

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 25, 1961.

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

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

DEATH OF HON. F. J. CONDON.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): By leave of the Council I move:

That this Council expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. F. J. Condon, C.M.G., Leader of the Labor Party in the Legislative Council and member for Central No. 1 District, and places on record its appreciation of his public service, and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased honourable member, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

The late honourable member served for about 36 years in Parliament, being first elected as member for Port Adelaide in the House of Assembly on April 5, 1924, and continued until the end of that Parliament on February 21, 1927. On October 27, 1928, he was elected as a member for Central No. 1 District in the Legislative Council and served continuously until his death on July 15, 1961. He was appointed a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on April 23, 1930, and served continuously until his death. Mr. Condon was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the New Year Honours List of 1954.

The late honourable member was appointed, I think, in 1933 as Leader of the Labor Party in this Council. He was the Leader when I came into the Council 26 years ago, and since that time, not only in the present Council building but in the old Council Chamber, I was associated with him as a floor member. During the period I learned to appreciate his good qualities. He was a man of high principles, possessed a kindly and considerate disposition, was tireless and fearless as Leader of his Party, and always founded his argument on temperance and tolerance. His conscientious application to his duties as Leader of the Party and his attitude to all members, irrespective of Party, won him the affection of every member. Parliament has lost a valuable debater and a loyal supporter of Parliamentary prestige, and we shall all miss him. I express, on behalf of all members, our sympathy to Mrs. Condon, the family and all relatives.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Acting Leader of the Opposition): It is with profound regret that I rise to second the motion on this sad occasion—the lamented death of the revered Hon. Frank Condon, Leader of the Opposition. His distinguished career of public service has been recounted in detail by the Chief Secretary. These sincere and kindly references are appreciated by me and my colleagues and will have the unanimous acclaim of all members of the Council, retired members, and the people of South Australia and the rest of the Commonwealth regardless of their political affiliations. I find it somewhat difficult to choose words sufficiently expressive to portray Mr. Condon's sterling qualities and his unswerving fidelity to the Labor movement, the Parliament and the people of this State. During his public life, first with the trade union movement, and later in Parliament for a period of 36 years, he honourably and fearlessly espoused the principles of the Labor Party, which he was destined to lead in this Chamber for about 28 years.

During that period he always displayed the three attributes of a great man—generosity in the design, humanity in the execution, and moderation in success. With his genial, courteous manner, and kindly disposition he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. He has left behind a code of high standards and political ethics worthy of emulation. I venture to say that history will record, as we knew him, the real man, and will exhibit him as one who lived a Christian life, one with great talents, honest intentions, and pre-eminently qualified for the position he held so long as a Labor leader in the political life of this State.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY (Southern): I concur with the views already expressed by other honourable members, and would like to say that on my entry to this Council the late honourable member was one of the first to welcome me and make me feel at home. Throughout the years he exhibited that same friendly co-operation towards all new members, no matter to which Party they belonged. He had a kindly and generous disposition and at all times was anxious to work in co-operation with all members. I would say that he was an effective leader of his Party, and he showed great diligence in the work entrusted to him in perusing Bills and preparing speeches for delivery in this place. He had a record of service, both in this Chamber and as an industrial leader, of which anyone could well be proud, and I express our appreciation in that

regard. Having led a union throughout almost a lifetime without an industrial dispute is in itself a great accomplishment and a great credit to him.

As a member of the Public Works Committee he continuously went far and wide into the country, never sparing himself, and I feel he did everything he could have been expected to do and much more than one would have expected from a man of his years. He had a gracious manner towards all members and even on his death-bed was gracious to his visitors. It is a great privilege to have known him and I express the sympathy of members and of myself to Mrs. Condon and to his family in their sad loss.

The PRESIDENT: Before putting the motion, I should like to add my tribute to the memory of the late honourable member. As has been stated, he was a member of the Council for 33 years, and there are not many members in the history of the State who served for so long. His service was meritorious to himself and a credit to the Council. He put his views definitely and clearly, knew what he was talking about and did his homework thoroughly; in fact, I often wondered how he got through the work he did, particularly towards the end of the session. He did not trim his sails to every wind that blew, but knew what he was after, knew what he believed in, knew what he wanted and steered directly to that objective.

His was not an easy job in this Chamber, as members will, I think, agree, but, by fighting for and sticking to his principles, being loyal to his Party and maintaining the traditions of the Council, he won the esteem of all members. We have lost a worthy and wise citizen who, with his genial and persuasive personality, will be greatly missed by every member of this Council. I extend my sympathy to his widow and family.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[*Sitting suspended from 2.28 to 3.5 p.m.*]

QUESTIONS.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: As there are now 10,000 unemployed persons in South Australia, and the position is becoming more serious every day, can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will make funds available immediately to local government authorities so that urgent works can be proceeded with and thus provide an avenue to

absorb some of our unemployed citizens who have been affected by the financial and economic squeeze instituted by the Menzies Government?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Action has already been taken on the lines mentioned in the honourable member's question. Immediately the so-called squeeze was put into operation, the Government made available additional funds to the extent of £1,350,000, which enabled the activities of the Housing Trust and other housing authorities to proceed. Also, it enabled other departments to employ labour, with the result that on June 30 last there were 3,000 more employees on the Government payroll than on the preceding June 30. The Government is using all the available money in the interests of employees generally.

EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: As the proposed European Common Market which the British Government is proposing to enter will have a serious effect on our primary industries, will the Chief Secretary indicate what action, if any, has been taken by the Playford Government to place the views of primary producers before the Menzies Government before a final decision is made so as to safeguard the future of primary production in this State?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: This, of course, is a Federal matter, and we have seen only press reports indicating that Mr. Duncan Sandys, representing the British Government, has had preliminary discussions with the Commonwealth Government, which has appropriate departments to deal with matters of trade, and I think the matter can be left safely in its hands.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Will the Commonwealth Government consult the States in this matter?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Who it consults is, of course, a question that only the Commonwealth Government can answer. As it is a Federal matter, I think I would call it almost impudent for the State Government to try to interfere without having the requisite information before it. That does not mean that the Government is not mindful of the importance of primary production. I think what has been done in extending facilities for the marketing of primary produce in Britain indicates the Government's sympathy with the primary producers of this State.

BLANCHETOWN BRIDGE.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (on notice):

1. Is the Minister of Roads in a position to say when work is likely to commence on the Blanchetown bridge?
2. What type of construction is to be used?
3. What is the estimated date of completion of the bridge?

The Hon. C. D. Rowe, for the Hon. N. L. JUDE:

1. The tender of A. W. Baulderstone Ltd., of South Australia, for construction of the bridge has been accepted and work should commence within three months.
2. The piers and abutments will be of reinforced concrete, and the superstructure of prestressed concrete.
3. The bridge should be completed early in 1964.

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:

- Laboratories at Northfield for Department of Agriculture,
- Tod River Trunk Main Replacement and Enlargement,
- Waikerie Irrigation Area Pumping Station.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:

May it please Your Excellency:

1. We, the Members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session of Parliament.
2. We assure Your Excellency that we shall give our best attention to all matters placed before us.
3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine Blessing on the proceedings of the session.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (Northern): I have the honour and privilege to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

An interesting and somewhat unusual feature is associated with the Address in Reply Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor or his Deputy at the opening of each session of

Parliament, in as much as with other matters introduced in the course of the session the order of debate to a great extent is left to the choice of individual members. In this debate the mover and seconder of the motion are selected by invitation. Today it is my very great privilege to have been selected to move the motion, namely: "That the Address in Reply as presented be adopted." I experience mixed feelings on this occasion; firstly, the pleasure at having this opportunity on behalf of members to join in the many expressions of welcome and goodwill that have been extended to His Excellency, Sir Edric Bastyan, and Lady Bastyan on their arrival in this State to fill the important office of Vice-Regal representatives of Her Majesty the Queen. Greetings were first extended by the honourable the Premier, and rightly so, on behalf of the Government and people of this State; again, by the honourable the Premier on behalf of Parliament at a function arranged for that purpose, and now today it is my privilege to do so on behalf of honourable members and to express the wish that during their sojourn they and such members of their family who may be with us from time to time will enjoy a full measure of health, happiness and contentment.

Members will recall hearing a most interesting address on the occasion when His Excellency responded to the toast to his health proposed at that Parliamentary dinner. Among other things he said that it was his desire and intention and that of his good lady to do all within their power to further the interests and welfare of the people of this State, to make themselves acquainted with our institutions and our way of life, to take their part in the various activities of those institutions, and to obtain an understanding and appreciation of the lives of the people. Although His Excellency has occupied his office for only a short time, nevertheless he and Lady Bastyan have given ample proof that they will carry out their intention, an attitude that will assure to them the full co-operation of the people, generous acceptance by the community and make their stay one of happiness and contentment. I feel sure that all honourable members hope that they will receive these blessings.

As the years go by we are faced with the lamentable necessity of recording the deaths of men with whom we have been associated. His Excellency in his opening address referred to several of these people. Among them were the late Governor-General, Viscount Dunrossil

and, as His Excellency put it, "to come nearer home," we mourn the loss of Sir Malcolm McIntosh, Mr. Michael O'Halloran and our own Mr. Frank Condon. We had the opportunity to meet the late Governor-General on the only occasion he visited South Australia, and we recall having been privileged to listen to a most interesting address from him, an address that inspired the hope that we might have future opportunities to meet him. However, it was not to be. His death was a great loss to the Commonwealth. As His Excellency said, we have come nearer to home in the deaths of Malcolm McIntosh, Michael O'Halloran and Frank Condon. The first mentioned served for many years as a member of the Ministry and held several portfolios. He discharged his duties in a most efficient manner. The three men had one thing in common—they were all members of one branch or another of the Parliament of the State for a long time. I do not think I have met during my extensive term in serving the community in one form or another two men more alike in natural characteristics than Michael O'Halloran and Frank Condon. **Both men had lowly beginnings and rose to the top of their respective spheres.** Mick O'Halloran was the political leader of the Labor Party in South Australia and Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly. Frank Condon was Leader of the Opposition in this Council. The two men, by their influence and good judgment, played a big part in maintaining industrial stability within the State. They were endowed with natural qualities, were generous to a fault, had a kindly disposition, worked assiduously in the interests of the people they represented, and never allowed a difference of political opinion to interfere with friendships. I subscribe fully to the sentiments expressed by the priest at the gathering in the church only a week or so ago, when he said in reference to Frank Condon that we were the poorer by his passing. I would say that the South Australian Parliament is the poorer by the passing of the two men I have mentioned.

The Governor's Speech followed the usual pattern, referring to legislation passed previously and giving a short summary of matters to be placed before us. I was interested to read the *Advertiser* report of His Excellency's Speech. It said it foreshadowed measures mostly of a commonplace nature. A perfunctory examination might lead one to say that that was a fair comment, but when one considers the work involved in putting the programme into effect it assumes something far beyond commonplace.

For instance, let us consider the financial responsibility involved in the developmental programme. Paragraph 20, referring to education, included the following: "The total expenditure on school building construction for the financial year was some £4,700,000". That also applies to other departments and indicates the great programme of development envisaged.

I read sometime ago of a family which took over a barren island where they decided to make their home. One of their first jobs was to make a road. That revived memories of what I had to do when I took up land on central Eyre Peninsula, where pioneering work had started. There was not much in the way of roads and the only access to a holding was the track made by the surveyors. I had to go out with an axe and other tools to make a road to the place where I was to establish my home. That sort of thing has to be done wherever pioneering takes place. We are still making roads in South Australia. I was pleased to be present when the Hon. N. L. Jude severed the ribbon which officially opened the Lincoln Highway, which now gives us a sealed road from Adelaide to Port Lincoln. I was equally gratified to find that a start had been made on the construction of the Eyre Highway, which will connect the eastern and western parts of Australia. Unfortunately, I do not expect to have the pleasure of witnessing the opening of this highway.

I was interested to notice that attention has been given to roads outside district council areas. The road to Marree from the south-western corner of Queensland is being made ready for use by motor vehicles. This provision for transport, particularly of stock from northern areas, is overdue. One has only to remember the condition of stock mustered at an outback station and compare their condition on arrival in Adelaide to realize the deterioration in quality that occurs when stock are driven on the hoof. With the stock trains the position has altered and now not only do consumers get better quality meat, but the saving in time is of great benefit to producers.

I should like consideration given to work in the north-western portions of the State. Recently the Premier and the Minister of Mines visited those parts, and now the Minister of Roads is there. I assume that the main interest of the Minister of Mines was the search for oil, but as one of the representatives of that part of the State no doubt he took note of the benefits to be gained by the construction of better roads. Much of the cattle required in Adelaide comes from those parts. Another

aspect of road administration in outer areas has attracted my attention. As members probably know, the construction and maintenance of main roads within council areas is a matter for the Highways and Local Government Department, but outside council areas this work comes under the jurisdiction of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. Local government administration is under the control of the Minister of Local Government, and the Engineering and Water Supply Department is under the control of the Minister of Works. I have often wondered why there is this duplication, and why roads outside council areas cannot come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Roads. This would be beneficial to the outside areas.

I was particularly interested in His Excellency's statement that price control of certain goods and rent control should continue for another year. Over the years this policy has been highly controversial. I sometimes wonder whether we have reached the stage when it should not be a permanent feature of our economy. I ask the Chief Secretary to give the fullest information about the necessity to continue this legislation from year to year when the matter is next considered.

The education programme is again to be extended and expenditure in other departments increased. This will add to our financial responsibility. As I have said previously, this responsibility starts with Parliament; whether the amount is £100, £1,000 or £1,000,000, it must have the sanction of Parliament before it can be spent. Another aspect is the extent to which that responsibility has grown over the years. In 1944, when I entered this Council, the Appropriation Bill, which provides for the distribution of consolidated revenue, amounted to about £11,500,000. Last year, under the same heading, the distribution of revenue was about £85,500,000. I sometimes wonder whether we are living in what might be termed a "millionaire age". Parliament, the Government, and the departmental officers entrusted with the distribution of the money and the carrying out of the work must see that we get full value for our money, whatever the cost may be.

I look forward to the forthcoming session in the hope that what I think is a temporary difficulty occasioned by unemployment will improve and we shall return to full employment and the resultant prosperity. If all sections of the community pull their weight and do their share we shall return to the stability that prevailed, which we all desire.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I have the privilege and pleasure of seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply which was ably proposed by Mr. Edmonds. Before proceeding to the subject matter I express to His Excellency, Sir Edric Bastyan, our congratulations, and the congratulations of the people of this State, on his appointment to represent Her Majesty the Queen in South Australia, and assure him of our continued and lasting loyalty to the Crown. His Excellency comes to us with a grand record of service to the British Commonwealth, both as a soldier and a diplomat. I sincerely hope that during his stay he will not be required to demonstrate his prowess as a soldier, but I am perfectly sure his experience as a diplomat will come in handy in coping with the complexities of his exacting office.

We are extremely pleased also to welcome Lady Bastyan. She has won the hearts of all citizens in the few months she has been with us. We are particularly pleased to know that Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan will visit several country districts in the next few months. They can be assured of a friendly and loyal welcome in all country districts.

May I place on record our appreciation of the services rendered by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Mellis Napier, who has so often been called upon to deputize for the Governors of this State. Sir Mellis and Mrs. R. M. Napier are to be complimented on their devotion to duty during the period before the arrival of Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan. We are grateful to you, Mr. President, for extending our sympathy to Viscountess Dunrossil and her sons on behalf of this Council. In his Speech His Excellency referred to the lamented death of Viscount Dunrossil after such a short term in office. He won a place of affection in the hearts of the people of Australia in all walks of life. When this Parliament entertained Viscount Dunrossil, all members were impressed by his wit, depth of understanding and keenness to succeed as Her Majesty's representative.

Since His Excellency's Speech we have suffered a most severe blow in the death of our great friend, the Hon. F. J. Condon. I venture to say that there was no-one, irrespective of Party, more respected in this Chamber than Mr. Condon who, to new members, was a model of efficiency. I can summarize and say that our late friend was tireless, tenacious in debate, trustworthy, and loved by us all. To Mrs. Condon and her family we extend our deepest sympathy. We also regret

the passing of two other great South Australians in the persons of Mr. O'Halloran and Sir Malcolm McIntosh. Both these gentlemen played a great part in politics and the development of South Australia, which is a much better place as a result of their contributions.

On a slightly happier note, I extend congratulations to those who were honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the last Honours List. May I especially mention Mr. H. H. Shannon, M.P., the member for Onkaparinga, who received the rank of Companion of the Most Excellent Order of St. Michael and St. George? I also congratulate the Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in another place (Mr. Hutchens), who has been selected to represent this Parliament at the London Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in a few weeks. It is a particular pleasure to me to wish Mr. Ivor Ball, the Clerk of Parliaments and of this Council, who is also the secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branch in South Australia, God speed on his overseas trip commencing next week. He has been selected to accompany the Australian delegation to the conference in London and will also take the opportunity to study procedure at the Mother of Parliaments in London. We wish him well on his trip and look forward to the information he will bring back to this Parliament. I congratulate the honourable Mr. Edmonds on his interesting and constructive contribution. It was fitting that he should move this motion, because he has announced his retirement from politics on the completion of his present term. We shall be sorry to say farewell to him because he has played a prominent part in debates since his election. He has given to this place the richness of understanding of a true and practical son of the soil, and has had the confidence over a long period not only of the electors of the Northern District, but of the electors of local government.

The most biased opponent of the Government must agree that the Governor's Speech will engender a feeling of confidence in the way the affairs of this State are being managed by the present administration. That this State manages its affairs prudently is shown by the Budget surplus of £1,188,000 for the last financial year, thus maintaining a record per capita second to none for the development of public and semi-public utilities. It is not by chance that South Australia has the lowest unemployment figures of the Australian mainland States. South Australia, which is the biggest producer of motor cars, which production is seriously affected by the economic

conditions of the day, could be expected to be in the worst unemployment position, but that is not so. This State has not looked back since it assumed control over its own affairs, no longer being subject to the overall control of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. These are real facts backed by twenty-three years of completely balanced Budgets. This State is rated as a highly sound investment area by overseas companies, and as nothing succeeds like success, we can face the coming financial year with confidence.

Paragraph 8 of His Excellency's Speech deals with wild life and fishing in this State, and I am delighted with the announcement that a council of Fisheries Ministers will be established. I assume that the same council will deal with wild life in this State, because there has long been a need for some co-ordinating body to obtain uniformity on subjects such as the size of fish, closed seasons for wild life and fish, licensing of fishermen, protection of rare species, the breeding of fish and stocking of rivers, and the provision of sanctuaries, to mention a few of the useful things that this committee could undertake. A questionnaire was recently distributed by the South Australian Department of Fisheries and Game to all commercial fishermen on the River Murray in South Australia, and I am pleased that it received their full support. A well-organized association of commercial fishermen is operating from Morgan to the Victorian-New South Wales border. About 12 months ago I was asked to convene a meeting of fishermen following upon a visit by the Director of Fisheries and Game, Mr. Allan Bogg, and as a result the Murray Commercial Fishermen's Association was formed and is working in harmony with the department to their mutual benefit.

Paragraphs 9 and 15 deal with the construction of a dam on the Murray, drainage and the provision of irrigation water. It is true to say that almost every paragraph in the Governor's Speech could be coupled with paragraph 15, dealing with the Murray dam, because so much depends on the successful completion of this scheme. The future development of South Australia will be decided when the final decision is reached by the interested parties. Practically every part of the State has a vital interest in the current negotiations, from the Rocket Range at Woomera and the uranium mine at Radium Hill to the steelworks at Whyalla, the farms of Yorke Peninsula, the railways at Peterborough, industries in Adelaide, dairymen at Murray Bridge and fruitgrowers in the Murray Valley. The size of the dam envisaged is 4,750,000

acre feet, which sounds a lot of water, but when one considers that the storages for the whole of the metropolitan area, including the South Para, Mount Bold and other storages within 20 miles of Adelaide contain 90,000 acre feet, that will give some indication of the magnitude of this proposal.

The history of irrigation development in this State has completed the full circle. In 1887 the Chaffey Brothers started irrigation in Australia at Renmark as a private enterprise scheme. That method was followed for some 25 years and then the Government was induced to undertake development of irrigation schemes at Berri and Waikerie, and later, after World War I, at Barmera, Chaffey, and Moorook, with extensions to other schemes. After World War II the great schemes at Loxton, Cooltong and Loveday were undertaken on a Commonwealth-State basis. There has been no Government scheme for some five or six years, so that the recent trend is back to the group irrigation scheme development, such as that undertaken at Waikerie in the schemes called Golden Heights and Sunlands, with a recent proposal for one at Swan Reach to be known as Greenways. In my opinion there is room for planned development of irrigation properties along the river, especially for the production of citrus, soft fruits and vegetables, with some increase warranted in other commodities. The group schemes to which I refer can be set up in various ways, either under the Irrigation on Private Properties Act as a private company, or as individual developments. In the Golden Heights and Sunlands propositions a group of enthusiasts formed a company and voluntarily worked out a scheme whereby 550 acres was to be made ready for planting and then to be taken up by the public. This is an extremely good method of decentralization. I have said in this Chamber before that in irrigation schemes, one in 10 of the population is an actual producer, so that in a fair-sized community for every holder there are nine other people to service what has been established. The population of Renmark is about 7,000 and there are 700 fruit growers and this pattern is followed throughout the Murray Valley.

The first scheme at Waikerie comprised an area of 550 acres irrigated completely by spray irrigation under pressure. The static head at the point where the water is taken from the river is 200ft. and the working head 380ft. The water is pumped from a rising main for two-and-a-half miles and delivered onto the property. The owner may possibly never see the actual irrigation take place because it is

done by the company and usually at night, and the company, not the owner, is responsible for the irrigation. Finance for this scheme was raised by a series of calls on selected applicants. The State Government, through the State Bank under the Loans to Producers Act, provided £37,000 towards the costs of the pump, motor and rising main on a long term loan. In the total cost the purchasers of the properties have to find about £220 an acre, which includes the cost of the land. The land was graded, fenced and cleared and installed with an internal sprinkler irrigation system before the holders took possession, and their responsibility then started. It is interesting to note that in citrus production a planter should always look to his financial position before starting, because it is not a cheap hobby. It costs approximately £1,000 an acre to bring citrus trees into bearing over a 10-year period, and from that may be deducted any proceeds from the property in the seventh, eighth and ninth years. This means that the cost would be about £700 an acre in the net result, which shows that it is not a poor man's hobby. In the schemes at Waikerie about two-thirds of the applicants were from outside the district, which means more people have come into the district. The second scheme at Sunlands will be opened by the Premier shortly.

Group development irrigation is probably the most economical at present, because the development has to be co-ordinated and small concerns have financial, marketing and other difficulties. A few weeks ago I called a meeting at Waikerie to discuss the forming of an irrigation co-ordinating association, with the ideals of promoting orderly planned development of group irrigation schemes similar to the Golden Heights scheme at Waikerie. I shall give only a broad explanation of what I have in mind. There is an urgent need for a planned co-ordinated approach to the development of irrigated land resources along the River Murray from Swan Reach to the Victorian border, and I hope it will extend far beyond the borders of the State. Providence has generously provided this part of South Australia with sunshine, sections of good soil, and a permanent water supply. It is the exploitation of these resources that interests me. I believe that with the aid of the six M's—money, muscle, mind, machinery, markets and mutual aid—economic development can be accomplished. It is a development that must certainly be accomplished. However, there are several governing factors that dictate the speed at which the ultimate objective can be realized.

Let me take these six M's separately. The first is money. Both the Commonwealth and State Governments have enacted legislation providing loan money for rural development. By the Commonwealth it is done through the Commonwealth Development Bank and by the South Australian Parliament through the State Bank under the terms of the Loans to Producers Act and Irrigation on Private Property Act. Both these resources are useful, but limited because of the amount of money available in any one year. Large private investors, such as insurance companies, hire purchase companies and private banks, have not shown in the past any willingness to invest in this type of development. Then we come to muscle and mind. The ability to find men with sufficient of these qualities combined and prepared to devote their time, energy and money to planning, negotiating and implementing is probably the governing factor in the success or failure in any group developmental scheme.

Then we come to machinery, and I use that word in its broadest sense. I think of knowledge of where to go, what to do and what not to do. Then we have markets. When any scheme of paramount importance is visualized there must be a reasonable degree of certainty that markets will be available and facilities for treatment of production assured. It would be folly to continue with disastrous overproduction or the absence of an orderly marketing scheme. Then I come to mutual aid. The time spent in preparation and detailed planning could be minimized by the work of people with knowledge, experience and influence. The pooling of "know-how" would be of benefit to all. Let me give a few examples of how co-ordination would help. It could be done by getting interested people to come together to advise on the suitability of soil, varieties to be grown, pumping equipment and the like; also, by experimenting with new varieties of crops, nuts and fruits, investigating money markets and advising on the rate of development. There should be co-operation with marketing organizations and established processing factories with the present set-up to obviate overlapping, and suggestions to the Government on the amendment of Acts and on policies deemed necessary to further irrigation development. That would include such matters as finance, income tax, the C.S.I.R.O. and things of that type.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: What size do you visualize for these groups?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: They would not be more than about 1,000 acre schemes and

should be located so that they would be near existing facilities, such as packing houses, distilleries and town amenities. The resources available should be fully exploited. The idea of a co-ordinating committee would be to establish a group at Waikerie perhaps this year, then move to the next town where one was required, and then go down the river.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: On which side of the river?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: On the high side, because that is where the best land is always located. There is an increasing need for legislation to deal with properly planned water easements and pumping site reserves. The type of irrigation taking place at present is not unlike the ribbon development that started on the Gawler Road some years ago when farms were cut up into farmlets. It was necessary to bring down legislation to ensure that access to property away from the main road was provided by the subdivider. Along the Murray there is an equal need for this assistance and the holder of a river frontage property should be required, if he desires to develop it as an irrigation property on his own account or to subdivide for sale, to provide for holders of adjoining property away from the river to get a water easement. That is important.

At present the economics of irrigation indicate that water can be pumped only four miles from the river, yet there are thousands of acres of Crown lands and privately-owned land six miles from the river that would be suitable for development. It will not be long with our present improvement in pumping equipment before it will be economic to pump back six miles. If all the land is planted there will be no means for the people behind the ribbon to get water through to their properties. That is why I say that before all the land is cut up along the river we should legislate for pumping sites and water easements. I will deal with this matter further in another debate. It is something to be looked into, because if we do not do what I suggest it will be difficult to get water to land behind the existing established properties. It would be an advantage to the frontage irrigator who wants to secure a piece of land behind his property. He would only have to stop the people behind from getting water through his property, and he could then extend his pipeline and take over the land. In this way he could corner much land.

The Highways Department is to be commended for the way in which it is providing

much better roads, particularly in the country. I was pleased to see that the Government was continuing the good work on Yorke Peninsula, a part of the State where good roads are necessary. It is part of my electorate and I travel through it frequently. The Peninsula has no railway system, and as it has bulk handling facilities good roads are essential. The Port Wakefield-Ardrossan road will give the State two good roads down the Peninsula. Work on that road is now proceeding. As soon as money is available work should be speeded up on the completion of the sealing of the Port Wakefield-Eudunda road, *via* Balaklava, Saddleworth, and Marrabel. This lateral road intersects the main Port Wakefield, Clare, Burra, and the north of the river roads. It is an important road because it provides almost a direct route from Victoria and New South Wales *via* the Murray Valley to Yorke Peninsula and to the middle and upper northern parts of the State, as well as to Eyre Peninsula through Port Augusta. This matter cannot be too strongly stressed by me.

I again refer to the speed limit imposed on the Main North Road near Elizabeth and Smithfield. In answer to a question I asked recently the Minister of Roads said, in part:

The matter was discussed recently and the Road Traffic Board will review the position at Elizabeth as soon as the intersections and the access roads on either side of the highway are completed.

I suggest that the Minister use his persuasive eloquence on the board to induce it to erect stop signs on access roads and to fix varying speed limits on the highway, as is done in other parts of Australia. That could be done at least as a temporary measure and until such time as glamorous sets of lights can be put in.

The maintenance of the high standard of efficiency by the Electricity Trust has resulted in another successful year of operation, but I suggest that a slight change in policy would result in a greater appreciation of the excellent service that is provided to industry and householders. I suggest that instead of the trust reducing the average price of electricity, as it has done several times since 1953, it maintain the present tariff, or even increase it a fraction all over the State, to create a fund to enable people in more remote areas to enjoy a greater measure of comfort than they do now. This slight alteration would not make much difference to industry or the people elsewhere in the State. It is a difference that would hardly be noticed.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Why not take it out of the profits of industry?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: If the honourable member used as much power as industry he would get the same rate.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Industry gets a special rate.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: It is available to anyone with initiative and enough organizing ability. The small amount of additional money that a person would have to pay would hardly be noticed, but the people in remote areas would be induced to stay there and perhaps others could be persuaded to go there. It is a suggestion worthy of consideration. Since the delivery of the Governor's Speech the Government has announced the allocation of an additional £1,000,000 to the Electricity Trust to construct a power line to the South-East. This will ensure an adequate power supply to the new timber pulp industry and the associated industries that will come to the South-East as a result of the wisdom of the Playford Government over many years in developing the South-East.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: The wisdom of Parliament.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Parliament generously agreed to it, but it was agreed to because a majority of members supported the Government which did the planning, so in this case the Government must take some credit for what has been done.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: A Labor Government established the timber industry in the South-East.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: This Government has continued to develop the timber industry. No-one would deny that the first pines were planted when a Labor Government was in office, but this Government has gone ahead and developed forestry in the South-East, which is something for which we should all be extremely grateful.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: You admit that the Labor Party laid the foundation on which it was built?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I admitted that the Labor Party did that, but, as that Government had been in office then for only three years, it was probably the previous Government's idea. It is pleasing to note that the Government's policy of abolishing temporary houses is being proceeded with satisfactorily and that

one-third of the tenants have been suitably rehoused by the Housing Trust. I hope country councils are watching the position regarding the re-erection of these houses.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Put a match to them and burn them all!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: That would be the object of the honourable member and if his Party were in office he could do that sort of thing. I must confess that, sitting at the side of the Gawler road newly painted and re-erected, and awaiting sale and transportation to areas over 50 miles from the metropolitan area, they look attractive, but they can become a problem to country councils unless regulations governing their siting and erection are policed. I think that is something country areas do not want to inherit—something that the city did not want. I want to make sure that their present impressive appearance is maintained.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Doesn't that come under the control of inspectors of councils that permit them to be erected?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I am merely warning that these things could happen. The powers exist for councils to act upon if they so desire.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Have you warned all councils in your district about this?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I have some wonderful councils in my district, and they need no assistance from me on how to run their affairs. It would be a presumption on my part to try to assist them in that way. This State has a proud record in coping with the terrific increase in our school population. No child has ever been refused admission to a State school on the ground of inability to provide accommodation or teaching facilities. I compliment the teachers of this State who have the responsibility of moulding the youth of our country into useful, healthy and cheerful citizens. They should not be expected to substitute for parents, however, in having to deal with situations brought about by lack of home training or parental control. I am always impressed, when making inspections of schools, by the obvious enthusiasm displayed by teachers to get the best out of their students.

We all welcome the news that the Government's policy on liberalizing the book allowance to secondary school children at a cost of nearly £500,000 has been put into effect. I note with interest that there will be a revision of primary school courses in 1962, and I sincerely hope that in revising the courses consideration will be given to reverting to some

of the discarded methods of the past, particularly regarding writing. It is claimed by some authorities that the use of the copy book has a frustrating effect on a child and is likely to lead to complications later. It is remarkable that so many of us here today have remained reasonably normal if that is the case. It is a far greater frustration to me to wait by a shop counter while a teenager, gripping a stub of pencil like a crowbar, laboriously half prints and half writes a docket, and mostly does not get it right. However, in this Sputnicking, electronic, secretarial age, perhaps writing is not so important; perhaps a new system will be devised that will obviate the need for the written message altogether.

I congratulate the head of the Hospitals Department, Sir Lyell McEwin, and the officers who serve under him, for the manner in which they have tackled the expanding needs of a rapidly increasing population. I refer especially to their policy of keeping up with the latest developments in heart disease, cancer and tuberculosis research. The Government has provided finance for every phase of health requirements of this community. The people of Mount Gambier and surrounding districts ought to be grateful for the magnificent hospital provided for them by the Government. I hope they realize that not all country people are given such favoured treatment. In areas where subsidized hospitals are established we owe a great debt of gratitude to those willing bands of workers who raise large sums for hospital improvements and amenities. These bands were encouraged in their good work by the Government's action in aiding their efforts by a £2 for £1 subsidy.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: It is £3 for £1.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: That does not apply to country subsidized hospitals. The country people have always paid their way and they are proud that they are independent.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: You are not casting any aspersions on the metropolitan people, are you?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: No, I am merely saying how good the country people are. I cannot let this opportunity pass without saying how impressed I was with the Government forests in the South-East and the development that has taken place as a result of those forests being expanded to their present extent. I am pleased that the policy of not putting all eggs in one basket is being followed regarding the use of timbers, and several

alternative outlets have been encouraged to develop. The industries with which I am associated are big users of pinus timber for fruit packing cases, treated posts for trellising, and for cardboard for use as case liners and, to some degree, for cartons. We hear much today about the use of fibre board cartons in preference to pinus boxes. The carton has many advantages and no doubt will in time become the container. From my own observations in Australia and in the markets of Malaya and Singapore, our South Australian wood boxes, with an attractive case-end label, stand out head and shoulders above any other container from any country. I saw the fibre board containers of Sunkist of California, and many South African and Communist China containers, but none compared in any way with the white box cases in which we export our products. Even the jarrah of Western Australia does not compare with the pine used for white boxes.

I have no doubt that in time fibre board manufacturers will develop a product that will compete both as to price and durability with pine and, when that time comes, both the Forestry Department and the Forestry Board will be able to effect any change-over necessary with a minimum of re-organization. We in this State have not approached the subject of our hardwoods with anything like the enthusiasm displayed towards softwoods. The River red gum is an excellent timber that is much treasured in Victoria. We have limited stands in South Australia compared with our neighbouring State, but there is no reason why we should not protect those we have. To my knowledge no effort has been made to regenerate the cut out areas. Stock is allowed to graze at will in the reserves,

eating the young trees as they appear. Timber cutters are not obliged to remove surplus limbs or to burn unsuitable logs. Many thousands of super feet of first class timber will be lost to South Australia unless positive action is taken immediately to remove suitable trees before the advent of the Murray dam. Limited as our hardwood reserves are, I believe that we should exploit them and, if necessary, terminate the grazing rights in those areas for a period to enable proper regeneration of our natural forest areas. More work could also be done to re-establish natural pine and sandalwood by fencing the few trees that remain and so encourage natural re-afforestation, especially on the lighter soil lands.

In conclusion, I thank the Government for inviting me to second this motion. This, we understand, is the last occasion on which you, Sir, will preside over an Address in Reply debate. As you have intimated it is your wish to retire from politics at the end of your term, would you accept my thanks for your help and advice since I have been your colleague for the Midland District in this Chamber? You may feel a little disappointed today when you think that the time you have spent on my political education has fallen on completely barren ground, for today I have transgressed the first cardinal point of your advice—"be brief." It is my pleasure to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.34 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 26, at 2.15 p.m.