

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT (1955)

Parliament, which adjourned on December 10, 1954, was prorogued by proclamation dated January 13. By proclamation dated April 14 it was summoned to meet on Thursday, May 19, 1955, and the Fourth Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, May 19, 1955.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier) summoning Parliament.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, having been announced by the Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. Members of the House of Assembly, having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his opening speech as follows:—

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

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business. My advisers desire that you shall, as soon as possible, consider certain financial and other problems which have recently arisen.

2. It is with deep sorrow that I record the recent deaths of two esteemed members of this Parliament, namely, the Honourable Reginald John Rudall and Mr. Henry Stephen Dunks. Each of them had, for many years, ably served the State in important public offices. Each of them, too, was distinguished by high ideals, firm adherence to principle, and conscientious

and unselfish devotion to duty. On behalf of this Parliament I extend sincere sympathy to their bereaved relatives.

3. Economic conditions in South Australia continue to be satisfactory. There is full employment, and the demand for goods and services remains strong. The great amount of building activity, the ample programme of land development, and the steady flow of migration can be expected to keep the economy buoyant. A feature of the Australian economy, however, which gives special concern to my Ministers is the strong pressure to increase interest rates. Merchants, manufacturers, and financiers—in particular, those engaged in financing hire purchase transactions—have entered the loan market seeking large sums for the extension of their businesses, and, in a number of instances, are offering high rates of interest. At the same time there is an unprecedented demand for loans by semi-governmental authorities in the eastern States. While the loan money available this year is sufficient to provide for all Government works for which men and material can be found, there is a serious risk that if the pressure on the loan market is not relieved, Governments may be unable to raise sufficient money for next year's requirements.

4. During the past season, although favourable conditions prevailed in the late winter and early spring, cereal crops were, on the whole, satisfactory. Thirty million bushels of wheat, and 18,000,000 bushels of barley were harvested, each crop averaging 18.2 bushels an acre. The production of fat lambs was the

highest on record. No fewer than 840,000 lambs were slaughtered for export; and, of these, 760,000 were actually exported. Fruit-growers and vignerons, however, suffered seriously from adverse weather. Hot winds and bushfires damaged the apple and pear crops to such an extent that, for the first time since the war, these fruits were not exported overseas. Late summer rains in the irrigation areas also caused serious losses to growers of sultanas and currants.

5. In recent months the Government has made arrangements for the further improvement of the services rendered by the Department of Agriculture. Among other things, a new Division of Extension Services and Information has been formed, with the object of co-ordinating all the advisory services and speeding up the dissemination of agricultural knowledge among primary producers. The Government has also established an Advisory Committee on Agricultural Extension Services for Country Women which will consider ways and means for the instruction of country women in the application of scientific knowledge to agriculture and every-day life. The rural youth movement has been successfully established on a sound basis, and has 50 clubs, which are already an important factor in making country life attractive.

6. The War Service Land Settlement Scheme continues to work satisfactorily. The number of settlers has now reached 844, and 87 applicants have been selected as eligible for blocks in course of development. Practically all the settlers are meeting their liabilities to the Government, and are in a sound financial position.

7. On the irrigation areas, the Berri drainage scheme is proving successful, and progress is being made in the construction of a similar scheme for Cobdogla, and in the conversion of pumping stations to electrical power. A further area of land in the hundred of Gordon has been referred to the Land Settlement Committee for an inquiry into its suitability for irrigation and subdivision.

8. Good progress has been made in the works for the drainage of the area of 260,00 acres which the Government is developing in the Western Division of the South-East.

9. My Ministers have given special attention to the vital question of water supply. The Mannum-Adelaide scheme, now in operation, has already proved its value both for the metropolitan area and for the country districts which it serves, and provides a most effective safeguard against shortage of water. Work is proceeding on this scheme; and the Government

is also pressing on with the completion of the South Para reservoir. Investigations have been continued into the proposals for reservoirs at Myponga, Kangaroo Creek, and Clarendon. The designs and reports relating to the Myponga project have been submitted to the Public Works Committee. Good progress is being made on the Yorke Peninsula water scheme which is already benefiting the northern end of the Peninsula, and will be extended as far as Edithburgh. On Eyre Peninsula the Ulley-Wanilla scheme has been substantially completed and is in full operation. Work is being done to provide a better water supply at Loxton, and this scheme is being extended to the Loxton irrigation area.

10. Excellent progress has been made in rebuilding the wharves and providing new cargo sheds at Port Adelaide. The rehabilitation of the Glanville dockyard has been substantially completed, and the work of extending the coal-handling plant and wharf at Osborne is well advanced. The enlarged shipping facilities at Kingscote will be completed by the end of this calendar year. Concurrently with all these operations, plans are being formulated and preparations made for further developments at Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln, and Port Pirie.

11. The increased road revenue has enabled the Government to accelerate its programme of road construction and maintenance, so as to cater for the rapidly growing number of vehicles and the heavier loads, and to provide access to new settlements. It is expected that the expenditure on roads this year will reach £6,000,000. Of this sum about £2,000,000 represents money made available to councils for main roads, and, in addition, councils were granted loans, amounting in all to £500,000, for the purchase of machinery and for district roads.

12. Progress in the State forestry undertakings has been maintained and the output is greater than ever before. During the coming season the area under forests will be increased by 4,300 acres, making a total of over 125,000 acres. The new sawmill near Mount Gambier is in course of construction, and my Ministers expect the buildings to be completed by the end of next month. The installation of machinery, and other ancillary works will then be undertaken without delay. Adjacent to this mill, the Government proposes to establish a plant for treating pine logs to be used as railway sleepers. This project will be commenced during the coming financial year.

13. The Ministry has given careful attention to the hospital problem, and has devoted an

adequate share of the resources of the State towards the enlargement and improvement of hospital buildings. Satisfactory progress has been maintained. The services of the Architect-in-Chief's Department have been fully utilized, and leading hospital architects in private practice have also been employed to expedite the work. At the Adelaide Hospital the recently built nurses' home is in use and two new wards have been erected at Northfield. Other projects include further accommodation for women patients, casualties, and radiotherapy, and recovery wards adjacent to the operating theatres. Plans are complete for extensive additions to the Dental Hospital, and work for this purpose will commence in the near future. At Queen Elizabeth Hospital the first portion of the nurses' quarters is in use as a maternity building, and tenders are being called for the remainder of the nurses' block. It is expected that tenders for the completion of this hospital will be called before the end of the present year. The children's ward at Mount Gambier Hospital was opened last year, and, as a first instalment of a new general hospital with capacity for 200 patients, work has commenced on the erection of a building for nurses. A new operating theatre is being built at Port Pirie, and a maternity block at Port Lincoln. Other proposals for the general improvement of country hospitals are receiving the attention of the Government. During the year the Berri District Hospital was placed on the list of subsidized hospitals, of which there are now 45. Subsidies for this year will amount to about £205,000—an increase of about £41,000. In all, the State is this year spending approximately £5,000,000 on hospitals.

14. The Government is well aware of the needs of the mental hospitals and is taking vigorous action to meet them. At Parkside the new accommodation for nurses and the admission and treatment block for women has been completed, and a new ward for male tubercular patients is under construction. A tender has been let for an admission and treatment block for men. At Northfield Mental Hospital a block for women tubercular patients, and a new dining room are being built, while plans for four additional wards are being prepared. Numerous improvements in the buildings and equipment of mental hospitals are in course of being made and attention is constantly being given to the introduction of the best methods of treating patients.

15. The measures taken by the Government for the control of infectious diseases are proving highly successful. The campaign

against tuberculosis is showing good results and the outbreak of poliomyelitis has almost subsided. The Government is, however, taking steps to ensure that this State will obtain, as soon as possible, any effective and safe vaccine which may be available for the prevention of poliomyelitis.

16. The Government has taken energetic action to cope with the large increase in the number of pupils in the primary and secondary schools. In the last five years the increase has been about 50 per cent; and in the next five years there will be a further increase of 35 per cent, for which preparations now must be made. Building of schools is proceeding rapidly. During this financial year three primary schools, two infant schools, and two high schools, have been completed, and 250 prefabricated classrooms have been erected. Sixteen additional schools are in course of construction. Special attention has been given to the education of handicapped children of all kinds, for whom expanded and improved facilities are being provided.

17. The South Australian Housing Trust expects to build about 3,300 houses during the present financial year, which will bring the total number of houses completed by the trust to nearly 24,000. The trust has continued to give special attention to housing needs in the country. Building has been carried out in over 110 towns, and farmhouses have been erected throughout the agricultural areas. The trust proposes to extend its rental housing to as many country towns as circumstances will permit. The cottage flats recently built for elderly pensioners and other persons of small means have proved very successful and a contract for a further 100 flats has been placed.

18. The Homes Act is still an important factor in enabling persons to buy or build homes. Nearly 7,400 persons have had loans guaranteed by the Government under this legislation. The amount advanced exceeds £9,500,000, and the contingent liability of the Treasurer under guarantees is at present £1,848,000.

19. Under the Advances for Homes Act the State Bank will lend approximately £1,500,000 this financial year for the erection or purchase of houses.

20. The Electricity Trust is meeting the growing demand for electricity with notable success. Sales of electricity during the current year will reach a total of 900,000,000 units. This is 125,000,000 units more than the amount sold last year, and three times the

amount sold in 1947. The number of consumers is still increasing at the rate 12,000 a year, and is now approximately 200,000. More than one-third of these are in country areas. Since the Port Augusta power station was opened in July last, it has generated over 100,000,000 units. Additional plant is being erected at this station, and work has begun on a second station in the same locality, designed to bring the output at Port Augusta to 270,000 kilowatts. These stations will use Leigh Creek coal exclusively. The electricity supply at Port Lincoln is being increased by the installation of steam-driven plant having a capacity of 5,000 kilowatts. Work has also begun on the new power station at Mount Gambier, which will burn waste wood from the timber mills, and will supply electricity to a wide area in the South-East. The trust is in a sound financial position, and recently made an all-round reduction in its charges, by which consumers benefited to the extent of more than £250,000 a year. The ability of the trust to meet all demands for power at a reasonable cost is one of the basic factors which render possible the present industrial expansion in South Australia.

21. The supply of electricity in the country has been greatly facilitated by the operation of the Electricity Supplies (Country Areas) Act. Under this legislation the Government has subsidized the trust to enable it to supply electricity to approximately 2,000 consumers who could not otherwise have been supplied. In addition, the Government has made substantial grants to local authorities by which they have been enabled to establish or improve 16 electricity schemes in districts outside the areas served by the trust.

22. On the Leigh Creek coalfield the output is rising steadily and will, this year, exceed 500,000 tons. Operations are being carried out to raise the productive capacity of the field to 1,500,000 tons a year, in order to supply the requirements of the power stations at Port Augusta. The Aroona reservoir will be completed within a few months. It is already holding sufficient water to ensure a supply for the coalfield.

23. During last year there was a notable expansion in the State's mineral production. The quantity and the value of the iron ore, coal, salt and gypsum produced were the highest in the history of the State, and the output of other minerals was well maintained. The Government's policy of sponsoring local production of sulphur is now achieving important results. The pyrites mine at Nairne, the

associated chemical plant at Birkenhead, and the new sulphuric acid plant at Port Pirie will shortly be working, and will make South Australia independent of imported sulphur for the manufacture of fertilizers. The commencement of continuous production at the Radium Hill uranium mine is an event of great significance in the history of mining. With its large reserves, the mine will make a valuable contribution both to defence and to the industrial development of the State. The Port Pirie chemical treatment plant which, in the first instance, will produce uranium oxide, will be in operation within three months. My advisers expect that the output of this plant will be substantially increased when mining begins on the new uranium field at Mount Victoria. During the past year the Government has devoted much attention to building up the Research and Development Branch of the Mines Department. This branch not only develops processes for the treatment of uranium, but conducts investigations for the Government and the public into all problems affecting the exploitation and use of the State's minerals. An investigation of special interest is now being made into the production of uranium metal. The Government hopes to submit the results of this investigation to the Federal Government at an early date, with the object of making an arrangement for important work in connection with uranium to be carried out in this State.

24. The deposits of iron ore in the Middle-back Ranges are the State's most valuable mineral asset and it is one of the Government's paramount interests to secure the establishment of a steel industry on Spencer Gulf in the vicinity of these deposits. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company, however, does not see its way clear to undertake such a project. Its reply to the resolution passed in Parliament and to the Government's repeated requests to complete the Whyalla development programme as outlined by the company in 1937 is not acceptable to my Ministers. They have no intention of asking Parliament to repudiate the company's indenture; but on the other hand, they are not prepared to acquiesce in the present unsatisfactory position. An investigation is in progress to ascertain whether sufficient high-grade ore exists outside the company's leases to enable a steel industry to be established in South Australia. If the results of this investigation should prove unfavourable, my Government will appoint an expert committee to advise what measures can be taken to ensure that South Australia shall derive adequate benefit from its iron ore deposits.

25. My Ministers expect that the expenditure for the current financial year will exceed the sum provided in the estimates by about £500,000. The main items of the excess are the cost of pumping water from the Murray to the metropolitan area, and the increases of salary recently granted to public servants, police officers, teachers, and other employees. The excess of expenditure, however, will probably be offset by an improvement in revenue, so that the deficit for the financial year is likely to be approximately the amount estimated in the Budget, namely, £1,933,000.

26. The gross loan expenditure for the year is now estimated at £26,500,000. Credits to the Loan Fund will be of the order of £3,000,000 leaving a net loan expenditure of £23,500,000.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

27. Supplementary estimates for urgent current expenditure not provided for in last year's Budget, and estimates of expenditure for the coming financial year will be laid before you.

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

28. You will be asked to pass a Supply Bill for £7,000,000 to meet expenditure during the early part of the forthcoming financial year.

29. In view of the recent general increases in salaries of public officers, it is desirable that certain salaries fixed by Statutes should be altered, and Bills for this purpose will be introduced.

30. It is the desire of the Government that the Workmen's Compensation Committee shall continue in existence, provided that the necessary co-operation from interested parties is forthcoming.

31. Legislation respecting the bulk handling of grain will be laid before you at an early date.

32. My advisers deem it necessary that the Acts for the control of prices and rents should be continued in operation and will submit to you Bills for this purpose.

33. Bills respecting the standards and quality of agricultural chemicals, and for the more effective control of noxious weeds, will also be laid before you.

34. The Government has given consideration to the extension of library services throughout the State. A Bill is being prepared which will enable subsidies to be paid to local governing authorities which are prepared to establish and maintain public libraries.

35. A number of other proposals for new legislation and for amendment of existing

Statutes are under consideration by my Ministers. The subjects dealt with include administration and probate, medical practitioners, road traffic, gas, block zoning of milk deliveries, Crown lands, maintenance, maintenance orders, sewerage rates, land agents, Port Pirie park lands, companies, leathersgoods, dangerous drugs, physiotherapists, and the Public Service. Bills on these and other matters are being prepared.

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

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

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

NEW MEMBER FOR MIDLAND DISTRICT.

The Hon. CLARENCE ROSS STORY, having taken and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance, took his seat in the Chamber as a member for Midland District in place of the late Hon. R. J. Rudall.

THE LATE HON R. J. RUDALL.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I move—

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. R. J. Rudall, formerly Attorney-General and Minister of Industry and member for the Midland District, and places on record its appreciation of his public services; and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased member, the sitting of the Council be suspended until 2.30 p.m.

The passing of the honourable member and that of another esteemed member of the House of Assembly has been referred to by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. Speaking particularly of the death of our late esteemed friend and colleague, Mr. Rudall, I draw attention to the long period of distinguished service he gave to this Parliament and State. He first entered the South Australian Parliament in 1933 as a member for Barossa in the old three-member district days, and represented the district for five years. Then with the introduction of single electorates in 1938 he became member for the district of Angas, which he represented from 1938 to 1944. In 1944 he was elected to the Legislative Council as one of the representatives for the Midland District.

He had a very distinguished career in Parliament. First, in the House of Assembly he was Chairman of Committees. He first assumed Ministerial office in 1938 and retained it until the

time of his death. From 1938 to 1946 he served as Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation and Minister of Irrigation. From 1946 until 1954 he was Attorney-General and Minister of Education. Our late colleague had a very distinguished scholastic career. He was Rhodes Scholar for South Australia in 1908 and had a distinguished record of war service, particularly as a member of the 50th Battalion. He was a leading constitutional lawyer and was most distinguished in every way in the whole of his very busy life in his service to the community. It was my very great privilege to enjoy his confidence, assistance, loyalty and friendship over practically the whole of his Ministerial career, and I must say, as I know every honourable member will agree, that in him we had a distinguished colleague who in every way was always a friend, a very reliable adviser and a loyal colleague.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—I regret the necessity for this motion, which I support. I endorse all that Sir Lyell said concerning our late colleague, who had a very distinguished career. He was a Rhodes Scholar, a constitutional lawyer, a Minister of the Crown—a man with excellent qualifications. He carried out his duties with credit to this Parliament and to the interests that he represented. He was a very good, hard hitting debater but was always fair to his opponents. His passing was unexpected and members are all the poorer for it. It is the first time for a number of years that a link in the chain of this Chamber has been broken, and in honouring the name of the late Hon. Mr. Rudall we must not overlook the fact that a heavy burden of sorrow has fallen on Mrs. Rudall. Let it be some little consolation to her to know that her husband had the respect and esteem of every member of this House who had the privilege to be associated with him. May God help Mrs. Rudall to bear her sorrow and future trials is our earnest prayer.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—I also rise with very great regret to support this motion. I had the pleasure of being at school, at the Adelaide University, and at Oxford, with the late Minister. I also served in the first war with him, and I think I can say I knew him as well as most people and really appreciated his extraordinary qualities. It has already been said that he won a high place scholastically and I can only add that he took a Senior Degree at Oxford for a thesis on Constitutional law. He was a lecturer for years on that subject at the Adelaide University and was recognized as one of the greatest authorities, not only in Australia, but

outside it. In addition he had what I think we call the common touch; he was beloved by all who knew him. He was one of those who not only had the benefit of being a Rhodes scholar, but did what Rhodes himself wanted—he came back to his own part of the world and gave his great knowledge and ability to the service of the Empire as a whole. In addition to that we remember with the greatest regret that, his family having worked to the advancement of this State over three generations, our late colleague not only gave himself, but gave both his sons to the Empire, and they were a great loss to the community. On behalf of the members of my Party, I join in regretting the honourable Minister's death.

The motion was carried by members standing in silence in their places.

[Sitting suspended from 12.55 to 2.30 p.m.]

QUESTIONS.

CO-ORDINATION OF TRANSPORT.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—In this morning's *Advertiser* appears a report from Reuter's correspondent in New York concerning the running of trams in America, and it goes on to say:—

The industry's only hope for a brighter future is to keep or win back old passengers by better and faster service.

That was published in *Time* recently. The article further states:—

For a sick industry drastic cures have been proposed from outright Federal subsidies to local tax relief.

In view of the financial position of our tramways, is it the Government's intention to set up a transport control board or commission to co-ordinate all transport services, including the railways and tramways, under a Minister who could report to Parliament from time to time concerning the activities of our transport system?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I was particularly interested to hear the source of the report which the honourable member read and which prompted him to ask the question. Apparently the basis of his question is a population of 160,000,000 as against 800,000; therefore, there could be a great discrepancy when a comparison was made. The problem of transport does not come under my portfolio, but it is being capably handled by my colleague, the Minister of Railways and Minister of Roads. Prosperity today is such that people

are quite happy to run motor cars at a cost of 8d. a mile rather than use public transport at possibly only 25 per cent of the cost. That of course is a matter which cannot be influenced by legislation, but in due course no doubt will be changed by altered economic circumstances.

BRIGHTON-MARINO RAILWAY LINE.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—Can the Minister of Railways say when the duplicated Brighton to Marino railway will be ready for complete traffic, and can he indicate the reason for the delay in operating the full service?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—Considerable problems have been experienced concerning the acquisition and alteration of buildings at Emerson crossing. The Government does not undertake compulsory acquisition unless it is absolutely essential in the public interests. We have endeavoured to negotiate for the required land and this is taking considerable time. I cannot give the honourable member a definite indication when the duplication will be completed. Portion of the duplicated line beyond the crossing is already being used. I will secure a reply for the honourable member and let him have it.

QUALITY OF SUPERPHOSPHATE.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—I ask leave to make a statement with a view to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—In last Tuesday week's *Advertiser* appeared a report regarding the supply and delivery of superphosphate to Kangaroo Island published under large headlines that farmers were angry, and that in some cases soldier settlers would be put back for five years because of the poor quality of the superphosphate. There was also reference to the delay in delivery. As no adequate reply seems to have been published in the paper, it seems desirable that the Chief Secretary should have an inquiry made and publicity given to the matter so that the people will know the true facts.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I think some explanation has been given that the lack of supplies was due to transport difficulties.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—I was referring more particularly to quality rather than to the delay in delivery.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I think that point was answered by a representative of the superphosphate companies. If there is any more information I can get, I will be glad to make it available to the Council.

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:—Findon and Marion high schools, Port Lincoln Government office block, purchase of photolithographic equipment, Onkaparinga Valley water supply—branch main to Lobethal (third progress).

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

While the Minister of Local Government was laying papers on the Table—

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—(Leader of the Opposition)—On a point of order, Mr. President are Ministers in order in referring to two different departments at a time? This has been done by the three Ministers this afternoon. I contend that when the Chief Secretary has laid regulations on the Table as Chief Secretary, he should sit down and give every honourable member the opportunity of disallowing them or taking some objection, but there has been a tendency for Ministers to pass from one department to another. I ask for a ruling whether this is in order.

The PRESIDENT—So far as I can make out, Mr. Jude has been laying papers on the Table as Minister of Local Government. Mr. Rowe laid his papers on the Table, and then Mr. Jude laid his papers on the table.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I allowed the first two to pass but I contend that the Chief Secretary, for instance, is only in order in laying papers on the Table as Chief Secretary, resuming his seat, and then, if no member has any objection, rising and laying papers on the Table as Minister of Health.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—The Ministers in this House represent other Ministers. For instance, some of the regulations laid on the Table by the Attorney-General related to education. I think that has been the practice, and it seems to me that it is rather desirable that they should be separated as Mr. Condon suggests.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—On a point of order, Mr. President, the Leader of the Opposition asked you a question on a point of order, and Mr. Cudmore then proceeded to debate the question. Was he in order in speaking before you have given your ruling?

The PRESIDENT—I think Mr. Bardolph was in order in raising the point. I was hoping that Mr. Cudmore was going to help me come to a conclusion, but I am afraid he is out of order in trying to do so. The practice has been to do exactly what Mr. Jude was doing, and if Mr. Condon will let it pass today I shall go into the question and give a ruling after having had due time to consider it. As I see it, nobody is losing anything by the present procedure, because at any time any member can move that a regulation that has been laid on the Table can be disallowed. I will rule at present that the Minister is in order, but I shall get a report on it.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I suggest that you have not given a ruling, Mr. President. I do not want to disagree with your ruling.

The PRESIDENT—Standing Order 457 provides:—

Papers presented pursuant to Statute, or by command of the Governor, or pursuant to an order of the Council, may be laid on the Table without comment, at any time when other business is not before the Council.

I therefore think that the Minister is in order in laying the papers on the Table, because nothing else is at present before the Council.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin (Chief Secretary) moved—

That a committee consisting of the Hons. F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore, L. H. Densley, C. R. Story and the Chief Secretary be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor this day and to report on May 24.

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The following sessional committees were appointed on the motion of the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin:—

Standing Orders.—The Hons. Sir Walter Duncan, Sir Lyell McEwin, F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore and A. J. Melrose.

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

Printing.—The Hons. S. C. Bevan, J. L. Cowan, A. A. Hoare, C. R. Story and R. R. Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.50 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, May 24, at 2 p.m.