

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, September 15, 1959.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.**WHEAT FOR EXPORT.**

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I have been approached regarding the exportation of wheat as it has been rumoured that after November no more will be available for flour for export owing to the expectations of a bad season. I have taken up the matter with the Minister of Agriculture (The Hon. D. N. Brookman) and I now ask whether, if this report is correct, the Government will approach the Australian Wheat Board requesting it to place an embargo on the export of wheat from South Australia as the milling trade has had a very severe setback during the past few years?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The Minister of Agriculture is in contact with the Australian Wheat Board in the matter, and he has also taken up the question of barley. He will be reporting to Cabinet in due course, when the matter will be considered.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS NEAR SCHOOLS.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD—I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD—I notice from press reports that a very able subcommittee of the State Traffic Committee, consisting of Inspector Vogelesang, Mr. Jackman, Mr. Boykett and the former Parliamentary Draftsman (Sir Edgar Bean) has been appointed to inquire into safety problems near schools, and that this committee in turn has co-opted traffic engineers to help them in solving the problem. Can the Minister of Roads say what form the inquiry will take? For instance, will the committee call for evidence, and will it consult school committees, particularly those women who flag for safety near schools at present?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I have no doubt that the subcommittee will take all steps to get the relevant information. It has been formed as a result of discussions within the State Traffic Committee and I am not directly concerned with it at the moment, but only with its representations in due course.

GLENBURNIE DAIRY PRODUCE COMPANY.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES—I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES—In the South-East a dairy company named the Glenburnie Dairy Produce Company has gone out of business for one reason and another. Dairy farmers in the area are much worried by the fact that interim and final-interim payments have not been made to their accounts. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture ascertain—(a) Whether there is any moral right for these payments to go to the dairy farmers, and (b) Whether the Government has any intention of legislating in regard to this matter?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I will refer the question to the Minister concerned.

ATTACKS ON SHEEP BY DOGS.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—I ask leave to read a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY—The following statement appeared in the press recently:—

Three sheep in a flock of 30 in a paddock in New Street, Queenstown, had to be destroyed after they had been attacked by a black and tan dog on Saturday. The previous Saturday two dogs, one described as an Alsatian type, caused the death of seven or eight sheep in a paddock at Pennington. Police have received numerous reports recently of sheep being killed by packs of dogs, some of which have included Alsations, in many parts of the State. On Friday Alsations were responsible for the death of six sheep in a flock on which nutritional experiments were being conducted by the Waite Research Institute.

When we dealt with the Registration of Dogs Act some months ago registration fees for dogs were increased with the exception of those for Alsations. As they are creating so much havoc and nuisance will the Minister consider increasing the registration fees for these dogs also?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I will obtain a report on the matter.

SECONDARY INDUSTRIES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—We have read in the press and heard over the radio recently statements by the Premier regarding the establishment of secondary industries in South Australia. In view of this I would like

to know whether it is the Government's policy to give preference to goods manufactured in South Australia, all things being equal as regards price?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—Where tenders are satisfactory, and "all things being equal," there is a preference in favour of the local manufacturer.

SPEED LIMIT PAST ROAD WORKS.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—On September 23 last, in reply to a question by me, the Attorney-General said that the question of a speed limit past road works was under detailed consideration and as soon as everything was decided he would let me know the position. Has the Chief Secretary any further information on the subject?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The honourable member conveyed certain information to the Attorney-General and I am now advised that the Parliamentary Draftsman suggests that the power to make regulations to allow roadworking parties to erect speed restriction and derestriction signs on roads adjacent to road works is a matter for inclusion in the Road Traffic Act. Sir Edgar Bean, the former Parliamentary Draftsman, is at present engaged in a complete overhaul of this Act and I believe that the subject raised by the A.W.U. might properly be referred to him for consideration in connection with his task. The Road Traffic Act already contains several references to speed limits in various connections. I am unaware of any legislation or regulations at present in force covering signs adjacent to road works. In all the circumstances, the Government will refer the matter to Sir Edgar Bean for his attention.

CONCESSIONS TO PENSIONERS.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—In my speech on the second reading of the Local Government Act Amendment Bill I raised the question of giving councils power to grant concessions to pensioners and others on limited income. Would the Government be prepared to accept an amendment to the Act on this matter?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I can only suggest that if the honourable member places an amendment before the Council it will be considered.

PERPETUAL LEASE MORTGAGES.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—My question relates to mortgages on perpetual leases. I believe there is some kind of departmental limitation on the granting of consents to mort-

gages on perpetual Crown leases, limiting the interest rate to 6 per cent. The normal interest rate on medium term mortgages of that nature on freehold land is now $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent, and it seems that unless the restriction is lifted in some way or raised it will become difficult for holders of Crown leases to obtain finance on their properties. Will the Chief Secretary confer with the Minister of Lands to see whether something can be done to lift this limitation and bring it more up to date?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I understand that the limitation is in accordance with what is the normal rate, but I will take the matter up with my colleague and obtain the information the honourable member seeks.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—Will the Minister also ascertain when the interest rate of 6 per cent, to which I have referred, was fixed?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—Yes.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to extend the operation of the Land Settlement Act for two years. Honourable members will recall that a similar Bill was passed last year extending the operation of the Act to December, 1959. It is the view of the Government that the time has not yet nearly come to allow the provisions of the principal Act to lapse and the effect of the Bill is to extend the term of office of members of the committee and the power to acquire certain land in the South-East for a further two years. Clause 3 will extend the term of office of committee members until December 31, 1961, and clause 4 amends section 27a of the principal Act enabling the Governor, on the recommendation of the committee, to acquire lands in that portion of the western division of the South-East which is south of drains K and L up to December 22, 1961.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS secured the adjournment of the debate.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL (No. 2).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 2. Page 652.)

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON (Northern)—I express my great appreciation of the detailed explanation given by the Chief Secretary when

introducing the Bill. One cannot help but be impressed with the volume of expenditure that has become necessary in recent years with our expanding economy, but if the State is to progress it is essential that services be extended commensurate with that expansion. I have been impressed with the planning undertaken by the Highways Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Housing Trust and the Electricity Trust, to put these proposals into effect. The Town Planner also comes into the picture. The planning involved is tremendous, and therefore we owe much to the officers concerned for their great efforts. The Bill provides for the expenditure of £29,000,000, and of this amount £25,400,000 will be obtained by borrowing and £3,600,000 by repayments to the Loan fund. The State will also obtain £5,000,000 under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement to make loans to prospective home owners and for the construction of houses. A sum of £3,500,000 is provided for the Housing Trust, £1,100,000 for the State Bank, and £400,000 for the building societies. This year the State Bank will have available £2,750,000 under "advances for homes," £1,100,000 under the Housing Agreement, and £850,000 which was specially provided by the Public Purposes Loan Act (No. 1) passed in June, making a total of £4,700,000. I mention these figures because they show an increase of more than 50 per cent on the amount of £3,126,000 spent during 1958-59.

This will mean a great acceleration of the building programme for houses and should, if continued, bring nearer the time when our people will be properly housed and temporary homes will be no longer needed. Then £2,050,000 is provided for hospitalization. I need not enlarge upon that today because this honourable House well knows the programme of hospitalization that has been put into operation in recent years. We have that fine edifice, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as good as any similar institution in any other part of the world. I do not intend to itemize the amounts made available to the various hospitals but am happy at the amount provided for the Port Lincoln, Port Augusta and Port Pirie hospitals. Altogether, I think we are doing very well in that regard.

A sum of £3,750,000 is set aside for school buildings. That covers only a small portion because by the last report of the Public Works Standing Committee an amount of £7,866,550 has been recommended, which of course includes

money for the Teachers' College at Kintore Avenue. The programme for the accommodation of the greatly increased number of children has been extensive. Children in our primary schools are increasing at the rate of 3,500 to 4,000 a year, and in our secondary schools at the rate of 2,500 to 3,000 a year, which necessitates the building of some 40 schools a year. The schools were set out in the Chief Secretary's speech and I do not intend to refer to them again, but I was interested recently to observe the planning that takes place in that regard. Immediately the Housing Trust suggests building in a certain area, the school officials are right on the ball to see that sufficient provision is made in that area for schools. Expansion has taken place at Plympton, for instance, which is a built-up area, except for a piece of land that has been occupied by a polo club. That was about the only ground available, and the Education Department has secured a part of it for school grounds in the Plympton area.

I was pleased to note amongst the programme for school buildings an area school for Coomandook, a little country area with a number of small schools battling along on their own. An area school will provide for a larger school, better teachers and the children being able to come together, which is a step in the right direction. I was much impressed some years ago with an area school that was established in a country district on Eyre Peninsula. There were a number of schools in the surrounding area, and one in particular had seven children, all from two families of the same name. An inspector, when questioning some of those children on one of his visits, asked "Which is the principal town in South Australia?" Their reply was that it was the neighbouring town to which they went to do their shopping, etc., some 15 to 20 miles away. Since then, an area school has been established in that area. Last year seven children sat for the Intermediate examination, taking 49 subjects in all. They had passes in 48 subjects, seven credits and three bursaries, which indicates the advantage to a country district of a school of the type being established at Coomandook.

Another point to be considered is that the school on Eyre Peninsula cost £10,000 to enlarge, representing about 50 per cent of the building cost which would indicate that the school cost less than £20,000. The school at Coomandook, which is about equal in size and accommodation, will cost £127,000, so it can be seen how the economy is drifting. A

recent issue of *On Dit*, which is put out by the students of the University of Adelaide, criticized the Education Department of this State as being "unprincipled and short-sighted." It dealt with the training and appointment of teachers and pointed out how some teachers have been asked to teach in a grade for which they are not trained at the present time. I will not read it now but would ask honourable members to read a report given to the Public Works Standing Committee on the Teachers' College setting out the number of children and increases that have taken place, and the number of teachers necessary to staff those schools. If the editor of that paper had gone to any trouble to ascertain the difficulties under which the Education Department was labouring, the report would have been much less biased.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—To which paper is the honourable member referring?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—*On Dit*. The students were very proud of it and sent a copy to every member of this Chamber. The Minister of Education is quoted in the press as having said, in reply to a school committee, that he felt that the State should make a claim on the Federal Government for additional funds for schools so that education could be carried on adequately in this State. If we were successful in such an application it would apply to every State in the Commonwealth and would be a burden on the country's finance. The expenditure of the Federal Government has in the last 20 years, risen from £95,000,000 per annum to £1,650,000,000 per annum at the present time, so it can be seen that Commonwealth expenditure is increasing by leaps and bounds. This State should consider whether some economies could not be effected and I suggest—and this is no reflection on the University itself because I think the achievements of the university are something of which we can be proud—if this is a sample of the thought in and surrounding the University one of the first things that should be investigated is the amount of the Government grant to that institution. The State contributes about £1,500,000 to the University.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—It is not quite that much.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—That is the figure given to me by the Minister of Education only two or three days ago during the course of a private conversation.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Why penalize the minority?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—If this is an example of what surrounds the University I think it should be looked at. This article also deals with the Tasmanian University trouble and others, but I am not dealing with those today. All I am dealing with is a criticism of the Education Department. I believe that an education institution of any kind should endeavour to train people with the best of views and kindness of judgment to look at both sides of the question before coming out with a statement like the one embodied in that paper.

I commend the Education Department on the kind of school that it is having built today. The Public Works Committee visited the Enfield school recently. That school left nothing to be desired, but the question arose as to whether some economies could not be effected and in the course of the information gained there the committee gathered that some economies could be effected without in any way lessening the education standard at that school. I think that avenue should be explored to ensure that our money is well spent.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Don't you think there is cheeseparing in the school buildings being put up today in the interests of economy?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I believe some economies could be effected and that is not based solely on my own belief but is derived from information given by a reliable authority.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You would not house them in buildings like humpies?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I believe in building the best we can afford, but if too much money is spent in one direction there is not enough to be spent in another direction.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—A lot of classrooms are prefabricated today.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—We all know that there was a time, after a period of good seasons similar to those we have been going through, when the State did not have sufficient money to carry on the ordinary essential services of the day, and my experience is that if we are extravagant in one direction we shall find a shortage in another direction.

The Bill provides for additional pumping plants to supplement the present water supply. We are passing through a very adverse season and that is having its effect upon the water supplies in this State and to cope with this situation additional pumping plants are being provided to pump water through the

Onkaparinga River into Mount Bold reservoir and other storages. I was interested to learn that the pumping of the water down the Onkaparinga and Torrens Rivers results in no loss from evaporation or soakage as it is channelled through these rivers; in fact, it results in an increase in volume, because water is picked up from the springs and there is actually a greater volume going into the reservoirs than is pumped out of the River Murray. An additional £400,000 is to be provided for a main to supply the western districts. Most of our water supplies have been obtained from Mount Bold and Clarendon, which have supplied about 60 per cent of our requirements. At the present time that supply is quite inadequate and this £400,000 is to be provided to link up the South Para reservoir so as to supply the western districts.

I was pleased to note in the press a statement relating to the provision of diesel engines for our railways. This Bill provides for the substitution of steam engines by diesel engines, about one-third of our engines requiring to be replaced. The present conversion programme has already resulted in a saving of about £1,000,000 a year in running costs to the railways since the introduction of diesel engines, and when the conversion from steam to diesel power has been completed the saving in cost per annum will run into about £1,333,000. A steam locomotive uses £1,000 worth of Newcastle coal to do the same work as a diesel does for £240. Moreover, further savings result from economies achieved through quicker transit, greater haulage and less servicing. Altogether the introduction of diesel engines is an important economy to our railways, and this provision in the Public Purposes Loan Bill will help to place our railways on a much better footing. Mention has been made in this debate of the Monarto South-Sedan railway. The Hon. Mr. Condon complained that insufficient time was given to the Public Works Committee to consider the question properly. In my opinion, and that of the committee, 28 days is insufficient to collect all the evidence and information required and to investigate a question such as the closing of a railway.

No doubt it can be said that the information gained by the Transport Control Board was available to the Public Works Standing Committee, but that committee found that circumstances had changed since the board had made its decision, in as much as one council which favoured the closing of the line had subsequently held its elections and two of the councillors responsible for creating the majority

in favour of closing the line were defeated, they being road hauliers whose interests were obvious. The new council is in favour of the line being kept open. However, shortage of time was not the main reason why the committee did not recommend closure of the line. The policy of the Transport Control Board is to have goods and produce carried on the Angaston and Mount Pleasant lines. The Public Works Standing Committee traversed the routes by which it would be necessary to cart produce and goods to and from the railway sidings and found, firstly, that Cookes Hill is a very formidable obstacle and would require a very considerable expenditure in order to straighten it and to bituminize the surface to make it in any way suitable for road transport. To a somewhat lesser degree Sedan Hill on the Angaston route is very steep and it would be costly if farmers had to transport their produce over it in their small vehicles. Although the time may come, and it may not be far distant, when this question will have to be reviewed again, the Public Works Standing Committee found on traversing the whole of the railway line that it was only in fair order; about 25 per cent of the sleepers have been renewed and about 25 per cent are in very indifferent condition, but the dog spikes are solid and the line is in fairly good order. Some expenditure will be necessary to keep the line in reasonable order, but the committee believed that to provide an alternative means of transport some 101 miles of road would have to be improved, the cost of which would offset any expenditure on the railway.

A sum of £14,000 is provided for the completion of the security block at the Magill Reformatory. That security block is to provide for boys who are regarded as potential absconders and, I take it, for those who have already become unruly and have broken away from the institution. According to press reports some criticism has been levelled against the security block, and it has been described as a training ground for Yatala. I do not view it in that light, but regard it as an institution to avoid sending boys to Yatala. If they become unruly they have to be controlled, and previously the only place to send them was Yatala. I have been informed that since the security block has been built the boys have been infinitely less troublesome; evidently they are not anxious to become inmates of it and their conduct has proportionately improved.

A provision of £30,000 is made for the purchase and erection of three cottage homes for

the Children's Welfare Department. These homes are to accommodate selected children in the care of foster mothers with an atmosphere of a normal home and less that of an institution. I believe this is a step in the right direction and more effective reform can be obtained in this way.

Finally, I am very pleased with the harbour improvements that are taking place on Kangaroo Island and at Port Lincoln to provide for what is known as a roll-on roll-off, or trailer ship. This vessel is being built in Queensland at a cost of over £1,500,000, and it will play a very important part in the development of Kangaroo Island and will supply a very great need to Eyre Peninsula through Port Lincoln. It will provide for 40 21ft. trailers which can be run on to the ship and off at the other end and transported to any part of the island or Eyre Peninsula without any loading. This should reduce very greatly the amount of breakages and loss, and facilitate the loading of the vessel, thereby providing cheaper transport to those outlying parts. I have great pleasure in supporting the Bill because I believe that it provides for the needs of this expanding State and will go a long way towards the progress of South Australia.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY (Southern)—I am pleased to give my support to the Bill providing for the expenditure of £29,000,000 of Loan money, but before proceeding to discuss it I would like to take the opportunity of offering my congratulations to the Premier on the very great record he has achieved in exceeding the term of office held by any other Premier in the British Commonwealth. Hitherto this record was held by Sir Robert Walpole, and I am pleased to take this opportunity of congratulating Sir Thomas Playford on his splendid record. I extend those congratulations to the various Governments which he has led throughout that period for the very good legislation and development that has taken place, both on the land and in an industrial sense. The great majority of people in South Australia, I believe, earnestly desire a continuance of this very long term of good Government. A few days ago a book was issued by the Tourist Bureau for immigration purposes which gives a very good resume of the achievements and progress of South Australia. It contains some excellent pictures illustrating this progress, and I feel that such a valuable brochure should be in the hands, not only of those who may be thinking of migrating to

South Australia, but of every South Australian, and I hope that people will pass on their copies wherever they can because it is, indeed, a very valuable record of what has been done in this State.

In view of the great development that has taken place I am sure that we agree with the policy of financing our public works largely by loan money. It is obvious that we must maintain our standards of living and we must continue to progress, and if we do that we must rely upon loan money to a great extent. In view of the number of homes, schools and hospitals built, the amount of power and transport provided and yet to be provided, and the industrial expansion that has taken place I am very much in favour of utilizing loan money to an even greater extent because we have tremendous scope for further development. Indeed, I believe that the Australian expansion compares very favourably with that of the U.S.A. in its heyday, and it is not possible to maintain that rate of expansion from our own resources. Consequently, I feel that we could advantageously use loan money to a greater extent.

In recent years we have departed somewhat from our normal budgetary practice, *i.e.*, in regard to hire-purchase. This has been with us for a long time, but it has developed tremendously in recent years. Admittedly, it provides an additional borrowing power for our people, but it creates difficulties in one way and another. Up to a point I think it is advantageous, but it could be dangerous. It enables the public to have access to facilities and amenities that otherwise would be unavailable to them for many years, or even for all time. Consequently, I should not say that I do not agree with hire-purchase, because up to a certain point it is valuable. It assists manufacturers to dispose of their goods locally and to find an export market. I agree with the system up to the point to which we have gone. The facts disclose that the position is still healthy in this regard in South Australia. However, it will be seen that if we sell too many manufactured goods on long hire-purchase terms to the general public, we must ultimately reach the stage where manufacturers will have to lower their output. Only 1.1 per cent of the total work force in South Australia is registered as seeking employment. We can accept that as being a very healthy state of the employment position. Savings bank deposits in Australia total £1,391,000,000, and on the other side of the ledger the amount

outstanding on hire-purchase is limited to about £351,000,000, about one-quarter of the total deposits in savings banks. Generally speaking, we can say that the position is still healthy and that we are maintaining what might be called a well-balanced position.

It is interesting to notice that the average contract for loans for domestic articles amounts to £81 per article, the full value of which averages £99. The average loan on motor cars is £448 and the average value of the cars involved is about £722, so we find there is a balance over and above the amount involved in hire-purchase. It should be generally known to the public that in buying under hire-purchase conditions they must pay a considerable amount more for an article than if they paid cash. It is most desirable that they should be informed of the high interest rates chargeable when buying on hire-purchase. I think we can rest assured that hire-purchase is fulfilling a function of some value to the people of South Australia. The average South Australian deposit per head of population in the Savings Bank is £130 3s. 10d. I understand that this is higher than that of any other State, something of which we can be proud.

The Loan Estimates provide for an expenditure of £3,750,000 for school buildings. Continual requests are being made for more school buildings and educational facilities. I was alarmed by the statement of the Minister of Education in the press recently concerning the inability of his department to continue to finance education on the funds available. The number of school children in this State has increased tremendously in recent years—not only has the number doubled, but it is advancing toward a figure even fourfold the number of a few years ago. We appreciate that the Government is utilizing in the very best manner the finances that are available. We have been able to keep up somewhere near the demand for hospitals, schools and most other things required, and I therefore congratulate the Government on the way it has maintained that reasonable balance in its expenditure. However, we have a growing population, and the Minister of Education has raised the question of the desirability of getting further finance from the Commonwealth Government to meet our education requirements. Therefore, we must take stock of the position. The Government is called upon to provide more than £1,000,000 a year to the Adelaide University. No doubt this amount is required. The number of students at the University has increased at

a greater rate than the increase in students at public schools.

The demand for training people to engage particularly in technological subjects has continued to increase, especially in connection with electronics. Therefore, it is necessary that we train people to take charge of these activities. Whether there is any other way whereby we can meet present standards it is difficult to say for sure. Mr. Robinson referred to the elaborate facilities provided in our schools. I agree to a point that they are becoming very elaborate, and if we are unable to extend those facilities, we must perhaps reduce those requirements to a more reasonable level. There is a great demand from the University for money for new buildings, a demand that has grown tremendously. It is wellknown that there has been a very large failure rate in recent years at the University. If we could in some way obviate that high failure rate and so reduce the numbers attending at the University, we might be able to meet the position with present teaching and building facilities. We can expect that in four or five years the University will have grown to such an extent that there will be an agitation for an additional University. I feel that the cheaper type of teaching we have in our public schools, compared with that at the University, would enable us to provide higher education at the high schools, even to the Leaving Honors standard, and thereby enable the University to fix its matriculation standard rather higher than the present standard demanded, so doing away with an extra year involved in students attending at the University to reach that standard.

There is no doubt that our public schools could educate students to that standard more cheaply than can be done by the University itself. Students having reached that standard before attending the University, there would be a lower failure rate among University students, and therefore less wasted expenditure. In this way the numbers attending the University could possibly be reduced. This would not only decrease the demand for teachers at the University, but probably allow the University to accommodate the students at the present University buildings for many years to come. We have an excellent University, and I think that this would be the most desirable way to meet the position rather than building an additional University. Possibly we could exclude a great number of students who at present attend the University but do not continue to a degree

standard. This is a matter to which attention could be given by the Government in collaboration with the University. This would cut down the demand for expenditure on new buildings. I hope that this will lessen the demands from the University in meeting the requirements of the average student. It is common knowledge that the Education Department can take a student to the higher stage of education to which I have referred more cheaply than the University can.

An amount of £50,000 is provided for advances to settlers. In past years an application under the Advances to Settlers Act was the more normal approach for borrowing for land development. In recent years the demand has dropped away until lately little money has been made available for that type of development. There are large areas in my district, much of it Crown lands, that are suitable for developmental purposes. Recently about 50 people from the Tintinara and surrounding districts indicated that they were prepared to take up land in that area. These people had been guaranteed by their employers that they could get some advance for practical development if they could rely on getting funds under the Advances to Settlers Act. Under this system we could make quicker progress in land settlement. I am not in any way detracting from the development of land for the settler who has not much money. Without plant and finance, it is almost impossible today to develop land. Some returned soldiers have not been included in the scheme for soldier settlement. They should be given an opportunity under the Crown Lands Development Act, under which £100,000 is made available, to buy a block in the not distant future. Some of these soldiers have been applicants for 10 or 12 years, and in some cases longer. If they do not get a block soon they will abandon hope and confidence in the scheme. I appreciate that the Government has only a limited amount of money to spend and has done an excellent job in dividing it up sensibly and properly. If more Loan money were available, it would be desirable to use much of it for the development of this State, for not only is our child population increasing rapidly but we have a high rate of immigration also.

A sum of £70,000 has been made available for fishing havens. In the lower South-East is Robe, a town of some historical significance because it is one of the places where early settlers and the Governor lived. It was a little village of great attraction. At one stage

it was to have had a port, which was inquired into by the Public Works Standing Committee, but it found Robe not suitable as a site for a port; so we must look for some other way of bringing the town back on the map. It has great scenic beauty and, as I say, historical associations. It has a lake adjacent to the sea. In the district are about 100 boats and many fishermen, and requests have been made over the years for a cutting from the sea into this lake, to provide a safe anchorage for both pleasure and fishing boats, and a place for racing craft. Robe could be made into a good tourist place and thus be of great value to South Australia, if we could find the money. The estimated cost is about £70,000 to £80,000, so obviously we cannot do it out of a total of £70,000 for fishing havens throughout South Australia. From a tourist point of view, the scheme would be admirable for the State.

A sum of £2,750,000 is made available to the State Bank for housing. I was interested to see that the Minister for National Development, Senator Spooner, is recorded in the paper today as saying:—

Talk of an Australia-wide housing shortage was no longer valid. The shortage was still large only in the two more populous eastern States, Victoria and New South Wales.

As a country member, I say that is quite correct, although some metropolitan members may disagree. Whereas in years gone by, particularly immediately after the war, requests for houses were made daily, and although many people still want houses, the extreme demand that was with us for many years has lessened, showing that we are catching up very well with the demand.

Finally, let me express appreciation for the £2,050,000 set aside for hospitals. Obviously, such a sum of money is needed with our increased population, even though it is healthy under the good legislation provided by the Chief Secretary. On behalf of the country people, may I say how much we appreciate the £2 for £1 subsidy that the Government has guaranteed for country subsidized hospitals. We take a legitimate pride in our hospitalization in this State.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH secured the adjournment of the debate.

HONEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated that the Governor's Deputy had assented to the Act.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is of considerable interest in view of the history of the South Australian Legislature. Its object is to make express provision that women are not disqualified by reason of sex or marriage from being elected to, or sitting or voting as a member of, either House of the State Parliament. Clause 3 accordingly provides for the insertion into the State Constitution Act of a new section so providing. As honourable members are aware, some doubts were expressed during the recent election period as to the eligibility of women to sit as members of either House and, in fact, the question was raised as a matter of law following the nomination of women candidates.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—They have to be 30 years of age before they come here.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—Quite. I hope the honourable member is not objecting to that. The legal proceedings were indecisive. Two of the candidates concerned were elected and, in order to remove any legal doubts that might be considered to exist regarding the validity of their election, the proposal in the Bill is that it shall be deemed to have come into operation on January 1 of this year, a date prior in time to the time of issue of the writ for the election. I said this Bill was rather interesting because we pride ourselves on being the first State in the Commonwealth to give women the suffrage. It is interesting to note that the right of women to a seat in this Parliament should be challenged. This Bill will leave no doubt on the matter; it will write it into the Statute so that there will be no further doubt in future. I commend the Bill. I know that the honourable Mr. Condon is bursting to support it, particularly as we have retained the portion of our Statute that requires that we are experienced before we come into this House.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 2. Page 654.)

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland)—In many respects I hold views similar to those of the honourable Mr. Hookings on this measure. The Minister of Local Government gave us much

additional information and pointed out that the Bill was substantially the same as that introduced into this place on October 22, 1958, which is quite true. He also said that clauses 4, 6 (a), 10, 12, 13 and 18 were new clauses. There is another clause that he did not mention, which is not the same as that presented to Parliament on that occasion—clause 3, which deals with deputy-mayors and deputy-chairmen. I do not intend to analyse each clause because that has been done effectively by the Minister and other speakers on the Bill.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Is the honourable member in favour of the appointment of a deputy-mayor?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—I will deal with that matter when I come to it in the course of my address. The point is that we have had a clear explanation by the Minister and by the honourable Sir Arthur Rymill. It was the amendment to clause 3 in the original Bill introduced here in October, 1958, which was amended by another place, that caused the whole Bill to be laid aside at the end of last session. We should take our minds back a little to the attitude of this Council to the original clause 3, which provided for the appointment of a deputy-chairman if the council desired. That is most important. Only two members of this House at that time expressed any doubt about that clause 3. One was the honourable Sir Arthur Rymill, who mentioned that he was not very keen on appointing deputy-chairmen because it would result in appointing deputy-mayors at some later stage. The other was the honourable Mr. Melrose who, in the Committee stage, said he could not see very much use for deputy-chairmen except for signing documents. I think the point about the signing of documents has gone overboard because the Minister expressed his views on the subject in his explanation of the original Bill and also on this occasion. The legislation was passed right through this Chamber without a division and some members spoke in favour of the inclusion of the clause giving councils the opportunity of appointing a deputy chairman. When the Bill was returned to the Council with the amendment the majority voted for the disallowance of the whole clause, but that was an entirely different matter because the main objection was to the method of selecting a mayor. It is noteworthy to see how this amendment got into the Bill in another place. It was to be moved by a member of the Opposition who was not present in the House when it came on and it was moved

by another member in his stead. It was passed in Committee though a number of members spoke against it. However, no division was taken. No member of the Government spoke for or against it and it was inserted in the Bill as an amendment. Although this Chamber had been unanimous on the matter and the wishes of this House had been made perfectly clear, the Government did not even put up any sort of scrap in the Assembly.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—You cannot reflect on another House.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—I am not. I am referring to my own Party. The Government has now seen fit to re-introduce this clause in the same form as the one in which it was rejected in this Chamber at the end of the last session, and I think if that clause was not acceptable to the Council at that time it will probably not be acceptable to it at the present time.

I have not changed my mind in the intervening period. I in common with every other member of this Council voted in favour of the original clause 3 for the appointment of a deputy chairman. I voted against the amendment for the appointment of a deputy mayor for the very good reason that I considered—and I still consider—that the procedure set out in the amendment for the appointment of a deputy mayor was not consistent with the method required for the election of a mayor. I still am of the opinion that a deputy chairman of a district council in some cases is most desirable and necessary and not inconsistent with the procedure adopted for the election of a chairman of a district council. Let us be realistic about local government. Is it not our general desire to help councils to carry out their very difficult task of administering large districts in this State?

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Did not this Bill come from the Municipal Association?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—The original clause I am discussing at the present time was asked for by the Local Government Association. Let us be very clear on the difference between the Local Government Association and the Municipal Association. There was no request from the Municipal Association for the inclusion of "deputy mayor" in this clause. It may now have asked for that, but at that time it had not, and this was a request from the Local Government Association. I am taking my line from that association in this particular case. The supporters of my Party believe very

religiously that the nearer government can be kept to the people the better it is for all, and I believe that to be true and I cannot, for the life of me, see why this very simple request on behalf of local government to put this provision in the Act—a very simple provision enabling them to do something if they wish to—should have so much time spent on it. This request for a deputy chairman came from regional meetings and subsequently went to the main body of the association of local government. It seems logical to me that if a council desires to appoint a deputy chairman it should have legal power to do so. I say we should make the thing legal and proper. Is it not better to know who is the responsible councillor in the case of emergency where the chairman is called away or is through some incapacity unable to attend to his duties?

The Hon. F. J. Condon—You heard about two of them getting the sack?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Unfortunately those two gentlemen are in my electorate, but I do not think it is proper for me to discuss that matter at this stage. Such important councils in my district of Midland as Loxton, Waikerie, Berri, Minlaton and many others have requested this provision, and I believe that a deputy chairman when he is appointed gets to know the policy of his council. He knows the policy of his chairman, and I believe there is continuity of thought if the chairman is called away from the district. I believe that things run far more freely when everybody knows quite clearly what is going to happen than if someone is suddenly appointed as an acting chairman. A person suddenly appointed to act could be the greatest clot in the world. The council has the right at the first meeting of the year to select a member to be a deputy chairman. We are past the days when a district council office was a place to which one went to complain about a hole in the road or about trees growing over the road. Local government today is a most important organization. It has grown tremendously in the last few years and the functions of the chairman of a district council have correspondingly grown. He does not now just go once a month to a meeting to conduct the affairs of the council. He is required to attend meetings frequently. Besides the ordinary council meetings he attends, he is called upon to convene and attend subcommittee meetings, board of health meetings, and attend to a dozen and one jobs, and while he is carrying out the functions of chairman he has to attend all

sorts of civic functions arranged in the district. It is getting beyond the capacity and the pocket of some chairmen to carry out these functions, and it is necessary for them to appoint someone in their stead on some occasions.

The Hon. Mr. Hookings covered that point fairly well and I do not want to go over that ground again. I think he, as a practical chairman, put his case and I want to put the other side before the House. If the chairman has to nominate someone to assist him with his duties and the council also desires someone to assist him it should have the power to appoint one of its number and give to the person carrying out those duties a definite title and recognition under the Act. I am quite definite that this very simple request from local government—the appointment of a deputy chairman—should be granted. I briefly state my points again by saying that the appointment of a deputy mayor is completely inconsistent with the method of voting for a mayor; therefore I cannot support that portion of the clause.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—Do you think it would be better to elect the mayor of the council?

The Hon. C. R. STORY—I am not going to be involved in that because that is something that has been going on in South Australia for some considerable time. It may be better if we had a general overhaul of the Local Government Act while we were on the subject. Perhaps some district councils are doing a much better job under the Act than many smaller municipalities with a mayor, and I think the time may come soon when we shall have a general review of that subject too. I will content myself with what I have already said on clause 3 and raise the subject again in the Committee stage.

I am absolutely opposed to clause 4 of the Bill. It deals with the hours of voting and proposes to alter the hours from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. to 9 a.m.-5 p.m.. I am not in favour of that because, as a country man, I know that Saturday is the day when there is much organized sport in country areas. I also know that many organizations travel long distances to conduct that sport, and if the home team happens to be away on polling day it is impossible to get people to come long distances to vote by 5 o'clock. The matches are usually finished by 5 o'clock and the people will vote on the way home.

The same point arises in connection with entertainment in country areas where there is one picture show a week. In a country town a man is able to come in at 6 o'clock and vote, taking his wife and children with him, and then go on to the pictures at 7 o'clock. He will not, however, come in to vote at 5 o'clock and then go home again to get his wife and children and return to the pictures. There are also towns where shift work is the order of the day. People start work in the morning, do their 8-hour shift, and then go off again. The present voting hours are convenient for them and I see no reason why we should alter the present voting hours. I sympathize with those officers who are appointed returning officers by their particular councils because they have to stay on duty for long periods, but anybody can be appointed to these jobs and I think that a gentleman who is paid to do the job should not object if the polling booth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It does not matter if he should get only three people voting at late hours. The fact is that the facility is there for them to vote and I think that is the minimum time we should allow people in which to record their vote.

I am in favour of the rest of the clauses up to clause 15, which deals with the defacing or damaging of council property and increases the penalty from £20 to £50. I do not intend to move any amendment, but I do not know whether the clause goes far enough because those feeble-minded people who go about smashing up ornamental trees, signs, bridges and things of that nature are very hard to detect whilst committing the offence. Wantons have, at any time, a lot of low animal cunning and to apprehend them one must be right on the spot, but I think that if they are caught a good old-time belting is the best way to treat this type of nitwit who damages property. During the flood on the River Murray it was necessary to maintain a line of communication between the towns and the outside world over a very rickety bridge which had been almost washed away. The Highways Department had erected a "stop" sign which was most important at this point because the passing of heavy transports creating additional vibration could quite easily have destroyed the one remaining link with the world. Some enthusiastic young gentlemen of the district, without much else to do, on two or three occasions dumped the signs into the water. The police lay in wait and eventually apprehended them and they were fined about £5 each.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—You mean the parents paid.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—If the parents were silly enough to do so. I believe that the parent is usually reflected in the child, and that if the fine were £50 the parents would exert more control over their children. I am all in favour of this clause.

Much the same applies to clause 16 which deals with people who are so tidy that they scrape up their yards and take all the bottles and tins out into the nearby country and dump them on the roadside. There is something wrong with their mentality, too. Signs are erected by councils indicating where rubbish may be dumped but unless the wantons referred to in the previous clause have pulled them down people know where to dump their rubbish. I admire councils that try to maintain tidiness in their areas. I thought it almost poetic justice when I read not long ago that an elderly farmer, who had detected some people dumping rubbish in the corner of his property, followed them home and then went back and loaded up all the rubbish they had dumped on his property and carefully threw it back over their front fences, to which they objected violently.

Clause 20 deals with postal voting. I think we were in favour of this provision when it was before us previously, but by some slip up—I do not think it was anything else—the provision did not apply as was intended. This clause puts the matter in order and gives more people an opportunity to vote, therefore I favour it. I consider this a most important Bill. I have not mentioned a number of its provisions because I agree with them, but I hope that on this occasion Parliament will pass the measure because I believe that local government must have the support of Parliament if it is to do its job properly.

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

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill is to amend section 73 of the Electoral Act (which entitles certain specified electors to apply for postal vote certificates and postal ballot-papers) by adding to the list of such persons members of enclosed religious orders. The effect of the

amendment would be to enable members of such orders to vote by post in the same way as electors who are away, ill, or infirm. The reason for the amendment will be apparent to honourable members who will be aware of the fact that there are certain religious orders, the members of which, upon entry, take vows to abide by the constitution or rules of the order, which preclude them from leaving the precincts.

As the Electoral Act now stands there is involved a conflict between the duty of these people to the State, which obliges them to go out to a polling place to record their votes, and their religious duty which precludes them from leaving the precincts of the order. This is an unfortunate situation, since it is not the desire of these orders or their members to avoid their obligations to the State and it is the view of the Government that the way to get them out of an embarrassing position is to enable them to take advantage of the provisions of the electoral law covering postal voting. I might add, for the information of honourable members, that, so far as the Government is aware, there is only one religious order in the State whose strict enclosure precludes them from leaving their institution, namely, the order of the Carmelite Nuns at Glen Osmond, of whom there are 19.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 2. Page 656.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—We have had two speeches from legal members of this Chamber on this important Bill and I should say that they are in a position to know what is required. I am aware that an amendment has been filed and I will consider that when the Bill is in Committee. This measure is slightly different from the one introduced last year. It extends the time within which actions may be taken which is now, in general, six months. Several matters have been referred to by my colleagues and I think their suggestions should be carefully considered. I well remember that some years ago there was a limitation of six months under the Workmen's Compensation Act, with certain provisions for extension in given circumstances. After some years of argument that was altered.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Is there any analogy between this Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I say six months is not long enough.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—What about altering the Industrial Code?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I will support any amendment in that respect. I am supporting this Bill now because there are reasons why the time within which actions may be taken should be extended. I do not think anybody should be deprived of the right to take action within a reasonable time.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Extension of certain periods of limitation."

The Hon. F. J. POTTER—I move—

At the end of new section 47 (2) to add—
Provided however that any defect or inaccuracy in the terms of such notice shall not invalidate the same if the court which hears the action is satisfied that the defendant has not been prejudiced by such defect or inaccuracy.

As I said when speaking on the second reading, it is important that some minor defect or inaccuracy in the notice, such as date, time or description of circumstances, should not later be held against the plaintiff as having invalidated his notice. Similar wording appears in the Workmen's Compensation Act and I foresee no difficulty if these words are inserted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—I have a further amendment to this clause and I ask the Chief Secretary if he will agree to report progress at this stage to give me an opportunity to consider it.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I have no objection to that course.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC SALARIES) BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for increases in salaries of certain public officers whose remuneration is

fixed by Act of Parliament. Honourable members are aware that on June 1 of this year the Public Service Board reclassified the salaries of officers within the Public Service, prescribing a scale of general increases ranging from £9 to £284. The reclassification was gazetted and the Government has been paying the rates prescribed as from, and including April 1 of this year, being the date fixed by the board as the date from which the reclassified salaries should operate.

There are, however, some officers whose salaries are fixed by statute and who cannot share in the general increase until the relevant statutes are amended. These officers include the Agent-General, the Auditor-General, the Commissioner of Police and the Public Service Commissioner, whose salaries were last fixed in 1957. Since then there have been cost of living increases, amounting to £80 a year and the general increases of this year which, in the case of the salaries of these officers, would amount to £284, making a total of £364.

It is accordingly proposed in this Bill to increase the salaries of the officers whom I have named by £364 each as from April 1, 1959. Additionally, there are the President and Deputy President of the Industrial Court who received an increase last year, but in order to bring them into line with the Public Service generally it is necessary to provide for a further increase now. In the case of the President the amount is £325 and in the case of the Deputy President £275. All of the officers concerned will thus receive substantially similar treatment to that accorded to members of the Public Service who are governed by the board's reclassification.

The Bill also contains a provision concerning the salaries of the South Australian Railways Commissioner and the Commissioner of Highways whose salaries are by law required to be fixed by the Governor and not the Public Service Board. The Government considers it just that they should now receive increases based on the last scale laid down by the board, with retrospective effect to April 1, 1959. In order to carry this proposal into effect it is necessary for the Bill to contain a special provision empowering the Governor to make retrospective alterations of the salaries. This provision is in clause 8. The appropriation of money for the payment of arrears of salary under the Bill is contained in clause 9.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON secured the adjournment of the debate.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 2. Page 657.)

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (Central No. 2)—I support the second reading. The amendments are useful, not only from the practical, but also from the general social point of view. I think the time is coming when all Australian Governments will have to pay more and more attention to the problem of mental health. The emphasis can too easily slip into dealing with the problem of mental disease. Some of the facts were stated by Professor Trethowan in his recent address, the first Barton Pope Lecture at the Adelaide University. He made some telling points on this subject of mental health and mental illness. The problem is an enormous one, and has tremendous dimensions both from the economic and social point of view.

Some of the statements of Professor Trethowan may be of interest to honourable members who did not have an opportunity to hear what he said. I attended the lecture and made a few notes. One of the important things he mentioned was that nearly one-half of our hospital beds are occupied by mentally ill patients. Suicide is high on the list of causes of death. In Australia alone suicide accounts for half as many fatalities as road deaths. When put in that way, it is a very striking statement. Not only people who commit suicide suffer from mental illness. It is always difficult to get statistics on a subject of this nature and to know at any particular time in any given community just exactly how many are the victims of mental ill-health. However, there is no question that the organizations daily in contact with this problem, such as the Mental Health Association of South Australia, the Health Department and the Marriage Guidance Council know full well that mental ill-health is frequently involved in questions of divorce, broken homes, delinquency, alcoholism, accident proneness and absenteeism from work.

In the final analysis, many of these problems are associated with mental health. Therefore, I think that three important things will be necessary. First, the Government will have to see that adequate finance is made available for the treatment of mentally ill patients. Probably this is something that the individual State Governments could not possibly do without assistance, and therefore I think that in years to come heavy subsidies will undoubtedly be necessary from the Commonwealth Govern-

ment. The need is to see that the money is wisely spent in accordance with the latest overseas ideas on the methods of hospitalization and treatment of patients. Along with the spending of money on mental institutions must go the proper training of psychiatrists and social workers. It is necessary in this line of research for proper social experiments to be conducted. Professor Trethowan and other eminent psychiatrists before him have made the important point that the only effective way that these social experiments can be conducted is by the establishment at the University of a Chair of Mental Health. We have no such chair at the moment and the training of psychiatrists and psychologists to any high degree must be carried out in another State. That is unfortunate, and I think undoubtedly we shall have to provide a Chair of Mental Health at the University soon.

The third important thing that will have to be considered, perhaps not in the immediate future, but undoubtedly in the long run, is a general overhaul of the legislation dealing with mental illness, or mental health, whichever way we like to look at it. In his speech on the second reading Mr. Condon referred to the stigma that still exists on patients who go into mental institutions. That is very true. Everything we can do to remove such a stigma and encourage voluntary admission of individuals for mental treatment is a step in the right direction. Indeed even what appear to be comparatively little things in this Bill can do much to assist the general public to get the right attitude towards mental treatment.

The Bill deals only with two or three minor matters, the most important being that set out in clause 3 (c). It provides that a patient of the Enfield Receiving House is not to be subject to the disabilities of section 98 of the Act unless the Superintendent certifies that this section shall apply. Under that section the Public Trustee has the custody and administration of the estates of all patients, and he has the powers and duties of a committee under the Act given to him by that section. The effect is that as soon as a patient is admitted to the Enfield Receiving House which, after all, is only an admission home for the examination of patients and for their initial treatment and diagnosis, the Public Trustee takes over the whole administration of his estate. That is a bad thing. It has caused difficulties and it militates against a patient's volunteering to enter such an institution. Take the case of a man who is certified to go into the Enfield

Receiving House. Perhaps he misses a week's wages because he has entered the institution before pay day. Under the present legislation the amount of his wages has to be paid to the Public Trustee, who then takes out his commission and pays the balance to the wife. That is an extraordinary position and I am glad to see that under the amendment such things will not happen in future.

I question whether the amendment really goes far enough. It is important that people who seek mental treatment should do so without fear of stigma. I am not so sure that this particular amendment should not also apply to patients who are actually in Parkside Mental Hospital. I have had experience of patients in that hospital, some of whom are there because of old age, and others because they are suffering from a particular form of paranoia, who are perfectly able to conduct their own affairs. They know how many shillings there are in a pound, what property they have, and are fully alive as to what is going on. Therefore, it seems to me that

perhaps a general review of this legislation should take place and then this section could be extended so that the Superintendent of Mental Hospitals could certify that even a patient under his care at Parkside or Northfield could be permitted to conduct his own affairs and not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Trustee's Office. This would assist those patients along the road to recovery. After all, the emphasis in any Bill on mental health should be on recovery, not on committal to an institution. I therefore have pleasure in supporting the second reading. This is an amendment that has been long overdue. I hope one day it will be extended with perhaps some safeguards to mental hospitals other than the Enfield Receiving Home.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment; Committee's report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.28 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, September 16, at 2.15 p.m.