

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, August 14, 1956.

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

SWEARING IN NEW MEMBER.

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to and subscribed by the Hon. F. J. Condon as member for Central District No. 1.

SUPPLY ACT (No. 1).

His Excellency the Governor intimated by message his assent to the Act.

QUESTIONS.

GIFT WHEAT TO PAKISTAN.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—On July 15 the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Casey, stated that the Australian Government was donating to Pakistan 3,000 tons of wheat worth approximately £100,000. This was the second gift of wheat, a much larger amount having been given previously. As the Premier leaves for Canberra tomorrow will the Chief Secretary ask him to discuss with the Acting Prime Minister the desirability of making any further gifts in the shape of flour instead of wheat? The milling industry throughout Australia has had a very bad time in the last two years and it would mean a great deal to the industry if the wheat could be gristed before shipment.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I will bring the honourable member's remarks under the notice of the Premier. It depends, of course, on what represents the greatest economic advantage to both parties.

MURRAY AREA ROADS.

The Hon. J. L. COWAN—Will the Minister of Roads inform the House whether it is the intention of the Government to make special grants to councils for the maintenance of district and other roads now carrying abnormal traffic owing to the River Murray flooding main roads and ferry approaches?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The Government is fully aware of the additional traffic carried by roads adjacent to the River Murray, and already many thousands of pounds have been allocated to district councils for their main-

tenance. Unfortunately, it will be necessary for grants to continue to be made because of the great disaster along the river.

SUBSIDIES FOR DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—In view of the Federal Government's recognition of the need to subsidize private denominational schools in Canberra, can the Chief Secretary state whether it is the intention of this Government to subsidize similar schools in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—Although I have noticed some discussion in the newspapers, I do not know whether that has actually been done. There seems to have been agreement in some quarters and not in others. This involves a matter of policy, therefore I will see that it is considered.

MARGARINE QUOTAS.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—For the third year in succession margarine factories have been forced to close down because they have reached their quotas. Can the Chief Secretary state whether the Government intends to introduce a Bill to amend the Margarine Act so as to permit people to purchase this much needed article?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—A meeting of the Agricultural Council is at present in progress, and when I read the result of its deliberations I may have some information regarding this matter.

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:—

New Jervois Bridge (Port Adelaide).

Murray Bridge court house and office building.

Pallamana water supply.

Augmentation of metropolitan water supplies (River Murray pipeline additional pumping units).

Port Lincoln harbour improvements and bulk handling system.

Upper Murray gaol and prison farm.

Netley works depot.

Norwood boys technical school (additional class rooms).

Salisbury high school.

Glenelg sewage treatment works extensions.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION
BILLS.**

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

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN moved—

That the Assembly's request be agreed to and that the members of the Legislative Council to be members of the Joint Committee

be the Chief Secretary, the Hon. C. R. Cudmore, and the Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph, of whom two shall form the quorum of Council members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.27 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 15, at 2 p.m.