

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, September 29, 1954.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 28. Page 759.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—The Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement provided for a sum of £3,600,000 and that, added to the £27,295,000 proposed in the Loan Estimates, brings the total that we are considering this afternoon to a little under £31,000,000 for expenditure on capital works. Whether that sum will be available to meet this programme is doubtful. Interest rates and costs have increased and it will be impossible to complete the work mentioned in the programme, so I think we are justified in calling this a little bit of window dressing. If the Government planned less and did more it would be of advantage to the State. The public debt has increased alarmingly during the past seven years and now stands at the very large figure of £218,000,000. The provisions of this Bill are based on the assumption that £180,000,000 will be available from the Commonwealth, but there is no guarantee that South Australia will get its share for it did not last year. The recent loan was over-subscribed, it is true, but on present indications it is not certain that a public loan in the near future would be successful.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—I thought we got a bit more than our share last year?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It was a question of £123,000,000 and we did not get it; I may have a little more to say on that later. It may be of interest to note that when I addressed myself to my first Budget speech in Parliament, Loan expenditure was only about £9,000,000. You, Mr. President, are the only member of this Council who was present at that time. Mr. Anthoney was a member of another place and the only other remaining members are the Speaker (Sir Robert Nicholls), the Honourable M. McIntosh and Mr. O'Halloran. I mention that to draw attention to the fact that today we are asked to spend £27,000,000.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—How much was the Loan expenditure then?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Nothing compared with what it is today.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—What about talking about the Loan Bill?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I noticed in the press recently that the honourable member was referred to as the Leader of this place, but I do not want him to tell me what I am to say. At the outset I wish to record the Opposition's disapproval of the scant time allowed for consideration of the Loan Estimates. They were before the Assembly for a month and during that time the House devoted several evenings to the debate, whereas we are asked to pass them, and the huge sum involved, in two days. Last year only eight speakers took part in the debate in this Council on the Public Purposes Loan Bill and I am led to wonder whether that is due to the fact that we have such limited time at our disposal or because no interest is taken by members in this topic. I contend, however, that it is a very important part of our deliberations and that we should all be prepared to express our opinions on the Loan Estimates. On behalf of the Opposition I protest that the time at our disposal to discuss these Estimates is limited. My second criticism relates to the way in which members of the Council are treated with regard to the introduction of Bills. I have protested before, but as it does not appear to be of any avail members of the Opposition must take every opportunity to protest further. Last week the Minister of Local Government, after having first obtained the suspension of Standing Orders, obtained leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Local Government Act. Naturally when a Minister introduces a Bill every honourable member is entitled to have a look at it.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Are you not rather contradictory? You are complaining of having insufficient time to discuss the Loan Estimates and also of my rushing a Bill before the House to give you plenty of time to have a look at it.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I inquired for a copy of the Bill, but could not get one, but had to get my information from the press next day.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—That is not so.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I got my information from the press as to what the Bill contained. When I inquired at lunch-time for a copy of it, I was told that it was not available. This is the place which should have the first information concerning any Bill. What I have said happens repeatedly, and it is about time the present procedure of members having to discuss a Bill of which they have not seen a

copy was discontinued. I warn the Government that it cannot continue on these lines. Recently I wanted certain information regarding the wheat ballot-paper but could not get it locally, and had to write to each Minister of Agriculture in the other States. Eventually I got a copy from New South Wales.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—The ballot-papers did not come from the Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—But they come under his control. On several occasions when I inquired what was on the ballot-paper I was called to order. The Australian Wheat Board also issued a gazette containing the information regarding the ballot. Therefore, I consider that my complaint is justified. Surely members are not in a kindergarten, and surely this practice of our being scrubbed every time we ask the Government for information will not continue? Because the Government has a majority in both Houses it thinks it can get away with everything.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—I do not support that.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Unfortunately that attitude is supported here from time to time. I am not blaming members for that; I admire their loyalty. No matter what the majority may be, at least we all have equal rights. We are just as entitled to information as any supporter of the Government. What I will now say is in no way personal, but I shall say it because I think it is of interest. In the Loan Estimates £435,000 is provided for loans to producers, but my contention is that the Government is not doing what it should to encourage secondary industries; in fact, it is discouraging them. Any industry, no matter how small, is entitled to consideration. This Government boasts about what it does for industries and I commend it for what it has done, but I shall criticize it for what it has not done. Recently I raised in this Council the question of the position of the margarine industry in South Australia. The Government has caused an industry to be closed down and hands dismissed under the pretence of helping the dairying industry. If that had been accomplished my argument would not have had much force, but it has not. What do members care if a secondary industry is closed down and men put out of work if they can mislead people under the pretence that they are helping a primary industry?

The Hon. E. Anthoney—I do not think the honourable member is justified in making that remark.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am making the remark, and I will indicate to members how they have done it. I waited on the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture recently and told them what would happen if they forced the margarine industry to close down. I challenge any member of this Chamber to indicate any other industry that has received that treatment.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—The manufacturers finished their quotas.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I know my friend has no regard for the members of this industry. The factories have been closed yet we still have importations from another State sold here at a higher price, and the Government will do nothing about it. On three occasions I have inquired what the Government intends to do but have not been able to get any reply. I have received correspondence from various towns represented by southern members, including the Minister of Local Government, who have opposed the manufacture of margarine in this State, yet they have allowed it to be imported here by two companies to be sold at 4d. or 5d. a pound above the fixed price for this State. I challenge these members to say what has been done about this. It is all very well to go into the country and say that they are protecting the dairying industry, but they are not—they are penalizing South Australian manufacturers and aiding and abetting importations from other States. The Minister is one who was prepared to allow South Australian manufacturers, including those in his own district, to be treated as they have been. He sits back and says nothing because he knows he has done something detrimental to the industry. I challenge him to disprove this, and ask him what he intends to do about it. I have been told that this is a matter for the Agricultural Council, but it is nothing of the sort. That body fixed quotas in the first place, but since that time every Parliament in the Commonwealth has increased them. The company importing margarine into South Australia is flouting the New South Wales law, and is doing in South Australia what it has been doing there. This Government has no justification for its action. It is unwarranted, unjust and unfair, and if Standing Orders permitted me I would say something stronger about the Government's attitude.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—The honourable member can table a motion if he wants to debate it.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—My friend would be a "yes" man, because his Party has a

majority; it is about time he expressed his own opinion. What chance has any Labor man of getting any consideration for a Bill that he might introduce when the Government is prepared to penalize a local industry and aid and abet importations at a higher price? The Government says that margarine interferes with the dairying industry but what is it doing to prevent these importations? Section 92 of the Constitution precludes us from stopping anyone introducing margarine here; that being so, why have the local factories been closed down? I speak feelingly on this matter because it is an injustice that Parliament should not be so pig-headed about and should rectify. I hope that the Government will endeavour to prevent these importations; that it will take action against the people who are flouting the Prices Act, because a South Australian manufacturer would not be allowed to do so, and that it will not continue its attitude of closing local businesses and extending the hand of welcome to manufacturers in another State to send goods here to be sold above the fixed price. I think the people concerned have an action against the Government because of the attitude it has taken. I have always been prepared to help the man on the land and I have no objection to efforts being made to increase butter consumption in their interests. However, it is not fair to close down a local industry and allow two firms to flout the law by charging more than the local fixed price. Knowing that the Minister is concerned with his own district I will leave the matter with him, although he has not been prepared, nor have any of his colleagues, to lift one finger to correct this serious injustice.

The Hon. A. A. Hoare—What is the reason given, if any?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The protection of dairymen. I cannot understand the Government's attitude. If any member can show me any other industry in South Australia that has been closed down in the same way I am prepared to listen to him, but I defy anyone to point out such a case. If the Government really considered this matter to be of sufficient importance to do anything about it I think it would have informed us, but I have asked for information on three occasions without success. I have been brushed off, but there will be no more brushing off, for I will raise this question on every occasion that Standing Orders permit.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—The honourable member has not been brushed off. The Chief Secretary gave him a courteous answer.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I asked last Wednesday for a reply, and yesterday got the same answer as I got last week. Turning to the respective lines, it is pleasing to note the increased population in South Australia, although it is regrettable that the bulk of it has taken place in the metropolitan area. Admittedly the population of towns like Port Pirie, Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Port Augusta has grown, but we seem to be making too much provision for centralization. What the Government has done in several respects has always had my approval and I have repeatedly commended it, but I have never failed to criticize the Government when I have thought it necessary, and I will offer some criticism this afternoon of matters contained in these Estimates.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Criticism is becoming more frequently necessary.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Yes, and I think the Government will not have the rosy path in future that it has enjoyed in the past because it cannot always be one-way traffic; if the Opposition has anything reasonable to put forward it has a right to have it considered. The first line is £1,350,000 for advances for homes. Prior to the war the State Bank did a wonderful job in assisting to house the people, but during the war its expenditure was considerably curtailed owing to the intervention of the Housing Trust, which also has contributed a fine effort in providing homes for the people. The time has now come, however, for the State Bank to play a more important part in housing and we should give every encouragement to the Government to place larger sums at its disposal. One naturally, therefore, is in sympathy with this item.

A sum of £432,000 is provided for loans to producers, and the money will be spent on construction of additions to cool stores, purchase of fishing boats, extension of fruit packing sheds, milk product factories, wineries and distilleries. I understand that it is proposed to spend £15,000 on fishing vessels but, as one who visits various parts of the State, I cannot understand why people have to pay 14s. a lb. for whiting when the fishermen receive only 2s. 9d. a lb. This is a matter well worthy of investigation. A considerable amount will be spent on the provision of moorings and small jetties for fishermen, but I would like to know what the Haldane Bros.' boat at Port Lincoln is costing the Government.

The Hon. E. Anthony—The Government will tell you if you ask.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Will it? I have had experience of asking for information without getting it; I have complained of that already this afternoon. My friend may be able to get it because he belongs to a different Party.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—That has nothing to do with it.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I thought that at one time, but I have reason to think differently now. For advances to settlers £50,000 is set down for expenditure on permanent improvements, including dwellings. Again, this is an item of expenditure to help the primary industries with which I am in full accord, but I cannot lose sight of the fact that there are industries in the metropolitan area that could well be considered. Under the heading of Highways and Local Government Department provision is made for loans to councils for purchasing road-making plant. During the last year or so little has been done in this direction and some councils have not availed themselves of the opportunity to secure money for purchasing plant. However, I think our new Minister of Roads will give a little more attention to road construction and maintenance, not only in country districts but in the metropolitan area.

The next item is Woods and Forests Department, £1,300,000. The most important project in connection with this department is the erection of the central mill at Mount Gambier. This department has made rapid strides in recent years and is doing an excellent job, and it should be in a position in the near future to show a satisfactory profit. In this field private enterprise has an opportunity to play its part in the welfare of the State and it too has done much to develop the timber industry. Of the £2,176,000 set down for the Railways Department, £157,000 is earmarked for cottages. No-one would deny that there is need for great improvement in the residences of railwaymen, particularly those in country districts, for in the past they have not received proper consideration. A considerable sum is also provided for new rollingstock. I do not know what is wrong with the Railways Department, but it is a peculiar thing that, even on the Port line, comparatively few people patronize the railways.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—All of them have motor cars these days.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—At the same time we are told by the Chief Secretary that the department is at its wits end to cope with the traffic.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Goods.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Now it is proposed to spend a large sum to bring our rollingstock up-to-date. I hope the passenger side will not be neglected. During the past few years the Railway Department, like other Government departments, has been unable to secure sufficient labour. On the other hand, however, we find that men are leaving private industry to join the Engineering and Water Supply Department because they can get overtime at weekends, which is a heavy cost to the Government. However, it is important that this work is done and if we want the labour we have to pay for it. For many of the important Government undertakings it is necessary for work to be done on Saturdays and Sundays, and this increases costs.

I have a very high regard for officers in the various Government departments. My opinion has been confirmed because of my association with them as a member of the Public Works Standing Committee. This State is very fortunate in having such officers and in being able to keep them. However, big industries try to induce them away by offering higher salaries. It would be an advantage to members to have the Auditor-General's report before them when discussing the Loan Estimates. We had this advantage last year, but we cannot get copies of the last report because so many employees have left the Government Printing Office owing to outside inducements. Many of these men have been loyal to the Government and worked under difficulties in an endeavour to keep up-to-date with their work. It is because of these difficulties that at times we cannot get our *Hansards* when required and also the Auditor-General's report. Often those who are the first to preach against increased wages are the first to break the practice when it suits them.

An amount of £800,000 is provided on the Estimates for the Harbors Board, including land purchased amounting to £80,000. I take it that this latter expense is in connection with land bought in the Port Adelaide district. Many people there have lost their homes and their land because it has been acquired by the Government. In the course of development, someone has to suffer.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—They have been compensated.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—In practically every case, but there are disputes. On occasions when the Education Department and other Government departments wanted to buy

land fictitious prices have been asked, which the Government has generally been compelled to pay. In one instance recently a man in a southern suburb asked more than the Government was prepared to pay. The matter went to court and the owner was granted a much higher sum than he asked in the first place. So, when it comes to the question of law in regard to the acquisition of land, it is a difficult matter. I think there should be a tighter rein in this respect.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—What else could the Government do?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I think there is another method, but I am not prepared to say what it is. It is proposed to spend £80,630 on the reconstruction of the coal handling plant at Osborne. Some years ago there was great opposition to the transfer of the coal handling appliances at Port Adelaide to Osborne. One would have thought that in the short intervening period, with the use of the latest type of handling gear, it would not now be necessary to spend the considerable sum set down for an extra berth at Osborne. The Harbors Board is also spending £125,000 at Kingscote, Kangaroo Island. The Government has already spent huge sums in opening up land and it has now become necessary to provide increased and improved facilities for the transport of stock and goods to and from the mainland. In this connection the Coast Steamship Company is providing a boat next year to meet the position. Many men on the island are not satisfied with the present conditions and say there must be air transport for cattle. This will have to be considered in the near future. The jetty at Kingscote will be widened and new sheds built, and I think that this will result in delays being obviated.

The estimated expenditure from loan by the Engineering and Water Supply Department this year amounts to more than £5,500,000. If the Government completed one job before starting another, we should be further ahead. Today its policy is to build in bits and pieces, and the result is that instead of one job being completed in, say, six months we have to wait 12 months. Too much uncompleted work is scattered throughout the State. It would be more economical to complete one job instead of attempting many. A few years ago a start was made on the South Para reservoir and a beginning is being made on other water projects. The Government is now at its wits' end as to whether it can complete the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, as water is so urgently required for use this summer. Just under

£3,000,000 has been spent on the Yorke Peninsula water scheme. Although we are spending money all over the State, we do not seem to be getting anywhere. In addition to the money already spent on the South Para reservoir, the Mannum-Adelaide main, Millbrook, Hope Valley, and Mount Bold reservoirs, it is now proposed to spend £3,000,000 on a reservoir at Myponga. If we do not receive adequate rains within the next few weeks we shall be faced with a serious position. It is admitted that this money must be spent and that people must be supplied with water. What is more important? I understand that the Government is contemplating increasing water rates.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—You will support that, won't you?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I want to know the conditions. The Government should consider increasing assessments. Some of our richest lands, which should be assessed at 7d. an acre, are assessed at only 4d. Over a period of years the Public Works Standing Committee has drawn the Government's attention to this position. I am referring to Cummins, Yeelanna and other places for which recommendations were made for an increase, but they have not been carried out. For the first time for many years the metropolitan water supply showed a loss in the last year; what was once 11 per cent profit on capital is now a distinct loss, and I understand the necessity for considering the position. When the Minister asks me whether I am going to support a Bill, my reply is that I ought to have a look at it before I give my reply. Provision is made for £2,012,200 for the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline; when this work is completed I think it will cost about £7,000,000. This year £138,000 is provided for the South Para reservoir. The Tod River scheme, which has played a very important part in the development of the West Coast, has £170,000 provided for it. Over £1,000,000 is provided for the Beetaloo, Bundaleer and Baroota districts, of which £780,000 is to be spent on Yorke Peninsula. An amount of £220,500 is provided for reticulation sewers and miscellaneous extensions in the Adelaide district, and £90,000 for house connections. Provision is also made for £40,000 for the Port Lincoln sewerage scheme and £60,000 for the Salisbury sewerage scheme. I ask the Government why it is not proceeding with schemes recommended a couple of years ago, yet it is proceeding with a scheme recommended only a few months ago. Recommendations were made some time ago for

schemes at Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Bordertown, but the work has not been done, yet because it is proposed to erect a satellite town at Salisbury an amount is now on the Estimates for work to be carried out there.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Is the honourable member aware that a lot of work has already been done there by the Commonwealth?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Yes, but provision is made on the South Australian Estimates, and this State has to find the money. It is disappointing to note that very little has been done for the old people, and although a great deal of money has been spent in mental and public hospitals, I wish to read a report of the Superintendent of Mental Hospitals, Dr. H. M. Birch, in which he said:—

There has been no improvement in the unduly large number of elderly infirm patients certified for admission to mental hospitals. I can only reiterate that it is indeed regrettable that so many people with mental and physical disabilities consequent upon advancing years should have to be admitted to the mental hospitals. Another aspect is that quite a large percentage of these elderly people show reasonable improvement after a few weeks or months and could well be discharged. Many are in fact returned to their homes, but it is unfortunate that many remain in hospital simply because no sponsors can be found to provide the small amount of care necessary.

That is a deplorable state of affairs.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Have they no relatives?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Some of the responsibility should rest on relatives, although a large number of old people have no relatives, and it must be remembered that perhaps members of the family live under bad conditions and have large families. Every case is different. It would meet with the approval of every citizen if the Government provided for these unfortunate people, because they should not be in mental hospitals. Every State of the Commonwealth except South Australia conducts lotteries and they have done a wonderful job towards erecting hospitals and homes. I have been requested to introduce a Bill to provide for a lottery; I am not doing so, but I point out that the Government has some responsibility in this matter.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Isn't the Government meeting that responsibility by erecting flats and other buildings all over the place?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—No, a lot more could be done; however, I commend it for what has been done. Last year £761,000 was collected as tax on winning bets on racecourses, and I cannot see why this money should not be

used for elderly people. If taking money from a lottery is wrong—and I am not saying it is right—is not taking money from a winning bet on a racehorse equally wrong? Why has the Premier said that he will not allow anybody to interfere with winnings tax? What is the difference between taking money from winning bets made on races and money invested on a lottery? I do not suppose South Australians are any better living than people in other States.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—But they have more money in the bank.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That may be so. I do not advocate a lottery but I point out that if it is wrong to have this it is equally wrong to collect winnings tax. An amount of £2,570,000 is provided for the Architect-in-Chief's Department. Portion of this is for the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and includes a new nurses' block, new dental hospital wing and the purchase of a building for nurses' quarters, Northfield wards, and Queen Elizabeth Hospital—a total of £325,000. I suggest that when the opportunity presents itself the Government should have an official opening of this institution because every member is proud of what has been accomplished there. The Hospitals Department has spent a great deal of money in the past and it is proposed to spend more not only on the Royal Adelaide and Northfield Hospitals, but also on many country institutions. A new children's ward at the Mount Gambier Hospital will cost £1,000, new general hospital, £50,000, new sewage treatment works and water supply, £20,000, new boilers, £10,000, and new residence and construction of roads and footpaths, £17,700—a total of £98,000. Provision is made for alterations and additions to various buildings at the Port Augusta Hospital, to cost £9,950. Additional accommodation and sewage disposal at Port Lincoln Hospital will cost £26,490. A total of £75,000 is provided for Port Pirie Hospital, including erection of new theatre and men's block, £35,000, extension of laundry block and new equipment, £6,000, isolation block to be converted to children's wards, £10,200, and sewage treatment works £18,000.

It is proposed to build 14 primary and four infants' schools at a cost of £307,050 and to spend £77,600 on alterations and additions to six primary and infants' schools. It is proposed to spend £37,000 on a new technical school and workshop at Nailsworth, £5,000 on a girls' craft room at Port Adelaide, and £3,000 on additional classrooms at the Norwood

Girls' Technical School. Alterations and additions to 10 other technical schools will cost £10,650. An amount of £26,000 will be spent on area schools at Yankalilla, Cummins and Oakbank; of course, this is a continuation of work that has already been started. An amount of £96,700 will be spent on high schools at Naracoorte, Minlaton, South Road and Loxton, and alterations to 17 high schools will cost £23,750.

I would like to refer to a number of matters this afternoon but will not do so because I have already taken up a considerable amount of time. However, I hope that the Government will take notice of the few suggestions I have made. I give credit for what has been achieved.

In conclusion I would refer to the Public Works Standing Committee which has a very responsible position in dealing with many of the projects that ultimately are incorporated in the Public Purposes Loan Bill. As all members know, all works estimated to cost more than £30,000 have to be referred to the Committee and every item of expenditure in the smallest detail therefore comes under its scrutiny. Members will see that the Committee has been very busy during the past year. At times it has met on four days a week and its efforts have saved the State a considerable sum of money. I hope that whoever may be members of this Committee in the future will devote that close attention to their task that has been shown by members over a period of many years. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2).—When members received their copies of the Public Purposes Loan Bill, 1954, they will have noted at once its close similarity to the Bill of a year ago. Particularly does this apply to the number of clauses of which there are 13 in both cases. The Loan Estimates for this financial year ending June 30, 1955, provide for an expenditure of £27,295,000, and in addition the Commonwealth Government is making available, pursuant to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the sum of £3,600,000, which will therefore make a total of £30,895,000 available for expenditure on public works this year, as compared with a gross expenditure last year of £30,014,000. I will endeavour to refrain from quoting figures extensively for I know it is difficult for listeners to assimilate them as a rule, as by the time they have thought it out the speaker may be some two or three lines ahead of them.

The Loan Estimates before us are based on the premise that £180,000,000 should be available from the loan market to finance the capital works programme of the respective States. Members will doubtless recall the discussion which took place at a meeting of the Loan Council on this matter. I do not share the apprehension voiced by the Leader of the Opposition as to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient Loan funds, although, of course, we are all fully aware of the fact that if the general commercial and productive efforts are interfered with it will not be so easy to get money as during bounteous seasons with high prices for primary products. This sum of £180,000,000 is considerably in excess of the £125,000,000 raised last year, and when it is recalled that the Commonwealth Government is not guaranteeing the financial requirements of the States' programmes this year, whereas last year it contributed £75,000,000, it will be seen that there is no certainty that the full amount necessary to finance the works shown in the Loan Estimates will be available this financial year. It is expected that the Loan Council will view the situation in December when, from the experience of the results of public flotations to that time, it will be possible to assess more accurately the amount that will then be available.

Inspection and consideration of the Loan Estimates, and the Government's indication of how the available funds are to be allotted provide us with an opportunity for measuring the degree of progress made and the outlook for the future. The rapid growth in the population of South Australia and the expanding development taking place in nearly all directions have greatly increased the demands upon public utilities and may be expected to continue to do so. Some of the figures of the general census recently taken are now becoming available and show that, as at June 30 this year, the population of Adelaide and suburbs was 484,000, or nearly half a million. In the 1947 census the figure was 382,000, so that our urban population has increased by over 100,000 and is growing faster than in any other State capital. The most rapid growth in any major country town was at Port Augusta with a rise of more than 2,300. As will be well understood, so substantial an increase in population and so real an expansion in development call for more capital expenditure, for as the State grows so also will the demands upon the services of public utilities.

South Australia is in the proud position of being able to point to the fact that she has the

highest value of production per head of population in Australia, so the Government can claim full justification for its courageous activities by the results which our State is enjoying. When these Loan Estimates were under discussion in another place attention was drawn to the fact that when the Loan Estimates for 1953-4 were framed labour could be obtained more readily than it can be today. In about August-September, 1953, the labour market tended to become very tight, and in consequence work on many of the projects that the Government had hoped could be proceeded with was delayed, and present prospects are that only by migration will the position be relieved in 1954-5. It will be seen that the demand on Government expenditure in items such as the railways, electricity, water supply, sewers, harbours, housing and so forth will still continue to rise. The Government desires as speedily as possible to extend many of these utilities to the country, for by making modern conveniences available to people in country areas the desire for people to live in the country will be fostered and thus assist in decentralization. This, however, cannot be achieved unless services to country towns are provided so that people can have a standard of living conformable to that enjoyed by city dwellers.

The Government realizes that one of the greatest problems to be dealt with is the supply of water. South Australia is, as we all know, the driest State in the Commonwealth and I have no doubt that members have perused the figures showing the average rainfall distribution. This is of especial value at the moment, and when we realize that of South Australia's total area no less than 82.8 per cent, or over four-fifths, has under 10 inches of rain annually and that over 92 per cent has less than 15 inches we will appreciate the tremendous and continuing problem that confronts the Engineering and Water Supply Department in particular, as well as our producers and traders. I have quoted these figures more than once but they bear repeating. There is no doubt as to the continuing handicap that South Australia has to carry, if not for all time, at any rate until the answer is found to some of the complexities brought about through the shortage of rain.

The Hon. J. L. Cowan—Murray River water will help the situation.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—Yes, but I suppose even that is not inexhaustible for there are a great many people drawing on it now. We recollect the opening of the pipeline from Morgan to Whyalla.

The provision of water from the Tod River Reservoir is a wonderful achievement. Much of the country through which the main passes has under a 10-in. rainfall. They are courageous people who go out into these arid areas and seek to make a living. Fortunately, the River Murray finally reaches our territory, but flows through only a comparatively small proportion of the State. As we are by no means richly endowed with natural water facilities, we have in consequence had to provide long lines of reticulation. The main from Morgan to Whyalla *via* Port Augusta is 223 miles long and there are four pumping stations. The main on Eyre Peninsula from Tod River Reservoir is about 300 miles long. These works are monuments of courage and efficiency, and it is because of such achievements that our State has the highest value of production per head of the population in Australia. The upkeep and continued efficiency of the various departments are provided for in the schedules in the Bill before us. There are items of heavy Government expenditure which are not only essential, but are constantly increasing, but have apparently no direct bearing on production. They are of the greatest importance and value, and of these schools and hospitals may be taken as typical. During the last financial year £1,707,084 was spent on Government buildings and land, made up as follows:—Hospital buildings, £724,000; schools, £837,000; police, court houses, Agricultural College and other Government buildings, £146,000. For the current year it is expected that £1,250,000 will be spent on hospital buildings, the main works in connection with this programme being:—Royal Adelaide Hospital £198,420 which will mainly provide for finishing the new nurses' block, new dental hospital wing and purchase of Ruthven Mansions in Pulteney Street for nurses' quarters, additions to various buildings at the hospital and the purchase of new equipment, which will account for £29,000. At Parkside Mental Hospital £189,810 is expected to be expended, and at Northfield Mental Hospital provision is made for £224,550 for the accommodation of 300 patients; female T.B. ward, new residences and alterations and additions to various buildings. I know these sums are very substantial, but the growth and expansion of our population has been real. Bedford Park Hospital will require £9,400 for alterations and additions and new equipment. Morris Hospital requires new equipment and additions to cost £34,340 and at the Enfield Receiving Home the expenditure is expected to be £11,190; at Barmera Hospital £1,700 is

required. Mareeba Babies Hospital alterations will cost £2,690, while at Mount Gambier it is proposed to expend £98,700 on the hospital. Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Wallaroo Hospitals require alterations, additions, and in some cases new equipment, but I am sure all these things will commend themselves to members, who will warmly approve of the attention paid to those who will obtain direct benefits from the provision made.

Well over £1,000,000 of loan money has been provided for school buildings, of which more than £300,000 is for new primary and infant schools. Alterations and additions to primary and infant schools will cost £77,600, and in addition £55,650 is to be spent on the new Nailsworth Boys' Technical School.

These references I have made and the details of expenditure I have referred to are but a portion of the expenditure and preparation which will be made for young South Australians to prepare for the life each one will live, in an environment which it is hoped will be a happy one and be beneficial to both the individual and to the country in which he lives.

There are, as honourable members will have seen, 28 lines on the Estimates and each has ample claim to careful consideration. As other members have already dealt with a number of these, I do not propose to select them in detail. The largest line on the schedule is waterworks and sewers, £5,575,000, which is greater by £400,000 than was provided last year, but, as members are fully aware, the extensions under this are very great and the undertaking an extremely large one. The next in order of size is the amount for the Electricity Trust of South Australia. We are not surprised to learn that the capital works programme of the trust for the year is £7,870,000. It is estimated that only £5,000,000 will be required from the State Loan fund, the rest of the requirements being obtained from loans to be raised by the trust, investment of depreciation funds and the use of materials and moneys already on hand.

The Government intends to push on with its policy of extending electricity services in rural areas, and it is satisfactory to learn that between September, 1946, and June, 1954, the number of consumers in country districts increased by 200 per cent, and that in the metropolitan area during the same period the increase was 45 per cent. I have heard it said on more than one occasion that the consideration of such a Bill as that before us creates the opportunity for members to speak on practically all subjects, and with that I agree. At the same time, it permits

us all to see and to appreciate the care with which Loan Estimates are scrutinized and plans for the future are made. It is not much more than 100 years since the little colony was born that is now the State of South Australia, and already numbers over 750,000 souls.

Year by year it continues to expand and to consolidate its position, with care and attention given to all sections of the community, as shown by the Chief Secretary in his interesting speech yesterday. The Bill before us is designed to stimulate the position and aid in the expansion of the activities of South Australia, and I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY (Central No. 2)—I thought that in addressing himself to the Loan Estimates the Leader of the Opposition was trailing his coat a bit. He accused honourable members of callousness to the unemployed and disregard for their position. I want to dissociate myself from the charge that we are callous to the unemployed. The matter which seemed to be agitating the honourable member does not appear on the Loan Estimates, namely, the question of the margarine industry. In this regard I think he has a case. This product is coming into the State, and while it is true that local manufacturers have reached their quotas, at the same time the demand continues to be active. I feel that if we do not allow increased quotas at least we should see that margarine coming in from another State is not sold to the consumer at a higher price than it can be supplied by the local manufacturers. I do not intend to deal with all the items on the Loan Estimates. We are in the middle of an expanding economy. Our population is increasing by natural means and from migration. However, it is regrettable that the population in the metropolitan area is being considerably added to at the expense of the country.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Where could they go in country districts and be employed?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I admit that there are no industries in some districts at the moment, but if we could get decentralization of our industries we would attract population to country districts. The people would be happier and healthier there, and this would take a heavy burden off the Government as regards public services. I have a good deal of sympathy both for the Government and the new board in its attempt to try to solve the problem of decreasing patronage of our tramways. My view is that, whatever form of transport we have, unless it is made attractive in

the way of fares and so on we shall not successfully compete with the private motor car owner. It has been proved that it pays the individual far better to come into town under his own steam than to patronize public transport. These instrumentalities have to be paid for whether they are run empty or full. Their expenses are increasing year by year, and there seems to be no attempt by the public to patronize as much as they should the transport provided by the Government.

I contend that all tramway routes could be successfully handed over to private enterprise, which I feel certain would provide an adequate service and one which was no dearer to the public than that now being supplied; and in addition it would place the Government in the position of being at the receiving end by way of receiving money from licences, instead of having to hand out large sums every year. I am sure it would result in taking a large burden off the Budget. I think the public would be adequately served and the annual loss turned into a profit by private bus owners. I hope the Government will consider this matter because I think it is a contribution towards the solution of a difficult problem. Buses have been and are serving a number of districts, and had it not been for them many districts developed during the past few years would have been without transport. I ask the Government to consider the advisability of handing over some routes to private operators, which I think would save a considerable annual loss.

We are all pleased that after a series of derailments in the Mount Lofty Ranges the Railways Department has had expert advice that the track is in a safe condition. It is pleasing to know that, because the confidence of the public has been shaken. We are also grateful that the finances of the railways have been improved to the extent of £1,000,000; we as representatives of the people can only hope that this will continue and that eventually they will be placed on a sound basis. The department has a very heavy expenditure, because it is undergoing a rapid transition from steam to diesel locomotives. This should be a happy experience in the light of experience in other countries.

No provision is made on the Estimates for improvement or rebuilding of Government offices. As far back as 1935 I, with the present Leader of the Opposition, was a member of the Public Works Committee that inquired into the state of Government offices. The committee found that accommodation was totally inadequate and that this contributed to serious

inefficiency in the various departments, and recommended that the offices should be rehabilitated at a cost of about £240,000. However, as far as I know the Government has not erected a single new building since then, but has carried out only renovations to some offices. I estimate that the present cost of carrying out the recommendation would be three times as much as it was in 1935. In addition, the Government is paying out a considerable amount of money to outside people for rents, and the accumulated bill from 1935 until now is £186,000—a substantial figure. If one could capitalize the sum at current rates of interest, it would be readily seen how much the Government would have saved if the committee's recommendation had been acted upon immediately. In addition to the loss of money, there must be inefficiency, because one has only to go through Government offices to see how crowded they are. It is very difficult for men to work satisfactorily with any degree of comfort in them. Efficiency also suffers as a result of the scattered nature of the buildings. The following list shows rents paid by the Government for office accommodation:—

	£
Simpson's Building, Gawler Place	*4,750
A.N.A. Building, Flinders Street ..	262
Liverpool Building, Flinders Street	540
Martin Building, Rundle Street ..	1,190
Register Building	645
Richards Building	3,081
Savings Bank, Gouger Street .. .	450
Savings Bank, King William Street	1,204
State Bank, Pirie Street	5,940
	<hr/>
	£18,062

* Plus rates.

If the need was so great in 1935, as the committee found that it was, how much greater is it today when the Public Service has increased by nearly 90 per cent? Members will readily see under what difficult circumstances it has to carry out its work and will realize what a direct loss is incurred by the payment of heavy rentals. I hope the Government will take an early opportunity to design a plan for the erection of suitable public offices in the city. The Exhibition Building was taken over for the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, but as that reverts to the School of Mines in a few years something will have to be done to house that department then. There is a pressing need for something to be done to help the Public Service to carry out its functions properly.

I notice a provision for £800,000 for the Harbors Board. For some years this undertaking returned a fairly substantial surplus,

but this year for the first time it is in debt and has become a burden for a fairly substantial sum. If an examination is made of the board's figures it will be seen that, although it showed a surplus for years, that was possibly because of deferred maintenance work that should have been carried out if materials and labour had been available during the war. This work is now so urgent that it must be proceeded with immediately, and the result is that the board is in financial difficulties and is asking for a large sum of money and seeking increased charges. The Harbors Board is a very efficient department; it is a large undertaking and is faced with a 50-Year plan that will entail heavy expenditure and a considerable amount of work, but it has not sufficient technical officers to carry out its programme at the moment. In this morning's *Advertiser* I noticed an advertisement seeking 100 technicians for all Government departments. This is a fair indication of how difficult it is for the Government to carry out major works.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—The Government is also advertising overseas.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—That is so. The Education Department has great difficulty in obtaining teaching staff and I can sympathize with the Minister of Education in his difficulties, not only in getting schools built, but also in obtaining staff. It is not easy to get men to enter the Public Service. Of course, some make it a career, but many are tempted outside by more attractive conditions. This adds to the difficulties of administration and makes it hard to carry on the very important public services. I realize that the Loan Bill is a very large one and it is doubtful whether we will get the amount we are budgeting for because apparently the money is not there—at least the Loan Council is afraid that it will not be available.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why isn't it there? Does the honourable member believe the currency is seasonal?

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—No, but the money is not available. It is going elsewhere, perhaps because people are finding better avenues for investment. The Commonwealth is rather sceptical about being able to find the large sum the States require. If we cannot get £30,000,000 we will have to trim our sails and reduce public works to some extent. I have every confidence in this great State of ours and believe it is being carefully and properly managed, and that the money that we are providing in these Estimates will be faithfully applied to the work set out. I therefore have very much pleasure in supporting the measure.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I think the ground has been well covered by the Leader of the Opposition and other speakers who have made a clear analysis of the proposed Loan expenditure, leaving little for following speakers to say. There are one or two points I desire to mention, but before doing so I wish to pay a tribute to the respective departmental heads and their officers. I think I am expressing the views of all members in saying that South Australia is particularly fortunate in having such an efficient Civil Service to carry on its administrative work, thereby assisting the Government in pursuance of its policy. I say without any political rancour that were it not for the Civil Service this Government could not claim the efficiency it is always claiming in respect of its various administrative acts. On that score, too, I want to say that this Government, ever since I have been a member of Parliament and that is some considerable time, has claimed all the credit for the beneficent legislation it has placed on the Statute Book. However, I think members will agree that most of this beneficial legislation has been lifted from Labor's policy and has been possible only by the support of members of the Labor Party in this Parliament. I say that because every piece of legislation enjoyed by the people today is contained in planks of Labor's platform, and although Labor may not be in government at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have assisted in giving some measure of relief to various sections of the community. Therefore all the credit cannot be taken by the Government and it must be equally shared with members of the Opposition. Mr. Anthony said he was doubtful whether the money would be available to meet the whole of this Loan programme, running into £30,000,000 and an overall Loan expenditure for all States of £180,000,000. I remind him that every Loan programme has to run the gamut of the Loan Council and I have constantly raised the point that when the Financial Agreement was brought about—not by a Labor administration but by a Liberal Government—the Sovereign powers of the States were handed over to the Loan Council, which has no responsibility to Parliament, but only to the Commonwealth Treasurer of the day. All the wailing of Mr. Anthony, therefore, will not suffice, because it was a Government of his own political complexion which gave away our financial rights to the Loan Council. I compliment the Leader of the Opposition on his close analysis of the Loan Estimates and other matters he discussed, particularly with regard to the laxity of the Government in allowing the

importation of margarine to the detriment of the local industry. I shall not enlarge on that because I believe that Parliament will be given an opportunity by the Leader of the Opposition to discuss this matter in detail, but I express my disapproval of the Government's attitude.

Turning to the respective items, I would first touch on advances for homes. Some little time ago we passed legislation enabling the State Bank to advance £1,750 instead of £1,250 to home builders, and members have doubtless had requests from constituents that overtures be made to the Government to enable the State Bank and other lending institutions to increase this amount. The £1,750 provided under the Homes Act is only reached after the bank has valued the property upon which the loan is desired. A person wishing to build a four or five-roomed house now has to find a deposit of £750 to £900 to enable him to take advantage of the Act, but it would not be difficult for this Government, in view of the large sums it is lending to other governmental instrumentalities, to make provision under the Homes Act whereby a deposit of £250 to £300 would suffice. I remind members that the nation does not dwell in the big home but in the cottage. Unless we can have a contented community, unless we can provide the young people, who will be the future mothers and fathers of our Australia citizens with homes and give them the opportunity to have a stake in the country worth fighting for, we cannot hope to imbue them with the Australian sentiment which we all desire in order to maintain our British way of life and preserve our Parliamentary institutions. Consequently I regret that no provision is made for increasing the amount which may be loaned by lending authorities to assist this very large section of the community.

I shall not be critical of the Housing Trust, for I compliment Mr. Ramsay and his officers on the excellent job they are doing in providing homes for the people. I recall that a few years ago this Parliament passed legislation empowering the Savings Bank to lend its accumulated funds to the Housing Trust, and I remind members, without bringing politics into this issue, that it was a Federal Labor Government that first inaugurated the Housing Agreement under which several million pounds were lent to the States for subsidizing buildings and rents. It will be recalled that South Australia was the last State to avail itself of this legislation. For the

year ended March 31, 1954, we find that the Housing Trust completed in the metropolitan area 12,885 permanent homes and 2,214 temporary homes. It had under construction 2,179 and a further 2,691 contracted for. It also provided 260 army huts and converted 360 migrants' hostel flats, and I re-affirm my previous statement when I say that this Government is basking in the reflected glory of the efficiency of the Housing Trust in providing homes for people. South Australia, as Sir Wallace Sandford pointed out, has increased its population by 100 per cent in the metropolitan area. He also said that it had the greatest productive value per head of population in the Commonwealth and these figures are very pleasing to members of the Opposition.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—To everybody I should say.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I am pleased to hear my friend say that, because that result could not have been achieved had it not been for the wise leadership of the trade union movement and the co-operation of employees in industry. During the war South Australia became one of the greatest industrial centres in the Commonwealth, and the leadership of the trade union movement and the co-operation of the unions demonstrated that in time of emergency they could rise to the occasion, just as they are doing in this post-war period.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—A few others had something to do with it.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I am not claiming all the credit for the people I represent, and the honourable member can extol the virtues of his section when he speaks in the debate. I come now to the Electricity Trust. I have been, perhaps, characterized as a critic of its activities, but I remind members that I have not been critical of those in control of the trust but only of the inactivity of the Government in not carrying out the provisions of the Electricity Trust Act passed in 1946. On September 21 I asked the Chief Secretary what was the total amount of interest paid to debenture holders to June 30, 1954, and the answer I received was £6,243,912. As it is eight years since the Act was passed that represents, at the rate of four per cent, £780,489 annually in interest. Mr. Cudmore led the opposition to this proposal and when the first Bill was rejected the Premier called a special session of Parliament when the second Bill was carried by one vote. Section 32 (3) of the Electricity Trust of South Australia

Act dealt with the shareholders' option to take debentures and provided:—

For every twenty pounds of the face value of the debentures issued to a person under this section debentures to the face value of ten pounds shall be redeemed by the trust at the end of the fifth and tenth years respectively after the day as from which interest on the debentures is calculated; and any fractional part of twenty pounds in the face value of the debentures issued to a person under this section shall be redeemed by the trust at the end of the fifth year after the said day.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, and I addressed a question to the Chief Secretary on this some time ago, the Government has made no effort to redeem any of those debentures. I submit that where we have a big interest bill it could be relieved because the Government can borrow money for much less than 4 per cent.

The Hon. F. T. Perry—Where from?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I happen to be on the Industries Development Committee and I know, as the honourable member who was also a member of the Committee knows, that the Government borrows at less than 4 per cent. Private debenture holders hold £16,961,000 in the trust. Under the provisions of the Act a great percentage of the capital should have been paid back to debenture holders, and thus relieved the burden on the trust of interest payments. On top of that the Government has invested £26,321,757. I presume that some of its funds in the trust are from loan. The trust's salaried staff numbers 1,269 and the daily paid staff 2,873. On those figures it appears that the trust is top heavy with its executive management. Every business man in this Chamber knows the disadvantages of such a position. The bigger such an executive the worse the position. We cannot get the benefit originally intended when the executive is top heavy. It was expected there would have been some amelioration of charges, but instead there have been increases from time to time until the recent announcement of a reduction of about £3 a year on single meter tariffs. I do not think the Government has honoured its obligation to those members of Parliament who voted for the acquisition of the original company, and those people outside who supported that acquisition. I ask the Government, through the Minister of Local Government, whether it will take up the question of making an announcement to Parliament as to when a redemption of some of these debentures is likely to take place.

According to the Loan Estimates £2,500,000 is provided for the Architect-in-Chief's Depart-

ment. As Mr. Anthony mentioned, there is a scarcity of professional technicians. They are being advertised for not only throughout the Commonwealth, but also overseas. I asked a question whether any approach had been made to the Institute of Architects for setting up a panel to allot work to architects' offices to assist the Architect-in-Chief in the preparation of plans, specifications and details for various Government building projects. I believe the Chief Secretary said that overtures had been made to the institute, but no reply had been received. In order to complete the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the Government approached leading Melbourne architects who are experienced in hospital construction, and has made an agreement to enable the building to be completed. In the latter stages of 1939, when Australia was on the verge of invasion and requiring emergency hospitals, military barracks and all those things necessary to equip Australia to wage a successful war, approaches were made to various professional interests, including medical men and architects. Work was handed out, with the result that Australia from 1939 to 1941, a period of just over two years, was able to construct munition works, military camps and emergency hospitals and became well equipped to face any emergency. That was the result of the co-operation of eminent professional technicians. In peace time the position is just as acute. It was essential to do these things in time of war, and because these professional men are still available I condemn the Government for not following the same practice and attracting people to provide essential services.

An amount of £3,000,000 is provided in the Estimates for the production of uranium. We must realize that uranium would not have been developed in South Australia but for the support extended to the Government by members of the union and of the Australian Workers' Union, particularly by its general secretary in this State, Mr. O'Connor. They have shown a deep interest in having this important mineral retained in South Australia, not only to provide protection for the public, but atomic energy and power for use in industry. I pay this tribute to the union, because but for its co-operation we would probably have had an influx of people from the other States attempting to indoctrinate into the minds of our workers the pernicious philosophy of Communism. The Australian Workers' Union has an Australian sentiment. This was the same union, together with other unions, which protected the Leigh Creek coalfield from the inroads of Communism and thus assisted in

its development. But for the unions neither Leigh Creek nor uranium development in South Australia would be in the position they are today. We should be fair and pay the unions a tribute. I have received a letter from the Port Adelaide Corporation asking that the Local Government Act be amended in a certain direction.

The PRESIDENT—Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that there are two Local Government Bills on the Notice Paper and discussions on them cannot be anticipated. The honourable member will have a chance to put his case on one or other of them.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I will reserve my right to mention the matter during the discussion on one of those Bills. The major development of South Australia can be attributed to members of the Opposition, and to Parliament in particular, and not solely to the Government.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from September 28. Page 752.)

Clauses 3 and 4 passed.

New clause 4a—"Plans, etc., with respect to Loan proposals."

The Hon. N. L. JUDE (Minister of Local Government)—I move to insert the following new clause:—

4a. Section 425 is amended by inserting therein after subsection (1) thereof the following subsection:—

(1a) In any case where the works or undertakings are such as are mentioned in section 319 or section 328, and in pursuance of either of those sections the council would, upon completion of the works or undertakings, have power to recover from owners of ratable property part of the cost thereof, the statement referred to in subsection (1) shall also state that payment of the part of the said cost as provided by the said sections may be required by the council from owners of ratable property.

During the second reading debate Mr. Perry and Mr. Cudmore expressed some doubt whether the clause made the position clear as to the future. They wanted the position as to possible litigation tightened up, therefore the Government has had this new clause drawn up. I can quite imagine that the majority of members are not much wiser after hearing what could be called this rigmarole of phraseology, therefore I will try to enlighten them with a layman's interpretation of the meaning of the

clause. In his judgment in the case of Campbelltown Corporation v. Johnston, the Chief Justice, among other things, stated, in effect, that he was of opinion that where a council submitted a loan proposal to the ratepayers for the construction of works, the ratepayers should, in an appropriate case, be informed that road moieties are recoverable in respect of the work. This point was dealt with in some detail by the Hon. C. R. Cudmore when speaking to the second reading. The purpose, Sir, of the new clause is to give effect to this suggestion of the Chief Justice.

Section 425 of the Local Government Act provides that before proceeding to borrow money for carrying out works or undertakings, the council is to prepare a statement giving details of the proposal. The statement is to be available to the inspection of ratepayers. The construction of roads and footpaths is a work or undertaking within the meaning of the Act. Now, new clause 4a provides that, where the work or undertaking is a road or footpath and, where under section 319 or 328, the council could recover part of the cost as road moieties for the work when completed, the statement of the council under section 425 is to include a statement that payment of part of the cost may be recovered in this manner.

Obviously, Sir, if all the cost can be recouped by road moieties, there would be no need to borrow for the purpose. In general, a council proceeds on the assumption that part of the road costs will be provided by road moieties and the balance from loan or partly from loan and partly from revenue. Clause 4a will therefore provide that, in such a case, the ratepayers must be informed of the position in the statement of the loan proposal required to be prepared by section 425. I think this clarifies the matter; it ties up the case and ensures that the ratepayers will be informed of the purpose of the loan they are asked to support. I therefore commend the amendment to members.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE—I am glad that the Government has seen fit to bring down this amendment because it covers the point that I raised yesterday that while this Bill validates what has been done it leaves in my mind some doubt as to whether, if the same procedure were adopted in future, the same objection would not persist. I am never very pleased with long sentences without knowing where the real emphasis comes and I am not clear whether we should use semi-colons, colons

or some other punctuation, but in this amendment I suggest that there should be some real pause after "the cost thereof" because up to this point it is a recital. The clause then proceeds:—

... the statement referred to in subsection (1) shall also state that payment of the part of the said cost as provided by the said sections may be required by the council from owners of ratable property.

If an extra stop were inserted as I suggest I am sure it would make the matter easier for councillors, clerks of councils and others to understand what it means. The section in the Local Government Act under which money is borrowed is section 424, and members may therefore wonder why we are amending section 425; I think this requires explanation. Section 425 states:—

(1) The council shall, before proceeding to borrow money under section 423 or 424 for the carrying out of any works or undertakings prepare—

- (a) a statement showing the proposed expenditure of the money to be borrowed; and
- (b) in case the loan is to be applied in carrying out works or undertakings, plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost thereof.

That is why this is important. It is proposed to add this new clause after section 425 (1). I emphasize that everything down to "the cost thereof" is setting out the cases to which this shall apply. On looking at it again, I think what I am trying to say would be got over if all the other commas were taken out except that after "thereof." If that is done people will understand what this means. I think I know what it means. I approve of it, I am glad the Government brought it in, and I hope it will be included in the Bill.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—I support the amendment and the remarks made by Mr. Perry about the subdivision of land and the preparation of roads and footpaths preparatory to occupation. I do not want to labour that, but ask the Minister to say whether he can get some co-ordination between the various departments when subdivisions are taking place. Invariably in new settlements subdivisions are made, roads and footpaths are left until last, and when they are constructed and properly sealed, the sewerage people come along and dig them up. These roads can never be reconstituted because they are never the same. If there could be some co-ordination between these services the public would be saved expense and no damage would be done to the roads. Some attempt should be made to bring this about.

New clause inserted.

Clause 5 "Recovery of loan money borrowed before passing of Act."

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I move—

In subclause (2) to delete "local court" and after "1953" to insert "in the Local Court of Adelaide and the defendant in the action No. 5565 of 1953 in the said court."

The effect of clause 5 is to provide that contributions to the cost of roads may be required by councils from adjoining owners in accordance with the law as enacted by the Bill, irrespective of whether the cost of the work was paid for from moneys borrowed by the council or not. The clause, in effect, also validates past payments of these road moieties by adjoining owners. Special provision was made in the clause for the exclusion from the Act of Mr. Johnston, the person cited in the Supreme Court case No. 5566. However, the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that two appeals were made but by mutual arrangement only one name was cited. It has, therefore, been agreed that the other appellant, Mr. Musolino, named in action No. 5565 should be included in the exempting sub-clause.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—It was agreed that one of them should be made a test case.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—That is so. There were two appellants, and to see that justice is done it is requested that they both be brought into the Bill. The amendment brings that into effect.

Amendments carried.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I move—

In the fifth line of subclause (2) to delete "any such" and to insert "the said actions and."

Sir, this is a drafting amendment only. The last paragraph in the clause provides that in the local court, actions named in the clause and in proceedings by way of appeal, the law to be applied is that in force before the passing of the Bill. The amendment is intended to make it plain that this paragraph applies only to the actions and proceedings mentioned in the clause and not to any other proceedings which may be instituted. I think it is desirable to have that put in as plain a manner as possible in the Bill, and I commend the amendments to honourable members.

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Title passed. Bill reported with amendments, and Committee's report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.45 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, September 30, at 2 p.m.