

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

### THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT, 1952

Parliament, which adjourned on November 29, 1951, was prorogued by Proclamation dated January 10, 1952. By Proclamation dated June 5, 1952, it was summoned to meet on Wednesday, June 25, 1952, and the Third Session began on that date.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, June 25, 1952.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 11 a.m.

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Willoughby Norrie) summoning the third session of the thirty-third Parliament.

#### LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier), having been announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. A. D. Drummond), was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. Members of the House of Assembly, having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. The untimely death of our late beloved Sovereign, King George VI., occasioned feelings of profound sorrow and a deep sense of personal loss among the citizens of South Australia. His Majesty's sterling character, exemplary life, and courageous devotion to duty in times of dire peril had earned him a unique place in the affection of his subjects, and his noble example will stand for all time as an

inspiration to men. In the traditional manner, South Australia duly proclaimed the accession of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., to whom my Ministers and I affirm our unswerving loyalty and devotion.

3. On behalf of the Government, I pay a warm tribute of praise to Sir Willoughby and Lady Norrie. As Governor of this State for more than seven years, Sir Willoughby performed the duties of his office with marked distinction and success; and both he and Lady Norrie, by their friendly interest in the lives and activities of our citizens, their helpful support of all good causes, and their personal charm, won the respect and affection of all sections of the community.

4. During the recess, the death occurred of an able and highly respected member of the House of Assembly, Mr. Leslie Duncan, who had worthily represented the electorate of Gawler since the year 1938. Our deep sympathy is extended to the members of his family in their bereavement.

5. My Ministers are seriously concerned at the curtailment of the State's programme of public works. Despite all the efforts of the Government, the arrears of construction work accumulated during the war have not yet been overtaken and the present need is for expanded rather than restricted programmes. Not only is much new construction necessary to enable the authorities charged with the duty of providing transport, water, electricity, harbours, schools, hospitals, and housing, to meet existing needs, but the increased requirements of the future must also be provided for. While the

loan programme is a matter for the Loan Council to decide, and the raising of the loans is a matter for the Commonwealth, the development of the resources, industries, and population of the State is a prime responsibility of the State Government; and accordingly my Ministers are making every effort to ensure that such development and the provision of proper social services will not be disrupted by lack of finance. All the States in common have felt the embarrassment arising from the limitation of their public works. In large public undertakings it is essential to plan operations and order plant and material some years ahead; and waste and confusion occur if plant and materials are delivered at a time when operations cannot be proceeded with. The difficulties of the States have induced them to exercise the right, conferred on them by the Financial Agreement, of requiring a meeting of the Loan Council to be convened.

6. Notwithstanding the difficulties connected with the loan programme, the economic position of the State remains sound. There has been some curtailment in spending by the public, but the financial results of trading companies continue to be generally satisfactory. While some economic adjustments now appear inevitable, they may well be followed by a sustained period of stable and prosperous economic conditions.

7. Our primary industries continue to be favoured by good seasons. Last year good harvests of cereals were obtained, and the excellent condition of pastures led to increased dairy production. On the whole, the horticultural industries also had a satisfactory season. Although wet conditions have occasioned some difficulty in seeding operations, the present seasonal prospects give every indication that the volume of primary production will be maintained.

8. In view of the world shortage of food, however, my Government realizes that it is essential not merely to maintain but to increase primary production and is devoting special attention to this problem. Large areas of land having a good rainfall but low fertility are being developed for intense production, and the natural deficiencies of the soil are being corrected. Land in the South-East, where excessive water has hitherto made permanent pasture impossible, is being drained and after next summer beneficial results will accrue from this work. In areas of high fertility, where yields have tended to fall off, measures are being taken to restore production by increasing the output of fertilizers and encouraging more workers to take up rural employment.

Although labour is becoming more freely available, the shortage of houses in country districts discourages men from engaging in agricultural work. My Ministers are making arrangements under which the Housing Trust will be prepared to undertake the supply and erection of a substantial number of houses on farms for agricultural workers. A Bill will be introduced to deal with this matter.

9. The expansion of the services provided by the Department of Agriculture for the assistance of primary producers has been continued. Much experimental work and research is being carried out, and advice and demonstrations are being made available on an increasing scale. The arrangements for soil conservation and for the control of fruit fly are receiving constant attention and effective work has been done in these fields. The Government has appointed a General Supervisor of the Rural Youth Movement, who is now making preparations to establish a movement of this kind in South Australia, on a sound basis. The Barley Marketing Act, under which South Australia and Victoria co-operate in a joint marketing scheme, will, unless renewed, expire at the end of this year. The Government will seek your approval to an extension of the Act for five years.

10. To meet the increasing demand for rail transport, the State railways are carrying out a noteworthy programme of augmenting and improving rolling stock. Much of the work is being done at Islington; but in addition orders have been given and contracts let to outside undertakings. The new rolling stock to be provided includes diesel-electric locomotives, Garratt-type steam locomotives for the narrow gauge traffic, diesel-engined rail cars, some hundreds of freight cars and vans and a number of passenger coaches and rail cars. The broadening of the railway from Wolseley to Millicent is proceeding satisfactorily, having regard to the resources available, and work on the duplication of the Goodwood-Marino line has recently been resumed. To relieve the serious shortage of railway employees, the department has recruited some 2,000 men from overseas, of whom approximately 1,500 have already arrived in the State. During the year 250 houses have been provided for the railways staff and a further 120 are in course of construction, while hostel accommodation is now being provided for 800 workers in the Transportation Section.

11. My Ministers will seek legislative authority for the electrification of the suburban railways. A Bill will also be introduced, after

the completion of any further inquiry which may be necessary, to authorize the duplication of the line between Woodville and Henley Beach.

12. The Government's policy of assisting local authorities in their road work has been continued with satisfactory results. Grants to councils for maintenance and reconstruction, and for the provision of new roads have been considerably increased, the allocations being £680,000 in 1950-1951, and £1,050,000 in 1951-1952. The Government has also made interest-free loans to enable councils to obtain efficient road making plant. Approximately £1,200,000 has been made available in this way and has greatly increased the capacity of the councils to provide roads of the kind needed for present-day traffic. The Highways Department has itself carried out a substantial programme of maintenance and reconstruction of arterial highways, and of providing roads for newly-developed rural settlements, for residential areas opened up by the Housing Trust, and for new secondary industries.

13. The notable progress made in recent years in the State's forestry undertakings has again been fully maintained. The volume of log timber obtained from the pine plantations during this financial year will be approximately 136,000,000 super ft.—an increase of 40,000,000 super ft. over last year's record figure. There is a corresponding increase in the earnings for the year, which are estimated at £838,000—a sum £200,000 above the amount received in 1950-1951. The extensions at the Nangwarry Mill have been completed, and will double the production of fruit cases, bringing the output from this mill to at least 2,000,000 cases a year. The net area approved for planting this season is 4,300 acres. When this land is planted the total area of established pine plantations will be approximately 117,000 acres.

14. Continued progress has been made in the laying of the pipeline from Mannum to Adelaide and in the operations for providing the storage tanks and pumping stations to be connected with it. Considerable progress has also been made with the reservoir on the South Para River. My Ministers intend to use every effort to ensure that these vital works will proceed as rapidly as loan funds permit. Preliminary investigations are being made and plans are being prepared for additional reservoirs on the Onkaparinga River and the River Torrens, and for a reservoir at Myponga. The works for the Yorke Peninsula water supply have been advanced by the building of large storage tanks, and it is expected that the

laying of pipes will commence at an early date. On the east coast of Eyre Peninsula the trunk main has been completed as far as Arno Bay and will be continued to Cleve and Cowell. Work is also progressing in connection with water supplies for Jamestown and Caltowie, Port MacDonnell, Meningie, Milang, and Lameroo. The Government has referred to the Public Works Committee a proposal to supply Lobethal, Woodside, Mount Barker, Nairne, Aldgate and other towns with water from the Mannum pipeline.

15. The Government is keenly aware of the need for improved facilities for shipping at the Inner and Outer Harbors and is executing works for this purpose as rapidly as possible. No. 1 Berth at Port Adelaide has now been reconstructed and is in use, while the construction of wharves at Berths Nos. 8 and 9 is well advanced. Preparations are continuing for the further development of the Port Adelaide Harbors in accordance with the comprehensive plan prepared by the Harbors Board. After full investigation of the possible sites, the Board is now preparing a scheme for a new pier at Rolles Point, about half a mile south of the present jetty at Kingscote. The Harbors Board's proposals for improved port facilities at Port Lincoln have been prepared, but further investigations are being made respecting the removal of oil storage facilities from Port Lincoln to Porter Bay. When these investigations have been made the proposals will be submitted to the Public Works Committee. The policy of providing harbour facilities for fishing boats is being continued. Work of this kind is now being done at American River and designs have been completed for improved facilities at Thevenard. Improvements at other ports will be provided in accordance with priorities recommended by the Chief Inspector of Fisheries. Designs, estimates, and all relevant data in connection with a deep-sea port for the South-East have been submitted to the Public Works Committee. The report on this question is awaited with interest.

16. The extensive works for the drainage of the Western Division of the South-East, which are being constructed by the Engineering and Water Supply Department on behalf of the South-Eastern Drainage Board, are proceeding satisfactorily.

17. My Government continues to co-operate with the Commonwealth in carrying into effect the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. Up to the present 683 ex-servicemen have been settled under the agreement, including 272 in irrigation areas; and 90 men have been selected

for consideration in allocating further holdings. The areas known as "A," "B," and "C" on Kangaroo Island comprising 170,000 acres have been accepted by the Commonwealth as suitable for settlement; and information concerning area "D" of 52,000 acres has been forwarded to the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement for the purpose of obtaining a report. The Government has commenced the development of 6,000 acres of land between Meningie and Coonalpyn. This land forms part of an area of 48,000 acres of Crown lands which was not accepted by the Commonwealth under the agreement. My Ministers, however, believe that it is capable of economic settlement. A proposal that certain land in southern Yorke Peninsula shall be developed and allotted to ex-servicemen will be submitted to the Commonwealth.

18. The work of the Department of Public Health has been carried on in a satisfactory manner. The School Medical Service was this year incorporated in the department and the scope of this service has been extended by the appointment of dentists. The law for compulsory X-ray examinations of the chest has been well received by the general public and such examinations are now being conducted on a large scale. It is gratifying to record that the death rate from tuberculosis last year was the lowest on record and, in addition, there is good reason to believe that the epidemic of poliomyelitis is subsiding.

19. The Government has made every effort to meet the need for additional hospital accommodation for both patients and staff. Building operations are proceeding on a substantial scale at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Parkside Mental Hospital and on the new hospital at Woodville; while the Northfield wards will be augmented by prefabricated structures for which contracts have been let. Plans are being completed for substantial new buildings at the Port Pirie Hospital and the reconstruction of nurses' quarters at Barmera is being undertaken.

20. The confidence of the Government in the Leigh Creek Coalfield has been amply justified. Further exploratory work has disclosed reserves of coal totalling 135,000,000 tons, which is sufficient to ensure the coal required for an additional large generating station at Port Augusta. Because of delay in the delivery of plant, work on the Arona Gorge reservoir has not advanced as rapidly as my Ministers desire; but a substantial amount of plant has now been received, and it is expected that

steady progress will now be made on this important work. With the installation of a further large boiler using Leigh Creek coal, Osborne Power Station will be burning more than 5,000 tons of Leigh Creek coal a week. Continued investigations by the Government have located additional coal-bearing areas at Moorlands and the Electricity Trust is at present investigating the economic possibilities of this fuel.

21. The Electricity Trust has continued to expand its undertaking, and, except during a period when powerhouse employees declined to work overtime, has met the large demand for electricity. New plant is being installed at Osborne, and steady progress has been maintained in the construction of the powerhouses at Port Augusta and Port Lincoln. The trust is considering the possibility of extending its activities to the south-eastern portion of the State and is investigating the amount of electricity required in that area for primary as well as secondary industries, and for other purposes. Other rural extensions and developments are being carried out by the trust as quickly as the supply of essential materials will permit.

22. At Radium Hill the existence of extensive deposits of uranium-bearing ore has been proved and expert opinion confirms their importance. The mining of these deposits on a large scale has commenced and is being accelerated in every possible way. A favourable arrangement has been concluded with British and American authorities and the Commonwealth, which will enable work on the field to be expedited and will secure for the State technical information as to methods of extracting the uranium. In the opinion of my Ministers, the recent developments in connection with Radium Hill bring appreciably nearer the time when South Australia will use atomic power to generate electricity not only for secondary industries but also for primary industries, and in particular for irrigation on a greatly increased scale. It is anticipated that Leigh Creek coal and the power stations now existing or proposed will meet requirements until 1965; but thereafter further power stations will be necessary. My Ministers believe that by that time the technical problems of using atomic power for industrial purposes will be solved, in which case the South Australian uranium deposits will be of extremely great advantage to the State. The long-range plans of my Government envisage the establishment in South Australia of an atomic pile, as it is by this means that the natural

deficiency of the State in fuel can be overcome, and full development secured. A Bill dealing with several aspects of uranium mining will be introduced.

23. The development of the pyrites mine at Nairne by a company organized by the Government has made good progress. The estimated cost of the project is approximately £1,250,000, and the Government has already arranged for the greater part of this money to be made available. The undertaking will in each year provide the raw material for 70,000 tons of pyrites concentrates, from which 100,000 tons of sulphuric acid can be obtained. This amount of acid will be sufficient for the manufacture of 300,000 tons of superphosphate. Arrangements have also been made for the erection of a new sulphuric acid plant at Port Adelaide, at an estimated cost of £2,000,000, of which £1,700,000 will be provided by the Commonwealth. The first section of the sulphuric acid plant being erected at Port Pirie by the Broken Hill Associated Smelters has been completed and it is anticipated that this plant, using waste gases, will be in operation by 1954. It will produce 50,000 tons of sulphuric acid a year, thus making possible an additional annual output of 150,000 tons of superphosphate. When these plants are in full production there will be an adequate supply of superphosphate for the needs of agriculture.

24. Since the State took over control of building materials in February, 1946, over 29,000 houses have been built, providing living accommodation for 116,000 persons. The production of building materials has been well maintained and many shortages have been overcome. Gratifying progress has been made in the construction of two new cement plants which, when complete, will double the output. As a result, my Government confidently expects that by the end of this calendar year locally produced cement will be readily available for all requirements. A Bill will be brought down to provide for certain relaxations of the control of building materials with provision for further relaxations to be introduced by proclamation.

25. The number of houses completed in the State during this financial year will be about 7,600, which is much the highest on record. Of these, 3,150, including approximately 800 erected under the Government emergency housing scheme, were built by the South Australian Housing Trust. At present, 6,300 houses are in course of construction; of this number 3,250 are being built by the trust. During the year the trust completed houses in over 60

country towns, and it is the policy of my Government to give special priority to the provisions of houses in rural areas.

26. My Ministers are seriously perturbed at the reduction in the finance available for the building or purchase of homes. They recognize the social and economic benefits which arise when people are adequately housed, and believe that everything possible should be done to ensure that reasonable financial assistance will be available for all persons who are willing to accept the responsibilities of home ownership. By means of the Homes Act and the Advances for Homes Act the Government is continuing to provide the greatest amount of assistance possible with the funds at its disposal.

27. The number of pupils in the schools of the Education Department is rapidly increasing and has now reached 99,000, much the highest in the history of the department. The increase since 1949 has been about 25 per cent. The building of schools in newly settled districts and of additional rooms at existing schools is proceeding vigorously. In 1951 the expenditure on buildings for the Education Department was £1,039,203, which was 55 per cent more than the amount spent in the previous year. At present the erection of 13 large new schools is in hand, and the Government is making every effort to complete its programme of providing over 200 classrooms for other schools during this financial year. For some time concern has been felt for children who, by reason of mental defect, are unfit to be educated in the ordinary schools. Accordingly the Government has recently acquired a property at Kent Town at which an occupation centre for training these children is to be established. The department is also establishing special classes for the instruction of children with defective hearing, and teachers with suitable qualifications have been engaged for this work.

28. In the administration of price control, the Government's policy is to give as much freedom to traders as possible, having regard to the public interest. Experience has shown that freedom from control is to the advantage of the public, provided that supplies are adequate and there is no trade arrangement designed to defeat competition. A wide range of goods has already been freed from control. Import restrictions, however, will have the effect of reducing supplies of some commodities and it will be necessary to retain power to control the prices of these in the event of unreasonable demands being made on purchasers. You will therefore be asked to extend the operation of the Prices Act for another year.

29. It is not yet possible to inform you of the revenue and expenditure of the State for the current financial year. The final figures cannot be computed until we are informed of the rate of interest to be charged by the Commonwealth on advances made to the State for public works. It is unlikely that information respecting this rate will be available before the next meeting of the Loan Council. The gross loan expenditure for the year is estimated at £30,000,000. Credits to the loan fund will be of the order of £2,100,000, thus making a net loan expenditure of £27,900,000.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

30. Supplementary Estimates for this financial year will be laid before you without delay. They will provide money required for Railway working expenses in excess of the amount already voted. A Supply Bill for £5,500,000 for next financial year will also be submitted.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

31. My Government intends to submit to you the Bills required to carry into effect the recommendations of the committee which inquired into the treatment of sexual offenders.

32. The report of the committee of investigation into the affairs of the Municipal Tramways Trust will be laid before you. Before preparing legislation on this subject my Government intends to discuss the recommendations of the committee with representatives of the constituent councils.

33. My Ministers have prepared amendments of the Marine Act relating to the regulation of fishing boats, the registration of boats which do not trade or ply for hire, wireless on intra-state vessels, and marine engineers' certificates. These will be submitted to you in due course.

34. An amendment of the Supreme Court Act to provide for the appointment of a sixth judge of that court will be introduced.

35. A Bill to extend the operation of the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act will be introduced.

36. My Government is of opinion that amendments of the law as to the jurisdiction and procedure of coroners are desirable and has prepared a Bill on this subject for your consideration.

37. A Bill enabling the South Australian Gas Company to increase its loan capital will be introduced.

38. You will be asked to sanction a measure providing compensation for produce destroyed or removed in the campaign against fruit fly during the current financial year.

39. A number of other legislative proposals are receiving the attention of my Ministers. The subjects being dealt with include local government, highways, stamp duties, hospitals, pharmacy, the Renmark Irrigation Trust, health, mining, police offences, and the regulation of the Police Force. Bills on these and other subjects may be introduced.

40. I now declare this Session open, and trust that your deliberations may be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the State.

The Lieutenant-Governor retired from the Chamber and the Speaker and the members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The PRESIDENT again took the Chair and read prayers.

#### AMENDMENTS TO JOINT STANDING ORDERS.

The PRESIDENT—I have received from His Excellency the Governor a copy of the amendments to the Joint Standing Orders adopted by the Legislative Council on November 21, 1951, and by the House of Assembly on November 29, 1951, and approved by him in Executive Council on January 17, 1952.

#### CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT ACT No. 2.

The PRESIDENT—I draw attention of the Council to a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* dated March 6, 1952, notifying His late Majesty's assent to the Constitution Act Amendment Act No. 2, 1951, which had been reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon.

#### QUESTIONS.

##### BORROWING BY STATES.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—In view of statements by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of this Parliament regarding the curtailment of loan moneys, will the Chief Secretary inform the council whether, at the next meeting of the Loan Council, the Treasurer will urge that a referendum be taken throughout the Commonwealth on the question of the withdrawal by the States from the Loan Council and restoration to the States of their right to borrow within their own boundaries?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I am unable to give the assurance which the honourable member seeks.

**CURTAILMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I notice in His Excellency's Speech Government proposals to curtail certain public works owing to the shortage of loan money, and I understand that the Government is already asking the various departments to use the pruning knife. Will the Government give priority to water schemes, hospitals and schools?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The reply to the honourable member's question was contained in His Excellency's speech which indicated that priority will be given to the more important works. The honourable member used the term "pruning knife," but there is not yet any indication that public works under construction are to be stopped, and I would like to take this opportunity to dispel any fear in honourable members' minds of any such suggestion.

**IMPORTED PREFABRICATED HOMES.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It was recently reported in the press that the Housing Trust proposed to sell certain prefabricated homes, for which tenders have been let abroad, to the New Zealand Government. Can the Chief Secretary state the cost of those homes landed in South Australian and the amount for which it was proposed to sell them?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I cannot give the information offhand, but if the honourable member desires it I will obtain it for him.

**FINDON SCHOOL.**

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Early in 1951 the Public Works Standing Committee approved the construction of a school at Findon and tenders for this work closed on March 21, 1951. Does the Minister of Education know when the work will be commenced and the approximate date when the school will be ready for occupation?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—I am afraid I do not carry in my head all the details which would enable a question like that to be answered, but I will obtain the information for the honourable member and let him have it.

**CROCKER'S WELL RADIUM DISCOVERY.**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary give any information as to the Government's intentions with reference to the discovery of radium at Crocker's Well?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—As in other important finds of uranium, it is the Government's intention to make the greatest possible use of it. In what way and when will, of course, depend upon other developments essential to the treatment and mining of ores from Radium Hill.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ROLL.**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—A statement appeared in the press recently that 50 men were being employed by the Commonwealth Electoral Department in obtaining the names of people for inclusion in the House of Assembly and Commonwealth electoral rolls. What action does the Government intend to take to add additional names to the Legislative Council roll?

The Hon. R. J. RUDALL—I do not know that the onus is on the Government to take steps of that nature. It is the duty of any person who wishes to vote for the Legislative Council to enrol, and every citizen who treasures that right will carry it out.

**LOAN COUNCIL AND STATE RIGHTS.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—After the last Loan Council meeting, where the loan requirements of the State were cut, the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) broadcast a statement regarding allocations to the States and on May 7 last the Treasurer (The Hon. T. Playford) broadcast a reply in which he stated that under the Financial Agreement, which was ratified by the people of Australia, it was not proper for any Government or authority to disregard any decision of the Loan Council lawfully made upon matters within its jurisdiction. The Loan Council was constituted under certain Constitutional powers which provide that, by a majority decision of the States, their rights shall be preserved. At the last Loan Council meeting, where the pruning knife was used, the rights of the States were ignored and the Commonwealth Government by its action implied that it was not bound by any decision of the Council. Can the Chief Secretary say what action will be taken by the Treasurer at the next Loan Council meeting to see that

all the provisions of the Financial Agreement are fully implemented and the States' rights safeguarded?

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—I think, as the honourable member indicated, that he was fully advised by the Treasurer's broadcast on this matter and I have nothing to add to it.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the following projects:—

Deep sea port at Port Victoria (interim and final).

Electrification of Adelaide suburban passenger train services (interim).

Gepps Cross primary school.

Glenelg-Brighton foreshore improvements (interim).

Mount Gambier sewerage system (interim).

Minlaton new high school.

Roseworthy Agricultural College new accommodation block.

Mount Gambier new hospital (interim and final).

Taperoo and Morphettville Park new primary schools (second).

Port Augusta sewerage system (interim).

Port Lincoln hospital extensions.

Port Lincoln sewerage system (interim).

Port Pirie sewerage scheme (interim).

Ridley Grove infants school.

Sassafras Engineering Plant Depot.

\* Gilles Plains water supply and sewerage.

Glenelg-Brighton foreshore improvements—Acquisition of land for reserves (first progress).

Hampstead school.

Hightgate infants school.

Nailsworth boys technical school (additional workshop).

Northfield Mental Hospital additions (interim).

Parkside Mental Hospital (male tuberculosis block).

Royal Adelaide Hospital (Northfield wards, new nurses' quarters).

#### LAND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on:—

Acquisition of land in the Hundred of Conmurra.

Proposed Milang irrigation area.

Southern Yorke Peninsula development.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT, having laid on the table a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, the Hon. A. L. McEWIN moved—

That a committee consisting of the Chief Secretary and the Hons. F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore, A. J. Melrose, and J. Cowan be

appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The following sessional committees were appointed on the motion of the Chief Secretary:—

Standing Orders—The President, the Chief Secretary, and the Hons. F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore and C. D. Rowe.

Library—The President and the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, J. L. S. Bice and Sir Wallace Sandford.

Printing—The Hons. S. C. Bevan, J. L. Cowan, A. A. Hoare, N. L. Jude and F. T. Perry.

*Sitting suspended from 12.7 until 3.50 p.m.*

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill covers Supplementary Estimates as distinct from Supply. This type of Bill has come before members only in the last few years owing to the inflationary trend which has made budgetting difficult and caused excess expenditure. On this occasion all the items are associated with railway expenditure. The aggregate amount is £370,000 and covers four small items. The sum of £13,000 is required for additional tarpaulins and other requirements in the traffic branch, £150,000 mainly brought about by increased prices for fuel and coal and the increased quantities consumed, £70,000 to cover increased costs of materials and supplies used for repairing and operating rolling stock, and £135,000 for deferred maintenance work on the Wolseley-Millicent section of the South-East line owing to the greater progress made than was expected when the Estimates were prepared. Railways are the principal transport agency of the State and the department has been carrying on under difficulties, therefore it is pleasing that sufficient progress has been made on the Wolseley extension to Mount Gambier as to hasten the completion of that project. It is not until some additions are made to rolling stock and locomotives in that area that other parts of the narrow gauge system can be assisted. This additional expenditure is to be welcomed because it means more progress has been made

than was previously expected. I feel sure that these items do not require any lengthy explanation by way of justification and will commend themselves to members.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Central No. 1—Leader of the Opposition)—I take it we will have an opportunity of discussing two Bills this afternoon—this and the Supply Bill. A lengthy debate on this Bill may facilitate proceedings and the Opposition will say all it has to say now. My comments on the railways will be stated during the Address in Reply debate. I have no desire to criticize the Government but shall make a few suggestions. The Estimates constitute an important part of our legislation and it is only right that we should examine things as we find them. Members are entitled to the information they ask and not to evasive replies. When we ask a question we should receive the answer and not have to obtain a reply from the press. On the eve of the opening of Parliament a great deal of information appears in the press but the answers to questions we ask today will appear in the press tomorrow. The Council should not be treated as a kindergarten but as an important part of our Legislature.

The Hon. E. Anthony—Have members been denied information?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Information we seek will appear in the press before we receive it. I realize that the Commonwealth and States are going through a time when they should work together and any suggestion we may make should be considered. According to a statement in the press an application has been made to the Federal Arbitration Court for a reduction of £2 6s. in the basic wage and an increase in the working week to 44 hours. This Government should not support the case. In the past it has assigned legal men to oppose any reduction of hours or any increase in the basic wage. That only lowers the standard of living of the majority of people in South Australia. Industry has not suffered because there is a standard of living here equal to or perhaps better than in other parts of the world.

The Hon. E. Anthony—It has not suffered because of the inflationary conditions in which we live.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I favour increased production and that has taken place in South Australia. Because of the conditions under which we have been labouring for the past two and a half years the capitalists of industry have made assertions and allegations against outputs and the conditions that apply in Australia today. I have a list of 40 firms,

including 18 South Australian firms, 16 Victorian firms, and five New South Wales firms, which have made increased profits despite all they say.

The Hon. E. Anthony—Most of them are working on the cost plus basis.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That is not so. Despite all that has been said the position is not as bad as some suggest. The Government should not interfere and upset the good fellowship existing between employers and employees in South Australia. That feeling is second to none in the Commonwealth and I hope it will continue. I urge the Government not to appoint legal men to appear before the Federal Arbitration Court.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Its aim is to submit facts to the court.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Its aim is to reduce the standard of living of workers. My suggestion is to increase output to make up for deficiencies.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Everybody agrees with that.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I agree with it, but I say don't interfere, and I speak as one with considerable experience in the industrial movement. I think Mr. Perry will agree that any interference on the part of the Government in the standard of living in South Australia will cause trouble.

The Hon. E. Anthony—Don't you think the Government has the right, as a large employer of labour, to put its case?

The Hon. F. J. Condon—The Government represents all of the people and should not take any adverse action against one section.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—This is a different policy from what you held a few years ago.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am not concerned about that. It is senseless to be at one another's throats; if this State is to progress we must sink a lot of our differences.

The Hon. E. Anthony—Even some unions are seeking a longer working week.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am not concerned with what some unions are doing. I am simply expressing my views, firstly from the worker's point of view, and secondly in the interests of the State. It is pleasing to know that, particularly in the Government Service, output has increased considerably. Now I come to the question of loan funds. Unfortunately, the Loan Council, under the authority of the Federal Government, has decided that a cut must be made in loan expenditure. I am not here to criticize the Federal Government or anybody else, but simply to offer a few

suggestions. I hold a list of works approved by the Public Works Standing Committee which prompted me to ask a question today concerning priority of public works. Everyone knows that it is impossible for this or any other Government to institute immediately all the works which have been recommended and consequently, with our restricted income, it is our duty to select those which are urgent and which should be completed as soon as possible.

I know that the Minister of Education recognizes that school accommodation in newly settled districts is very poor and that it is impossible to meet all the demands for new schools. Consequently the Government has decided, instead of spending large sums on permanent structures of brick and stone, to adopt a different system and to build portable schoolrooms both in the metropolitan area and the country. Since 1951, the Public Works Standing Committee has recommended schools for Findon, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Renmark, Salisbury North, Whyalla, Brighton, Minlaton, Gepps Cross, Ridley Grove, Hampstead, Highgate and a few other places. They are urgently required, but if we have to wait until we can erect structures of brick and stone we will have to wait a long time. I compliment the Government and the Minister on their efforts to try to provide accommodation for our ever growing school population. Other works too numerous to mention have been recommended. Unfortunately there is, for example, little chance of undertaking the sewerage schemes which a number of country towns are seeking; Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Port Augusta, Balaklava, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and other country towns all wish to undertake sewerage schemes with Government assistance, but there is at present no chance for them because no loan money is available for the purpose. Whilst works of this kind must wait hospitals and water schemes should have priority. The Mannum-Adelaide trunk main and subsidiary works which will cost £3,800,000 are already in hand. A contract for the South Para reservoir has been let to an overseas firm. Can we break our contract with that firm and, if not, which scheme is to get preference? Other water schemes have been recommended for Yorke Peninsula, the South-East and other parts of the State. What are the Government's intentions in respect to them, as it cannot undertake them all? That is why I am urging that, although the loan programme has of necessity been curtailed, the Government will at least take heed of suggestions from whatever source they come.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—They will get them.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I hope so. This afternoon I have indulged in no criticisms, although I could have done so at length. I have simply offered some constructive suggestions.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds—Which water scheme do you suggest should have priority?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I think the Mannum-Adelaide scheme is the most important and, speaking as a representative of the metropolitan area, I think first priority should be given to it. That concludes my brief remarks on this occasion for there will be other opportunities to say more, but I hope that what I have said will receive the favourable consideration of the Government and members, because I believe it is in the interests of the State and the Commonwealth. I support the Bill.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—Mr. Condon is one who has always advocated that whatever happens one must be consistent. I therefore suggest to him that the South Australian Government in taking a certain attitude on the question of hours of labour should be consistent. I do not even know whether it has thought about being represented on this present application to the Arbitration Court, but if it does intervene it will be completely consistent. I remind my honourable friend that it was during the regime of the late Mr. Chifley that we first heard of the word recession. He knew he had over-spent the country's resources and was the first to hint at a recession. The honourable member's quotation of the 30 firms was vague and gave no dates as to when the alleged improvement had taken place or what it was, so I think we can disregard it altogether. Quite a number of large firms have this year passed their interim dividends, and quite a number have reduced them, so without more specific information we can disregard that altogether.

The practice of introducing Supplementary Appropriation Bills began, I think, three years ago and I would like to congratulate the Government on the fact that the amounts for which it has sought Parliamentary approval have been so small. In 1950 only two items were involved, amounting to £220,000; they were quite unexpected, one, for example, being for the fruit fly campaign. Last year the total amount for various items was £287,000 and this year it is entirely a railway matter of £370,000. In these difficult times, with unknown quarterly wage increases, which are the main difficulty, the Government is to be

complimented on so estimating the year's expenditure that it now needs such a small amount for certain work. When we consider that the Budget provided for £20,000,000, we must realize this amount is comparatively small. The Government is to be complimented on the fact that it is not asking for further advances. I appreciate that finance is, in the main, a matter for consideration in another place, but we have to concur in the Bill, which has been considered and passed there. Notwithstanding all the financial difficulties of the times—and every member realizes how difficult they are—the Government is to be congratulated on asking for such small additional expenditure. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I am surprised that the lead given by the Leader of the Opposition should be dashed to the ground by the Leader of the Liberal Party. The Leader of the Opposition asked that the suggestions of the Labor Party should be acceded to by the Government, but Mr. Cudmore has introduced politics into the debate. His attitude is unfair. He mentioned our late revered Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley, and said he had overspent. Furthermore, Mr. Cudmore implied that the economic crisis, on the edge of which Australia stood, could be attributed to the Chifley administration.

The Hon. E. Anthony—He did not say that.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—He implied it. He said that the Chifley Government had over-spent, and that the present position was due to over-spending. That is contrary to fact. Members are supplied each quarter with a review by the Institute of Public Affairs. That is not edited by any section of the Labor movement. The personnel is a laudable one in its respective spheres and is a body of representative people. The institute has this to say in dealing with the present economic chaos:—

The bald facts can be briefly stated. At the end of the 1950-51 financial year, London funds stood at the record figure of £845,600,000.

Nowhere during the history of Federation was our financial position so buoyant as under the Chifley Labor administration. The institute continues:—

On the face of it we were entitled to feel that our position was reasonably secure against any adverse movement in our trade position. But six months later, by December 1951, overseas balances had declined alarmingly to £544,000,000. And the worst was yet to come. Throughout January and February this year,

the volume of imports was so great and so much in excess of export earnings that overseas balances had fallen by another £100 million.

Then Hon. N. L. Jude—Did Mr. Chifley build up these reserves?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Yes. Mr. Jude will probably claim that it was due to high wool prices. When the Chifley Government was in power and restrictions were placed on the people in purchasing luxury goods we had repeated requests from members of the Liberal and Country League to lift controls and get back to free, private enterprise. We are back to that position today where there is no Commonwealth control and the States have taken over control. This followed on the defeat of the recent prices referendum. The Institute of Public Affairs tells the same story as the Labor Party of Australia does today—that with the advent of a lack of overall control of prices and consumer goods we are reaching a stage of economic crisis. We endorse the statement about the whittling down of overseas funds built up by the Labor Government. It is fresh in the minds of members that, when Great Britain found herself in financial difficulty through signing the International Agreement, the Australian Labor Government granted Great Britain £25,000,000 to assist the people and Government of that country to surmount the financial hardship which was arbitrarily imposed on them under the agreement. With the signing the States' financial agreement we find ourselves in the same position. In 1926 a referendum was submitted to the people of Australia and the result was welded into the Constitution. Our sovereign rights as a self-governing State have been whittled away by a ruthless implementation by the Loan Council of the powers of the Federal Government.

Can any member say that when the Chifley and Curtin Governments were in power and requests were made from this State for financial assistance through Loan moneys they were rejected by either of those Governments? All our projected developmental works are a great tribute to the late Prime Minister. He should be praised for the way in which he dealt with the claims from this State for loan money to carry out those works. The Premier has said that publicly. But a different set of circumstances operate today, so much so that after the last Loan Council meeting in May Mr. Menzies refused to accept the decision of the Council, which is constituted of the Premiers and Treasurers of the various States who signed the financial agreement. There is

as great a legal liability on the Commonwealth Government to honour the Loan Council's decisions as there is on the various States that constitute it.

The Hon. E. Anthony—The Prime Minister is a member of the Loan Council and the decision could hardly be unanimous.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The honourable member cannot refute the story I am telling today. Let me quote what the Premier said during his broadcast on May 7. Mr. Playford said:—

The council had been established under the provisions of the Constitution. It was part of the financial agreement ratified by the people of Australia and it was not proper for any Government or authority to disregard any decision of the council lawfully made upon matters within its jurisdiction.

The Prime Minister had stated that the Commonwealth Government was not bound by the decisions of the Loan Council. The premier countered by saying:—

This statement implies two things—that the Commonwealth Government does not consider itself bound in any way by Loan Council decisions and that the Loan Council had approved the policy to increase tax burdens or proposed to interfere with the restoration of stability. . . . The Premiers wished to obtain advice from the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, the chairman of the associated trading banks and from Stock Exchange authorities, but this suggestion had been rejected by the Commonwealth Government.

There, Loan Council representatives, the various Premiers and Treasurers of the State who were charged with the responsibility of carrying out developmental works in their respective States, were asking the Prime Minister to allow the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, the chairman of the associated trading banks, and the chairmen of the various stock exchanges to meet in an endeavour to find some solution for obtaining internal loans so that the various projects could be carried out. Members are aware that during the last war not one penny was borrowed overseas. Where there was a lag in war or security loans the Commonwealth Bank was asked to release what is termed "National Credit." That filled the breach and moneys provided by the citizens of Australia were used so that the war programme could be carried to fruition. If it was necessary to adopt that measure of financing during the war years it is equally necessary to use the same method to carry out major loan works to assist Australia.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Loans were over-subscribed at times.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Of course. I read the statement by Mr. Casey in this morning's press in which he attempted to reply to a proposal I submitted for financing national developmental work through the finances of the nation. His argument was that during war-time it might be done. He added that no luxury goods could be purchased today and that the surplus of wages, salaries or profits earned during the exigencies of war gravitated back into the various savings and private banks. There was a general draw-off because people placed surplus money into Commonwealth loans or war savings certificates. That was Mr. Casey's specious argument. My reply is that whilst every quarter there is an increase in the basic wage that increase is brought about by an increase in prices. There may be an increase in August, but the increase in the price of butter will not be reflected for another three months. It cannot be said that the position is arbitrarily brought about by the attitude of any section of the working class or the trade union movement. As a contrast, during the regime of the Labor Government, the cost of living increases did not reach 10s. or 15s., but were a mere matter of shillings, indicating that the price level was maintained to such an extent that the wages received by the worker had a purchasing power greater than that of the wages he receives now. It is ridiculous for members to attempt to cloud the issue and to build upon false premises by attributing the position to the action of men in industry, the Labor movement or the trade union movement.

In his broadcast of May 7 the Premier said that the deposits in the private banks were £400,000,000 and the Premiers believed the banks would readily subscribe some of this if they were permitted to do so by the Commonwealth Government. Banks receive  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for this money and it was believed they would readily invest it in a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent security loan if the Commonwealth Government would allow them to subscribe. Contrast our economic position under the auspices of Labor. It was immaterial to the late Federal Treasurer, Mr. Chifley, whether a Premier was Liberal or Labor. He considered the needs of the people of the State. I say, without equivocation, that this Federal Government has no consideration for the needs of the people or for the request of elected Premiers. It is adopting a dictatorial attitude on a par with the attitude adopted by dictators in other parts of the world.

The Lieutenant-Governor referred to a 25 per cent increase in the number of pupils enrolled since 1949. The building cost for 1951 was £1,039,203, an increase of 55 per cent above the previous year. I would make a plea on behalf of private and denominational schools. If all private and denominational schools were closed the Education Department would not be in a position to house those students and give them the necessary education demanded by our Education Act. Private and denominational schools affect the savings of this State by approximately £100,000 for teaching alone. That is without taking into consideration the cost of building. Their buildings more than favourably compare with State school buildings. Because of conscience people send their children to a denominational school and are penalized by not receiving any rebate or concession in the fees they pay. I hope the Government will consider this position.

I totally dissociate myself from the suggestion made by Mr. Cudmore about the Chifley Government and his observations regarding the cost of living figures. He should be in a better position to glean facts, as a lawyer, than other members, but the facts are as I have stated. I support the second reading.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—There are one or two matters which have arisen in debate which should be answered. One concerns the statements made by Mr. Bardolph about the Loan Council. We all regret that the Prime Minister could not meet its demands.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Isn't he a party to the agreement?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—Yes, and he is a member of the Loan Council. In order to be effectively dealt with decisions of the Loan Council have to be unanimous and if the Prime Minister stands out they cannot be. I have always thought it bad administration that a Premier, no matter his political colour, should go to Canberra and commit a State to any amount. Parliament has no redress and can only endorse what he does or, if it wishes to be awkward, pass a vote of no confidence. The Loan Council should be regardful of the whole Commonwealth and not any particular State. It should consider what the Commonwealth can afford; but that is something which has been overlooked for a long time. We have spent merrily year after year without considering how amounts are to be met. The Loan Council is a rather loosely constituted body and at some other time might be the subject of a good debate.

I will express my opinions later about the heavy losses made on public transport, particularly the railways, but would like the Minister to enlighten me about the figures shown for legal expenses. The amount is not stated and I wonder whether they are in connection with the inquiry on the North line deviation. I support the second reading.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1)—Mr. Condon referred to the application by employers to the Commonwealth Arbitration Court for a reduction of the present basic wage and the lengthening of the working week to 44 hours. He also referred to education. The Lieutenant-Governor referred to the activities of the Education Department. At one stage he said "The building of schools in newly-settled districts and of additional rooms at existing schools is proceeding vigorously." The question I directed to the Minister of Education this morning was prompted by those words. In March, 1951, there was an expenditure of about £58,000 for the building of a school at Findon. On my latest information, even at this date, absolutely nothing has been done even to commence, let alone complete that school, so I do not think the expression "proceeding vigorously" can apply there. The education of our children, who are the coming generation in South Australia, and the expenditure of money for the purpose should have first priority. Again, no doubt because of the curtailment of loan funds, the science block at the Nailsworth boys technical school cannot be occupied until lighting, power, gas and water facilities are available. I am reliably informed that in the next term at least 300 students will be attending that school, but those facilities will not be ready for them. I hope sufficient loan money will be available to complete projects already in hand and for which money has supposedly already been voted.

Mr. Condon referred to the application by employers to the Arbitration Court on the question of hours of work and wages, and I join with him in expressing the desire that the South Australian Government should not intervene in the application. It has already been indicated that the Commonwealth Government will join in the application and will supply statistical figures over the period, and any other information desired in support of the employers' application. We are told that we are in the throes of inflation and we have only to look at the columns of the press from day to day to see an increase in the price of some commodity. In one week, about a fortnight or three weeks ago, on each succeeding day for

four days there appeared notification of increases in the price of such every-day commodities as butter, bread, shoes and shoe repairs. This must force the basic wage up from quarter to quarter, because, as Mr. Condon pointed out, there is a lapse of three months in the adjustment of the cost of living. If we are in the throes of inflation it appears to me that an application of this nature is bordering on the ridiculous, because each quarter the basic wage is being forced up.

The PRESIDENT—Order! I have given the honourable member considerable latitude. We are discussing Supplementary Estimates and speakers must keep somewhere near the subject. I have been trying to see the connection in the honourable member's remarks but cannot. I ask him to confine himself more closely to the matter before the Chair.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—The Bill deals with an expenditure of £370,000 for the railways, and the question of hours of work and rates of pay affect the basic wage, which in turn affects railway expenditure. I would suggest that if our Government intervenes in this application to the Arbitration Court we will not need to provide for an additional expenditure of £370,000 because it will create so much industrial chaos throughout Australia that no railways will be operating and we will not be spending anything. If this policy is pursued I think it will simply arm the Communistic element in our midst with more ammunition.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE (Central No. 1)—According to the press the employers intend to ask the Arbitration Court to reduce wages and extend the hours of work. We must recognize that wages are not what we receive but what they will purchase and the increase, of course, has been caused by the increase in the cost of commodities. The employers have not said one word about a reduction in the cost of living. All they are concerned about is an increase in hours of labour and a reduction of wages. If I know anything of the situation they are playing with industrial dynamite and if their request is granted we may experience one of the worst industrial upheavals in the history of Australia.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Notwithstanding the 40-hour week the employers have made increased profits.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Of course they have. I notice that a reduction of shearing rates is to be considered.

The PRESIDENT.—Order! I cannot see any connection whatever between a reduction

of shearing rates and the Supplementary Estimates. The honourable member must confine himself more closely to the subject before the Chair.

The Hon. A. A. HOARE—Too much money cannot be spent on education, because education means knowledge and knowledge is power. Consequently, the greater the power derived through education the greater a nation becomes. The Government is doing a fairly good job in that direction. People in all parts of the State are appealing for more money for educational purposes and seemingly it is difficult to get enough to carry out their wishes. It seems possible that the tramways will become the property of the Government. It was the Legislative Council which prevented the tramways from becoming a Government concern at the time they were initiated, by insisting that they should be controlled by a trust. Now the tramways are losing money and wherein lies the cause of the trouble? The trust has raised tram fares from time to time without making up the leeway, simply because people who own cars—and there are scores of thousands of them—now prefer to use their own vehicles to go to business. I suppose that, in general, members of the Labor Party support the Bill.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—I thank members for the attention they have given to the Bill and in case they have forgotten what it is about I remind them that there are two main clauses—one to provide a sufficient sum of money and the other that if sufficient money is not made available by the Commonwealth it shall be made good from other sources. As there is no suggestion that that should not be done I thank members for their support of the measure. We have had much discussion, pertaining mostly to the expenditure of loan funds. I could not help thinking, as I listened to members opposite, about the fly which was enjoying a ride on a waggon along a dusty road. After travelling some distance the fly looked around and said "Look at all the dust I have kicked up." We have had a lot of dust kicked up today, but there are two things which might be relevant to the Bill. The first was the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition about members being entitled to certain information. I agree and assure him that every courtesy will be extended in that regard, as has always been done.

The other referred to the curtailment of expenditure and the work done by the Public

Works Standing Committee in examining proposals submitted to it by the Government for report. Mr. Condon contended that these items should be proceeded with and that certain priorities existed. All I can say is that because the Government has received a report from the committee, even for a small work, the job is not ready to be proceeded with. Much work has to be undertaken after the committee's recommendations are received. The committee deals with sketch plans and its recommendations are required to assure the Government that the work is essential. After a report is made that the Government's proposals should be proceeded with, a terrific amount of detail work has to be done before there is even a semblance of action. Anybody who attended the Industrial Exhibition a few months ago would have seen a model of Western Districts Hospital, a big undertaking that is being proceeded with at the moment. They would have seen, too, a huge volume of plans and specifications that are necessary to the work. Months, and even years of work, are detailed in an undertaking of that kind. Because it is not proceeded with it does not mean that there is any lack of enthusiasm on the Government's part. I assure members that all the proposals which have been submitted will be followed up with the maximum amount of enthusiasm. Yesterday I visited Western Districts Hospital and saw the building that is proceeding. It would be interesting if there was some way of recording the amount of work that is hidden in a structure of that kind. It is really terrific. Months of work are buried in a fortnight as the building progresses. We can say the same thing as we watch the progress of the Electricity Trust's power station at Port Augusta. The colossal amount of work I saw there six months ago is entirely hidden today. All one can see is a little concrete work.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—What about the Findon School, which was recommended 15 months ago?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—That is only one of numerous projects, a £50,000 undertaking out of the £27,000,000 loan money we are spending. Mr. Bardolph referred to national credit and apparently pins his faith to that as being a solution of all things. He referred to the work done by Mr. Chifley, but I do not intend to debate any of his qualifications. It was Mr. Chifley who prophesied a recession; if that is coming, I give him full marks for his prophecy, but so far as the Government which I represent is concerned I

do not admit that we are down and out. We might have a little levelling up process, but the Government's policy will be a progressive one having as its aim maximum employment and development in this State.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Northern—Chief Secretary)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides £5,500,000 out of the general revenue of the State for carrying on the public services of the State from July 1. It is probable that this amount, together with the £400,000 available from the Governor's Appropriation Fund, will be sufficient until the end of August, when a further Supply Bill may be necessary. Clause 3 provides that no payments shall be made which exceed last year's estimates, except where increases of salaries or wages have been prescribed by any body empowered to prescribe salaries or wages. This is a Bill that is usually presented at the opening of Parliament and there is nothing complicated in it.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—I support the second reading, but I think it is only right to point out to members the progressive increases in these measures. Only a few years ago we had a Bill for the usual supply of £1,000,000 and later £2,000,000. In 1950 it was £4,000,000 and last year £5,000,000. This year the figure has increased to £5,500,000 which all goes to show that the increased cost of carrying on the Civil Service is a serious problem in every way. Another matter which I regard as important is the wording contained in clause 3. In the past it has always been "Payments will not exceed last year's Estimates except . . ." This year the drafting has been improved by saying "Provided that there may be paid out of the said moneys . . ." I can see nothing but good in the amending words. However, I draw attention to it because as a rule these Bills float through without members reading them.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.25 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 22, at 2 p.m.