

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT (1961)

Parliament, which adjourned on November 17, 1960, was prorogued by proclamation dated December 15. By proclamation dated May 18, 1961, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, June 20, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, June 20, 1961.

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

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

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

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

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. I should like to say at the outset that I welcome this opportunity of addressing you for the first time. I would also express on behalf of my wife and myself our deep appreciation of the warm welcome which we have received at the hands of the Government and people of this State as Her Majesty's Representatives. We look forward with keen anticipation to our sojourn among you and I would assure you that it is our intention to do everything we can to promote the happiness and well-being of the people of this State, a task so ably fulfilled by our predecessors.

3. I know that you will all join with me in placing on record our profound feelings of shock and regret at the untimely death of the late Viscount Dunrossil, the Governor-General of this Commonwealth, after but one year from his assumption of that great office. This State had perhaps special cause to mourn his passing since his first official visit to any State of the Commonwealth was made to South Australia when our people experienced at first hand those great qualities which made him the man that he was. We extend our sympathy to his widow and the members of his family.

4. Nearer home members of this Parliament had cause to lament the loss of two of its outstanding leaders. I refer to the late Michael Raphael O'Halloran and Malcolm McIntosh, both of whom, after long and arduous periods of sterling public service passed to their rest during the past year. Both of these men made great contributions to the welfare and development of the State and, in placing on record our tribute to their work, I express our sympathy to the members of their respective families.

5. The past season proved to be one of the best ever experienced in the State, the harvest yielding an all time record of one hundred million bushels. This has been accompanied by prolific pasture growth, substantial improvements in livestock numbers and excellent conditions in the fruit industry.

6. My Government continues its policy of fostering and encouraging the orderly development of the pastoral industry and during the last session introduced legislation to enable pastoral lessees to apply for new long-term leases to enable uninterrupted development of existing holdings.

7. Development of land for war service land settlement is being continued and by July of the present year only four holdings in the South-East and thirty-nine on Kangaroo Island will remain unallotted. All large scale developmental work will be completed by the end of 1962.

8. Three important long term research projects covering the spheres of wild life management and fisheries were commenced during the current financial year and following a conference of Commonwealth and State authorities, a council of Fisheries Ministers will be established during the next twelve months. A complete investigation of commercial fishing on the River Murray is to be undertaken and my Government will continue to provide fishing boat facilities along the coastline of the State. Slipways have been completed at Port Lincoln and Beachport and commenced at Streaky Bay, a new jetty completed at Moonata Bay and land has been acquired for construction of a slipway at Port MacDonnell. Fish production to a value of over one million pounds will during the current year be the highest on record.

9. Water requirements in irrigation areas continue to be met. The comprehensive drainage scheme for the Cooltong division of the Chaffey irrigation area has been completed and consideration is being given to the provision of a drainage scheme for the Ral Ral division of that area.

10. Drainage works in both Eastern and Western Divisions of the South-East were continued during the year and to date 350 miles of new drains have been constructed in the Western Division.

11. Mineral production for the past year both in quantity and value constitutes a record, the nominal production value exceeding that of the previous year by more than £1,000,000. My Government has vigorously continued to encourage and promote the use of the State's mineral resources by active participation in exploration and development.

12. State forests continue to flourish and log production is expected to exceed 190,000,000 super feet. Developments are proceeding and further schemes are in hand in the South-East. In particular, steps are in hand to increase the annual acreage of new plantings for 4,000 to 6,000 acres.

13. My Government continues to expand and improve water and sewerage supplies and facilities in both metropolitan and country areas. I refer in particular to the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, the new dam at Myponga, and the increase in the capacity of the Mount

Bold dam by 5,000,000,000 gallons, the Clarendon, Belair and Blackwood scheme and water supplies at Elizabeth, South Para and the Onkaparinga Valley.

Work is proceeding on the planning of the first stage of the Bolivar sewerage treatment works and Glenelg sewerage treatment works extensions. The sewerage scheme at Naracoorte is nearing completion and further progress has been made in Port Lincoln. A treatment works at Noarlunga is in course of construction.

14. Following the passage of enabling legislation, works have commenced on the south-western suburbs drainage scheme. Designs for the flood control dam and improvements to the Sturt River channel are in hand and already two sections of the first priority drains are under construction.

15. Negotiations with the States of New South Wales and Victoria for the establishment on the River Murray of a dam capable of impounding some 4,750,000 acre feet of water at Chowilla are proceeding satisfactorily and my Government believes that agreement will be reached on this important project.

16. My Government has continued its active policy in connection with the development and improvement of roads. Apart from important major works which are being continued in the Adelaide hills area, Main North Road and roads between Gladstone and Caltowie, Maitland and Port Victoria and Bute to Port Broughton, the Lincoln Highway has been completed and a heavy duty access road to the refinery at Hallett Cove has been constructed and sealed. Further important reconstruction works to be commenced throughout the State include the Eyre Highway and main roads from Kalangadoo to Glencoe, Port Wakefield to Ardrossan and Mingary to Cockburn. The Road Traffic Board is doing invaluable work and planning for future development has been assisted by the legislation providing for the proclamation of limited access roads and contemplated free-ways.

17. The Electricity Trust has had a particularly successful year and continues to extend supplies in country areas. In July last the "B" section of the power station at Port Augusta was formally opened and there is now a total of 210,000 kilowatts of plant in service. The transmission network is continually being extended and two important projects now in hand are the supply of power to the new steel works at Whyalla and the new oil refinery and adjacent area at Port

Stanvac. Despite appreciable increases in wages and general costs the average price for electricity has been steadily reduced since 1953 and no likelihood of any increase is foreseen.

During the next few years it will be necessary to increase the output of coal from Leigh Creek to 2,000,000 tons a year. The field is now producing at a profit sufficient coal to meet all the requirements of the power station at Port Augusta and other users and a royalty of one shilling per ton is being contributed to Government revenue. The increasing use of this coal has been one of the most important factors in maintaining the stability of electricity tariffs.

18. The assistance to purchasers of homes by Government guarantees under the Homes Act has increased considerably during the last 12 months, almost 2,000 additional guarantees having been given, bringing the total number of persons assisted to nearly 12,500. Advances by the State Bank under the Advances for Homes Act and Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement will total nearly £5,000,000. Loans under the Loans to Producers and Advances to Settlers Act have totalled nearly £200,000.

19. The operations of the South Australian Housing Trust have done much to support the building industry at a time when the industry has been depressed in other parts of Australia. This has been made possible by the availability of ample loan funds and by mortgage finance provided by the Savings Bank of South Australia, the State Bank, and other institutions. Building has commenced at Christies Beach and progress is being maintained at Elizabeth. Activities of the trust in country areas range from a large building programme at Whyalla to the building of limited numbers of houses in small towns throughout the State.

My Government's policy of winding up the emergency housing scheme is being carried out speedily, nearly one-third of the emergency dwellings having been vacated and most of the tenants rehoused by the trust.

20. The Education Department has been expanded to cope with the growth in its activities. Twelve primary and five secondary schools were opened at the beginning of 1961 and the total expenditure on school building construction for the financial year was some £4,700,000, the corresponding expenditure for the previous year being £4,300,000. Further new buildings or major additions are proposed and the new multi-storey building for the Adelaide Teachers' College will be commenced

this year. The policy concerning book allowance has been changed during the past financial year and all students in secondary schools now receive book allowances the estimated expenditure for which for the current year is nearly £500,000. An extensive revision of the primary courses is being undertaken and the first revised course (in social studies) will be used in the schools in 1962.

21. In the field of public health the rapid development of the State has led to the appointment of a medical officer experienced in industrial health. It is proposed also to station an inspector at Whyalla. The new chest clinic and headquarters for the T.B. services in Ruthven Mansions was opened in May of this year.

22. There are now 49 Government subsidized hospitals in the State and grants to these hospitals during the present financial year will amount to over £300,000. Grants and subsidies to other community and non-profit hospitals and institutions will amount to over £1,000,000.

Two cobalt therapy units have been installed in the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Considerable advances have been made in the field of cardiac surgery following the training of key personnel overseas and the provision of additional equipment. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has become well established as a teaching centre, both under-graduate and post-graduate, in general medicine, physiotherapy, radiography and other fields.

23. Capital expenditure on hospital buildings during the past financial year will be of the order of nearly £2,000,000 and work will continue on developments at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, at Port Lincoln and elsewhere.

Over £1,000,000 has been expended on Government buildings other than hospitals and schools. New works to be undertaken include the new police headquarters, a new wing for the Art Gallery, a new Remand Home at Glandore and a new Girls' Reformatory at Vaughan House.

24. In furtherance of the policy of raising the standards and increasing education facilities for aboriginal natives with a view to their assimilation, 13 houses have been erected and occupied by aboriginal families in country towns and others are under construction. Additions and increased amenities have been provided at missions and training in agriculture is proceeding. A departmental welfare officer has been appointed at Coober Pedy. Some 350 aboriginal children are being maintained either

in institutions or private homes while receiving education in the metropolitan area.

25. The security block at the Boys Reformatory at Magill became available for use during the year and as an interim measure Bedford Park has been made available for the accommodation of a number of children under the control of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board. Two more suburban residences have been purchased for use as cottage homes. Several important building projects are planned including a senior and junior boys' reformatory, the former to replace the old building at Magill, and a remand home to accommodate children on remand in institutions other than those where committed children are held.

26. In 1960 there were again fewer industrial disputes, and less working days lost in South Australia than in any of the other mainland Australian States, an indication of the good industrial relations which exist in this State and a tribute to the attitude generally adopted by all sections of industry.

27. In pursuance of their policy of fostering industrial expansion in the State, my Ministers have been conducting negotiations for the establishment of a large timber pulp industry in the South-East. This undertaking, which would be closely associated with the State forests, would lead to extensive development throughout the area and it is the hope of my Ministers that the considerable progress which has already been made will result in agreement with the four Canadian and Australian companies associated in sponsoring the project and that a Bill to ratify such agreement will be laid before you.

28. Plans for the further development of artificial breeding of livestock as suggested in a report of a special committee are being prepared and it is hoped to lay an enabling Bill before you.

29. My Ministers are satisfied that the current economic situation warrants the retention of the prices legislation and the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Act for a further period of 12 months in each case and measures for these purposes will be laid before you.

30. A Bill to amend the Land Tax Act by reducing the rates of tax, abolishing the absentee land tax and making special provisions in relation to rural land will be laid before you.

31. A Bill dealing with Public Service superannuation will be laid before you.

32. A Bill to authorize my Treasurer to guarantee repayment up to a further £500,000

by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. as part of an additional loan of £1,000,000 to be made by the Commonwealth Trading Bank will be laid before you.

33. My Ministers attach great importance to the consolidating Road Traffic Bill which was introduced during the last session and it is their intention to reintroduce this Bill at an early stage with such minor amendments as have been suggested since the Bill became public.

34. My Government has given consideration to the care and treatment of alcoholics and has established a special committee of officers to report upon the question. It is the intention of my Ministers to lay before you a measure to deal with this important social problem.

35. Considerable progress has been made in discussions with the Commonwealth and other States on a uniform Companies Act over the past 12 months and it is anticipated that a uniform Bill will shortly be ready. My Ministers are not yet in a position to state whether it will be possible to introduce the measure during the current session.

36. Following the meetings of Commonwealth and State Ministers concerning company law it has been agreed that the respective Attorneys-General shall meet from time to time as a standing committee to consider uniformity in other branches of the law. Already preliminary consideration has been given to subjects of business names, maintenance and adoption.

37. In September last, my Treasurer presented a budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a surplus of £312,000. As a result of the excellent season and continued careful control of expenditure a substantial improvement on that estimate is now anticipated and, indeed, has enabled my Government to make a special grant of £1,000,000 for the provision by the Electricity Trust of a transmission line to the south-east of the State, as well as to offset the deficit outstanding from the last financial year and probably the whole of the deficit funded in 1959.

38. During the current financial year further progress has been made in the provision of capital and developmental works financed from Loan Account. The estimated gross loan expenditure as originally provided was of the order of nearly £31,000,000; this estimate will be exceeded by some £500,000; but repayments to the Loan Account will also be greater than anticipated. It is expected that the Loan Fund will remain in credit as on the 30th of this month to the extent of about £100,000 or about

£300,000 less than the credit at the commencement of the year.

Members of the House of Assembly:

39. Estimates of expenditure for the year ending on June 30, 1962, will be laid before you.

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

40. A Supply Bill appropriating £18,000,000 for the maintenance of Public Service for the State during the early months of the next financial year will be laid before you forthwith.

41. In addition to measures which I have already mentioned, my Ministers are considering legislation on a variety of subjects including measures relating to the Housing Trust, juvenile offenders, prisons, friendly societies, marine, sale of furniture, evidence, offenders' probation, registration of marriages and other matters of law reform.

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

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

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that, following the lamented death of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Viscount Dunrossil, P.C., G.C.M.G., M.C., Q.C., I forwarded a message of sympathy to Viscountess Dunrossil on behalf of members of the Council and received the following reply:

Lady Dunrossil sends her thanks to you and members of the Council for your kind message which she and her sons value very much.

[*Sitting suspended from 12.52 to 2.15 p.m.*]

PETITION: THE PARKIN TRUST INCORPORATED.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY presented a petition from the Parkin Trust Incorporated praying leave to introduce a private Bill for an Act to amend The Parkin Trust Incorporated Act, 1926, by further extending the powers of The Parkin Trust and those of the governors thereof.

Received and read.

THE PARKIN TRUST INCORPORATED ACT AMENDMENT BILL (PRIVATE).

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend The Parkin Trust Incorporated Act, 1926. Read a first time.

PETITION: THE PARKIN CONGREGATIONAL MISSION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY presented a petition from The Parkin Congregational Mission of South Australia Incorporated praying leave to introduce a private Bill for an Act to amend the trusts of the Deed of Settlement relating to The Parkin Congregational Mission of South Australia Incorporated.

Received and read.

THE PARKIN CONGREGATIONAL MISSION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA BILL (PRIVATE).

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the trusts of the Deed of Settlement relating to The Parkin Congregational Mission of South Australia Incorporated. Read a first time.

QUESTIONS.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

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: This morning's *Advertiser* contains some statistical information regarding the growing army of unemployed people. I think the *Advertiser* said that out of a work force of 4,000,000 in Australia one in every 41 is unemployed at present, and that the army is continually growing as a result of the financial squeeze. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will consider calling a conference of all the Premiers of the Commonwealth for the purpose of reviewing the incidence of unemployment and, if possible, presenting a case to the Commonwealth Government for an alleviation of the economic conditions brought about by that Government?

The Hon. Sir LYELL MCEWIN: The honourable member has no doubt asked the question in his capacity as Acting Leader of the Opposition. I take this opportunity to express regret on behalf of all members at the

illness of the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. F. J. Condon). He is at present very sick in hospital and I am sure every member would like the Acting Leader to convey sympathy to him in his illness and the hope for a speedy recovery. The Acting Leader asks whether our Premier would request a Premiers' Conference. I point out that only two days ago he returned from a conference where all the Premiers of the Commonwealth were assembled. They dealt with very important aspects of the economy of Australia, which is the responsibility of the Loan Council. At the conference apparently all the Premiers agreed on the amount of money to be made available for Loan expenditure, which is perhaps one of the best prospects of providing employment for it enables the Government to proceed with the maximum movement possible regarding public works. I think that, compared with some other States, South Australia is in a good position.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That is only your view.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I would not expect the honourable member to have any other interpretation, but I am speaking generally for consumption by intelligent people rather than explaining any deficiencies the honourable member may have in following what I am saying. By maintaining a sound economy within our own administration—and we have heard from the Governor's Speech that the State is in a good position—we are probably better situated than any other State. Any request for further alleviation would be difficult following closely on the conference that has already been held. I imagine some of the other States are more anxious than this State for some alleviation. This question particularly concerns South Australia, and the Government has tried to adopt a forward approach to it to meet what has occurred and what many people have expected for a long time but have not taken too well now it has happened.

Everyone realizes that some adjustments are necessary, but the necessary adjustments are not always easy to make palatable to everybody. I listened with interest to what the Commonwealth Leader of the Opposition said last night in the hope that he may have had some practical contribution or suggestion to make. However, I was disappointed to find that he accepted the position but he did not have the answer.

DEPOSITS ON HIRE-PURCHASE TRANSACTIONS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: During the last session of this Parliament a Bill was passed to control hire-purchase transactions and one section stipulated that a 10 per cent deposit must be paid under each hire-purchase agreement. Advertisements appear daily in the newspapers offering articles for sale and requiring no deposit, but weekly payments. Can the Attorney-General tell me if these advertisements comply with the law and, if not, what the Government is doing to correct the position? If the advertisements are not in accordance with the law will the Government take necessary action to enforce compliance with the expressed wish of Parliament?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: Some of these advertisements have been brought to my notice and in one or two instances action has been taken to prevent the recurrence of an advertisement that is not in accordance with the Act passed last year. We are watching the position closely and if it appears that some amendment of the legislation is required to plug up any hole that has been discovered I shall be happy to consider the position. I attended a meeting of Attorneys-General last week in Brisbane and this question of evading the provisions of the Hire-Purchase Act was mentioned and some consideration was given to the problem.

FUNDS FOR HOUSE BUILDING.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: In view of a statement made in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor at the opening of Parliament this morning, will the Chief Secretary state what amount has been allocated to the Housing Trust from Loan moneys secured from the Loan Council by the Premier at the Premiers' Conference? Will the Minister also state what amounts will be allocated to the State Bank and to building societies for house building?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I am not the Treasurer and obviously I cannot give the figures to within some hundreds of thousands of pounds. However, the Loan Estimates will be presented at an early date and all those amounts will be given. I am sorry I am unable to supply the figures at the moment.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

- Para Hills Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme,
- Grand Junction Road and Port Road Trunk Water Main (From Hanson Road to Port Adelaide Railway Station),
- Bridge to replace Jervois Bridge, Port Adelaide (progress),
- Dover Gardens Girls Technical High School, Nangwarry Sewerage Scheme,
- Adelaide Technical High School,
- Glandore Remand Home,
- Port Pirie Bulk Handling Scheme,
- South Australian School of Art,
- Penola Water Supply.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

That a committee consisting of the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, L. H. Densley, E. H. Edmonds, C. R. Story and the Chief Secretary be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor this day and to report on Tuesday, July 25.

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

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

Standing Orders: The President, the Chief Secretary, the Hons. F. J. Condon, Sir Frank Perry and Sir Arthur Rymill.

Library: The President, the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, Jessie Cooper and A. C. Hookings.

Printing: The Hons. S. C. Bevan, G. O'H. Giles, F. J. Potter, A. J. Shard and R. R. Wilson.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.51 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 21, at 2.15 p.m.