

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, May 5, 1960.

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

QUESTION.**STANDARDIZATION OF NORTHERN LINE GAUGES.**

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Last week, in reply to a question, the Minister of Railways expressed regret at the lack of co-operation on the part of the Federal Government in implementing the northern railway lines standardization plan. In view of his observations I ask him whether he is not of the opinion that a change of Government in the Federal sphere would bring this matter to an early decision?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I have not even considered the matter in that light.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES ACT (SCHOOLS PATRIOTIC FUND).

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's resolution.

TRAVELLING STOCK WAYBILLS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from May 4. Page 379.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—It always appears to be necessary because of altered circumstances to pass a Supply Bill early in the session. In June, 1959, Supply Bill (No. 1) was passed covering an amount of £9,000,000, which was £2,000,000 more than for the previous year. A second Supply Bill was introduced later for a further £9,000,000. This year the

amount provided for is £18,000,000. This money will be required before we meet again later in the year, and as I do not usually speak on both the Supply Bill and the Supplementary Estimates I shall reserve my comments until the latter comes before us.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY (Central No. 2)—I support the Bill. The functions of Government have to be carried on and I am confident that our Government is spending the money in accordance with the Constitution. However, I draw attention to the latter part of clause 3, the principle of which was the subject of considerable discussion in the Address in Reply debate. The South Australian Parliament has entirely given way, in the matter of wages, to the Arbitration Court—or any body such as the Arbitration Court—and when any increase in wages is granted Parliament passes over its authority without any further debate. That was the real point that the Hon. Mr. Potter raised, and it shows how time and circumstances have allowed the finances of the State to drift somewhat away from the control of Parliament. I regret that; in fact, the control has passed not simply to our own Arbitration Court, but to a Federal body, and now the Government seeks permission to add this clause to the Supply Bill. I understand that this is the first occasion this has been done. It is another step forward in the renunciation of the responsibility which Parliament should exercise over the financial affairs of the State. The Government has seen fit to do it—compelled by circumstances no doubt—but I feel that it is another manifestation of the step which Mr. Potter, and I think most members, regret.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I want to clear up the point raised by the Hon. Sir Frank Perry. Clause 3, which he referred to, is not unusual, but has been in similar Bills for some time and is not something the Government has introduced for the first time on this occasion. It is included because we have the recognized tribunals operating under the authority of Parliament in order to fix wages. Any wage increases granted cannot be estimated or budgeted for in advance. It is one of the things outside the normal budgeting powers of the Treasury, so it is provided that there shall be authority that when awards are made they shall be honoured and any increases paid. Everything is tied up with the expenditure of the previous year. Without clause 3 the

Government would have no authority to pay any increased wages provided for in any award.

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

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)

—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is designed, firstly, to widen the application of section 57a of the Justices Act, 1921-1957, so as to provide a simplified procedure in a number of cases enabling a defendant to enter a written plea of guilty without being obliged to appear personally in court in answer to a summons, and thus to save time and expense to the Government, the courts, witnesses, and to the parties themselves; and secondly, to amend section 62c of the Act by enabling a court to proceed to determine the question of penalty in the absence of a convicted defendant, if the court is satisfied that due inquiries were made and reasonable diligence was exercised in attempting to give him the required notice to enable him to appear and make his submissions on the question of penalty. Section 57a of the principal Act was enacted in 1957 to enable a defendant, without appearing in court in answer to the summons, to enter a written plea of guilty if he is charged by a member of the police force for an offence punishable by a penalty other than imprisonment. The object of limiting its application to cases initiated by members of the police force was to give the new procedure a period of trial before extending its application to other cases.

The procedure has in fact proved to be of great value to the police, the courts and to the general public, its greatest merit being the saving of time and expense to the Government, the courts, witnesses and to parties to the court proceedings, and the Government considers that the procedure could now be usefully extended to charges for similar offences initiated by other public officers besides members of the police force. Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 57a so as to extend that procedure accordingly.

Section 62c of the Justices Act deals with the power of a court, when convicting a defendant who fails to appear on summons, to make an order for imprisonment of the defendant

or one disqualifying him from holding or obtaining a driving licence under the Road Traffic Act. The section requires the court, before making such an order, to adjourn the hearing to enable the defendant to appear and make submissions on the question of penalty, and for that purpose the Clerk of the Court is required to give written notice to the defendant informing him of the adjournment and of his right to be heard on that question. If the defendant fails to appear in answer to the notice, the court has power to make an order of imprisonment or disqualification if it is proved that the notice was in fact served on him personally or by post. But cases often occur where a defendant, in order to evade service of the notice, deliberately changes his address or leaves the State and a notice posted to the address given by the defendant himself or shown on his written plea of guilty is returned with the endorsement "address unknown" thereon, and no further action can then be taken under that provision.

Clause 4 adds to section 62c a new subsection which provides that in such cases if the court is satisfied that after due inquiry and exercising reasonable diligence the Clerk could not give the notice, the court may proceed to determine the question of penalty as if the defendant had been given notice. I would like to state that the Government considered the introduction of this Bill upon the recommendation of certain magistrates who, having observed the satisfactory working of the procedure which had been introduced in 1957, have sought an extension of the procedure to cases where other public officers, besides members of the police force, bring charges in respect of offences punishable by penalties other than imprisonment.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

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

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

When the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), 1959, was introduced the provision sought for the various departments was the minimum which the Government considered could possibly be sustained. The Government, faced with a substantial deficit because of the extremely dry season, had carefully reviewed the proposed

expenditure of all departments. The majority of departments will be able to contain their expenditures within the provisions then approved, but it is clear that several departments will require additional funds to enable them to continue to function adequately. Therefore it has become necessary to introduce this Bill to provide further appropriation. Clause 2 authorizes the issue and application of a further £625,335 from the general revenue of the State. Clause 3 appropriates that sum for the following purposes—

HOSPITALS DEPARTMENT, £194,000.—This amount is required to meet increased expenditures at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Parkside Mental Hospital, and Mount Gambier Hospital. The opening and staffing of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has proceeded very smoothly and more rapidly than was expected earlier in the financial year. Increased expenditures have been incurred for running expenses at Royal Adelaide Hospital, in particular for drugs, food and X-ray services, while at both Parkside Mental Hospital and Mount Gambier Hospital the number of patients has been greater than anticipated.

CHIEF SECRETARY—MISCELLANEOUS, £7,400.—This provision comprises the sum of £2,000 as a grant to the South Australian Olympic Council to assist in sending South Australian athletes to the Olympic Games to be held in Rome in September; £2,400 to meet the costs incurred by the committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the fruit canning industry; £1,000 to subsidize the cost to private consumers of railing water to townships on the Peterborough-Cockburn line where the dry season caused a very serious water shortage; and £2,000 as a contribution to the World Refugee Year Appeal which is designed to assist the resettlement of people displaced from their homes by the forces of war.

PUBLICITY AND TOURIST BUREAU AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, £1,550.—An amount of £1,550 is included to cover payments towards the cost of illuminations and decorations for the Adelaide Festival of Arts. I believe that honourable members will be gratified at the public response to this festival, the results of which exceeded all expectations.

LANDS DEPARTMENT, £35,450.—Senior officers of the department have been engaged on an investigation designed to reduce the cost of operating the department, and in anticipation of savings the appropriation for 1959-60 was

set down at £35,000 less than actual expenditure for 1958-59. With the additional provision now sought expenditure will be no greater than actual expenditure in 1958-59, despite increased rates for salaries and wages and the rising cost of supplies, so that it can be seen that the investigation is achieving results even though the department is unable to contain its expenditures within the original estimate. The economy drive will continue during next financial year.

ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, £291,000.—The cost of pumping from bores to supply the metropolitan area and of pumping through the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline to supply the northern areas has been heavier than was anticipated when the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) of 1959 was introduced. General maintenance work has also been more extensive than was estimated early in the financial year.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT, £500.—The Government desires to provide loan moneys during 1960-61 for thirty new schools which have not yet been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. It is necessary for the department to speed up work on the preparation of sketch plans and evidence to be given to the committee and for this to be done several officers who are not eligible to receive overtime will be required to carry out quite a lot of extra work. The Government proposes to grant a bonus to these officers and £500 is provided for the purpose.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, £48,619.—Of this amount £35,000 is required to meet the general expenses of primary, higher primary, and area schools which have been greater than anticipated. The sum of £1,619 is required to provide for *ex gratia* payments of the monetary equivalent of long service leave to three officers who began their careers as teachers but became public servants on promotion to inspector. Following an increase in the amount of long service leave which teachers may accumulate, the Government is considering the introduction of an amendment to the Education Act so that the increase will apply to the teacher who becomes a public servant on promotion. In the meantime, however, the Government proposes to make *ex gratia* payments to three officers who retire in the near future. An amount of £12,000 is required to meet additional commitments which have occurred for payments in lieu of leave to teachers, officers, and dependents.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION—MISCELLANEOUS, £30,000.—The University Colleges themselves have raised more than £50,000 towards their

building programme and the South Australian Government has contributed £40,000 to the University for that purpose. The Commonwealth Government agreed to contribute £80,000 towards University College buildings on condition that at least a corresponding amount was raised from other sources. An amount of £50,000 has already been claimed from the Commonwealth and passed across to the University. It was thought that the progress of building would be such that the remaining £30,000 of Commonwealth contribution would not be required until next financial year. With the present rate of progress on buildings it has been decided to claim the £30,000 in the near future, and this appropriation is sought so that the Government may pay the moneys across to the University as soon as they are received from the Commonwealth.

MINES DEPARTMENT, £2,316—Appropriation is sought for several special expenses which are not specifically covered by the appropriation contained in the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories Act. An amount of £1,000 is required to cover the expenses incurred in bringing Dr. Coffey from the United States to be interviewed prior to his appointment as Director of the Laboratories. The sum of £846 is provided for the insurance of buildings and fixed equipment. Whereas the council is responsible for the insurance of moveable plant and equipment the Government is responsible for the insurance of buildings and fixed equipment, which of course remains its property. An amount of £470 is provided to reimburse the laboratories for accumulated sick leave of officers. Officers who transferred to the laboratories took with them certain privileges including that of sick leave accumulated during their period of public service. Since their transfer two officers have been unfortunate enough to require extended sick leave and the Government accepts the financial responsibility for the leave taken out of that accumulated during their employment as public servants.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, —MISCELLANEOUS, £14,500.—This amount is required to meet the claims of district councils under the Electricity Supplies (Country Areas) Act. The Act provides that the Treasurer may make grants of half the capital cost of purchasing, extending or improving electricity undertakings, provided that the proposals have been investigated by the Electricity Trust of South Australia and approved by the Minister of Local Government.

Payments have been made during this financial year to the District Councils of Kimba, Le Hunte, and Streaky Bay. The additional provision will permit a grant to the District Council of Murat Bay and a further grant to the District Council of Le Hunte.

Clause 4 of the Bill provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan Funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill.

I think this Bill to cover a little more than £600,000 reveals a very satisfactory position in view of the poor season and I think the explanations given will be justification for the expenditure. I commend the Bill for consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—In order to facilitate the passage of the Bill and to assist the Government I do not seek an adjournment of the debate and propose to support the second reading. Further provision is required to the extent of £625,335 and I would like to comment on some of the items. The sum set down for the Hospitals Department is £194,000, which I think is a fair amount. In the past few years we have had to face very heavy expenses in connection with our hospitals. I do not for one moment say that the expenditure has not been warranted; I am simply pointing out that this sum does not only include salaries, but covers very many other items. We ought to be satisfied with the progress we have made in connection with hospitals both in the metropolitan area and in other parts of the State.

In connection with the sum provided for the Education Department I wish to sound a note of warning. Provision is made for 30 new schools in the ensuing year and I think Parliament should take a closer look at money spent in this direction. In the past three or four years the Public Works Committee has been compelled to give very quick decisions on submissions made by the Education Department and in this connection I would like to pay a compliment to the Architect-in-Chief's Department because it has been working under great difficulties. Owing to shortage of staff many officers have done a lot of extra work for which they have not received payment. In

this Bill a sum of £500 is set down so that they may be paid for the overtime they work, which is for the purpose of enabling early approvals to be given so that the works may be carried out in this financial year. Last year the Public Works Committee recommended the construction of a greater number of schools than for some years, and now it is proposed by the department that 30 new schools shall be provided this year. I say unhesitatingly that school designs and plans have been too elaborate, and I think it would be far better if, say, 35 schools were built for the same amount of money. In this connection a conference has been held and the Public Works Committee has suggested that the design in future be not quite so elaborate. I do not want to deny any district the privilege of having a school; we all want to see that our children are properly educated, but we must consider the expenditure involved, and in my opinion it is better to build more schools even if they are not so elaborate as those we have been providing recently.

For some time past my colleagues and I have been urging that the Opposition should be represented on the University Council in view of the grants that are made to the University by the Government. We have been promised that the matter will be considered, but no advance has been made beyond that. I know that it would necessitate an amendment of the Act, but seeing that Parliament is providing so much for education and by way of donations to the University I think that the Opposition is entitled to some recognition and representation.

An amount of £1,550 is set down for the Publicity and Tourist Bureau. We could well afford to spend a little more money in advertising our State. Recently I visited Victoria and I was much impressed with the work that the Victorian Tourist Bureau has accomplished. It has spent considerable sums in attracting visitors to that State, and I think South Australia has as much to show visitors as any other State. I went to Lakes Entrance, which is a delightful spot. The accommodation is good and every comfort possible is provided and I would strongly recommend anyone to go there. However, if it were not for the amount of advertising that has been done in Victoria it is doubtful whether Lakes Entrance would be as well known and popular as it is today. I urge the Government to give every encouragement to advertising South Australia in other parts of the Commonwealth.

The Hon. C. R. Story—It is very nice on the Murray at this time of the year.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It is always nice there. I suppose it is because it has such splendid Parliamentary representation. A sum of £291,000 is provided for the Engineering and Water Supply Department. This money is required mainly in connection with the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline. I feel sure that after the rains we have had in the past fortnight it will not be necessary to spend so much in pumping water from the Murray, and we hope that in the course of a few weeks our reservoirs will be overflowing.

Another item under this heading is the duplication of the main from Morgan to Whyalla. The department is very anxious that early authority should be given to allow it to secure the steel pipes required. The Public Works Committee proposes visiting Burra in the near future to take evidence and will endeavour to complete its inquiry as quickly as possible so that the department may make early preparation to start this work. In a few years I have no doubt that the duplication will have been completed and that it will mark a further step in the advancement of South Australia.

This is probably the last occasion when the Minister of Roads will be with us before his departure for overseas. I want him to accept our best wishes for a successful trip, and may he enjoy good health. I am sure that his visit will result in benefit to the State. As he will be accompanied by Mrs. Jude, this will be an incentive for him to work hard, but I trust he will not overdo it. I wish him a safe journey, a happy return, and may his trip be a profitable one for the State. I support the second reading.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY (Central No. 2)—I support the Supplementary Estimates as presented by the Chief Secretary, which involve an amount of £625,335—a large figure, but not so large when one considers the circumstances and the fact that the expenditure of the State amounts to about £70,000,000 a year. Therefore, the actual percentage of unforeseen expenses now being provided for is not very great. I should have liked the Minister to indicate whether the revenue of the State has improved in comparison with the amount estimated. The main item in these Estimates relates to the supply of water. For the Adelaide water district the cost is £200,000 more than was anticipated, and for the Morgan-Whyalla main £91,000. Those two amounts together approach close to half the total of the

Supplementary Estimates. One must congratulate the Government on the way it met at such slight expense the difficulties arising from the serious drought conditions. Because of its foresight, not only Adelaide, but a large portion of the State, was supplied with water from the Murray. Without this, our industries and people would have been in a serious position.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Was it not done by Parliament, too?

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY—It was sanctioned by Parliament. I give credit to the initiator of any scheme, and not only to those who approve it. If Parliament initiates a scheme, all the more credit to Parliament. In this case, the Government and its officers took the necessary steps to meet the position. I agree that Parliament saw the wisdom of the proposal and approved it. I am sure that Parliament and the public generally have the greatest respect for those who initiate matters for the benefit of the State as a whole. When it comes to criticism, it is the Government that suffers, but when it comes to praise, this is directed to Parliament and not the Government. If the Hon. Mr. Bardolph considers matters from this angle, he will agree that it is not fair to those who are responsible.

The Estimates provide for £194,000 for hospitals. Although hospital expenditure is mounting steadily, no-one begrudges money spent for this purpose. The health of the community and the needs of the afflicted receive not only the sympathy of the general public, but a response from the Government in the form of money to provide more facilities. It is a matter of regret that subscriptions by the general public to hospitals and to similar institutions are not so spontaneous as they used to be. I have in mind subscriptions now being sought for improvements and extensions to the Adelaide Children's Hospital. It is true that a large amount is involved and also that the Government subscribes toward the project, but the response from the general public has not been as great as I am sure many would like. Government hospitals are provided for by the Government, but there is a growing section of the public who believe that all hospital expenditure should be met by the Government.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—There is a big demand for country hospitals too.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY—I know that. Councils and the general public subscribe towards these institutions, and they are

also supported by the Government. In the metropolitan area the Adelaide Children's Hospital has been the outstanding institution that has obtained the sympathy of the people. I hope that that sympathy has not died, but that it will increase and that the hospital will be able to obtain the required sum to continue its meritorious work. I think, therefore, that although the Government has spent on hospitals £194,000 above the amount anticipated last September, the money has been wisely spent, as it has been in the past, because the Government watches that expenditure very carefully. No one can begrudge expenditure on such an excellent cause. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the University and said he thought that more than two members of this Chamber should be appointed to the University Council. Parliament is now represented by five members on that council, three of whom are from another place and two from this Chamber.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—But there is no representative from the Opposition in this House.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY—I think that in University and other educational matters it does not matter whether a man is a Liberal, Labor, or Democratic Labor Party supporter, because he represents the House and the thought of the Chamber and does what he considers best for the University. When our representatives get to that council they find that they are only a small part of the total representation on the council. I am a member of that council and I say that anything mentioned by a representative of Parliament receives the closest attention of the council.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—We are not suggesting that anyone should be removed.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY—No, but the inference is that the representation of this House on the council is not as good as it should be. In other words the honourable member feels that Labor Party support would be an improvement.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—It would probably help.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY—Whatever the honourable member may say about it I say that the representatives from this House are doing their job as thoroughly as is possible.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—We are not suggesting that you are not.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY—If there were to be a change the Act would have to be altered and there would have to be a vote of members of this Council irrespective of Party

views. I think when a member is elected from this Council he is supported by every member in the Chamber.

I do not intend to deal in detail with many of the items in the Supplementary Estimates, but I am a little concerned about the increased expenditure on education. It is necessary that schools be provided and large sums are now allocated for that purpose, but this year the amount that has been allowed falls short by £48,000 of the amount required for education. The additional amount required is not for salaries but for general servicing of the schools, a permanent annual expense that is increasing each year. This House must be concerned about these annual increases in expenditure. Loan money is allocated for the establishment of schools and a tribute must be paid to those who design them. I think they are very efficient. Some people claim that schools cost too much, but when a school is designed it is designed not for one decade but for fifty years or more; consequently the building has to be able to weather changing seasonal conditions and be equipped for a long time. The materials used in the construction of schools must be good and durable. The expenditure on schools is reasonable, but I believe that the increase in maintenance costs for schools is mounting too rapidly, and £48,000 is a big sum. I hope that those in authority in the schools will endeavour to reduce unnecessary expenditure.

The Leader of the Labor Party took the opportunity to say farewell to the Minister of Roads and Railways, and I join with him on that matter. I am sure that the House wishes the Minister and those associated with him—his family and members of his department—a good trip and a safe return. The methods used in road construction are being rapidly improved and the Highways and Local Government Department is becoming one of the biggest spending Government Departments. Most of the materials used in road construction are obtained in Australia and proper construction is of vital importance to this State and to Australia.

I am sure that the Minister, when he returns, will be able to suggest new and improved methods of road construction. That will probably increase expenditure under this heading, but that is a natural result because many of us who have seen the roads in America, in other countries, and in other States of Australia know that we have much to learn. It is true that our conditions do not warrant the type of highways that some other countries

have, but it is necessary that we look into the future and design our roads for the time when the volume of our road traffic will be much greater than it is today. It is wise to get an early start and design roads that will be able to cope with the traffic that will travel on them in the years to come.

I support this Bill, but I regret that it adds to our deficit by £625,000, although I think that the Government, in view of the adverse year, has not involved the State in more expenditure than was absolutely necessary. I believe that the expenditure incurred was necessary and that the affairs of government were carried out as efficiently as possible. Our water supply position particularly reflects much credit on the Government and there is much cause for satisfaction because, except in one or two far-flung parts of the State, water restrictions were averted. The State's water supply was well cared for by the Government at not a great deal of extra expense in a year of very low rainfall. I support the Bill.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I had not proposed to speak, but I rise for the purpose of dispelling any inference that the Hon. Sir Frank Perry may have drawn from the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition with regard to representation on the University Council. Members of the Australian Labor Party, both in this Chamber and in another place, believe that there should be at least one representative of the Party in this Council on the University Council, but not to the detriment of the two members already there and who are no doubt carrying out their responsibilities in a worthy manner. There is no suggestion, implied or otherwise, of any fault on their part in fulfilling their functions. I was somewhat surprised that Sir Frank Perry should say that it was not a question of politics but of representation of Parliament. I agree that when people are elected by this Council, or by another place, to a body such as the University Council or to various Parliamentary committees they do not play politics; however, they do represent a cross section of public opinion which is not represented by other members who may be appointed. Consequently, with our system of Parliamentary Government, where there are two major Parties in all of the States and the Commonwealth, representation is given, in a lesser or larger degree, to those two Parties on outside bodies to which they are appointed, so I think that the specious argument put forward by the honourable member does not carry much weight.

I appreciate the fact that the Government proposes to expend a large amount on building schools, but I have heard nothing from it with regard to support for independent schools. It is true that it is the responsibility of parents who do not desire to send their children to State schools to decide what schools they shall attend. The function of independent schools is to meet the need of parents who by their conscience are required to send their children to school where they may continue to embrace the faith of the parents responsible for bringing them into the world. Last August a conference of headmasters of independent schools was held and as a result the Commonwealth Government was requested to make some provision, through the State Governments, for the purpose of assisting in some degree with capital expenditure on new buildings and extensions. I and other members have spoken about this matter on other occasions and I do not want to weary the Council this afternoon with a long debate. Suffice it to say that independent schools are saving the Governments of Australia many millions of pounds of taxpayers' money by constructing schools and providing teaching staff and all the amenities that go with modern education. When the Expenditure Estimates are brought down later this year I hope that there will be some provision—and I am not attempting to suggest a formula this afternoon—to alleviate the burden of the independent schools in respect of capital costs.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—May they not desire to be independent?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—School committees associated with the independent schools provide many thousands of pounds every year which is not subsidized by the Government in any way as like amounts raised in connection with State schools are subsidized. In the same way as the State schools do, these independent schools require broadcasting and sporting equipment, school libraries, and the many other things necessary to ensure a full curriculum, and these extras must be provided by the parents.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—Either they are independent schools or they are not.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Perhaps I should say "denominational" schools; schools not provided by the Government.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds—Are all private schools denominational schools?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I am talking about the major schools. I am not suggesting that we desire to set up private business colleges to teach shorthand and so

forth. Recently the Labor Party presented to the Federal Parliament a petition signed by over 120,000 people demanding Federal action. The petition was sponsored by the teachers' federations with the assistance of parents' and citizens' organizations, and represented a body of public opinion of great national significance. The children entering the secondary schools in 1960 will be of the age group born in 1948 when our birthrate was the highest on record. The teachers entering the profession are drawn from the age group born in the late 1930's when our birthrate was at its lowest point. Therefore a threefold crisis exists—shortage of teachers, a tidal wave of students, and an insatiable demand for school accommodation beyond the resources of the State.

The Hon. C. R. Story—You got that together very quickly for a man who was not going to make a speech.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I had prepared these notes, but I did not propose to speak here this afternoon. However, in view of Sir Frank Perry's remarks I thought it would be well for members to know these things. In discussions on our educational problems no reference has been made to the increase in the number of students by migration. This alone has brought to Australia 250,000 under the age of 14 years in the last 10 years. Some go to independent schools and some attend State schools where fees are not charged. We have no full statistics about the natural increase born to migrants who are here. I hope I have dispelled any thought that Sir Frank Perry had that we desire to oppose or upset the existing representation on the University Council. All that we want is some recognition of the Opposition in this Council. We should not lose sight of the fact that Parliament provides many thousands of pounds for the University and the fees paid by students there would not meet a quarter of the working expenses.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—Not one-eighth.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I accept that figure. Consequently, it comes right back to the people of this State, through their Parliament, to provide the financial assistance that will enable our University to function properly. Our standard of academic training has been very high and has been so regarded throughout the world. We should maintain that standard, and our desire is to have representation on the University Council in order to maintain that necessary balance of the cross section of public opinion throughout the States of the Commonwealth.

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

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

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

SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMEND-
MENT BILL.

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

SOIL CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

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

POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.33 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, May 10, at 2.15 p.m.