

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 17, 1962.

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

HONOUR CONFERRED ON GOVERNOR.

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that I have conveyed to His Excellency the Governor the felicitations of members and officers of the Council on the honour conferred on him by Her Majesty the Queen in the Birthday List. His Excellency has asked me to convey to the members and officers his deep appreciation therefor, and his very best wishes.

QUESTIONS.**PARKSIDE MENTAL HOSPITAL.**

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Recently, in company with some members of this Council, and others from Rotary, I visited the Parkside Mental Hospital. I was indeed pleased to find adequate accommodation and comfort provided in "Cleland" and "Patterson" houses, but was sadly disappointed with much of the remainder of the hospital, in so far as accommodation and facilities were concerned. I hasten to commend the staff, both male and female, for the work they are performing in the interests of the patients under these inadequate conditions. I am not in a position to know whether the Minister of Health is aware of these unsatisfactory conditions, but prior to the next Loan Estimates being submitted will he arrange for an inspection of the hospital by members of Parliament, so that they may be acquainted with the existing conditions and thus assist the Government with any plan that it may envisage for future improvements?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The honourable member preceded his question with much information and probably my reply may be to advantage if I, too, make some explanation before giving a reply. As honourable members are aware, the matter of mental institutions was the subject of a Commonwealth report some two or three years ago, in which South Australian conditions were very favourably established in comparison with those of other States. That, of course, was the position then. Since then the Commonwealth offered certain assistance to the States to improve accommodation. As usual, we were a

little ahead of others, and we had already spent a considerable sum on nurses' accommodation and the receiving wards at Parkside etc., which did not entitle us to any benefits. Possibly, at present the other States, with their heavy expenditure following on the loans they got, may be a little ahead of us, but the explanation is that since the report we have appointed a new Director of Mental Health, and the previous Director in his last year of office preferred to leave it for the new Director to decide the changes that would be made.

The new Director has furnished me with a number of reports and has suggested certain alterations in the organization and use of the existing buildings. However, he has not yet suggested what should be done first. The Director recently returned from a trip during which he viewed latest building construction methods. New Zealand has built new accommodation, and the Director, with two members of the Public Buildings Department, went away for the purpose of obtaining information to enable him to furnish suggestions to the Government. These people are experts and have the requisite knowledge and appropriate training to enable them to advise the Government on what is required. Members would therefore be advised to wait until a report is received from them. When the position has been established the first move will be to draw up plans, which will take a little time.

Meanwhile, I have been in contact with the Public Buildings Department and certain steps have been taken that should make the existing buildings habitable and hygienic. However, the department is suffering from a lack of draftsmen—it lost two more officers this week—and if the work is let out that makes the position even worse, because the department loses more architects. Some of these things are disappointing to me because they have caused delays, but they are the result of staff matters and are not caused through any lack of desire on the part of the Government to remain in the forefront on every move in connection with health and hospital services.

The answer to the question is that special consideration is being given by experts who are more competent to decide these issues than are members of Parliament, who would probably have little knowledge of what is a proper building or appropriate treatment. This is not a sentimental matter, but one for experts engaged in mental health services, and I think it is safe in the hands of the people who are already on the job.

ADELAIDE OVAL LEASE.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Press reports have stated that agreement has been reached between the Adelaide City Council and the South Australian Cricket Association on the leasing of the Adelaide Oval to the Cricket Association for a further term. According to the Statute under which the oval is vested in the Adelaide City Council the lease must be ratified by Parliament. I ask the Minister of Local Government whether he will withhold the presentation of the lease to Parliament for ratification until a complete review has been made by the Government into the question of the control of the Adelaide Oval by setting up a representative trust similar to those appertaining in other States?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: The matter demands special consideration and therefore I ask the honourable member to put the question on the Notice Paper.

MOUNT GAMBIER STONE.

The Hon. A. C. HOOKINGS: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. C. HOOKINGS: There is concern in some circles because of diminishing usage of Mount Gambier stone for public buildings in South Australia, particularly in relation to schools which are being erected at present, and to some contracts which have just been let. It has been claimed in two or three instances that after a tender has been accepted stipulating the use of Mount Gambier stone, the contractors have asked for and been given permission to use clay bricks. Will the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Works, furnish a report on the usage of Mount Gambier stone in public buildings now under construction, and indicate the Government's future policy in relation to the use of this stone in the construction of public buildings?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I will get a report from my colleague and let the honourable member have a reply.

LAND FOR HIGHWAYS.

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 acquisition of land for highways

purposes. Both the Minister of Roads and his department have been most co-operative in the few cases I have personally taken to them where payment has not been finalized on the acquisition of land for this purpose. I believe 80 per cent of the money involved is payable without a survey, and 20 per cent is payable subsequently. I appreciate the difficulty that the Minister and his department have had through the lack of surveyors, but I feel that it is an insufferable situation when people some years later have to apply for the completion of their payments on the acquisition of such land. What plan has the Minister to overcome this unusual method of doing business with people from whom land has been acquired?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I am prepared to admit that the methods that have to be employed are regrettable. We have arranged for some 80 per cent of the agreed upon price to be paid prior to a survey. Also, as the honourable member said, the problem is entirely due to the lack of surveyors. We are making every attempt, and have done before, to obtain surveyors, both locally and from overseas, but I have to admit that almost as soon as we get them, private enterprise takes them over. Recently we have gone so far as to employ private surveyors to make such surveys, but honourable members will appreciate the very costly nature of that procedure when possibly £20 or £30 is involved, and instead of sending a surveyor a distance of 200 or 300 miles to survey one person's block, the position has necessitated waiting for a number of blocks to be surveyed on that portion of a highway.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Are our surveyors being paid a lower wage than those outside, resulting in our not being able to hold them?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: That may be so.

GAWLER ROAD SPEED LIMIT.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Has the Minister of Roads received a report from the Road Traffic Board regarding when it is likely to bring in a report providing for a more realistic speed limit on the Gawler Road, particularly in the Elizabeth area?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I think I have indicated previously to the House that the Road Traffic Act passed last session has not yet been proclaimed. In effect, the Act depends almost entirely on a set of regulations governing the Act, and I am pleased to say that these regulations are now in the final stages of preparation, and I hope to be able

to present them to the House soon, after which the Road Traffic Board will undoubtedly take action in certain respects in regard to speed limits.

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:

Port Lincoln Hospital Additions (final),
 Tailem Bend to Keith Trunk Water Main,
 Trunk Water Main from Myponga Trunk
 Main (near Morphett Vale) to Seacliff,
 Highways and Local Government Department
 Office Building, Walkerville,
 Modbury-Para Hills Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme,
 Robe Boat Haven,
 Lenswood Water Supply,
 Kangaroo Creek Reservoir,
 Conversion of Former O.B.I. Building for
 Use by Education Department,
 Kingscote and Central Kangaroo Island
 Water Supply,
 Royal Adelaide Hospital Additional Buildings (progress).

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 Parliament.

2. We convey our assurance that a most affectionate and spontaneous welcome awaits Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in South Australia.

3. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the Session.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): I move that the Address in Reply as read be adopted. I am pleased to be associated with the congratulations which you, Mr. President, have extended to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Etric Bastyan, on his recent elevation to Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and

Saint George. Since his appointment to South Australia as Vice Regal representative, His Excellency and Lady Bastyan have gained the respect and affection of the people throughout the State for their unfailing interest during a long and strenuous programme of engagements, and we extend to them our very best wishes for the future. I am also pleased to be associated with the assurance which has been conveyed to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in anticipation of their visit here early next year. We recall vividly that historic occasion when they made their first visit here in 1954, when we saw so many demonstrations of loyalty and appreciation.

I also express my pleasure at the election of the Hon. L. H. Densley to the high office of President of this Council. I am sure he is well qualified to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor, the Hon. Sir Walter Duncan. The interests of Parliament and of this House will be well served by his appointment and I hope he will have a happy and fruitful term of office. I congratulate the Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson on the recognition which he received in the recent Birthday Honours List, and also other recipients of honours, which were equally well merited.

Although we look forward to an interesting session, we recall with regret the death of some most distinguished members. I refer to the late Senator Rex Pearson, the Hon. Frank Condon, the Hon. Ernest Anthony, the Hon. Harry Edmonds, and Mr. J. E. Stephens (formerly member for Port Adelaide in the House of Assembly) who died recently. I consider myself fortunate to have known the late Senator Pearson for a long time. For many years he resided in my home district, and I found that the high regard we had for his integrity and his approach to all the problems of his office was reflected throughout the State by those who knew him. The Hon. Frank Condon, the Hon. Ernest Anthony and Mr. J. E. Stephens I knew by repute, and I have found since becoming associated with this Parliament that they were held in high regard by honourable members and the people who knew them.

The late Hon. Harry Edmonds was my immediate predecessor in office, and I am well aware of my position in trying to follow in his footsteps. In the Northern electorate he was held in very high regard. He was a pioneer on Eyre Peninsula and knew the district thoroughly from its very beginning, and the people of that area had a high respect and a

good deal of affection for him. An illustration of his enthusiasm and the way he carried out his obligations was the manner in which he conducted himself throughout his electorate. In the last few days of his term of office, prior to his retirement, he spent much time in the area around Kimba, where he was best known, quietly working among the people and listening to their problems. I express my sympathy to the families of all these gentlemen whose death during the last few months we regret.

Referring to the opening of Parliament and the Speech by His Excellency the Governor, I find many passages of interest in it. I refer first to paragraph 4, which states that the Government intends to extend and increase research and scientific services in all fields of primary production and that it is doing its utmost to ensure the best use is made of all available resources in the light of scientific and technological advances. This paragraph has much in common with paragraph 5, which states, "My Government continues to encourage land settlement particularly in relation to areas which in the light of scientific knowledge are capable of economic development."

The Northern district of the Legislative Council covers an area extending from the fruitgrowing areas along the upper reaches of the River Murray through to Eyre Peninsula, where there are many diverse kinds of agriculture, and it is an area which is capable of much future development. In the river areas we find the drainage problem, which concerns many growers in the Renmark area. I was pleased to see that an approach by representatives of the Renmark Irrigation Trust was successful and that the services of two technical officers were obtained to assist in dealing with the problem of draining fruit blocks. It mainly concerns the internal drains that take the water to the drains in front of the properties. The service being rendered by these two officers is much appreciated.

Areas in the northern reaches of the River Murray have problems distinct from those in other parts of the State. They are becoming greater as we move towards the acceptance of the European Common Market. These problems must be watched closely.

As we travel farther afield to Eyre Peninsula we find that there is much of interest to be found in the two paragraphs of the Governor's Speech to which I have referred. There are thousands of square miles of undeveloped country and one has only to travel in an aeroplane over the area to appreciate the potential

development. Those of us who have travelled through the area have been interested to see what has been done with land that at one time was considered to be non-productive. Much of it is not in high rainfall country. Since the development of early maturing clovers and the use of superphosphate and other modern methods of agriculture, production has exceeded the expectations of some years ago. There is no doubt that in the light of this development Eyre Peninsula could contribute much to our overseas exports. The undeveloped country alone could contribute much. Almost every landholder has a scrub block that is suitable for development. In the higher rainfall districts farther south and adjacent to Port Lincoln there are many problems somewhat similar to those in the South-East. I commend the Government for its interest in this phase of agriculture. Any increase in production will not only develop the country to the benefit of those immediately concerned but will benefit the State as a whole. One of the most important paragraphs in the Governor's Speech was paragraph 7, which stated:

It is the policy of my Government to develop an expanding, strong, and varied economy to ensure full employment, to establish a higher standard of living and improve educational, hospital and other social services.

This policy will have the support of all people who are interested in the future of the State. We must have a varied and expanding economy. The benefit from establishing secondary as well as agricultural industries becomes apparent as one travels throughout the State. In the north, where I am more familiar with the problems and the progress made, we can see it amply illustrated through developments at Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie. Development at Whyalla has meant that water must be taken there in large quantities. This has enabled the Government to supply water to areas on the way to Whyalla and adjacent to it. Water is being taken farther and farther by reticulation from the original pipeline. The immediate benefits are obvious, not only in connection with water but in relation to roads. Where we have large populations and expanding industries we must have roads, and the construction of them is an advantage to the adjacent districts.

Electricity is now being generated in large quantities at Port Augusta, which brings another benefit to the district. There is immediate benefit to those engaged in the primary industries close to the towns. In Whyalla there is a market for locally produced meat, and large quantities of vegetables are

being grown in the Cowell and Port Pirie districts. Recently at the Port Augusta abattoirs I was interested to see many trucks bearing the names of people from around that northern town. The trucks were used to bring livestock to the abattoirs. The same sort of thing is happening at Port Pirie and I commend the Government for its policy and forethought in linking primary and secondary industries in its objectives. Paragraph 10 of the Governor's Speech states:

My Government proposes to create a new department charged with the function of securing new industries and assisting them in their initial stages and generally promoting production within the State of commodities which are now imported.

This matter of decentralization concerns many people, but the more interest one takes in it the more obvious the difficulties and problems become. I was interested in a recent visit by the Industries Development Committee to a country district. It enabled me to see the problems associated with country towns. I will commend any move that is a positive step towards overcoming them. It appears to me that the proposed department goes beyond the Industries Development Committee because the paragraph stated that the new department would be "charged with the function of securing new industries and assisting them in their initial stages and generally promoting production within the State of commodities which are now imported". I was interested recently to read in the latest census report that the ratio of population between the country and metropolitan areas in South Australia has remained constant, the percentage being exactly what it was in 1954, whereas the percentage of population in other States has increased in the metropolitan areas. The districts immediately surrounding our metropolitan area are growing rapidly, but that also applies in other States.

I was pleased that mention was made of a future water supply programme and the extension of the Whyalla pipeline to Kimba. That town, in particular, has had difficulty in obtaining water and the proposed pipeline will overcome that problem and materially assist in the development of the area. Many other towns have similar problems, two being Terowie and Hawker. This problem is difficult to overcome because both towns are some distance from existing pipelines and have but a small population. However, a water supply for them is essential from the State's point of view and I hope that some provision will be made for those areas.

The proposed sealing of the Broken Hill Road and Eyre Highway is of vital concern to my electorate, Broken Hill, of course, being a major source of income for this State. That road carries much heavy local and interstate traffic. The Eyre Highway runs through a large area of Eyre Peninsula that I mentioned earlier. The provision of good roads represents a positive step in the development of any country. The Eyre Peninsula roads carry large volumes of traffic because that area has no direct rail link with the mainland and, being such a vast area, its roads are difficult to maintain. If we find, as we do in other areas close to the more thickly populated centres, that this opening up and sealing of the main highway results in the sealing and development of lateral country roads then the sealing of that highway could mean much to the people concerned.

The Government has announced that it expects that, during the financial year, 12 diesel-electric locomotives and 100 ore waggons for use on the Port Pirie-Cockburn railway will be placed in commission. Mention has also been made that a proposal for the standardization of the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line has been placed before the Commonwealth Government. Recently I had the privilege of travelling through that area with the Standardization Committee and I am hopeful that a positive move on standardization will be made in the near future. This is a vital line in the development of South Australia, particularly the northern part of the State. Towns of large population are involved. Broken Hill is almost entirely dependent on mining and Port Pirie depends largely on the smelting of ore. The lead industry faces severe competition in overseas markets, and from synthetics and plastics. Any move to reduce the costs of our industries will help the towns dependent on the sale of those products.

Another point regarding the Broken Hill and Port Pirie line is that the intermediate towns also benefit from the ore traffic. I speak particularly of Peterborough. Initially, diesel-electric locomotives may have some effect on Peterborough because of the very much longer trains they can handle, but if the standardization of the line can be quickly effected any loss to that town will be offset by the advantages gained from the construction work and the increased traffic carried. I believe that in the long term view it is essential for Peterborough that we do all we can to proceed with the standardization of this line, because if by any mischance we should lose some of

the ore traffic through uneconomic freight costs it could, in the long run, affect Peterborough far more than the introduction of diesel-electric locomotives and standardization.

I wish to refer briefly to the work of the Electricity Trust in South Australia. One interesting point was not mentioned in the Speech of His Excellency but was announced by the Premier. The Government intends to introduce a subsidy to reduce electricity tariffs in some areas. That is vital to the country. People living in country areas hope that the day is not far distant when country tariffs will be brought closer to that of the city. We realize costs of distribution are considerable, but since the establishment of the generating stations at Port Augusta the picture has altered and much of our power comes from that source.

This system of zoning tariffs, fair as it may be, still leaves some anomalies in that we have rigid boundaries between zones. The power line from Port Augusta travels through much of the closely settled areas of South Australia, and transformer stations on that line have been erected outside Port Pirie and on the Hummocks. The transformer station at Port Pirie serves not only that town but adjacent areas too, and the consumption from that station must be high. Therefore, the transmission costs there should not be excessive. The Government's proposal to subsidize tariffs to bring country tariffs within 10 per cent of city tariffs will be most welcome, and I heartily commend it.

Paragraph 18 of the Governor's Speech deals with public health and the work the Hospitals Department intends to do in the construction of a new hospital block and nurses' home for Port Lincoln, which will be very much appreciated in that area; it is also planning modern hospital accommodation at Port Augusta. I commend the moves being made for these hospitals and trust that they will be completed as soon as possible. I am in full agreement with the proposed special grants for subsidizing community hospitals, which are filling a need. Such grants will help people who are doing something to help themselves. The number of community hospitals in South Australia is increasing rather than decreasing, and at a time when more Government support is being given in the way of social services. Many people are finding a worthwhile interest in supporting these hospitals, and I commend any step that will give them further assistance.

We have heard of several moves to overcome the housing shortage. One mentioned in the Governor's Speech related to long-term loans, including insurance for the breadwinner. This is a move in the right direction. Since the opening of Parliament there has been a proposal to introduce low deposit purchase houses. Every effort should be made to encourage home ownership; but, there still exists a need for rental houses, particularly in some of the smaller country towns. Over a period of years we find that little provision has been made by private enterprise to accommodate those who wish to rent a house. Many people would live in country areas, but refuse to do so because of the type of housing offered, which is not of a standard that appeals. Such people as garage workers and workers in small local enterprises may not be able to train in their own area, and usually men have to be sought from the metropolitan area or from one of the larger country towns. Often when they find that housing of a suitable standard is not available, they are not interested in accepting a position. The Government is doing much to encourage home ownership, and I commend it for this move, because home ownership encourages a sense of responsibility. I stress, however, that the need exists for some rental houses. People who move into a country town are often not prepared to accept the responsibility of home ownership because they are not certain how long they will be staying in the area. I thank honourable members on both sides of the House for the consideration they have given me as a new member.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): I am very conscious of the privilege and the honour of seconding the motion, which has been so ably moved by the Hon. Mr. Gilfillan. First and foremost I express the extreme gratification of honourable members that her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, are to visit this State again. I am sure that we all look forward to their visit with a great deal of pleasant anticipation.

His Excellency the Governor has taken a very great interest in the development of this State since his arrival last year and has evinced keen interest in the individuals whom he has been called to govern. It is very gratifying to know that both Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan have endeared themselves to the people in no uncertain manner. We congratulate His Excellency, who recently had bestowed upon him an additional honour by Her Majesty the

Queen. I take this opportunity to assure him of our continued loyalty and devotion to the Throne.

I congratulate you, Mr. President, upon being elected to your high office. I am sure that you have the confidence and goodwill of all honourable members. I pay a tribute to your integrity and sincerity of purpose. I hope that you have a long and successful term. I also congratulate the Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson (Minister of Education) on the honour conferred upon him by Her Majesty, an honour that I am sure is well deserved.

I now refer to the gentleman whom I have the honour to succeed in this Council representing the Midland District, the Hon. Sir Walter Duncan, and pay a tribute to him and his family for the services they have rendered to South Australia and also to the Commonwealth. Sir Walter is a member of a distinguished family, members of which have, in all, given more than 100 years of service to both the South Australian and Federal Parliaments, a truly remarkable record. Sir Walter's father, the Hon. Sir John Duncan, served as a member of this House for 18 years and of the House of Assembly for 13 years, a total of 31 years' service with the South Australian Parliament. Sir Walter's uncle, Walter Hughes Duncan, was a member of Parliament in this State for 10 years, and Capt. J. G. Duncan-Hughes, a brother of Sir Walter, was a member of the House of Representatives for nine years and of the Senate for seven years, making a total of 16 years in all in the Federal Parliament. The Hon. Sir Walter Duncan has the longest record of all, having served in this Chamber for 44 years, from 1918 to 1962. This is the longest period of service for any member of this Council in its history.

Length of service is but one side of the picture, however, as Sir Walter's service in Parliament, as honourable members will agree, was a most distinguished one, which included 18 years as President. Sir Walter was President of this Chamber for the second longest period in its history, being second only to that of Sir Lancelot Stirling, who held the office for 31 years. Sir Walter was a foundation member of the South Australian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and was a member of it for 36 years. For 28½ years he served on its Executive Committee and for 18 years he was a vice-president. It is fitting that the South Australian Branch has recognized his outstanding services by making him a life associate member of the association. We are pleased that Sir

Walter still visits us from time to time and avails us of his wise counsel. I pay a tribute to a great South Australian and to his wonderful record.

It was my privilege to know the late Senator Rex Pearson for a number of years. Senator Pearson served this State and country with great distinction. He was a member of the State Parliament for 10 years before becoming a senator. He became Government Whip in this Parliament in another place in 1945 and continued until he resigned in 1951. He was elected to the Senate in 1951 and he held office in that Parliament as temporary chairman of committees, and for a period as member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was a man of great honour and integrity.

It was not my privilege to know personally the late Hon. Frank Condon, the late Hon. Ernest Anthony, the late Hon. Harry Edmonds or the late Mr. J. E. Stephens, who was a member for Port Adelaide in the lower House. However, I am well aware of the valuable work which they did in this Parliament and in their public life. The late Hon. Frank Condon was a member of the lower House for three years from 1924 to 1927, and a member of this Council from 1928 until 1961. He was a member of the Public Works Standing Committee for 31 years from 1930 until 1961, and was awarded the C.M.G. by Her Majesty the Queen in 1954. He was Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council for 28 years, and was respected by all. The late Hon. Ernest Anthony served as a member of the Legislative Council for 18 years and in another place for 17 years, a total of 35 years' service to this Parliament and to the State. He was a member of the Public Works Committee at one period and later served as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation for a long term. I know that the Hon. Harry Edmonds had an honourable and meritorious career in this Chamber, of which he was a member for 18 years. My colleague, the Hon. G. J. Gilfillan, has referred to his meritorious earlier services in public life. During the time he was a member of this Chamber he served on the Industries Development Committee for five years. Later he was a member of the Land Settlement Committee, becoming its Chairman in 1956. It was not my privilege to know the late Mr. J. E. Stephens, a member for Port Adelaide for many years, but I know that he was liked and respected by all. I join with the Hon. G. J. Gilfillan, and with all other honourable members, in paying a

tribute to the work and worth of these gentlemen and in extending condolences to their relatives and families.

It is a privilege to support the sound policies which have been carried out by this Government, the further continuation of which is foreshadowed in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. This State, which has in many ways the least resources of all six States, has become, through wise planning and careful administration, the great State which it now is because of its soundly based and securely balanced economy, and its steady, sure, overall development. This happy state of affairs is due in large measure to the progressive policies pursued by the Premier and his able colleagues. Real advancement has come about by sound planning and the ability to carry these plans to fruition. This wise forethought, which has always characterized this Government, is again exemplified in matters brought to our attention in the Speech with which His Excellency was pleased to open this Parliament.

I note with pleasure that it appears certain that the Chowilla dam project will be commenced. The policy of the Government on water conservation and supply has always been far-seeing, and this plan surely is the culmination of very successful endeavours in this field. I view with satisfaction the extensions to Mt. Bold, which has been increased in capacity to 11,600 million gallons, thus displacing South Para as the largest reservoir; the new 6,000 million gallon reservoir at Myponga; the projected new reservoir to be built at Kangaroo Creek; and the projected new pipelines to Whyalla and from Murray Bridge to Adelaide. These projects are most valuable and show the vision and forethought that have gone into their planning.

Although I am gratified that about 97 per cent of electors in South Australia are now connected with Government waterworks, I seek consideration for the remainder, who are still seeking assistance and in some cases badly needing a water supply. Honourable members will, I am sure, approve the continued success of the electricity undertakings in this State. The extensions under the single wire earth return system, which has made remarkable progress in the country, and the developments in industry, both in the metropolitan area and in other industrial areas, are notable achievements which, in large measure, are due to the trust's ability to supply power where and when needed at a reasonable cost. I commend the

Government for its record relating to electricity charges. The fact that there has been no increase in electricity tariffs since 1953, notwithstanding that all other costs have risen appreciably, is in itself most creditable. That all adjustments in tariffs made since then have been of a downward nature is surely remarkable. The announcement of the Government's intention to reduce all tariffs in the country to within 10 per cent of city tariffs, in the face of the great costs involved in the wiring of the country areas for power, is evidence of the Government's sincere desire to bring all tariffs on to a common basis as soon as it is practicable so to do. I believe that when the economy of the trust can stand it, city and country charges should be equalized.

Just as I admire the vision that is evident in the Chowilla project, so I express commendation for the far-sightedness associated with the proposal to construct a power station on Torrens Island at a cost of £150,000,000. This proposal of tremendous magnitude will ensure the future expansion of this State in industry, commerce and primary production in so far as power is concerned, just as the Chowilla project ensures the water necessary for the great development that we must all feel sure is ahead of us.

Turning to education, I commend the work done in this department under great difficulties and in a period of tremendous expansion of numbers, which has placed a great strain upon facilities and staff. I note with satisfaction the increase in the numbers of trainee teachers, and the fact that the Government intends to pursue its policy of extending educational services in all branches—primary, secondary, tertiary and adult education. I am pleased to see the large number of school children who are today receiving an adequate secondary education, and also the increasing number proceeding into the tertiary field. I commend the adult education programme of the department and the ever-increasing facilities for young people in country areas to continue in some measure their formal education after having left school. I would urge that every encouragement be given to these activities of the department.

This Government represents and serves all sections of the community and no better evidence of this can be seen than the projected policies on housing, particularly the measures that are designed to extend the period of repayment to 40 years and for young purchasers of houses to obtain what is virtually a life insurance policy by paying a low additional sum, thus ensuring the discharge of the

loan in the event of the borrower's death. This gives young people starting out in life an opportunity to purchase their home in a real measure of security, and by what are, in the circumstances, reasonable repayments. The Premier, as instanced by my colleague, Mr. Gilfillan, has announced that the plan will be supplemented. The fact that a house will now be available at a low deposit, the price being from £3,400 to £3,800, and the loan being repaid over 40 years at a rate of £3 15s. to £4 a week, means that most young people will be paying practically the same amount as they would in rent. They will have the advantage that they can call the house their own, and, in addition, they will have a stake in the country. In measures of this sort the Government shows that it is giving all people an opportunity to have a real share in the country and to own their properties.

The policy of assisting all members of the community, which is being pursued by this Government wherever practicable, to improve their lot is carried right through to the original inhabitants of Australia, the aborigines. I am pleased to note that the Government intends to give further special assistance to these people and that it also intends to direct its attention towards helping them to help themselves. I am sure that much can be done in this regard. I am glad to know that it is proposed to introduce legislation that is designed to have an important bearing on the welfare and status of aborigines and part aborigines.

The Government has expressed its intention to provide guarantees to facilitate further expansions by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. I believe that this is a further step in the right direction, and that the company has by and large done a good job in a short period. I am aware that other districts need silos, but when one considers what has been done in the short period of six years it is really remarkable that so much has been achieved. It is pleasing to note that these expansions are designed to facilitate the proposals for the bulk handling of barley.

The Government has left no stone unturned towards tapping the natural resources of the State. The development over the years of much land once considered to be valueless is real evidence of this. The Government has not overlooked the tapping of mineral resources and I am pleased to note that it intends to continue the work, particularly in the search for oil.

The Government has always endeavoured to encourage primary production, and I am confident that it will continue to do it. It is most necessary to my mind to develop primary production, even if it might mean periods of temporary surpluses and consequent indigestion, as it were. Some people do not realize that such a policy is of paramount importance. They appear to think that primary producers should be left to struggle along in the best way they can. Nevertheless, it is vitally necessary to develop our primary industries for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is necessary that our country should have and continue to have a stable and well-balanced economy. Our trade balances are largely built up by the export of primary products. Secondly, we are faced with large increases in population in the future, and it will be necessary to feed them. The term "populate or perish" applies to this country perhaps more than to any other. I am aware that we have surpluses in some branches of primary industry, and that we export large proportions of our crops at present. However, in other branches we are consuming rather alarming proportions of the products. If I may give one example, in Australia we are eating 85 per cent of the total production of lamb, and the figure is rising steadily. Presumably in about 20 years' time, not a long period in terms of development, we shall need to double our present production of this commodity if our population is doubled as envisaged. We shall need it to feed ourselves and to maintain our overseas balances by exports. This is one of the many reasons why it is vital to encourage increased primary production. This sort of thinking can be related to other branches of primary production, with perhaps less startling but still thought-provoking results.

We are an exporting country in primary production, and we need to remain so as our primary production is a major source of maintaining overseas balances. While on the subject of lamb production I mention my satisfaction with the plan of the Australian Meat Board that was recently announced which provides over a period what is virtually a floor price for lamb. This may be a Commonwealth matter, but it affects our lamb producers generally and many constituents in the Midland district. The plan should be the means of securing better if not entirely satisfactory prices for lamb this year. I commend Mr. D'Arcy Cowell of Woodside, a member of the Australian Meat Board and the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board, who was responsible in some measure for what I believe to be a soundly based scheme.

Within the district I have the honour to represent lies a considerable portion of the Murray Mallee area. In passing I would note with satisfaction the great improvements in farming methods, in the broadening of the rural economy and in the adoption of practices for better conservation of soil in these areas. I believe that the work of the Wanbi Research Station, established by this Government, has been valuable in this regard, as has been the progressive outlook of the settlers in these areas.

Also, certain river areas are located within the Midland district, and I have noted with considerable interest over the past year or two the great improvements effected in the Waikerie and Loxton areas, and the schemes being put forward by private enterprise in those areas to develop their industry. I am pleased to see that the new Waikerie pumping station and the Loxton Research Station are both under way to becoming real assets in these areas. Here again I commend the spirit of enterprise and vision that has enabled primary producers in these areas to make many notable and worthwhile advances in their industries.

The fast growing city of Elizabeth is also in the district that I represent. I believe that this new city, for this is what it is and that is the status it will eventually achieve, is one of the finest examples of town planning in the

Southern Hemisphere and I congratulate the Government on the great success of its enterprise in this regard. Improvements are constantly under consideration or being carried out and I was pleased to see a recent announcement that improved transport facilities for outlying parts of the city were to be implemented. I compliment the Government on this action, which will assist residents of this city.

I conclude my remarks, Mr. President, by saying I was gratified to note the Government's plans to improve our roads and railways. These things have been dealt with in some detail by my colleague and I do not wish to speak on them at length, but simply wish to say that much progress has been made in recent years in both road construction and railway improvements. Communications are vital in this country and it is essential that we have adequate transport facilities. With other honourable members I look forward to a most interesting and valuable session, and I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.39 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 18, at 2.15 p.m.