the Local Government Association. I will, however, be checking compliance with all aspects of the new local government acts early in the new year.

QUESTION TIME

PETROL PRICES

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Premier. Does the Premier support another rise in the commonwealth fuel excise next February or does he support the moves of Richard Court, the Liberal Premier of Western Australia, Steve Bracks in Victoria and Peter Beattie in Queensland to take to the November Premiers' Conference a recommendation that the commonwealth forgo the next fuel excise rise? Petrol prices have risen to well over 90 cents a litre in the metropolitan area and higher in non metropolitan areas. The next indexation for CPI is scheduled for February and would see the price of fuel rise further. State leaders are seeking to use the November Premiers' Conference to apply maximum pressure on the Howard government to forgo the excise increase in February.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): At the instigation of some of my colleagues, a meeting will be held prior to the 3 November COAG meeting of Premiers and chief ministers. I have concurred with their request for a meeting as it relates to the question posed by the Leader of the Opposition and the matter will be further pursued at that meeting.

AQUACULTURE

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Can the Deputy Premier indicate to the House the impact that aquaculture is having on regional South Australia, in particular Eyre Peninsula, and what action the government is taking to ensure the prosperity and the sustainability of this rapidly growing industry?

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I thank the member for Flinders for the question and pay great credit to her for the job she does. She certainly understands aquaculture. Since she took over as member there has been an enormous amount of jobs for constituents and she has a great understanding of this subject. Most members would be aware how aquaculture is turning around a lot of communities in regional South Australia, particularly on Eyre Peninsula, but also Yorke Peninsula, the South-East and inland. It is absolutely vital for us to foster this industry in a manner which is sustainable in the long term.

The improvement that new legislation can make was highlighted by the latest ERD Court decision handed down yesterday and we need to progress with the creation of a new act. Community consultation on that is in process at the moment. There has been a lot of feedback and all that

feedback will be considered. We have a broad range of people sitting on the working group putting that together. The investors in aquaculture are creating for South Australia an enormous boost and a terrific new industry. I certainly feel that the parliament owes them bipartisan support for what must be a sustainable industry. Certainly, we and they understand that as their dollars certainly depend on it.

It is important that we do not underestimate the growth within the aquaculture industry. As against the exports from the start of the 1990s, we have over 70 times the level of export now that we had 10 years ago. While that is somewhat academic, it certainly illustrates the importance of aquaculture. It is starting to make a real impact on our export figures. When one lines it up, one sees that it is about 30 per cent of the wine industry, and that brings home to people the fact that it is enormous. It is bigger now than was the wine industry at the start of the 1990s as far as exports go, and that puts it into context.

Not only is it a great industry in relation to exports, but also the actual impact that it is having on communities is something that those who travel around regional South Australia are starting to note. If one goes to towns such as Cowell—about which we have spoken in this place before—one sees that it has given that town a whole new reason to grow and exist. Cowell has greeted it with open arms. It has given it great new confidence, a lot of jobs for young people and a new purpose for the school, which is running an aquaculture farm, and really making a difference.

Down the coastline at Arno Bay there is a new hatchery which, along with the hatchery at Port Augusta, is creating an opportunity for the fin fish industry to get up and going. Also, Fitzgerald Bay north of Whyalla has significant numbers of king fish being grown.

People will identify with Port Lincoln the enormous difference that tuna in particular has made to the economy of that town. That has run through all sorts of industries there. With abalone at Port Lincoln, high technology and good marketing is creating an enormous number of jobs. Coffin Bay has oysters and Smoky Bay—a holiday town with about 30 businesses—has a proposal for an aquaculture park. At Ceduna, there is a big new development off the peninsula, and across the state we see the difference that it is making. This investment is seeing enormous job growth.

The greatest need in the industry is the need for certainty. That is the goal of the government. The goal of the industry is certainly about sustainability because, without it, the big money it is pouring in to set up these investments is not certain. And they are well and truly on about sustainability and pouring dollars, with the government, into research to create it. Sustainability is not the exclusive goal of a few vocal people based in Adelaide who claim that they are the only ones who care about the sustainability of the industry. It is annoying to hear those small groups trying to bring certain parts of the industry unstuck. They need a greater understanding of what makes rural communities tick, the importance of these jobs and the importance of sustainability to them all. It is sustainability not just from an environmental or economic viewpoint but also from a legislative and legal viewpoint that is important. When people sit there and try to work out how technically they can bring things undone legally, it adds a level of uncertainty that is not welcome within the industry.

The opportunities for regional South Australia in aquaculture are enormous. It is across a lot of different species, is creating thousands of jobs and is having a massive impact on

the lives of tens of thousands of South Australians. It has turned around quite a few towns and has the possibility of turning around a number of other towns and regions of the state. It is important that the parliament over the next six to 12 months delivers to that industry the certainty that it needs to create that prosperity for South Australia.

PETROL PRICES

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):

Given the Premier's response to the previous question on petrol pricing, does the Premier believe that John Howard has failed to keep his promise that petrol prices would not increase because of the GST and, if so, what does he intend to do about it? The Prime Minister, John Howard, promised that:

The GST will not increase the price of petrol for the ordinary motorist.

However, the commonwealth is making a windfall gain at motorists' expense of around 2¢ per litre because it is receiving 1.5¢ per litre more from the GST than under the old fuel excise level, plus the fact that the GST is levied on top of any increases in petrol excise.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): In answer to the first part of the question, I point out that John Howard is more than capable of explaining his policy position to the Australian electorate.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: As to the second part of the question, and as I indicated in my answer to the first question, it is on the COAG agenda and I have concurred with that discussion.

MIGRANTS

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Will the Minister for Employment and Training advise the House what has been done specifically to increase employment opportunities for migrants in our state?

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL (Minister for Employment and Training): I thank the member for Hartley for his question, and I acknowledge, as will the whole House, his longstanding commitment not only to the community of which he is proudly a part but also to all the different groupings in South Australia. This state is proud of its traditions and the multicultural nature of our community, and the government acknowledges the impressive contribution that migrants have made and will continue to make to the economic, cultural and social life of our community. It acknowledges in particular that, in talking of migrants, we do not speak only of those who arrived last month, last year or five years ago but of most of us in this chamber, in that this state has been settled for six or seven generations at most, so in that sense all Europeans in the Adelaide Plains are migrants, hopefully in transition, so in a sense we are migrants and South Australians.

The Department of Industry and Trade, through the Immigration SA campaign, has been successful in attracting skilled migrants to South Australia and offers a number of on-arrival support programs to support successful settlement. In the light of this and the unfortunate withdrawal of commonwealth assistance to support new migrants in the areas of case management, training and income support, the state government through the Office of Employment and

Youth, Department of Education, Training and Employment, has subsidised the range of training and development programs that have led to employment opportunities for participants.

In the 1999-2000 financial year, the Office of Employment and Youth has contributed \$330 000 to eight migrant and refugee programs, and I invite all members particularly to take notice of these programs. I will detail them and, if members want further information, the Office of Employment and Youth will be pleased to supply it because I know that all members are keen to assist such people when they come to their electorate office. The programs are: the business assistance program; the migrant employment consultancy project; Techwise; employment placement program for migrants and refugees; community services bridging course (aged care) for non-English speaking background migrants; employment preparation course for overseas qualified engineers; employment preparation course for temporary protection visa holders; and the hospitality bridging course.

More recently, the government has established two programs. The first of these provides training and support to unskilled migrants and refugees. The House will agree that these people are particularly vulnerable in our community and therefore particularly worthy and deserving of our support. The most pleasing aspect of this program is that it will result in participants being placed in a variety of working environments, enhancing their skills and gaining sustainable employment.

The second program is a hairdressing bridging course for unemployed migrants and refugees which provides graduates with a certificate II in hairdressing and enables those who complete the course to articulate into second or third year apprenticeships in the second or third year of their training. In addition, the course will provide English as a second language for those requiring assistance in this area. Not only will the course provide employment opportunities for migrants and refugees but also it will address an identified skill shortage area in South Australia as recognised by the state training profile and the Labour Economics Office.

In conclusion, I commend to the House the efforts of this government in filling a gap that has been left, unfortunately, by the commonwealth and in seeking to ensure that our population is better skilled, better prepared and more capable of ensuring the sort of South Australia that is envisioned by the Premier, every minister and every responsible member of this House.

PETROL PRICES

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Will the Premier tell us of the outcome of an inquiry he announced six weeks ago into whether state petrol subsidies of up to 3.33¢ per litre were being passed on to country motorists and whether any action has resulted from the Premier's investigations? The Premier announced on 23 August this year that the government had launched an investigation to ensure state petrol subsidies were being passed on to motorists. At that time in some parts of country South Australia petrol prices were as high as \$1.23 a litre and today remain significantly higher than metropolitan petrol pump prices. The Premier said that the government would react 'decisively and quickly if evidence emerged that oil companies were not passing on state subsidies'.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): This issue was raised by the member for Gordon in the course of the last few weeks, if my memory serves me correctly, in correspondence

with me and my office. On the basis of that inquiry from the member for Gordon, I sought some advice. Let me recount some of the background to it and then I will specifically answer the member for Hart's question. State zonal subsidies have been in place since August 1997 when we put them in place to assist with the disparity in fuel prices in country and regional areas. The subsidies were designed to ensure that there would be no tax induced change in petrol prices as a result of the replacement of the state tax with the commonwealth excise surcharge. We as a government took that initiative to give a degree of protection as it relates to petrol pricing for country and regional consumers.

At present, the government provides petrol subsidies ranging from 0.66¢ per litre to 3.33¢ per litre. At the time of the introduction of the subsidies in 1997, the commonwealth indicated that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission would be closely monitoring petrol prices to ensure that there were no unwarranted price effects resulting from the replacement of state petrol taxes with a commonwealth excise and state subsidy. No adverse price movements were apparent at the time of transition, indicating that the subsidies were being effectively passed on and reflected in petrol prices, that is, retail petrol prices in country areas. In April 2000, Revenue SA, which administers the subsidy scheme, conducted some audits on a number of distributors which revealed that subsidies were being correctly incorporated into the selling price charged by distributors to retailers of fuel for country areas.

More recently in August, as the member for Hart has indicated (and this triggered the inquiry from the member for Gordon), I announced that I had asked Treasury and Finance to ensure that oil companies were passing on zonal petrol subsidies to consumers in South Australia. At this stage, I can report to the House that investigations have clearly commenced. However, previous exercises of this type have shown that the assembly and analysis of relevant information will take some time and it is unlikely that the completed results will become available until at least the end of October. However, on an interim basis I am advised that investigations of approximately 20 of the 39 subsidy claimants in South Australia have been completed with the remainder, including wholesalers, due for completion by the end of October. I am pleased to inform the House that no evidence of distributors failing to pass on subsidy payments to consumers has been detected to date.

CFS CADET HANDBOOK

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON (Heysen): As a considerable amount of interest is being shown in the new CFS cadet handbook, will the Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services outline to the House the benefits of that particular handbook?

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services): I know that the honourable member is very supportive of what is happening with CFS cadets because of his concerns in relation to bushfire prevention and oppression. On Sunday, I had the privilege of visiting the Woodhouse Scout Camp near Stirling which was the venue for the second of the state cadet camps and which is in the member for Heysen's electorate. It was interesting to note the growth and keenness in this statewide cadet camp. In fact, the cadet camp was so oversubscribed that we have decided to run a camp each year not only for those in regions 1 and 2 but also for those in the

north, west and south-east so that they can save travelling time.

A total of 300 young people aged from 11 to 17 years attended this cadet camp. I know that the government whip would be keen to hear that at Yorketown alone 15 new cadets have joined the CFS in recent times. The Premier earlier this year announced the Active 8 Cadet Program, which is aimed at ensuring that the skills of young South Australians are best utilised. Of course, CFS cadets fit very well into the Active 8 Cadet Program that the Premier initiated.

When launching the cadet handbook on Sunday, I told the cadets that while the CFS cadets are doing a fantastic job in volunteering to get upskilled to look after their own communities when it comes to life and property protection, when one analyses the training and support that CFS volunteers are getting, particularly these cadets, it would be hard to find a tertiary course which gives such broadbased skill training and which involves a range of practical skills to assist these young people in job opportunities in the future.

That is the thrust behind the cadet handbook. The handbook has been well designed by Tracey Hubbard, the new youth development officer who has been employed to support the development of cadets not only in the CFS but also in the SES and surf lifesaving. The handbook will allow the cadets to keep a log of all training and development from the time they begin in year 11 to the time they graduate as a senior firefighter when they are adults. The handbook also includes a lot of operational information, first aid information and procedural information which, as a result of the design of the handbook, they will be able to keep in their CFS overalls whenever they are training or in the areas where they are able to attend limited incidents.

The enthusiasm of these young people was superb and I encourage all members to talk up the Premier's Active 8 Cadet Program and to encourage young people to join the CFS and SES. Having seen what the Prime Minister in England is attempting to do—and I congratulate him, also, on looking at the importance of volunteering—I was pleased to see that we are far ahead in volunteer support programs than even the Prime Minister of the UK. He has actually developed a program called Active Community Involvement because he has realised that he faces the same problems in the UK as every other country in the world faces today when it comes to keeping the support base for volunteers.

While South Australia proudly leads the way on a percentage basis, when it comes to volunteering in South Australia it is important that we continue to support and focus on the volunteers. As I said to those cadets on Sunday, in my area of emergency services alone, if we did not have volunteers such as the cadets coming into the CFS and we had to turn that into a paid situation, on a conservative estimate we would have to fund about \$250 million more out of Consolidated Account of the government coffers. Clearly that would not be possible, so the least we can do as a parliament and community is get behind volunteering and support these initiatives such as the cadet handbook and the fantastic growth in cadets that we are now seeing in the CFS.

WATER CONTAMINATION

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): Will the Minister for Government Enterprises tell the House what progress has been made in identifying the toxin responsible for the contamination of water on Yorke Peninsula at Easter this year and provide an update on the situation, including any findings known to his

department or decisions made by his department on this matter?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Government Enterprises): That episode reflects a great deal of credit on the processes of determining the toxin. I cannot remember the exact organism, but I am happy to get the details. I certainly knew it backwards at the time, but interestingly it was not a bug that had previously been found to have toxic effects. Through their excellent work, the Australian Water Quality Centre and other scientists attached to SA Water and the IMVS isolated this toxin.

A number of investigations are still going on, because of the unusual nature of this bug and the toxin which it caused. My understanding is that those investigations will hopefully lead to conclusions which might affect the treatment of contamination by this type of bug world wide, not only in South Australia. I say again that this is an example of the high quality of work that goes on at the Australian Water Quality Centre, and I commend the people there who are able to isolate these toxins and elaborate exactly what they are in such quick time and so lead to appropriate health care for the people drinking the water.

MOSQUITOES

Mr CONDOUS (Colton): Will the Minister for Human Services outline to the House the recent initiatives that the government has taken more effectively to combat the mosquito problem in certain areas?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I am delighted to say that, following the preparation of a strategic plan to deal with mosquito control within this state, the government has made a decision and allocated funds to adopt a statewide approach. Under this approach, \$200 000 has been allocated by the state government for mosquito control each year. Those funds will be indexed each year and made available on a dollar for dollar subsidy from local government to put into place mosquito control programs such as spraying, misting, application of larvicide, and so on, in areas where mosquitoes are a particular nuisance. There are a couple of those areas; for instance, the Deputy Premier has a problem with mosquitoes at Port Pirie in his electorate. It is well known that there are significant problems with mosquitoes, particularly around the trotting track and the mangroves at Port Pirie.

Now, for the first time, the people of Port Pirie will be able to work through their council in partnership with the state government to put into place control measures during this spring, summer and autumn period to make sure that the nuisance value of those mosquitoes is reduced. The one-off sort of effort that has been undertaken year by year just north of Adelaide in the Globe Derby Park area will also come under this program.

It will now be up to the Salisbury council to work in partnership with the state government on a dollar-for-dollar basis to put in place a spraying/misting program where appropriate, as well as other programs at a local level, to ensure that people clean-up any free water in their backyard. I know that this will bring a lot of joy particularly to those people outside of the Globe Derby area because, in the past, those people have received no assistance. Specific restrictions are applied as to how those funds will be allocated: no more than about \$50 000 per area from the \$200 000, but that will be an increase in funding for even the Globe Derby area.

The money is to go towards spraying programs: it is not to go towards large capital works programs. Clearly, we want

to make sure that the money is equally distributed among areas affected by mosquitoes. I know that the Riverland will be delighted because it has been asking for this assistance now for about three or four years. There is not always a mosquito problem in the Riverland area but some years, when the water level is higher, there is certainly a very serious risk from diseases such as encephalitis and Ross River virus. The government has responded to pleas from a range of communities, particularly the Port Pirie, Globe Derby and Riverland communities, as well as other communities in the state, to make sure that effective measures can now be put in place to reduce the nuisance of mosquitoes, and, in those exceptional years when there is the disease threat, such as encephalitis and Ross River virus, to ensure that there is more effective control of those disease outbreaks.

ADELAIDE AIRPORT

Mr KOUTSANTONIS (Peake): Has the Premier or any member of his government had any discussions with the federal government, Adelaide Airport, Virgin Airlines or any other airline in relation to relaxing the curfew hours at Adelaide Airport to secure additional carriers into and out of Adelaide Airport for domestic or international flights?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I am pleased to receive the honourable member's question and delighted to reaffirm to the House that we have secured Virgin Blue to fly out of South Australia and to provide low-cost airfares in the first instance to Brisbane. As it relates to the flights to Brisbane, whilst it has been publicly announced that it will start in February, I am hopeful that the service will start in the latter part of this year. Immediately after that will be the option to have Virgin Blue's low-cost airfares into Sydney. As part of the discussions with Virgin Blue no requests were made, nor commitments given to Virgin Blue, relating to curfew hours.

We have had a number of discussions with Impulse Airlines and I am hopeful that we will see low-cost air services between Adelaide and Melbourne. I would hope that that would be achieved next year some time but it depends on Impulse Airlines' purchasing additional aircraft. There are no detailed finalised points with Impulse. I would expect that further negotiations would take place with that particular airline either late this year or early next year. Impulse's additional traffic into Adelaide will depend, as I understand it, on the purchase of—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: No, the purchase of other aircraft, is what I said. Those discussions, no doubt, will continue next year some time.

DAIRY STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PLAN

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): Both the members for Gordon and Chaffey are curious about this matter and I ask if the Minister for Primary Industries and Resources is pleased with the decision of the Treasurer to tax the grant money coming from the Commonwealth Government to the state's dairy farmers under the dairy structural adjustment plan? Does he agree that the South Australian government should stand alone and do the opposite to all other states and abrogate the spirit of the dairy structural adjustment program by collecting stamp duty taxes of up to \$620 from each dairy farming family and net a windfall gain of \$380 000 or so, at the expense of those families? Some people have put to me that

this is typical of the government's hypocrisy in its policy of dealing with people in regional and rural communities. In fact, I can forgive a dairy farmer who told me today that she thinks it is worse than if she had to pay the gap plus the GST to go to the doctor to get a prescription for one of her children dying of pneumonia.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I think the member is a little over the top with the way he asked the question. As far as I know, this issue was raised with me only very late last week. It was not as if we introduced a tax: it was about asking for an exemption from that tax. The first I was aware of the dairy industry asking for that was late last week. I know that the Treasurer then asked what had happened in other states and asked for proof of what people were telling him and he agreed to look at it again. So it has only just been raised with us.

MARION SPORTS AND COMMUNITY PRECINCT

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): My question is directed to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. What action has the minister taken to implement the 1996 LRM report in relation to the Marion sports and community precinct between Sturt Road and Morphet Road at Marion, and what limitations will the disposal of the Sturt Primary School site create in the implementation of that report in future?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I thank the member for his question, resulting from a report I think I might have provided to him at some time following a request to our office. As there have been a number of ministers in this portfolio between then and now, I will seek a briefing and provide a report for the honourable member.

MURRAY BASIN MINERAL SANDS STUDY

Mrs MAYWALD (Chaffey): My question is directed to the Minister for Minerals and Energy. Following the government support for a tripartisan study of mineral sands opportunities in the Murray Basin, together with the commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian governments, what are the outcomes of the study and what will it mean for development and employment opportunities in the Riverland and Mallee?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I thank the member for Chaffey for her question and for her ongoing interest in this issue. This was one of those unique situations where, as the member for Chaffey has outlined in her question, there was a program involving each of the governments from South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, together with the federal government, examining an area that is fairly substantial in size. In fact, the area concerned, which has had significant geological study undertaken, is an area extending from Tailem Bend, eastward to Hamilton in Victoria and northward to Broken Hill in New South Wales. The area concerned, which is known as the Murray Basin and, in fact, forms an ancient sea floor, was assessed geologically for its fossil and mineral sand deposits.

The increased understanding that has now followed the studies that have been undertaken has led to several significant discoveries in this basin to the extent that there is one in particular located some 50 kilometres north-east of Tailem Bend. Pre-feasibility studies relating to the development discovery have been positive, and the company now involved

is moving to full feasibility. Should this project go ahead, and the government is highly optimistic that indeed it will, it is likely to provide direct employment involving up to 150 full-time jobs while, as other projects ramp up in New South Wales and Victoria, employment across the opportunities in the basin we expect will rise to more than 1500 jobs in the area concerned.

Of course, the Riverland area of South Australia is well located to take advantage of this growth, with demand in mineral sands expected to increase at around 3 per cent per annum, and as existing reserves that are being principally exploited at present in Western Australia are being depleted there is indeed a very bright future ahead for the Murray Basin for mineral sand mining and processing, and therefore for the Riverland and Mallee regions to take advantage of this opportunity. The tripartisan study concentrated on identifying infrastructure needs for a healthy mineral sands industry in the Murray Basin, and the government is utilising the recommendations of the study to set priorities for infrastructure upgrade in this state to support this emerging industry and one which we believe has a very exciting future in this state.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Premier. Why has the government failed to take the action recommended by the Auditor-General in his report to parliament last year that actual and explicit performance criteria be included in the contracts of employment for high paid chief executive officers? In his report brought down today, the Auditor-General states:

The continuing absence of contractual provisions relating to performance in chief executives' contracts is a matter of concern. It is disappointing to note that the protocol documents have not been referred to in the contracts governing the term of appointment of chief executives. No action has been taken by the government to address this matter.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I will be happy to receive and provide some information from the Commissioner of Public Employment in relation to that matter.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): My question is directed to the Minister for Local Government. Will the minister outline to the House details of the review of the May 2000 local government elections, the first under the Local Government Act 1999?

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Minister for Local Government): I thank the honourable member for his question, recognising his great interest in all areas of local government in current and past times. In terms of the review about which the member is asking, members will recall that in recent times I launched a review into the conduct of the first local government elections which were held under the new Local Government Act 1999 and which were locked into the electoral processes of the May 2000 elections.

By locking all of those processes into the May 2000 elections, it follows that it is appropriate at this time to look at a review of the election process, particularly in relation to areas of operations and the technicalities of the holding and running of the whole election process.

Given that these were the first elections to be conducted under the new Local Government Act, the government obviously felt that it was quite important to determine

whether there were any serious operational or technical matters that would cause concern amongst those who participated in local government.

It is also important for the House to note that the elections were a major success, with strong community interest right across the state. There were more mayoral contests than in the past, and I am told that the ratio of candidates to positions was 1:52, only marginally below the 1:54 figure of 1997, when interest was heightened by the recent amalgamations.

Another very pleasing aspect of the elections was voter turnout, which statewide was some 40.1 per cent—a significant increase above the 34.4 per cent recorded in 1997. Members will recall that the new act was subject to a very comprehensive community and parliamentary consultation prior to its passage. It is considered that the benefit of at least two election cycles will be needed before any major amendments of the act are contemplated. Nevertheless it is extremely important that people come forward with feedback so that any concerns that they have elicited during the whole process can be documented. If there were to be an amazing anomaly which stressed that amendments had to be made immediately and prior to the next election process, that would be our aim.

The review will involve consultation with focus groups, involving councillors, council staff, returning officers and unsuccessful candidates. One can imagine that obviously they may wish to make some comments that could be important to record and relook at if any refining or redefining of the act or its processes is to be undertaken.

It will also include a range of issues that have already been brought to our attention, and they include the practicalities of merging council rolls with House of Assembly data that is supplied by the Electoral Commissioner, problems arising and action taken to eliminate duplicate entries, errors detected following mail-outs and remedial action taken, current requirements for candidates' profiles and photographs including views on the controls as to length and content, and any difficulties posed by last minute or late nominations. It will also include others that have come to our attention that relate to the design and readability of ballot papers, declaration envelopes and official instructions, and the detail that is required on prescribed forms.

All councils have been invited to make a written submission to this review. The Electoral Commissioner and a senior officer of the Local Government Association are serving on the steering committee for this review. I believe that the final report is due in mid February of 2001 and I look forward to being able to bring back to the House at that time a report on the review of the elections that we have just undertaken.

ORIGIN ENERGY

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): Will the Minister for Minerals and Energy advise what regulations are in place regarding service delivery and accountability for the gas emergency hotline operated by Origin Energy? Is the minister aware of any deficiencies in the service? If so, what steps has he taken to ensure that these have been rectified? One of my constituents recently reported contacting Origin Energy on the gas emergency hotline and being placed on hold for 20 minutes. That was after my constituent had already attempted to contact Origin Energy on its 24-hour service line and received a recorded message.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Minerals and Energy): I am not aware of the details of the situation referred to by the honourable member but, if she cares to

provide me with full details, I will have the matter pursued with Origin Energy through my department and provide her with an appropriate explanation.

VIRTUAL ELECTORATE CONSULTATION

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): Will the Minister for Information Economy advise the House of the virtual electorate consultation process?

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Information Economy): I am delighted to talk about the process of addressing the concept of a global tribe of South Australians who would be—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: Global tribe of South Australians. It is fascinating that the member for Hart, in particular, is laughing because he was the shadow minister for this area for probably two years and he asked me one question, and that was about a web site. That was the only question that the Labor opposition came up with in an area that every serious government around the world realises is the determinant of the economy of the people that they are governing. The opposition came up with one question in two years and now opposition members are laughing about an initiative that is not silly, and I will give the chamber some facts about a virtual electorate. Portugal already has members who represent Portuguese people living overseas. In fact, it has two and it is thinking of having another. France, I am told, has people elected—I forget the exact term—by French people who live overseas, and a number of other countries are looking at it. They are doing this, because it is actually smart. Why would you not want to tap into the collective expertise and possible business expenditure of these people who have an emotional affiliation with South Australia?

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: The member for Hart has interjected twice that they do not pay taxes. I am not aware of the fact that people have to pay taxes to vote.

Mr Foley: They do.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: They do not. At last we have a Labor policy. The member for Hart, the future punitive Treasurer, if we were ever unfortunate enough to end up with a Labor government, says that people are required to pay tax to vote. That is a fascinating policy, and I look forward to seeing it, because it is not the situation at the moment.

Mr Foley interjecting:

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

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: The member for Hart is digging himself into a larger hole involving an area which, frankly, is too important to joke about. This is an area of vital importance to South Australia's economy. If we do not seize the advantages of the information economy, unfortunately we are deeming that our state and our constituents will be second rate into the future. That may well be the way that the member for Hart and the opposition wish to see the state go, but we the government do not. As I have previously identified publicly, we have implemented a consultation process in relation to the virtual electorate concept. It is fascinating to see the way in which people are changing their minds once they give this some thought. I would not expect the Labor Party people to do that because they have blinkers on about this. It is what we expected.

The Hon. M.K. Brindal interjecting:

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: The Minister for Water Resources says: 'Why would they support such a concept because they are locked into the 1910s?'—and they are. What has been fascinating is to see the way in which people, as they understand the benefits and advantages of having the global tribe of South Australians—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart has had a fair go now.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: —the roving ambassadors—really connected back into the legislative framework, are becoming more supportive of the idea. There has been a clear change in a number of people's ideas which they have communicated to me—and good on them for doing so. This is an example of people changing. I was at an IT function—an IE function—recently where the virtual electorate was mentioned. At one of the tables at the dinner people were talking about how the idea might work in practice for them. One of the people said that his particular PA's brother works in a South Australian delicatessen in New York. This fellow's delicatessen I believe is even called the Coopers Bar. Certainly I am told that Glen Cooper from Coopers Brewery opened it recently. This is a haven and a mecca for South Australian expatriates living in New York. Why would we want to cast them off?

I know this may not be the case for the people sitting opposite, but I happen to believe that not every good idea resides in the minds of South Australian parliamentarians. I am prepared to acknowledge that people who were born here and are 18 years of age—because that is the present model—and who have been away experiencing the world and living in business communities might have some ideas that might help us in South Australia. I am also prepared to acknowledge that they may well, if they come back to South Australia or to Australia, set up a business in South Australia.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: Again the member for Hart is quite clearly making silly accusations because he has not bothered to read the consultation model. What we have identified is that there would be two members in the consultation model in the upper house, and we have already identified that we the Liberal Party would stand only one candidate. How can we be expected to hold the balance—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The members on my left have had a pretty fair go, and I ask them to remain silent.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: At the end of the day, there is a process in which a lot of South Australians are having input. As I said, the net literate, not the people opposite, understand it and get it and are supportive of it.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: The former shadow minister for IT laughs at the term 'net literate'. That happens to be the term. I will not bother to react: it is pathetic and it is a very good reason for keeping members opposite on that side of the chamber. This is a vital part of the economy of South Australia into the future.

It is also very interesting to note that the Leader of the Opposition has claimed on many occasions to be bipartisan. In fact, I understand he said at one stage, 'I am a bipartisan Leader of the Opposition and I have supported 98 per cent of the government's legislation.' I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition on 28 August and offered him a briefing from any person that he may choose out of all the people involved in

this about the whole of the 21 initiatives. Have I heard a peep from the Leader of the Opposition? Have I heard a peep from whoever is the new shadow minister for information economy? No, sir: it is deafening silence.

If the whole of the information economy were not so important, it would actually be laughable. It is a tragedy for the future of South Australia that all 21 initiatives in the information economy 2002 policy paper are not being discussed around the caucus table, because those sorts of initiatives are the future of the economy in South Australia. The very fact that the Labor Party has not even bothered to ask about them, or to ask for a briefing, indicates that it simply does not understand the information economy. That is, as I said before, a really valid reason for not voting for members opposite at the next election, making sure they never get the opportunity to ignore the potential and the opportunities which the information economy offers.

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

That the sitting of the House be extended beyond 6 p.m.

Motion carried.

WOODEND SHOPPING CENTRE

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services permit me to speak to valuer John Morgan to clarify issues arising out of his reports into the Woodend Shopping Centre site? I wrote to the minister responsible for the Land Management Corporation to inquire whether I could speak to Mr Morgan and, by letter, the Minister for Government Enterprises replied that I should speak to the Minister for Education and Children's Services because the reports are the property of the Department of Education, Training and Employment. That is why I now ask the minister for permission to speak to that particular valuer.

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I should have thought the honourable member would be able to speak to the valuer (as he is a private valuer) without my permission, but I will seek advice on that and get back to him.

GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): My question is directed to the Minister for Water Resources. Have any advances been made in the protection of the Great Artesian Basin, in particular the program of capping free flowing bores?

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL (Minister for Water Resources): This House would acknowledge the leadership of the Premier and this parliament on the matter of water resources generally in Australia—the member for Peake is obviously having trouble with his face today—and certainly on the issue of the Murray River. Having said that, I believe there are a number of other very significant water resources in this state. Perhaps the two most significant, in addition to the Murray River, are the underground waters in the South-East and the Great Artesian Basin. The volume of the water in the Great Artesian Basin is estimated to be equivalent to the volume of water in the Mediterranean Sea. It is a huge volume of water. The Minister for Environment and Heritage asked how many litres that is; I am not sure, but I will give him a considered answer. A few weeks ago at Long Reach the commonwealth government represented by minister Truss and the state governments of South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland signed an agreement to manage in

an integrated way the resources of a basin which stretches across three states and in which, unfortunately, as the member for Stuart knows, we are the recipient, the head waters being largely in Queensland.

I know the member for Stuart understands that the progress South Australia has made, independent of any agreement, leads the nation and that our bore capping program, helped in no small way by Western Mining, shows an example to the other states. However, by agreement with other states and the commonwealth we will see the benefit of having that water resource better managed into the future. Users in South Australia are absolutely assured that their bores in this state will continue to have a program of rehabilitation and capping so that within the next four or five years the Great Artesian Basin within this state will be entirely and properly managed.

Some people ask why that is important. As the member for Stuart will know, it is important not solely for environmental reasons: it is equally important because, in a nation where water is as scarce as it is in this nation, to squander water by drilling a bore, letting it rust away and allowing millions of litres gush into the desert is irresponsible. Practices in the early 1900s were just that; bores were drilled and allowed to deteriorate, and water gushed all over the desert. We are husbanding that water, not only for our own future use but for the future use of our children and grandchildren. It is a responsible thing to do. South Australia is leading the way, but all states and the commonwealth are joining together in cooperation to make this a national effort.

WOODEND SHOPPING CENTRE

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I seek leave to make a brief ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: On 24 May 2000 the member for Mitchell asked a question about Woodend Primary School. It been brought to my attention that in my answer I stated that I was advised that the government negotiated on the basis of a valuation received from the Valuer-General. I have since been advised that the valuation of the existing shopping centre was sourced by the government from an independent valuer, John Morgan Consulting.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

The SPEAKER: The proposal before the chair is that the House note grievances.

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): No doubt with other members I received a letter from the Minister for Water Resources telling us that from 15 to 21 October this year there will be a celebration of national water week. Sadly, I have two constituents in Dernancourt who have nothing to celebrate when it comes to water issues. When John and Lynette came into my office in April this year seeking assistance they complained about the quality of their water. Quite frankly, I was shocked to see the colour of this liquid they brought in, which was the water that came from their taps. It really appeared to be like oil shale, and it still looks like oil shale. Their new bathroom has been completely

ruined as this smelly, muddy, yellow coloured water comes out of their taps. It has eaten into the tile grouting and has discoloured tiles and bathroom fittings which were installed just two years ago. John and Lynette rightly feel that their home has been violated, and they are very unhappy about the lack of response to fix this problem. They have complained to SA Water and United Water, and both these utilities have failed to fix the problem.

In fact, in November 1999 SA Water confirmed that there was a problem. So, last year we established that there was a problem. I wrote to the Minister for Government Enterprises on 1 May this year and outlined the problem that John and Lynette were experiencing. In correspondence dated 11 July the minister, in response to my letter, said:

The section of the main in Landseer Crescent, which is the source of the problem, will now be replaced. The work has been programmed for completion before the end of July 2000. A twice weekly flushing regime will continue until replacement of the section of the main concerned has been completed.

Certainly, since July this year, the flushing program has not been ongoing. We are into October now and nothing has been done to remedy the disgusting quality of the water that John and Lynette are having to endure. I would be quite happy to give to the minister the sample of water I have in my office because I am sure that no member in this place, and certainly not the minister, would tolerate the muck that is coming out of John and Lynette's taps. Imagine having to wash and bathe in it. Imagine washing your clothes in it. In fact, I am sure that if you washed your clothes in that water they would be far dirtier when they came out than when they went in. Not only that but it is most unhygienic.

This is a disgraceful situation and quite distressing to this couple. I would say that possibly the only decent thing about this water is that it might be possible to use it for fertiliser, although one would have to question the quality of the water even for that purpose. We all know that Adelaide has a problem with poor quality water but I think that the water quality that this couple is experiencing is bordering on Third World quality. My constituents and I want to know why the work that was scheduled to be completed (as outlined by the minister in his letter dated the end of July) has not been completed or has not even been started. We are asking that question specifically.

John and Lynette have been informed that they do have a case to claim compensation for the damages that have occurred due to this foul water. However, the longer the problem continues more damage will occur, which means that even more public moneys will be expended to fix up their bathroom and any other fittings that have been damaged by this very filthy water. I must say, as many of my constituents are saying, that this is just another horror story in the chapter of the privatisation endeavours of this government because problems such as this are being ignored.

I am hoping that some prompt action will be taken to replace the pipes in Landseer Crescent, Dernancourt, and that I will not have to raise this issue again—certainly not this year. I hope that the problem is fixed because this couple really are finding it incredibly difficult to live with this problem. They have had enough. They have waited long enough, there is no question of that. They have been putting up with this problem for almost 12 months and they have certainly endured enough. Minister Armitage's letter states that the problem will be fixed and I ask him to do that.

Time expired.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): Over the past few weeks we have had some very positive headlines from the *Advertiser* relating to the Olympic Games. It was a pleasure to read the various stories written about the Olympics, our champions and all who competed. Certainly names such as Ian Thorpe, Michael Diamond, Cathy Freeman, Grant Hackett and many others have become household names. I would like to compliment all those who participated in the Olympic Games and particularly those who were successful in gaining a medal. It was a tribute to each and every person and I include in that the volunteers and all the organisers, but more will be said about that in private members' time in due course.

However, today we see the *Advertiser* returning to its old games. Today's headline read 'Our part-time MPs'. I thought, 'Hello, this must be some other area MPs are moving into', but, no, the story referred to South Australian MPs. I could not believe it. It was an absolutely unbelievable article. In fact, with that article the level of journalism in this state has really sunk to a new low.

Is the press so ignorant that they do not realise that members are serving their electorates 365 days a year and, if it is a leap year, 366 days a year? True, we are formally elected to serve in the parliament, but it probably goes back 20 years now since the role of the MP changed significantly. If you simply represented your electorates in parliament and did nothing else, you would, without question, be thrown out at the next election hook, line and sinker. The MP's job is such that you have to be flat out in your electorate day after day, week after week, month after month and year after year if you want to be returned to office.

Certainly, that is the approach that I take, and I must admit that when I come back to parliament from my electorate of Goyder I find that on many occasions I have the opportunity not to work so hard because I am able to reject invitations simply because I cannot get back to my electorate as I know that invitations of a general nature to a backbencher are not part of the pair arrangements.

Yet the headline today undermines MPs. It tries to make it look as though they are not working hard. Where do we get support for this? We get support from certain members in the upper house, in particular Nick Xenophon. I suggest to Nick Xenophon that he ought to start serving the whole of his electorate, which is the whole of South Australia. If he finds that he is getting around the whole of South Australia in the break periods, good on him, but I do not think he has visited my electorate more than twice in the last two years. I do not think that is very good representation from a member who says that he is representing the interests of people.

The current debate revolves around whether the upper house should exist or whether its numbers should be reduced. The comments that have been put forward in the *Advertiser* article certainly add weight to the fact that it looks like some members in the upper house—and I do not include any Liberal members in that—are not earning their money. They are obviously finding that there is not enough to do during the recess. I suggest that they stand for a House of Assembly seat. Then they will soon find not only that there is enough to do but also that they will be kept flat out the whole time.

I get things done in my electorate mainly during the periods when we are not sitting. I do it in ways such as inviting ministers into the electorate to bring to their attention various projects that are either in the pipeline or already under way, and also to ensure that the many projects under way are being kept to the fore. In this way I ensure that I am familiarising myself with matters such as health and education, road

maintenance and the provision of new roads, law and order and police issues; the list goes on and on. The sale of ports and the upgrade of ports in my electorate are very important matters, as are the Dublin saleyards, which are not in my electorate at this stage but certainly will be at the next election.

There is issue after issue, yet the *Advertiser* has the hide to call us part-time MPs. I suggest that it stop trying to make cheap headlines and get on with the job of reporting factual information, not distorting news as it sees fit. It is a pity that the Olympic Games did not continue for a little longer.

Mr SNELLING (Playford): I rise to note that this year marks 25 years of the settlement of Vietnamese families in South Australia. This Saturday night I will attend a dinner in my electorate hosted by the Vietnamese Christian community to mark the occasion. The dinner will be attended by His Excellency the Governor, the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, along with, I understand, a number of my parliamentary colleagues.

The member for Price and I represent amongst the highest proportion of Vietnamese Australians. Over some years, beginning prior to my entry to parliament, I formed strong bonds with the Vietnamese Australian community. I am a regular visitor to Our Lady of the Boat People at Pooraka in my electorate. I am proud of what has been achieved there, due largely to the efforts of Sister Elizabeth Nghia and many hard working volunteers. Our Lady of the Boat People has developed into a cultural, religious and sporting facility that is available to all, of which the Vietnamese Australian community of South Australia can also be proud.

Over 25 years, Vietnamese Australians have brought their unique culture to our state, as well as a reputation for hard work and a determination to provide a better life for their children than they themselves have had. I often hear the Leader of the Opposition remark that whenever he attends an end of year ceremony at any of our schools it is almost always the children of the boat people who scoop the pool of academic prizes. That has been my experience as well. As I stated in a letter of congratulations to the Vietnamese Australian community on the occasion of 25 years of settlement in Australia, the Vietnamese have also injected energy into the religious life of our nation. Vietnamese are renowned for their piety and they have re-energised religion in an increasingly secular Australia. The success of the settlement and integration of Vietnamese Australians is a strong argument for Australia to continue and perhaps expand its large humanitarian immigration intake.

This year also marks 25 years since the fall of Saigon that precipitated the mass exodus of refugees who sought shelter on our shores. The ongoing humanitarian tragedy of Vietnam must be noted. Thousands have been rounded up and detained in order to suppress political and religious freedom. I have been happy to work as one of the parliamentary representatives on the Australia Vietnam Human Rights Committee monitoring and protesting human rights abuses perpetrated by the Vietnamese regime. However, as the writer Charles Peguy noted, God often writes straight in crooked lines. I am pleased to have the opportunity to rise and place on the public record my esteem for the Vietnamese Australian community. Whilst I regret the circumstances that forced them to flee to our shores, I am delighted that they have so successfully settled here over 25 years.

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): Earlier today I asked the Deputy Premier a question (because the Treasurer is not in this House) about a problem that has arisen in the dairy industry that comes in consequence of the deregulation of that industry and it is called the dairy structural adjustment program. I have put out a news release entitled 'Lucas tax decision duffs our dairy farmers' and it does because the Treasurer, contrary to what some members of the ministry are trying to construe, has told dairy farmers in a letter dated as recently as 24 August that he is advised by the commissioner:

... security documents necessary for loan facilities in South Australia, such as Dairy Advance, will attract stamp duty under the Stamp Duties Act 1923 ('the act'), as may transfers of the DSAP entitlements. Accordingly, the only other means by which relief could be contemplated is in the form of ex gratia payments. As you would appreciate, as Treasurer I am constantly faced with requests for ex gratia relief in cases where taxpayers feel their circumstances warrant special consideration.

He concludes by saying:

Accordingly I am not prepared to make an ex gratia payment in this case.

It is not a matter of whether he will give it extra thought or not—he is simply saying, 'Rack off—go away.' That is at odds with every other state and the commonwealth. The Treasurer has been contacted by letter by the former CEO of the South Australian Dairy Farmers Association, Mr Chris Luz-Raymond. In reply to the Treasurer's letter, the CEO said in a fax:

Thank you for your advice regarding the payment of the stamp duty that may arise in relation to the DSAP. The President, Mr Frank Beauchamp, and myself are seeking an urgent meeting with you to discuss the advice you have received from the Commissioner. . . We believe we have a strong case to have the advice reviewed. If we are correct then we may be able to prevent considerable embarrassment to all concerned.

This was dated 27 September.

From the date of the Treasurer's letter, which was the 24th, they were trying to get a meeting with the Treasurer, and they were still trying on 27 September to get a meeting, but he was too busy. The CEO stated, 'The argument that this is a normal commercial transaction we believe is not correct.' Of course it is not. I agree with the CEO, who continued, 'All other state governments have agreed with the proposition that it is not a normal transaction.' I was advised this morning by the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation that South Australia would be the only state not to have rejected the idea of collecting stamp duty on the up-front payments. If that is the case, I wonder why the Deputy Premier finds it so easy to say that the government is thinking about it and why the Treasurer did not tell the Deputy Premier as Minister for Primary Industries.

The Hon. R.G. Kerin: Less than a week ago they wrote to me.

Mr LEWIS: They may have written to you less than a week ago but they wrote to the Treasurer six weeks ago and the Treasurer's initial response was naff off, get lost. When they came to me for advice, I told them that they must not accept what the Hon. Robert Lucas, Treasurer of this state is saying, but write to the Premier and write to the Deputy Premier and minister, and ensure that they understand the problem and, having done so, if they do not do something in a matter of a few days I will raise the matter when parliament resumes. They checked to find out if anything was being done and did not find anything being done, hence the reason for my inquiries to the Deputy Premier earlier today.

The Treasurer has taken this attitude over what is a miserly \$380 000 for the state. It is nothing for a state that has a budget of \$6 billion but it will cost some families \$600 or more, and that is a fair bit if they are already in financial difficulties. To my mind, for the Treasurer to have said 'No deal' off-the-cuff, *carte blanche*, indicates quite clearly where his priorities are and it is about time the Premier reviewed his office.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

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

Motion carried.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

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

That a Standing Orders Committee be appointed consisting of the Speaker and Messrs Atkinson, De Laine, Gunn and Meier.

Mr McEWEN: I wish to amend that motion.

The SPEAKER: Do you want to nominate another member?

Mr McEWEN: I nominate the member for Hammond.

The SPEAKER: There being more than five names there is a requirement for a ballot. The matter before the chair is the election of the Standing Orders Committee. For the benefit of the members who have just entered the chamber, the committee consists of the Speaker *ex officio* and four other members. We now have before the chair the nominations of five members. Members are required to place their four crosses on the ballot paper against the names of their choice. If any members mark five crosses, three crosses or any other number of crosses than four, the ballot will be treated as informal.

I am asking that the ballot papers be distributed, and members are required to place four crosses on the ballot paper against the names of the members of their choice. I ask members to please take their seats for the distribution of the ballot papers.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The vote is not restricted to the candidates whose names were put forward. Members can vote for

any four candidates they wish. Any members of the House of Assembly are eligible to have their names crossed off: it is not restricted to the four names put up by the Deputy Premier or the name put up by the member for Gordon. Members may wish to take that guide but they are not restricted to it. If it assists members, the membership of the previous committee was me as chair, Messrs Atkinson, De Laine, Meier and Lewis. I am there as *ex officio*. I ask the honourable Premier and Leader of the Opposition to come to the table and act as scrutineers.

A ballot having been held, Messrs Atkinson, De Laine, Lewis and Meier were declared elected.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

The Publishing Committee was appointed as follows: Mr Hamilton-Smith, Ms Hurley and Messrs Koutsantonis, Scalzi and Venning.

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 considerations during this session.

Motion carried.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTRICITY BUSINESSES DISPOSAL PROCESS

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

That the members of this House appointed to the Joint Committee on Electricity Businesses Disposal Process have power to continue their considerations during this session.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MURRAY RIVER

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

That the Select Committee on the Murray River appointed by this House on 18 November 1999 have power to continue its sittings during the present session and that the time for bringing up its report be extended until Thursday 30 November.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday 5 October at 2.30 p.m.