

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Tuesday, September 18, 1962.

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

**ASSENT TO BILLS.**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Supply (No. 3),

Electricity (Country Areas) Subsidy.

**DEATH OF HON. A. J. MELROSE.**

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

That this Council expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. A. J. Melrose, member for Midland District, and places on record its appreciation of his public services, and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased honourable member, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

All honourable members were concerned at the recent illness of the late honourable member, but I am sure we were all shocked when we heard that his illness had led to his death. The late Mr. Melrose had a remarkable record of public service, a record that probably extended further than some people realize. Firstly, he had a long period of service as a legislator commencing with eight years as a member in the House of Assembly, representing two districts, the old Burra District (a three-member district) from 1933 to 1938, and the Stanley District (a single electorate) from 1938 to 1941. The latter district has since been removed under the Electoral Act. In 1941 the late honourable member transferred from Stanley to the Midland District of this Council, at the same time as the Hon. Mr. Bardolph came here. They were the two new members of this Council. That was 21 years and four months ago, so the service in the Legislature of the late honourable member amounted to 29 years four months, a long and remarkable period.

He also had extensive service in local government, covering a period of about 42 years. He was Chairman of the Stanley District Council from 1920 to 1932, a period of 12 years, and a member of the Clare District Council from 1932 until his death, a period of 30 years. He also interested himself in hospital work and was a member of the Clare Hospital Board of Management for nine years, being a member from 1924 to 1933, and Chairman for four years from 1924 to 1928. He also had a long association with the Royal Institution for the

Blind, being a member of the board of management from 1937 to 1962 and President from 1946 until the time of his death. The late member was also a member of the Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia, something in which he took a keen interest. His knowledge of things botanical was quite remarkable, and he was enthusiastic regarding the preservation of our fauna and flora. Mr. Melrose was Chairman of that board from 1953 until his death. He was also a council member of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia from 1938 until 1962, being President from 1949 to 1958. He was also recognized in his commercial undertakings as a director of a number of companies, including Elder Smith & Co. Ltd., of which he was Chairman for six years, and he was also on the directorate of the Mintaro Slate and Flagstone Company, whose operations were near his home, and he did much to develop that industry and maintain it as an integral part of South Australian industry.

It will be agreed that in the death of the honourable member we have lost a man of considerable experience and influence in a wide field of activity. I express the sympathy of honourable members to his widow and family in the loss they have sustained.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I associate myself and my colleagues with the remarks of the Chief Secretary at the passing of Alexander John Melrose. I do not intend to reiterate all the outstanding attributes of the late honourable member, who had a distinguished career extending over at least 42 years in local government and Parliamentary affairs. In addition, we must not be unmindful of the honorary work he did in connection with the Royal Institution for the Blind and the Zoological Gardens. One must admire him for his work for these institutions, which were so wide apart in their aims, the object of one being to assist those afflicted with blindness and that of the other to provide pleasure for children at the Zoological Gardens. I do not wish to add anything further, except to say that my colleagues and I extend to the late member's family our sincere sympathy and regret at his passing.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I wish to be associated with the motion and to express on behalf of members of the Liberal and Country Party in this place our sympathy to Mrs. Melrose, her son and two daughters.

The Hon. Colin Rowe and I had an excellent opportunity, while working with the

late Hon. Alexander John Melrose, to recognize and appreciate the very fine qualities this gentleman possessed. I think his record has been very fully covered by the Chief Secretary, but I think I might say one or two things about the late Mr. Melrose as an individual and a Parliamentarian. I consider his greatest quality was his humane nature which showed itself in his whole activity, both in this Parliament and in outside spheres. He had the ability to grasp a situation, whether it concerned agriculture, business, culture, or, for that matter, any situation. He was a very kindly person, as is well known to those who from time to time had experience of his kindness. He was one of the greatest purists of the English language. He was also a man with a great and subtle wit. We remember all these things. I believe he had done something for the State that will be remembered as long as the name of Melrose is associated with South Australia. I refer to his work for future generations in seeing that some of the beauties of nature are preserved in various parts of the State. His keen interest in philanthropic work was of great assistance to people who are handicapped physically. On behalf of my colleagues I am pleased to support the motion and to express to his relatives our most sincere sympathy at his passing.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL (Central No. 2): I know that it is slightly unusual for a back-bencher to rise on such an occasion as this, but my excuse for doing so is not only that I knew Mr. Melrose longer than many members of this place, but also that I was fairly closely associated with him in business. In view of the other speeches already made I have no need to refer in detail to his qualities or to the occupations he pursued. What I want to say is that he was a sportsman and a gentleman, a man of delicious and whimsical humour, and of great kindness, as the Hon. Mr. Story said. I could relate many reminiscences of him, but this is not the time for that. That will come later. He was full of courage to the end. It is only a week or two ago when he held court, as it were, outside this place in a station waggon driven by his daughter. Apparently he was not very mobile, but he had the courage to come in, feeling as he must have done at that stage, to see us all and, I imagine, possibly knowing that in doing so it would be the last time. I am happy to say that I know many members of this place besides myself had the pleasure and privilege of seeing and talking to him on that occasion, and it is a consolation to us. With deep feeling, I support the motion.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1): I wish to associate myself with the remarks made about the passing of the Hon. Alexander John Melrose. As pointed out by the Chief Secretary, the late honourable member and I entered this place in 1941, representing different Party interests. During the 21 years that I was associated with him in this place he always displayed tolerance, which is one of the finest attributes in politics, and conceded to those holding views diametrically opposed to his the right to be heard and saw that they were heard. In doing that he gained for himself the respect and admiration of members of both Parties in this place. I always observed, too, that during his Parliamentary career he gave a full measure of devotion to the man on the land. Whilst doing that he found ample time, as pointed out by the Chief Secretary and Sir Arthur Rymill, to play an important role in the economic and business development of this State. The opinions he expressed in this place on various political matters were always highly valued and bore the imprimatur of being well-considered before being uttered. He never failed to express those opinions fearlessly and with firm conviction, and in doing that he showed a fine attribute, conceding to all the right to be heard despite Party affiliations. This place and the State generally mourns the loss of the honourable member, because in every sphere of business and Parliamentary activity he comported himself as a great South Australian and followed the tradition of the Melrose family in helping in the progress of the State. I join with other members in expressing my sympathy to his sorrowing family and relatives.

The PRESIDENT: I associate myself with the remarks expressed about the passing of the Hon. Alexander John Melrose, who was a man who did great service for South Australia. He was a man who loved nature and all things good, and while loving them had the utmost sympathy and kindness for everybody who suffered some affliction. I listened to many speeches by the late honourable member in this place, and I enjoyed his excellent use of the English language. He had a wonderful knowledge of all land matters, and we know that he was interested in business matters. I think we shall largely remember him for his wonderful knowledge and his capacity to carry out the various duties associated with the farming and grazing industries in this State. In regretting his passing, I, too, express to his family my utmost sympathy in their loss.

I now ask members to stand in silence as a mark of respect to the late honourable member.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 2.35 to 3 p.m.]

### QUESTIONS.

#### ROYAL VISIT INVITATIONS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: In the *Advertiser* of September 11 appeared a report under the heading "Royal Tour 'Snub' to Woodville". It appeared that although the Mayor of West Torrens and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide were invited to meet the King and Queen of Thailand when they entered their districts, the same courtesy was not extended to the Mayor of Woodville when Queen Sirikit was in the Woodville district on Sunday, September 9. I am informed that the Mayor of Woodville was similarly overlooked during the Queen Mother's visit when she officially opened the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Will the Chief Secretary ascertain why the Mayor of Woodville was not invited to attend the function when the Queen of Thailand was in the Woodville district on a visit to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Sunday, September 9; also, will he ensure that the citizens of Woodville will not be similarly snubbed should Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth honour the city of Woodville with a visit during the Royal Tour next year?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The answer to the first part of the question has already been given to the Mayor of Woodville. I understand he communicated with the State Director who has replied, and he no doubt will be able to give the honourable member the answer, which I do not have here. Regarding any undertakings to be given for the Royal Visit, I advise the honourable member that invitations are issued after taking into proper consideration the instructions which are given prior to the visit. In every case, many people, including mayors and others, are considered for the appropriate function. There is no question of overlooking anybody. There are certain priorities—I think I can use that word—to be considered, and at all the various functions protocol has to be followed. If the honourable member wants a detailed reply I shall obtain the information from the State Director, who is responsible for issuing invitations according to the various priorities held by people concerned.

#### SMOKE NUISANCE.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: On September 13 a report appeared in the *Advertiser* of the annual meeting of the Municipal Association. In that report was a statement regarding the smoke nuisance from burning rubbish dumps within the Thebarton council area. It was stated that in the opinion of the council's solicitor nothing could be done to stop the nuisance under the existing provisions of the Local Government Act. Will the Minister of Local Government consider bringing down legislation to amend the Local Government Act to enable councils to have greater control over the smoke nuisance from dumps?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: This matter has arisen before, chiefly originating from householders who object to the smoke, fire menace, and inconvenience, particularly during summer months. A late Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade also raised this matter in respect of the Walkerville and St. Peters districts. We have not yet been asked to amend the legislation, nor has it been suggested that the legislation does not cover the situation. I agree with the honourable member that certain difficulties are associated with this problem and I will obtain a more detailed report for him.

#### POLIOMYELITIS.

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 refer to an article in the press dealing with "type three" poliomyelitis outbreaks, which are causing some worry in New South Wales. Has the Minister of Health any information on the number of inoculations in various age groups, and can he say whether a fair proportion of the population is covered against poliomyelitis? Also, does this inoculation, in his opinion, give any protection against "type three" poliomyelitis?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I have previously given figures regarding the effectiveness of inoculations and the campaign generally. A delay in the supply of serum was experienced, but that shortage has been overcome and the programme of inoculation has been continued. I notice from press reports that the figures are up in three States, but are not up in others. The effectiveness of the Salk vaccine has been proved in South Australian cases, and the cases occurring here

usually relate to people who have not had any inoculation. Every encouragement and opportunity is given for inoculation. Local government bodies are co-operating and are carrying out immunization programmes. I will obtain a report for the honourable member on type three infections and will also obtain up-to-date information on the various age group inoculations.

#### ROADS.

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: This afternoon's *News* carries a report of a statement made by the Minister of Roads that there may be some justification for increased petrol tax so that more money may be spent on our roads. What action has the present Government taken, over the years it has been in office, to have a large portion of the petrol tax garnered by the Commonwealth Government spent on our roads in the direction indicated by the Minister? Secondly, as the Minister has accepted an invitation from the Australian Road Federation to join the Australian delegation at the world meeting of the International Road Federation in Madrid next month what benefit, in the opinion of the Minister, will be derived from that conference in the interests of South Australia?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Firstly, the honourable member asked what the South Australian Government over a period of years had done to secure as much money as possible for roads from petrol tax. Ever since I have been Minister of Roads I have consistently said, assisted by the Premier when he has been at Premiers' conferences, that at least the full amount of the petrol tax and in recent years under the new Act an equivalent amount of the revenue gained from the petrol excise from each State, should be returned to the States. Recently, at the Loan Council meetings, the Premier stressed the point that he could not support the Victorian Premier (Mr. Bolte) in an attempt to obtain an increase of 3d. or 4d. a gallon in the price of petrol until he was satisfied that we could obtain an amount equal to the tax already collected. As honourable members well know we have not got that. On every possible occasion we have striven to get the greatest possible amount for road purposes. I expressed the opinion when the Act was passed, or before it was passed and an agreement was made, that we would not obtain

as much under the five-year plan as we would if we had all the petrol tax. I adhere to that opinion.

As to the second question, I understand the honourable member asked whether any advantage would be derived from my attendance at the meeting he mentioned. I could make a copy of the agenda available to the honourable member, but this is a world conference, with people speaking in four or five languages, so that it will be almost like a United Nations assembly, and to suggest that I will not benefit from it to the ultimate advantage of the State would show a lack of imagination. I believe it is a tribute to our Highways Department and to the State that I have been invited to attend.

#### SUBSTANDARD HOUSES.

The Hon. C. R. Story, for the Hon. F. J. POTTER (on notice): How many houses have been declared by the South Australian Housing Trust, under the provisions of the Housing Improvement Act, to be substandard and liable to rent fixation—

- (a) for the year ended June 30, 1960;
- (b) for the year ended June 30, 1961;
- (c) for the year ended June 30, 1962;
- (d) for the two months July 1, 1962, to August 31, 1962?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The Chairman of the Housing Trust reports:

- (a) 45.
- (b) 13.
- (c) 102.
- (d) 28.

In addition there are 11 houses where the owners and registered mortgagees have been given notice of the intention of the Housing Trust to declare the houses substandard in accordance with section 52 (1).

#### STUDENT HOSTEL ADVANCES.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (on notice):

1. How many applications have been received by the State Bank of South Australia for financial assistance under the Student Hostels (Advances) Act, 1961?

2. What number has been granted, to whom have loans been granted and what is the amount of each loan?

3. What security was accepted by the bank including the number of first mortgages and the number of second mortgages?

4. What is the formula adopted by the bank in allocating loans under this Act?

5. What interest rate is charged and what is the period of each loan?

6. Is the Treasurer the sole authority in determining the acceptance or rejection of applications?

7. If not, who determines the granting of these loans?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The replies are:

1. Seven applications falling within the authority given by the Act.

2. Two advances have actually been made—Churches of Christ Evangelistic Union Inc., £8,800; Westminster School Inc., £40,000. The other five applications are in varying stages of preparation and consideration.

3. Each advance has been secured by a first mortgage as required by section 9 of the Act.

4. The bank makes recommendations for the approval of the Treasurer within the funds appropriated, provided that the project is within the purposes specified in section 7 of the Act and the advance within the limits laid down by section 8 of the Act.

5. 5½ per cent per annum interest for a term of 40 years.

6. Applications are considered by the State Bank and provided the applications fall within the authority given by the Act, recommendations are made for the consideration of the Treasurer.

7. See reply to No. 6.

#### WOODVILLE NORTH, MANSFIELD PARK, ATHOL PARK AND WINGFIELD SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Woodville North, Mansfield Park, Athol Park and Wingfield Sewerage Scheme.

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the Auditor-General's Report for the financial year ended June 30, 1962.

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 4. Page 840.)

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I rise to support the Bill, which provides for a total Loan expenditure of £30,647,000 for works and services during 1962-63. Of this total £25,529,000 will be new, borrowed moneys. In addition the State will receive £9,000,000 under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. All this money will be available for financing the construction of houses, and will be supplemented by repayments to the Treasury of

about £150,000, making a total of £9,150,000 for housing during this financial year. The sum of £4,850,000 is allocated to the Housing Trust, £3,900,000 to the State Bank and £400,000 to building societies. In the line "Advances for Homes", the amount of £300,000 is really only a peg on which to hang an amount of nearly £5,000,000, which the State Bank administers under several Acts on behalf of the Government. Speaking generally, we can see that the amount set aside will assist not only in housing the people, but in giving employment to many in the building industry. For the Housing Trust under that line is an amount of £50,000, but in actual fact there is a total of £4,850,000 provided. On that total there will be a concessional rate of interest at 1 per cent less than for ordinary Loan Fund money, which will be made available under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. The trust can borrow £500,000 more from this source than in the previous year, which will be a help in the general housing position. The trust this year will have available for all purposes in its building programme no less than £12,800,000.

I suppose that housing is one of the main problems with which we are faced, especially houses for rental. There has been a change in the pattern of building houses in the last 25 years and I do not think that can be disputed. In the years preceding 1937, when the trust was formed, the responsibility for finding houses was on the shoulders of the individual. He had to make private arrangements to build, or find a house to rent. Industry accepted some responsibility by building houses for employees on a rental basis. Investors considered houses for rental a safe enough investment until their confidence was shaken by the depression in the early 1930's. Many families, especially in country districts, lived in substandard quarters either because they owned them or occupied them at a very low rent. During the war home building practically ceased and private investors found more lucrative avenues of investment. Men, money and material had to be channelled into the war effort. At the cessation of hostilities there was an unprecedented move in the building industry and industry generally (as a result of the sharp rise in the State's population) brought about largely by good Government management. Service personnel needed homes, many of them for the first time. They could obtain finance under the War Service Homes Act.

Rent control was imposed during the war years to obviate exploitation of the housing shortage. This fact, plus many better opportunities for investment, practically dried up the pool of the would-be landlords. Therefore, the Housing Trust had to assume the responsibility for providing nearly all the new rental houses built in this State. It is natural that under those circumstances many people have forgotten that there was ever any other method of providing rental houses. It became the accepted fact that when a person desired to marry or change his residence he looked instinctively to the trust to provide him with a rental house. Is it any wonder that there are long lists of applicants for rental houses? I favour the Government scheme to assist younger people to own their houses by means of a minimum deposit, long-term repayments, and an insurance protection in the event of the death of the bread-winner. I firmly favour house ownership wherever possible, but there is still a major need to provide cheap rental houses for people whose circumstances do not permit participation in the purchase scheme. The position has been further aggravated by the need during the last two years to rehouse thousands of people in temporary dwellings in permanent rental houses. In many country towns long waiting lists exist for rental houses, and that is not surprising when we consider that country areas provide employment for a proportionately higher percentage of the State's unskilled basic wage earners. There must be no let-up in the drive to provide rental houses for country areas if they are to expand as they should. Nothing will retard expansion more quickly than the lack of proper housing.

One object of the trust is to provide houses for wage earners at reasonable rentals. I feel sure we face a housing problem that must be looked at broadly. From time to time many airy-fairy ideas are put forward about housing people. The trust is the medium that will serve us best in getting people into houses. I can think of four or five towns with about 25 people in each awaiting rental houses. It is a difficult problem that is being tackled by the trust. We should not in any way retard the building of rental houses in favour of other schemes. We must give people who cannot afford to get into permanent houses, or do not want to do so, the opportunity to get rental houses.

In connection with loans to producers, the sum of £220,000 has been set aside for capital works for co-operatives. There is a slightly

new departure in this matter. It is said that the Government intends to ask Parliament to legislate to give the State Bank authority to borrow money as a semi-governmental authority and so reduce the amount of money to be provided from Loan funds. I will not proceed further on this matter now because there will be an opportunity to express ourselves during the debate on the legislation. The Government and the State Bank have done a magnificent job in providing help for producer co-operatives.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: You mean the State Bank, leaving out the Government.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The honourable member is well aware of the terms and conditions under which the State Bank provides money under the Act. It is reasonable for Parliament and the Government to get some credit for making the money available. The co-operative movement in many primary industries has been a great help to the producers. We are fortunate that we have such a set-up. The Hon. Mr. Shard said he could see nothing in the Loan Estimates to assist in reducing unemployment in the State. He was fearful that the Party, of which I am proud to be a member, had a reason for keeping a pool of unemployed people. I do not know why he should say that, because the record of the present Commonwealth and State Governments proves that they do not have that in mind.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: It is a sordid record.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The greatest period of development has been during the term of office of the existing Liberal and Country Party Governments in the Commonwealth and South Australia. I was interested to hear Mr. Shard make his comment, and it is proper for us to have a good look at the matter. My friend is resolved about it. He is good at quoting from news clippings. During his speech he read many extracts and referred to a newspaper which it was agreed that day does not lean towards the Government. In its leader the *News* said, under the heading "Speeding the Future", that it does not agree with Mr. Shard that there is nothing in the Budget for people who are unemployed. It said:

The increasing buoyancy of South Australia's economy will be given a further boost by the State Budget, which provides for increased spending in line with Commonwealth intentions.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: It was not out when I spoke.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Parliament has been adjourned for about a week, and this was out before the honourable member spoke.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: It was not out when I spoke.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The leader was in the issue of September 5. I do not know when the honourable member spoke.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I spoke on September 4.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Then we can exonerate the honourable member for not knowing the facts. It was obvious from his speech that he did not know them. In one day the whole thing changed because the *News* stated that the Budget was going to help us. I continue to say that this State is going ahead, and this Budget will reduce unemployment. The honourable member seemed to lean three ways. Firstly, he said that this Government believed in having an unemployment pool because it was a cousin to the Government in Canberra which also believed in it. He then said that we were not doing anything about reducing unemployment and, at the same time, said that there should be higher wages. I am not sure how these two matters can be tied up in one statement.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Let us be factual. Where did I say anything about higher wages in that speech? I did say something about a minimum wage, but nothing about higher wages. Stick to the truth, and quote what I said. I challenge you on that one because you are wrong again.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: If the honourable member would just quieten down—

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Quote where I said anything about higher wages!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: If I am given the opportunity I will explain what I said. The honourable member went to great lengths to say that he thought higher wages would not make much difference to our export trade. That is in *Hansard*.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I spoke about a minimum wage.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: What does this minimum wage mean? Is it £15 or £25 a week? The honourable member speaks in easy terms, but it is only good election stuff—more wages, fewer hours and no responsibility. However, some people are charged with the responsibility of running the State and trying to keep everybody in employment, and I believe that that is one of the purposes of the Bill before us.

The Government has in its wisdom made available moneys for essential works and whether the benefit is direct or indirect is incidental. The Government will be spending much money on public works, which means many pipes are needed, and this means more cement, sand and reinforcing material, as well as additional labour. Every one of these things snowballs into prosperity. The honourable member is wrong in saying that the Government's efforts are misplaced.

I took out figures showing the unemployment position and found that in 1938 there were 7,737 South Australians unemployed, on a 50 per cent smaller work force than we have today. In 1946 there were 3,147 people unemployed; in 1947—1,310; in 1950—431; in 1952—1,613; in 1955—1,207; in 1957—3,363; in 1958—5,082; in 1959—3,958; in 1961—9,035; and in 1962—6,886. If these figures are considered, it appears that in South Australia there must be between 2,000 and 3,000 people almost permanently unemployable; people who for various reasons leave positions and mooch about the country living from hand to mouth. In fact, on a work force in 1962 of 646,000 people a little over 1 per cent of the population is unemployed. That is not a high percentage. Members of the Labor Party would have us believe that these figures are merely those of the number of people getting relief but the figures I have quoted are of those who have applied for jobs. I have not pulled the wool over anyone's eyes. I also have the figures of those who received unemployment benefits during the same period, which are, of course, much lower.

I have some knowledge of this pool of unemployed persons, because from time to time they descend upon certain country towns for various reasons. Some come to work, some come to look at those who work, and some I think come for the good of their health. I am never sure. Some of them are employed in pea picking and some in fruit picking, and if there is a big contract job available many of the two or three thousand people who are included in those figures I have quoted all the time seem to descend upon country areas. I have paid workmen cheques between £100 and £120 for fruit picking, and within a week have received a letter from the labour office inquiring if I had employed a Mr. So-and-so and asking why he left my employment. I have replied that my work was completed and that the person had left. No inquiry was received as to how much I paid this person

and I did not disclose it, but within a fortnight of leaving my employment the person concerned applied for another job. That is quite proper, and I have no objection to it, but in all probability that person and many others who like this type of work and who do not wish to be tied down have obtained a job in some other part of the State.

I do not care what the honourable member says about unemployment figures in other States, New South Wales for instance. He may speak to his friend there who runs that State about that position, but as far as South Australia is concerned we should be fair and give credit to the employees, employers and the Government for maintaining a stable economy in this State. If you want to sell eggs you do not advertise that they are old, and if we want to sell our State we should not criticize everything about it. We can be critical of sections of the administration because that is what we are here for, but to set out to say that we are not being properly managed and in fact are being extremely badly managed seems to me to smack a little of politics.

The other point that the honourable member took great pleasure in raising dealt with a resolution agreed to in another place that was, I understand, a unanimous resolution to be sent to the Commonwealth Parliament in an attempt to obtain more money to assist with the rail standardization project that has been before the South Australian Parliament for many years. I remind the Council that the Government, of which I am pleased to be a supporter, signed an agreement with the Commonwealth Government and, therefore, it has had this project in mind for some time. I understand that politics were not involved in the resolution, but that it was a gesture from South Australia. My honourable friend spoke of a section of the Senators and said that, in his opinion, they did not do their job properly. I thought that if the resolution were sent to all Senators we could have expected a little assistance from all Senators.

Having listened for some years to Labor Party speakers advocating the principle of round-table conferences I would have thought Senator Toohey would have employed this principle by discussing with all South Australian Senators the best method of advancing South Australia's cause in the Senate.

Obviously Senator Toohey had prior notice of the precise terms of the resolution, which enabled him to take immediate action, and so gain an advantage over some other South Australian Senators, who did not receive the full text of the proposition until later.

Telegrams were sent from South Australia telling the Senators of the resolution and that very evening, without any consultation with all the South Australian Senators, which was the right course as this was a unanimous resolution from South Australia, at 8.22 Senator Toohey moved that certain words be added to the censure motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. I do not believe that was quite how the South Australian Parliament intended that this matter should have been handled. The South Australian Senators, in my opinion, should have had a discussion. If they could have reached some agreement in the matter so much the better for South Australia, but I believe this action was taken by political opportunists, and the debate developed into something detrimental to South Australia's interests.

I cannot give the honourable member, who lauded the efforts of his colleague in Canberra, any marks at all because I believe that if the matter had been handled in a proper and dignified manner something useful might have come out of the debate. The fact that it was tacked on to a censure motion speaks for itself. If similar circumstances arose here I would be interested to observe the honourable member's attitude. Indeed, he would have no choice, because he would have been told previously what to do. I am disappointed to see this serious question used as a political football. Without saying any more I support what has been done in another place on the standardization question. I support the measure before this Council, because I believe that in the same way as the Government has managed the affairs of this State over the last 24 or 25 years it is still putting forward measures that are stable. Perhaps those measures are not quite as palatable as they were, but they still offer stability to the State.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Do you think the electors agree with that?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: One of the marvellous things about this Government has been that it has not tried to buy popularity. It has done what it believes is best for the State, and I believe that the people of South Australia have had a very close shave. I believe they will realize just how lucky they have been since the last election.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: You could not have had your ear close to the ground, then!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: We will soon have a test of how close the public ear has been to the ground. I suggest that we honestly



tell the people of South Australia what we are doing and we can only leave it to the people to decide. After all, history has proved many times that the people have not always been right, but good sense usually prevails and we find, in the long run, that they come back to the field and see what is best for them. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES (Southern): I, too, rise to support this Public Purposes Loan Bill, and I congratulate the Government on achieving these financial plans for authorization by Parliament. The Loan funds are derived from meetings of the Loan Council which, I understand, was the brain-child of the late Sir Earle Page, a country man who joined forces with the Party of which I am a member, and I believe he deserves some credit for originating that council and that method of handling Loan funds.

My Leader has covered most of the relevant points and I shall speak briefly. Firstly, I congratulate the Chief Secretary on elucidating the Bill in such detail. Frankly, I seriously suggest that the intricate details of this measure are not apparent in the drafting of the Bill. At any rate, it is beyond my comprehension to obtain the full story. I congratulate the Chief Secretary on giving such full treatment to the subject for the edification of members. The Hon. Mr. Story dealt at some length with the statements made in this debate by the Leader of the Opposition and, in view of that, I shall drastically curtail my remarks. However, to rehash one portion, the Hon. Mr. Shard pointed out that he believed Government measures had not been strong enough to alleviate the unemployment position existing in the State. The honourable member, in referring to governmental schemes, insinuated that the Government had done nothing to improve the unemployment position. By that I imagine he meant that there were not greater allocations than in the past, and in fact that any jobs created were not new ones. I will not attempt to elaborate the new work that is being carried out by the Government. It is easy to say such things, especially for anyone with a short memory like the Hon. Mr. Bardolph, but I remind him of the developmental work at Port Stanvac, and work in connection with the railways and so on.

The Hon. Mr. Shard in his speech made no mention of the impact of private enterprise and overlooked completely that the Party I represent believes in encouraging the economic activity of private enterprise. I remind him

of recent newspaper articles, particularly those appearing in the *News* last week, which referred to the sudden increase in economic activity in this State, and of more and more people being employed by Chrysler's and Holden's—not because of the action of Parliament but because of the Government's far-sighted approach in the attraction of people and new industries to this State. I suggest that as well as the Government's action in connection with the Loan works programme, there is also the attitude of the Government which uses its intelligence and believes in the right of a person who works to retain some vestige of his profit and some fruits of his activity, to use a hackneyed phrase. A Government that believes in this will react to the economic situation which was brought about by the necessity of credit restrictions applied some 18 months ago.

I propose to present my own idea on the credit restrictions as they affect people on the land. The greater economic activity in South Australia has been brought about by the efforts of private enterprise. I shall now refer to something which I believe personally concerns you, Mr. President, namely, the allocation of funds under this Bill to provide a fishing boat haven at Lake Butler, Robe. In his explanation of the Bill the Chief Secretary said that £14,000 was allocated for this project, £10,000 to be used during the present financial year to start construction. I am sure that you, Mr. President, as well as other members representing this district, will hope that this scheme will be completed to the satisfaction of the fishing fleet at Robe as promptly as possible. I consider that it will attract tourists to Robe and will do much to help the fishing industry, which operates under some difficulties there. Over the years these fishermen have been mighty people who have bravely faced the elements in the way that many in this House would probably like the opportunity to do. I give full marks to you, Mr. President, for the work you have done over a period of 12 years to achieve the consummation of the project. I see that it was reported in another place that there was argument as to whose idea this was originally. In my short knowledge of Parliament, I am aware of the amount of work that you have put into this project over a long period, Mr. President, as you have also done with the proposed water scheme from the Murray to Keith. I must also congratulate members of the Public Works Committee on their conscientious approach to this kind of problem.

I should also like to refer once again, the second time in the last couple of months, to drainage in the South-East. It was reported recently that the Premier had said that the Land Settlement Committee should not have a second look at drainage in this area, and I saw it further reported that in the debate in the other House there arose the question of the advisability of drainage or no drainage, or the possibility of a little drainage, or a little more drainage. I feel that they have missed the crux of the problem existing there. I will only question in one way the wisdom of the drainage already undertaken, and that is because new conditions apply now compared with when the drains were constructed. That new condition is purely the heavy transpiration rate of the improved species of grasses planted in that area. I refer primarily to strawberry clover and secondly to lucerne, plants which grow more in the summer and use much moisture from the soil. Possibly it could be proved that because they are using such quantities of water they achieve a certain amount of drainage by themselves. That is the only way in which I would question the drainage already done. In a previous debate I said, and I now repeat, that different conditions apply now, and in my opinion the Land Settlement Committee could well have another look at future drainage in the South-East, because now it is a completely different problem. I was disappointed to see it hashed up in another place as one whole problem, because that is not so. The drainage works have achieved a grand job, increasing production throughout the entire area, but at this stage we have to consider the next step.

The Land Settlement Committee or any other committee that the Government saw fit to appoint could have a look at the future of drainage in three ways. First, we should see what type of check gates are necessary on the drains to allow a build-up farther north in areas where the country is possibly being overdrained. Secondly, we must also take care to see that fresh underground water supplies are not allowed to mix with salt water. About two years ago we dealt with legislation for the protection of underground waters. Thirdly, we should also consider a method to conserve some of the water in a natural amphitheatre or huge lake. Much of the water must go out to sea, but we should try to conserve some of it. If the water could be led to the north between the ranges (as they exist in the South-East) it would be a help in this area where there

is the possibility of insufficient underground water.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson: Do you think the Eight Mile Creek area has been overdrained?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: At this stage I think it has been slightly overdrained. I think one check gate has gone in, which tends to support my contention.

The Hon. N. L. Jude: Do you suggest storing water in Alfs Flat?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: That is the type of thing I mean. I am not an expert in this matter, but I think these three matters should be considered. I have given them in their order of importance. We should not confuse the issue and debate whether or not the whole drainage has been successful. That would be farcical in terms of present conditions.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Is it a seasonal problem?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I do not think it is.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: The Land Settlement Committee should know the position.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I give full credit to the committee for doing a job that has achieved a purpose, but we should now see where we are going next. I wanted to refer to what I said previously because people have been debating the matter of drainage along other lines.

I now want to refer to the man on the land and his attempt to derive a living from his work. I refer to rural credit. All members representing country areas know the extremely good job the Commonwealth Development Bank has done in terms of rural credit. It supplies credit to farmers and in some cases rural industries for developmental purposes, and I have no complaints about that. The bank has taken over one of the jobs originally envisaged for our State Bank, which, I believe, was set up to finance housing and to provide rural credit. Slowly but surely, as tends to happen with too much centralization or influence (the sort of thing the Labor Party envisages under electoral reform), one function is going high into the air in importance whilst the other is sinking lower and lower. The State Bank now supplies money for housing development and purchase, but not rural credit.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: What rot!

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I ask the honourable member to look at the line in the Bill to see whether or not I am right. I do not complain because the Commonwealth

Development Bank is handling this type of credit and doing an admirable job. In fact, I think it is taking on some propositions that might be questioned in terms of normal banking risks. The trading banks give credit to farmers for periods up to five years for certain projects. If the Hon. Mr. Bardolph wanted to get a loan to buy a pick-up baler he would be able to get it, but the availability of the credit is breaking down because there is no way in which young people, perhaps born and bred on small blocks and possessing a small amount of capital, can get on to properties of their own. Many members do not regard this as a serious problem, but I do.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: Now you are advocating Labor policy.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: No. It is my policy. How the honourable member dilly-dallies with his policy, and because of political expediency adopts something else, I do not know, but I wish I had some of his dexterity. Young people with a 30 per cent equity in the cost of a block of land should have a chance to get the necessary finance to buy it outright. Many conservative people suggest that an equity of two-thirds is much nearer the mark, and that might well be, but it is an absurdity when we consider the chances young people have of getting that much cash in these days. With a one-third equity there is no chance of borrowing money for the purchase. There is no easy way for the right person to get the other two-thirds. In years to come this is the type of action the Government must take. Ulrick Ellis wrote a book about the Country Party and had a graph showing food production trends as against population trends. He envisaged the doubling of the population of Adelaide within 20 years, and the graph made it plain that agricultural production in some lines would be insufficient to feed that population. We must consider this and over the years develop a method to enable young people, preferably married people who know their job and want to work, to get finance. They should have the chance, wherever possible, of getting the right sort of finance to achieve an ambition that in many cases now is being thwarted by their complete inability to know how to get the necessary money.

For the year ended June 30 last exports from Australia were valued at £1,071,000,000. Of this total 80 per cent was gained from primary production areas. This includes the export of raw material, in the full meaning of the word, as well as farm produce.

I understand that the agricultural side of primary production is handled by 11 per cent of the population of this country. That does not detract from the importance of country areas, because many towns in this State and in Australia depend for their existence on the degree of intensification of agriculture around them. I emphasize that point, knowing that whether we consider electoral boundaries or anything else, the importance of this section of the community cannot be overlooked.

I have heard the position of the primary producer likened to that of a residuary beneficiary in a will. The trade unions—and I am not criticizing them because I believe they are doing a good job—receive their share from the nation's economy because their members are covered by industrial awards with margins for skill and provisions requiring them to work no more than 48 hours a week (allowing eight hours as an average figure for overtime); the manufacturing and commercial sections of the community receive their share; but at the bottom of the scale in terms of national income is the primary producer. He is the residuary beneficiary—if there is anything left he gets it. That is the position in which the primary producer in Australia finds himself today.

I do not care to please the members of the Opposition more than I have already done, but I envisage that before long fertilizers will have to be subsidized in this country. I believe that, in time, the farm production of this country will be subsidized at consumer level. The products will not receive a direct subsidy, but the consumer will.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: That is Labor policy!

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I could not care less whose policy it is. I believe that in years to come this policy should be introduced because the agricultural and city sections of the community should live together for each other's benefit, and that one cannot progress without the other progressing with it. If primary production were subsidized at the consumer level, proper control over costs could be maintained. It would even be possible to lower the basic wage.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: That may be beneficial to all provided that the purchasing power remains satisfactory.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: At present the world is a changing place, and the Party to which I belong would not sit on the fence or support the *status quo* under these conditions. The Party, to which I am proud to belong, believes in modern thinking consistent with

changing conditions. I do not expect for one moment—quite contrary to what my honourable friends of the Opposition apparently believe—to find every member of my Party thinking as I do. That is not realistic, and I know that many members of my Party do not agree with me. However, we are not locked in a back room and told that we shall remain there and that the doors will not be unlocked until we have come to a uniform decision, a state of affairs which I understand applies in the Labor Party. However, that may be only a rumour.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: You are getting a bit mixed up. What about somebody wielding a big stick?

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I was not under the impression I was getting mixed up and I have not seen any big sticks lately. I congratulate the Government on introducing this Bill and also congratulate the Chief Secretary on his full explanation of what was contained in the Bill.

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

#### BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 4. Page 842.)

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern): This Bill, which I support, provides for the Government to guarantee the sum of £200,000 to the Commonwealth Trading Bank, and the bank will then advance £400,000 to the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited for the handling of bulk barley. This amount is not sufficient to carry out the projected plans for the bulk handling of barley, but growers will contribute £330,000. In good seasons, the toll will soon return all the moneys that have been borrowed. Today there are 70 silo centres in South Australia. That is a remarkable achievement, and I pay a tribute to the co-operative. Since July, 1955, the co-operative has exceeded all expectations in the building of silos and in the transporting of grain. It has created such confidence that financial assistance for further projects is supported by the Government, by Parliament, by the bank, and by growers themselves.

The majority of growers support bulk handling. There are about 20,000 wheat-growers in South Australia today, and 19,200 are registered members of the co-operative. Growers who are members of the co-operative contribute an annual toll of

6d. a bushel, and non-members contribute 4d. a bushel. Bagged wheat contributes 2d. a bushel and the total received in tolls to date is £2,585,132. Full members who pay 6d. a bushel will have the money repayable without interest after 12 years; that is, 13 years after the scheme commenced they will receive some of the money paid in tolls but without interest. It is called a revolving finance system.

The State Government has applied £1,250,000 to the conveyor belt bulk ship-loading systems at port terminals, and, as a result, the loading time of grain ships has been reduced from an average of 10 days to two days, or to one-fifth of the time. We have heard from Opposition members much about the unemployment question in relation to bulk handling, but there is more congenial employment than the handling and lumping of wheat. There has been much employment created in the building of silos and there will be much more created in the future by the making of equipment and maintaining silos.

During the depression days, when we grasped at every shilling, I took on a grain agency and lumped my own grain and any other grain received at the agency. That was the hardest work a man could be asked to perform. I believe that much more congenial employment was provided for the employees engaged at Radium Hill. I congratulate the Chairman and members of the Australian Barley Board and, in particular I refer to the late Mr. W. J. Spafford who was the Chairman of the board from its inception until his death. I believe that he was the most valuable man that I have known in South Australia on agriculture. He was a scientific, practical administrator and was most popular with primary producers throughout the State. He excelled as the Director of Agriculture and he would always converse in a language that primary producers could understand. The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia Incorporated has greatly missed him, and he was particularly missed this year at the Royal Show. I was pleased indeed to see a memorial erected to the late Mr. Spafford at the barley exhibit in the showgrounds. That gesture was much appreciated because of the little publicity given at the time of his death to a man who had given so much to South Australia.

Much doubt exists on the benefit to be derived from bulk handling of barley as against barley handled in cornsacks, but I believe that the

difficulties envisaged will soon be overcome. I appreciate that various grades are most important, and we have five grades of barley and their prices vary accordingly. When barley is handled in bulk the number of grades will have to be reduced to three, and three grades could be segregated under the bulk handling system. Moisture content is also important. Experience in bulk handling of barley over three years at Ardrossan reveals that the average moisture content is 11.65 per cent. I believe that the rapid progress made on aeration and temperature measuring equipment in the last year or two will obviate any problems in that direction. However, we must handle our grain in bulk for the following reasons. The Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks, after his recent trip overseas, reported that almost all the barley grown in Europe was stored and handled in bulk and purchasers of barley wished to buy it in bulk. Germany, he said, kept barley for 12 months at 13.5 per cent moisture content, and at Holstein barley could be kept for as long as desired at a moisture content of 14 per cent. I am sure that the alarm over the moisture content in this grain will prove not to be the problem that growers think it may be.

Growers are rapidly reducing the acreage sown to barley, and we find that they are increasing the wheat acreage because of greater profits in wheat. The swing to wheat has been brought about because of the cost of equipment to handle barley, the cost of cornsacks, sewing of bags, and labour, etc., where the grain is not handled in bulk. Last week one grower told me he could grow wheat more profitably at present producing seven bags to the acre than if he produced barley at 11 bags to the acre. This was due to the bulk handling facilities available for wheat. Furthermore, the first advance on wheat is 11s. 4d. a bushel, but the first advance on first-quality barley is 6s. 9d. to 5s. 3d., which is a great variation. Regrettably, too, the acreage sown to barley is decreasing. I say "regrettably" because of the value of barley as a rotation crop to wheat. Barley requires little nitrogen to give best quality results, and the stubble is splendid feed for stock.

I am sure that with bulk handling we shall see barley coming back into favour and to the position it held in the past. In my opinion it is the most profitable grain of all. There has been some talk of a referendum as to whether bulk handling of barley should be introduced. I believe that if such a referendum were held an overwhelming vote would be recorded in favour of the bulk handling of this grain. I support the Bill.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### MINING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 4. Page 833.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): In supporting the second reading of this Bill I do not wish to speak at length, because the Minister of Mines explained the Bill in considerable detail and told the Council of the need for it. Also, the provisions of the Bill have been well covered by previous speakers. However, I wish to support much of what was said by my colleague, the Hon. Mr. Story, particularly about activities in the area of the District Council of Mallala. In company with Mr. Story and Mr. R. S. Hall I recently inspected areas there where shellgrit had been excavated almost to the seashore. I am convinced, from what I saw, that if this sort of thing is allowed to continue it will enable seawater at high tide to inundate large areas of grazing land behind the district of Port Gawler and behind Port Parham, almost isolating the latter place.

Similar troubles exist in other areas such as Tea Tree Gully, Paracombe and West Beach where activities have been carried on that are not altogether unrelated to the activities at Mallala. Under those conditions the provisions of the Mining Act have been applied to materials such as clay, sand and shellgrit when, in actual fact, the Act was probably never intended to apply to those substances. I believe that the Minister should have power to impose safeguards where necessary, and I support the objectives of this Bill. I do not agree with the Hon. Mr. Bardolph when he questions the provisions in clauses 5 and 9, which aim to bring the necessary payments and penalties up to date. I believe that both these clauses are necessary and desirable having regard to present-day costs, and I am also of the opinion that some matters in the Bill will be best dealt with in Committee. Therefore, I do not intend to elaborate further on the Bill at this stage. I trust that honourable members will support this measure, because I am convinced it will improve the Act.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.44 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, September 19, at 2.15 p.m.