

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, October 23, 1963.

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

QUESTIONS.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GENERAL).**

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: Yesterday the Minister of Roads introduced a Bill to amend the Local Government Act, containing 49 clauses, in respect of which the Hon. Mr. Bevan secured the adjournment. Over a period of years a procedure has grown up in this place whereby, when an important measure containing a number of clauses comes before the Council, the Opposition is expected overnight in many instances to dissect it and then come prepared to continue the debate the next day. In view of the importance of this measure, will the Minister agree to adjourn it until the next meeting day, on Tuesday?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I have already given Mr. Bevan an assurance that I shall not ask him to speak today on this matter and that I should be grateful if, in view of the large amount of business before the Council and the length of time needed for consideration of the Local Government Act Amendment Bill, he would speak on Thursday. I have in mind the fact that it is essentially a Committee Bill, one of many clauses. I have no doubt that the honourable member will want to address himself to one or two clauses in particular. Of course, the obvious time for that and for the submission of possible amendments is in Committee, so I would expect any honourable member on the second reading to confine himself to the broad principles I mentioned in my explanation of the Bill. Therefore, as this is essentially a Committee Bill, I think the request is not unreasonable. I appreciate the co-operation that has been given by the Opposition. I know that Opposition members have to speak first on these things, and that they secure the adjournment. So, on this occasion, I readily approve of Mr. Bevan's speaking not today but tomorrow. I do not think such a request is unreasonable, in view of all the circumstances. I hope it is a happy compromise.

The PRESIDENT: I point out that this question rather anticipates an Order of the Day. It would normally come up as we progressed through the Notice Paper, and I would like honourable members not to ask that kind of question in the future.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Following on his reply to my question can the Minister say why, if this is such an important measure as to have to be rushed through in this manner, it has taken 12 months for the amendments to be submitted to this Chamber?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Yes. The reason is that local government, to which we pay close attention and which we support, finds it necessary to bring up various amendments from time to time and some that are incorporated in this Bill are more than 12 months old; on the other hand, some amendments have only been incorporated in the last fortnight.

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: The Hon. Mr. Bardolph said in the preamble to his first question that it was necessary for the Opposition to secure the adjournment after second reading explanations and be ready to proceed on the next day or, perhaps, on the day the Bill is introduced. I ask you, Mr. President, for your ruling: is it necessary for the Opposition to secure the adjournment and be ready to proceed or would it be proper for any member to secure the adjournment?

The PRESIDENT: I would rule that any member has the right to move an adjournment, but it is a courtesy followed in this Council that the Leader of the Labor Party shall have the right if he so desires.

KESWICK BRIDGE.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: My question deals with the Keswick bridge and the huge volume of traffic which travels on the dual Anzac Highway and converges at the bridge, where traffic from two other roads joins the highway. It has been reported that because of the immense flow of traffic over the bridge it is now intended to widen it. I ask the Minister of Roads (or perhaps I should ask the Minister of Railways), is it the intention of the Railways Commissioner or the Government to remove altogether the spur line running into the show grounds in the event of the widening of Keswick bridge?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: The redesigning of the whole intersection at Keswick bridge is most urgent, and has the immediate attention of the department. However, I am not aware at the moment of any suggestion about the spur line, but I undertake to get the information when it is available and advise the honourable member.

CITY FOOTPATHS.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH: Has the attention of the Minister of Roads been directed to photographs appearing in last night's *News* of the most unsatisfactory state of the footpaths in the city of Adelaide? If so, will he raise the matter with the appropriate authorities and endeavour to have the footpaths put in a proper state for the safety of pedestrians?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: This is a somewhat similar question to that which the honourable member addressed to the Chief Secretary yesterday. My reply is that this is entirely a matter for the local government body concerned, and I suggest that if the honourable member has any complaints he should address them to the Adelaide City Council.

HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: Has the Attorney-General noticed the report in this morning's *Advertiser* commenting on the decision of the State Parliamentary Liberal and Country Party in Victoria envisaging a cooling-off period, as they put it, in hire-purchase contracts effected by door-to-door salesmen? Does he think this is a sound idea and does our Government intend to introduce similar legislation this session?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: The Government has not considered that matter. I saw the press announcement this morning and, expressing my own view, I should think it is something that needs to be proceeded with with caution for these reasons. First, I think that if people get the idea that they have three days in which to confirm or renounce a contract it will rather make them too easily desirous of attaching their names to documents with the idea that they can revoke them afterwards. I think that would be a bad thing to encourage. People should be made to realize that when they sign something they are required to take the consequences of so doing. Secondly, if we allowed a three days' cooling-off period in the case of

hire-purchase agreements confusion might arise in the minds of people because they might think they could sign documents other than hire-purchase agreements and still have a three days' cooling-off period, which they would not have. I think there are practical difficulties in regard to the matter. We cannot over-emphasize the fact that people need to be ultra-cautious when signing documents presented by door-to-door salesmen. It is not too much to say that if a person wants to start negotiating with a door-to-door salesman he should exercise extreme caution, knowing that the salesman is probably looking after his own interest rather than the purchaser's. If we can inculcate that into the minds of the people we shall have a ready solution to the problem.

HACKHAM ROADWAY.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: Just south of the small Hackham township there is a rise on the roadway which is guarded by double white lines in the centre of the road. The lines are rather short and on a number of occasions I have seen very heavy vehicles, such as sand trucks and other forms of heavy transport, trying to pass each other at low speed up this rise with a completely blind road ahead. This creates a terribly dangerous situation because there is a cutting at the side, and there is no room for a vehicle coming fast from the other direction to get out of the way of the heavy transport. On a few occasions I have seen an absolutely impossible situation caused by these heavy vehicles to vehicles coming down at a lawful high speed from the other direction. I know it is difficult to police these things at such a distance, but will the Minister of Roads consider lengthening the double lines, which I think would discourage this dangerous practice, because sooner or later unless something is done there will be a frightful fatal accident, or more than one?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I rather gather the impression that the honourable member is not trying to take a rise out of me, so I will refer the matter to the Executive Officer of the Road Traffic Board immediately.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I address my question to either the Minister of Roads or the Minister of Railways. Whose responsibility is it, where a railway line, and a highway under

the control of the Highways Commissioner run parallel with each other, to destroy the noxious weeds growing along the dividing fence line?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: The question is a curly one. First, the Highways Department is not responsible for the road reserve beyond the actual carriageway, which comes within the jurisdiction of the local council. The railway reserve comes under the control of my Ministerial friend, the Minister of Railways, who is always prepared to co-operate with the district councils concerned. Provided they do their work on the roads there will be no difficulty, I assure the honourable member, in getting the Railways Department to co-operate in the weed destruction.

HACKHAM RAILWAY SIDING.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: On the very last occasion that I asked a question on the matter of the Hackham crossing I suggested that trains might stop for road traffic. The reply from the Minister of Railways was that the Commissioner would not approve of such a modern practice. Since then I have looked at the situation again and I have found that the main danger arises from the north. It has been mentioned before that there are only two trains a week on the line, which means four trains altogether, two each way. The two from the south can be safely regulated by a wig-wag signal or some other such device. The two from the north present the only problem, and I want that problem solved without the expense of an overpass, or something like that. Will the Minister of Railways consider shifting the tiny Hackham siding a little farther to the north, say a couple of hundred yards, so that the trains would automatically stop twice a week at the right place, and then the wig-wag signal could be used? Will the Minister give me a considered reply?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Yes. As soon as the Commissioner recovers from the shock of the original question I will refer to him the matter of moving the siding.

KINGSTON AND BERRI FERRIES.

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

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Some time ago during this session I stressed the need for

the duplication of the ferry services at Kingston and Berri as soon as possible after the completion of the Blanchetown bridge. I am positive that the duplication of the Kingston ferry in particular would be very necessary almost immediately on the completion of the bridge. I was somewhat disappointed to know that tenders are to be called in December for the construction of the sites for these ferries. Can the Minister of Roads say what delay there will be between the completion of the bridge and the opening of the second Kingston ferry in particular?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: There has been one feature that has caused some delay in the actual drawing of the plans and specifications for the duplication of ferries both at Kingston and Berri. It has been due to some extent to pressure put on me by members of the Midland District in connection with deciding where the next bridge will be.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Members for the Northern District are interested too.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Our advance planning over the whole of the State is only just ahead of the actual work, because of shortage of staff. I discussed the matter with the Highways Commissioner this morning and I am extremely hopeful (I will say no more than that) that the duplication of the ferry at least at Kingston will be completed within only a few weeks of the opening of the bridge.

SECOND-HAND DEALERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

MARINE STORES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

For some time Sunday schools, the Returned Servicemen's League, and boy scouts have been raising funds by collecting and selling bottles. These bottle drives are illegal under existing legislation. However, the Government considers that this activity should be not only permitted but encouraged, and the purpose of the Bill is to legalize bottle drives conducted on behalf of these organizations and with the approval of the Chief Secretary on behalf of youth organizations. Clause 3 of the Bill accordingly inserts two new sections (7a and 7b) into the Marine Stores Act. New section 7a provides that the Commissioner of Police

may issue without fee a licence valid for such period as he thinks fit for the collection of bottles if the proceeds of the collection are to be applied for the advancement of the organizations to which I have referred. The licence may be restricted to particular times, locality and such other matters as the Commissioner thinks fit.

Under new section 7b a licensee may be required at any time (as in the case of a licence under the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act) to furnish a statement verified by statutory declaration giving details of the collection and the application of the proceeds. Clause 4 makes an amendment to section 14 of the principal Act which makes it an offence for a marine store dealer to purchase marine stores from a person under 16 years. The effect of the amendment is that dealers may purchase bottles collected pursuant to a licence granted under new section 7a without offending against the principal Act, should the seller be under 16 years. Clause 5 makes an amendment consequential upon new section 7a.

Organizations such as the boy scouts make collections and are, in the main, welcomed by the public. The so-called "bottle-oh" today no longer gives us good service: he drives down a street with a truck and half-heartedly sings out and is ten chains away in no time. He is so independent that people do not receive the service they previously enjoyed. I think this Bill is something that will be welcomed by the public and will enable them to enjoy something that has been claimed to be illegal. I have no hesitation in commending the Bill for the consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE secured the adjournment of the debate.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

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.

Estimated payments from Consolidated Revenue Account for the year 1963-64 total £103,306,000, while estimated receipts total £102,814,000, giving an estimated deficit of £492,000. Before dealing with the appropriations proposed in the Bill I shall comment briefly on last year's experience and on anticipated receipts for this year. For 1962-63 receipts at £97,584,000 were £1,333,000 in excess of the original estimate of £96,251,000, and payments at £97,294,000 were £440,000 in excess of the original estimate of £96,854,000. The main factor causing variations from the

estimates was the special Commonwealth grant of £691,000 which was made available for employment-producing works following the Loan Council meeting held in February last. In accordance with statutory requirements the special grant was taken into Revenue Account in its entirety, so that Parliament might control its disbursement.

Honourable members may recall from the discussion on the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) in June last that the whole of the grant was appropriated to a deposit account for use by the Engineering and Water Supply Department in financing and speeding up several country water supply projects. An amount of £311,000 had been actually spent at June 30 last, and the remaining £380,000 was committed for early disbursement on works in progress. Another factor was the improvement in the net result of the Railways Department operations. Although grain traffic was not up to expectations, carriage of general merchandise, livestock and minerals was heavy, and receipts bettered the estimate by £17,000. At the same time continued efficient operation resulted in payments being £122,000 below estimate.

Receipts generally were above the figures anticipated. Because of an abnormal number of estates with an individual value above £100,000 succession duties were £275,000 above estimate. Stamp duties exceeded the estimate by £76,000. The only shortfall of any consequence for receipts was for Harbors Board—£148,000 below estimate, the main reason being the failure of grain to be shipped as quickly as expected via the board's bulk handling installations and wharves.

For payments, there were several rather large excesses above estimate, two of which were covered by provisions in the Appropriation Bill (No. 1). They were to meet expenses of conversion and public loans which were £136,000 above the original provision appropriated under "Treasurer—Miscellaneous", and grants to the University of Adelaide, which were £135,000 above the original provision appropriated under "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous".

Due almost entirely to the difficulty of securing qualified staff quickly the results of two of the major social service departments, Police and Hospitals, showed payments below estimate. The shortfalls were £105,000 and £116,000 respectively. For "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" payments fell £75,000 below estimate as hospitals and institutions requested progress payments under approved subsidies a little less than had been provided. Engineering and Water Supply Department achieved

savings of £63,000 as a result of pumping costs being less than was anticipated at the beginning of the year. Because of the postponement of several drilling programmes and more work being carried out on a reimbursement basis Mines Department expenditures were £80,000 less than estimated. Harbors Board payments were £102,000 below estimate due to lower port activity and because dredging and other plant was concentrated on capital rather than on maintenance works. The estimated total receipts from all sources in 1963-64 are £102,814,000, and the main items of interest are as follows:

State taxation receipts are estimated at £13,882,000, an increase of £412,000 over actual receipts last year. Within this group are two significant variations that are expected to arise from the Government's proposals for amendment of rates. These proposals are for concessions in succession duties and for a change in the basis of charging liquor tax. It is estimated that their effect upon revenues during 1963-64 will be a loss of £100,000 and a gain of £150,000, respectively. Details concerning these matters will be given to honourable members when the legislation is introduced.

For stamp duties the estimate of £2,666,000 is £218,000 greater than actual receipts in 1962-63. Stamp duty receipts showed a pleasing steady upward movement throughout last year, due largely to the improving economic situation, and it is confidently anticipated that this upward trend will be maintained during 1963-64.

Motor vehicle taxation receipts are estimated at £5,060,000, an increase of £260,000 over actual receipts last year. This item has no direct effect on the Budget result as the proceeds of motor taxation, less the costs of the Motor Vehicles and Highways Departments, are transferred to the Highways Fund for road purposes in accordance with Statute.

Receipts for public works and services are estimated at £48,191,000, or £2,402,000 more than actual receipts in 1962-63. The increase is expected to come from:

	£	£
The operation of public undertakings—		
Transfer items ..	100,000	
Normal receipts from services ..	1,137,000	
		1,237,000
Recoveries of interest and sinking fund		551,000
Other departmental fees and recoveries		614,000
		<u>£2,402,000</u>

The largest increase in receipts of public undertakings is expected to be for the Engineering and Water Supply Department, for which receipts from water and sewer charges are estimated at £8,003,000, an increase of £693,000 over receipts last year. Some £300,000 of this increase will arise from expansion of services to meet the needs of housing, commerce, industry and agriculture, and the remaining £393,000 from a revision of valuations, a variation of the basis of rating on high value properties, a small increase in the country lands rating scale, and a small increase in the price of water.

Exclusive of special Treasury transfers towards working expenses and debt charges, railway receipts are estimated to amount to £14,208,000, an increase of £123,000 over actual receipts from the transport of passengers and freight last year. The increase will arise largely from greater carriage of grain.

Harbors Board receipts are expected to move in the same direction as railway freight revenues, and receipts this year are estimated at £2,645,000, an increase of £133,000 over the figure for 1962-63. The contribution from the forestry undertaking in 1963-64 is estimated at £540,000, an increase of £180,000 over the contribution for 1962-63. The increase of £551,000 expected this year for recoveries of interest and sinking fund will bring the total of such recoveries to £9,724,000.

For the category "Other departmental fees and recoveries" the estimated increase of £614,000 will take the total to £8,366,000. The largest movement is in Education Department receipts, for which increased recoveries are expected from the Commonwealth Government for university purposes. The amount to be received from the Commonwealth as taxation reimbursement is expected to be £36,400,000, an increase of £1,624,000 over the grant for 1962-63. A special grant of £2,762,000 will be received, an increase of £759,000 over similar grants received last year.

Estimated payments in 1963-64 on purposes for which appropriation is contained in existing legislation are £27,868,000, of which the main items are:

	£
Interest and sinking fund in respect of the public debt of the State	21,952,000
Transfer to the highways fund of the net proceeds of motor taxation	3,783,000
Contributions by the Government to the South Australian Super-annuation Fund	1,347,000

The difference between total estimated expenditure for the year and payments already authorized by special Acts is £75,438,000, which is the amount to be appropriated by this Bill. Details of the requirements for each department to carry out its normal functions for the year are shown in clause 3. I shall now give honourable members a brief outline of the major appropriations sought to continue and expand these activities during 1963-64.

Police Department, £3,179,000.—This is an increase of £233,000 over the actual amount spent in 1962-63. The provision, which includes an increase of £139,000 for salaries and wages, will enable the force to be further strengthened, and it is anticipated that the active strength will be increased during the year by 97 members, taking the total to 1,566.

Sheriff and Gaols and Prisons Department, £579,000.—The amount proposed for 1963-64 represents an increase of £25,000 above actual payments made last year; £13,000 of the increased provision is required for salaries and wages and the remaining £12,000 for increased general running expenses.

Hospitals Department, £7,274,000.—The proposed expenditure this year is £545,000 in excess of actual payments in 1962-63; £200,000 of this increase is for the mental health services, making a total provision of £1,593,000 for these services in 1963-64. This represents an increase of 14 per cent over actual payments for mental health services last year and will enable the department to achieve further marked improvements in staffing and service.

The provision of £2,575,000 for Royal Adelaide Hospital is an increase of £179,000 over expenditure at this hospital last year. Included is an increased amount for salaries and wages to provide for the appointment during the year of additional medical, nursing and domestic staff. For the Queen Elizabeth Hospital the appropriation sought is £1,424,000, or £73,000 greater than actual expenditure in 1962-63. £54,000 of this increase is required for salaries and wages, including provision for additional medical and nursing staff, and £19,000 for the increased cost of provisions and expenses incurred in the normal operation and maintenance of the hospital. An increasing number of the community is seeking the facilities which this modern hospital has to offer, and in the 12 months to June 30, 1963, the number of in-patients treated at the hospital was 14,670. During the same period the number of casualty and out-patient attendances was almost 114,000. For the

country hospitals, a total of £918,000 is required this year. The largest provision under this heading is for the new 200-bed hospital at Mount Gambier which was opened in 1961.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £932,000.—This provision represents an increase of £35,000 over actual payments last year and is required for the upkeep of the schools, homes, training centres and other institutions under the control of the department, for the payment of relief to widows, deserted wives or pensioners with children, and for assistance to families in serious need through continued sickness or unemployment.

Department of Public Health, £356,000.—The provision this year is £39,000, or 12½ per cent, in excess of actual payments in 1962-63, and will enable the department to continue its campaign to eliminate or reduce the factors and conditions which adversely affect the health of the community. In recent years particular attention has been given to the quality of food supplies, and rigorous testing and control has brought about a great improvement in quality and cleanliness. Careful food preparation prevents many diseases and several food industries have expressed appreciation of a number of food handling conferences conducted by the department in country centres and in Adelaide. The department will continue its services to combat poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, and the activities of the School Health Branch will be increased.

Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous, £3,685,000.—An amount of £3,138,000 is proposed for medical and health services, an increase of £570,000 over last year's expenditure. There are four main categories under which this provision may be considered. Grants to hospitals, institutions, etc., total £2,392,000. Provision has been made for maintenance, new buildings, alterations, additions, and equipment required by hospitals and institutions operated by independent boards of management. The organizations within this group for which substantial grants are proposed towards major building projects include the Adelaide Children's Hospital, the Home for Incurables, the Lyell McEwin Hospital, the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, the South Australian Blood Transfusion Services, and the Whyalla Hospital. The two largest schemes are the new buildings of the Adelaide Children's Hospital and the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital. The work at the Adelaide Children's Hospital is nearing completion and occupation should begin in mid 1964. Apart from grants of £100,000 under special arrangements

for teaching hospitals associated with universities, the Government has already paid to the hospital grants totalling £1,275,000. The £350,000 proposed for this year will be the final payment towards the new building and will take the total to £1,625,000.

In addition, provision is made this year for the annual maintenance grant to the hospital to be increased by £50,000 to a total of £559,000. At the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital a major rebuilding scheme is estimated to cost approximately £1,400,000. Work is expected to commence by June, 1964, and provision is made this year for the first grant of £28,000 towards the project. Grants for the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science and the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association, as well as for a number of country and community hospitals, are also included in this section.

Subsidies to institutions, etc., are estimated at £178,000. The main provisions under this section are subsidies to Kalyra Sanatorium, the District and Bush Nursing Society, the Crippled Children's Association, Minda Home, and private (non-profit) hospitals. Conditional subsidies to hospitals, where the amount provided by the Government is conditional upon the hospitals themselves raising a certain amount of their operating requirements from fees and other revenues, will require £184,000 in 1963-64. Provision is made for payments to be made to 49 country hospitals. Special subsidies to hospitals towards additions, alterations, and equipment, etc., are estimated at £320,000. The main provisions in this group are for major additions to the Millicent (Thyne Memorial), Naracoorte, and Murray Bridge Hospitals.

Other important items provided for under Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous are grants to Children's Institutions £31,000, the Royal Institution for the Blind £36,000, Meals on Wheels £13,000, and Aged Citizen's Clubs £10,000. The sum of £133,000 is provided for transport concessions to pensioners and £86,000 for similar concessions to incapacitated ex-servicemen. Included in "Meals on Wheels" is an amount to put into operation home service assistance which is being organized at present.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration, £380,000.—This represents an increase of £119,000 over actual payments last year. In addition to provision for the maintenance and improvement of National Pleasure Resorts, including £60,000 for the development of Windy Point, and for advertising the tourist attractions of the State, proposed expenditures

include a grant of £20,000 towards the Adelaide Festival of Arts, £33,000 to the Glenelg Corporation towards the construction of the boat haven, £32,000 for subsidies towards the construction of swimming pools, and £25,000 for subsidies to municipal authorities for the development of tourist resorts.

Treasurer—Miscellaneous, £6,870,000.—Variations in items which appear on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the Budget are the main movements in the appropriation sought under this heading, which is £130,000 less than actual expenditure last year. The contribution to the Commonwealth of principal and interest in respect of money borrowed under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement is estimated at £1,758,000, which is £210,000 in excess of payments made in 1962-63, but this will be fully recouped to the Budget by the Housing Trust.

The transfer to the Railways Department is to be increased by £100,000 to £4,000,000 for 1963-64. This transfer is designed to reduce the prospective deficit in the railways account to a figure which could possibly be eliminated by further achievements in reducing expenditure or attracting revenue. Provision has been made this year to transfer to a deposit account the accumulated revenue surplus of £297,000 at June 30, 1963, to provide for expenditures upon housing for persons in necessitous circumstances and upon country extensions of electricity, water, and harbour works, which are unlikely to be fully reproductive.

Lands Department, £878,000—This provision is necessary to meet expenses associated with land development and settlement, surveying, mapping and recording, and the collection of revenues due to the Crown under leases, etc. The amount proposed also includes provision for the State to meet part of its share of the cost of War Service Land Settlement.

Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous, £344,000—This amount includes £106,000 for salaries and grants for the Botanic Garden, £38,000 for grants to the National Park Commissioners, and £39,000 for grants to the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia. An amount of £62,000 is also provided under this heading for the purchase of land for national reserves.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £4,509,000—Of this amount £312,000 is provided for power for pumping through the two major pipelines, £123,000 for South Australia's contribution towards the maintenance of River Murray works, leaving £4,074,000 for normal operation and maintenance. The latter figure compares with £3,794,000 for 1962-63, so that

an increase of £280,000 is proposed. After allowing for the cost of higher salaries and wages granted under awards, and the cost of certain alterations to mains and services previously borne by councils, the increase remaining to take care of normal expansion is only £135,000. Only by very careful and responsible budgeting by the Engineer-in-Chief has it been practicable to contain the provisions for operation and maintenance within a total of £4,074,000.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs, £674,000.—With the proclamation in February, 1963, of the new Aboriginal Affairs Act the department has been reorganized and a new concept of aboriginal welfare introduced. The policy of the Government under the new Act is to abolish all restrictions and restraints on Aborigines as citizens, to provide the machinery for rendering special assistance to them during their developmental years, and to promote assimilation. One of the most positive steps which can be taken by the department is in housing, and a building programme is being undertaken to increase the present number of 72 houses in country towns and 47 houses on unsupervised reserves that have already been erected and allocated on a rental basis to aboriginal tenants. The sum of £85,000 is provided this year for erection of houses in country towns and a further £15,000 for houses on unsupervised reserves.

On aboriginal reserves the Government's aim is to provide opportunities for the people to acquire vocational and domestic skills and acceptable social habits, and to attain a standard of living, health, hygiene, and education whereby they may become capable of living in a manner comparable with the majority of the Australian community. The department will continue to provide assistance to church missions which are able to care for the Aborigines satisfactorily. The £674,000 proposed this year represents an increase of £162,000 over actual payments in 1962-63.

Public Works, £1,835,000.—This provision is mainly to meet the cost of repairs and maintenance of Government buildings, furnishings, and the cost of replacement furniture, and it exceeds actual payments last year by £149,000. The main items of expenditure under this heading are £717,000 for education buildings, £533,000 for hospital buildings, £124,000 for police and courthouse buildings, and £411,000 for other Government buildings.

Education Department, £15,760,000.—The proposals for this year represent an increase of £1,136,000, or about 7 per cent, above actual

payments for 1962-63. This follows increases of almost 11 per cent last year and more than 14 per cent in 1961-62. In each of those years provision was required for salary increases granted to teachers and costing in total almost £700,000 a year. The 1963-64 proposals do not provide for further increases in salary scales, so that the whole of the estimated increase of £1,136,000 is available for general expansion.

The department has been most successful in its campaign to attract young people to undertake training in the teachers colleges for a permanent career in the teaching profession, and in 1963 there are 2,651 students in training at the three teachers colleges. Students who completed their courses in 1949 and took up appointments in the schools at the beginning of 1950 numbered 178. The number who completed courses in 1962 and moved into the schools last February was 783. At the end of 1963 it is expected that 855 students will complete courses and thus be available to teach in 1964.

The Libraries Department, £319,000.—This amount includes the salaries and wages of library staff, a transfer of £66,000 to the Libraries Board to be spent at its discretion on books and services, and £69,000 towards the establishment and operation of libraries by local government authorities.

Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, £4,205,000.—The proposals for this year are £367,000 above actual payments in 1962-63. The difference is due almost entirely to variations in grants to the University of Adelaide and to the Institute of Technology. Grants to the university, additional to the £44,000 to be paid under the authority of special legislation, and £390,000 provided for the Waite Institute under "Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous", are estimated at £3,275,000, which is an increase of £220,000 over payments last year. An amount of £75,000 is provided for grants to residential colleges; while grants to the Institute of Technology are estimated at £555,000, which is £75,000 greater than for 1962-63. The figures quoted for grants to the university, to residential colleges, and to the institute are gross, that is, they include the State contribution and the Commonwealth contribution. The latter is paid to the credit of Revenue when received by the State. Other grants included under this heading are:

	£
Kindergarten Union of South Australia	190,000
Institutes Association of South Australia	24,000
National Fitness Council of South Australia	45,000
South Australian Oral School	10,500

Department of Agriculture, £983,000.—This year's provision exceeds last year's payments by £128,000. The largest single increase is in the amount set aside for the control of fruit fly, and a total of £225,000 is provided for this purpose. Last year the recurrence of fruit fly fully taxed the department's services. Five outbreaks occurred in the metropolitan area, and two species, the Mediterranean and the Queensland fly, were found. The recent occurrences followed a three-year period of freedom from the pest and emphasize the need for continued vigilance against the introduction of new pests and diseases. Funds are also provided so that the department may continue its information and advisory services, and its work at research and experimental centres. Provision has been made for purchase of livestock and for many items of plant and equipment at these centres.

Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous, £517,000.—The amount proposed this year is £42,000 greater than actual payments in 1962-63. The sum of £390,000 is provided for the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. This grant forms part of the State's contribution to the University of Adelaide and is determined at the same time and under the same conditions as the main grant to the university, to which reference has already been made. Expenditure on demonstrations and research conducted by the Bush Fire Research Committee, with the object of introducing bush fire prevention and control measures, is estimated at £35,000 this year. An amount of £20,000 is provided for subsidies to volunteer fire fighting associations for the purchase of fire fighting equipment. Other grants include £11,000 to local government authorities towards the cost of operating fire fighting organizations, and £11,000 to country agricultural, horticultural and field trial societies.

Mines Department, £741,000.—The proposals for this year are £62,000 above actual payments in 1962-63, and will enable the department to continue and extend its primary functions of exploring, testing and recording the State's mineral resources. Two seismic parties will continue to operate as part of the Government's contribution to the oil search programme in South Australia. One party will be occupied in the Lower and Upper South-East, and the second in the Great Artesian Basin. The general mineral search programme is also being extended, departmentally and by private enterprise.

Harbors Board, £1,523,000.—This provision is £75,000 in excess of actual payments last

year. In addition to meeting requirements for wharf maintenance, dredging of channels and general working expenses of ports, the proposed appropriation will also cover the cost of increased operation of the board's bulk handling facilities. The board now provides bulk handling facilities at Wallaroo, Port Lincoln, Thevenard, and Port Pirie, and a further installation is at present being constructed at Port Adelaide.

Railways Department, £14,651,000.—This amount represents an increase of £343,000, or less than 2½ per cent, above actual payments in 1962-63. The estimated increase is due almost entirely to the cost of variations in awards and determinations. It is anticipated that continued increased efficiency in the organization will permit the carriage of a greater volume of traffic this year with costs generally being held at last year's level. The use of diesel-electric locomotives continues to increase on both broad gauge and narrow gauge lines. The most direct benefit of diesel-electric locomotives on the railways' financial results is in the payments for fuel, which are estimated at £724,000 this year, a reduction of £90,000 from the 1962-63 figure, despite the anticipated haulage of a greater volume of traffic.

Highways and Local Government Department, £709,000.—This year's provision is £84,000 in excess of expenditure in 1962-63 but has no net impact upon the Budget, for costs associated with the department are deducted from motor vehicles taxation receipts in determining the amount to be transferred to the Highways Fund in accordance with the Highways Act.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the further issue of £51,437,514, being the difference between the amount authorized by the two Supply Acts, £24,000,000, and the total of the appropriation required in this Bill.

Clause 3 sets out the amount to be appropriated and the details of the appropriation to the various departments and functions. This clause also provides that increases of salaries or wages which become payable pursuant to any return made by a properly constituted authority may be paid, and that the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount necessary to pay the increases. It further provides that if the cost of electricity for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main and from bores in the Adelaide water district, and through the Morgan-Whyalla water main, should be greater than the provision included in the Bill, the Governor may

authorize the additional expenditure, and the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount of such additional expenditure.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time authorized by warrants issued by the Governor and provides that the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid.

Clause 5 authorizes the use of loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by this Bill.

Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, 1963, or at a rate in excess of the rate which was in force under any return, regulation, award, etc.

Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated. I know, as far as my own department is concerned, that there are certain amounts which have been promised to organizations which cannot be paid until the appropriation by Parliament is made. I commend the Bill to members for their prompt consideration.

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

CITY OF WHYALLA COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

PISTOL LICENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 22. Page 1142.)

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Acting Leader of the Opposition): I support the second reading of this Bill, the main purpose of which is to improve various aspects dealing with people in control of pistols, the selling of pistols, their general usage in banks and security companies, and the controlling of their use by interstate people who come here for pistol competitions. One clause of the Bill makes provision for those coming to this State to engage in pistol competitions to receive a licence, upon payment of a small amount, during their period here, provided that they produce their own State licences.

Under the provisions of the Bill the principal officer of such companies as Night Security

Services will be issued with a licence; he then has the authority to issue a licence for carrying a pistol to one of his employees who is of generally good character and has all the attributes necessary for carrying a firearm. Again we have the old theme song: the fees have been increased again. The fee for a pistol licence has risen from 2s. 6d. to 10s. and for an interstate visitor the licence is now 5s. I mentioned when speaking on another measure yesterday that it is becoming a fetish with this Government—I presume it needs the revenue—that wherever there is an opportunity to increase fees or taxes it takes every opportunity to do so. It does not appear to me that in the cost of issuing these licences the overhead charges have increased, but it does appear to me that, wherever there is an opportunity of garnering extra funds for the revenue of the State, all these fees and fines are increased. However, the Bill tidies up the present position and I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I, too, support the second reading, but without so many reservations as the honourable member has. Those of us who have been here for a few years have heard all this from him before.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph: There is no harm in hearing it again!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: As regards the Government's always increasing these penalties, I don't know how the honourable member runs his own affairs but, if he does not spend any more money now than he spent when he was 21, his family must go pretty hungry! If costs are constantly increasing, naturally we have to do something to recoup them. I have no complaint about this Bill. I have read it and, as far as I can judge, I think it is an improvement. First, it provides for people coming from another State who have a legitimate reason for carrying a pistol. They can surrender themselves with their pistol and get a temporary licence while they are in this State. Also, other people who have a legitimate reason for carrying a pistol as a weapon of offence or defence in their work are catered for. Often, people carry pistols as security for their employers. The Bill is comprehensive in its scope. It deals with the police and their powers, and the powers of the Commissioner. Generally, I think it tidies up the matter of pistols and, as the Chief Secretary said yesterday, it brings the Act more into line with the Firearms Act. I see no need to

hold up its passage. I have no objection whatever to the penalties that have been increased. As long as the Government continues to increase penalties in accordance with present-day trends, the better off we all shall be, for we know where we are going.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 6 passed.

Clause 7—'Enactment of sections 8a and 8b of principal Act.'

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES: I have no complaint on this clause but wish to say, briefly, that I am very much in favour of it. Section 8 of the original Pistol Licence Act states:

A record of all licences issued under this Act at any police station shall be kept there, and shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times upon payment of the fee (if any) prescribed.

What interests me particularly about clause 7 is the new section 8b—'Disposal of pistol.' It reads:

If the holder of a pistol licence disposes of the pistol (by sale or any other transaction) to another person, the holder shall within fourteen days after the disposal give notice thereof in writing to the Commissioner specifying,

and then we see paragraphs (a) and (b). My only point is that this is a wise provision. Any encouragement that the Government can give to the proper tabulating of names and addresses of people holding pistols, for whatever purpose, is excellent because in these days it is sometimes hard to establish the ownership of weapons used in the commission of crimes. I give the Government full marks for introducing this provision for the identification of pistols.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (8 to 13), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

MINEING (PETROLEUM) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 22. Page 1146.)

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I support the second reading of this Bill. The Minister of Mines in explaining it gave us a fairly clear indication of the problems facing not only the State but also the mining companies who have invested, and who are interested in investing, money in the search for oil. I, as I am sure most honourable members do, feel that anything that we can do to speed up in Australia prospecting for oil

will be a good thing. Queensland has been fortunate in that certain oil fields discovered there are apparently of commercial value. The Department of Mines and the Government of this State have played a big part in the search for oil since 1940 and are to be congratulated not only on work done and legislation passed in an endeavour to find oil, but also for work done in various other facets of mining. South Australia was one of the first in the search for uranium and this search proved to be beneficial. While contracts were available we were able to exploit our natural resources.

I believe it is appropriate that at this stage the Mining (Petroleum) Act should, as the Minister said, be amended to include off-shore areas that, perhaps, it was not considered necessary to cover when the Act was first passed. The Hon. Mr. Bevan commented at length on how far the off-shore area should extend. I do not think it matters if it extends to Antarctica. I do not think the boundaries of this State have been defined and I am sure we shall be the last people to get excited about them. However, if off-shore areas are leased to a company, it must be given a guarantee that it is protected by State law. I do not believe it matters whether the limit is three miles or 30 miles: companies prospecting in that area must be covered under State laws. It is up to the Commonwealth Government as to whether it will challenge the validity of the States' laws in relation to off-shore areas; no doubt this matter will be tested at some time. Irrespective of Commonwealth action, companies which are prepared to invest money in prospecting for oil must be given a guarantee that they have a solid agreement with the State. It would be wonderful for South Australia if oil was found here. Even if the Commonwealth Government upset any of our present arrangements I believe a Government of any colour would honour an Act such as that operating in South Australia and also any agreement made under this Act with a petroleum company prospecting for oil.

The retrospective clause in the Bill is also interesting. It means that people who have been previously granted leases will be covered in any off-shore prospecting they carry out. This seems very sound and is probably most necessary. The word "fence" is used in the Bill. The Hon. Mr. Bevan said yesterday that he wondered how the sea could be fenced, whether by a series of "buoys" or by men.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Perhaps, even mermaids!

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes. The main point concerning oil companies prepared to invest money in the search for oil is that the areas can be delineated on a map. I do not think anyone will be interested in whether a blue or yellow buoy is used: it is a matter of having the area set out. Perhaps the checker-board system, used on the mainland, could be adopted. These amendments are necessary and as members we can support the Government and the department in attracting more capital into mineral and, in particular, petroleum investigation and mining. For these reasons, I heartily support the second reading.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES secured the adjournment of the debate.

REAL PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 22. Page 1149.)

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Southern): I support the second reading and in doing so I first congratulate the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill on his contribution to the debate yesterday. He clearly explained the concern expressed in parts of the business world about certain aspects of this Bill. I have not been directly approached by anybody, as the honourable member has, but I spoke to many people who are involved in Real Property Act transactions and they expressed some concern mainly about the proposed powers of the Registrar-General to reject a document or an instrument that has been accepted for registration. South Australia can be justly proud of its Lands Titles Office and the system under which we work, for it is undoubtedly the most efficient and effective system operating in Australia. Any person who has had experience with the systems operating in other States will agree with that contention.

The Bill has two main purposes; first, there is a tendency not to disclose all the details of a mortgage, principally by referring to collateral agreements that are not registered. If these details are not registered a search made of the records at the L.T.O. would not disclose the full terms of any mortgage or

transaction. In some cases the collateral agreements might be registered in another public registry and this new clause adequately covers the position. However, in a case where collateral agreements exist privately, they would not be available for public inspection. Although certain amendments have been foreshadowed by the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill in relation to these clauses, I believe that the principle involved of requiring all the details to be available for public inspection is in accordance with the spirit of the principal Act. However, clause 5 of the Bill seems to run counter to the accepted principle of the Torrens system and the accepted principle of the Act.

Under certain conditions the Registrar-General has the power to reject a document. At present any document accepted for registration maintains its priority position. If it has to go out for correction it still maintains its position on the register. We can all sympathize with the Registrar-General in his desire to maintain a tidy register, but extra provisions are necessary for the incorporation of safeguards. The public needs an assurance that when a document has been accepted by the Registrar-General it maintains its priority. If, subsequently, he finds grounds for rejecting the document adequate measures are needed to allow any person to protect any equity involved by being able to place reliance on the priority given to the document when it was accepted by the Registrar-General. I appreciate his desires to keep an efficient and tidy register, but amendments will need to be moved in Committee to safeguard the confidence of the public in the matter of the priority of registration, once the document has been accepted by the Registrar-General. There should be an opportunity for an interested party to protect any equity involved. These are matters that can be best dealt with in Committee, so I support the second reading.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.49 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, October 24, at 2.15 p.m.