

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Second Session of the Fiftieth Parliament (2002)

Parliament, which adjourned on 5 March 2002, was prorogued by proclamation dated 5 March 2002. By proclamation dated 5 March, it was summoned to meet on 7 May, and the Second Session began on that date.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 7 May 2002

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. I.P. Lewis) presiding.

The Acting Clerk (Mr D.A. Bridges) read the proclamation summoning parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.13 p.m. to the Legislative Council chamber to hear the speech of Her Excellency the Governor. They returned to the Assembly chamber at 12.45 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the chair.

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

QUEEN MOTHER

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep sorrow at the recent death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and joins with Her Excellency the Governor in conveying sincere sympathy to Her Majesty The Queen and members of the royal family and that, as a mark of respect to her memory, the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Born on the cusp of the 20th century, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was our last royal link with what we would call the Anzac generation. Queen Victoria still reigned and Australians were fighting for the empire in the Boer War when she was born the Hon. Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon on 4 August 1900 before Australia's Federation. The Queen Mother was older than our nation.

Her Majesty was the fourth daughter of Lord Glamis, later 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, and lived as a child in Glamis Castle in Scotland when she was very young. The Bowes-Lyon family is descended from the royal house of Scotland. One of the Queen Mother's 14th century ancestors, Sir John Lyon, became Thane of Glamis, the traditional,

some might say mythical, home of Macbeth some 300 years before.

Even though the Queen Mother was born in England, she always thought of herself as a Scot. In Scotland she learned to enjoy gardening, walking, fishing and farming, which remained among her favourite pastimes throughout her life.

When the First World War started—coincidentally on the then Lady Elizabeth's 14th birthday—Glamis Castle became a war hospital where the mutilated and gassed and the gravely wounded were cared for. Whilst too young to work as a nurse, she certainly did help with the patients. And the war touched her family in the most shocking way possible, and one of her brothers, Fergus, was killed at the Battle of Loos in 1915; I understand other members of her family were also injured during the First World War.

During those war years she endured anxiety that we in this house in this era can barely imagine. When she was 22, she married a childhood friend, Prince Albert, the youngest son of George V, the shy Duke of York who never expected to become King. She said, 'I thought it was my duty to marry Bertie and fell in love with him afterwards.'

Their quiet family life with two young daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, was soon to be turned upside down by what was described as 'the scandal of the 20th century': the abdication crisis caused by the intended marriage of King Edward VIII to an American divorcee, Mrs Wallis Simpson. For the 36 year old Duchess of York, the 1936 abdication crisis thrust her from a life of relative obscurity to become Queen Empress reigning with her husband over more than 600 million subjects in many continents.

The crisis and the sudden shock of unsought kingship was a burden she first resented, but embracing duty—duty, endurance and care—made them uniquely, pleasurably and famously her own. She is said to have told her household, 'We must take what is coming and make the best of it.' The Queen Mother famously remained silent, at least publicly, on the abdication crisis, as she did on every other matter of state. Indeed, it is believed that she gave her only press conference in 1923 just before her marriage. But behind the scenes, she was livid at the pressure this would put on her husband.

From the day she came George XI's Queen, she dedicated her life and that of her family to duty and to serving the nation and to supporting her husband in his duties as monarch. While she may have been thrust onto the royal stage, she performed with such dignity and steely resolve during the darkest days of the Second World War that Hitler is said to have labelled her 'the most dangerous woman in Europe'.

World War II brought the terrors of the Blitz to Britain, but the Queen refused to move her family. The royal family, including the young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret, stayed in London during the very worst of the bombing and when an invasion seemed imminent. She is reported to have said, 'The children will not leave unless I do; I shall not leave unless their father does; and the King will not leave the country in any circumstances whatsoever.'

During the Second World War, the King and Queen became the symbols of the nation's resistance with the royal standard flying defiantly over Buckingham Palace. Her efforts during the war did much to restore the respect for an institution tarnished by the abdication scandal. During the Blitz, the Queen felt it was her duty to help boost morale and she regularly visited the areas of the East End which had suffered the most damage. This truly bonded her with working class people of Britain, particularly from the ravaged East End and south-east of London. Buckingham Palace was directly hit nine times by German bombers prompting her to say, 'At last I can look the East End in the face.' 'As I go amongst them,' she added, 'I marvel at their unshakeable constancy. In many cities their homes lie in ruins, as do many of those ancient buildings which you know and love hardly less than ourselves. Women and children have been killed and even the sufferers in hospitals have not been spared; yet hardship has only steeled our hearts and strengthened our resolution. Wherever I go I see bright eyes and smiling faces for, though our road is stony and hard, it is straight and we know that we fight in a great cause.'

And on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on VE Day, beside her husband and Winston Churchill, hers was the most popular face—and the most loved smile. In fact, for the 50th anniversary of VE Day in 1995, the Queen Mother joined hundreds of thousands of others who gathered to pay tribute to those who fought to free Europe from enslavement by the most evil of tyrannies. The 94 year old launched the commemorations in Hyde Park and met a group of veterans who had been honoured for their bravery during the war.

After the death of King George VI in 1952, the Queen Mother wore black for a year and went home to Scotland. But she was apparently persuaded by Winston Churchill not to spend a life in mourning like Queen Victoria. So, she returned to public life as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and began the second stage of fulfilling her commitment to serving her nation and the commonwealth of nations. She also bred racehorses, launched ships, toured hospitals, drank in Cockney pubs, and, in the first decade of her widowhood, visited 22 countries. She was patron or president of about 350 organisations including being the Commandant-in-Chief of the Army and Air Force Women's Services, Women in the Royal Navy and the Nursing Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade.

In South Australia, the Queen Mother was an active patron of the Adelaide Festival of Arts for many decades. In 1958, during a visit to Adelaide she opened the Queen Elizabeth Hospital named in honour of her daughter. She firmly believed that, if the people were to remain loyal to the Royal

Family, then the family should commit itself to the people. The Queen Mother's passion for racing is, of course, well known. For half a century she was the first lady of national hunt racing and, although she was never to win a Grand National, she came agonisingly close in 1956.

It is hard to comprehend the changes that the Queen Mother witnessed during her life, which was dominated in her earlier years by the events of two world wars. In her later years, she watched the marriages of one daughter and three grandchildren end and lived through changing public attitudes to the monarchy where reverence was replaced by public debate on its very future. Many credit the Queen Mother with reinventing the idea of an active Royal Family. She instituted the now ubiquitous 'walkabout' and helped to modernise 'the Firm' giving the Royal Family a more human face. Her family was devoted to her, as Prince Charles described so eloquently after her death. In her 'uniform' (her pastel dresses and coats) she became the nation's favourite grandmother—a great-grandmother of nine children herself.

Despite her advancing age, the Queen Mother was known in her later years as the life and soul of the party. At her 98th birthday she sat down for a private dinner party and saw midnight after a full day of walkabouts and celebrations. No-one who watched it will forget her brave walk in the funeral train for her daughter, Princess Margaret, earlier this year, just weeks before her own death. It is in this way that most people around the commonwealth—and I believe all members of this parliament—choose to remember the Queen Mother. For 101 years she has been an inspiration, a solace, a glad reminder of humanity—and humour—and, most of all, dedication to duty.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of the opposition, it is with great respect that I second the Premier's condolence motion for the Queen Mother. Although I, like many here, never had the pleasure of meeting the Queen Mother, I do not think there are many people who can say that they were not in some way touched by her insatiable zest for life. Born in 1900, the Queen Mother's life spanned three centuries. It was a life epitomised by the values of duty, service and courage, all displayed with her trademark sense of humour.

Her marriage to Albert, Duke of York, in 1923 was a welcome departure from the common practice of an English Prince marrying into a foreign royal family. It was a union that was forever to change the Windsor family and the broader commonwealth. The Queen Mother became Queen on 11 December 1936 following the abdication of Edward VIII. Although her accession to this position was unexpected, she quickly took to the role and made it her own. Indeed, it could be said that the Queen Mother brought a sense of humanity and humility to the position. These qualities were never more evident than in her relationships with her children and later her grandchildren. In what was another popular break with royal tradition at the time, the Queen would often take her children with her when travelling. It was this common touch which shone throughout her public life and endeared her to millions world wide.

Many would say that the Queen Mother is best remembered for her courage during the dark days of the Second World War. Despite being advised to leave London for the relative safety of Canada, she chose to remain with her people during the horror of the Blitz, touring the ruins of the East End, bringing hope to the people of London in their darkest hour. Even when bombs damaged her own house, the Queen

Mother took it in her stride famously remarking 'I'm glad we've been bombed. It makes me feel I can look the East End in the face.' Indeed, her courage and devotion to her people during this period served as an inspiration to millions during the darkest hours of the 20th century.

The Queen Mother and the late King had a special relationship with Australia, both attending the opening of the nation's first Parliament House in Canberra in 1927; and hers was a special bond that was to endure throughout the 20th century and beyond. Her warm sense of humour and sense of informality resonated strongly with a young country, which viewed itself in much the same manner.

Although the Queen Mother was tragically widowed in 1952, following the sudden death of her beloved husband, she remained committed to her life of public service. In the newly created role of Queen Mother, she provided invaluable support to her daughter, Queen Elizabeth, and in later years was a treasured confidante and unifying figure for many within the royal family and the community at large. It is a tribute to the life of the Queen Mother that she retained the affection and respect of millions worldwide, despite the difficulties which faced the royal family during the 1990s. The sight of thousands of mourners waiting in queues (which stretched for kilometres) to pay their last respects to the Queen Mother was a final poignant reminder of the high regard in which the Queen Mother was held not just by Britain but by the world at large.

Although the Queen Mother's passing is a time of sadness, the public reaction to her death was also highlighted by an overwhelming sense of celebration for a life well lived. Her legacy will live on, both through her family and in the hearts of those who admired her. On behalf of the opposition, I again express our sincere condolences on the passing of this truly remarkable woman.

Mr SNELLING (Playford): I would like to endorse the comments of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I think that, apart from the electorate of the member for Elizabeth, my electorate has the highest concentration of English migrants in this house. Overwhelmingly, these migrants migrated to Australia in the wake of the Second World War.

My English constituents were touched by the Queen Mother's concern for people affected by the Blitz in London, and they still fondly remember her courage and fortitude. On their behalf and on behalf of all the people of the electorate of Playford, I would like to pay tribute to this great woman and extend my deepest sympathy to the royal family.

The SPEAKER: I thank honourable members for their remarks and for myself say that, whilst I acknowledge that she was a woman born to an incredible life of privilege by comparison with most of her subjects, unlike others elsewhere in the world born at about the same time, she never lost contact with reality and the obligations which she saw she had, especially after she became the wife of King George VI. That, more than any other single thing to my mind, was what endeared her not just to members of my family and those of other honourable members and other people in South Australia but to the world at large, whether they were citizens of countries now part of the British commonwealth of nations, or more particularly the commonwealth, or from some other place.

It was indeed a life of great service. I will ensure that the resolution is forwarded to Her Excellency. I ask members to support the motion by standing in their place in silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 2.35 to 2.45 p.m.]

HART, Hon. L.R., DEATH

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the recent death of the Hon. Les Hart, former member of the Legislative Council for the seat of Midland, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

On behalf of the government, I express my regret at the passing of Leslie Rupert Hart. He was a member of the Midland district of the Legislative Council from October 1962 to March 1973. He served on the Industries Development Committee and on several select committees. He was active in and made significant contributions to state and local government, his local community at Mallala and Two Wells, to the sheep industry, to recreation and sport, to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society and, of course, to the Liberal Party and to this parliament.

Through his involvement in the sheep industry, Mr Hart became a well respected judge at royal shows and was for 24 years a member of the Council of the Royal Adelaide Show Society. He will be particularly remembered in this parliament for his commitment to and passion for agriculture, and also for highlighting the importance of and working to improve primary industries for the benefit of our state. He was someone who was passionate about the importance of South Australia's regions to the future of this state.

Les Hart was a councillor in local government, and served his community as Chair of the Mallala District Council. He was also Chair of the Mallala Hospital Board and the local ambulance board. Mr Hart was involved in forming the Central District Football Club, and was the club's first patron. He would certainly be pleased at back-to-back premierships. On behalf of the government, I express our sincere condolences to Les Hart's family.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of the Opposition, I second the Premier's condolence motion for the Hon. Leslie Rupert Hart. Les Hart was a diligent Legislative Councillor, a successful stud sheep breeder, judge, local councillor and active member of the Two Wells and Mallala communities.

Born in Two Wells in 1908, Les later obtained his wool classer's certificate and put it to good use as a classer and as an overseer in shearing sheds throughout South Australia, Victoria and New Zealand. In 1925, Les and his father started the Glen Devon Dorset Horn stud. Glen Devon became a well-known and respected sheep stud, winning many championships in several states, and selling breeding stock throughout Australia and New Zealand. Les served as a committee member for the Society of Australian Breeders of British Sheep and later became its South Australian president.

He also served on the Council of the Royal Adelaide Show Society for 24 years, including a term as the Chairman of the Pastoral Committee. Les was very active in his local community. He served for many years as a councillor on the Mallala District Council. He was the Chairman of the Mallala

Hospital Board, President of the Two Wells Football Club and also served on the local ambulance board.

Les was committed to serving the people of the Light region to the very best of his ability. He played an active role in the Liberal Party and was Secretary of the local branch for 19 years. It was his grassroots activism for the Liberal Party that saw him rise to become State President of the Liberal Party Rural Committee and serve on the Federal Council of the Liberal Party. In recognition of this contribution, Les was made an Honorary Life Vice President of the South Australian division of the Liberal Party.

In 1962 he was elected as a member for the Legislative Council district of Midland: he served the council, and all South Australians, for 10 years. In that time he was active on a large number of parliamentary select committees and served on the Industries Development Committee and the Printing Committee.

Les will be remembered by the parliament as a grassroots member who had a strong background of community involvement and was committed to turning that local involvement into positive outcomes for regional South Australia.

Sadly, Les's wife, Lily, passed away in 1986. On behalf of the opposition, I would again like to pay my respects to Les's two sons, daughter and five grandchildren. Les was indeed a fine servant of the people of South Australia.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I, too, would like to pass on my condolences to the Hart family. As we have already heard from the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, Les Hart was a person who was very strongly committed to his local community and to the broader South Australian community. He set out to achieve excellence in many ways and achieved it particularly through his sheep, his Poll Dorset sheep and his Dorset Horn sheep—that is the horned variety and the non-horned variety—which were his absolute love and passion. He became very heavily involved in the Royal Show for many years as a result of that.

But Les also saw it as his responsibility to work very hard for the local community. You can see that in the work he did, first, as Chair of the Mallala council, secondly, through the hospital, and also through a range of other service activities. Football, of course, is a very important part of any local community, and Les was committed to his football and ultimately went on to be patron of Central Districts.

Les Hart also served the state on a broader basis, not only through the Royal Show Society but also through this parliament, being a member of this parliament for about 11 years, as well as a member of the Industries Development Committee. He also took a very broad interest in rural activities in particular across the entire state.

He left parliament the year I came in, but I knew Les, and I also know his daughter and his son, Malcolm. He has a second son, Robert, whom I do not know as well. My condolences go particularly to Rosemary, to Malcolm and to Robert. Our thoughts are with them as they remember a father who worked very hard indeed for the broader South Australian community with a love and compassion for other people.

Mr MEIER (Goyder): I, too, wish to express my condolences to the family of Mr Les Hart and say that I was very privileged to be present at his memorial service at the Tusmore Uniting Church on 11 January this year. The seat

that Les represented in the Legislative Council, namely, Midland, covered the whole of the area that Goyder encompasses now and in fact has encompassed since its boundaries were first determined.

There is no doubt that the people present at that service were a true picture across a wide range of groups and societies in South Australia which represented the areas that Les Hart had been involved with in earlier years. I for one was amazed at the number of activities Les had been involved in. Whilst I knew him to speak to and whilst I was aware that he represented the seat of Midland, I certainly was not aware of the extent of his achievements during the period that he lived, which included the period during which he was the member of parliament here from 1962 to 1972.

At the age of 92 he had obviously lived a very full life and whilst any funeral is a sad occasion, at the same time it was, in a sense, a chance to recognise the achievements of Les Hart and to reflect with a great deal of joy on what he had achieved in his life. His children have every reason to be very proud of their father's achievements. Whilst other members have highlighted some of the achievements, and whilst they have been echoed in another place, I wish to put on the record a few of those achievements.

Ironically, Les had only a primary school education. People say to me even today, 'John, what qualifications do you need to get into parliament?' I say, 'In honest truth, you don't need any qualifications but perhaps some extra education wouldn't hurt.' Les Hart was a classic example of a person who, with only a primary school education, was able to make a great success, not only in parliament but in society as a whole.

He was a certified wool classer and overseer in many shearing sheds in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. He started the Glen Devon Dorset Horn Stud with his father back in 1925. He was state committee member of the Society of Australian Breeders of British Sheep. He subsequently served as a branch president and Australian vice president. He was awarded an honorary life membership for his work with the society.

He was a well respected judge of sheep and officiated at many royal shows in Australia and at the New Zealand Royal Show in Christchurch. He served as a member of the council of the Royal Adelaide Show Society for 24 years and became Chairman of the Pastoral Committee of the Show Society. He was appointed as an honorary councillor of the Show Society. He served many years as a councillor of the District Council of Mallala, spending some time as chairman.

He was Chairman of the Mallala Hospital Board, Chairman of the local ambulance board, played football and cricket for Two Wells and was President of the Two Wells Football Club for some time as well as secretary-treasurer for the club. He was first patron of the Central Districts Football Club and held that position for 11 years. He was a member of the local branch of the Liberal Party and spent 19 years as secretary of the branch.

Les was elected as Chairman of the Liberal Party Rural Committee, the committee we now know as the Rural and Regional Committee. He served as a delegate for federal council meetings of the Liberal Party. He was made an Honorary Life Vice President of the South Australian Branch of the Liberal Party. He was awarded an Honorary Federal Life Member, the first in South Australia to receive this honour.

He was preselected for the Legislative Council district of Midland, elected to state government in 1962, was an MLC

from October 1962 to March 1973 and served on the Industry Development Committee, the Printing Committee and several select committees. I also wish to extend my condolences to the family, and in particular to Malcolm, Rosemary, Robert and their children.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): Les Hart was certainly a distinguished member of the Legislative Council and also a distinguished member of the Liberal Party. He was, as has been said, chairman of our rural committee and a very active chairman. I have the honour of following him, but in a different role as rural chairman. He was a good friend of my father, Howard, and a good friend of our family. He was a member of the Midland district, and it was he that convinced my father that he ought to be a politician because my father was a district chairman. It was he who convinced my father that he should run for the upper house and not the lower house. In fact my father first stood for a the seat of Northern in the Legislative Council.

He was a strong advocate for country people and for the community. The member for Goyder has just listed the many public and community events in which this man was engaged. Les Hart's family also ran a very successful farming enterprise at Two Wells. The Hart family ran a very successful Dorset Horn stud, Glen Devon. I can remember being in deep discussion with my father when Les was trying to convince him and me, as the junior, that merinos should be crossed with Dorset Horns to increase the meat potential of our sheep. We agreed and dutifully bought those sheep. The Hon. Boyd Dawkins in another place, a colleague of Les, also bred Dorset Horns at Leamington, Gawler River. You can imagine the argy-bargy that went on as to who got the sale. We still have Glen Devon ear tags in our shearing shed. As has been said, Lill Hart died in 1986. That was a sad occasion and our family were quite shocked.

We knew the family well, and to Malcolm, Rosemary and Robert and to the five grandchildren I extend our sincere condolences. Also I extend condolences from my family because I know that my father had a high opinion of Les Hart. When you are in this place representing country people you need a second opinion and on many occasions Dad was in deep discussion with Les over what was best for country communities. Les was an example to all, a fine and excellent family man, a fine public figure and certainly a very strong advocate for country people.

The SPEAKER: I thank members for their remarks and condolences and I add my condolences to those which they have expressed. Again at a personal level, I knew the Hart family, including Malcolm, Rosemary and Robert, and enjoyed their hospitality more than once. The one thing I would say, in addition to what has already been acknowledged, of the service of Les Hart to the community of South Australia in so many ways was his understanding of the necessity to seek out and encourage young people to do whatever they could to the very best of their ability, and to that extent he spent a lot of time with rural youth. Indeed, members in this place have acknowledged that point. I ask the House to support the motion by standing in their places in silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

JACOBI, Mr R., DEATH

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Ralph Jacobi, the former member for Hawker in the federal House of Representatives and place on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

On behalf of the government I express my regret at the passing of a Labor stalwart, indeed a true Labor legend, Ralph Jacobi. Ralph held the very marginal federal seat of Hawker (which has since been abolished) in Adelaide's south-western suburbs for 18 years, winning eight elections. He defeated a former South Australian premier, Steele Hall, in a particularly tough election in 1977 by using the tried and true traditional methods that he always advocated: door-knocking and telling the voters the truth. As an effective servicer of electors, Ralph Jacobi wrote the book. In a time when politics is held in low esteem, Ralph Jacobi should be held up as an exemplar and also as an exception.

Ralph was known and loved in his electorate and in the parliament but virtually unknown outside it. He was born in Keswick and left school early to become a merchant seaman. He married Stella Pill in 1953 and they had a happy marriage and three sons. In 1965 he began working as an organiser for the Labor Party. He then went on to become an executive officer of the South Australian Trades and Labor Council and then General Secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association.

In 1968 he easily won preselection for the seat of Hawker, despite his fierce independence and his refusal to join any factional grouping. He was one of the new breed of Labor MPs elected under Gough Whitlam, and there is a well-known story about Gough urging Ralph to nominate for a ministry. He is alleged to have told Gough Whitlam, 'If they can't get anyone better than me, then they're in real trouble.'

Ralph went on to serve on several parliamentary committees and was a commonwealth delegate to the Australian constitutional conventions held in 1973, 1975 and 1976. He had a keen interest in the problems of the Middle East, in insurance law, taxation, oil, water (particularly the Murray-Darling Basin), and constitutional reform. He was a voracious reader and had a scholarly grasp of the problems in the Middle East. Ralph was a passionate advocate of equitable water sharing, which he saw as an essential precondition for peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. I am sure that members, particularly given the events of recent weeks and months, will appreciate his foresight. As a community we are still grappling with many of the problems that he addressed with passion over the years, particularly issues of water salinity, the River Murray and, of course, problems relating to insurance.

Ralph retired from parliament in 1987, when he was first diagnosed as suffering from cancer. A petition to award him the Order of Australia was signed by almost every member of the House of Representatives from all sides of parliament and he received an AM. During a long respite from his illness, Ralph chaired the Advisory Council of the National Archives between 1988 and 1991.

In the most recent issue of the *Labor Herald*, his former friends and colleagues Michael Duffy and Barry Jones tell the story that he lived by a framed motto that he kept in his old Parliament House office. It said, 'Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' He certainly lived by those words. I concur wholeheartedly in their description of Ralph Jacobi

when they wrote, 'He was a noble but unrecognised Australian who honoured the profession of politics.'

On behalf of the government and the Labor Party, I express my sincere condolences to Ralph's wife, Stella, his sons Malcolm, Andrew and Colin, and their families. I remember that, when I saw Ralph a year or so ago when he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, he did not want anyone to make a fuss about it. He said, 'Oh well, I'll be on my way; I'll be going.' He died as he lived: with great dignity and honouring all of the traditions that he espoused throughout his life.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):

Ralph Jacobi was a former Labor member for the federal seat of Hawker, and I gladly second the Premier's comments in moving this motion. Ralph was born in Adelaide and left school at a young age. He then had a number of jobs working in abattoirs and as a painter before joining the merchant navy. Ralph became involved in the Labor Party in 1965 and became an executive officer of the South Australian Trades and Labor Council and then General Secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association.

Ralph was a popular choice when preselected for the seat of Hawker in 1968 and elected to parliament in the 1969 election. Ralph held this seat until he retired in 1987 and will be remembered by most involved in politics as being one of the best marginal seat campaigners. His seat, which took in the western suburbs of Adelaide, was always very marginal and he withstood many difficult challenges. As the Premier highlighted, the closest fought contests were in 1975 and 1977 against a very formidable opponent in former Liberal Premier Steele Hall.

The 1977 election was particularly tight and Ralph ended up holding the seat by 770 votes. Ralph was a hardworking man who was tirelessly committed to his electorate. He was also passionate about larger issues including the Murray-Darling Basin system, tax avoidance, foreign affairs and the National Crime Authority. When delivering his maiden speech in parliament he launched a tirade against an insurance company for its treatment of one of his constituents. This was a true reflection of his personality: he was totally committed to his electors and to fighting for the underdog in any situation.

Ralph was widely regarded as a likeable man, always ready with a joke, and happy to have a conversation with all sides of politics and with the media. This was evident when he received an AM in 1987 which was instigated by nearly all members of parliament signing a petition. Following Ralph's retirement from parliament due to illness, he later chaired the Advisory Council of the National Archives of Australia—a job which he thoroughly enjoyed. He will be missed by those who were close to him, and my sincere condolences, and those of the opposition, go to his wife of nearly 40 years, Stella, and his children, Malcolm, Andrew and Colin, and their families.

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Minister for Social Justice):

Ralph Jacobi will be greatly missed as a friend and mentor not only by me but also by the members of the Ashford electorate office. Right up until a week before Ralph died, he would come into our office and check up on how much doorknocking I had been doing in the previous week. He would not ask me but, rather, ask the trainee because he considered her to be a good measure of what was happening. He also made sure that my PA, Lindy McAdam, was up to

date with exactly which areas I had doorknocked and which community groups I had been in contact with during the previous couple of weeks. Not only was he someone that I looked up to, but also he was someone who made sure that I was effectively getting around the electorate of Hanson (now Ashford).

I have known Ralph for a long time because I was very much aware of his influence in the trade union movement. Unlike some of his colleagues at the time, he did not have a problem with my being a woman trade union official. In fact, he thought that women were very practical people, and I remember when I was elected in 1997 that he wrote me a letter to say that he thought women, in particular, made good politicians because they had a lot of commonsense about them. I remember his telling me about the commonsense of his mother and his wife Stella, and his saying that he thought I was at an advantage being a woman.

He has also been a great leader in the south-western suburbs. I know that a number of other candidates have gone to Ralph Jacobi in the past to seek advice and to talk to him about different tactics or their views about a particular electorate. I know Steve Georganas, who was the Labor candidate for Hindmarsh, was very much supported by Ralph Jacobi, and I know that he was dreadfully upset when Ralph died.

Ralph was a bit on the grumpy side. He was very modest and very self-effacing, but very much dedicated to the Labor movement. As the Premier has already said, he was very much there to make sure that people's lives in the electorate he represented were just a little better. One of the interesting things I found when doing the doorknocking suggested by Ralph is that people wanted to know how Ralph and his family were, because they were much loved in the area. I am going to miss him dreadfully, and I know that Melissa and Lindy from the electorate office would like me to pass on their condolences to Ralph's family and to say that we will miss him but we very much remember the lesson he has left us.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation):

It is with great sadness that I stand to comment on the passing of Ralph Jacobi. I knew Ralph very well over a period of 20 years or so as a party official, a candidate, an ordinary member of the Labor Party and, subsequently, a member. As my colleague said, Ralph was a very friendly, somewhat grumpy, individual, but he was always very kind and helpful with his advice. He was always a background person: he did not try to hog the limelight. He patiently pursued his agenda behind the scenes—and he had quite an agenda.

In particular, Ralph was a passionate advocate for the environment. I guess he was one of the very early members of parliament (either federal or state) to identify the Murray-Darling Basin as an issue of great concern. Indeed, in 1981 he introduced a private member's bill to establish a research body into fresh water management. At that time, he highlighted the failure of the national government to deal with water resource management. In November 1983, he said:

Many of the problems in water resource management arise because of the fragmentation of water management both within and between states.

As the opposition shadow spokesperson on water resources well knows, those issues still plague the commonwealth. In fact, Ralph was so strongly identified with the Murray-Darling Basin—he was a long-term participant in the Murray-

Darling Association—that they named their meeting room in honour of him. I think it is called the Ralph Jacobi Room.

Ralph's commitment to the environment extended to the protection of fauna. In 1984, he asked the Minister for Industry about the exportation of frogs to countries, particularly France, for human consumption. He also wanted to know the 'quantities and weights of frog legs imported into Australia during each of the years 1974 to 1984 and from which countries these imports originated'. The Minister for Industry advised that, sadly, customs did not distinguish between imports of fresh, frozen, preserved or prepared frog legs! However, I think this shows that Ralph had a passionate interest in these issues and would pursue them to any length.

He was also a person with an incredibly high personal standard of integrity—the sort of politician that makes the profession honourable. Indeed, I think Ralph would be proud of the tough standards of ministerial accountability that have been announced today by the Premier. Ralph pursued a number of public policy issues which, in hindsight, if the federal parliament had followed his lead, would have resulted in some better outcomes. I refer particularly to insurance fraud, company law, tax and finance reforms, all matters which he tenaciously pursued. He was also passionate about world affairs, particularly in the Middle East.

I remember the last time I saw Ralph. I think it was just before Christmas last year. I cannot be entirely sure, but it was around that time. It was in my electorate at Old Noarlunga. I attended the annual meeting of the model aeroplane club, and Ralph and his wife were in the front row standing against the fence watching the planes fly around. It must have been only three or four weeks before he died, but he was still actively involved and happy and friendly. Ralph was courteous right to the very end. I pass on my sympathies to his wife, Stella, and his sons, Malcolm, Andrew and Colin.

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): I wish briefly to honour Ralph Jacobi today. I have had several discussions with Ralph Jacobi over the last few years, particularly because one of the many duties he had taken on in recent years was the assistance he gave to Pat Bruun, one of my branch members, who had become infirm through illness. Ralph took it upon himself to ensure that she had transport to various Labor Party functions in my area. That is just one example of the selflessness of the man.

Ralph was a gentleman and he was noble. He will not leave behind a monument but he will leave behind some valuable traditions, such as servicing his constituents selflessly with genuine compassion and making a sincere contribution to public debate especially on issues involving the River Murray, the behaviour of insurance companies, and tax avoidance. I extend my condolences to members of his family, and I know that those feelings of sadness are shared by some of the elderly members of my own Labor Party branch.

Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens): I support the condolence motion and extend my sympathies to the family of the late Ralph Jacobi. Ralph was an example to all of us. He set the benchmark for what a good member of parliament should be. I was shocked to find, when I was speaking to my mother about the passing of Ralph Jacobi, that he knew my family quite well when I was very young. He had actually recruited my mother to the Labor Party for two years, or so, despite my mother being a staunch Liberal at the time. My mother was very impressed with Ralph's commitment to his

local community. Ralph rarely ever met constituents in his office; rather, he would travel to their home and meet with them in their living room. He was the master of the living room conversation.

Ralph is someone who, I think, has made our jobs so much harder because he has set the benchmark for all of us. I still meet people who did not live in Ralph's area but who remember Ralph visiting them outside his electorate to help them because someone had referred them to him. Ralph did not believe in borders, he did not believe in electorates: he served everyone where ever they were. I know that the member for Playford had some unique experiences with him as did I during the campaign of 1993 when we were pushing to get a few people elected in the state election. Ralph never lost his determination; he never gave up.

He had a huge contempt for modern campaigning techniques and the modern campaigning techniques of some members opposite. He believed in the old-fashioned way of campaigning. He did not like to be told how to win an election campaign, and he proved everyone wrong. In fact, he was such a good campaigner that we lost that seat by, I think, 33 votes after he retired on a by-election when, unfortunately, Liz Harvey failed to beat Chris Gallus in a general election. I would have to say that we are worse off with the passing of Ralph. As the member for Kaurana said, there will be no monument, just the memories of those constituents he served who will make sure that his name lives on for ever. I extend my deepest condolences to Stella and Ralph's family.

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): When I first entered this house in 1989 it was as the member for Hayward and Ralph Jacobi had just previously retired as the federal member for the same area. I would like to pay tribute to Mr Jacobi because I think that, while his political star was not mine, he was, as members opposite have said, a very good member of parliament; one who in fact set an example not that it is difficult for us to follow but that we should all emulate. In my career I have had two such people: Ralph Jacobi and Gil Langley, both of whom were exceptional members of parliament and who could teach all of us how public service counts and how we should be there to serve the public and not to serve ourselves.

As my colleague the minister says, he was prescient in matters of water. He understood the needs of the Murray-Darling Basin and a great deal more beside. I think that it was briefly mentioned that Ralph Jacobi was one of the first people to discern the critical nature of water (I think in this one hundred years) in international conflict—that water is in fact more of a political weapon than sometimes bombs and grenades. He was, indeed, a man that all of us should emulate. He was a fine example to this house, and no matter which side he sat on he deserves our respect and our condolences.

Mr SNELLING (Playford): One of the greatest works of Ralph Jacobi was in his mentoring of younger members of the Australian Labor Party—and, in particular, I think of the Hon. Paul Holloway, who worked for Ralph for a number of years as his research officer when Ralph was the member for Hawker.

I first met Ralph when I embarked on a trip to Israel. I had heard that Ralph had a great deal of understanding and expertise and, by way of background, I sought out Ralph to gain his perspective. I was deeply impressed with the breadth

of Ralph's knowledge and understanding of the Middle East. A couple of years later, when I was campaign director in the seat of Elder in that dreadful 1993 election, the member for Elder at that stage (who shall remain nameless) was perhaps a little less enthusiastic about doorknocking than I, as campaign director, would have hoped, and Ralph took it upon himself to grab this candidate and take him out into the electorate—he took him by the hand and led him through the streets and drove him very hard. I do not think that this candidate has ever really recovered.

One of the other things that amazed me about Ralph was that, without any lists or databases or computers, he knew off the top of his head who were all the elderly and infirm people in the electorate of Elder who would require postal votes, and he went around and visited them, took them their postal vote applications and organised their postal votes purely from memory. I was absolutely amazed by the memory that he had for people and the circumstances that they might be in, in which they would require a postal vote.

In the tradition of Scullin, Curtin and Chifley, Ralph was mainly self-educated and, in a time of terrible cynicism about our profession, I believe that Ralph stands as a beacon. I offer my deepest sympathy to Ralph's wife, Stella, and to the entire Jacobi family on their sad loss.

The SPEAKER: I thank honourable members for their remarks, and I add my own condolences to those that have been expressed in the chamber this afternoon to Stella and the other members of the Jacobi family. I point out to the House that I, too, knew Ralph Jacobi before I ever became a member of this place, not only because we shared a common interest in the Murray River but also because we shared a common interest in good civic manners—that is, ensuring that the built environment was more attractive, in a deliberate way, than was otherwise the way it appeared to emerge as a result of the post-war development, particularly through the 1950s, during which time of course South Road got its reputation as being the ugliest streetscape in Australia.

I know that others will miss Ralph Jacobi, and I will miss him. I guess it might come as a surprise to some members to realise that I often spoke to him at a personal level, and he consulted with me constantly for at least three years over his idea to establish a freshwater institute before he moved for that measure in the federal parliament. I felt that I failed him in that; when I attempted to get particularly the University of Adelaide's governing council to understand the importance of having such an institute—which we could have had in South Australia—I failed to attract their interest and support for the proposition and, because they did not support it, South Australia lost it. I again thank all members for their remarks, and I ask members to support the motion by standing in their places in silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

BROWNBILL, Ms C., DEATH

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Kay Brownbill, former member for the seat of Kingston in the federal parliament and places on record our appreciation of her distinguished public service.

On behalf of the government I express my regret at the passing of Cathrine Brownbill, better known as Kay. South

Australia, of course, has a proud history in women's suffrage and Kay Brownbill was a history maker. Obviously, we were the second place in the world to give women the right to vote and the first place in the world to allow women to run as candidates as members of parliament.

Kay Brownbill was the first South Australian woman to be elected to the House of Representatives, as the Liberal member for the southern suburb seat of Kingston from 1966 to 1969. She also held the honour of being only the third woman to be elected to the House of Representatives, the first woman to be elected to that house since Dame Enid Lyons in 1951.

Before entering politics, Kay had a distinguished career in the media as a very well-known playwright and radio announcer, including a time at Radio 5DN and also at the BBC. After her defeat in 1969 to Labor's Richie Gun, Kay returned to her work as a history lecturer. She was awarded the OBE in 1980 for services to the South Australian community. On behalf of the government and the Labor Party, I extend my sincere condolences to Kay Brownbill's family.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of the Liberal Party, I have pleasure in seconding the motion and express our regret at the passing of Cathrine Brownbill on 3 February this year. Cathrine, known as Kay, was a remarkable woman. Upon her election in 1966, she became the first woman from South Australia to be elected to the federal parliament and at that time she was the youngest, and only the third, in South Australia to achieve that feat. Prior to entering parliament, Kay had a successful career in broadcasting and the arts and was a well-known playwright and radio announcer.

In the 1940s and 1950s, Kay was social editress of Radio 5DN and greatly contributed to building the station's female audience through the introduction of fashion shows, interviews and children's sessions. In 1949, Kay achieved another first when she gave the country's first female television commentary during that year's royal tour. She went on to be the event organiser for the *Advertiser* and was responsible for what some members may remember as the *Advertiser* open air art exhibitions and the *Advertiser* youth arts show.

Throughout her personal life, Kay maintained strong links with the community. As well as being Secretary to the South Australian Housewives Association, she was also the Vice President of the Institute of Public Relations of Australia from 1964 to 1966. Kay was defeated in the 1969 election and returned to one of her greatest passions as a lecturer in history. She was awarded the OBE in 1980.

During her tenure as a member, Kay was a strong and vocal advocate for women's rights. She campaigned hard for more women to be appointed to government boards and committees and lobbied for equal pay for women and a liberalisation of the means test for pensioners. She served on Parliament's Printing Standing Committee and the Statutory Committee for the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings, and also took a keen interest in issues such as aircraft noise, foreign policy, social welfare reform and education.

The Liberal Party has been well served with women's representation at both federal and state level and was the party that provided the first woman to be elected or appointed to every house of the parliament. Kay was one of the trailblazers but refused to be labelled as solely a spokesperson for women. She was a member of parliament and represented all Australians. In paying my respects on behalf of the Liberal

Party to Cathrine Brownbill, I would like to acknowledge her outstanding service to this state, the federal parliament and the Liberal Party.

Mrs HALL (Morialta): I support the condolence motion moved by the Premier and I would like to make a few remarks about Kay Brownbill. I knew her personally and, in hindsight, I think that Kay was a unique individual because of her time, and it is interesting that she was a member of the federal parliament for only three years, as has been stated by the Premier and by the leader. She achieved firsts in many things, but she had an extraordinary determination. My understanding is that she was endorsed for the federal seat of Kingston in 1963 and, when she failed to win it on that occasion, she made it quite clear that she was determined to win it next time around, and indeed win it she did in the landslide victory of Harold Holt at that time.

As has been said, before entering parliament, Kay had a very diverse history of activity in the media, which was quite unusual for that time. She wrote plays, and a number of those plays were produced in countries outside Australia such as New Zealand, Britain, India, South Africa and Canada. I am not sure how relevant some of them are today, but the pride of her life was writing a book called *Blow the Wind Southerly*. She started the book off by writing about the attributes of South Australia and what it had to offer the international community in tourism. She was absolutely passionate about that area, and it is quite interesting to look at some of her speeches in the federal parliament, because the first bill she spoke on concerned the establishment of the Australian Tourism Commission.

The leader has outlined a couple of the issues that she campaigned on before she was elected in 1966, and the three that he specifically mentioned were a better deal for women, equal pay for women and liberalisation of the means test to allow pensioners to have more money in the bank. Interestingly, she suggested that the way that should be paid for was through the absolute need Australia had to gather some of the revenue dollars that could come from the tourism industry, if we did it correctly.

It is quite interesting to reflect on some of the newspaper headlines at the time she was elected. The *Melbourne Age* stated, 'Woman MP after 15 years'; the *Australian* said, 'Now she is ahead she wants a hat'; the *Sydney Morning Herald* said, 'One woman and 123 men'; the *Canberra Times* had, 'Gentle voice, iron will'; and the *Daily Telegraph* said, 'Miss Brownbill makes history'. As the leader said, she did indeed make history with all the firsts that have already been mentioned. It is interesting to reflect on the different times, the different political environment and the different community at that time and the social and political changes that we have observed since 1966.

As an individual, Kay Brownbill was extremely involved in her local community, and some of the organisations she was deeply involved in were the Good Neighbour Council, the Institute of Public Relations, the Soroptimists, the National Council of Women and, as has already been mentioned, the Housewives Association. When one looks at that list, it is not surprising that she took such an interest in the affairs and status of women.

I know that Kay Brownbill was a very proud member of the Liberal Party and she was a very proud member of the select group that has already been mentioned, that is, the firsts for Liberal women across the state in all chambers—Senator Nancy Buttfeld, the Hon. Joyce Steele, the Hon.

Jessie Cooper and then Kay Brownbill herself. She kept an interest in politics in the later years of her life and I do not know whether any women on the other side used to receive the odd phone call from Kay. I certainly did. She gave me lots of advice on the tourism portfolio. On each occasion I spoke to her she stressed the need for women in parliament to be very vigilant. According to Kay, we always had to behave like ladies and we always had to speak very clearly because our voices were much better than those of the male of the species. She really was a very special lady and I know she will be missed. Kay has a very impressive range of achievements, and she certainly led a most adventurous life through a number of times. I would like to extend my thoughts to her very wide group of friends in the community and her family.

The SPEAKER: I add my condolences to those expressed by honourable members. I thank them for their remarks and ask them to join me by standing in their places to support the motion.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

The SPEAKER: I thank honourable members. I will ensure that a copy of the remarks are forwarded to the respective families.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That, as a mark of respect for the former members, the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Motion carried.

[Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 3.50 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

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

Ordered to be published.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

A petition signed by 327 residents of South Australia, requesting that the house include discrimination on the grounds of mental illness in the Equal Opportunity Act, was presented by the Hon. L. Stevens.

Petition received.

WIND POWER

A petition signed by 966 residents of South Australia, requesting that the house support the development of wind power at Sellicks Hill, was presented by the Hon. J.D. Hill.

Petition received.

POLICE, COFFIN BAY

A petition signed by 193 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House ensure that a police officer is permanently stationed in the township of Coffin Bay, was presented by Mrs Penfold.

Petition received.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. M.D. Rann)—

- Remuneration Tribunal—Determination and Report—
No. 2 of 2002—Travelling & Accommodation Allowances
- No. 3 of 2002—Ministers of the Crown & Officers & Members of Parliament

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. K.O. Foley)—

- Regulations under the following Acts—
Fisheries—Blue Crab
- Offshore Minerals—Licences

By the Treasurer (Hon. K.O. Foley)—

- Rules—
Authorised Betting Operations—Bookmakers Licensing—Unclaimed Winnings

By the Minister for Industry, Investment and Trade (Hon. K.O. Foley)—

- Australasia Railway Corporation—Report 2000-01

By the Attorney-General (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)—

- Rules of Court—
Magistrates Court—Magistrates Court Act—
Jurisdiction Changes
- Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act—Scale of Costs

By the Minister for Consumer Affairs (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)—

- Regulations under the following Acts—
Conveyancers—Trust Accounts
- Land Agents—Trust Account Exemption
- Liquor Licensing—
Dry Areas—
Ceduna and Thevenard, Gawler
Normanville
Hallett Cove
- Security & Investigation Agents—Keeping Records
- Trade Measurement—
Measuring Instruments
- Pre-Packed Articles

By the Minister for Health (Hon. L. Stevens)—

- Food Act—Report 2000-01
- Social Development Committee—Response to Inquiry into Biotechnology Part II, Food Production.
- South Australian Council on Reproductive Technology—
Report 2001
- Supported Residential Facilities Advisory Committee—
Report 2000-01

By the Minister for Education and Children's Services (Hon. P.L. White)—

- Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia—
Report 2001
- Teachers Registration Board of South Australia—Report 2001

By the Minister for Environment and Conservation (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

- Bookmark Biosphere Trust—Report 2000-01
- Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia—
Report 2000-01
- Martindale Hall Conservation Trust—Report 2000-01
- Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report 2000-01
- National Parks and Wildlife Council—South Australian—
Report 2000-01
- Native Vegetation Council—Report, 2000-01
- State Heritage Authority—Report 2000-01
- Statutory Authorities Review Committee—Response—
Inquiry into Aboriginal Lands Trust, Coast Protection Board and Veterinary Surgeons Board
- Regulations under the following Acts—
Water Resources—Extension of Management Policy

By the Minister for Transport (Hon. M.J. Wright)—

- Regulations under the following Acts—
Harbors and Navigation—Exotic Seaweed

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

- Rules—
Local Government Superannuation Board—Final Salary.

GOVERNMENT, HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Good government is the bedrock of the community's confidence in public administration. In this statement—on the first day of a new parliament—I can announce a number of measures designed to ensure—

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. I am sorry to interrupt the Premier but you have, sir, I think changed from the normal procedures of this parliament. You have not asked for private members' business.

The SPEAKER: Members will have the opportunity to give notices of motions after ministerial statements. The Premier.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Good government is the bedrock of the community's confidence in public administration and in this statement—on the first day of a new parliament—I announce a number of measures designed to ensure the highest standards of honesty, accountability and transparency in government in this state. My government will be introducing a series of legislative amendments to be known as the honesty and accountability in government series of acts. This legislation, and the further revised codes of conduct for ministers and members of parliament that will follow, will fulfil a key promise made by me before the last state election.

It was a pledge to introduce the toughest and most comprehensive honesty and accountability measures. The government believes that by setting high standards and meeting them it will contribute to a renewed public confidence in the standing of government and, indeed, in the standing of parliament. There is a clear need in this state to rebuild that confidence. In the past eight years South Australians have seen one former Liberal leader sacked once, reinstated then forced to resign after an independent inquiry; a Premier resign after a report found that he gave misleading, inaccurate and dishonest evidence to an inquiry; another minister forced to resign following a report by the Auditor-General; and a former Deputy Premier and cabinet secretary forced to resign twice.

This government believes that standards must be higher. South Australians—the people whom we all serve—believe that standards should be higher. This government believes that it should start from the top in setting an example for ethical and accountable government by establishing strict new rules for ministerial conduct. Next week I will introduce a tough new code of conduct for ministers that will prohibit ministers from buying or selling shares, require the disclosure of the contents of family trusts and require ministers to divest themselves of shareholdings in any company in which they have a conflict or could be reasonably expected to have a conflict.

Today I can announce that I will introduce a package of legislation that will give new scope to the independent

watchdogs, the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman. It will require higher standards of government accountability for those who work in and with government, and that includes consultants, public servants and directors of governments, boards and agencies. Hopefully, it will begin to rebuild the community's trust in government. Then, of course, we intend to introduce a charter of budget honesty. South Australians are tired of being told one thing about the state's finances before an election and learning the truth only after the event.

I will certainly leave it to the Treasurer during the week to comment further on the financial situation the state government faces. But the new Public Finance and Audit (Honesty and Accountability in Government) Amendment Bill will be a major step forward in improving the accountability of the government to the public and to the parliament. The bill will require governments to produce a charter of budget honesty. South Australians deserve to know what the government is doing with their money. The charter of budget honesty will require not only our government but all future governments in this state to stop hiding the truth about the true state of the budget.

It will also require the government to state clearly its future financial objectives and the principles on which it will base its decisions to spend taxpayers' money. This will take into account tax policies and burdens, risk, service delivery and so on. At the last state election the former Liberal government refused to allow either the opposition or the South Australian people to see the true state of the state's budget, and now we know why. The finances were in a mess and the former government did not want the public to know.

If Parliament passes this legislation, such deceit will become a thing of the past. There will be no more cooked books: they are the politics of the past. I can understand the embarrassment of members opposite. I can understand that they would be embarrassed at any mention of a charter of budget honesty—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: And I dare you to vote against it. From now on, there will be a specific pre-election budget report. People want, and deserve, to be given a clear indication that their money is being put to good use for the benefit of the community as a whole. I knew that if I started talking about honesty they would complain. This is what this charter of budget honesty is all about. The legislation will require the government to produce a charter within three months of the legislation being passed. It will give direction to the contents of such a charter, and it will give direction to the preparation and release of a pre-election report. A charter will be required to be produced within three months of a government being elected. It will be tabled in parliament and commit the government to the fiscal responsibility obligations set out in it.

As a measure of how seriously we take this charter, the Treasurer will be able to issue instructions under the Public Finance and Audit Act to ensure compliance with the charter. Failure by any person, including chief executives, to comply with the act, including Treasurer's instructions, could result in fines of up to \$10 000 being imposed.

Along with the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman is one of the key independent monitors of government. But the extensive contracting out and the privatisation of government functions and services in recent years has significantly limited the ability of the Ombudsman to investigate complaints. This government is committed to creating an essential services ombudsman to handle consumer complaints against electrici-

ty, gas and water companies. We will also establish a health and community services ombudsman. It is essential that complaints in these critical areas be dealt with properly, regardless of who is providing the service.

The government is also committed to reviewing the Ombudsman Act and to broadening the powers of the Ombudsman to ensure that he can fully investigate claims made by the public against all government agencies. Following consultations with the Ombudsman, the government will introduce a number of amendments to the Ombudsman Act this week. They will extend the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to include the investigation of administrative actions arising from the outsourcing of government functions.

The office of Auditor-General is one of the most important checks on the use of government moneys. Legislation to be introduced shortly will enhance the independence of the Auditor-General and will contribute to much more open and accountable government. To be effective, the Auditor-General must have sufficient legislative powers to perform his duties. My government is committed to ensuring that the Auditor-General has sufficient legislative authority to investigate all government contracts and all dealings with private business. It is vital that the Auditor-General have the ability to properly and rigorously scrutinise all publicly funded projects and government contracts. As part of the package, the government will later this session introduce a new Public Finance and Audit (Honesty and Accountability in Government) Bill to make the Auditor-General an officer of the parliament, and I hope it will have the support of all members.

My government believes that all senior executives and all employees across the whole public sector should be subject to the highest obligations to act honestly and ethically in the interests of the South Australian community. As a start, I will be introducing a Statutes Amendment (Honesty and Accountability in Government) Bill. It will give explicit legislative backing to the Code of Conduct for South Australian Public Sector Employees, recently produced by the Commissioner for Public Employment. As a result of the amendments proposed in the bill, the code of conduct will bind all public servants, including chief executives, and all employees and chief executives of all other public sector agencies.

For the first time in this state's history, all directors, all chief executives and all employees—indeed, anyone performing public sector work—will have imposed on them a general obligation to act honestly in the performance of their duties. For the first time this includes the contractors and consultants hired by government, and non-compliance will be an offence. Labor promised tougher provisions to deal with any improper use of information acquired by persons concerning publicly funded projects and government contracts.

The Statutes Amendment (Honesty and Accountability in Government) Bill will deliver on this promise by amending the Criminal Law Consolidation Act to broaden the definition of 'public officer'. This will close a loophole by ensuring that offences relating to public officers, such as bribery of public officers and abuse of public office, apply to everyone who performs public sector work, not just those who are themselves public sector employees. For the first time in this state all senior executives of a public corporation will be required to disclose in writing their pecuniary interest, including the interest of any associates.

Both senior executives and employees will be required to declare any conflict, or potential conflict, between their

interests and their duties. Employees will include not only people employed by a public corporation but also anyone who performs work for them. Failure by senior executives to comply with these provisions will be an offence. Failure by employees will constitute grounds for termination of employment. Civil proceedings will also be possible to claim any profit, loss or damage arising from non-compliance. The bill will also ensure that all other senior officials and all other employees in the public sector will be subject to the same comprehensive provisions.

This is simply the beginning of a series of our honesty and accountability measures and, given the events of the past, I hope that they will receive strong, bipartisan support from all members of parliament. They represent a challenge to this government and to this parliament. It is the challenge to rebuild the standing of government in the eyes of our community, in the eyes of South Australians, and it is a challenge that my government is eager to accept. I now intend to give notice of the introduction of certain bills on 8 May.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I rise on a point of order. Now that we have had the ministerial statement by the Premier it is appropriate that we go back to what the standing orders require and go through private members' business before we proceed with the rest of government business.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I have told the house that there will be an opportunity for members to give notices of motion after ministerial statements. Before inviting notices of motion from honourable members, I apologise for my oversight prior to inviting ministers to make ministerial statements.

QUESTION TIME

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Frome): My question is directed to the Premier. What changes have been or will be made to government departmental structures as a result of his allocation of portfolios to ministers? It has become obvious to the opposition that the portfolio allocation within the ministerial line up is causing a great deal of uncertainty and confusion within the Public Service. The new ministry contains no less than 40 different ministerial titles, which in turn has generated confusion, a lack of coordination and unclear lines of accountability for the bureaucracy. Under the new structure some chief executives will report to multiple ministers, leading to managerial and bureaucratic uncertainty in government departments, which is still most evident after two months.

The SPEAKER: Before the Premier answers, explanations for questions should ensure that the question is understood rather than members making rhetorical, controversial, ironical or offensive expressions of opinions about matters canvassed in the question. In future, honourable members in the course of their explanations will not be permitted the latitude the leader has just been shown.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I am delighted to receive that question from the Leader of the Opposition. Of course changes have been made and are being made to the structure of government to reflect two things: first, the change of government and also the change in ministerial line up and the change in policies. I should advise members opposite that they can be delighted to know that we have asked Stephen Baker, a former deputy premier in a Liberal government—

who I know is held in high esteem by all of you—to assist us with the restructuring of the Department of Industry, Technology and Trade.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: You can see who the leadership aspirants are: we have Brokenshire, Evans and Brindal but, do not worry, the real leadership aspirant is sitting behind the former minister for water resources.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Be that as it may, I am here from the government and I am here to help. The point is that we are restructuring government. We have decided to embrace policies of bipartisanship. We have asked Stephen Baker to assist us in a major restructuring, and also Dick McKay, a former Liberal Party treasurer. So, with the help of the three treasurers, McKay, Dawkins and Baker, two of whom are from your own patch, you can have confidence in them and you can have confidence in us.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): Can the Premier outline the significance to the state of the agreement recently reached between Mitsubishi, the state and the commonwealth government?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): This should be an important question for all members of parliament. This is about the future of our manufacturing base in this state. On Friday 26 April I had the pleasure of participating in the official announcement that Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited will be undertaking its \$1 billion new vehicle development project. This announcement is tremendous news for the dedicated and loyal Mitsubishi work force as it provides to them for the first time in a number of years long-term certainty about the future of their jobs. That is only the start of the good news.

The announcement secures for Mitsubishi's Adelaide operations a place in the global corporation's vehicle sourcing arrangements. Adelaide will be the only place to manufacture Mitsubishi Corporation's new worldwide flagship vehicle, which is a long wheelbase car of similar dimensions to a Holden Statesman. The majority of this model's production will be exported to the United States, the Middle East and elsewhere. In addition to this new car, a replacement for the Magna Verada range will also be manufactured for domestic and export markets. Production of these two vehicles will lead to the additional employment of almost 1 000 new workers at Mitsubishi's South Australian operations.

As part of the project, the company will substantially upgrade its research and development activities in South Australia. Approximately \$150 million of the R&D involved in the development of these new vehicles will be undertaken here in South Australia, which is wonderful news for our research and technical communities. Mitsubishi's R&D staff numbers will reach up to 300 employees at the period of peak development work on this project. The South Australian government has committed to Mitsubishi to provide \$40 million in cash support and additional in-kind support for this project. The cash support is in the form of a loan that will convert to a grant in 2007 if predetermined production hurdles are met. The production hurdles have been raised significantly above those negotiated by the previous govern-

ment and require Mitsubishi to achieve almost 100 per cent of its business plan production forecast.

This is the end of the propping up. This is about adding value, about a commitment to the future, about an investment in the future, and it is about performance-based industry assistance, not handouts or government corporate welfare. This is a change into something different. It is about almost 1 000 extra jobs in production and it is about extra R&D and an almost doubling of the number of cars produced here by Mitsubishi in South Australia.

I am delighted to announce that much of the in-kind support to be provided to Mitsubishi will be by way of its access to a new South Australian centre for automotive safety research, which is to be established around the Science Park area. The centre will be headed by Professor Jack McLean and will incorporate his world-renowned road accident research unit. The centre will retain its existing links to Adelaide University but will greatly increase the amount and scope of research work undertaken in this state on pedestrian and vehicle occupant safety. The centre will work not just with Mitsubishi but with other manufacturers and component suppliers in the state and around Australia. When combined with Mitsubishi's new R&D facilities, this will further enhance the value that the government has extracted in return for its investment support package.

I am pleased to say that, having had very productive talks with the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, this was a true, bipartisan package negotiated with the Prime Minister, Mr MacFarlane and also, of course, with Mitsubishi itself. It is about bipartisanship and a partnership with the private sector.

So, I am delighted to pay tribute to a number of people who were involved in the negotiations. I would like pay tribute to the untiring efforts of the Chairman of our new Economic Development Board, Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny, who has worked alongside the Deputy Premier (who also played a major role), greatly assisted with advice by former premier John Olsen. We want to put that on the record. Gone are the days of the past when nothing that any future government had done ever counted for anything. I want to pay tribute to John Olsen today, as I did at the launch, and I think it is appropriate to do so.

TOURISM MINISTER

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism, the Minister for Small Business, the Minister for Information Economy and the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education. What decisions has she made regarding the reporting structure and function of departments within her portfolio area?

The minister has been allocated responsibilities within the ambit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Education, Training and Further Employment. This would involve responsibility and interaction with three chief executives and a multitude of senior and middle managers across a substantial sector of government.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): We are having a review and I refer to the Treasurer.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: I rise on a point of order, sir. My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism and the other portfolios.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Deputy Premier has determined to answer.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier): The reason I am answering this question, and why I will answer any question relating to restructuring of government, is that it is part of the budget process. If members opposite—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Brindal: They're all your puppets, are they? Puppets on a string!

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not sure whether the member for Unley is feeling well or ill, but he can feel elsewhere if he continues in that vein. The Deputy Premier.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Thank you, sir. As I said, questions relating to the restructuring of individual agencies impact on the budget. At present, as the Premier outlined before, as the Treasurer and as Minister for Industry, Investment and Trade, I have asked the Hon. John Dawkins, the Hon. Stephen Baker and Dick McKay to look at the Department of Industry and Trade, and there will be impacts on a number of portfolios.

The restructuring of government has a very real impact on the budget bottom line. I say to members opposite: be patient—

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: I rise on a point of order. The question to the Minister for Tourism was: what decisions have you made? The Deputy Premier is not answering the question. Mr Speaker, you have made it clear that you expect ministers to answer the question. I seek your guidance.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. If in the convention of cabinet unanimity it is decided by the Treasurer and Deputy Premier that he will answer the question because he has the information at his disposal, he will do so.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The impact on the budget is very important. As members opposite would be aware, I, as Deputy Premier and Treasurer, chair a transition to government team which includes my colleague the Leader of the House and the Minister for Government Enterprises. We are working through portfolio structures where they impact upon the budget bottom line. When these decisions are taken by the transition to government team and are sorted out as they involve the budget, we will make announcements. So, members will need to be a little patient. Those decisions will be taken at the earliest opportunity, but we have been in government for only seven weeks and we would have been here a lot earlier had members opposite not hung on for three weeks. We are working as quickly as we can. When the transition to government team, which I chair as Treasurer, has finally signed off on portfolio structures, we will make those announcements.

CABINET MEETINGS

Ms BREUER (Giles): My question is directed to the Premier. Will the Premier advise the house what action this government intends to take to honour its commitment to regularly consult with the South Australian community? During the last election campaign, the Premier made a commitment to hold regular community cabinet meetings throughout the state and to provide an opportunity for all South Australians to meet with ministers and senior public servants.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I am pleased to inform the house that community cabinets are part of this government's commitment to provide all South Australians with

regular access to cabinet ministers and the chief executives of government departments. At the last election, we promised to provide regular opportunities for people, particularly those in rural and regional South Australia, to meet with and inform us of the issues that are important to them. This government already has a history of being accessible and of listening to the South Australian community, particularly through our Labor Listens program under which we held dozens of meetings around the state in the lead-up to the last election.

I am aware that the idea for community cabinets in regional areas is not new. However, this government will not maintain the organisation of these occasions which was favoured by the former government and which involved a closely controlled agenda that was criticised because ministers of the former government would simply fly in and fly out or drive in and drive out and be available only for pre-arranged 'invite only' events and media interviews.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Well, that was the criticism, but if that is wrong I will give you the benefit of the doubt, because it is quite clear who is running for what.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Don't look behind you, Rob; the agitation speaks for itself: you know what's going on. Prior to the last election I spoke with my friend and colleague Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland, who had taken the concept of community cabinet one step further and made it much more people focused and accessible.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Just listen to this, because you might learn something. Peter Beattie suggested that the processes of community cabinet should be open to all people in the area being visited so that government can be more exposed to the issues, problems and challenges faced by different communities.

The hallmark of our community cabinet program is spending time listening to local people. Community cabinet involves the Premier, ministers and chief executives spending several days—in some cases in Queensland—participating in events and meetings which are designed to allow as much opportunity as possible for local communities to tell governments first-hand of their concerns.

One of the major features of community cabinet is the open community forum which is advertised locally and open to everyone. Time is also set aside when I or my ministers and all the chief executives of government departments—and this is one of the clear differences between your approach and ours—are available for community consultation with members of the public on any issue of concern.

In addition, time is set aside for individual meetings with local government leaders, community groups and local businesses. The first of the government's community cabinet meetings were held on 14 and 15 April in Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge. The event was highly successful, with people across the Murray Mallee region attending the open community forum held at the Tailem Bend Town Hall. During this forum cabinet and others and senior public servants were given an insight into the broad range of issues that are important to the local community of this region. We heard of problems that individuals were experiencing with local services, and we were also told of positive programs and events occurring within the region.

In Murray Bridge the next day—I know members would be excited to learn—the Victorian Premier (Steve Bracks) arrived and, in the culmination of a historic agreement,

together we announced a new \$25 million River Murray Environmental Flows Fund. This will see an extra 30 gegalitres of water flowing to improve the health of the river and the surrounding environment in South Australia and Victoria. Let me just talk about the future program because I know that there are members who want to be on the list. We plan to hold regular community cabinet meetings at locations across the state with the next meetings to be held in Mount Gambier and Penola—is that okay; I know that the honourable member was complaining before—in May and in Port Augusta and Whyalla in June as part of the process of bringing government back to the people.

In a bipartisan approach, we will provide the opportunity for all members of parliament, including members opposite, to be involved in the local community cabinet arrangements. We look forward to these visits and the opportunity they provide for the public to keep us focused on the job we are elected to do: serve the interests of all South Australians, particularly regional South Australians, in providing open and accountable government.

HOSPITALS, MERGER

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Finniss): Why did the Minister for Health give an inaccurate and dishonest answer to the media last Thursday denying a possible merger—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: —of the Repatriation General Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: At about midday last Thursday (2 May), the minister told the media that, after talking to the chairs of both the Flinders Medical Centre and the Repatriation General Hospital, she was able to say that the hospitals would not merge and that any such suggestion was entirely false. At or about 1 o'clock, I released part of the board paper for the Repatriation General Hospital which stated as follows, and I will quote a recommendation:

The Repatriation General Hospital board of directors supports in principle the proposal to amalgamate the Repatriation General Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre as—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members of the opposition may wish to participate but I assure them that the deputy leader does not need their help.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: You are right, Mr Speaker, I do not. Thank you. I will read again the recommendation:

The Repatriation General Hospital board of directors supports in principle the proposal to amalgamate the Repatriation General Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre as set out in the preliminary business case.

Having been caught out, the minister later that same day admitted that the hospitals were considering closer ties, including a merger. Will the minister please come clean and tell us why her statement was wrong?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Government Enterprises.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is plainly straying into rhetoric, despite—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Sorry, the next Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order, and point out for honourable members' benefit that, if they want to check on page 287 of Erskine May, they will find that unnecessary epithets are out of order in explaining questions, and will not be permitted in future.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): Before addressing the question, I would like to congratulate the member for Finnis on his appointment as shadow minister for health. I am certainly looking forward to the member for Finnis raising issues over which he has had direct control as minister and as premier over the last eight years. There is no doubt that the current state of our public health system in South Australia is the legacy of the former minister, and I certainly do not intend to withhold any credit to the former minister for the state of public health in South Australia.

Now to the question: the government's position in relation to the Repatriation Hospital has been made very clear by the Premier and by me. There is no threat to the future of the Repatriation Hospital. The Repatriation Hospital will not be taken over, merged, closed or privatised under this government. However—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. L. STEVENS: However, if during his term the former minister had been paying attention to his budget instead of pursuing his leadership ambitions—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. L. STEVENS: —all the time, he would know that the Repat Hospital is facing cost pressures next financial year of up to \$3 million a year.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: You just listen, because this is your legacy—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. L. STEVENS: —\$2 million a year—

The SPEAKER: Order! Can I help the minister keep the tenor of the house a little calmer by reminding her and everyone else that remarks should be addressed through the chair—

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Sorry, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: —not to other honourable members on any side of the chamber.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Sorry, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, it would have been a good idea if the former minister had faced up to his job and realised that the Repat Hospital was facing cost pressures next financial year—

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Under standing order 98 there is a specific obligation on the minister to answer the question and not to go off on some tangent that is totally unrelated to what the question was about. The question was: did the minister give an inaccurate answer to the media last Thursday? The answer is she did give one—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: —she acknowledged that she gave one. I want to know why she gave one.

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader's point of order has been made, and he may not engage in debate in the course of making the point of order. I point out to the deputy leader that standing order 98 refers to what is out of order in asking questions, not answering them.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Thank you very much—and I would be pleased to continue my answer. The \$3 million cost pressure facing the Repat Hospital is made up of, firstly—

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Sir, I rise on a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Mr Speaker, you just said that standing order 98 related to the asking of questions, not the answering. The first words in standing order 98 are, 'In answering such a question'. So, Mr Speaker, I think I have the right standing order—

The SPEAKER: I apologise to the Deputy Leader. Standing order 97 is the standing order that refers to not debating the question. But the deputy leader well knows that he has transgressed seriously the standing orders as they are in the course of not only asking his question but also in making his point of order, and it will assist the house enormously if all members ask questions and listen to answers wherever they have the responsibility or opportunity to ask or answer, and not try to score points off each other.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I would really like to be able to answer the question. As I was saying, the former minister would know that the Repat Hospital is facing cost pressures next year of up to \$3 million a year—\$2 million a year because the federal Liberal government safety net funding provision for veterans ceases from 1 July 2002, and up to a further \$1 million a year because the Department of Veterans' Affairs plans to renegotiate prices for physiotherapy and psychiatry day programs. That comes on top of a fall in veteran in-patient demand, particularly in orthopaedic, cardiology and vascular services, with a casemix value of \$2 million a year after the Department of Veterans' Affairs let contracts to private hospitals in July 2000. That is the position facing the boards of these hospitals.

The boards, appointed by the former minister, are now working to find solutions to the problems that he ignored. Because the former minister did nothing about ensuring that services to veterans are maintained, he is now up to his old trick of trying to shift the blame. In the light of these federal funding cuts, executives from the Repat Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre have been discussing how they can work together to enhance and further develop the clinical services offered by both organisations, and to maximise efficiency in the administrative and support services. There was nothing secret about this. A consultative meeting, including representatives from the Repat Hospital, the Consultative Council of Ex-service Organisations, Vietnam veterans' associations, the RSL and the Veterans' Advocate met on 18 April 2002 to discuss these issues, and it was agreed that any proposals would be subject to further consultation.

The chief executives of the two hospitals circulated a memo to all staff on 23 April 2002, advising them of this work. And a further message on 25 April 2002 to all staff at the Repat Hospital from the Acting Chief Executive said that the board of directors wished to advise staff that no decision had been made. The boards have not made any recommendation to government. Of course, when the former minister was distributing documents to beat up a crisis for the veterans, he chose not to circulate the document that said that the board of the Repat Hospital had made no decision.

Earlier this week, I met with Mr Bill Schmitt, the State Secretary of the Ex-prisoners of War Association and chair of the Consultative Council of Ex-service Organisations, together with Mr John Spencer, State Secretary of the RSL and Chief Executive of the consultative group. They made it

clear that they were well aware of the challenges as a result of the reduction in federal funding. I have assured them of the government's commitment to our veterans, and I have agreed with them that further consultations and discussions should be held through the consultative council. I am also writing to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs to discuss the possibility of any further extension of safety net funding. The future of the Repatriation Hospital is secure and there will be no changes without the full agreement of the veterans and their associations.

YEAR OF THE OUTBACK

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): Could the Minister for Tourism explain—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley and the member for Waite will come to order!

Mr O'BRIEN: Could the minister explain to the house the programs—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Government Enterprises will come to order!

Mr O'BRIEN:—that the South Australian Tourism Commission has in place to highlight the opportunities for enhancing tourism in rural and regional areas in this the Year of the Outback?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): I thank the member for Napier and say what an important program this has been. First, I congratulate the many ministers of tourism who supported this initiative of the SATC. As members know, in developing the Year of the Outback we are probably the only state that had the wit to capitalise on the opportunities for showcasing what we have in regional and rural South Australia. For many members of the community it has meant that there has been a tremendous opportunity for community building and investment in product that might be used in the future to attract more overseas and interstate visitors.

The keynote 'Year of the Outback' has included Wilpena Under the Stars, which I know many members on the other side of the chamber enjoyed. It was sold out, as were the Sounds Under the Southern Cross on 27 April and the 10 days Sounds of the Outback Festival which was held from 22 to 31 March. This included the William Creek race meeting and the Cooper Pedy Opal Festival which I attended. More than 800 people attended the Sounds of the Outback Concert, which was at the Breakaways Reserve near Cooper Pedy; and 600 people attended the William Creek races. As members know, last week (4 May) the Premier on horseback officially launched the outback event, the Great Australian Outback Cattle Drive.

This was particularly significant because it showcased outback South Australia to the visitors, who included 50 per cent of interstate and overseas people. The clear benefits to rural and regional communities cannot be underestimated, but at the end of the year we wish to have a full review of the economic and social impacts of the program to make sure that we can strategically plan for any ongoing benefits to the community.

HOSPITALS, MERGER

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Finniss): My subsequent question is to the Minister for Health and again concerns the

Repatriation General Hospital and Flinders Hospital. Will the minister confirm that the report on the ABC last Thursday, 2 May, was in fact an accurate report of what she said—and I quote from the report on the ABC—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: With your concurrence I will quote from that report on the ABC.

The SPEAKER: It is out of order to ask whether statements in the press of private organisations or private individuals are accurate. That is to be found, if he wants to look for it, on page 289 in Erskine May. If the deputy leader is asking the minister whether or not remarks attributed to her are accurate, that is another matter, but if the deputy leader is seeking information about any statement made in the media, whether print or electronic, that is out of order.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Certainly and I appreciate your guidance, Mr Speaker. I therefore ask the Minister for Health whether the statement attributed to her, which included a voice recording, was in fact an accurate reflection of what she said at a press conference? I read from what the ABC said last Thursday on the 7 p.m. news bulletin of 2 May.

The SPEAKER: Order! Is this the remark which the minister made on broadcast on the radio or is the deputy leader quoting the journalist? If he is, that is out of order, but if he is quoting the minister that is not.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I am quoting what the minister said on radio.

The SPEAKER: Then you may continue.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: And—

The SPEAKER: No ands, buts or any more. Quote the minister and no more.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I will quote what the minister said on radio, because she was responding to the fact that I had suggested that there was a possible merger. The minister said:

I am absolutely shocked at the suggestion that has been made by the shadow minister this morning when I put out the paper—absolutely shocked.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We have already exercised more forbearance than was ever shown to us. Not only is this debate and rhetoric but it does not appear to be going anywhere.

The SPEAKER: Has the deputy leader finished the quotation of the minister's words?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Yes.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I am always shocked at things that the shadow minister says. I have answered the issue in a previous question. I have nothing more to say on it.

NORTH TERRACE REDEVELOPMENT

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): Can the Minister for Urban Development and Planning say what action he has taken in response to the criticisms of the Public Works Committee draft report regarding the proposed North Terrace upgrade project? What is the status of the project?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Urban Development and Planning): As the honourable member should be aware, this has been a joint initiative of the previous state government and—

The SPEAKER: If the minister heads that microphone in his direction, we will be able to hear more of what he is providing by way of answer to the question.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: As the honourable member should be aware, the North Terrace project development was a joint initiative of the previous state government and the Adelaide City Council through the Capital City Committee. It commits something of the order of \$16 million to this project. As the new government is concerned to review all items of expenditure of significance, we looked at this project, as we will be looking at many others.

The previous government participated in a process that led to the design of this project but, upon coming into government, we were presented with a report from the Public Works Committee on 5 March. That was the day before many of us were sworn in, so it was one of the first challenges that we had to deal with as a government. That report documented some very serious criticisms of the way in which the previous government had gone about the design and consultation process. In fact, everybody seems to have been consulted except the public, and the major stakeholders in the institutions—

Mr Brindal interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley will be quiet.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The major stakeholders in the institutions knew all about it but seemingly no-one else. So it was incumbent on us to respond to the interim report of the Public Works Committee and that is why we quickly put in place a sophisticated public consultation process. We had to seek the cooperation of the Lord Mayor to suspend the tender process that had commenced. I publicly put on notice my thanks to the Lord Mayor for his good offices in cooperating with us and allowing us the time to review this project.

The steps from here are that we will be gathering the thousand-odd submissions that have been presented to us through that public consultation process, we will review the plans, we will refer the matter back to the Capital City Committee, we hope to reach agreement with the Capital City Committee on a new project or a project that satisfies the criticisms that have emerged, we will then present that back to the Public Works Committee and hopefully the project will be under way before the end of the year. We hope that we can achieve some savings with the project, that it keeps the character of this very important part of the city and that it sets in place a good benchmark for cooperative relations between the government and the Capital City Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to you, sir, as Speaker of the house. Can you please detail to the house the timetable and the details of the upcoming constitutional convention?

The SPEAKER: At this point there is no fixed date agenda and the work is proceeding as quickly as possible. As the leader would know, delays in transition from the government of which he was premier to the government which is now in office delayed that process and disturbed it. As soon as a chronology is available, I will provide it to the house.

GRAFFITI

Mr SNELLING (Playford): My question is directed to the Attorney-General. What steps are being taken by the government to combat graffiti vandalism?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I thank the member for Playford for his question. He has always been concerned about criminal justice matters and has

campaigns strongly on them in his electorate. Of course, the principal method of dealing with graffiti vandalism is the criminal law, and we have in South Australia recently proclaimed the Graffiti Control Act, which is in two parts. Part of it comes from the Summary Offences Act and the origin of those provisions, making it an offence to mark graffiti and to carry a graffiti implement, were enacted 10 years ago at the initiative of the present Premier who recognised the importance of having dedicated graffiti provisions in our criminal law.

Previously, we relied for prosecutions on the property damage offences. Indeed, one of the difficulties in tracking the incidence of graffiti vandalism in this state is that the prosecution authorities continue to charge offenders with property damage rather than the dedicated graffiti offences. It is my hope that we can change that charging practice so that we got a better idea of the offending rate regarding graffiti.

The second part of the Graffiti Control Act was the initiative of the member for Fisher, that is, the requirement that cans of spray paint be secure in shops and that the selling of cans of spray paint to minors be prohibited. That was an initiative of the member for Fisher in a private member's bill.

Mr Brokenshire: Not all of it.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: The member for Mawson interjects 'Not all of it'. Well, it was almost all of it, because the member for Fisher's bill was held up for months while the government tried to retake control of the agenda, and eventually the bill became a government bill which was supported by all sides of parliament with some resistance from those members in another place that the member for Mawson habitually refers to as the democracies.

The other branch of the state government's action against graffiti is funding the KESAB anti-graffiti project. Credit for this—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Well, I was just going to say that. Great minds think alike. Credit for this project should go to the previous Attorney-General, the Hon. K.T. Griffin, on whom I may model aspects of my stewardship. Certainly, he is popular in his former department. I was pleased to acknowledge the credit due to Trevor Griffin for this project at the recent KESAB anti-graffiti award presentations where Trevor was one of the audience.

The funds from this project enable a full-time project officer to be employed. It has enabled a school-based graffiti prevention program to be designed, and a statewide graffiti forum is planned for this month. KESAB is conducting a six month pilot of a graffiti hotline for reporting graffiti vandalism. The Graffiti Control Act provides assistance to retailers to comply with the new law relating to displaying and selling potential graffiti components. This government will continue these worthwhile endeavours of the Hon. Trevor Griffin and the member for Fisher.

UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): Will the Minister for Police confirm that an enterprise agreement has been finalised with the United Firefighters Union allowing a 12 per cent salary increase over approximately two years, together with a number of other provisions, including a professional cleaning contract agreement where the firefighters no longer clean? Why was this more than the government's recent pay offer to school teachers? Several sources in recent days have

advised me that it is now a fait accompli that the government has rolled over as a pay back to the United Firefighters Union at the expense of other public servants.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Police): I thank the member for Mawson for his question, and I hope that this question is not an indication of what we are going to get from him for the next long four years. The first thing I point out to the member for Mawson before answering his thoroughly pathetic accusation is that, if his sources had been better advised, they would have told him that the enterprise bargaining process is run by the budget committee and, in particular, the Minister for Industrial Relations.

I will indicate to the member for Mawson, whose sources are not quite as good as he would like that, as I understand it, the agreement is close to being finalised. I do not believe that it is finalised at present. When it is, we will give him the information.

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson will come to order.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Let me say that the notion that this government pays back its mates has come to the member for Mawson from the way in which he wrecked the emergency services budget through political considerations. I will have more to say about that in due course. I will have much more to say about it, and I will be quite prepared to measure my integrity in government against his.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REVIEW

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport): Will the Minister for Industrial Relations guarantee that all submissions made to the review into the industrial relations system announced by the government today are immediately made available to the public, and that the public will be permitted to attend all review hearings and forums?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Industrial Relations): I was delighted on 2 May to announce to the Industrial Relations Advisory Committee that the government would honour its commitment to undertake a full-scale review of industrial relations. I am also delighted to announce that Commissioner Greg Stevens, highly respected former Deputy President of the Industrial Relations Commission of South Australia, will head the review. We have put in place some broad terms of reference. Having said that, there is nothing that cannot be presented to that review, so the general terms of reference set out the parameters but do not stop any of the major stakeholders or individuals from raising certain issues they may wish to raise to that particular review. This review will be inclusive. This review will be consultative.

With respect to the specific question that has been asked, Greg Stevens will be undertaking a review which will include all of the major stakeholders and where he will go through a full consultative process. Might I say that this will be the first time for 20 years since the Cawthorne report that we have undertaken a full-scale review of industrial relations. What this will avoid is the ad hoc nature of business done by the former government—

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport will come to order.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:—when it comes to industrial relations. This includes all of the major stakeholders in the process of undertaking a full review.

Mr Hamilton-Smith interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Waite will come to order.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: I was delighted to read in the *Advertiser* this morning that Peter Vaughan from Business SA fully welcomed the review.

BEVERLEY URANIUM MINE

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): My question is directed to the Premier. Why did it take two further spills at the Beverley Uranium Mine—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Deputy Premier will come to order!

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. I will repeat the question: why did it take two further spills at the Beverley Uranium Mine to prompt the resurrection of the review of reporting procedures and why were these spills not publicly revealed at the time they occurred? In response to earlier spills at the uranium mine, on 24 January this year the Liberal government announced a review—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: You were in Queensland.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Will you listen?

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: You were in Queensland.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: No, I was here.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Government Enterprises will assist the member for Bright with the expedition of his question if he allows him to ask it himself.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Thank you again for your protection, Mr Speaker. In response to earlier spills at the uranium mine, on 24 January this year the Liberal government announced a review and government staff were advised to report any future spill (no matter how small) immediately to the minister. The review was to report to the minister by 31 March this year. At the time of the recent change in government, the review was almost completed.

Several South Australians have contacted me to express their concern that it has taken two spills (one on Wednesday and another on Sunday) to prompt the Labor government to complete the Liberal review. They have also expressed concern that neither the minister nor the Premier had released information about the spills to the public despite the reporting mechanisms which would have notified them immediately.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I could see the look of consternation on the former minister's face. Which was the government that covered up the uranium spills? Which was the government that did not kick the backsides of these companies that did not disclose these spills publicly? Who was the minister who had to be ordered home from the Gold Coast or somewhere in order to do his job? This is extraordinary. I think Mr Brokenshire is now ahead on points of Mr Matthew in the race to replace the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot believe your gall. The simple fact is that we will kick the backsides of companies that do not tell the truth and do not disclose. That is why we have announced a major review by Hedley Bachmann. Let me just say this about these spills, because I am more than enthusiastic to make sure that

there is public disclosure on these matters. Unlike the former government—

The Hon. W.A. Matthew interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Okay. Look at the poor former Premier's face. Is this designed to try to undermine him because big spills were not disclosed before? Is that what this is all about? It is not about an attack on the government; it is about undermining your own leader.

The Hon. W.A. Matthew: It is about honesty and accountability.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: You would know a lot about that! Here is the person they made Minister for Y2K Compliance. He is the only minister we have ever had with a use-by date stamped on his forehead as well as on his letterhead. Let us talk about the uranium spills. In the past week, two spills have occurred at the Beverley Uranium Mine. I am advised that in the early hours of 1 May 6 000 litres of brine containing approximately 990 grams of uranium was spilled. The government was first notified on or about 9 a.m. on that day. On 5 May approximately 14 900 litres of barren injection fluid spilled. Verbal notification of the spill was received at about 3:30 p.m. by the Inspector of Mines. This came after a number of spills at the uranium mines including 24 at Beverley in the past four years—24 spills at Beverley during the past four years when you two blokes were running the show and were not telling the public. That is the problem.

During the election, the Labor Party announced that it would activate two separate inquiries into uranium issues: first, a review into spills at uranium mines, the purpose being to examine reporting procedures into spills. We wanted to make sure that they were properly reported after what had happened when you two were the ministers.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Don't you get it? Also, it was announced on 6 May by ministers Holloway and Hill that there be the inquiry by Hedley Bachmann. The findings of this review will be released in August and I will personally give you both a copy so that we can clean up the act of the former government. There will also be an inquiry into in situ leach mining procedures, and our policy states:

In government we will review the environmental impacts of in situ leach mining operations. This inquiry will be undertaken in the second half of this year by the Environment Protection Authority, following the current restructuring process. The restructured EPA will be truly independent and capable of taking sweeping action, and this inquiry will be a priority of the new Environment Protection Authority.

I understand that the government's course of action has already received public support from none other than the Australian Democrats; that is something of a rare achievement. All I can say is that I cannot believe that, on opening day of a new parliament, one of your former ministers would stand up and try to embarrass his leader after all the cover-ups of the past. We have instituted this review. The findings will be made public and I will give a copy to the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister. I can tell you that there will be more strict reporting procedures and, if they break the rules, they will get their backsides kicked.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That question time be extended by five minutes in order to allow the last two questions of 10 from the opposition.

I would not miss them for the world.

Motion carried.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): Why, when the Premier was previously in government as a senior minister, did he and the Labor government ignore the southern suburbs?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I think they have run out of questions. Before the 1993 election, the then Leader of the Opposition, who was toppled by John Olsen, promised that there would be 10 questions for the opposition. They started to get embarrassed about it, so they broke their election promises and on some days I think we got four, five or six questions, because they were frightened of being exposed. Such was the nature of their deceit that they were frightened of being exposed. Of course, between 1993 and 1997 we held no seats south of Woodville.

Mr WILLIAMS: I rise on a point of order, sir. I draw your attention to standing order 98, which provides that, in answering questions, the minister or other member reply to the substance of the question and may not debate the matter to which the question refers.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I understood the Premier to be explaining the reason, if there was one, why little attention was paid by the Labor Party to the southern suburbs some time ago. Whatever the case, I do not see that there is a point of order.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Let me make it really simple for you. In the 1993 election we lost seats in the south. After that election we held no seats south of Woodville. After the 1997 election we won back a huge swathe of the south, as an endorsement of our policies. At this recent election we announced that we would have a Minister for the Southern Suburbs, the Hon. John Hill. I would have thought that a southern suburbs member of parliament would welcome the fact that we have a southern suburbs minister. In fact, in the spirit of bipartisanship for which this government has already become renowned, I would like to invite the former minister to make an appointment with the Minister for the Southern Suburbs so that they can work together for the good of the state rather than playing these sorts of games. I do not apologise for having a Minister for the Southern Suburbs, and I am also pleased that the north has a Premier.

The Hon. W.A. Matthew interjecting:

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

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mawson will come to order.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Come on; who's got a question?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Where are the questions?

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Question time is over. Make something up.

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Member for Mawson will come to order.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Come on, you can ask 10 questions. Come on.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will come to order.

The Hon. K.O. Foley: You've had seven weeks to get 10 questions.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: They ran out of questions.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am happy to provide some dorothy dixers to the other side to help them out.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Flinders.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

ROADS, RURAL

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Minister for Transport please advise the house whether the Labor government will continue to allocate funding to complete the sealing of the Lock-Elliston road and other state unsealed arterial roads according to the timetable set by the previous Liberal government? When I was elected 8½ years ago my electorate contained the two longest rural arterial roads in the state: Kimba-Cleve and Lock-Elliston. The Liberal government put in place a plan to seal all unsealed rural arterial roads in the state by 2004. This program is ahead of schedule. The Kimba-Cleve road has been sealed, with the last 15 kilometres of the Lock-Elliston road planned for 2002-03. The Eyre Peninsula injects more than \$1 billion annually into the state's economy and good roads are essential to cope with our increasing tourism and production.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): This issue is a part of our budget deliberations. These sorts of matters will be announced in the budget.

GAWLER TRAFFIC PLAN

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. When will the government implement its \$2.5 million commitment to the Gawler council traffic plan? The then Leader of the Opposition and now Premier, prior to the election, came to Gawler and announced that a Labor Government would support the Gawler traffic plan.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport): I thank the honourable member and I will provide a reply to his question.

AGED CARE

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Finniss): Does the Minister for Health support the proposal for aged care beds in Hammill House within the Port Pirie Hospital to be transferred to the Helping Hand Centre to build a new facility with capital funds provided by the state government as agreed in the last budget—with those funds being allocated—and as a result of a process that I put down as the then Minister for Human Services?

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I would like to take the question on notice. I am aware of the issue raised by the shadow minister and I will prepare a report for him.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That for the remainder of the session standing orders be so far suspended as to provide that:

1. Unless otherwise ordered the house sit on each Monday at 2 p.m.; and

2. Unless otherwise ordered the motion for adjournment on Mondays is moved not later than 5.40 p.m. and if the motion is moved before that time it may be debated.

The SPEAKER: I have counted the house and, as there is an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house present, I accept the motion. Is it seconded?

An honourable member: Yes, sir.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, as it is a sessional order is there an opportunity to discuss and raise this issue? It is a valid point that I wish to raise.

The SPEAKER: Under standing orders, it is possible for one speaker for and one against the proposition. Does the Minister for Government Enterprises wish to speak?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): No, sir.

The SPEAKER: Does any member wish to speak against the proposition?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Mr Speaker, I wish to raise a point. I had anticipated a discussion because the Minister for Government Enterprises has asked for discussions with me, as the opposition person managing the house. He rang me late last week and asked that a time be arranged for this week. We have not yet had the discussion about sitting times under the new four-day sitting arrangement, but the point I make is that this government has decided to go from a three day to a four day sitting week. Sittings have gone from 19 weeks last year to only 15 weeks this year; there is certainly much less accountability in terms of sitting weeks. The point is that there is a fixed time only from 10.30 a.m. until 1 p.m. for private members' time. If we have fewer sitting weeks, we end up with less time for private members' business in any one year. So, I was expecting to be able to raise this issue with the Minister for Government Enterprises—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I think it is a valid point. It is all about the accountability of the parliament. The point I make is that the government asked for talks and, whilst I do not oppose this motion, I highlight the fact that the government has indicated that it would like to talk to me about when parliament is to sit. I believe that an important part in relation to sitting times is the amount of time made available for private members' business throughout the entire year. Under the proposal for a four day sitting week that has been put forward by the government so far, we would end up with less private members' time per year than we had under the old arrangement, because previously we had 19 sitting weeks and now there are only 15 sitting weeks.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I am flagging the issue because it is a very valid one. I am not opposing the motion before us, but it is an issue that needs to be considered because this is supposed to be all about accountability of this parliament. I am interested that the Deputy Premier, who has argued publicly in the last few days about accountability, is one of those who apparently is not willing to have raised, at this point, the amount of time for private members' debate. I believe it is a valid issue, and I look forward to being able to resolve it. The opposition will support this motion, on the clear understanding that there will be an extension of private members' time elsewhere in the sitting week.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Government Enterprises and the Deputy Leader might like to have a conversation in the lobby.

Motion carried.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the introduction of government bills before the Address in Reply is adopted.

The SPEAKER: There being an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house present, I accept the motion. Is it seconded?

An honourable member: Yes, sir.

Motion carried.

SUPPLY BILL

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the financial year ending on 30 June 2003. Read a first time.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

This year the Government will introduce the 2002-03 Budget on 11 July 2002.

A Supply Bill will be necessary for the first few months of the 2002-03 financial year until the Budget has passed through the parliamentary stages and received assent.

In the absence of special arrangements in the form of the Supply Acts, there would be no parliamentary authority for expenditure between the commencement of the new financial year and the date on which assent is given to the main Appropriation Bill.

Due to a later budget than in previous years, it is possible that assent may not be given until October or November 2002.

The amount being sought under this Bill is \$2 600 million.

Clause 1 is formal.

Clause 2 provides relevant definitions.

Clause 3 provides for the appropriation of up to \$2 600 million.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN secured the adjournment of the debate.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

GOMERSAL ROAD

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): I rise to inform the house about the finalisation of the sealing of Gomersal Road, a very important road which recently was opened by the Minister for Transport and which was, of course, long lobbied for by the member for Schubert and also by me. I congratulate the former minister, the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, for her support for this very important project. It will bring great benefits to the Barossa Valley not only because of the reduction in travel time between Adelaide and the Barossa Valley but also because heavy vehicle movement has been diverted from the Barossa Valley Way to the now sealed Gomersal Road.

This was a \$7.7 million investment in our road infrastructure by the previous Liberal government, and one that had been long awaited by the local community—the sealing of Gomersal Road had been talked about for some 20 years. It is of particular benefit to the town that I represent—Gawler—

because until this point in time there had been some 1 000 heavy vehicle traffic movements per week through Murray Street, which is the main street in Gawler.

With the convergence of the larger wineries, such as Orlando, in the Barossa Valley, the heavy vehicles involved in sending out wine or getting in supplies, such as bottles, cardboard packaging and the like, used to come through Murray Street, up Lyndoch Hill, along Gomersal Road and into the Barossa Valley. That meant that there was an enormous amount of heavy traffic coming along an already busy street and pedestrians had some difficulty in crossing at various times of the day because of this movement of heavy transport.

The location of Gawler is particularly important since it is the location which has frustrated attempts at good traffic management. When Colonel William Light, on an expedition north from Adelaide, first designed Gawler he did so so that it was located in the fork of two rivers: the North Para and the South Para. Of course that was fine in the days of the horse and buggy when Gawler was only a relatively small township. But, with a population now exceeding some 18 000 people and all the traffic that goes with that, the residential traffic mixed with the heavy vehicle traffic through the main street of Gawler has become somewhat intolerable.

So this investment in Gomersal Road by the previous Liberal government has resulted in a big reduction in traffic traversing Murray Street in Gawler. One has only to stand in Murray Street to appreciate the reduction in noise generated by heavy vehicle traffic since the opening of Gomersal Road: it is astounding. I do not think one would previously have been able to stand in the Gawler main street for more than one or two minutes without a semitrailer passing down the street. Now the situation is different indeed.

I commend the engineers responsible for this project because I am sure members and the public who travel along Gomersal Road will appreciate the design of the road. In fact, it is a sheer pleasure to drive on it between the Sturt Highway and Tanunda. I also congratulate the wineries that are using that road thereby supporting it and supporting what the previous minister wanted: for that heavy vehicle traffic to be diverted to Gomersal Road. They are doing so. There were many trucks which passed by during the opening of the road by the Minister for Transport, and I am sure all in the community saw the photograph of Pastor Trevor Reu opening the road with the trucks behind him. This road will be a real benefit to the Barossa Valley, to those people who want to travel to the Barossa Valley from Adelaide, whether they be heavy vehicle transport—

Time expired.

SPORT, PROMOTION

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): This new parliament will tackle many issues of importance, and none more so than the health of South Australians. In these days of debate on stem cell research and the use and abuse of pharmaceuticals greater attention could and should be paid to the prevention of illness and disease.

One of my greatest interests is good health through nutrition and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle through the other essential component of physical well-being, that being exercise. In a study by the University of South Australia's School of Physical Education and Exercise in Sport it has been established that older girls—in this case I believe it is girls between 11 and 13 years old—are not getting enough

exercise, especially the weight-bearing exercise which is so important in the prevention of the onset of osteoporosis. In fact, the research showed another trend: boys are spending twice as much time as girls on computers, about an hour a day and of that 74 per cent was spent in playing games. However, on weekends, boys play 103 minutes of sport while girls play only 40 minutes. This sample highlights the need to encourage all forms of sport for girls and, while the study suggests a rethink of physical education in schools is warranted, it is in the area of community sport where we can see a great impact.

In an article on netball in the *Advertiser* by Paul Kermode, looking at country netball leagues we see that 16 000 players, from mums to the under-nine-year-olds, play in 30 leagues; and they turn out each week. In the country, netball is like football for men: it is a central part of the community way of life. From indoor centres to asphalt courts they continue the great South Australian netball tradition. The strength of the sport lies in the depth of the ranks of its junior players.

Former Garville and Ravens shooter, Jenny Borlase, started in Ceduna. Australian basketball star Rachael Sporn started in country Victoria. Another former Raven, Fiona Huppatz, started in the Barossa League. We all wish the Ravens well in their home game this Friday in that wonderful facility at ETSA Park. It is great family entertainment.

Not all women's sport enjoys such facilities. I refer in particular to the sport that involves thousands of girls in the metropolitan area, and that is calisthenics. The Royalty Theatre in Angas Street is the headquarters for the South Australian Calisthenics Association and it is in need of a major upgrade. The theatre is also used for live performances in the Festival of Arts, and I know that any work undertaken on this theatre will be greatly appreciated especially by the young girls using it for calisthenics.

Having had the opportunity to travel interstate for calisthenics competitions and to see the facilities used there, I understand now why hosting a national title here in South Australia can be embarrassing only from that point of view. It is a credit to our girls that they can excel and hold their own at elite levels of the sport.

It is a commitment to sport like calisthenics or marching that see our girls travel the world, most notably and recently to the Tattoo in Edinburgh with the band of the South Australian Police, not to mention the starring role they had in the Sensational Adelaide International Police Tattoo held here at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, to which thousands of people flocked—again, an evening of great family entertainment.

In that tattoo we saw the girls combine both sports of calisthenics and marching. Marching is a sport that also has a great deal of commitment here in South Australia. We hosted the 44th National Marching Titles some weeks ago which attracted 49 teams from every state of Australia. It is a very disciplined sport that requires hours of practice. Marching titles originated in Tamworth in New South Wales in 1955 and grew from the war, when people were obviously spending a lot of time watching marching. Women decided that they would like to be involved in that and were coached by ex-army personnel.

The sport remained fairly regimented until freestyle was introduced. This came about in the mid-50s and was developed by someone who has been described as our own giant in the world of marching: Mr Paul Newman McCulloch who, unfortunately, passed away in April this year. He devoted 36 years to the sport between the late 50s and early 90s. His

concept of freestyle marching brought new enthusiasm to the sport.

The dedication of Mr McCulloch and the many volunteers who look after girls' sport, week in and week out, makes them the unsung heroes of our community, ensuring that the health of future generations of our girls continues bringing many sporting titles and great prowess in all their sports back to this state and that we continue to build strong community ties by having teams of children running around in healthy activities on the weekend but, one hopes, not with the parents getting too involved in that ugly scene of parental abuse of umpires and so forth.

I commend to the house the Ravens netball home match this week on Friday night at ETSA Park, and we hope that the girls have their first win. I also commend calisthenics to the house as being a sport for girls that brings about a much better lifestyle for them.

McLAREN VALE REGION

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I congratulate a large number of people in my electorate who have done a superb job in producing a great publication for the region which was launched last night at the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Visitors Centre, namely, the *2002 McLaren Vale Wine and Coastal Experience*.

I congratulate the Manager of the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Visitors Centre, the chairman and the board, and all those involved, including the volunteers, who are very important, as well as the small businesses and business generally that got behind this publication. I commend the quality of the publication: the text is well written, it is vibrant and encouraging, and it is the sort of material that I am sure, given the wide distribution it will have, will do wonders for further development of tourism in our region through the Fleurieu Peninsula.

I also congratulate all those who are working so hard to bring the wine industry and the general tourism industry together. Of course, wine tourism has become a big thing probably over the past six years. We have seen an enormous amount of growth there. Importantly, it has added a lot of jobs and economic strength in our region as indeed it has done right across the state.

We have seen some of the biggest wineries becoming involved in this as well as some of the niche wineries with special product and, of course, the export market for our wine, particularly in the McLaren Vale region, is just growing and growing.

I also want to talk about the food industry down our way, the value-added food industry—mainly the cafes, the restaurants, the inns and the taverns in the area. It is just amazing, whenever you go through the electorate late at night during the week, even in semi-cold weather and certainly on the weekends, to see the enormous number of people not only from South Australia. Of course, I would always encourage those people to come down into the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu region, but you also see a lot of Victorian and New South Wales numberplates, and more and more people internationally are coming to visit and experience the region. You only had to look at the Encounter 2002 re-enactment celebrations to see just how well the region is doing.

But it does not come without a lot of hard work. I can remember that not that many years ago we had a handful of B&Bs in the area: we now have over 40. As well, we have seen growth in terms of motels, such as the McLaren Vale

Motel and the extensions, developments and upgrades that will hopefully occur in places such as McLaren on the Lake. We have an opportunity to be able to provide not only for conferences, weddings and celebrations but also for people who just want a weekend away for respite and to recharge their batteries.

Our region is not only about wine. If you look at places such as the chocolate factory in McLaren Flat, Medlow Confectionery, the Olive Shop in McLaren Vale now with its diverse range of local product and, of course, the Chocolate Box—another diverse niche shop that has just gone into the area—you see that there is plenty there for people to enjoy.

At the end of the day, most of what I have talked about is about small business—families, husbands, wives and partnerships who have really worked over a long period of time, many of whom went there early in the piece when the returns and the occupancy rates were not as high as they are today. I am delighted that over the last year or 18 months in particular, when I have talked to so many of them, they have told me that they are seeing very good growth in their occupancy rates, and nothing gives me more pleasure than to drive through the townships in the Willunga Basin and see ‘No vacancy’ signs there.

There is still a lot more that can be done. Infrastructure plays a big part in this as, indeed, does the strength of an economy. Over the last two years we have seen an enormous growth in the economy. It is important that that growth continue. It came about with a lot of hard work not only at government level but also at local, community and business levels, and it is now important that all members of parliament focus on that and continue to see that accelerated growth—not to make mistakes, not to reinvent circumstances that could spiral those opportunities downwards but to continue to capitalise on that growth that is now there. I certainly look forward to working with the visitor centre and, indeed, with all the tourism and hospitality operators in the next four years, and I hope that during that time we will continue to see larger smiles on their faces and, as a result of that, young people in our area getting the jobs which they deserve and which they are studying for in vocational education and training at Willunga High School and through other areas of education in the district.

Time expired.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens): May I firstly congratulate all members on their election to this house, especially the new members.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: I am now an old hand at the ripe old age of 30 entering my second term. In my first speech to the new parliament I would like to make a few observations about the election campaign and the way it was fought. I thought that the Premier fought an excellent election campaign. We fought it on the issues; we fought it on the things that mattered to South Australians; and we fought it on health, on education, on the environment and about putting South Australia first. We were not about negative campaigning or dividing the community, scare tactics or scare-mongering; we were about bringing South Australians together. We were about making sure that the vibrant economy that other states are enjoying translates here in South Australia. We were about making sure that the South Australian economy moves forward again, and that means no

more handouts. That means no more waste of money on things such as the Wine Centre or the soccer stadium. We will be spending our resources on promoting local South Australian business. We will be spending our resources on encouraging local entrepreneurs and, of course, delivering essential services to South Australians who need them the most—services such as health, education and policing.

In the first few weeks of the Labor government, I was very pleased with the decision that cabinet took on the parole conditions of certain prisoners and in relation to their being released early. I thought that was a bold initiative by the new government. It is a message that the government is prepared to take a tough stance on crime and that we are putting victims, not criminals, first. This government will be tough on crime and the causes of crime, and I am proud of that, having fought my campaign on law and order as well as on health and education.

Our new Attorney-General, Minister for Health and Minister for Education and Children’s Services are cutting edge in Australia in terms of state ministers. They will be doing everything they can to deliver our election promises, and we are still on the way to doing that. Unfortunately, the budget is not quite what we were told it was. Unfortunately, too, because of the deceitful way in which the former Treasurer handled himself in matters of accounting, the state budget is not what it seems.

That does not mean that we will not be delivering on all our promises. This will not be an excuse for this new government not to deliver on what it has promised. It will not be using the excuses of past governments, such as the former government when it was elected in 1994 blaming Labor for every problem it faced in cutting services, cutting jobs and making promises that it could not keep. Members will not see promises from this side of the house of unattainable targets, such as that relating to 20 000 new jobs that former Premier Dean Brown offered, hurting South Australians by giving them false hope. We are about offering outcomes on which we can deliver. We will be living within our means.

This will not be a wasteful government that will have privatisation as an agenda, because we have no such agenda. Rather, our agenda will be about growth. The former government had no agenda, and its agenda became privatisation. It became obsessed with privatisation. It was the only policy that the former government had. If it was a government authority, the government sold it. And it did not care at what price it sold instrumentalities: all that mattered was that it was sold. That is all it was about. However, this government will be different. This government will be about delivering outcomes and solutions to South Australians who deserve them.

I have a constituent whose mother lived in another constituency and who was a victim of a home invasion or serious criminal trespass. I wrote many letters to former Deputy Premier Brown with no response or satisfaction. Within days of our attaining office, I received the response I was after, giving satisfaction to this elderly woman who had lived in fear in her flat for about four years. The services—police, fire and ambulance—are pleased with Labor coming to office. They finally have a government which understands their concerns, which is compassionate to their needs and which will give them the equipment and the backing they need to perform their duties to keep South Australians safe.

This will be a bold government of which we can all be proud. I look forward to members of the opposition working

with us to make sure that South Australia is a better place in which to live and work.

GOVERNMENT, PERFORMANCE

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): I congratulate you, sir, on your elevation to the Deputy Speakership. I am sure that you will rule us with distinction.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Did you vote for him?

Mr BRINDAL: As a matter of fact, I did. He has been a friend of mine for a very long time. I am sorry not to refer my remarks through the chair.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: You wouldn't know. I refer to the first remarkable contortion of an incoming government. Here we have a government which says quite clearly that it does not believe in hiring consultants. My phone is running hot: I must plead with this government actually to start to do something. It is embarrassing to receive the number of phone calls that I and my shadow ministerial colleagues are having to take from disgruntled public servants who say that nothing is happening; from mayors and members of councils—

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens has had his say.

Mr BRINDAL: —who say, 'If only we could get a decision out of them.' I say, 'Look: they are a new, incoming government; you have to give them time. They have to learn the ropes. Give them a bit of rope: they'll eventually hang themselves.' This government comes to office—

Members interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: Do a grievance if you want, but don't interrupt me, thank you. This government comes to office promising that it will not hire consultants and, as far as I can determine, the first act for the Minister for Local Government is to spend \$50 000 in one week hiring a consultant to do what? To look at the North Terrace precinct—

Ms Thompson interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: Well, I have news for the member opposite. Sitting next to the minister in this house is the former Lord Mayor of Adelaide, the new member for Adelaide (Rt Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith) and, if I was her, I would be mortally insulted when the minister tells this house that there has not been public consultation, or it was not adequate, and his ministerial colleague led that consultation with the general public. I would be embarrassed because there was consultation. The Lord Mayor at the time (Rt Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith) led that consultation and it was adequate. Then we hear—

Ms Thompson interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Reynell can have her say in a minute. Give the member for Unley some courtesy.

Mr BRINDAL: And perhaps she should go down south where she belongs. The fact is that this is the first fruits—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr BRINDAL: 'Churl' is a new word, is it? The fact is that this is the first fruits of the Capital City Committee, as I think the minister acknowledged. The Corporation of the City of Adelaide and the government of the day have laboured this process over about two years. It comes up with a \$16 million project: eight to be committed by the state government—or that was the notion of the last state government, and indeed I hope it will be followed through by this state government—and not eight to be contributed by the

council. The council was to be in charge of the project and, if the project was to go over budget, the council was to meet all that expenditure.

I note the minister said today that perhaps they can make some cost savings and better concur with the thoughts of the Public Works Committee. That will be an interesting proposition since the care, custody and control of the North Terrace precinct is within the ambit of the council and all this house can decide is what its \$8 million is to be appropriated to. That is one of the difficulties faced not only by this house but by the Capital City Committee because, if the Lord Mayor and the City Council choose to appropriate their money to do something other than is within the wishes of this parliament, will this parliament hold a gun to their head and withhold its contribution because the City Council in exercising their lawful and legal right over the terrace chooses to do something we do not like?

This government should come clean. Will it take over the running de facto of the Corporation of the City of Adelaide? Will it overrule the council whenever it likes, or will it abide by the wishes of the parliament as expressed in the last parliament and see that the Capital City Committee works is a cooperative venture between the well run Corporation of the City of Adelaide and the state government of South Australia, and in doing that move forward as we have in the last four years? I remind this house that the Adelaide bill is a landmark bill that is being looked at by other jurisdictions. It is a model of cooperation between state government and local government and I hope it remains so.

Time expired.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

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

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The Speaker, the Hon. Dean Brown, Mrs Geraghty, the Hon. Graham Gunn and Mr Hanna.

Publishing: Ms Ciccarello, Messrs Goldsworthy and Koutsantonis, Ms Thompson and Mr Venning.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That pursuant to section 5 of the Parliament (Joint Services) Act 1985 Mrs Geraghty and Mr Williams be appointed to act with the Speaker as members of the committee and that the Hon. Dr Such be appointed the alternate member to Mr Speaker, Mr Snelling the alternate member to Mrs Geraghty and Mr Venning the alternate member to Mr Williams.

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Messrs Evans and Gunn, Mrs Maywald and Messrs O'Brien, Rau and Snelling and Ms Thompson be appointed to the Economic and Finance Committee.

Motion carried.

**ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Ms Breuer and Messrs Buckby and McEwen be appointed to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee.

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Mrs Geraghty, Mr Hanna and Mrs Kotz be appointed to the Legislative Review Committee.

Motion carried.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Ms Bedford and Messrs Scalzi and Snelling be appointed to the Social Development Committee.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Messrs Brindal and Caica, Ms Ciccarello and Messrs Koutsantonis and Venning be appointed to the Public Works Committee.

Motion carried.

STATUTORY OFFICERS COMMITTEE

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Messrs Atkinson, McFetridge and Rau be appointed to the Statutory Officers Committee. Motion carried.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, REHABILITATION
AND COMPENSATION**

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I move:

That Messrs Caica and Hanna and Ms Redmond be appointed to the Parliamentary Committee on Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Government Enterprises): I nominate the member for Colton to move an Address in Reply to Her Excellency's opening speech and move:

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

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.2 p.m. the house adjourned until Wednesday 8 May at 2 p.m.