

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Wednesday, April 18, 1962.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. L. H. Densley) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS.****FESTIVAL HALL.**

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

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: In this morning's *Advertiser* there appears a statement by the Chairman of the Festival of Arts Committee (Mr. Wicks) that arrangements are now in hand for the 1964 festival. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will consider granting a sum of money to the committee for the purpose of erecting a Festival Hall for the 1964 celebrations?

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

**CHOWILLA DAM.**

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question. Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: At a number of meetings recently in Upper Murray areas, and I think it is State-wide, a great amount of interest has been displayed in the proposed dam at Chowilla. I read in the press that the Premier had been in conference with the Premiers of Victoria and New South Wales and with the Commonwealth authorities. Can the Chief Secretary give any details about the conference?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I am unable to give the honourable member any details. I have not had the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Premier, other than for him to say that the conference was a valuable one and he is optimistic about the matter. Other statements have been published by other Premiers, but each has indicated that further conferences must be held. It would not be possible to give any details at this moment because apparently the matter is still under discussion.

**DIFFERENTIAL SPEED LIMITS.**

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

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: My question relates to differential speed limits that were discussed when the Road Traffic Bill was

debated here last session. In view of the good case, in my opinion, that exists for such speed limits on the Mount Lofty Road, the South Road where the four-lane road is under construction, and no doubt the northern road through Elizabeth, can the Minister of Roads indicate the date on which differential speed limits can be brought into force?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: The introduction and passing of the Road Traffic Bill last session was a major piece of legislation and it was indicated at the time that it would be necessary to frame an entirely new set of regulations covering the new Act. The possibility of proclaiming and promulgating certain regulations for portion of the Act was carefully examined but was rejected by the authorities because of the interlocking of so many sections with the old Act. The delay is unfortunate but the Government is aware of the necessity to proclaim the Act at the earliest possible moment. The Attorney-General recently gave an assurance that he would endeavour to provide more legal help in this matter. No specific differential speed limit can be proclaimed on any road until the regulations are gazetted.

**APPOINTMENT OF SEVENTH JUDGE.**

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government is aware that long delays are being experienced by litigants in the Supreme Court, particularly in the Matrimonial Causes jurisdiction, where many people are waiting over one year for their cases to be heard? Secondly, does the Government propose to make an early appointment to replace Mr. Justice Ross, who has retired? Thirdly, if any amendment is proposed to the Supreme Court Act in this session will the Government consider an amendment at least to make it legally possible in future for the appointment of a seventh judge?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I ask the honourable member to put his question on notice.

**NORTHFIELD SEMEN COLLECTING CENTRE.**

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: Will the Chief Secretary, representing the Minister of Agriculture, inform me later when the semen collecting centre at Northfield will become operational with resulting benefit to the dairying industry?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I will place the honourable member's question before the Minister of Agriculture and supply the required information as soon as it is obtainable.

## REFUNDS ON MILK BOTTLES.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I ask leave to make a brief statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: For some considerable time a dispute has existed between retail milk vendors and wholesale milk suppliers over refunds to the retailers on milk bottles that have been returned by the retailers to the vending companies. These bottles were originally charged out to the retail vendors at 5d. a bottle. Earlier this year, after some investigation and conferences between the parties at which the Prices Commissioner took some part (presumably as an arbitrator or a conciliator), a settlement was reached and in the *Advertiser* of Saturday, February 10, an announcement was made by the Acting Prices Commissioner (Mr. A. J. Hupeden) that:

The prolonged dispute between the S.A. Mixed Business Association and Wholesale Milk Suppliers over non-payment to shopkeepers for empty milk bottle credits had now been settled to mutual satisfaction.

The terms of the agreement were that each shopkeeper or milk vendor would receive payment for milk bottles standing to his credit at the accounting period of his wholesale milk supplier falling within the week ended February 4, 1962, subject to his submitting a claim in the form of a statutory declaration certifying that he had previously paid five-pence a bottle for all the bottles concerned. I do not wish to comment on the actual terms of this settlement. It may very well be all that the Prices Commissioner claims it is—a mutually satisfactory settlement; but representations have been made to me by at least 15 people, to whom it appears that some injustice was done because the relevant date at which this matter is to be concluded is February 4, 1962, whereas the announcement of the settlement was not made public until it appeared in the *Advertiser* on Saturday, February 10—a matter of six days after the actual agreement was arrived at. Will the Chief Secretary obtain a report from the Prices Commissioner on why there was a delay of six days between the concluding of the agreement and the announcement in the *Advertiser*?

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

## EQUAL PAY IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (on notice):

1. Has the Government given consideration to the question of implementing the conven-

tion of 1951 of the International Labour Organization that equal pay for equal work should be paid in the Public Service of South Australia?

2. If not, is it the intention of the Government to give consideration to this matter?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: Consideration was given to the ratification of this Convention in 1952. The Commonwealth Government was then advised that the South Australian Government could not support the adoption of the Convention as it was the policy of the Government for the regulation of wages and conditions of employment to be dealt with by the appropriate industrial tribunal. This policy has not altered since 1952.

## SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The House of Assembly notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

## JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The House of Assembly intimated its appointment of four members to the Joint House Committee.

The President and the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, Jessie Cooper, and C. R. Story were appointed to represent the Legislative Council on the committee.

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

A message was received from the House of Assembly requesting the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment of a Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

The Hons. A. C. Hookings, A. F. Kneebone and C. R. Story were appointed to represent the Legislative Council on the committee.

[*Sitting suspended from 2.38 to 5.52 p.m.*]

## APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

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

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

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable the Bill to pass through its remaining stages without delay.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1): I must take a point of order. I object to the procedure.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member cannot speak at this stage.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Cannot I oppose the suspension of Standing Orders?

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member can vote against the motion.

The Council divided on the motion:

Ayes (11)—The Hons. Jessie Cooper, M. B. Dawkins, G. O'H. Giles, G. J. Gilfillan, A. C. Hookings, N. L. Jude, F. J. Potter, W. W. Robinson, C. D. Rowe (teller), Sir Arthur Rymill, and C. R. Story.

Noes (4).—The Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph (teller), S. C. Bevan, A. F. Kneebone, and A. J. Shard.

Majority of 7 for the Ayes.

Motion thus carried.

Second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The principal reason for bringing Supplementary Estimates before the House this year is to seek the necessary appropriation to cover the spending of additional funds which the State received as a result of the Loan Council and Premiers' Conference held in February last to formulate and discuss measures to combat unemployment. At that conference South Australia secured additional funds for 1961-62 of just over £2,000,000, made up of—A special grant of £970,000 to be used for employment-promoting works; an increase of £1,036,000 in the allocation of loan moneys for housing.

At the same time the borrowing allocation for semi and larger local government authorities, *i.e.*, those whose individual borrowing programme for the year 1961-62 was £100,000 or more, was increased by £372,000, while for the smaller local authorities each borrowing less than £100,000 the limit on aggregate borrowings was removed until June 30, 1962. The Government had done the groundwork prior to the conference and was able to take immediate decisions on the allocation of all additional funds, and to give instructions to departments to put into effect without any delay the plans for spending the funds on work to create employment. However, while it is not necessary to seek special appropriation by Parliament of either the housing moneys, for which a general appropriation exists in legislation, or the semi and local authority borrowing allocation, which is not subject to Parliamentary appropriation, it is necessary now for Parliament to authorize the disbursement of the £970,000 special grant which must in the first instance be credited to Consolidated Revenue as received.

Before dealing in detail with this £970,000 I believe it would be of interest to members if I were to comment briefly on the allocation of the additional housing moneys and of the increased borrowing authority for semi and

local government bodies. The £1,036,000 of additional borrowing under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement was allocated to the South Australian Housing Trust £100,000; to the State Bank £900,000; and to building societies £36,000. I believe that the quickest boost to the economy was given by the allocation to the State Bank, as the bank was thereby enabled to step up immediately its rate of approvals for loans to prospective home owners and to reduce sharply the waiting time of applicants for loans. The funds thus released began to flow out very quickly to the building industry, and from that industry to a wide variety of other industries.

Of the additional borrowing authority made available to semi and local government bodies, all but a net £75,000 has been allocated to local government bodies. I must say at this point how gratified the Government has been at the readiness of local authorities to take advantage of the increased borrowing authority available. They have undertaken works which are both useful to their local communities and effective as avenues of increased employment. On present indication local authorities will now borrow in 1961-62 about £2,000,000, which is some £800,000 more than was expected to be borrowed in the early months of this financial year. And now, returning to the £970,000 grant, the appropriation of which is the main purpose of these Supplementary Estimates, the Government decided that, with the exception of relatively small increased provisions for other activities, the grant should be devoted to essential works to be carried out by the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Public Buildings Department. These works included both maintenance and similar jobs to be financed through Revenue Account and capital works to be financed through Loan Account.

The total extra provision for maintenance and comparable works was £325,000, and comprised—

	£
Engineering and Water Supply Department . . . . .	150,000
Public Buildings Department ..	145,000
Railways Department . . . . .	30,000

For the bulk of these provisions, which are shown clearly but in a little more detail in the Supplementary Estimates, Parliamentary authority was anticipated so that they could be committed immediately for the employment of additional direct labour for the letting of a variety of small maintenance contracts which created employment quickly, and for the purchase of necessary materials which gave further indirect benefits to the employment position.

If from the total grant of £970,000 there is deducted the £325,000 set aside for maintenance and similar works, there remains £645,000 available for capital works. The proposed transfer of the £645,000 to Loan Account is shown in the Supplementary Estimates under 'Treasurer and Minister of Immigration—Miscellaneous'. As with the £325,000 for maintenance works, Parliamentary authority was anticipated for the £645,000 of capital works, and departments were instructed to commence additional works immediately.

The allocation of the £645,000 to Loan activities was £385,000 to the Engineering and Water Supply Department for water supply schemes; £230,000 to the Public Buildings Department for various buildings and minor construction projects; and £30,000 to minor activities.

I remind members that the programme of Loan activities for the year, alongside which the foregoing additional provisions should be viewed, was planned on the basis of an overspending of £1,400,000 by use of the previous year's revenue surplus and by running Loan Account into deficit. Further, before Christmas the Government had already decided to make additional funds available, if necessary, to the Engineering and Water Supply and Public Buildings Departments to meet the cost of several jobs undertaken to overcome specific employment problems. In summary, I believe that in its planning of Loan activities the Government has this year stretched its finances as far as can be considered safe, taking into account the necessity to maintain continuity of employment.

Whilst dealing with Supplementary Estimates, it has been considered wise to take the opportunity to include several other excess provisions, which would otherwise have been met by the authority of the Governor's Appropriation Fund. To relieve the fund at this stage will permit a little more flexibility in dealing with any further unforeseen expenses late in the year.

An additional £40,000 is now provided for Hospitals Department. This is required to meet the salaries of additional staff, particularly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the cost of provisions and other running expenses at Royal Adelaide Hospital, where the requirements of specialized services are increasing.

Under 'Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous' a further £100,000 is provided for grants to the Adelaide Childrens Hospital towards the major

building programme. The Government is providing £2 for each £1 raised by the hospital for the purpose. At the present rate of progress an additional £100,000 Government grant is expected to be required this year. The more rapid progress upon this work, too, than was earlier expected has been a further boost to the economy and employment.

For the Education Department an additional £120,000 appropriation is sought. Of this, £60,000 is required to meet the salaries of staff that has achieved and held a somewhat higher level than was originally expected. Further provision is also required for normal running and maintenance of schools. This is due in large part to a sharp increase in total secondary school enrolments, the number of children remaining at school to further their secondary education being greater than forecast. The cost of book allowances alone is increased by £14,000 on this account. Boarding allowances have been increased and the additional cost will be about £6,000.

The Agriculture Department has undertaken two campaigns this year in protection of the State's fruit growing industry, and £15,000 is provided to cover the unforeseen costs of combating oriental fruit moth and San Jose scale.

The sum of £30,000 is provided for the Mines Department for additional costs of geological and geophysical surveys. Members may recall that the Loan Estimates for 1961-62 included funds for the purchase of vehicles and equipment to duplicate the seismic survey operation. This the Government considered was the most effective way to give a lead in the search for oil in this State. The vehicles and equipment have been secured most speedily and the excess £30,000 provision now proposed is for the cost of their operation in the field.

A further £15,000 is provided for the purchase of land under the Public Parks Act. The Government assists local authorities to acquire suitable land for parks and open spaces, usually by contributing £1 for each £1 contributed by the local authority. Settlements on account of land purchased under this scheme will, in total, be heavier than was estimated, and the additional £15,000 is now required to meet the Crown share of the cost. These acquisitions in many cases have been a prelude to expenditure and employment in development of the areas by the local authorities concerned.

Whilst the Supplementary Estimates total £1,290,000, this should not be taken to mean

that the original Budget forecast of a nominal surplus of £3,000 will now be converted into a large deficit. The £970,000 grant will be a credit to Consolidated Revenue Account and there will be, as is usual, other variations in a number of items of receipts and payments within the Consolidated Revenue Account.

Among major receipts, stamp duty revenues have been running at a low level, but there has been an encouraging upward move in Railways Department revenues.

Among major payments, the cost of pumping water through mains will be much higher than estimated because of the dry season, but on present indications there will be a marked saving against estimate for interest on the public debt, and savings will occur because of the absence of an outbreak of fruit fly.

With two and a half months of the financial year still to run it is not practicable to forecast with accuracy the final out-turn of the year's finance. However, with what appears now to be a steadily improving economy, it is not expected that there will be any significant deficit in the Consolidated Revenue Account. On the other hand, a deficit on Loan Account of the order of £500,000, after absorbing the considerable Revenue surplus of the previous year, as was originally planned and forecast when the Loan Budget was presented last August, still seems probable.

Dealing with the clauses of the Bill, clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further £1,290,000 from the general revenue for the purposes set out in the Supplementary Estimates. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out the amount to be provided under each department or activity. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts

of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan Funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. I commend the Bill for the consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

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

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It provides for the appropriation of moneys so that the Public Service of the State may be carried on in the early part of next financial year. Clause 2 provides for the issue and application of £6,000,000, which should suffice to meet the normal expenses of the Public Service in July and the early part of August. As further supply will be required early in August, it will be necessary to introduce a second Supply Bill in July. Further Bills may be necessary to enable the Public Service to carry on until Parliament has considered and passed the Appropriation Bill for the financial year 1962-63. Clause 3 provides for the payment of any increases in salaries or wages which may be authorized by any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe salaries or wages.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 6.14 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, April 19, at 2.15 p.m.