

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

### FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT (1953)

The Thirty-third Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until February 28, 1953, and the life of the House of Assembly having expired on that date, general elections were held on March 7. By proclamation dated June 4 the new Parliament was summoned to meet on June 25 and the First Session began on that date.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, June 25, 1953.

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert George) summoning the first session of the thirty-fourth Parliament.

#### GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION.

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Hon. Sir Mellis Napier (Chief Justice) and the Hon. Sir Geoffrey Reed (a Judge of the Supreme Court), were announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. A. D. Drummond) and conducted to chairs on the dais.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that House to attend to hear the Governor's Commission for the opening of Parliament. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the Commission.

The Senior Commissioner (the Hon. Sir Mellis Napier) announced that His Excellency the Governor would, in person, declare the reasons for his calling the Parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the House of Assembly had notified its election of Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and the Commissioners withdrew.

#### SWEARING IN NEW MEMBERS.

The President produced a Commission from the Governor authorizing him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly-elected members the Oath of Allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof, also writs and returns for the election of 10 members.

The Oath of Allegiance was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll for their respective districts.

At 11.23 a.m. the sitting was suspended until 2 p.m.

#### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At 2.15 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to the summons of the Governor, 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. On this occasion—the first day of the first Session of Parliament after the Coronation of Our Gracious Queen—it is fitting that we re-affirm the steadfast and affectionate loyalty of the citizens of South Australia to Her

Majesty. In common with her subjects in all her other realms and territories we are inspired and helped by her noble example of single-minded devotion to duty, and high courage in facing the heavy tasks of her royal office. Her Majesty's Coronation was enthusiastically celebrated in all parts of South Australia with rejoicing and appropriate public ceremonies. I desire, on behalf of my Ministers and myself, to pay a tribute of thanks and praise to those officers and public authorities who planned and carried out the celebrations with such marked success, and to the public generally for their whole-hearted co-operation.

3. My wife and I are most deeply grateful for the warm and kindly welcome which has been accorded to us as Her Majesty's representatives in South Australia. We look forward with sincere pleasure to our sojourn here and will do all that lies within our power to promote the happiness and well-being of the people of this State.

4. During the financial year now ending, South Australia has experienced gratifying prosperity in both primary and secondary industries. The recent recession in industrial activity throughout the Commonwealth was relatively mild in this State, and was no more than was inevitable in a change from inflation to a more stable economy. In South Australia the unemployment associated with the change was unusually low, being less than 1 per cent. By careful planning and economy my Government avoided retrenchments of labour and our developmental work was carried on steadily despite the reduction in loan funds. The overseas demand for our primary products remains strong. Because of the persistent dollar shortage, importers of foodstuffs and materials in other countries are constrained to give priority to supplies from sterling areas, such as Australia. The production in the secondary industries of South Australia continues to grow both in value and in quantity; and further increases can be expected from new undertakings, both public and private. As the inflationary factors in the Australian economy have been reduced during the year, comparative stability in prices has led to greater stability in wage rates, and a reduced labour turnover has brought a sharp increase in production. My Ministers intend to pursue a policy calculated to maintain stable economic conditions, coupled with a progressive increase in living standards.

5. During the year 1952-1953, good rainfalls and favourable weather prevailed in almost every part of the State, and the season was

one of the best in history. The average yield of wheat per acre was over 23 bushels—five bushels higher than the previous record—and although the acreage sown was relatively low the high yield led to a good harvest. Barley production was also very satisfactory. Nine hundred thousand acres were sown and produced a crop of 26,000,000 bushels. The exceptional growth of pastures led to outstanding livestock production. In the dairy industry it is expected that the yield per cow will prove to be a record, and that notwithstanding a reduced number of cows the previous output will be maintained. Sheep flocks reached the unprecedented total of 11,500,000, and there was a comparable increase in the quantity of wool produced. Fat lambs slaughtered for export rose from 130,000 to 440,000, and there was also a steady increase in the production of beef cattle. The grape harvest on irrigated lands was the heaviest on record, and that on dry lands was also satisfactory. Heavy crops of citrus fruits were obtained in all districts, and record crops of these fruits are expected this year. The apple harvest was light, but sufficient apples were exported to keep the South Australian products before the market in the United Kingdom. Potato yields were lower than last year. The dry summer conditions, together with heavy damage from insects and considerable interstate shipments, have depleted the supplies available for South Australia. Although the opening of the present season has been late it is quite possible that with a mild winter and good spring rains satisfactory harvests will result.

6. My Government continues to improve the advisory services and facilities for research in the Department of Agriculture. The Livestock Branch has been re-organized and now provides a complete service in all aspects of animal husbandry. Five research centres are being established. A centre at Loxton will investigate horticultural problems arising in the new settlements on the River Murray; centres in the Upper and Lower South-East will concentrate on the pasture and livestock problems of those regions; a centre at Wanbi will deal with soil problems, and the use of land in mallee areas; and a centre at Parafield will serve all branches of the Department by investigations in animal husbandry, horticulture, and agronomy. The Soil Conservation Branch has continued its important functions to the maximum extent permitted by the trained staff available. The work of the soil conservation boards has increased, and a board for the new West Broughton Conservation District

will shortly be appointed. During the year the Commonwealth made a substantial grant to the States for expansion of agricultural extension services, and further grants for this purpose will be made for at least another four years. With these funds my Government has already inaugurated a project to demonstrate irrigation methods and investigate pastures and vegetable-growing on the shores of Lake Alexandrina.

7. The State's forestry and milling undertakings have been carried on throughout the year with continued success. The revenue this year exceeds £1,000,000, and is the highest in the history of the department. The volume of log timber obtained from the pine forests was 105,000,000 super ft., of which 43,000,000 super ft. will be milled in the departmental mills. Approximately 4,800 acres of additional land have been approved for planting during this season, thus bringing the total area of the State's pine forest plantations to 120,000 acres. The establishment of a saw mill near Mount Gambier has been recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee and approved by the Government. The mill has been designed to cut approximately 35,000,000 super ft. of log timber a year. Preliminary work on the construction of the mill is being carried out and will be continued.

8. During the year the railways have been well maintained, and good progress made in the improvement of permanent way and rolling-stock. The Commonwealth has authorized the broadening of the whole of the South-Eastern system under the Railways Standardization Agreement and this work will be proceeded with as soon as possible. As you know, the broad gauge line to Mount Gambier has already been completed and formally opened to traffic. A narrow gauge line to link Radium Hill with the main Broken Hill line was commenced in April last and is expected to be completed in September of this year. The duplication of the Goodwood-Marino railway has reached Edwardstown, and will be continued towards Oaklands during the forthcoming year. The construction of 10 diesel electric locomotives in accordance with the Government's programme, will be completed by the end of this month and, in addition, 15 heavy steam locomotives are being brought into service during the current financial year. Other improvements now being effected include the installation of automatic level crossing barriers to provide increased safety for road users.

9. My Ministers deeply regret the death of the Railways Commissioner, Mr. R. H.

Chapman, who was held in the highest esteem for his outstanding ability and excellent personal qualities. The question of the future management of the railways is receiving the attention of the Ministry.

10. The operations for the improvement of the metropolitan water supply have continued without interruption and the available money and materials have been used to the best advantage. Priority has been given to the construction of the Mannum-Adelaide water main, both for the purpose of securing Adelaide against a water shortage and providing additional water for the Warren system and the towns and rural areas along the main. At the same time, preparatory work for the construction of the South Para Reservoir has proceeded. The geological investigations for additional reservoirs at Kangaroo Creek, Clarendon and Myponga are continuing. The sinking and equipping of bores in the metropolitan area is now almost complete; and a number of these bores were used to great advantage during last summer for maintaining water pressure in the metropolitan area. The works for providing a permanent water supply for Yorke Peninsula are well in hand and pipes are being received for the enlargement of the main between Bundaleer and Clinton Reservoirs. Several storage tanks and a 40,000,000 gallon reservoir have been constructed near Paskeville. The work already carried out has been of immense benefit to northern Yorke Peninsula, and will be extended as rapidly as possible. Good progress has also been made in the Uley-Wanilla water scheme which the Government expects to complete by June, 1954. The development of the Uley-Wanilla basin has already helped to avert a serious water famine. The Government is doing everything possible to accelerate progress on the country water schemes under construction throughout the State, including those of Jamestown-Caltowie, Loxton, and the Nairne pyrites works. A proposal to provide a water supply for Millicent by pumping from bores has been referred to the Public Works Committee.

11. Despite the limitation of loan funds the Government has steadily pursued its policy of improving harbour and port facilities throughout the State. At Port Adelaide, the Harbors Board has made satisfactory progress in rebuilding wharves and erecting modern cargo sheds. The extension of the wharf at Osborne with a view to increasing the capacity of the coal-handling plant is proceeding well, and the reclamation of the low-lying land on the eastern side of the Port River for future port

development is being continued. For many years' maintenance of harbours has been hampered by shortage of timber. Fairly large quantities of suitable timber, however, have recently been obtained, enabling the board to carry out arrears of maintenance and repairs at the Inner and Outer Harbours and at Port Pirie and Thevenard. Preliminary work in connection with additional shipping accommodation at Port Lincoln is proceeding. This scheme includes new berths for overseas vessels, and facilities for the discharge and storage of oil and sulphuric acid in bulk. The Harbors Board is also preparing designs and estimates for the expansion of harbour facilities at Kingseote to permit the simultaneous working of two coastal vessels, with improved equipment for cargo handling. The construction of a slipway at American River for fishing boats is nearing completion and the Government intends at an early date to improve the arrangements for the loading of grain at Edithburgh.

12. To meet the ever-increasing demand, the Electricity Trust has during the past year proceeded with a co-ordinated programme of works for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity. During this period the capacity of the Osborne B power-house has been increased by 60,000 kilowatts, the new boilers being capable of burning either Leigh Creek or Newcastle coal. This additional capacity has enabled the trust to meet all demands for power without restriction. Steady progress has been made in building the power station at Port Augusta. The first turbo-alternator, having a capacity of 30,000 kilowatts, and the necessary boiler equipment, have been delivered on the site, and the first unit is planned to be in operation by the winter of next year. The trust's programme for the coming year includes further extensions of power to rural areas and work on general transmission and distribution lines, including operations for doubling the capacity of the major transmission system of the metropolitan area. The trust has recently made an investigation of long-range electrical developments in the South-East. The investigation reveals the possibility of an extensive transmission system linking the main towns and supplying rural industry. In the early stages of the undertaking wood waste from the Government's saw mills may be used as fuel.

13. The Leigh Creek coalfield is playing an increasingly important part in the economic life of the State and is now self supporting. With the installation of additional boilers at Osborne increased quantities of Leigh Creek

coal will be required, and for this purpose the trust will, during the coming year, proceed with works for raising the output of the field. Recent investigations show that sufficient coal is available at Leigh Creek to supply a large power station at Port Augusta. This will necessitate a considerable increase in the production of the field and some of the trust's officers are at present making overseas investigations into the latest types of machines and methods used in the United States and in England. During the past year work has proceeded with the construction of the dam in Aroona Gorge, which is urgently required to furnish the coalfield with an adequate supply of suitable water. At the same time, special attention has been paid to living conditions on the field and additional houses and civic services have been provided.

14. Rapid advances have been made in developing the uranium resources at Radium Hill. Pilot treatment plants have shown that it is economically practicable to produce uranium from our ores, and the Government plans to commence full scale production during 1954 from the works now under construction at Radium Hill and Port Pirie. Initially the State will benefit from the sale of its uranium products on overseas markets; but ultimately the uranium will be used for the generation of electricity and for defence and other special uses within the Commonwealth. The Government is giving special attention to our iron resources with the object of ensuring that these ores are used in the best interests of the State. It is the policy of the Government to encourage increased production of iron and the establishment of steel making plant at Whyalla. The works at Nairne for the production of pyrites as a source of sulphur to be used instead of imported sulphur in the manufacture of sulphuric acid are progressing rapidly. It is anticipated that by 1955 the output from Nairne, together with the acid made from waste smelter gases at Port Pirie, will supply the needs of the superphosphate industry for many years to come. The Government's policy of assisting the development of the mineral resources of the State through the medium of the Department of Mines has been continued with success. The value of the total mineral production during 1952 was the highest on record, and exceeded £6,000,000.

15. In the Education Department the Government is faced with a huge task arising from our rapidly increasing population. During the past 12 months, the number of children in the public schools has increased by more than 10

per cent and has now reached a total of 108,600. It is estimated that by the year 1960, there will be further increases amounting to 51,000 pupils. To meet this position, the Government has vigorously continued its extensive programme of school construction both in the metropolitan and country areas. Since the beginning of 1952, 13 large primary schools and an area school have been completed and opened, and existing schools have been enlarged by the addition of over 160 classrooms. The Government's programme provides for similar expansions of school accommodation during the next few years. The Government has also given constant attention to the recruitment of teachers, and has taken measures to secure adequate and competent staffs to deal with the growing school population. The Government desires to record its sincere appreciation of the excellent work which continues to be done by school committees, mothers' clubs and parents' associations. This work is of special value in view of the rapid expansion of our educational system. My Ministers have recently appointed an expert committee to inquire into the education and training of the deaf. This committee has made good progress and its report is expected at an early date.

16. Under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, 720 ex-servicemen have been placed in occupation of blocks and a further 100 men have been selected for consideration in the allocation of blocks now being developed. The area on Kangaroo Island accepted by the Commonwealth as suitable for settlement under the scheme has been increased to 192,000 acres. Under the interstate arrangements for regulating plantings on irrigation areas permission has been granted to South Australia to open up sufficient land to provide blocks for all applicants who have been approved as suitable for this class of production. The Government is accordingly taking action to locate areas suitable for irrigation, and has recently purchased 1,300 acres adjoining Loxton Irrigation Area. The Commonwealth has accepted this land for War Service Settlement, and has also accepted an area of 12,500 acres on Lake Albert known as Campbell Park. These areas will be developed by the State for War Service Settlement. During this financial year the Government has purchased 17,000 acres on Lower Yorke Peninsula for development under the Crown Lands Development Act. In allotting this land, preference will be given to applicants who are ex-servicemen. Substantial progress is being made with the excavation

of the drains which are required for the development of the Western Division of the South-East. These drains, when complete, will bring into production some 30,000 acres of land held by the Crown, and will also be of great benefit to large areas held by private persons.

17. During the year the maintenance and reconstruction of main roads throughout the State has been continued by the Government and generous assistance has been given to councils to undertake similar work on other roads in their areas. The money allocated to the councils during the year for this purpose exceeds £750,000, and, in addition, interest-free loans have been granted to enable them to acquire roadmaking machinery.

18. Noteworthy progress has been made in extending and improving Government hospitals throughout the State. At the Western Districts Hospital, the Nurses' Home, which is first to be used as a maternity hospital, will be available for the accommodation of patients at the end of the year. The maternity block is also making good progress and tenders will be called for the main general buildings at an early date. At the Royal Adelaide Hospital the new nurses' buildings are nearing completion and plans are being prepared for additional accommodation for women patients and casualties. The Public Works Committee is also inquiring into a proposal of the Government for additions and alterations to the dental hospital and consideration is being given to the erection of a new building for the radio-therapy department. A large programme of improvements to the mental hospitals at Parkside and Northfield has been approved and will be proceeded with as early as possible. At Parkside the new four-storey home for nurses will be ready for occupation before the end of this year and a women's ward is in course of construction. At the hospitals at Mount Gambier, Port Pirie, and Port Augusta substantial progress has been made in new work and a tender has been accepted for extensions at Port Lincoln. Financial assistance to subsidized hospitals has been on a more liberal scale, and grants to other hospitals, including community hospitals, have been increased by almost 50 per cent on last year's figures.

19. The work of the Department of Public Health in preventing and controlling infectious disease has been continued with signal success. For the first time since records have been kept a whole year has passed without a single death from diphtheria. Compulsory X-ray chest examinations have been steadily continued both

in metropolitan and country districts. They have been successful in detecting abnormalities at an early stage, thus facilitating early and effective treatment where necessary.

20. The South Australian Housing Trust will, by the end of this month, have completed the building of approximately 4,000 houses during the current financial year. Over 1,000 houses are situated in country areas. This year's total is the largest ever achieved by the trust, and has not, so far, been exceeded in any year by any other housing authority in Australia. It compares most favourably with the 1951-1952 results when 3,119 houses were completed. It is expected that during 1953-1954 about 3,700 houses will be built. The trust has now built approximately 17,300 houses. The rate of building during the past few years has been such that, in large measure, the accumulated demand for houses for purchase has been met and the trust can now supply houses to buyers without the previous long delay. However, the demand for rental premises remains strong and applicants for this type of accommodation must still wait for long periods. In order to avoid the necessity for increasing the rents of trust houses by reason of the recent rise in interest rates the trust will, during the coming financial year, carry out its rental housing programme under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement. Under that agreement money is made available by the Commonwealth at an interest rate of 3 per cent, and this favourable rate will enable rents of new houses to be much lower than would otherwise be the case. In addition to promoting the building of houses through the instrumentality of the South Australian Housing Trust and the State Bank, the Government has continued to assist persons desirous of purchasing homes. Up to the end of May, 1953, over 6,700 applications for loans under the Homes Act had been approved and the total of loans so made with the help of a Government guarantee was £7,500,000.

21. The financial results for the year just ended are expected to reveal a surplus on Revenue Account of approximately £40,000, which is £28,000 more than that shown on the Budget Estimates submitted in October last. Gross loan expenditure during 1952-1953 will amount to £25,000,000. The Loan Council has already met, and has allocated to South Australia for 1953-1954 a sum of £26,500,000. This will enable us to continue our public works on the same scale as during the present year. Employment on governmental works will be maintained.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

22. A further appropriation of £1,175,500 will be required to meet the current year's expenditure and Supplementary Estimates for this sum will be laid before you. It will be necessary also for Parliament to authorize the expenditure of money to carry on the public services until next year's Estimates are passed, and a Supply Bill for £6,000,000 will be introduced for this purpose.

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

23. The problem of returning to the States their rights to impose taxes on incomes has been discussed at several conferences between representatives of the Commonwealth and of the States, and recommendations as to ways and means have been made. My Government believes that a satisfactory scheme can be evolved, and is willing to join in any arrangements which will secure to the State an adequate field of taxation and will be reasonably simple in administration.

24. In accordance with the policy of the Government announced before the recent elections you will be asked to consider an amendment of the Constitution Act to increase the number of Ministers of the Crown from six to eight.

25. My Ministers have given careful consideration to the continuation of the legislation respecting prices. It is their policy to remove control to the greatest extent justified by trading conditions, but in their opinion, it is not yet desirable to abolish controls entirely. You will therefore be asked to sanction a further extension of the Act.

26. The legislation which authorizes the wheat marketing and price stabilization scheme in this State will, unless renewed by Parliament, have no operation on wheat harvested during the coming season or later. My Ministers desire that the scheme shall be renewed on terms which are just and equitable both to farmers and the general public, and are endeavouring to secure agreement between the Commonwealth and the other States for this purpose. If agreement is reached legislation will be introduced on this subject.

27. My Ministers are working out the details of the proposals for the establishment by private enterprise of an export meat works at Kadina. A Bill dealing with this matter is being prepared.

28. You will also be asked to give further attention to the laws respecting the control of

rents and evictions. A Bill for the continuance of this legislation, with amendments, will be laid before you.

29. My Government is giving consideration to the personnel of the committee to be charged with the review of the laws relating to workmen's compensation, and expects that the committee will be constituted at an early date.

30. Bills dealing with a number of legislative matters are being prepared by my Ministers. Among them are measures relating to auctioneers, health, justices, building, the Public Works Standing Committee, police offences, road traffic, impounding, the incorporation of associations, benefit associations, mining, maintenance orders, trustees, charities, and other subjects.

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

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

The PRESIDENT again took the Chair and read prayers.

#### DEATH OF QUEEN MARY: ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE.

The PRESIDENT—I have to inform the Council that I have received from His Excellency the Governor the following reply to the Address of Condolence presented on the occasion of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Mary:—

The Governor informs the Hon. the President of the Legislative Council that he has received the undermentioned message from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations:—

“I have it in command to request you to convey to the Members of Parliament of South Australia, through the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Her Majesty's sincere thanks for their loyal and dutiful address expressing sympathy with her in the great loss which she and her family have sustained by the death of Queen Mary.”

#### DRAFT ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

That a committee consisting of the Hons. E. Anthoney, F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore, N. L. Jude and the Chief Secretary be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor, and to report on next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

#### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I ask leave to make a brief statement with a view to asking you a question, Mr. President.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Two members of the Judiciary attended Parliament today to perform the ceremony of opening Parliament; one retired to another place and you, Sir, officiated in this Council in swearing in members. As the life of a Parliament is only three years I desire to know if the correct procedure has been followed in the election of President of the Legislative Council. As this is a new Parliament I contend that the last Parliament could not elect a President for a future Parliament. The Constitution Act, 1934-1949 states:—

23. (1) The Legislative Council, shall, at its first meeting, and before proceeding to the despatch of any other business, elect some member of the Council to be the President thereof, and as often as the place of the President becomes vacant by death, resignation, vacation of seat, or removal by the vote of the Council, the Council shall again elect some other member to be President thereof.

Under what authority did you adopt the course followed today, Mr. President? In my opinion the matter is entirely out of order and I ask for your ruling on this question.

The PRESIDENT—Knowing that this matter was going to be raised I was fortunate in being able to prepare a reply. I say, without any doubt, that the right procedure has been adopted. The Constitution Act provides for exactly what Mr. Condon read. It will be seen from that, therefore, that the office of President only becomes vacant by the happening of any one of four events. The first one is death (and I am not dead yet), the second is resignation (and I have not yet resigned) the third vacation of seat (my seat is not yet vacated) and the fourth removal by a vote of the Council (this has not yet been done although members might do it at any time). I have checked my interpretation of the legal provisions with Mr. Bean (Parliamentary Draftsman) who is of the opinion that a layman could possibly be misled by the first part of section 23 (1) quoted by Mr. Condon. It says:—

The Legislative Council shall, at its first meeting, and before proceeding to the dispatch of any other business, elect some member of the Council to be the President thereof.”

That refers to the first appointment of a President after the passing of the Constitution Act in 1855-6 and thereafter any vacancy occurring would be filled in accordance with the provisions of the second part of Section 23

(1) and the Standing Orders setting out the detailed procedure to be adopted. Therefore, I am perfectly satisfied that the right procedure has been adopted. That is supported by both the Constitution Act and the practice in the House of Commons and in South Australia in the past and the swearing of members was done under a commission signed by His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Ninety-six years ago.

### QUESTIONS.

#### WATER RESTRICTIONS.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—Can the Chief Secretary intimate when water restrictions will be lifted following the timely and beneficial rains?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—In order that everybody could be guaranteed a supply of water through the mains certain restrictions on the way in which water could be applied were ordered, but I am under the impression that they have already been lifted. There is no restriction on the quantity of water used.

#### WHEAT PRICE FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—In view of the different opinions that exist between the States as regards fixing a price for wheat for home consumption, does the Government favour fixing a price on the cost of production or on overseas parity?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The question of a home consumption price for wheat was considered by a Commonwealth conference recently and any legislation required will be introduced this session. No consideration has been given as to which medium will be adopted.

#### WESTERN DISTRICTS HOSPITAL.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—In his speech His Excellency referred to the construction of the Western Districts Hospital which, I understand, is progressing satisfactorily. In view of the calls made on the Royal Adelaide Hospital, which are increasing weekly, will the Chief Secretary say if anything further can be done to improve the present position for people requiring early accommodation at Western Districts Hospital?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The answer is that, as mentioned by His Excellency this afternoon, the Government is making temporary arrangements to use buildings as they become

available. The building nearing completion is the nurses' quarters, which will be a smaller building than that required for a wing of the hospital. It will also require servicing by the department when complete. Instead of having to wait possibly two years for completion of the maternity wing, it has been arranged to use it, at some slight additional cost, for maternity cases. It could not be used for general cases, which require a theatre and such ancillary services that are required for a maternity ward. The building is being used as a branch of hospital service that is urgent, and to which it lends itself.

#### REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (together with minutes of evidence) on the following projects:—Croydon boys technical school, Encounter Bay water district improvements, Gilles Plains primary school, Morgan to Barmera railway (final report), Parkside Mental Hospital (men's admission block), Radium Hill water supply, and Salisbury sewerage scheme; also first progress report on the Onkaparinga Valley water supply (supply to Nairne pyrites deposit) and second progress report on Glenelg-Brighton foreshore improvements (Patawalonga Creek diversion and reclamation).

#### REPORTS OF LAND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on acquisition of land in the hundred of Townsend (South-East) and proposed Loxton Irrigation Area extension.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:—

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.

Later the House of Assembly notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN moved—

That, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, 1929-1946, four members be elected by ballot to be members of a Court of Disputed Returns.

A ballot having been held, the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, L. H. Densley, A. A. Hoare and the Chief Secretary were declared duly elected.

At 3.42 p.m. on June 25 the sitting was suspended until 12.50 a.m. on Friday, June 26.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

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

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time. The Supplementary Estimates have been made necessary because of the recent storm damage which was caused along the waterfront and to provide money for extraordinary and unavoidable expenditure it has been found necessary to meet in some State departments.

Clause 2 provides for the issue of £1,175,500 and clause 3 sets out the manner in which the amount shall be appropriated. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer may from time to time expend moneys authorized by the Governor by warrants issued by him and countersigned by the Chief Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be allowed credit for the amounts paid by him in accordance with such warrants. The receipts of the persons to whom the Treasurer pays the moneys shall be a discharge for the amounts paid by the Treasurer. Clause 5 provides for moneys to be used from Loan Funds or other public funds if the moneys provided by the Commonwealth of Australia and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by section 3 of this Act.

I will now give members some details of the manner in which the amount appropriated by the Bill is to be applied by the Government.

Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous, £75,500.—Under this heading provision is made for grants to the Adelaide Children's Hospital and to the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital for £18,000 and £13,000 respectively. In addition it is proposed to make a further grant of £5,500 towards the operating expenses of the Kalyra Sanatorium and a further £9,000 towards meeting the annual maintenance expenses of the Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb.

Authority is also being sought for the expenditure of £30,000 in connection with the Coronation celebrations as conducted in this State, which amount, of course, will include the cost of representation at the Coronation celebrations in London by the Premier and by the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly. Some payments have already been made on this account from the Governor's Appropriation Fund, but many more claims have now come to hand and it is desired to pay these accounts before the end of the financial year.

Treasurer—Miscellaneous, £220,000.—The Estimates of Expenditure presented with the Budget for the year 1952-53 included an amount of £500,000 as a grant towards the working expenses of the Municipal Tramways Trust. The trust has now supplied a report which shows that its estimated deficit for the year ending June 30, 1953, will be in excess of £700,000, and a further contribution towards its working is therefore necessary to enable it to continue its operations on the present level. For this purpose £200,000 is included in the Bill under this heading. The members of the trust recently appointed have taken measures necessary to arrest the drift in tramway finances, but have not yet had sufficient time to give full consideration to the problem of reducing the losses being made in connection with the running of the tramways.

An amount of £20,000 has been included for the provision of temporary roads and drainage in emergency housing areas. Last winter, during the wet season, there was considerable inconvenience with water-logged streets and lack of street drainage in temporary housing areas. This position has not been improved to the extent which perhaps the Government would like but, with the expenditure of the £20,000 provided in this Bill, the Housing Trust will be able to make a big improvement in the roads in these areas.

Minister of Education, Miscellaneous.—Under this heading £40,000 has been provided for an additional grant to the University of Adelaide. The grants, which are made to the Council of the University, are considered each year in relation to a budget submitted by the University. This budget is prepared on a calendar year basis and the grants made by the Government for such calendar year are therefore included partly in each of the two financial years involved. This amount will go towards the annual budget amount required by the University.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Does that mean that next year's requirements for the University will be £40,000 less?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—It will still be required to submit a budget, which, I understand, is examined on the basis of average costs for universities throughout the Commonwealth and on that budget an amount will be fixed. This £40,000 will be considered and could affect next year's amount.

Minister of Agriculture, Miscellaneous.—An amount of £20,000 has been included under this heading as a grant for the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. This grant will enable the institute to carry out further important research, and in particular will enable it to make extensive inquiries into the problem of soil erosion and sand drift. In this connection the institute proposes to set up a research station on the Younghusband Peninsula which, it is hoped will, by virtue of the research and developmental work to be carried out, eventually be capable of production and become an asset to the State. In the meantime, the research work in that area will be of substantial benefit to the State in the knowledge which will be gained in dealing with the sand drift problem which is common to many of the lighter soil areas in this State. Younghusband Peninsula is in the Coorong area where the question of sand has become a problem.

Minister of Local Government, £820,000.—An amount of £200,000 has been provided in this Bill under this heading for the purpose of enabling the Minister to make grants to councils in connection with damage to public foreshore property occasioned by recent storms. The Government has set up a committee to advise the Minister on the making of grants to assist the various municipal and district councils in both metropolitan and country areas, and this committee will thoroughly examine all proposals which are submitted to ensure that the expenditure of the money gives the greatest possible security in the future. The amount appropriated under this section will be transferred to a special trust account. In this manner, Parliamentary authority having been given for the expenditure and the funds set aside for these purposes, the Minister, with the advice of the special committee, will be able to make immediate grants to meet urgent requirements.

Provision is also made under this heading for the transfer to the Highways Fund of £120,000 for the purpose of providing roads of access to war service land settlement areas.

Under the terms of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement the State has the responsibility of providing certain services to these areas, such services including schools and hospitals as well as roads. Under the scheme of soldier settlement the Commonwealth pays three-fifths of costs but one of the conditions is that the State must accept the responsibility for providing amenities for the settlers. These items are part of the amenities which it is the State's obligation to provide and which are beyond the means of the Highways Fund. Some roads have been already constructed in the areas at Loxton, and in the South-East and on Kangaroo Island, but if the settlement work is to continue unhindered many more miles of road must be provided, particularly in the South-East and on Kangaroo Island. In addition, the Government has decided to provide £500,000 for transfer to the Highways Fund for the construction of developmental roads and for repairs and maintenance to roads in country areas. Many country roads are at present in a bad state of repair, particularly those which have been carrying heavy wheel-load traffic. The moneys available in the Highways Fund have for some time been insufficient to enable the Highways Commissioner to carry out all of the maintenance and construction work in country areas which the Government decides to have done. Because of this it has been necessary, in many cases, for the Highways Commissioner to defer essential maintenance work on roads. If it can possibly be avoided, the deferring of road maintenance, it will be agreed, is most unwise, and the Government has decided to make further moneys available to enable this very essential work to be proceeded with. These amounts represent urgent and unavoidable expenditure which must be faced. Because the Highways Fund has been depleted it is incapable of doing all the work expected. If these amounts are not passed it will not only mean that our roads will not be kept in proper repair but the maintenance of a proper level of employment will be impracticable.

It was decided to include the amounts for purposes other than the storm damage in order that these necessary works should be maintained with a proper degree of efficiency. I commend the Bill to honourable members.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—Twelve months ago today we were asked to pass Estimates for a similar amount. On behalf of the Opposition I strongly protest against sittings such as this. For a

number of years it has been the procedure after six months recess to meet for one day and ask members to pass Bills representing millions of pounds without any information.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—I would not say without any information.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The only information I received was five minutes ago and yet we are asked to discuss a matter involving millions without being able to give it proper consideration. The honourable member is bound to support the Government irrespective of what the position is, but there is an Opposition here in the minority appointed by a majority of voters of the State. Although we are in opposition and are only four in number . . . .

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—It used to be five.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—And it will be six later . . . . We represent a majority of the voters but because of the gerrymandered districts we are in a minority. Without being personal, Mr. President, I believe the proceedings today have been illegal and I make that submission notwithstanding your view of the Constitution Act. I ask the Government to consider amending the Act to clear up any doubts. I do not think any member can support the view that a man elected to Parliament for three years—notwithstanding his position—can remain for six years.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—On a point of order, Mr. President, is the honourable member in order in wandering around the Constitution when we are discussing an Appropriation Bill?

The PRESIDENT—In the debate on an Appropriation Bill some latitude is usually allowed in the application of the rule of relevancy.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—This is not the first time the honourable member has taken objection to what I have said but this is the place to express one's views. Nobody upholds the dignity and prestige of this Chamber more than I and I want the business to be conducted fairly and squarely. Notwithstanding what the Parliamentary Draftsman has said there is a doubt about the legality of the proceedings today. I come now to the question of the Australian Wheat Board. Quite recently the Minister of Agriculture attended a conference at Canberra on the question of the Australian Wheat Agreement. He went there with certain views which I could not get from the Chief Secretary today,

but I think we are entitled to information when we seek it. However, when one asks a question of this Government one has to wait for the answer in the press the next day and I object to that procedure because the first duty of any Minister is to Parliament and not the press. Now what happened in connection with the Australian wheat agreement? We have two things to consider—an overseas parity or a local price. The Australian Wheatgrowers Federation, which appears to control the Government, attended a conference in Canberra and asked for a local price of 15s. a bushel for local consumption and 18s. overseas parity. A certain member of Parliament, who is recognized as an authority but was only an observer at the Washington conference, returned to tell the people of Australia what to do. This Government must be concerned about that because it will have to cast its vote on, I think, July 23. The same Australian wheatgrowers' representatives went to the Canberra conference and asked that the representatives of the manufacturing side be removed from the board. In other words, although they had seven representatives on a board of 11 they wanted the two representatives of the flourmillers and mill employees removed. I will say that, to his credit, Sir George Jenkins opposed it, but they have elected in addition two extra farmers' representatives, one from South Australia and one from Western Australia. What is the Government's policy? Does it want it both ways? This Government has to make up its mind. The dairyman is entitled to what he can get, but today the home consumption price for butter is 5d. a pound more than the overseas price, whereas the overseas price for wheat is higher than the home consumption price. If the Government wants London parity on wheat does it want it on butter? I suggest that the Government should give the dairy farmer every consideration because he is the hardest worked man in the community.

I am very surprised that members representing country constituents have failed in their duty. They talk about decentralization, but have failed dismally because they have done nothing to help the country. A few months ago the Federal Government decided to make a gift to Pakistan of 45,000 tons of wheat valued at £2,000,000, but this action resulted in the closing of flour mills, particularly in the country. Did any member of this Council offer any objection? Did they in any way attempt to rectify that? If any country is purchasing wheat and pays for it it can take it, but when this country makes a gift to another in the

shape of wheat and not as a manufactured article there is room for complaint. There is at Balaklava one of the biggest flour mills in South Australia which was idle for 11 years. Owing to the efforts of employers and employees that mill was re-started and worked for nine years but now, because of the action to which I have referred, it is working only one shift. Also the biggest mill in Port Adelaide is working only one shift. The Government boasts about the employment position but I say that both at Balaklava and Port Adelaide two-thirds of the employees were put off by reason of action supported by members of this place.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—What has that to do with the Supplementary Estimates?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—This Government controls the output and quality of flour and its export. The Australian Wheatgrowers Federation thinks only of wheat and is not concerned with the manufacturing side, whereas my concern is to keep the manufacturing industry working. I now wish to touch on electoral reform. There is an amount in this Bill for general expenses.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Are general expenses covered by this Bill?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I sought to shorten proceedings by speaking in regard to both Bills at once but as the honourable member has raised an objection I will reserve my further remarks for the other Bill.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—Prior to 1948 we always had on the opening day a Supply Bill for £2,000,000. Of recent years it has risen by degrees to £4,000,000, £5,500,000 and this year it will be £6,000,000 for the carrying on of all Government purposes. Such Bills were usually passed without discussion. In 1949 we had the first Supplementary Appropriation Bill for £621,000. In 1950 we had one for £220,000 for almost one purpose. In 1951 there was a Bill for £287,446 and for last year, 1952, a Bill for £370,000 for one specific purpose—the Railways Department. This year we have something rather surprising—an appropriation at this very late stage of the year for £1,175,500, details of which the Minister has given. It is unfair that we should be asked to appropriate, on a one sitting day, this huge expenditure which no member has had time to consider. We were informed through the press that £200,000 was required to deal with foreshore damage, but members, like myself, had no idea of the other large amounts mentioned therein.

I enter a slight protest against the Government for doing this. If the expenditure is so necessary Parliament should have been called together earlier and members given two or three days to thoroughly consider it.

As regards the £200,000 for assistance to meet foreshore damage caused by storms, part of the district I represent was heavily stricken. I am interested, in a larger way, in the whole situation, not only as regards the foreshores but the shores of the Southern Ocean. From my observations of the South Coast, as well as the St. Vincent Gulf, I am satisfied that the sea is encroaching on the land in this part of the world in exactly the same way as it has been doing for a long time in England and other places. We have heard much talk about some councils having been wrong in building walls so far out on the beaches but if proper investigations were made we would find that the sea was encroaching and that there were two sides to the question. I am satisfied, after an inspection of most of the beaches, that we have a lot to learn in the matter of building walls and dealing with the approach of the sea. Members have witnessed what has happened and I suggest that before the money is handed out—and I am pleased to hear from the Chief Secretary that a responsible committee will hold the money in trust—the Government should get an expert, preferably from England where they have studied the matter of the encroachment of the sea on the foreshore for hundreds of years, to supervise and see that the work is not done in a haphazard way by local engineers not possessing the general knowledge. It is essential that we should get somebody who knows something about it. Where walls have been built straight down into the sand the waves have undermined them and they have collapsed. Where there is a gradual slope it does not matter if the waves go over it, across the road and into houses. That does not cause any particular damage; the sea merely blows over the roads and does not wash them away. At West Beach, which has a natural situation along the sea front, the bathing boxes were not even washed away.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—And there was no damage because they do not encroach on the sea front.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—That is an argument which can be used both ways. I know something about the encroachment of the sea along the South Coast. Before the £200,000 which we are authorizing is spent we should get an expert to tell the councils what

is the best way to deal with the situation. The only other point I shall mention is the expenditure of £120,000 to provide roads of access to war service land settlement areas. Members know that, on the question of soldier land settlement, South Australia is only an agent for the Commonwealth. Two of the larger States, New South Wales and Victoria, decided to do the work themselves.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—The Commonwealth provides two-thirds of the money.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—The figures quoted by the Minister show that under the agreement we provide two-fifths of any losses and the Commonwealth three-fifths. I did not know that we had to provide all amenities, although I recognize that the provision of schools is a State job. The question of providing special roads, which I imagine applies principally to Kangaroo Island, should be a charge borne by the Federal Government, but I am surprised to know that this is not so. It seems wrong.

The only other matter is the estimate of £500,000 for country roads. That seems to be something which should have been thought of earlier and not put before members as an emergency to be passed at the last minute. The expenditure is out of all proportion to anything we have been asked to consider at such a late stage. I hope that large amounts for roads will be placed in the Estimates earlier in the year instead of being brought before us in this manner at the last minute.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—If members read clause 2 they will find that this is an all-embracing Bill. Since I have been in Parliament I have never had to deal with a Bill so far-reaching in regard to the State's finances. The Bill gives power to the Governor in Council or to the Governor himself, countersigned by the Chief Secretary, to take such amounts as are needed for the carrying out of specific works agreed to by Parliament or other appropriations. I protest against the practice that has grown up, and has been endorsed by the Government of introducing measures for the expenditure of millions, and allowing representatives of the people in this Chamber only a few hours for discussion. With Mr. Cudmore and the Leader of the Opposition I protest against the Government's action, which can only tend to bring our Parliamentary institution into disrepute with people outside. They have said before, and naturally will say again, that Parliament meets for a few hours and

agrees to the expenditure of millions without members having an opportunity of going into details. The practice grew up during the war period when it was necessary for a quick passage of measures of this nature.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—It didn't start until after the war.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It is an aftermath of the war. I protest in that connection because I am not prepared to come here for 15 hours and at 1 a.m. receive this measure from another place after it has been discussed there for six or seven hours and be expected to pass it within a few hours. The Acting Premier should have told us whether the amounts contained in the Supplementary Estimates have already been spent. He tells us that it is necessary for this measure, and another measure which will come later, to be passed by June 30. But why? Has the money been spent and, if not, why the indecent haste to pass the measure when the best result could be obtained by adjourning discussion in order to give members an opportunity to study the lines contained therein? Have departments overspent the amount voted in last year's Estimates? Mr. Cudmore, the Leader of the Opposition, and Opposition members have always maintained that measures should be introduced so that ample time should be afforded for a complete discussion of all proposals. The Government's action in this regard will bring outside condemnation on members of this Parliament. Last year we voted an amount of £500,000 for the Tramways Trust and a board was appointed to reorganize the finances of the trust. We are now asked to provide a further £200,000 without any supplementary report from that board relating to the condition in which it found the finances of the trust.

I disagree with Mr. Cudmore's contention that we should bring an engineer from overseas to investigate our foreshore conditions. He might just as well have advocated bringing King Canute back to life to push the waves back. Would he advocate the importation of a legal authority to deal with certain cases before they go to the High Court? I would have supported him had he suggested sending an engineer from the Harbors Board overseas to obtain information on the various walls on the foreshores of Britain and elsewhere. We have efficient and competent engineers in our Harbors Board. The committee which has been established includes capable and able Government officials. Instead of permitting councils to carry out the restoration work, why does

not the Government provide the money, after consultation with the councils and the Harbors Board engineers, and allow the board to do the work.

The Government finds itself in its present financial position because of the policy which has been pursued by the Federal Government. I will be accused of bringing Federal politics into this issue, but the fact that grants to the State are recommended by the Grants Commission, which is controlled federally, brings us under control of the Federal Parliament. I remind members what the Premier said on May 7 last year in a radio broadcast. He said:—

The main anxiety of the State Premiers at the recent Loan Conference was to avoid the dislocation, waste, and unemployment which would inevitably follow cuts in works programmes. On the one hand, there was the Commonwealth policy of severe credit restrictions, with its inevitable influence on the loan market.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—How do our unemployment figures compare with other States?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Figures from the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service reveal that unemployment in South Australia is much more than the one per cent claimed by this Government. We are asked to pass these amounts set out in this Bill because of the restrictive financial policy which has been pursued by the Menzies Government. That policy has been criticized by the Premier and yet the Acting Premier made no mention of the financial policy that is being implemented by the Federal Government which has an effect on every State of the Commonwealth. Until such time as this Government, in concert with other Governments, takes a firm stand against the action of the Loan Council our rights under the Constitution will be usurped. The inauguration of the Loan Council was only for the purpose of creating one borrowing authority. It has no constitutional power to dictate what the works programmes of the States will be. The Acting Premier attended a recent Loan Council meeting and can tell members that what I am saying is correct. This Government should make a stand so that the finances of this State may be placed on a proper basis and not be subservient to the dictates of those controlling the Loan Council.

This morning the Leader of the Opposition sought a ruling from you, Mr. President, but not in any atmosphere of antagonism. I endorse his remarks regarding your impartiality as President of this Council. When I

first came into this Chamber you were not President but occupied the position now occupied by Mr. Cudmore. With your elevation to the Presidential Chair you not only took with you your characteristic of fair play which you always displayed on the floor of the House but displayed that dignity which this Council has always cherished. If it came to an election on the position under the present conditions obtaining in the Council members of the Opposition would support you for the high office you hold.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—I regret that this Bill should have reached us at this late hour but there are obviously reasons for it and the Government evidently feels that it is necessary for us to pass it. Members have only had a short time to examine the measure. I do not know whether to congratulate the Government or the State on the results achieved this year. The Estimates of the Government reveal a surplus of over £1,000,000. The Government now seeks to allocate that money so that it comes within this year's expenditure. I believe I am right in that suggestion for it is provided that the moneys allocated under the Bill shall be paid to the State by the Commonwealth or from the general revenue of the State. I also note that the last clause provides that if there is not sufficient revenue the money shall be taken from Loan funds. The Government generally uses a double-barrelled gun for the purpose of allotting this money, but if we examine the nature of the allocations I feel sure we must conclude that the money is coming from revenue, for I do not think that any Government would seek to provide for expenditure under Supplementary Estimates from Loan funds. Consequently, it appears to me that the Government does not desire to show a surplus, which in previous years was regarded by any Government with a certain degree of pride as indicating the prosperity of the country. Whether that disinclination to show a surplus is justified I am not prepared to say but in most businesses, Government or private, a profit is now regarded by some people as being not quite justified. I say candidly, however, that no business can function unless it makes a profit and having made it why the surplus should not be shown somewhat surprises me. I realize, however, that our methods of finance have drifted in recent years and probably it is because of the approach to the Commonwealth Grants Commission or some other reason that this money, which of course cannot be spent this financial year, is to be carried over for expenditure in the forthcoming year.

I feel that a further explanation should be given. I may be quite wrong in my supposition but that does appear to be the case.

I have always regarded surpluses to mean a reduction of taxation. Actually, this money has been obtained either from taxation or from the Commonwealth Government and it seems to me that any surplus should be applied either to the reduction of taxation or credited against loans raised in previous years. By adopting the method now set out the Government is increasing the Estimates of this year by £1,175,000 and we are asked to allocate it in this very brief period of time and with little explanation. If it is a surplus the allocation of these funds can be reasonably accepted. I do not suppose anybody would regard an expenditure of £75,000 for the general purposes of the Minister of Health's Department as excessive. We are not informed what it is for, but I take it is for the general maintenance of hospitals. The question of further advances to the Tramways Trust, however, raises a somewhat bigger issue. We have already this year approved of an advance of £500,000 and now we are asked to appropriate a further £200,000. I know that the trust has lost that money, but pouring money into any organization is not necessarily the way to assist it to recover. It could be done, and I think should be done, in some other way and I feel sure from what I have heard and know that considerable savings in expenditure could be made. I readily accept the explanation in regard to the Minister of Education's department as it was made quite clear that this additional expenditure is to meet the rising costs of the University during the first six months of this year.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Does the honourable member think the University is as economical as it might be?

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—Yes. I represent this Council on the University Council and, indeed, am a member of its budget committee, and I can assure members that its budget is very carefully scrutinized. However, I think we are drifting into an awkward and rather dangerous position for a young country which is not as wealthy as its neighbours. We have every right to have university services in Adelaide equal to those in other States and that is a policy the University is adopting; as long as its expenditure does not exceed the rate of expenditure per student in the Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane Universities the Government increases its grant.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Does the honourable member think that is a wise policy?

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I think it is dangerous. While we are prosperous we can do it and while we have a Commonwealth Government with ample funds the Commonwealth can supply it in our State grant, but those responsible for this arrangement are treading on rather dangerous ground if we have to meet a situation which forces us to curtail expenditure.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—The same comparison might even be made in respect to the tramways.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—It might, and knowing the Government's method of financing I think it is advancing this £200,000 on the same basis. The only other point I should like to mention is the item of £620,000 for the Highways Department. I do not think this money should be earmarked for country roads. I think it far preferable to leave it to the discretion of the department to spend the money wherever it is most needed. I know of a road in the metropolitan area which is in a very unsatisfactory condition. However, I do not press that point but the expenditure of this £620,000 might well be left to the discretion of the Minister or the department. I would have felt far more satisfied if we had a little further explanation of where this money is coming from, but it has not been given and consequently I must assume that it comes from a surplus in revenue, or if not from revenue that it is money which has come into the coffers of the State during the financial year now ending. If I did not believe that I should have to oppose clause 5.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1)—This is the first occasion on which I have had the opportunity to participate in the opening of a new Parliament and I was amazed to learn today that a new Parliament did not elect a new President of the Legislative Council. I interpreted the Constitution to mean that the election of President was valid for the one Parliament only. I have no aspirations to the Presidency, and I would be happy to support you, Mr. President, in your continuation in office, but I feel that the specific provision in the Constitution should be made clearer to the layman.

In introducing the measure the Chief Secretary claimed that it was one of urgency and that the amount sought was required for the maintenance of various departments. I might be permitted to criticize the method of members having to wait within the precincts

of Parliament House for 13 hours, doing practically nothing, and then being required to seriously consider an expenditure of £1,175,500. Mr. Cudmore said he desired to enter a slight protest. There should not be merely a slight protest; I feel that as a responsible member I should make a strong protest. If the measure is so urgent Parliament could have opened last Tuesday when members would have had an opportunity to give full consideration to the Bill and be able to debate the matters contained in it. The sum of £1,175,500 is not a mere trifle and we should understand what we are doing. Many items are worthy of serious consideration and it is our duty to consider them properly, but we have not had five minutes in which to peruse the Bill and debate the items. That is wrong and although it may have been done in the past the Government should seriously consider giving members more time to examine and discuss fully the various items.

I desire more information on one or two items. All I can see is that certain further sums are required. I do not know what they are for, but I am entitled to know. Let me quote the sum of £75,500 allocated to the Chief Secretary and the Minister of Health. If I were asked by any of my constituents for what purpose the amount was allocated I could not give them an answer, because I do not know. I might be told, "You should know; what are you there for?" Another item is a sum of £200,000 for the Tramways Trust, which is in addition to the £500,000 we granted not long ago to assist it to carry on. When the measure for a grant of £500,000 was before members I understood that the Government and Parliament was being called upon to assist the trust with its deficit and get it back on an even keel. I understood that grants to the trust would be in the vicinity of £500,000 a year for five years for the specific purpose of liquidating the £3,000,000 deficit with which the trust was faced, but in addition to the £500,000 we are being asked to grant an additional £200,000. Is the trust to continue to lose money and will the Government be called upon to make additional grants to assist it? I suggested at the time that the Government should take over the whole administration of our transport system, as well as the Tramways Trust itself. Failing this, I suggested that a representative of the Tramways Employees Union should be appointed to the proposed board. The suggestion, however, was not adopted. If it had been a further appropriation this year would not have been necessary.

Another item is £20,000 for the Housing Trust in order to provide roads and drainage under the emergency housing scheme. I desire further information about that. Apparently it takes in all the emergency housing schemes. One such scheme is located at Mansfield Park, where about 500 temporary homes are built. It would require more money than we are asked to allocate to make any kind of road in that area. I have visited the locality on numerous occasions and found that when driving a motor car one had to stop when turning into the roads. Great holes have been dug by traffic all over the area and it would take a person literally a fortnight to get out of them. Only a few loads of ashes have been thrown over the roads. These temporary homes will become permanent ones as we have nowhere else to put the occupiers and it will be a long time before we can transfer them to permanent brick homes. We have only to look at the homes at Salisbury, which were to be temporary ones. I know one person who has been there for 10 years and has been unable to get out. Would it not be cheaper to construct a metal road rather than pay large sums to fill up the holes with ashes? There is a big drain at Mansfield Park in which the water lies. It may be claimed that the local council could do something in the matter. More than £20,000 will be required to make a good road on the site. That brings me to the amount of £200,000 for the restoration of foreshores. I understand that a deputation from the various councils waited on the Government and tendered estimates of damage and requested assistance. Glenelg applied for £28,000, Brighton for £67,000, Port Adelaide for £2,100 and Henley and Grange for £60,000—a total of £157,100. That leaves a balance of £42,900 from the proposed vote, but is that to be used for country foreshores? From information I have received I believe considerable damage has been done to country beaches. Various places had jetties which were used by commercial fishermen, but they no longer exist. We have no intimation of how the money will be expended or whether it will be anywhere near sufficient. The storm damage at Henley Beach was considerable and even the stone pitch wall built on a slant was undermined. That seems to destroy the theory that walls built on a slant will withstand heavy seas. Something must be done to restore the beaches before the summer because visits to the beach are the only relaxation a number of people have.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—Why?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Some workers cannot afford caravans or to rent places for holidays and they take their families to the beach for their relaxation. During summer I take my children to the beach and spend a fortnight there, but I am more fortunate than some in that respect. In view of the great amount of damage that was done we should have more information as to how this money will be spent and what damage has been caused to country foreshores. I hope the Government in future will seriously consider allowing us sufficient time to examine and study measures similar to this Bill.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE (Southern)—Included on the committees set up to inquire into the foreshore damage are Mr. Dridan, the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. Meyer, general manager of the Harbors Board, Mr. Richmond, Highways Commissioner, and Mr. Drew, the Under Treasurer. They are very competent officers who are held in highest esteem by the Public Works Standing Committee. Notwithstanding the doubts expressed that country people may not receive fair treatment under the proposal, I believe these officers will see that the right thing is done. Departmental officers have already visited Port Noarlunga. Within that district council area the estimated damage is £8,300. I have also heard that damage has been caused at Yankalilla and Encounter Bay. One departmental officer has said that it was about time we learned that instead of having square block buildings on the beaches we should have a revetment on a decent batter with a turn at the top so that the waves would be encouraged back into the sea. I believe the suggestion is a very practical one.

It is proposed to expend £500,000 to provide for the development of roads in country areas and repair and maintain country roads. Only the week before last at a deputation to the Minister of Local Government I drew his attention to the fact that there are certain hundreds outside district councils areas as well as inside district council areas a little north from the Kingston to Keith road where about 80,000 acres are to be brought under pasture development. I refer to the hundreds of Willalooka, Petherick, Peacock, and Marcollat. Today that country would not carry a sheep to 30 acres, but in future it is expected to carry about a sheep to the acre. This area does not include developmental work being undertaken by the A.M.P. Society. Most of the 80,000 acres will be developed by private people who

have been encouraged to come here from other States and who are at present unable to get on to their property in the winter months. It is that kind of thing which encourages me to support the expenditure of this £500,000. I hope the Minister and his officer who is responsible for dealing with roads outside district council areas will make an early visit to this district and see for themselves what is going on. Members should commend a Government which is prepared to support people who are investing private capital to bring into production country which was previously practically useless. I intend to support the Bill and consider that the Council should endorse the Government's action. However, I hope that in future when we are asked to deal with Supplementary Estimates it will be at a reasonable time of the day and that we shall not be compelled to sit here until after 3 a.m.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—I share in the regret of honourable members that the debate on this measure could not have been arranged for an earlier hour, and consider that we might have had a little more time to satisfy ourselves why the Government was introducing Estimates for such a large amount. I dare say the Minister in charge will give details of each item, and be able to explain easily the amounts set down for assistance to certain hospitals and institutions. Anyone who has had anything to do with hospitals or charitable institutions knows how costs have risen in the last 12 or 18 months, and how difficult it is for them to carry on, particularly those which depend almost entirely upon public benefactions and subscriptions. Whereas previously they could carry on under their own steam, some have found it necessary to come to the Government for financial assistance.

As regards the proposed advance to the Tramways Trust, members will have an opportunity later to discuss its affairs. My views are very different from those of one honourable member who said that he thought the cure for the trust's troubles was for the Government to take it over completely. I am afraid that if that were done losses would be considerably higher than they are now. My cure would be to allow private enterprise to control much of the work now done by the trust. In fact, a metropolitan transport organization has offered to do it. I believe figures have been produced to show that the trust could be operated without loss to the taxpayers.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Do you favour private enterprise controlling all transport?

The Hon. E. ANTHONEY—I favour it controlling that form of transport. A number of the privately run bus routes are returning handsome profits and if the trust were controlled by private enterprise, with some Government supervision, it could become a payable concern.

I agree with my colleague that the financial system under which the University functions may be a dangerous one. Our University has always had a high reputation, because of the excellent scholars it produces. It is endeavouring to maintain that high standard and we should give it every encouragement. It should not be in the position of having to compete with a University in a wealthy State like New South Wales.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Is not that University in the same financial position as ours?

The Hon. E. ANTHONEY—Most universities go to the Government for financial assistance.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Was not a Commonwealth Labor Government the first to make grants to universities?

The Hon. E. ANTHONEY—Yes, but whoever makes the grants the money still comes out of the pockets of the taxpayers. Whilst the Commonwealth remains prosperous and grants to universities can continue, everything will be all right, but if bad times come the universities will soon feel the pinch.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Have you any suggestions to meet such a position?

The Hon. E. ANTHONEY—I have made suggestions from time to time. Perhaps it would not be a bad idea to increase some of the fees paid by students. That would not return a substantial amount but it would be one way of increasing revenue. A large number of university students pay no fees, and that is something which might be investigated. I cannot see why any student should have completely free instruction, especially as in these days people can afford to pay for it. Unless the position has been altered in the last 12 months or so some students doing the Bachelor of Arts course pay no fees.

The Hon. R. J. Rudall—The Government pays a fair subsidy to the University.

The Hon. E. ANTHONEY—That is so. Most members have the impression that Parliament was called together early to authorize the Government contributing £200,000 to seaside councils for the repair of foreshores severely damaged by recent storms. I congratulate the Government on its prompt action in dealing

with the matter, and the councils concerned are grateful. We all hope that the conditions which existed before the storms will not be repeated, such as foreshore improvements being too close to low water mark. Two of our Harbors Board engineers went overseas several years ago to investigate harbour conditions and foreshore improvements, and they should be able to give expert advice on the matter. All the foreshore from Marino to Grange is barred to traffic because of its dangerous state, and unless something is done quickly there will be large claims on councils for damages.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Are there not more urgent works?

The Hon. E. ANTHONEY—No. Instead of talking so much on this matter it would be better to take a vote and make the money available to councils so that the work can be expedited.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I hesitate to rise at this hour, but certain remarks have been made in which I have been asked for more information and some comments call for clarification. I appreciate the attention members have given to this Bill and I concede to them every remark they have made concerning its importance. Although some members have been rather critical I assure them that there is not one item which would not have to be met either in this financial year or the next. The advantage of meeting it this year is, at least, that it will relieve next year's finances of that amount. Mr. Perry was correct when he suggested that it was made possible to meet this essential expenditure because of savings on the original Budget. The drafting of a certain clause of this Bill which mentions the word "loan" does not connote sinister motives; it is going to be met out of revenue. There have been considerable savings which was very fortunate for the State. Had this been a spendthrift administration it would have been in a sorry position when faced with this unexpected storm damage. There was a considerable saving because we did not have to meet the cost of living increase estimated when the Budget was prepared and there was a saving on interest charges as certain moneys were provided by the Commonwealth at the rate of one per cent instead of a much higher rate. In administration alone there was a further saving of half a million pounds, and it is because of this situation that we are able to do these things and provide for an expenditure which, although queried by

some members, has not been seriously challenged as to merit. Mr. Perry suggested that any surplus should be carried on to next year, but that is not a practical suggestion under Government methods of finance. The amount could not have been carried forward; it would have disappeared and would not have available in the next financial year and consequently it would not make possible a reduction in taxation.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Where would it disappear to?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—Into the sinking fund and elsewhere.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You are under the dominance of the Loan Council.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—Quite the contrary. I want to correct some misconceptions Mr. Bardolph has regarding the responsibilities of the Loan Council and what the Financial Agreement really means. He suggests that the Commonwealth controls the States and the Loan Council, but it does not. Under the financial agreement each State has equal voting strength with the Commonwealth and decisions have to be unanimous. Clause 8 of the agreement is as follows:—

If the Loan Council decides that the total amount of the loan programme for the year cannot be borrowed at reasonable rates and conditions it shall decide the amount to be borrowed for the year and may, by unanimous decision, allocate the amount between the Commonwealth and the States.

The Loan Council does not dictate the loan programme to the States, but merely decides the amount of money which is available. Any responsible body, which is what that body is supposed to be, would consider the financial stability and welfare of the people.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Does not that control the loan programme?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The Loan Council has not the power to create money. It decides the limit of funds which can be made available, which has been considerably increased by the Commonwealth subscribing certain sums which, translated into common English, is taxation of the people. It was the present Commonwealth Government which first made these contributions to cushion the effect of reduced loan moneys available after the war. During the war huge sums were contributed to the loan funds of the Commonwealth. People had nothing else to do with their money and they invested it in Commonwealth loans in the hope that it would be available when they required it for their own use in their own businesses. When that was no longer available the Commonwealth subscribed about

£153,000,000. The following year it was £130,000,000 and this year it proposes to contribute £105,000,000 in a £200,000,000 programme. The Commonwealth is not dictating, as the honourable member says, but is subscribing towards the amount that is available from the normal savings of the community. It will be a sorry day for private individuals when they are taxed to the limit to subscribe loans to the Government just to make it the sole employer in the community. A few months ago Labor members stumped the country suggesting that taxation should be reduced, and yet a little later with their tongues in their cheeks they suggested increased loans from the Commonwealth, a course which could mean only increased taxation. I cannot understand such inconsistency.

Members have referred to the £200,000 provided for the repair and greater future security of public foreshore property. One member suggested that outside experts having experience in beach erosion should be brought to this State. This money is provided not for experimental purposes but to assist councils throughout the State to restore roads and other public property damaged by storms along the seafront. Those repairs should be effected in a manner which will ensure that the damage does not again occur. Our engineers have all the information regarding such schemes, for Mr. Meyer, General Manager of the Harbors Board, has been abroad within the last two years and is in touch with the latest developments in other parts of the world. Local governing bodies affected throughout the State have been invited to submit their claims to the special committee which has been set up. I thank honourable members for their attention to this measure.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 passed.

Clause 5—“Power to issue money other than revenue or money received from the Commonwealth.”

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—In the event of the moneys mentioned in clause 2 being insufficient what procedure will be adopted by the Government to give effect to the provisions of clause 5?

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—This clause is identical with that included in similar measures over the past five years.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—In my second reading speech I explained that

this Bill followed the normal pattern of drafting and I assure members that no suggestion has been made that the moneys be obtained from any sources other than revenue.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill reported without amendment and Committee's report adopted. Read a third time and passed.

#### SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1).

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

Second reading.

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN (Chief Secretary)

—I move—

That this Bill be read a second time.

This Bill follows the usual form of Supply Bills and the amount for which authority of Parliament is being sought for expenditure for the public service of the State for the financial year ending June 30, 1954, is £6,000,000. This amount will be sufficient to carry on the services of the State for approximately two months. Clause 2 provides for the issue of an amount not exceeding £6,000,000. Clause 3 provides that no payment shall be made out of the moneys provided under clause 2 in excess of the rates voted for similar services on the Estimates for the financial year ending on June 30, 1953; except that increases in salaries or wages fixed or prescribed pursuant to any award or determination may be paid. Clause 3 (2) gives the Treasurer power to pay such increases out of the moneys voted by Parliament in this Bill. Honourable members may consider the amount of £6,000,000 to be considerable, but with present day costs the Governor's appropriation would not provide for one pay period for the State. Therefore, we could not carry on if we did not have this authority immediately we entered a new financial year. Expenditure is controlled because it cannot be at a rate higher than that for the previous financial year.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—I am sorry to detain the Council at this hour of the morning, but it is due to members objecting when I desired to speak on a previous measure. Again we are asked to pass in a few hours a measure appropriating the large sum of £6,000,000. I do not object to the salaries paid to the higher paid public

servants, but some of them are receiving £400 or £500 more than members of Parliament. I concede that they are entitled to their salaries, but nothing has been done to increase the salaries of lower paid officers, such as our messenger staff. Those on the lower rungs in the public service are entitled to more consideration. If it were in my power I would increase their salaries tomorrow, if only for the sake of the dignity of this institution.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—I support the second reading of the Bill, which is in the usual form, the only difference being that the amount is £500,000 higher than that proposed in the corresponding Bill last year. Some years ago the usual amount was £2,000,000, then it increased to £4,000,000, and last year to £5,500,000. Of course, rising costs have resulted in the increases. I deprecate Mr. Condon's action in bringing up an individual case on a measure like this, which is a Supply Bill for the Government to carry on the whole of the public service.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—I have no recollection of asking you for advice.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—I hope we shall not have to listen to further discussions on individual cases, as they are right out of place on such a Bill as this.

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

#### JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

A message was received from the House of Assembly requesting the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment of a Joint House Committee.

The President and the Hons. E. Anthoney, K. E. J. Bardolph and Sir Wallace Sandford were appointed to represent the Legislative Council on the Committee.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

A message was received from the House of Assembly requesting the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment of a Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

The Hons. E. Anthoney, S. C. Bevan and W. W. Robinson were appointed to represent the Legislative Council on the Committee.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.42 a.m. on Friday, June 26, the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 21, at 2 p.m.