

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT (1958)

Parliament, which adjourned on November 1, 1957, was prorogued by proclamation dated December 5. By proclamation dated May 29, 1958, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, June 17, and the Fourth Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, June 17, 1958.

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 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.

2. My Ministers and I deeply regret the resignation of Sir Malcolm McIntosh from the Ministry. During his long term of office he has proved himself a sound, versatile and able administrator, and rendered valuable service to the State. All honourable members will join in wishing him a speedy recovery. The vacancy in the Ministry will be filled at an early date. You will, I am sure, desire that I should also record our sorrow at the death of your colleague Mr. John Fletcher. During his long term as

a member of the House of Assembly and of the Public Works Committee he was highly esteemed for his ability, devotion to duty and estimable qualities. Our sympathy is extended to his relatives.

3. During the last twelve months South Australia has experienced dry conditions in the rural areas and low world prices for wool and base metals. These adverse factors, which a few years ago would have seriously dislocated our economy, have had relatively small influence on employment and commerce in this State. Our increasing population, combined with the vast industrial projects now contemplated and the Government's long-range programme of essential public works, give every reason to expect the maintenance of a high level of employment and business activity.

4. My Ministers regret that their efforts to safeguard South Australia's right to a share of the Snowy Mountains water have not yet been successful. The claims of this State will, however, be further pressed by all available means. A further conference will be held in the near future with the Governments which are parties to the Snowy Mountains Agreement. My Ministers are still hopeful that a solution of the problem will be found. The future development of South Australia is dependent on the maintenance of our right to an adequate share of the water of the Murray. Even in the past season, when no period of restriction was declared, there was barely enough water to meet the needs of consumers and at the same time avoid excessive salinity in the river. If agreement is reached with Victoria and New South

Wales a Bill for the amendment of the River Murray Waters Agreement will be placed before you this session.

5. The outlook for primary production has been greatly improved by the widespread rains of recent weeks, which have brought immense benefits to most of the settled areas. Cereal crops and pastures have started well and there are now prospects of a bountiful season. The dry conditions of last year had unfavourable effects on the production of cereals, milk and butter, and on the growth of pastures. The grain harvest was only half that of a normal year. The reduction in the wool clip was relatively small—about 8 per cent—but the average price fell from 74d. to 58d. a pound. Fruit production was not seriously reduced. There was a heavy apple crop and the quantity exported, amounting to 350,000 bushels, was the greatest since the war. The vintage was normal and the dried fruit pack of exceptionally high quality.

6. The agricultural services provided by the Government continue to prove their value to producers. The discovery by the Department of Agriculture that small additions of lime will promote the growth of pasture on deep sandy soil has opened up the possibility of a great increase of production on more than 1,000,000 acres of land in the South-East. Large areas are already being improved by the new method. A vigorous State-wide campaign for the control of weeds is also being conducted, and the staff for this work has been increased. The Government is carrying out important researches for the improvement of primary production, including an investigation of methods of improving the quality and yield of wheat. This is being financed by funds derived from the wheat levy. A large-scale trial of the artificial breeding of dairy cattle has also been commenced. The experience gained in this experiment will facilitate the wider use of modern methods of improving livestock.

7. My Ministers have continued the War Service Land Settlement Scheme under which about 1,000 ex-servicemen have been settled on holdings amounting to 725,000 acres, and 1,200 have been assisted by loans. Additional land offered to the Commonwealth under this scheme has not been accepted and future land settlement will be proceeded with by the State under its own legislation.

8. The drainage of 260,000 acres at Avenue Flat, Reedy Creek Flat, and Biscuit Flat has

proceeded and it is expected that this work will be completed next year. The scheme has already been responsible for a notable increase in production on private land, and has made it possible for the Government to subdivide and sell areas of Crown lands. Two other drainage projects are being considered. One relates to an additional area of 140,000 acres in the Western Division of the South-East. The other involves the drainage of 700,000 acres in the Eastern Division. This latter project is still under investigation by the Land Settlement Committee.

9. In spite of the low rainfall of last season all demands for water in the metropolitan area were met without restrictions. This result is due to the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, through which water was pumped without a break from February, 1957, to May of this year. The amount of water thus provided was equal to the total capacity of all the reservoirs, other than South Para. The experience of recent months has clearly justified the Government's policy of giving priority to the pipeline, while taking steps to increase storage capacity. My Ministers will proceed as quickly as possible with the provision of further storages for the Adelaide district. A contract has been let for the completion of the Myponga Reservoir within three years, and rapid progress will be made during the coming year. Other projects to augment metropolitan supplies include raising the height of the dam at Mount Bold, building reservoirs at Clarendon and Kangaroo Creek, and improving distribution in the metropolitan area.

10. Much attention has also been given to country waterworks. About four-fifths of the work on the Yorke Peninsula water supply has been completed. The trunk main has been extended eight miles south of Minlaton, and adjacent country lands have been fully reticulated as far as Maitland. During the coming year the scheme will be extended to Port Victoria and Yorketown. Work has begun on the enlargement of the Warren trunk main to give an assured supply to areas around Nuriootpa and Kapunda, and to provide more water for Yorke Peninsula. During last year, water supplies for Coonalpyn, Mount Pleasant, and the hundred of Finnis were completed and River Murray water was delivered to Peterborough through an extension of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline from Spalding. A scheme for the improvement of the water supply in the Encounter Bay district has been

referred to the Public Works Committee for investigation.

11. Important proposals are being prepared for the improvement of the sewerage system of the metropolitan area. In addition the Government is now in a position to commence construction of a number of country sewerage schemes. My Ministers have appointed an Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of the Engineer for Sewerage to report on the order in which country schemes should be carried out having regard to public health and the social and economic aspects of the question. One report from the Committee has already been received and my Ministers expect that further reports will be received in time to permit amounts to be included in this year's Loan Estimates so that work may proceed forthwith.

12. The Government has continued to improve the railways, including the permanent way, bridges, sidings, handling facilities, and staff accommodation. The broadening of the gauge of the Naracoorte to Kingston line is approaching Reedy Creek and in preparation for the completion of this work the bridges and culverts between Reedy Creek and Kingston are being strengthened. New rolling stock, including both rail cars and freight cars, is being constructed at Islington, and eight diesel-electric locomotives have been received from the contractors. The use of these locomotives continues to prove highly beneficial and will be extended so far as it is profitable to do so.

13. The Government has given consideration to further work under the standard railway gauge agreement. Negotiations are in progress with the Commonwealth for the conversion of all the narrow-gauge northern lines to standard gauge. So that South Australian companies supplying goods to the eastern States may obtain full benefit from the conversion, the Government has instructed the Railways Commissioner to investigate the laying of a standard gauge line connecting the northern system with Adelaide. If this were done South Australian consignors would have direct rail communication without a break with Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Kalgoorlie. No legislation is required for the conversion of the northern lines since the conversion is already authorized; but if it is found practicable to extend the standard gauge to Adelaide a Bill for that purpose will be introduced. Another railway project of importance is the construction of a line between Port Augusta and Whyalla. My Ministers have asked the Com-

monwealth to build this line and our request is now being examined. If the proposal is accepted by the Commonwealth, a Bill will be submitted to you this session authorizing the construction of the line.

14. The Housing Trust continues to build houses at a rate in excess of 3,000 a year. During the present financial year the output will be about 3,050 and a similar number is contemplated for next year. There has been a steady increase in the population of Elizabeth, which now has some 8,500 inhabitants. The building of the large factories of General Motors-Holden at this town has begun, and the many inquiries for industrial sites received by the Trust indicate that considerable industrial expansion will take place. The Trust has purchased over 2,000 acres of land between Morphett Vale and Christies Beach for a new town to provide the houses which will be required as a result of the establishment of the oil refinery and other industries. In planning the town the trust will be guided by the best town planning practice, and contemplates that a town of unusual beauty will be created. Contracts are being let for building additional houses at Whyalla to meet the needs arising from new undertakings which during the next few years are expected to double the size of that town.

15. Money provided by the Government has enabled the State Bank to play an important part in financing the purchase of homes. During this year the Bank has made over 800 loans under the Advances for Homes Act and the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Government guarantees under the Homes Act are still being given in large numbers, and up to the present this scheme has enabled over 8,500 people to obtain loans amounting to £11,500,000 to enable them to secure homes of their own. Important amendments of these Acts will be submitted for your early consideration.

16. Within the next fortnight, the number of pupils in the Government primary schools will reach a figure double that of 10 years ago. The increase of pupils in the secondary schools is even greater, and equipment and teaching aids are required on an unprecedented scale. These factors have imposed an enormous task upon the Government. Although much remains to be done, a gratifying degree of success has been achieved in meeting current needs and providing for the still greater needs of the future. During this year four large secondary schools have been opened—namely, high schools at Campbelltown and Henley Beach; a boys'

technical high school at Mitchell Park; and a girls' technical high school at Vermont. Buildings are under construction for new high schools at Loxton, Waikerie, Bordertown, Salisbury and Seacombe Gardens, and for seven other established secondary schools. Preparations are also being made to build 10 new high schools and seven new technical high schools, as well as additional rooms for a number of existing secondary schools. A comparable programme of building for primary schools is also in hand. It includes large primary school buildings at 15 places and infant schools at 12 places. Woodwork centres are being provided at 11 schools. The output of prefabricated classrooms to meet urgent needs is 320 a year. An energetic campaign is being conducted to increase the teaching staff. In 1948 there were 2,700 teachers; today there are over 5,000. Student teachers in training now number 1,046, and 1,000 pupils in secondary schools are preparing for courses at the Teachers' Colleges. These numbers are in excess of those of any previous year, and will increase. The Government has carried out a sympathetic policy of improving conditions for teachers. Schools have been reclassified so as to increase the number in the higher classes. New positions for deputy heads of primary schools have been created, with the dual object of obtaining more adequate staffs and providing further opportunities for promotion. Regulations have also been made as a result of which women will become eligible for appointments as heads and deputy heads of large primary schools. The Government will continue to provide for all necessary increases in expenditure on education.

17. Notable progress has been made in the State-wide programme of work for the enlargement and improvement of public hospitals. Approximately £2,900,000 has been spent this year, and a somewhat greater expenditure is contemplated for next year. My Ministers expect that the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which was opened by Her Majesty the Queen Mother in March, will be completed shortly. At the Royal Adelaide Hospital the super-voltage wing of the Radio-therapy Department is now in use, and work is proceeding on the Radio-therapy and Women's Hospital Buildings, additions to the Dental Hospital, and additions to the McEwin Building. Parkside Mental Hospital is being continuously improved. A new ward for tubercular patients was occupied in October last and another ward for male patients is almost complete. At Northfield Mental Hospital a building for tubercular

patients has been occupied, and accommodation for an additional 260 patients is being built. At Mount Gambier the construction of the commodious modern hospital is half completed, and the new quarters for 120 nurses are in use. Additional buildings at Port Pirie will shortly be ready for occupation. The Government has approved an extensive programme of further hospital works at centres throughout the State. The policy of subsidizing community and non-profit hospitals for both maintenance and capital expenditure has been continued, and subsidies of £1,000,000 have been paid this year.

18. During the financial year now ending the largest annual road programme in the history of the State has been carried out. Approximately £8,000,000 has been spent. Substantial improvements to the main arterial highways have been made, and much work has been done on developmental and feeder roads in country areas. Additional ferries have been placed in service at crossings of the River Murray, and contracts have been laid for larger ferries for every crossing. As a result of the liberal grants made by the Government, local authorities have equipped themselves with adequate modern plant and are doing valuable road work in co-operation with the Highways Department. Much benefit has been derived from the researches carried out by the Government as to the materials, methods and designs used in roadmaking. The information obtained has led to greater economy, improved materials, and more durable roads. The policy of extending bituminous roads throughout all parts of the State will be continued next financial year, and in addition to its usual expenditure the Government proposes to make £3,000,000 available for expenditure by local authorities.

19. My Ministers have continued the survey of the State's mineral resources. Explorations in the Middleback Ranges have disclosed about 30,000,000 tons of high-grade iron ore outside the Broken Hill Company's leases, and numerous deposits of other iron-bearing material which is known to be usable. These discoveries have no doubt contributed to the decision of the Broken Hill Company to erect steelworks at Whyalla. The steelworks will lead to further development of the mineral industry, since they will use large quantities of limestone, dolomite, magnesite, and clays. The survey has also revealed a coal-bearing basin of several square miles in the Craddock area, which will be thoroughly examined during

the next 12 months. Investigation of the underground water resources of the State has also proceeded and a large basin of underground water near Port Lincoln and numerous smaller basins are being explored. Production of uranium ore at the Radium Hill mine has been increased, and new reserves of ore have been discovered. The output of uranium oxide at the Port Pirie works has been well maintained, and exports of this substance during the current year are valued at £2,800,000. My Ministers are proceeding with the investigation of potential oil-bearing formations on Yorke Peninsula by means of bores, and the data obtained are being closely studied. As the result of the work of the Government and the oil exploration companies, a great amount of information on the possibility of oil in South Australia is being accumulated. The recent arrangement between Santos Limited and the Delhi-Taylor Corporation of Texas for oil prospecting in the Great Artesian Basin will result in a thorough testing of that area. The total volume of mineral production was approximately the same as last year. Its value was £24,500,000.

20. The Electricity Trust continues its policy of expansion. There are now 237,000 consumers, 10,800 of whom have been enrolled during the last 12 months. The number of consumers has doubled since the Trust was formed. Extension of electricity supplies in country areas has proceeded rapidly, and for the third year in succession over 4,000 new country consumers were supplied with power. Gratifying progress has been made in erecting additional generating plant. The Port Augusta "A" Station was completed this year. It cost nearly £11,000,000 and uses 13,000 tons of Leigh Creek coal a week. It is the most economical of the Trust's stations, and its fuel costs £350,000 a year less than New South Wales coal at current prices. Work is proceeding on the Port Augusta "B" Station which will come into operation in 1960 and will be twice the size of the "A" Station. The installation of plant in the Osborne "B" Station has also been completed and preliminary designs are being drawn for another station on the Port River. At Mount Gambier the Trust has recently finished the construction of a station with a capacity of 11,000 kilowatts, operating entirely on wood wastes from the Government forests. The capacity of this station is also being increased. Most of the construction work on the Leigh

Creek coalfield is now completed and the field can produce without difficulty the coal which will be required for the future needs of the Port Augusta power stations. In each year since 1951 the earnings of the field have produced surpluses, the accumulated amount of which will shortly eliminate the deficit incurred in the early years of the field's development.

21. The success which has attended the State's forestry undertaking in recent years has been phenomenal. The profit for 1957-1958 will be about £240,000, bringing the total contribution to revenue for the past four years up to £680,000. New planting is being carried out at the rate of about 3,000 acres each season. The output of the Government sawmills is increasing from year to year. The new mill at Mount Gambier came into operation last September. Production at this mill is now at the rate of 15,000,000 super feet a year and will reach 40,000,000 super feet by December next. The wood residues from the mill are being profitably used for the generation of electrical power.

22. The Harbors Board has made substantial advances during the year in its State-wide works for the improvement of ports. Sound progress has been made in the Port Adelaide reconstruction works, and in the bulk grain loading pier and new shipping facilities at Port Lincoln. The conveyor for bulk grain at Port Lincoln should be completed for testing before the end of the year. At Wallaroo the bulk loading installation is expected to be ready for use next month. A proposal to instal a belt conveyor at Thevenard for gypsum rock, wheat and other materials in bulk has been recommended by the Public Works Committee and is under consideration by the Government. Other works contemplated for the coming financial year include dredging at Port Pirie, the reconstruction of the North Parade wharf at Port Adelaide, the improvement of Glanville dockyard, a new berth for oil tankers at Port Lincoln and further facilities for fishing boats at Port Lincoln and other places.

23. My Ministers expect that the deficit on revenue account for the current year will not exceed the amount estimated in the budget.

24. The gross loan expenditure for the year will be about £24,893,000, and credits to loan £2,970,000, thus bringing the net loan expenditure to £21,923,000.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

25. Supplementary estimates for additional expenditure of £627,339 incurred during the

current financial year and estimates of expenditure for 1958-1959 will be laid before you.

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

26. A Supply Bill appropriating £7,000,000 for the Public Service of the State for the year 1958-1959, will be laid before you forthwith.

27. During the coming financial year large advances under the Loans to Producers Act will be made by the State Bank for the establishment of a co-operative fruit canning works at Berri. A vote of loan money will be required for this purpose.

28. My Government has concluded satisfactory negotiations with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company regarding the establishment of steel-making plant and rolling mills at Whyalla. A Bill ratifying an agreement with the company will be laid before you. The company undertakes to spend £30,000,000 on these works over a period of 10 years, and in addition is actively experimenting to enable the use of the lower grade iron ore of the Middleback Ranges to be successfully exploited. If the experiments are successful very great industrial development at Iron Knob will be undertaken and the Bill will contain clauses dealing with a water supply to that centre.

29. Your approval will also be sought for an important agreement which the Government made with Standard-Vacuum Refining Company (Australia) Proprietary Limited respecting the establishment of an oil refinery in the hundred of Noarlunga. This agreement is the result of protracted negotiations and will be highly beneficial to the State. An oil refinery inevitably attracts a number of supplementary industries associated with chemicals and plastic production and in the aggregate a large amount of employment will be created.

30. A Bill will also be introduced to amend the Mining (Petroleum) Act, 1940. The agreement for collaboration between the Santos Company and the Delhi-Taylor Company is subject to a condition that exploration and prospecting licences will be granted with longer terms than are at present prescribed by law. The Government considers the requests which have been made for improved tenures to be reasonable, and will submit proposals on this subject for your consideration.

31. Negotiations to which the Government is a party have been proceeding for the further expansion of the cellulose industry using wood from our forests in the South-East. Agreement

has been reached in principle between Cellulose (Australia) Limited, Australian Paper Manufacturers and the Government, and the proposal will probably be referred to the Industries Assistance Committee in the near future. A Bill to facilitate the operations of the Cellulose Company may be necessary. This matter is at present being investigated by the South-Eastern Drainage Board.

32. A Bill will be introduced authorizing the expenditure of a Commonwealth grant of £368,000, for the purpose of erecting cottages in country towns for pensioners and other persons of limited income. The Bill will also provide for the creation of a rotating fund to be applied to the building of additional houses in future.

33. An amendment of the Industries Development Act will be submitted to you for the assistance of factories in country areas.

34. Bills will be introduced providing for an increase in the maximum amounts of housing loans under the Advances for Homes Act and the Homes Act.

35. A substantial programme of legislation is being considered by my Ministers. Among the subjects dealt with are prices, rent control, the Renmark Irrigation Trust, irrigation on private property, underground water, shearers' accommodation, libraries, the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs, offenders probation, maintenance, mining, land agents, police offences, road traffic, firearms, workmen's compensation and foot and mouth disease.

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 this 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.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN FLETCHER, M.P.

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

That the Council expresses its deep regret at the death of Mr. John Fletcher, former member for Mount Gambier in the House of Assembly, 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 the ringing of the bells.

The late Mr. Fletcher was first elected to the district of Mount Gambier in 1938 when that district was established after the reallocation

of electoral boundaries, and he served continuously since. He was a member of the Public Works Committee from 1946 to the time of his death. He was extremely popular in his district and in both Houses of this Parliament. He did not serve in the Council but in another place. Although you, Mr. President, have conveyed, on behalf of members, our condolences to his widow, I am sure members of the Council desire me to express our sympathies.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—I second the motion, the need for which I regret. Mr. Fletcher devoted a great deal of his time to Parliament. He was a conscientious member and was always prepared to do something, not only in the interests of his constituents, but of the State generally. It was my good fortune to sit with him as a member of the Public Works Committee over a number of years. His assistance was always valued and he rendered great service. On behalf of the Opposition I express our sympathies to those whom he has left behind, and I trust that his memory will be with us for many years.

The Hon. Sir COLLIER CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—On behalf of myself and the members of my Party I associate myself with the motion. Although John Fletcher was not a member of this Chamber, he was well known to all of us, and was as popular as any member in either House. He will be remembered for his good nature, kindness and readiness to assist in any way possible and he will be sadly missed. I join in the expressions of condolence to his family, and the remarks regarding respect for his memory.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE (Southern)—I associate myself with the motion and as a fellow member of the Public Works Committee I support Mr. Condon's remarks. The Public Works Committee travels practically all over the State and that gave the committee members the opportunity to know Mr. Fletcher very well. It is under such conditions that we learn to appreciate the qualities of a man, more so than just meeting him in every day life. Mr. Fletcher represented the district of Mount Gambier in the Assembly, which is part of the Southern district in the Legislative Council, and naturally, I came in contact with him more than did most members. I add my tribute to him for his value as a member of the House of Assembly, the service he rendered to his district, and the pleasing associations he and I had as members of the Public Works Committee.

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

[Sitting suspended from 12.56 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.]

QUESTIONS.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—In 1954 the Workmen's Compensation Act was amended, and it was understood that any amounts paid to make up deficiencies in a man's earnings during disablement or sickness would not be deducted from any lump sum payment agreed upon. Some insurance companies are now taking the stand that they can deduct those amounts already paid in weekly instalments. Can the Minister of Industry say whether the law permits that, and if so, will the Government take action to see that the injured person is protected?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Minister of Industry)—The position is that the Act fixes a general limit of £2,600, but it prescribes two classes of payment which a workman can claim in excess of this general limit. The first class is the payment for medical or hospital expenses, and under the Act those are now payable in full. The other class of payment which is in excess of the figure of £2,600 is a payment in respect of the loss of an eye, hands, arms or legs and certain other specified injuries which are set out in the schedule to the Act. In those cases, if a man loses a leg, for instance, he receives a payment in excess of £2,600.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—What about an internal injury which does not come within the schedule?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I am coming to that. In 1954 an amendment provided that certain payments should be made in addition to the fixed amount. If a workman was totally incapacitated for a long time and ended up with only one arm, his maximum claim would be £2,600 for payments during the period of total incapacity, plus the scheduled rate for the loss of an arm, which happens to be £2,080. However, in cases where a workman has a period of total incapacity followed by a permanent partial incapacity not due to one of the scheduled injuries, he is not entitled to a payment in excess of the £2,600. I take it

this last case is the one the honourable member desires consideration to be given to. As has been indicated in the speech of His Excellency, the Workmen's Compensation Act will come up for consideration later this year.

DECENTRALIZATION.

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—During the opening ceremony His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor referred to the expansion at Whyalla and the establishment of an oil refinery near Halletts Cove. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will consider setting up a Select Committee for the purpose of reviewing various country areas in which industries can be established for the purpose of carrying out a policy of decentralization?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—As indicated in His Excellency's speech, legislation will be introduced covering both the extension of industry at Whyalla and the establishment of an oil refinery at Halletts Cove, and that will provide ample opportunity for Parliament to express its views regarding industries throughout the State.

FLOUR MILLING INDUSTRY.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government, when the Wheat Stabilization Bill is introduced, will consider the flour milling, poultry, pig, dairying and other allied industries in order that they will receive the protection that they have not been able to get in the past?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—This matter is being considered by the Government.

MARGARINE ACT.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—His Excellency's Speech made no reference to amending the Margarine Act. Does the Government intend to introduce legislation to amend that Act in order to meet the demands of the people for that commodity?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—This question relates to another ministerial office, but I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

That a committee consisting of the Hons. J. L. S. Bice, F. J. Condon, Sir Collier Cudmore, Sir Frank Perry, 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 July 26.

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The following sessional committees were appointed on the motion of the Honourable Sir Lyell McEwin (Chief Secretary):—

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

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

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

REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the following projects:—Relaying of sewers in Port Adelaide drainage area (Carlisle and Hart Streets), and Royal Adelaide Hospital (Northfield Wards)—Additional nurses homes, together with minutes of evidence.

LAND DEVELOPMENT: HUNDREDS OF WOOLUMBOOL AND LOCHABER.

The President laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on land development in the hundreds of Woolumbool and Lochaber (South-East).

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

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

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is the usual Supply Bill presented at this stage every year to enable Government functions to be carried out pending the submission of the Budget. The amount involved is £7,000,000 and it is expected that this will be sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the Government until about the middle of August. The usual safeguards are included in clause 3, which provides that payments

shall not exceed last years Estimates except that the payment of any increases in salaries or wages fixed by the appropriate authority may be made.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—It does not matter what our opinions may be on the Bill, because we can do nothing about it. I understand that by arrangement it was decided that the Bill should be passed in the House of Assembly without discussion and that any debate should take place on the Supplementary Estimates. The amount we are now asked to pass far exceeds the sum included in similar Bills some few years ago and shows how expenses are increasing. If these increases continue much longer, they will almost reach the sky.

The Government should consider amending various Acts to overcome certain anomalies. One very important piece of legislation is the Workmen's Compensation Act, which Parliament has discussed for a number of years with the object of bringing our Act into line with those operating in other States. The 1954 amendment provided better protection for workers and related to certain amounts not being deductible under the schedule of the Act, but a man may be on compensation for a number of weeks or even months, and the payments received during the time of his disablement are deductible from his weekly salary. I do not think Parliament intended that. He may have received internal injuries, the severity of which was perhaps unknown at the time of his accident, and they may be even more severe in relation to his earning capacity than if he had lost a finger or two or an arm.

Members have been reasonably considerate when considering this legislation. An employer may say that he has no further work that he can offer his injured employee, and the insurance company may suggest that he be given a light job, but often such a job is not available. Therefore the employee is thrown on the labour market. Even when a man has served his firm for 20 or 30 years, he may be asked to get another job, but he finds this impracticable. He may be unable to do any heavy work, and possibly very little work at all, and yet the weekly amounts paid to him are deducted from his total compensation. I do not think that was intended. If there is any doubt, it should be made clear that the injured person should receive every consideration.

This session we will be asked to amend the Wheat Stabilization Act. An agreement is

made and it is sent to each State Parliament concerned for ratification. Previously in our discussions we have overlooked the manufacturing side.

The Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore—Do you suggest we should not accept the agreement?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—There should be safeguards to the extent that other people will be considered.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Can the Bill be altered by us?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—If we have no right to alter it, why is it brought here?

The Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore—You should know all about the Federal milling interests.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Yes. The milling trade is the worst treated industry in Australia. In New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia there are idle mills which cost much money to establish. It was a trade worked up by private enterprise. Almost all the overseas trade has been lost because overseas Governments are subsidizing the flour price by £4 a ton, and in some cases £8. We are asked to help the farmers and I support such a move. I say nothing against the wheatgrowers, but other people should be considered. Few mills are now working three shifts a day. In fact, the industry has become a one shift industry.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—It is not better to have one shift and avoid unemployment?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—To get full employment the Commonwealth Government should consider the industry in the same way as it considers other industries. In England the butter price is 1s. 9d. a pound; here it is 4s. 6½d.

The Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore—Do you ever think of referring some of these matters to your Federal members?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I have referred them to Federal members of the Labor Party. Liberal members do not seem to be much concerned about what I say.

The Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore—Did you see the unemployment figures in the press this morning?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I am putting up a case for consideration in the interests of the economy of the State. The honourable member does not seem to care that men are now walking the streets after being 30 and 40 years in the milling industry. There is no work for them because overseas countries are

getting into the markets and making our position difficult. The South Australian Government is sympathetic in this matter but it should leave no stone unturned to avoid unfair competition. Egg and poultry prices are high, because production costs are excessive. The Government should remember the manufacturing side of the milling industry and give it as much consideration as any other side. I do not object to fixing the price of bread because the farmer is entitled to a fair deal, but the unfair competition from overseas countries in the milling industry should be considered. The Australian Wheat Board comprises 13 men, nine of whom are farmers. There are two commercial members, one representing the flour millers and the other the milling employees. An attempt is being made to remove those members representing the manufacturing side.

The Hon. W. W. Robinson—An attempt by whom?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The Wheat-growers' Federation. In 1952 the milling industry manufactured 2,354,000 tons of flour, bran and pollard, which shows that the industry is worth considering. I trust that when this Bill is before Parliament members will consider all parties and not any individual section.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—You only have your eye on one set of employees.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—No, I have not; that is where my friend is wrong. Some people single out industries they know nothing about, but I happen to know something about this industry and that is why I am expressing my opinion. I have never done anything against manufacturing industries in South Australia. The manufacturing side has not always received the consideration that it is justly entitled to, and in that statement I do not exclude anyone. I do not object to people representing farming constituencies. If we cannot put up a case for our own side we have no right to be here. I want it to be plainly understood that I am not putting up a fight for any one section but for all parties concerned.

Another question of very great importance is the Landlord and Tenant Act, and I think there should be a few alterations to that legislation. I know of a case where a man has taken over a business in a building where there is a picture theatre and three shops. Under the agreement which he has entered into this person is prohibited from selling anything in competition with the other shops. In

addition, he has to close his shop at 7.15 p.m. and cannot open again until after the picture intervals. On Saturdays he has to close at 12.30 p.m. because of the matinee. Why should any person be allowed to dictate such conditions?

The Hon. E. Anthoney—The Early Closing Act closes all businesses at a certain time.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I quite agree, but it does not allow one person to open and compel a similar business to close. I will say something more about this matter later. People should be protected, and no monopoly or otherwise should be allowed to sell a particular article and another person be prevented from selling it.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—A man who enters into such an agreement knows what he is doing.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Unfortunately, in a number of cases that is not so. I admit that a man should know what he is doing, but I do not think the law should allow anybody to do what I am referring to, and the Government should take steps to prevent such a thing from happening. There are one or two other matters which I could speak on but I do not wish to take up the time of the House. I have submitted to the Government several things which I think should be looked at, and I support the second reading.

The Hon. Sir COLLIER CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—This is the normal Supply Bill introduced on the first day of sitting to enable the Government to carry on the civil service until the Budget and the general Appropriation Bill have been presented. In the past I have compared this Bill with that of previous years. Last year it dealt with an amount of £7,000,000, and this year it is the same. Last session I had reason to complain that because of difficulties in the Government Printing Office we did not have the previous year's Act before us to enable us to compare the actual wording and the exceptions in the Bill. Although we have not received last year's Act in bound form, I have this year been able to obtain copies of last year's Bill which was No. 7 of 1957, and the wording and the exceptions, so far as I can judge, are exactly the same. We are providing out of the general revenue the sum of £7,000,000, and we have the same exceptions, namely:—

No payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said moneys in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the

financial year ended on the thirtieth day of June, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven: Provided that there may be paid out of the said moneys increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the public service, or by any regulation, or by any award, order, or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

This entitles the Government to carry on the civil service, but it is not to pay more than has already been authorized except when there is an alteration in an Arbitration Court award, for instance. It is exactly the same Supply

Bill which we passed last year and have been in the habit of passing, and as far as I can see there is nothing in it to discuss that should not properly be discussed when the Budget comes along or when we receive the Bills which have been promised in His Excellency's Speech. I support the second reading.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.24 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 18, at 2.15 p.m.