

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

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### THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT (1964)

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Parliament, which adjourned on February 27, 1964, was prorogued by proclamation dated March 12. By proclamation dated May 7, it was summoned to meet on Wednesday, June 10, and the Third Session began on that date.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, June 10, 1964.

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. In so doing I take the opportunity to mention that this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of this House in the present building and the seventy-fifth anniversary of the opening of the House of Assembly Chamber.
3. In common with all her loyal subjects we rejoice in the birth of a third son to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen. We congratulate,

too, Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Margaret, the Princess Alexandra and the Duchess of Kent upon the recent birth of children to them.

4. Last year I expressed our wish that members of the Royal Family would pay frequent visits to us and we were indeed gratified when Her Majesty the Queen Mother graciously consented to open our third Festival of Arts. Our regret at the unfortunate illness which prevented her from being present and sharing this happy occasion with us was greatly tempered by the news of her early recovery.

5. During the past year we suffered the loss of three former members and one sitting member of this Parliament. The late Sir Walter Gordon Duncan was a member of the Legislative Council for over 40 years and for 18 its President; the late Sir Shirley Williams Jeffries was a member of the House of Assembly for periods aggregating 21 years, during 11 of which he was a Minister of the Crown; the late William Wilfred Jenkins had been a member for some 12 years; the late John Owen Critchley represented the district of Burra in the State Parliament for three years and was a Senator in the Federal Parliament for some 12 years. These gentlemen performed meritorious service and I place our tribute to them on record in the knowledge that you all join with me in expressing our sympathy to their respective families.

6. A good season and an increased cereal acreage combined to make the 1963-64 harvest the best on record; the season was also a bountiful one for fruitgrowers. My Government has continued its research activities in connection with all branches of primary production. Cereal research programmes have been continued and among other operations I refer to field experiments undertaken on southern Yorke Peninsula and investigations into fertilizer use and new pasture species as well as irrigation problems, particularly in the Upper Murray areas where a survey of soils has been completed. The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Education Department, has made available for the first time in Australia a permanent weed control training school. Among other activities I mention the establishment of three day schools in country areas in wool shearing-shed routine.

7. Development has continued on those holdings which have not yet been allotted under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme and only 17 blocks (of which 16 are situated on Kangaroo Island) remain to be allotted. The Rural Advances Guarantee Act passed during the last session has been well received, some 59 applications having been made. Over the past 12 months a vigorous policy has been pursued in connection with the extension of the national parks and wild life reserves—more particularly in the provision of new areas in various parts of the State.

8. The value of minerals produced in the State during 1963 approached closely the record figure of 1961, amounting to a little over £31,000,000. Probably the most important mineral event was the discovery of substantial quantities of natural gas at Gidgealpa. The importance of an indigenous source of power to the State cannot be over-emphasized and both the Government and exploration companies are examining all aspects of this new potential resource.

9. My Government has continued its active policy in connection with water supplies. Works which are completed or will be almost completed by the end of the financial year, are the foothills main to Wattle Park, the trunk main from near the oil refinery to Seacliff, the Lenswood scheme, the Stirling-Crafers scheme and other country works. Other schemes in hand are the construction of the Kangaroo Creek dam for which it is expected to call tenders very shortly, a scheme to increase the capacity of the inlet and outlet works of the Happy Valley reservoir for which a contract has been let, and continuance of the duplication of the

Morgan-Whyalla main. Work is continuing on sewerage schemes in various parts of the metropolitan area including the areas of Le Fevre Peninsula, Mansfield Park, Ayton Estate and Bolivar.

10. The estimated expenditure on roadworks during the forthcoming financial year will exceed £13,000,000. These works include improvements to bridges in the metropolitan area, the duplication of the Main South Road to Reynella and the Reynella by-pass, the Torrens Gorge Main Road deviation, considerable progress on the over-pass at Crafers, and the Crafers-Stirling section of the first freeway. The Eyre Highway will be completed from Lincoln Gap to Wirrulla, the Flinders Highway extended to Warrow and the main road between Yeelanna and Lock will be almost completed. Other works will be undertaken on the Broken Hill Main Road and in the South-East. During the past year the Blanchetown bridge over the River Murray was completed and a number of over-passes over railway lines constructed or widened.

11. Improvements to the railway system have continued, 55 miles of main lines having been relaid with heavier rails and 23 miles reconditioned; 128 new items of rolling stock were constructed at Islington during the year and a further 16 for the Peterborough Division standardization project. Four hundred and eleven others were reconditioned. Ten new diesel-electric locomotives were placed in service.

12. The Electricity Trust of South Australia has had a record year. Work is proceeding on the Torrens Island power station and the first generator should be in operation in 1967. The Thomas Playford power station at Port Augusta is now completed to its full designed capacity of 330,000 kilowatts, while work has continued on the additional 60,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the Osborne power station. Construction of the 132,000-volt transmission line from Port Augusta to Whyalla will be completed within the next two months and it is intended to continue the line to Port Lincoln. It is hoped that the 33,000-volt cable for the supply of power to Kangaroo Island will be completed within the next 12 months. The Leigh Creek coalfield, which supplies all the coal required for use at the Port Augusta power station, has reached a stage of comparatively stable development, and will contribute royalties to revenue during the coming financial year of some £80,000.

13. During this financial year, the South Australian Housing Trust expects to complete

about 3,000 dwellings, bringing to over 52,000 the total number completed. So far about 400 houses have been sold under the rental-purchase scheme under which houses are sold on a minimum deposit of £50. Migrants with varied trade skills and with sufficient capital to purchase their houses from the trust are arriving from the United Kingdom in substantial numbers. The trust continues to assist the establishment of industry by the provision of housing in the metropolitan area, Elizabeth and country areas, especially at Whyalla and Millicent.

14. The number of pupils in the primary and secondary schools of the Education Department is now 193,500, and there will be 5,000 more with the intake of beginners at the end of June. Secondary pupils, at present nearly 54,000, are more than double those of seven years ago. The supply of teachers for these rapidly increasing numbers is being well maintained, and there are now 2,975 students at the three teachers' colleges. The provision of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings is proceeding vigorously: in the year 1963 expenditure on buildings totalled approximately £6,154,000. The courses of instruction at the various kinds of schools are kept continually under review in order to meet changing conditions and requirements. The increase in the proportion of young people continuing at secondary schools has led to the drawing up of alternative courses at high schools and technical high schools, for those who do not wish to take the established courses. These alternative courses, at first introduced as an experiment in several "pilot" schools, have been highly successful, and they are being extended to other schools.

15. Work continues on major constructions at various hospitals including the Royal Adelaide, Queen Elizabeth and Port Lincoln hospitals as well as mental institutions. In the field of mental health I refer to the provision of funds to the States by the Commonwealth Government, the total amount received by this State by the end of the current financial year being approximately £750,000. My Government will give its mental health programme the utmost priority.

16. In addition to building works already in progress it is expected that during the next financial year work will commence upon at least 15 new or major additions to schools and other works. Apart from hospital and school buildings, capital expenditure on buildings during the current financial year will exceed £2,000,000, covering various Government, police and courthouse buildings. Plans are being

prepared for the new Government office block in Victoria Square.

17. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has increased its activities, the financial allocation for the current financial year amounting to nearly £675,000, a substantial increase over the figure for the previous year. In July, 1963, the department took over the Koonibba Mission and a full staff has been appointed. Psychological studies have been undertaken on reserves and the formation of reserve councils has been encouraged. In furtherance of the policy of increased responsibility for, Aborigines a general rise in wages on reserves is contemplated, to be followed by the introduction of reasonable charges for rental of houses and payment for services. While assistance to Aborigines will continue, all restrictions except as regards alcohol have been removed. In relation to alcohol two proclamations removing former restrictions in the metropolitan area and the south-east portion of the State were made during the year. A full-time employment officer within the department has been beneficial to the Aboriginal people and employment opportunities within 200 miles of Adelaide have remained buoyant. Significant increases have been made in housing in various parts of the State and the Housing Trust is co-operating with the department in this matter.

18. There is a growing emphasis on the role of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department in the fields of child and family care and it is expected that its work will continue to increase with corresponding increases in staff and major building activity. The new building at Vaughan House will be completed and it is expected that the remand home and junior boys' reformatory will be put into use during the forthcoming financial year. A contract for the complete rebuilding of the senior boys' reformatory at Magill has been let and work has commenced.

19. The employment position in South Australia continues to be very satisfactory, there being more vacancies available for males than persons registered for employment. As in 1962, the rate of increase of people in civilian employment was higher than the average for the whole of the Commonwealth. There was a 25 per cent increase in the number of new apprentices. My Government continues in its efforts in co-operation with employers and trade unions to reduce loss from industrial accidents. A special training course in accident prevention methods, developed for union officials, is the first of its kind in Australia.

20. I am happy to inform you that as a result of successful negotiations by my Ministers legislation will be laid before you to enable the development and expansion of a paper mill in the South-East of the State.

21. Legislation to amend the Constitution Act will be introduced early in the session.

22. A Bill will be introduced to enable my Government to grant financial assistance towards the erection in the city of Adelaide of a festival hall.

23. A Bill will be laid before you to extend the provisions of the Bulk Handling of Grain Act to barley and oats and to enable the Treasurer to give a further guarantee to the Commonwealth Trading Bank against additional funds to be provided to South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited.

24. An extension of the Prices Act for a further period of 12 months will be sought.

25. It is the intention of my Government to lay before you a Bill to provide for the service of women on juries.

26. A Bill to amend the Local Government Act to enable councils to contribute towards the purchase of land for redevelopment for housing purposes will be laid before you.

27. A Bill to extend the life of the Honey Marketing Board and to provide for the election of beekeepers' representatives will be laid before you.

28. A Bill will be introduced to make several amendments, mostly of a machinery nature, to the Road Traffic Act.

29. A Bill to permit the use of the metric system of weights and measures in the pharmaceutical and drugs trades will be presented.

30. My Ministers are considering legislation designed to preserve aboriginal rock carvings and other items of historical interest in the State.

31. My Ministers are also considering representations from various quarters along with the report of the Betting Control Board following its investigations into the operation and effect in Victoria and Queensland of the system of off-course betting commonly known as T.A.B. Among other problems is that of the winning bets tax which does not exist in the other States.

32. In September my Treasurer presented a Budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a deficit of £492,000. Although during the year industrial awards made a heavy impact on the Budget, economic activity recovered so rapidly from previous lower levels that most revenues increased more quickly than was anticipated. Further, the excellent harvest

helped to raise railway freight and harbour receipts. The improvement in revenue and a fall in several major items of expenditure have been sufficient to offset the cost of higher salary and wage rates and are expected to convert the estimated deficit into a moderate surplus. The Loan budget presented in August last anticipated that progress on capital works would require the expenditure of all funds becoming available and the small balance in the Loan Fund carried forward from the previous year. With the rapidly improving economic situation and the growing demand from private enterprise for labour, equipment, and the services of contractors, there has been some reduction in the rate of progress on Government projects. As a result, Loan expenditure will fall below earlier estimates and at the end of this month the Loan Fund will have a balance somewhat larger than is normally carried forward. This will be available for future spending upon capital works.

Members of the House of Assembly:

33. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of £734,966 during the current financial year will be laid before you. Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1965, will also be laid before you.

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

34. A Supply Bill providing £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.

35. In addition to measures which I have already mentioned, my Ministers are considering legislation on many matters including apiaries, building, companies, cremation, early closing, legal practitioners, libraries, local courts, nurses registration, physiotherapists, police pensions, statute law revision, vermin and other matters.

36. I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will 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.

RESIGNATION OF HON. G. O'H. GILES.

The PRESIDENT: I have to announce the resignation of the Hon. Geoffrey O'Halloran Giles.

(Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 2.30 p.m.)

**QUESTIONS.****ELECTRICITY TRUST LOAN.**

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

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: My question relates to the recent South Australian Electricity Trust loan, an advertisement in connection with which appeared in the *News* on April 1—which might be a really good day to expect such an advertisement to appear in view of the event that took place.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member cannot have an exhibit in the Chamber.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The advertisement invited people to contribute toward a loan for £2,250,000 either by conversion or by offering fresh money. Can the Chief Secretary say at what time the loan opened on April 2, and what time it closed and what amount of new money was accepted in the loan, if any?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Obviously, I am unable to answer the latter part of the question as to the new money offered. As to the earlier part of the question, the usual pattern was followed and copies of the prospectus were sent in advance to shareholders, and those who had made up their minds quickly enough could even have had the amount of the money they wanted to invest waiting on the doorstep when the loan opened. With such security as that offered by the trust, as by certain other similar businesses, it is understandable that there should be a rush to subscribe and that there should be some disappointed applicants. That is the only information that I can give the honourable member at present. I do not know the times when the loan opened or closed. It is somewhat like the Blue Streak venture, the time for which varied. I do not know the time the trust loan was filled. Whether the information requested by the honourable member can be ascertained from stockbrokers to be included in a return, I do not know. If possible, I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

**ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) ACT.**

The Hon. C. R. STORY: My question concerns the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act that was passed by both Houses last session. In view of the great deal of public interest in this measure and some rather confusing statements made recently in certain quarters, can the Minister of Roads say when

the Government intends to proclaim the Act and can he give any information regarding its operation?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: This measure, which should be proclaimed on July 1, has given the Government considerable food for thought because it is now realized that there may be some anomalies arising between the Road and Railway Transport Act of 1931, which constituted the Transport Control Board, and the other Act passed last year which, for want of a better description, was the "Road Tax Act". The Government has conferred with the Transport Control Board on this matter and the board is aware not only of the Government's attitude but of the general feeling of Parliament in regard to it. Under these circumstances it is anticipated that at the earliest possible moment the Government will bring down certain amendments to the Road and Railway Transport Act to alter it in accordance with the general policy both of the Government and the Parliament. In the meantime, supposing that the Act is proclaimed on July 1, it may well be that there will be a few practical difficulties for a short time until the amending Bill is introduced to Parliament for its consideration. I hope that good common sense will iron these difficulties out and permit the general public to appreciate the point that the measure must operate from the day it is proclaimed.

**FOYS BUILDING.**

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

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: For a number of years the Highways Department, and other Government departments, have occupied the building known as Foys building. I understand that the new office building for the Highways Department has been completed and is practically ready for occupancy—I understand about the middle of June. Naturally the department will then vacate Foys building, which I have had the opportunity to inspect with a Parliamentary Standing Committee. I saw the conditions under which these officers had been working and the condition of the building itself as regards office space or, for a better term, the lack of office space. On the vacation of this building by the Highways Department is it the Government's intention to house other departments in Foys building; and if so, does the Government intend to have substantial alterations to the conditions in the present building prior to its occupancy by officers of another Government department?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Firstly, I would say that I am pleased to know that my own department is moving out of Foys building as soon as possible. To make more office space for other members of the Public Service, the Government acquired this building rather than build other Government offices, thereby enabling it to build more schools and other important buildings, such as hospitals. I cannot speak entirely for my colleague, the Minister of Works, who is in charge of Government buildings, but the Highways Department will move out to its new quarters very shortly. It is presumed that other departmental officers will fill the vacancies in Foys building. The honourable member may not be aware of it, but the Minister of Works has already made a public statement, following an examination by a Parliamentary Committee to which the honourable member referred, that certain substantial improvements will be made to the building before other Government officers are placed in it.

#### SOUTH ROAD.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: His Excellency the Governor in his Opening Speech referred to planning for the coming financial year in relation to the main South Road to Reynella; apparently the planning for the new financial year does not extend beyond that. I had understood that it was planned that the road would go towards the coast somewhere between the oil refinery and the existing road and would link in with the existing road at Noarlunga, but there was nothing in His Excellency's speech to indicate that. I know there have been several changes of plan already, although the road is a wonderful success up to date. Can the Minister of Roads say whether it is intended that when the South Road goes further along (which I assume it will do) other towns as well as Reynella will be by-passed? If that does not happen, it seems to me that the road will be slowed down considerably and that it may have to be duplicated somewhere else in the future.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: The honourable member's question is full of interest, not only academic but practical. The planning of the present South Road visualizes a four-lane highway at least to the Onkaparinga River similar to the road that has already been constructed this side of Reynella. This will include, of

course, the Reynella by-pass. The freeway project, which is only a very desirable plan at the moment, visualizes a road going somewhere near Dyson's Road past the refinery and to Port Noarlunga as we know it today. There is very little possibility that what we now know as South Road will by-pass McLaren Vale. If honourable members think about the matter and study that road they will realize that this is difficult. After all, we must put up with a few reasonable bottlenecks, particularly on Saturdays and Sundays, as these are not particularly important when considering the well-being of the State. At Noarlunga the problem will probably be overcome by taking the main road across to the right and crossing the river near the present railway bridge. The Transport Control Board has before it for recommendation the closing of the line between Hallett Cove and Willunga. I cannot say what the recommendation will be, but obviously there is a trend of thought that the railway line should be closed for the time being but that the reserve should be retained in case it will be needed in future rather than that it should be foolishly relinquished. There will be a four-lane highway at least to Noarlunga, but beyond Noarlunga the only plans are for the redesign of the Willunga Hill.

#### PETROL PRICES.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: It appears that a definite price war is being carried on between oil companies at present. Some councils that have called tenders for the supply of their motor fuel requirements have had price variations as great as 6d. a gallon quoted to them. I am also informed that private users of motor spirit, by bargaining with oil companies and their agents, can obtain similar concessions. Will the Chief Secretary refer this matter to the Premier and ask whether this is regarded as a legitimate trade practice and, if it is, whether the Premier will request the Prices Commissioner to investigate the prices with a view to having a reduction made to all users of motor fuel?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: As requested, I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier.

#### PUNISHMENT FOR JUVENILES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Last month His Honour Mr. Justice Mayo sentenced three youths for the most despicable offence that anyone could imagine. The following is an extract from a press report about the case:

Mr. Justice Mayo said the Court was prevented by provisions of the Maintenance Act from ordering imprisonment of juveniles in such cases. "If those provisions do apply at large, these offences urgently suggest the scope of their application should be reconsidered," he said. "It calls for criticism that the denial of authority to sentence imprisonment is to be applied to circumstances so repulsive and infamous as the present. If any conduct requires gaol, the conduct of all you three certainly does."

Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government has considered this particular case and whether it intends to take some action to give effect to His Honour's remarks?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I have studied the facts of the case, and I agree with the honourable member that they are disgusting in the extreme and that they certainly merited a more severe penalty than the law permitted. However, that raises the whole issue about whether 18 years of age, under which age people are dealt with in the Juvenile Court today, is or is not the correct age and whether in these times it should not be lowered so that people who act in an unsocial way can receive the proper penalty—more than can be imposed at present. That whole question has been the subject of fairly careful consideration by me. Many facets are involved. I hope we shall be able to work out something that will enable the courts to impose an appropriate penalty.

#### GAWLER BY-PASS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: My question concerns the Gawler to Mallala (or Roseworthy College) main road and its intersection with the Gawler by-pass. The present intersection does not afford good visibility, particularly for traffic coming from the direction of Roseworthy College. Several accidents have occurred at this intersection since the by-pass was opened, two or three of them being serious and tragic. I am aware that the Minister's concern about this matter is second to none and I believe he has called for a report upon it, having in mind the possibility of redesigning that intersection. Can he tell the Council when that report is likely to be available?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Yes. The facts are as stated by the honourable member. This specific matter is under review at the moment by the Chief Executive Officer of the Road Traffic Board, who will make representations to me on the best way of dealing with the problem. It is a dangerous intersection at which serious accidents have occurred, but it is not easy to prescribe the remedy. Naturally, we do not want to take up time as this might produce unfortunate results (far be it from that), but there may be something in the fact that it is an entirely new intersection, the dangers of which are not fully appreciated by many people using it. There may be other factors to be considered in an appropriate redesign. I will let the honourable member have the report as soon as it is available.

#### FRUIT PESTS LEGISLATION.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: My question is addressed to the Chief Secretary, representing the Minister of Agriculture in this Council. Does the Government intend to introduce legislation to amend the Oriental Fruit Moth Control Act, the Red Scale Control Act and the San José Scale Control Act to strengthen the powers of the committees set up under those Acts, particularly in the matter of prosecutions?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: That legislation concerns my colleague the Minister of Agriculture. I know that some difficulties have arisen and that amending legislation has been considered. I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister because I have no knowledge of any new legislation in that regard.

#### 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:

- Fulham Gardens and Henley Beach Floodwaters Drainage Scheme,
- Maitland Area School,
- Police Training Academy, Fort Largs,
- Port River Deepening and Improving,
- Seaview Downs Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme,
- Semaphore Park Sewerage Scheme,
- Sewerage System for Grange (East), Henley Beach (East), Seaton (South), Fulham Gardens and Kidman Park (South).

## 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 R. C. DeGaris.

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

## 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. W. W. Robinson, Sir Arthur Rymill, 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 28, 1964.

Motion carried.

## 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.*

This is the usual Bill submitted to Parliament at this period of the session to provide funds for the payment of Public Service salaries until such time as the Appropriation Bill is submitted to Parliament. The Bill is in the same form and for the same amount—£18,000,000—as the Supply Bill (No. 1), 1963, passed by Parliament 12 months ago. Honourable members will be aware of the fact that the annual Appropriation Bill does not normally receive assent until about the end of October, and that as the financial year begins on July 1 some special provision for appropriation is required to cover the first four months of the new year. That special provision takes the form of Supply Bills, and without this Bill now before the Council there would be no Parliamentary authority available for normal expenditure from July 1, 1964.

A short Bill for £18,000,000 without any details of the purposes for which it is available does not mean that the Government or

individual departments have a free hand to spend. Clause 3 provides that, with the exception of certain salary and wage increases, no payments are to be made in excess of the rates voted on the Estimates for 1963-64. It follows then that in the early months of 1964-65, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government must use the £18,000,000 within the detailed limits set out in the Estimates approved by Parliament for 1963-64. Naturally, members will have a full opportunity to debate the detailed 1964-65 expenditure proposals when the Budget is presented.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I support the Bill, which is the usual measure introduced at this time of the year. It provides for exactly the same amount as the measure passed last year. One of the serious complaints that I brought before the Council when I spoke on a similar measure last year has been satisfactorily considered and the action taken meets with my approval. I was just wondering whether all the expenditure of Government departments can be met from this provision of £18,000,000, in view of the decision of a certain court yesterday. I should imagine it will be sufficient to keep the Government services going until we meet again in July.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I also support the Bill. I am pleased that the Chief Secretary gave an explanation of the measure because I think that many honourable members in the past have felt that when such Bills have been introduced they were not given sufficient information. As the Hon. Mr. Shard has said, the Government will probably be called upon to meet the wage increases foreshadowed, a considerable amount, in Public Service salaries and wages. Apparently the amount stipulated in the Bill will be sufficient to enable the Government to meet requirements until the Council meets again and therefore I have no objection to its passing.

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

## ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.17 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 11, at 2.15 p.m.