

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, August 1, 1961.

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

QUESTIONS.**COOL DRINK PRICES.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Has the Chief Secretary's attention been drawn to the increase of one penny a bottle for cool drinks that has been imposed by the members of the Mixed Business Association? Will the Minister take appropriate action to check hijacking and racketeering being imposed on the community, and particularly on children?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: This has been brought to my notice through the press. The substance of the question appeared in a leading article in one of the newspapers. This has no doubt been considered by the trade to be a just imposition, but I am not in a position to comment on it. If the honourable member desires it to be referred to the Prices Commissioner—

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: I do.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I shall try to get some information for him.

MILK SUPPLIES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I wish to quote one or two paragraphs from the *Wheatgrower*, which is the official organ of the South Australian Dairymen's Association. The quotations deal with refrigeration, and the first states under the name of the Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board:

In future, the number of suspensions for unsatisfactory methylene blue results will not be limited during the summer months.

At present if two or three unsatisfactory results are obtained suspension of subsidy paid for milk supplied to the city applies and the dairyman's licence may be cancelled. The second part of the publication states:

Whilst the board appreciates that there is a great need for refrigeration on dairy farms for the cooling and storage of milk held overnight, it has no intention, at this stage, of making refrigeration compulsory, nor is it prepared to amend the prices structure to provide a special bonus for farm refrigerated milk.

This could result in a much greater expenditure if refrigerators are necessary for the holding of a licence. Can the Chief Secretary, representing the Minister of Agriculture, supply answers to the following questions: (a) Am I to take it that a significant number of dairy farmers must immediately install refrigeration plants and, (b) is it fair that dairy farmers who places 100 per cent quality milk on his stand should be suspended for a deterioration that can take place while a truck picks up other supplies over a period of perhaps three hours before factory testing and while the milk is on the truck being transported?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The question arises from action of the Metropolitan Milk Board, which is administered through the Minister of Agriculture. If the honourable member will supply me with particulars of the question I will refer it to the Minister with a view to obtaining further information.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Is the Chief Secretary aware that the Australasian Council of Trade Unions is seeking the setting up of a special section in the Department of Labour and National Service to make a more intensive study of automation and mechanization so that unemployment may be minimized? Will the Government establish machinery in this State to co-operate with the management of the trade unions so as to provide work for displaced workers brought about by automation and mechanization?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The Government has no need to wait for the co-operation of anybody because as I indicated last week it has already taken action and has applied more than £1,000,000 to provide employment in South Australia. If anybody else can do anything through his organization to assist the Government in this worthy objective his action will be welcomed.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: I am talking of automation and mechanization. The Minister has missed the point.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member must not argue the question. If he wishes to ask another question he may do so.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: I wish to ask another question, but I want to make myself clear on the answer given by the Chief Secretary. I did not ask a question about providing employment but whether he would co-operate in connection with mechanization

and automation because these things will take some jobs from the workers. That is the question I asked. Will the Government co-operate with the management of trade unions for the purpose of devising ways and means to deal with the effect of automation and mechanization in creating more unemployment?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I ask the honourable member to put the question on the Notice Paper.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR CLERK.

The PRESIDENT: The United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has invited the Clerk of the Council (Mr. I. J. Ball), who is also the honorary secretary of the South Australian branch of the association, to accompany the Australian delegation to the association's Jubilee Conference to be held in London next month.

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

That leave of absence be granted to the Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) from August 7, 1961, to November 3, 1961, to enable him to attend the conference.

In moving the motion may I say how pleased are members of this House that the Clerk has been so honoured and I wish him a successful trip. We know his visit will be most interesting and we know, from the efficient way in which the Clerk discharges his duties, that he will be able to render valuable service to the conference as secretary of the States' delegation.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion and on behalf of my colleagues I join with the Chief Secretary in wishing Mr. Ball a happy trip and a safe return. It is indeed an honour that he should be selected to make the trip on behalf of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. As one who knows Mr. Ball very well and appreciates the diligent way in which he has performed his duties I say that if this trip is a reward for his hard work in connection with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association it is only a small reward. In my lifetime I have never known any person who did more for so many people for so little. Once again, we wish him a very happy trip. I know that he will gain in experience and I wish him a safe return to his wife and family.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with Standing Orders, Mr. A. D. Drummond, Clerk

Assistant and Black Rod, will act as Clerk of the Council during the absence of the Clerk; and it is intended to appoint the Clerk of Records and Papers, Mr. C. H. Mertin, to act as Clerk Assistant and Black Rod.

On behalf of the Clerk of the Council, I thank honourable members for their kind expressions.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption, which the Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph had moved to amend.

(For wording of amendment see page 121.)

(Continued from July 27. Page 134.)

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1): I join with other honourable members in their expressions of sympathy and sorrow in the untimely passing of the Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh, later Mr. Mick O'Halloran, and more recently the Hon. F. J. Condon, who served this Chamber for so many years. As a member of the Council, it had often been necessary for me to confer with Sir Malcolm in his capacity as Minister of Works, and in my opinion no Minister of the Crown could surpass him in courtesy and in his handling of the problems brought to his notice by any honourable member or members of the public. That is not to say that we have not other Ministers who are not his equal. However, it would be difficult to surpass Sir Malcolm in his administration and courtesy. It is a great loss to the State when we lose the services of people of the calibre of the honourable members mentioned, and also those who have retired in recent years in both Houses. I join with other honourable members in sympathizing with the families and relatives of those who have recently passed on.

I thank His Excellency the Governor for his Address in opening the session. We are very fortunate in having such a representative of Her Majesty. Although Sir Edric Bastyan has not been with us very long, he has already proved that he is following the high traditions of his predecessors in this office. He and Lady Bastyan have endeared themselves to the general public. Their visits to places outside the metropolitan area have proved that they have the welfare of the State and its people at heart. During this debate we have heard other honourable members praising the Government for the work it has done, but this afternoon I shall be levelling some criticism against it. I feel that I would not be consistent if I did not do so.

First, I want to refer to some statements made in this debate by the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill. I was amazed to hear him criticize the work of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation. Until recently I was a member of that committee, whose duty it is to investigate by-laws and regulations laid before Parliament. If we followed Sir Arthur's suggestion the committee would be abolished, which would enable councillors to have a free hand in promulgating by-laws and regulations, according to their whims from time to time. We can easily visualize the position if that happened.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—You should read his speech again.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: He criticized the committee's work, but I think it is the hardest worked of all Parliamentary committees. I hope it will continue to work as it has done in the past. Such a committee is necessary for the benefit of the whole State, and instead of being criticized it should be congratulated on what it is doing.

The Governor's Speech referred to the Government's intention to do all possible in continuing house building per medium of the Housing Trust. Recently I saw a report of the Government's intention to spend about £1,000,000 of surplus money on a power line to the South-East, but if the State has any surplus money some of it should be spent on housing. Since the trust commenced operations in 1937 it has built 43,317 houses and flats, and in the last financial year received in rents £3,106,801, which amount does not include money from the sale of houses. The trust is the largest rent-collecting body in the State. Although it has been active in house building, private builders have not been so active, mainly because of the shortage of money, which has meant that the brick, timber, plumbing and other industries associated with house building have been adversely affected and work has been seriously reduced.

It is almost impossible at present to get sufficient money to finance the building of a house. It can be obtained, after waiting some time, from the State Bank, the Savings Bank and perhaps a few building societies. Hire-purchase companies are lending money for house building. Some private banks have interested themselves in these companies, which may be the reason why they are not anxious to provide money for the building of houses. The interest rates charged by the hire-purchase companies could easily be double the rates

charged by banks and building societies. A person who borrowed £3,000 from a hire-purchase company for the building of a house would never be able to repay the money borrowed. It would take him all his time to meet the interest due, with perhaps a very small amount off the principal. It is usual for repayments on a loan for house building to be made over 30 years, but the circumstances I have mentioned show that a much longer period is necessary. This is good for the company concerned if repayments are kept up, because it still has the asset of the house. The company may take possession in the future on default, and then re-allocate the house to someone else.

The business of hire-purchase companies is not confined to loans for home building, loans being granted for household goods and motor cars, too. I know that no-one goes out into the street to twist someone's arm to go to the hire-purchase companies for finance to buy a motor car, but there are wheels within wheels among various business concerns, such as hire-purchase and insurance companies working in close liaison. I am concerned with the tie-up between these companies as regards the purchase of motor cars. An Act was passed to eliminate many things which are still happening, such as nominating a particular insurance company. The Act gives the purchaser or hirer the right to nominate his own insurance company, and although he can do that he is forced to insure with the company nominated by the hire-purchase company. Furthermore, he cannot change to another company, if he desires, during the currency of the agreement for the car.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds: They are all on the same rate.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I know, but one who has a car under hire-purchase never receives a no-claim bonus, even though he never makes an accident claim. He gets no rebate whatever on his insurance premium, and he must pay the premium in advance.

Recently, an application was made to increase third party insurance premiums. A committee was appointed to report to the Government, and the report was that third party premiums should be increased. The Premier referred back to the committee certain aspects for further investigation. Today some insurance companies are refusing to accept third party insurance, despite the fact that it is compulsory to do so, and some owners of cars bought under hire-purchase agreements

cannot insure their cars. What can they do? If they go to some other insurance company they are told that the company does not want the business, and that they should return to the original company. The owner has a motor car, which under the Act has to be insured, but insurance companies will not do it.

The Hon. G. O'H. Giles: Is this the case where they are not bought under hire-purchase?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: There are the cases where they are under hire-purchase but some are not.

The Hon. G. O'H. Giles: I thought you were complaining that you are held to one company. Now you are saying the company will not do it.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: There are various companies which refuse to accept or renew third party insurance where the car has been bought under hire-purchase. This also happens in some instances where the car is not under hire-purchase.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds: Does it mean the hirer is a bad risk?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: No, there is no record of any accident and no claim on the insurance company. The purchaser does not get any rebate because of the hire-purchase contract; he has to pay the full premium, and at the end of the 12 month's period the insurance company, which has carried the indemnity, refuses to renew the third party policy.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds: Will you tell us what is the reason?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I am trying to find that out myself. I think it is because the Government has refused any increase in third party insurance premiums, and it may be an attempt by insurance companies to intimidate the committee into granting an increase. Two cases have been brought to my notice recently of owners of cars not under hire-purchase contracts and where no claim has been made on any insurance company for an accident receiving notice for the renewal of their comprehensive policy but not for their third party policy. When the owners inquired about the third party insurance they were quietly informed by the insurance companies that it was not wanted and were told they could take their business elsewhere. The companies were prepared to accept the comprehensive policy because no claim had been made by the owners.

The Hon. G. O'H. Giles: They would not be likely to get it.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: They did not get it. This sort of thing has been happening and should be investigated, because a stage may be reached where owners of motor cars will not be able to use them. Our Act provides that a car must carry third party insurance, and, if this is not done, the car cannot be used on the road.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: The owner you have in mind was still able to insure?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes, but only because he went to another company after having been refused by three other companies. The last company he approached accepted his policy without any qualification even after it had been told that the application had previously been rejected.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: A company is not allowed to reject it.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I do not know what the companies are not allowed to do, but the fact is they are refusing them. That happened to my daughter and son-in-law and their car has been free of debt for years. Another member of my household suffered the experience of having his third party insurance application rejected and a number of people in my district have told me that their applications have been rejected. It is not a matter of what companies can do; it is what they are doing, and that is why I suggest that this matter should be investigated with a view to seeing whether some action should not be taken against these companies or whether the Act should not be amended to cover this point. The Act should compel insurance companies to accept this form of insurance.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: Does not the Act say that now?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Not as far as I am aware.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: The Act says something about it.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: It provides that the owner must be insured, and that provision was inserted because of the consequences arising out of the many accidents that were occurring. People involved in paying heavy damages were becoming insolvent. However, apparently it is not compulsory for an insurance company to accept this form of insurance. I believe the insurance companies are trying to intimidate the Insurance Premiums Committee in the terms of its final report to the Government and perhaps they are even attempting to intimidate the Government into increasing premiums.

Members know that many motorists are not involved in accidents and the insurance companies incur no liability in respect of them. I suggest that one type of motorist should be balanced against the other, and I do not believe that that would act to the detriment of the companies. This, apparently, has been the finding of the Insurance Premiums Committee. The Government should examine the Act and make it compulsory for companies to renew third party policies when they expire.

The Governor's Speech referred to water conservation; what has been done, and what is the Government's intention in this matter. Great demands are being made on the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Government to conserve water. I have referred to the building activity that has taken place both inside and outside the metropolitan area. Factories are being built and the population is growing through natural increase and as a result of immigration. All these factors increase the need for more housing and a greater supply of water and other services. Mount Bold reservoir is to be increased in capacity and other reservoirs are to be completed, but this State is reaching the last of its metropolitan catchment areas. It is not possible for us to come much lower in the River Torrens because the level will be too low to enable reticulation to operate. A new dam is proposed in the Torrens, but we are reaching the stage when all our resources will be taxed to meet the summer demand.

Recently I read a report that the Government intended duplicating the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline. A person visiting Whyalla would be astounded at the growth of that town in the last few years. The Housing Trust's building programme is extending and all the new houses there will place a greater strain on the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The time for the duplication of the pipeline has arrived because the present main has almost reached its capacity. If we experience a hot summer this year the people of Whyalla may not be able to obtain enough water. I urge the Government to put this work in hand as soon as possible because it will help to create employment.

I refer now to the standardization of the line between Port Pirie and Broken Hill. I cannot understand why this work has not been commenced, but I do not level any criticism at the State Government except to say that I think it could have been a little more vociferous in its representations. For a number

of years an agreement between the Commonwealth and the South Australian Governments has existed providing that this work should be undertaken. I feel with other honourable members that the Commonwealth Government should have honoured its promise long ago and at least commenced the work, and by now it would have been completed. A writ has been issued against the Commonwealth Government, and if it were sincere in its promises to the State it would make money available immediately so that the work could be undertaken. A considerable number of the 10,000 unemployed people in South Australia could then be employed on this work. However, Western Australia has submitted a project to the Commonwealth Government for broadening the gauge of one of its lines and apparently that work is to be given preference. We shall still be the Cinderella.

The Hon. G. O'H. Giles: What do you suggest would be stronger action than the Government's taking out a writ?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I do not know how long the writ has been lying idle, but I understand that the case will be heard towards the end of the year. A press report indicates that the Commonwealth Government intends to deal with this matter in the near future to determine the policy it will adopt. However, it is evident, because of previous public statements, that priority will be given to the Western Australian project. I suggest that the South Australian Government should put its case more forcibly to the Commonwealth Government and attempt to force it to honour its agreement, which was entered into about 1948.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds: Did you make that statement to Commonwealth members?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I have made it previously and will do so again if it will do any good.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: Has not the Government issued a writ?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes, and it has issued other writs before. I remember recently that our Government issued a writ against the Commonwealth Government in relation to the Murray Waters Agreement and the honourable member knows what happened. I know that the South Australian Government took certain action, but then its activities stopped. Unless the Commonwealth Government is prepared to make a certain amount of money available for the commencement of the work on the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line, we shall be in the same

position in another five years. If the Commonwealth intended to honour that agreement, it should have done so long ago. There is no time like the present for it to honour the agreement and allow the State to commence the job.

A statement was made here last year that the Government intended to push ahead with the line and that it would employ 700 people. We know that the Government had no authority to do that because the Commonwealth Government was the one to say "Yes" or "No." Up to this stage it has said "No." If the Commonwealth Government was prepared to do the right thing by the State and allow the work to be undertaken immediately, it would result in reducing unemployment. I am afraid that although the present number of unemployed people in South Australia is about 10,000, the actual figure does not stop at that, because when a person is out of work his purchasing power is taken away from him and consequently that affects many industries, and if we are not careful the position will snowball until it is out of control. It is all right for someone to say that we are in the throes of inflation. I consider that unemployment is a far greater problem. Inflation is not caused by the workers, but because of there being too much money in the hands of too few people. It is all right for the Commonwealth Government to say that it believes in full employment, but at the moment more than 130,000 are unemployed in Australia. It has become a very urgent problem, particularly in South Australia. Some months ago the Leader of the Opposition in another place requested that the Prime Minister should call a Premiers' Conference to deal with the position, but he replied that he did not consider it was necessary and it was refused.

The request was repeated by our Premier but again it was rejected. Recently a deputation from the Trades and Labor Council waited on him about unemployment, and made several suggestions. One was that money should be released for councils to undertake public works, thereby creating employment, and another was that instead of people being given unemployment relief the money, with a subsidy from councils, should be used to provide work. The Premier said that this could not be done. Then the deputation asked him to call a Premiers' Conference to discuss unemployment, but he said he would not waste a 5d. stamp on the matter. Even if all credit restrictions were lifted immediately, and banks had a free hand in issuing credit, much time would elapse before all people could be working again. I think

it would be the end of the year before we could see an appreciable decrease in the number of unemployed people. The Hon. Mr. Bardolph has moved an amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and the Honourable Mr. Giles said that Labor members were only window-dressing.

The Hon. G. O'H. Giles: Why?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Next March there will be a State election. I have said that our Premier was requested to call a Premiers' Conference. Let us have a look at who is window-dressing! He has made many statements from radio and television stations, and some of them concern unemployment. However, my reading of recent press statements leads me to believe that not even the date line at the top can be believed. Some statements have appeared about myself, and some have not even a semblance of truth in them. In the *Advertiser* of July 28 there appeared the following:

The Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) last night called for a conference between the States and the Commonwealth to discuss unemployment . . . "While it was reassuring to know that a recent Australia-wide survey had shown an uplift in the order books of many factories, the fact remained that Australia was still confronted with a hard core of unemployment of more than 100,000," he said . . . "In a country with such immense possibilities for development and employment, I personally believe this is not a figure we should look upon as the natural amount of employment to be expected in the Australian community," the Premier said . . . "Apart from the social evils it is a great economic waste and I hope it will be possible for the States and the Commonwealth to meet to consider this problem."

No-one could agree more with this statement. He said he had requested the Premier of New South Wales, the senior State, to ask the Prime Minister for a conference, yet only about three weeks ago he rejected an application by the Trades and Labor Council for a Premiers' Conference on unemployment. Now he supports a conference, so who is window-dressing? Earlier in this debate I said that if all credit restrictions were lifted some time would elapse before we could overcome our unemployment position. Apparently other people hold a similar view. Not so long ago I addressed some factory gate meetings in connection with unemployment, and Mr. Holt (Commonwealth Treasurer) also issued some warnings on this matter. The following is an *Advertiser* report regarding statements by Mr. Holt:

Factories could not be expected to re-engage labour on the same scale as dismissals as economic buoyancy returns, the Commonwealth Treasurer (Mr. Holt) warned tonight. He said

a build-up of stocks would prevent quick re-employment of all those dismissed He said that in recent Budget talks Cabinet had considered whether a return to a buoyant economy would absorb not only the unemployed but the additional work force expected later in the year and early next year. Mr. Holt asked, "As buoyancy returns can we expect the re-engagement of labour on the scale of dismissals?" "I say quite frankly I don't believe we can" "One of the dividends we have secured from our policy is greater efficiency and improved output in these industries. I believe we are going to get a greater output in the future with fewer employees."

Mr. Holt admits that the Commonwealth Government caused unemployment for a specific purpose. It created a fear in the heart of every worker that he might be next to become unemployed. Mr. Holt said that we would get a greater output in the future with fewer employees.

It is the intention of the South Australian Government to continue price control legislation, and His Excellency, when referring to our economic position, stated it was imperative this should be done. It should be extended, not only continued, because there should be greater control of more commodities than there is at present, although I know that many honourable members will not agree with that. Everyday commodities are increasing in price, but what can be blamed for that? There has been a 12s. increase in the basic wage, and prices will go up.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: You have answered your own question.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: That is only making up the lag for increases in prices which have taken place and will continue to do so. The Prime Minister made a remarkable statement that he hoped the Arbitration Court would discontinue the policy of fixing the basic wage by the price index, and that there should be another system. The system has been altered over the last few years, but the Prime Minister wants a system with wages rigidly pegged but with a free hand in everything else. Granting an increase of 12s. is a half-hearted way of meeting the increased costs which have taken place over the years, and not a reason for a further increase in prices. Statements were made immediately after the announcement of the 12s. increase that the price of certain commodities would be immediately increased. There should be an extension of the price control regulations in this State.

As an illustration, years ago there was a "Capstan" brand of salmon known all over

the world. It was recognized as the best salmon. Recently a friend of mine visited his wife in hospital and was asked by her to purchase a small tin of "Capstan" salmon. He bought the smallest tin available, but it cost him 8s. 11d. Years ago it was a Norwegian salmon but in small print on this tin was, "A product of Japan."

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: That is because they have cheap labour there.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: It is not cheap here when you pay 8s. 11d. It would appear that the living standard in Japan today must be 450 per cent better than ours, but at the moment it would be at least 250 per cent below. Yet the salmon cost 8s. 11d. for a small tin, and one is led to believe it is of the same standard as the "Capstan" of years ago. The Datsun motor car is allowed to come into this country and be put on the market while our people are unemployed. There should be an extension of the present Prices Act to bring many more commodities under control, so that reasonable prices will be charged.

I also criticize the altered land tax, and note that in his Speech His Excellency referred to the intention of the Government to amend the Land Tax Act to give relief to certain members of the community. I ask the Government, while investigating this question, to make a thorough re-examination of the position. It has been a number of years since land tax has been increased, but the recent increase has been exorbitant in many instances. One of my constituents interviewed me after he received his notice of assessment. His assessment under unimproved land values had increased from £550 to £2,250. I suggested that he appeal against the assessment, which he did. He spoke to an officer of the department and suggested that there might have been a mistake, but was told that this was not so. He told the officer that he had bought the property 18 months ago and paid £2,500 for it, and suggested the officer give him £2,250 and take the property in exchange. Of course this did not happen. The point is that if the property is sold in the future as an industrial site, the price would be considerably more than the £2,250 he paid for it. Surely the Government does not impose land tax on a supposition of a future sale as an industrial site? The increase from £550 to £1,250 is exorbitant. We have all had increased assessments, but it does not stop there, because as a result of the increased assessment, council rates are also increased.

The people have no chance to catch up with it. Even if the land tax assessments have not been reviewed recently surely an increase from £550 to £2,250 is far in excess of what is reasonable. I trust that the Government, when introducing its amendments to the Act, will examine what is occurring. The person I referred to appealed and his appeal was dismissed, so he must either pay up or sell out. No reason exists for such a great increase in unimproved land values. The land referred to is in the Hilton district and the value of home building allotments is not very high there. What could happen if it were an industrial site is problematical, but I do not think that what may happen should be taken into account in assessing for present land tax purposes.

The only other matter I wish to deal with is in support of the amendments to the adoption of the Address in Reply moved by the Hon. Mr. Bardolph. I refer to the opposition of the State Government in the Commonwealth Court on the basic wage inquiry relating to the differential between the metropolitan and country basic wages. Three questions were dealt with jointly by the court and I do not think it is fitting for the Government to interfere before that tribunal in the fixation of wages or anything else. An Act of Parliament sets up the arbitration machinery. It is supposed to be an independent tribunal conducting an independent inquiry. The Government is over-stepping its jurisdiction when it makes representations in the Arbitration Court directly opposing an application to review the basic wage. The Government does not do that in this State where we have an Industrial Court and wages boards to adjudicate on various matters. The Industrial Court has the duty to inquire into and fix a living wage in this State and the Government does not interfere in any applications of that nature. Why does it do so in the Commonwealth jurisdiction?

I believe that the Government has created a precedent and I warn it that after the next election when the Labor Party occupies the Treasury benches it may act on the precedent established by this Government but with another objective. When the 40-hour week was introduced for Government employees there was an outcry about the Government's attempting to force the court into introducing a standard 40-hour week. The cry was that the Government should not have done that because it reserved to itself the right to oppose any action in the court. I believe that where a

tribunal inquires into these matters it is wrong for the Government to offer direct opposition.

When the basic wage case commenced a question was asked in this Chamber about the cost of making our senior public servants available to present the case. We find from the 1959 *Hansard*, on page 63, that the Attorney-General said that the Government did not oppose the application and therefore there was no cost involved to the Government. I have the Court's judgment before me and I assure honourable members that the Government did oppose the application. On page 4 of the judgment a statement appears that the South Australian Government appeared as a party in all three cases. In the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's case it opposed the unions' application by giving general support to the employers' submission. Later, judges stated that only the South Australian employers, supported by the South Australian Government, sought to change inter-capital differentials and then only with regard to the differential between Sydney and Adelaide. We know there was no opposition in this case by the South Australian Government, but because it was a respondent in the award it appeared in the court to safeguard the Government's rights.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: Are the terms you are reading the court terms?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: They are the terms used by the judges in their judgment. They made those statements after evidence was tendered by Mr. Seaman. The judgment reads, "Although Mr. Seaman was called by the South Australian Government, Mr. Robinson relied on Mr. Seaman's material for this branch of his argument. It is therefore necessary to examine Mr. Seaman's evidence in detail." The Government fully supported the application of employers on the three questions and it was represented in the court. The Government's representative appeared in opposition to a basic wage increase and supported the widening of the differential between the metropolitan area wage and the wage for country districts. It is useless to say that the Government did not oppose the applications, because it did, and I believe it is wrong for any Government to appear in opposition to an application made by a party that is compelled to appear before a tribunal for the determination of a question. It should be left to the tribunal to deal with the whole question. The Government should keep politics out of it and under no circumstances should it enter into this kind of thing.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: The Government is the biggest employer in the State and surely it has the right to submit its case?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I do not know that the Government is the biggest employer, although it may be one of the biggest. The court supposedly makes its decision on the evidence placed before it. This could be proved from the judgments of the court that I have before me. We had a previous hearing before the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission, which stated in its finding that although the evidence proved that there should be an increase in the basic wage the time was inopportune to grant it. Therefore it was not granted.

Surely these judgments are evidence that the Commission is competent to deal with such matters and bring down a judgment in the interests of the community as a whole without interference from the Government. The South Australian Government does not interfere in cases before the State Industrial Court, and therefore I see no reason why it should interfere in any application before the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission. I hope that my comments will be considered and that the Government will change its policy in any future applications to the court.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion. The illuminating address of the mover, the Honourable E. H. Edmonds, was most interesting. I have been closely associated with him since I have been a member, especially as a member of the Land Settlement Committee. By his retirement, the State will be the loser. I wish him great happiness after his retirement and I know that every other honourable member will be sorry to lose his company. I deeply regret the step he is taking, because he has always been anxious to assist in every way possible. In his most recent speech he proved his capabilities. I also congratulate the Honourable C. R. Story on his contribution as seconder of the motion, and in that regard I know I have the full support of other honourable members. I support the motion.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern): I do not intend to speak for one and a half hours, as Mr. Bevan has done this afternoon.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: But you have the right to do it.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON: I rise to support the motion. It is the first time since I have been a member for 13 years that I have known an amendment to be moved to the motion. I want placed on record something that is due

to my colleague, Mr. Edmonds. He was a real pioneer on Eyre Peninsula. Arriving at Cowell in 1903, 58 years ago, he pioneered there for many years until land in the district of LeHunte was opened for settlement. He was successful in securing an allotment at Pygery. After clearing the land, he successfully farmed the property until he became a member of this Council. He was a councillor in the District Council of LeHunte for 17 years, 11 years of which he served as chairman, and later was promoted to the high office of chairman of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association. His speeches in this Chamber will always be remembered by those who were privileged to hear them. He was held in just as much respect in the districts where he lived as he has been in this Chamber. We convey to him our very best wishes on his approaching retirement and hope that we will see much of him in future.

The seconder of the motion, the Honourable C. R. Story, delivered the type of speech we have come to expect from him. He has become a very valuable floor member of the Chamber. His knowledge of irrigation, fruit growing and marketing is something that this Council highly values. No other member has such knowledge, and we rely upon him to continue to provide such information.

I join with other honourable members in welcoming His Excellency the Governor and Lady Bastyan to this State. His Excellency's speech at the Parliamentary reception tendered to him is one that will always be remembered. Coming from such a highly distinguished soldier, it was of great value to those who heard it. The arrival of the newly-appointed Governor-General to Australia gives great pleasure to every Australian citizen. We hope to enjoy the privilege of a visit from him in the very near future.

I associate myself with the remarks of other honourable members concerning deceased members of both Houses, and I refer particularly to our own former member, the late Honourable F. J. Condon. He rendered sterling service to Parliament, flourmillers and their employees, and other bodies, and the State is the worse for his passing. The three deceased members lived respected and died regretted.

This session will be the last in which you, Sir, will occupy the President's Chair. We have all come to admire your wise counsel and shall miss you very much indeed, but we hope that you will enjoy all the days of your retirement. The remarks made today about Mr. Ivor Ball, Clerk of the Council, were well

deserved. No-one in the Council knows more about Parliamentary procedure than he does, and we wish him a happy voyage and a safe return.

The Governor's Speech contains 42 items, but I shall refer to only a few of them. The season in some parts of the State is not what we would like it to be, for rains have not been good and returns will not be up to expectation. South-eastern areas have had good rains and have never looked better. I understand that the war service land settlement scheme is to end in 1962. Up to July of this year only four holdings in the South-East and 39 on Kangaroo Island remained unallotted. This has been a great scheme, particularly in connection with group settlements. With a single unit scheme there is no writing down, and the settler is not so fortunate as the settler in the group scheme.

Reference has been made to the construction and maintenance of roads. Mention has been made of the Port Lincoln Highway, which provides a good sealed road from Adelaide to Port Lincoln. Work on the Eyre Highway is proceeding and I hope it will soon be completed, for it is becoming more and more important every day. I do not know of a worse stretch of road carrying so much traffic than the road from Yeelanna to Lock. Efforts have been made to get an all-weather road, but not much progress has been made. Residents in the area look forward to the day when the work of improvement will be completed.

Railway tracks and rolling stock on Eyre Peninsula need attention. I understand that about 15 miles of the track will be put in good condition each year, but at that rate 20 years will elapse before the work ends. It should be speeded up so that Eyre Peninsula production can be handled properly. Deterioration in the tracks and rolling stock is rapid. The rolling stock came mainly from the South-East, but it was more or less obsolete when sent to Eyre Peninsula.

There has been an outcry at the lack of industries in the Port Lincoln district and recently I attended a public meeting at Tumbly Bay, which was addressed by the Premier. A question was asked about the lime-sand industry proposed to be established. The Premier said there was a technical hold-up. A press report from Port Lincoln today says that the Government is being blamed for the industry not being started, but the Government should not be blamed for it cannot direct an industry to go anywhere. The Tod River reservoir has

had a poor intake this year. Usually the best intake occurs about the end of July, so the future of the supply from the reservoir is not good. The Port Lincoln water basin contains 12 bores and the Government intends that they shall provide water for the town of Port Lincoln. A temporary pipeline is to be laid until a permanent one can be constructed.

I pay a high compliment to South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and its general manager, Mr. Sanders. The sum of £1,000,000 is to come from the Commonwealth Trading Bank for expenditure by this organization, and credit must go to our Treasurer for his help in getting the money provided. It would not have been advanced but for the great confidence in the company.

The South Australian wheat harvest last year was 23,400,000 bushels and the silo capacity was 16,000,000 bushels. Six bulk shipments of barley were sent overseas from Ardrossan, accounting for 3,000,000 bushels. The first shipment of oats in bulk was made at Port Lincoln. All this was made possible by the use of conventional conveyor belts at Wallaroo, Port Lincoln, and Thevenard, and soon there will be one at Port Pirie. Government expenditure in connection with bulk handling, when Port Pirie is completed, will be £1,500,000. The State had five silos erected in 1960, 12 considered for 1961, and 19 proposed for 1962.

When the work is completed there will be 70 receiving points for grain, which is regarded as sufficient to handle average deliveries. Bulk handling of grain began in 1955 and in less than 10 years much progress has been made. The terminal silos at Port Lincoln, Wallaroo, Thevenard and Port Pirie will provide facilities unequalled in Australia. In the Port Pirie division there could be 10 silos, and 16 on Eyre Peninsula, all provided at a cost of £2,000,000. Ninety five per cent of the wheat growers in South Australia are members of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, in which organization they have confidence for they have had convincing evidence of its progress. During a recent visit to Thevenard I saw the great improvements made in harbour facilities. Perry Engineering Company should be complimented on the strength and simplicity of the installation on the jetty. It will enable vessels to berth at either side of the jetty.

Another important matter dealt with in the Governor's Speech is the treatment of alcoholics. The Government's intention is to provide treatment for these unfortunate people.

Today there are between 360 and 400 alcoholics in this State, and the idea is to accommodate them so that they may be cared for away from mental hospitals. It will be a great undertaking, because alcoholism is a serious disease. Anyone with knowledge of it will give the measure his support.

I have admired the work Sir Arthur Rymill has done for local government. Her Majesty conferred upon him a knighthood, more for his work in this sphere than for anything else. However, I was amazed to hear his remarks about the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation and as I am a member of that committee I feel there should be a reply. Prior to 1938, council regulations and by-laws were placed on the table of the House, and as there were hundreds of them, many members did not trouble to look at them. Parliament proposed that a Subordinate Legislation Committee be set up, and that was the commencement of it. The Honourable Mr. Edmonds addressed the Fourth Australian Area Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 1957 on the formation of this committee and I recommend that members borrow this report from the Clerk of the Parliaments. It appeared that no other Parliament had a similar committee, and delegates were surprised to hear that such a committee existed. It was the intention where there was a two-House Parliament, to introduce a similar committee as it had functioned successfully in South Australia. Three members are appointed from each House one of whom is elected as chairman. They are appointed following every House of Assembly election. In the main its duty is to recommend, and I emphasize "recommend," to Parliament on certain matters that have been proposed by councils.

It is the same principle that operates in a bicameral system of Parliament, because it is a review of what councils are doing. The committee has power to request persons to appear to give evidence and to present documents. Always the House of Assembly member for the district is advised of the by-laws and regulations and then has an opportunity to peruse them. We have found recently that witnesses from councils have had no knowledge of certain paragraphs in the by-laws, so that we can only conclude that some councils have their by-laws prepared by a solicitor and do not trouble to ascertain what is in them. I was surprised to hear Sir Arthur Rymill's remarks. Councils are not frustrated by this committee, but its members try to assist them. We know

they are honorary workers, and are elected in a democratic way. Sir Arthur must find great difficulty in dividing his loyalties between the Adelaide City Council and Parliament. I can imagine how difficult he must find it at times. He said that members of the committee seemed to have a bee in their bonnets and referred to the committee's grounds for moving for a disallowance as a "rigmareole," which means unintelligible or nonsense, but the words he used are set down in Standing Orders. He certainly received press publicity and made members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee look small. They endeavour to do the work for which they are appointed, and, speaking for myself, I am prepared to step down at any time. I am not biased in any way, but support councils whenever I think it necessary. If the honourable member's suggestion were valid, then to be consistent no legislation could be rejected by this Chamber without the approval of the House of Assembly. I should like the honourable member to cite one case where the committee has taken discretionary powers from the council. I say "council" and not "the clerk of a council," because the clerk is the person to blame for the things the honourable member was talking about. I hope I have not said anything against Sir Arthur Rymill, but I have spoken as I did because of his remarks. I support the motion.

The Hon. A. J. MELROSE (Midland): I have considerable pleasure in supporting the motion, but in consideration to honourable members and because of the possible failure of my voice, I will plunge more into the middle of things than is usual. I endorse, and gladly associate myself with, the remarks of previous speakers concerning His Excellency the Governor's warm welcome and, in the case of our late colleagues, the laudatory farewells. First of all I refer to the loss of our dearly beloved friend, the Hon. Frank Condon. He was an outstanding South Australian portraying at all times the typical characteristics of the best South Australian traditions—self-reliance, tolerance, independence and conservatism. While more loyal than loyalty itself to his political principles, his colleagues, and their objectives, he gave patient consideration to the other fellow's views and his reasons for holding them.

It was thoroughly well known that he devoted his every available waking moment to gaining for the unfortunate among his constituents the best possible advantage for the causes that they had submitted to his care.

His conservatism was of that type that naturally sprang from the influence of his South Australian origins. It took the form of a steadfastness to his principles and a resistance to facile changes in the political winds. His unbounded philanthropy was encountered by each and every one of us as we entered this Chamber as new members. It was a simple, loving care for us as fellow humans. He took us into his care and he helped us to avoid the embarrassing mistakes to which a neophyte is prone.

His passage through life had not been painless but he certainly had this solace, that everyone who knew him liked him, while a great number loved him. Those who could count him a personal friend were indeed honoured. He was certainly "honourable" if ever a man was. I believe his place can never be filled. He crossed swords fearlessly and vigorously with his many friends in the political Party opposed to his own, but that aggression was confined to this Chamber. Outside the Chamber all was forgotten and he continued to embrace his friends as usual. To be counted one of his friends one need only to simulate, as best one could, that steadfastness and honesty of purpose that so distinguished him.

I take this opportunity of advancing the cause of an institution with which I am connected, namely, Flinders Chase. Paragraph 7 of the Governor's Speech refers to land settlement on Kangaroo Island. A natural consequence of this will be, of course, a greatly increased local population. Added to this must be taken into consideration the ever-increasing number of visitors that will certainly be augmented still further when the new sea transport becomes available.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the Government Tourist Bureau the island is daily growing in popularity and Flinders Chase profits from this tide of people seeking pleasure of the unusual, peaceful and picturesque type. Honourable members will be interested to know that during the last 12 months 450 cars and 3,500 people visited the Chase while over 2,000 visited the Kelly Hill caves between December 12, 1960, and June 30, 1961. December 12 was the date upon which the control and management of the caves was vested in the care of the Fauna and Flora Board. For a long time the Government grant to Flinders Chase was extremely meagre, being insufficient to enable the board to pay the ranger even the basic wage from it alone.

It must be realized that the ranger has a great deal of responsibility and deserves much more than what one associates with a basic wage type of job. The board has been more than fortunate in its rangers. First it had Mr. Harry Hansen for 27 years and subsequently his son-in-law, Mr. George Lonzar, who has occupied the position since then. Both have rendered loyal and efficient service of which the board is proud. The Government's attitude today is sympathetic and generous. In 1951 the grant had risen to £1,000 and in 1953 it rose to £1,500 with an additional £1,000 for repairs and maintenance and to enable a start to be made on the boundary fence. Since then the grant has gradually been increased until last year it reached £4,500.

Along the years special grants have been made for the acquisition of such plant as a tractor, power-grader and truck necessary for the construction and maintenance of firebreaks and roads, of which there are 42 miles within the Chase. A large galvanized iron implement shed was built to house this plant. A new house for the ranger was built in the 1957-58 period and the only eyesore remaining at the homestead is the old building known as the "Board's Hut." Primitive in the extreme, this very old edifice consists of four rooms with bare cement floors and a low flat roof. The walls are badly cracked and peeling, and it would be flattery to say that it was even substandard. Its furniture is equally primitive.

Using its own labour the board added a small annexe to it in 1958 consisting of a bathroom, laundry and toilet and in addition it laid on running water. Prior to this none of these amenities existed—there was only the bush and an underground tank fitted with a hand pump. A bath in the winter was for the hardy only. I feel that the time has now come when something more in keeping with the dignity of the Chase should be provided—not extravagant but practical—on the same lines as the new ranger's house which is white-ant-proof and with maintenance reduced to a minimum. Such an arrangement is badly needed, not only for the use of the board—and indeed the board deserves better than the crudest accommodation—but for distinguished visitors, of whom there is an ever-increasing number for, after all, Flinders Chase is of world interest. If honourable members remember that the nearest hotel is at Kingscote, about 70 miles away, they will acknowledge that this is a reasonable request.

Another factor is that members of the board all act in an honorary capacity and, until a couple of years ago, even paid all the expenses that they incurred in connection with visits of inspection. Such a practice would sooner or later make it difficult to get men to join the board, or indeed, as has already been the case, to go to the Chase on duty.

My concluding remarks in this connection are that we should not lose sight of our duty to posterity to see that Flinders Chase is cherished as a permanent institution, unique in the field of preservation of the natural assets of flora and fauna and of tremendous interest to other similar bodies throughout the world. On that ground alone the board deserves an office of fitting dignity on the reserve.

I offer the fullest congratulations to the Government on its management of the State as a whole. The development of roads has been astonishing. I should like to see progress made in sealing the road between Peterborough and Broken Hill, because the contact with Broken Hill, as with the Upper Murray towns, is so valuable to South Australia. Therefore, we should not risk losing it. The reticulation of electricity is very important to our country life. We are so used to its availability that it is almost taken as a matter of course. In my youth there were no good roads, no electricity and no motor cars and life in the country fell very heavily on the shoulders of the womenfolk. If they wanted a doctor someone had to go 20 or 25 miles to

get him. One could not just ring up or travel to him by motor car. Consequently, the responsibility for the welfare of the men on country stations fell largely on the shoulders of the women.

The provision of good roads throughout the State has been of great importance in decentralization. In saying that, I do not mean necessarily bituminized roads. The provision of electricity enables people to enjoy a standard of living that was not available many years ago. The Electricity Trust has developed the single wire earth return system for the distribution of electricity. Instead of having the usual two or three wires, now a single wire is used, with the earth return, for a complete circuit.

I am intensely interested in the projected River Murray dam. My family has had a long association with the River Murray, and my grandmother was the first white woman to go to Lake Victoria. The possibilities of this dam are unforeseeable. It is recognized that the whole world will one day be short of water and this will limit the ultimate population. Therefore, it is unthinkable that we should allow one drop of water that could be impounded to go to waste to sea. I heartily support the motion.

The Hon. A. C. HOOKINGS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.29 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 2, at 2.15 p.m.