

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT (1963)

Parliament, which adjourned on November 1, 1962, was prorogued by proclamation dated December 6. By proclamation dated May 9, 1963, it was summoned to meet on Wednesday, June 12, and the Second Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, June 12, 1963.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. L. H. Densley) took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. Members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. The visit of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to this State in February was a source of great inspiration and pleasure to Her South Australian subjects. It is the sincere wish of us all that this second tour will be followed by successive visits in which we hope that members of their Family will be able to join.

3. We rejoice in the recent marriage of Her Royal Highness The Princess Alexandra to whom and whose husband we offer our sincere congratulations and good wishes for a happy future.

4. I refer to the visit to this State last year of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Thailand. The reception accorded to Their Majesties was but a manifestation of the bonds of friendship so happily subsisting between our two countries.

4A. Since this Parliament met last year a former Premier passed to his rest. I refer to the late Honourable Lionel Laughton Hill, a member of the Parliament for many years, who gave outstanding service to the State in many capacities. I pay a tribute to him and express our sympathy to the members of his family.

5. This Parliament has suffered the unfortunate loss of four of its outstanding members. I refer to the late Sir Cecil Stephen Hincks, for over 20 years a member of the House of Assembly and a Minister of the Crown for some 16 years; the late Honourable Alexander John Melrose, a distinguished member of the Legislative Council for 22 years; the late Mr. Ronald Frederick Ralston, a member of the House of Assembly for some four years, and the late Honourable Allan Charles Hookings, a member of the Legislative Council for nearly four years and one of the most outstanding of the younger members of this Parliament. I place on record our tribute to all of these men and know that you all join with me in expressing our sympathy

to the members of their families. I refer also to the late Edgar Russell, who represented the State District of Grey in the House of Representatives for nearly 20 years. To his family I also express our sympathy.

6. My Government continues its active policy of the provision of scientific services in all fields of primary production. Shearing and wool classing schools have been established in country centres. Detailed programmes have been continued in connection with the development of recommended wheat varieties. Pasture seed production, weed control, cereal research, and investigation into soil fertility and associated problems have received special attention.

7. Among important mining developments I mention a substantial rise in the value of opal production (now approaching £1,000,000); essential water supply for this industry has been maintained at heavy cost. Plans for a major salt field near Port Paterson are reaching fruition. The search for iron ore, petroleum and other important minerals receives the continued support and encouragement of the Government.

8. During 1962 the number of people in civilian employment in this State increased much faster than the average for the whole of the Commonwealth, whilst the percentage of persons registered for employment was almost the lowest in the Commonwealth. I commend both employers and trades unions upon their responsible attitude in the sphere of industrial relations which contributes to industrial stability. The Government is still concerned with the frequency of industrial accidents. It is pleasing to note that efforts to reduce these are receiving active co-operation from all sections of industry.

9. Progress has been maintained in connection with the supply and reticulation of water. Work on the storage dam on the River Torrens to augment the metropolitan water supply is in hand; the Myponga reservoir and pipeline and the Clarendon-Blackwood-Belair water supply scheme will be nearly completed during this financial year. A main to provide water to the foothills area and schemes for Lenswood and the Stirling-Crafers area, as well as a trunk main between Port Stanvac and Seacliff, are in hand. The booster station on the Adelaide-Mannum pipeline at Angas Creek is almost completed. Schemes for supplies or improvements to existing supplies to areas in the South-East, Angaston, Orroroo and Murray Bridge are in various stages of construction and the Lincoln Basin Scheme came into full

operation in December, 1962. In order to meet a critical supply position on Eyre Peninsula, the Polda underground basin was harnessed and connected to the Tod River system in November last. This enabled supplies to be maintained through the whole of the Eyre Peninsula system during last summer. At the present time the Public Works Committee is examining ways and means of providing an improved supply for the township of Kimba, and already an additional 4,000,000 gallons of storage has been completed and filled. The Public Works Committee is also investigating a proposal for certain extensions to the Yorke Peninsula scheme. Considerable progress has been made in the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline. This will enable extensions to Burra, Booborowie and Wirrabara to proceed in due course. Agreement in connection with the Chowilla dam has been reached and the necessary legislation to ratify the arrangements with the Commonwealth and other States concerned will be laid before you.

10. It is estimated that nearly £12,000,000 will be spent on roads during the current financial year and the amount is expected to rise next year. The Gawler by-pass has been completed. The provision of additional ferries over the River Murray at Kingston and Berri, the reconstruction of the South Road, construction of a divided highway between Crafers and Stirling and the widening of the main Yorke Peninsula road are in hand.

11. Improvements to our railway system continue. Sixty miles of main line have been relaid with heavier rails; 12 new diesel-electric locomotives have been placed in commission; 190 new items of rolling stock have been constructed at Islington and 750 other items reconditioned. Bills will be laid before you to authorize the closing of the Balhannah to Mount Pleasant railway and the construction of a new line from Ceduna to Kevin to facilitate the haulage of gypsum. I am happy to inform you that agreement has been reached with the Commonwealth for the standardization of the gauge on the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line. This important work will commence as soon as possible. Any legislation which may be required in connection with it will be laid before you.

12. The Electricity Trust of South Australia has had a very successful year, the number of consumers having increased by 16,000 to a total of 310,000, the highest increase in any year. Following the legislation enacted during last session tariffs in all country areas supplied by the trust were reduced to within ten

per cent of metropolitan rates as from October, 1962. Electricity in this State remains cheaper than in any other mainland State. To assist the trust in maintaining its low rates a measure will be laid before you to exempt its transformers and transmission lines from rating by local governing bodies. The trust continues to give a high priority to the extension of supplies in country areas. For the first time the expenditure on rural power extensions exceeded £1,000,000 and now over 3,300 miles of single wire earth return line are in use. Work has commenced on the construction of the important Torrens Island power station, the biggest single project in the history of the State.

13. Progress continues in the field of education. The number of pupils in departmental schools is now nearly 186,000. In April the school leaving age was raised to 15 years although many more children are now voluntarily remaining at school for a longer time. Provision for accommodation of the growing school population is proceeding with vigour. In the year 1962 expenditure on buildings for educational purposes amounted to just over £7,000,000. Since July nine large new schools have been completed and new wings in solid construction have been added at 13 other schools, making a total provision of 481 classrooms. The supply of teachers continues to improve. There are now 2,644 students at the three teachers' colleges and over 3,000 teaching scholars preparing to enter training. During the year leaving honours classes were established at five additional secondary schools, including three in country centres, and will next year be established in a further five country and metropolitan high schools.

14. My Government continues to promote housing activity in the State. The Housing Trust now has over 24,000 rental houses with an annual rental income of £3,700,000. It is a tribute of the tenants of these houses and to the trust that since its inception 25 years ago the Housing Trust has written off the negligible figure of only £2,116 for bad debts. Of 1,985 temporary houses provided to meet the emergency housing position after the war all but 174 have been vacated and the few remaining will be vacated in the near future.

15. Work will proceed on major constructions already commenced at various hospitals including the Royal Adelaide and those at Port Lincoln and Northfield. Extensive alterations and improvements are in progress at the various mental health institutions and consideration is being actively given to the building of the alcoholics centre at Northfield.

16. Maintenance and improvement of public health services particularly in the fields of occupational health, school health services, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis have been continued and will be extended. The second chest X-ray survey has been completed and the attack on tuberculosis which has been in progress for 15 years is to be continued for a further five years.

17. Following the enactment of the Aboriginal Affairs Act last year a new board, which includes one member of aboriginal blood, has been appointed. The department has continued the policy of making special provision in its building programme to assist in aboriginal housing and arrangements have been made for the Education Department to accept the responsibility for providing all educational facilities at mission schools with the concurrence of the authorities concerned. Increasing encouragement will be given to aboriginal people to accept greater responsibility in their life in the community.

18. The work of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department has continued to increase. To cope with this work more staff will be provided for field work, and an expanded staff training programme will be undertaken. The first stage of the new building at Vaughan House was completed last June and work on the second and final stage will soon be started at a total expenditure of £238,000. Detailed plans and specifications for the senior boys' reformatory at Magill and the junior boys' reformatory at Campbelltown are at an advanced stage, which will enable work on them to proceed during the coming year.

19. My Ministers will move for the restoration of the Business Names and Land Agents Act Amendment Bills to the stages reached during the last session.

20. An extension of the prices legislation for a further period of 12 months will be sought. Also under consideration are amendments to enable the Prices Commissioner to carry out investigations into improper trading practices and curb undesirable practices in connection with the sale of goods.

21. As foreshadowed by my Treasurer towards the close of the last session, a Bill to amend the Industrial Code will be laid before you. A draft, which has been considered by all interested parties, has been circulated for consideration by members.

22. A Bill to amend the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act to provide additional funds for the trust will be laid before you.

23. It is proposed to suspend the imposition of amusements duty for a further three years.

24. It is the intention of my Government to lay before you a Bill to enable grants to be made to local governing bodies which contribute towards the establishment of clubs for aged citizens.

25. My Ministers are considering legislation to provide for a contribution by road users towards the maintenance of our highways along lines somewhat similar to those in other States.

26. The Electoral Commission appointed to consider the redivision of the State into electoral districts has commenced its labours and if its work is completed in time legislation to give effect to its recommendations may be laid before you.

27. In September, 1962, my Treasurer introduced into Parliament a budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a deficit of £603,000. During the following two or three months it seemed that a relatively poor season would lead to an increase in that estimated deficit. However, the effects of the season were less adverse than at first appeared, the general tempo of the economy gradually increased, largely as a result of my Government's efforts in the previous financial year, and the result was a steady improvement in all major items of State revenues. At the same time it became impossible to secure the necessary number of qualified people, particularly in the Hospitals and Police Departments, and as a consequence there have been savings against the original estimate. Improving revenues and savings in expenditure are now expected to convert the estimated deficit to a moderate surplus. The Loan budget presented to Parliament in August last anticipated that expenditure on capital projects would exceed funds becoming available currently by some £500,000. At the meeting of the Australian Loan Council held in February last it was decided that a further stimulus to the public works programmes of State Governments, semi-governmental bodies and local government authorities would be in the best interests of the Australian economy. South Australia secured a special grant of £691,000 which was applied immediately to speed up several country water supply projects; an increase in the Loan funds of a similar amount of £691,000 was allocated mainly to housing advances. The rate of progress on a number of works has lately been slower than was expected, because with the increasing economic activity contractors have been able to attract other work and spread their resources more widely. As a result Loan funds available will be adequate

during the current financial year. Any unspent balance will be fully committed in the programme for the next financial year.

Members of the House of Assembly:

28. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of £1,064,000 during the current financial year, mainly in connection with the special grant to which I have referred, will be laid before you. Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1964, will also be laid before you.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly:

29. A Supply Bill appropriating £18,000,000 for the public service of the State during the early part of the next financial year will be laid before you forthwith.

30. In addition to measures which I have already mentioned, my Ministers are considering legislation on a variety of subjects including brands, explosives, fruit fly compensation, highways, local courts, motor vehicles, road traffic, opticians, pharmacy, phylloxera, scaffolding, secondhand dealers and veterinary surgeons.

31. I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations may be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

NEW MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

The Hon. Renfrey Curgenven DeGaris, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the President, took his seat in the Council as a member for the Southern District in place of the Hon. A. C. Hookings (deceased).

DEATHS.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

That the Legislative Council express its deep regret at the recent deaths of two distinguished former members of this Parliament, the Hon. Sir Cecil Stephen Hincks, former Minister of Lands, Repatriation and Irrigation, and the Hon. Lionel Laughton Hill, former Premier of this State, and place on record its appreciation of their public service, and that as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased honourable gentlemen the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

In his Opening Speech the Governor referred to the number of deaths that had occurred during this Parliament. We have already paid our tribute to the other members mentioned, but

the two gentlemen I have just mentioned died since last session. Sir Cecil Hincks was well known to all members of this Parliament and was the type of man who endeared himself to everybody regardless of political opinion. He had a long period of service as Minister—a record for the portfolios he held—of nearly 17 years. He served also on the Land Settlement Committee and as a private member for a period before he became a Minister, his total Parliamentary service being 22 years.

The Hon. Lionel Hill is known familiarly only to the older members of this Parliament. He was a member of the House of Assembly for 18 years, first as a member for the old East Torrens electorate and then, for some 15 years, I think, for the country electorate of Port Pirie. He was a Minister for six years, holding the portfolios of Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Education, and Minister of Industry for nearly three years and he was Premier, Treasurer, and Minister of Education from 1926 to 1927, and again from 1930 to 1933.

Mr. Hill was Leader of the Opposition between 1927 and 1930 and Agent-General for South Australia in London from 1933 to 1935. In addition, he had many years' experience in local government—in fact, being an active member of local government at the time of his death. He was also prominent in sport, being an interstate footballer and a member of the famous Norwood club. His record is well known to supporters of that club.

These two gentlemen gave distinguished service to their State in politics and in other fields. On behalf of this Chamber I offer this tribute and our sympathy to members of their families.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion. Those of us who knew the late Sir Cecil Hincks felt that his passing was a sad blow. He was the type of gentleman whom it was a pleasure to know. His was a lovable character. I knew him since 1944 and in all those years I never heard a member of either Party say one word against him, either from what he said in the House or for his feelings towards any member.

Sir Cecil had a long and distinguished career as a member of Parliament. He first became the member for Yorke Peninsula in 1941, a seat that he held until his death. He was Minister of Lands, Repatriation and Irrigation from 1946 to 1953. Prior to that he had served a term on the Land Settlement Committee. As he was a man of the land and a farmer in his own right, that appointment met with

general approval. His very character and nature enabled him, as we all know, to do a really good job as Minister of Lands, always being sympathetic to the disabilities of people attempting to settle on the land.

He had a distinguished war record. As we all know, he suffered a terrific disability in the First World War, but never once did we hear Sir Cecil bemoan the fact that he was minus a leg, except that he always used to crack that enjoyable joke: it did not matter what was said about him, he was always on his right leg! Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him, deeply regret his passing. My colleagues join with me in extending, as we have already done, our sincere sympathies to Lady Hincks and her family.

I had not the pleasure of knowing the late Mr. Lionel Hill. However, his distinguished service to the State and his reaching the high office of Premier indicate that he must have had outstanding abilities. My colleagues and I extend our sincere sympathies to his family.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): My Party and I wish to be associated with the motion. Those of us who knew the Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks were indeed privileged. I think I had as close an association with him as most young members. Indeed, I probably owe the very fact that I am a member of this Parliament to the encouragement and help that he gave me in earlier days. He was born at Port Victoria and never forgot that Yorke Peninsula was the place of his infant nurture. He was educated at Gawler and at St. Peter's College. He enlisted in the 10th Battalion, the very first battalion to leave this country in the First World War. Sir Cecil served at Gallipoli and was badly wounded in France. To a lesser man that wound would have been a crippling blow, but Sir Cecil, even minus a leg, was prepared to volunteer for and offer his services in the Air Force of that day. He returned to civilian life after many months of illness and made a niche in Yorke Peninsula that it would be difficult for anybody to fill.

He entered the business world, cleared land and became a practical farmer and a wheat agent for that area, where he remained until he entered Parliament in 1941. He served as a councillor for the Returned Servicemen's League for a record period from 1922 until 1946. In the district of Yorke Peninsula, wherever one went, if he happened to be in the company of Sir Cecil he was immediately accepted. If Sir Cecil stopped his car at any town in his district it was the signal for people to come and see him. My colleagues in

Midland, and particularly the Attorney-General (Hon. C. D. Rowe), who was so closely associated with Sir Cecil, sincerely mourn his death. Long after most of us have gone he will be remembered as the father of the Second World War land settlement schemes. He played a most important part not only as a member of the committee that did the initial investigation but also as Minister. By those who have become land settlers he was considered a real father. We do regret his passing and offer to Lady Hincks and her son and daughter our most sincere sympathy. I cannot think of two people who served this State with greater dignity or who were so well accepted throughout the whole State as Sir Cecil and Lady Hincks. I associate myself and my Party with the motion.

I also associate my Party with the reference in the motion to the passing of the Hon. L. L. Hill. He was not well known to many of the younger members of this Parliament, being out of practical politics in this State for some time, but he served in a period in the depression years which was most difficult for any Leader and his practical approach to the problems of that time are well known to those who have read and studied the history of this State. The Hon. L. L. Hill served a period overseas representing this State, and when he returned—and that was the only opportunity most of us had of knowing him—he again entered public life. His widow had been—as most Cabinet Ministers' wives have to be—a great helpmate to him and we extend our deepest sympathy to her also. I would like to add my tribute to the late honourable gentlemen.

The PRESIDENT: Before putting the motion I add my tribute to the memory of the late honourable gentlemen. We all remember with gratitude the courteous and efficient way in which the late Sir Cecil Hincks carried out his onerous Ministerial duties over a long and difficult period of the State's development. We admired his many fine qualities, particularly his courage in overcoming serious disabilities. His real understanding of the problems of ex-servicemen enabled him to carry out effectively the difficult task of developing land for the settlement of ex-servicemen. Sir Cecil endeared himself to all who were privileged to know and serve with him, and he will be long remembered.

We remember, too, the great public services of the late Hon. L. L. Hill, a former Premier of this State, who played an important part in leading the Government during a period of great world economic stress. I have conveyed

to the relatives of the deceased honourable gentlemen the sympathy of the members of the Legislative Council, which was greatly appreciated by Lady Hincks and Mrs. Hill.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 1.05 to 2.30 p.m.]

CONGRATULATIONS TO GOVERNOR.

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that I have conveyed to His Excellency the Governor the felicitations of the members and officers of the Council on the honour conferred upon him by Her Majesty the Queen during the recent Royal Visit. His Excellency has asked me to convey to all members and officers his deep appreciation of their kind thought and his very best wishes.

PETITION AGAINST RETURN OF MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT: I lay on the table a petition against the return of Mr. R. C. De Garis as a member of the Legislative Council for the Southern District, signed by John Godfried Gartner pursuant to section 179 of the Electoral Act, 1929-1959. The Clerk has certified that £50 has been lodged with him as security for costs.

Petition received and read.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN moved:

That the petition be referred to the Court of Disputed Returns, which is hereby directed to meet on Thursday, June 13.

Motion carried.

QUESTIONS.

SALE OF EDUCATION BOOKS.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Can the Attorney-General supply me with the following information:

1. How many people were proceeded against by the Ruskin Group (Education Division), Pty., Ltd., in the Local Court at Millicent in connection with the sale of books?
2. How many were women?
3. How many were convicted?
4. How many were given 10 days in gaol in default?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I cannot give the honourable member the replies without first getting the information, which I shall be pleased to do. I think that the honourable member is referring to the recovery by the Ruskin Group of moneys which are allegedly due to it in respect of sales it has made. I may say that not in the Millicent Local Court but elsewhere we have prosecuted certain people in connection with the sale of its books and

the representations it has made in connection therewith and sometimes we have been successful.

STUDENT HOSTELS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: During last session legislation was passed for advances to student hostels. It would appear from the Act that a second mortgage can be taken by the State Government for the purpose of granting a loan for the erection of these buildings when a first mortgage has already been given for their purchase. I find that I have had several requests made to me in connection with the security that can be offered to the State Bank in this connection. I desire to ask the Minister representing the Treasurer whether the Government, during this session, will amend the Act for the purpose of making it more elastic so that these student hostels can be provided with security by the State Bank of South Australia.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I shall be happy to refer the honourable member's question to the Treasurer.

STURT HIGHWAY.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: My question deals with the Sturt Highway between Berri and Renmark. At present the Highways Department is engaged in the extensive reconstruction of this particular section of the road. It appears that there is no provision for a double-line highway from the railway crossing at 28th Street in the Renmark irrigation area. This is the most dangerous section leading into the town. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads consider making it a double-line highway, and can he say what plans are actually in hand for the implementation of this particular matter?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I understand that the Minister of Roads is attending an official conference in another State. I will refer the honourable member's question to him on his return and get the information required.

NORTH PARA RIVER RESERVOIR.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I believe that last year preliminary inquiries were made in another place as to the practicability of constructing a reservoir on the North Para River. Such a reservoir could be very valuable in supplementing supplies to the Barossa Valley and also in augmenting the quantity of water available to mains now served by the Warren reservoir. I am aware that the North Para is a fast-flowing stream and that there may be certain difficulties involved in this proposal. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Works say whether further investigations have been made or are to be made in this matter?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I have not the detailed information sought, but I shall be pleased to refer the matter to my colleague and find out what investigations are being made and let him have a detailed reply.

COMPANIES ACT.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Can the Attorney-General say whether it is proposed by the Government to bring down amendments to the Companies Act passed last session to meet circumstances that may arise from the passing of such an Act in order to protect the investing public from a recurrence of the financial collapse of certain companies recently?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: The position is that the Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General meet from time to time and consider representations regarding amendments that should be made to try to keep the legislation up to date, and to prevent as far as possible the unfortunate upsets that have occurred in regard to some companies. I assure the honourable member that these matters are constantly before me and when we feel that there is a need for an amendment the matter receives consideration.

SPEED LIMIT THROUGH ELIZABETH.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Over a period of two years since the new dual highway has been completed through Elizabeth the Minister of Roads has said that in due course we would have regulations brought down to prescribe a more realistic speed limit through the area. I realize that the Minister is not present today, but when he returns I would like to have a reply as to when we can expect the regulations to be before us. It is causing a certain amount of inconvenience to the travelling public in having an unrealistic speed limit through the area.

The PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member put the question on notice?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: In view of the pending adjournment I think it might be better if I promised to get the information for the honourable member prior to the resumption of the session. Perhaps he could be given a written reply before then. I understand that plans are nearing the stage where traffic lights will be installed at Elizabeth at several spots where there are crossings. I will refer the question to the Minister of Roads and get a reply.

EDUCATION GRANTS.

The Hon. L. R. HART: In view of the expanding needs of education will the Premier consider requesting the Commonwealth Government to give sympathetic consideration to increasing the grants to the States for education?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I shall be pleased to refer the question to the Premier for his consideration. However, I would like to say that in the matters of education and the provision of amenities for staff at schools and universities this State has, I believe, met the position far more satisfactorily than other States, and our problem is by no means as serious as it is elsewhere. I assure the honourable member that we are anxious to keep up to date with our education requirements and I shall be happy to refer the question to the Premier.

PORT ROAD INTERSECTION.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I approached the Minister of Roads some time ago about the delay in the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Clark Terrace, the Port Road and Cheltenham Parade. It is a bad intersection and I believe the worst on the Port Road with the possible exception of the one at Southwark. I got a reply indicating that the land acquisition would be completed within six weeks. I and the people who have approached me are concerned about this bad intersection. Can the Chief Secretary tell me whether the acquisitions have been completed, what priority this intersection will have in the installation of traffic lights, and when we may expect the work to be started and finished?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I will take up the matter with the Minister of Roads and get a reply.

TERTIARY EDUCATION.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Education noted the report of the survey of students of representative councils at the Melbourne University dealing with an increased grant from the Commonwealth for tertiary education? If so, does the Government intend to join with the other State Governments for the purpose of seeking further monetary aid in the direction indicated?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I have already answered a similar question, but in reply to the honourable member's specific question I should like to say that I saw only a press report of what the students at the Melbourne University are alleged to have discovered in this matter. I am happy to refer the matter to the Premier to take such action as he thinks fit.

ROBE BOAT HAVEN.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I ask leave to make a brief statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Some time ago work was begun on a project to provide a boat haven in Lake Butler at Robe. This is a matter in which you, Mr. President, have taken a keen interest. The provision of the amenity is urgently required in the area for the fishing fleet in the South-East. Can the Chief Secretary, representing the Minister of Works, say whether funds can be made available for the completion of this work as soon as possible?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I will refer the matter to the appropriate Minister—I think the Minister of Agriculture.

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:

Lobethal Sewerage System,
Gumeracha Sewerage System (Revised Scheme),
Balhannah to Mount Pleasant Railway,
Port Pirie-Cockburn Railway Line Regrading,
Nangwarry Sawmill Log Bandmill Machinery,
Thevenard to Kevin Railway,
Gawler Adult Education Centre,

Port Paterson Bulk Loading Facilities,
 Augmentation of LeFevre Peninsula Water
 Supply (Trunk Water Main from Port
 Adelaide to Glanville),
 LeFevre Peninsula Sewerage Scheme (Draper
 South, Draper North, Taperoo and
 Osborne),
 Largs Bay-Birkenhead Trunk Sewers Recon-
 struction,
 Wallaroo Harbour Improvements.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Chief Secretary, the Hons. Sir Frank Perry, Sir Arthur Rymill, and A. J. Shard.

Library: The President, the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, M. B. Dawkins, and G. O'H. Giles.

Printing: The Hons. S. C. Bevan, R. C. DeGaris, G. J. Gilfillan, L. R. Hart, and A. F. Kneebone.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) moved:

That pursuant to Joint Standing Order No. 21 the Hon. F. J. Potter be appointed a member of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation in place of the late Hon. A. C. Hookings.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. R. C. DeGaris, L. R. Hart, A. J. Shard, C. R. Story and the Chief Secretary be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on July 23, 1963.

Motion carried.

MARINE ACT AMENDMENT ACT.

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of the Council to a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* dated February 28, 1963, signifying Her Majesty's assent to the Marine Act Amendment Act, 1962.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

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

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

A similar Bill is presented to Parliament every year to provide funds for carrying on

the Public Service pending the presentation of the Budget. It is the usual short Bill consisting of three clauses, the first one being the short title, the second clause setting out an amount of £18,000,000 (which is sufficient to meet the normal expenses of the Public Service for July, August and part of September). A second Supply Bill will be required in mid-September and that should enable the Public Service to carry on until Parliament has considered and passed the Appropriation Bill for the financial year 1963-64. As set out in clause 3, no payments are to exceed last year's Estimates except in certain respects. That is a control based on the spending of the previous year. The other provision in clause 3 provides for the payment of any increases in salaries or wages that may be authorized by any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe salaries or wages. Those are the usual conditions of a Supply Bill, with which honourable members are familiar.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I support the Bill, which is usually put before us at this time of the year. In fact, the main reason for calling Parliament together, as I understand it, is to do just what this Bill provides: generally, to meet the salaries and wages of various people that have been determined by the court or other authority, including any wage increases or adjustments that have taken place since Parliament last met, which, on this occasion, are considerable. There is something in particular I should like to say on salaries and wages. We have no objection to meeting those increases in public servants' salaries, but I am not very happy so far as I am concerned personally. While it is gratifying to support a Bill which provides for increases in the salaries of public servants, on the other hand one is entitled to put his own case before Parliament. I am tired of walking around this city and hearing people say how well I have got on and how well paid I am for my particular job. I want to place it on record and let the world at large know that since I have been appointed Leader of the Opposition in this Council I have been considerably out of pocket. I emphasize that I have not received one penny in salary or wages for doing this work; indeed, I have made a personal sacrifice since being appointed Leader of the Opposition.

Prior to being appointed Leader of the Opposition I was able to do some outside work which did not interfere with my Parliamentary duties one iota. On assuming the office of the Leader I resigned from those particular

duties. I have sacrificed £500 a year and if anyone doubts that it can be authenticated from a public audit. I am not greatly concerned about that aspect, but the Government should be prepared to pay a reasonable rate for a job that has to be done. It is not the first occasion in this Council that I have heard a Leader of the Opposition complaining about his salary. My dear old friend, the Honourable Mr. Frank Condon, raised this matter on more than one occasion, and I think it is time that the Government, irrespective of who is concerned, recognized the standing of the Leader of the Opposition. One cannot do more than attend to his duties to the best of his ability. I have numerous calls on my pocket that would not occur but for the position I hold. I have been embarrassed on more than one occasion because of the lack of transport.

This is not the first time I have made a request for recognition. On one occasion I was refused transport. As the Leader of the Opposition is recognized by outside organizations, he should not be placed in the position of having to drive his own vehicle or make arrangements to get other transport. I believe that the least the Government should do, and I say this quite sincerely, is to see that, when the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in the Legislative Council receives invitations to attend certain functions, he is not embarrassed by the lack of transport. Recently I had to go direct to the Premier and put my cards on the table because I was receiving invitations to functions that it would have been utterly impossible for me to attend without running myself into excessive costs. On the occasion to which I referred the Premier met my request, but it should not be necessary each time to go cap in hand and ask whether transport can be provided for me. This matter of transport was taken up with the Government on an official basis as far back as January, and as yet there has been no reply.

As Leader of the Opposition, I receive no other clerical assistance than that provided for an ordinary member of Parliament; I must prepare my own speeches and towards the end of a session there may be two, three or even four Bills introduced during an afternoon and normally I am expected to reply on the next day.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: You share the Bills out, though.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes, but quite often I am left with up to four Bills to read in one afternoon and make a reply the next

day. It is essential that added clerical assistance be made available to allow me to do my job properly. I shall not continue any further in this strain, but I think it is time that it was recorded in *Hansard* that the Leader of the Opposition is expected to do his job without one penny of remuneration apart from his salary, without any transport being made available and without clerical assistance. I hope that the Government will give reasonable consideration on a general basis to the question of members' salaries during this session.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1): I support the Bill for the expenditure of £18,000,000. In his speech on the second reading the Chief Secretary informed members that it was the usual procedure early in a session for such a Bill to be introduced. We understand that the measure is for the purpose of meeting certain expenditure, including salaries, for various Government departments until such time as the Budget is brought down. We are asked today to discuss the expenditure of £18,000,000 out of the general revenue of the State for the next financial year. I intend to start my criticisms rather early this session by condemning the Government for asking us this afternoon to make provision for the expenditure of £18,000,000. Apart from the Chief Secretary, no other honourable member knows where one penny of this amount is to be allocated. My criticism is that this Bill was to be introduced so soon, either today or tomorrow.

The Government knew that it would introduce legislation of this nature for the expenditure of this money and for the appropriation of money out of general revenue for the period expiring at the end of next financial year—not this financial year. I contend that it had plenty of time to have the Bill prepared and laid before members so that they would have had an opportunity to know how the money was to be spent and what allocations were to be made to the various departments. Quite recently an inquiry was held into public servants' salaries by the Public Service Arbitrator, and increases were granted in various grades. I understand that there is to be a period of retrospectivity. I do not know that any of this £18,000,000 that we are asked to put through today is for the purpose of meeting these additional salaries, including retrospectivity, granted by the Arbitrator, or whether they will have to wait until the Budget is brought down about September, when the allocations to the various departments

will be made; nor do I know how long public servants will have to wait until their increased salaries, including retrospectivity, are paid.

Another matter that I desire to bring before the Council is that for a considerable time there have been conferences between the Railways Union and the Premier relating to the salaries of tradesmen and others employed by the Government in the railway service. After considerable discussion it was finally agreed, with the consent of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, that there would be an additional sum made available for salary increases to those tradesmen in the Railways Department covered by the Government. I understand that it was suggested at that time by the Premier himself that the moneys would first have to be appropriated; and as no moneys had been appropriated to meet this expenditure the employees, who were to benefit by this agreement ratified by the court, would have to wait until such time as the moneys were appropriated for this purpose. It was agreed that there would be a period of retrospectivity.

As honourable members know, there is a saying that the longer one waits to receive any salary increase under an agreement of retrospectivity, the more he will finally receive. It has been said in these circumstances—"What are you growling about anyway; when you do get it you will have more because of retrospectivity." But that is not the point. As far as I can see, if an agreement is reached for retrospectivity, when the Budget comes before us authorization is given to the Treasurer by appropriation. I believe that this could have been covered in the agreement between the Railways Union and the Treasurer.

Will any part of the £18,000,000 be used to honour an agreement that was made a considerable time ago? I do not know and neither does any other honourable member. I believe that when members are asked to discuss the allocation of a considerable sum—and I contend that £18,000,000 is a considerable sum—they should at least know how the money is to be allocated before being called upon to pass the Bill. I do not know the position. All I know is that I am asked to vote this afternoon on the appropriation of £18,000,000, and we can only assume that it is to pay salaries and wages until such time as the Budget is brought down. The Government has had ample opportunity to deal with the matter properly and to place the legislation before Parliament.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I support the Bill, but with the Honourable Mr.

Bevan I should like to have had more information about the appropriation. Our Public Service is entitled to what it is getting. Several matters have come out in this debate and I think it is good that they have been mentioned. It appears to me that some members do not quite believe in the principle of arbitration, although I thought they did. We have courts to deal with this matter of wages and we rely upon them to achieve a proper balance with the economy of the State. I was a little surprised at the attitude adopted by some members in this matter. The sum of £18,000,000 is a large one, and usually we have information about how the money is to be spent.

I am not so worried as the Honourable Mr. Bevan, because we have in our Public Service an officer who looks after the interests of Parliament and the people, irrespective of what the Government does, and I am not suggesting that the Government has done anything wrongly. I refer to the Auditor-General, whom we keep above outside influences by having Parliament fix his salary. He can be relied upon to tell us if things are not all right.

The Honourable Mr. Shard's speech reminded me of that old army story about the "Jack system". Those who know the story will understand me. I am sorry I was unable to find the 1962 volume of *Hansard* because I wanted to do some research work. I am the leader of a larger Party than the one Mr. Shard leads. I have some homework to do. I have to do research into contents of speeches, and I should get some recognition, too. One only achieves the value that one sets upon himself, and I do not blame Mr. Shard if he thinks he is being down-graded. I thought that we were considering public servants and seeing that they got their salaries. I did not think this was a place for a forum where people could put forward their personal views.

We should be extremely proud of our Public Service, which has done a remarkable job and carried out the policy of Parliament and the Government over a long period. I am open to correction, but I cannot remember a public scandal in South Australia as they have had in other States where public servants might have done improper acts. We have been extremely fortunate in having such officers and I have great confidence in the Public Service. It is an honourable service, and I think that our arbitration system is a far better system than allowing the Government to fix emoluments.

I am happy about the Bill and I am certain public servants will get the payments due to

them through the courts. I am confident that the Government is looking after the interests of the taxpayers. This is a matter that always has consideration and it must be remembered that a successful business does not throw its money about. If the Government is getting a good deal it pays, and I think we should pay our public servants proper salaries in order to keep them above corruption and to retain their services, for it is easy for other people to pirate our public servants. I pay a compliment to our Public Service. I have no complaints about the expenditure of the £18,000,000, but I should have liked more information about how it is to be spent.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I thank members for the attention they have given to the Bill. There is no real need for me to reply to what has been said, except to throw some light on the misunderstanding about more detail being given regarding the way in which the money will be spent. I do not think it is necessary for me to set it out for experienced members, but I will do it for the newer members. This money is voted to carry out the public services of the State until such time as the Budget is ready for 1963-64, when the various lines will be covered by an Appropriation Bill. If members need information as to how the money is to be spent under this measure they need only look at the appropriation under which the Government is now working. The Government is not allowed to exceed the amount spent last year on the various lines. That controls the expenditure of the money. It is not £18,000,000 provided for the Government to go on a honeymoon until the lines are again dealt with by Parliament. As has been suggested, the Auditor-General will watch the expenditure.

I was deeply moved by the plea about salaries. I think that perhaps I am the only one in this Chamber who knows what it is to work on a low Parliamentary salary. When I entered the Council I received the munificent salary of £360 a year, about £1 a day, yet my electorate was as it is today, covering about five-sixths of South Australia! I had no secretary and no provision for expenses; I had no electoral allowances, as there are today, and had a family of five to rear. Those were the conditions under which I worked; so I cannot burst into tears at present-day conditions when the salary is five times what I got and includes an electoral allowance of nearly twice what I received as total income.

Therefore, the matter is not so pressing that it need worry us in a Supply Bill. However, it has not made my approach tough in my later years, and the Government is always prepared to examine the position. The fact that there is no allowance for the Leader of the Opposition at the moment is no fault of the Government, but arises from a decision of a predecessor in his Party. But we do not rule it out for that reason. These matters will be considered and I assure the honourable member that, as usual, he will find the Government ready to see that his position is commensurate with that of any other member, according to the responsibility he carries. I congratulate him on living in a different era from that in which I entered Parliament. I thank honourable members for their consideration of this measure.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.22 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, June 13, at 2.15 p.m.