

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, June 11, 1964.

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

QUESTIONS.**WINGFIELD SPUR LINE.**

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: On May 19 the Premier made a statement—one of his more pleasant announcements—that John Lysaght (Aust.) Limited was to build a £400,000 metal rolling plant that would produce a wide range of roof and ceiling materials. He said that the plant, to be built at Wingfield Road, Wingfield, would be linked by a new spur railway line from near the Wingfield railway station on the Dry Creek to Port Dock railway line, and that the company would pay £15,000 of the cost of the line. Can the Minister of Railways state the total cost of this spur line?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Not offhand, but I will undertake to get an answer and let the honourable member have it.

BULK HANDLING WEED PROBLEM.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Since the introduction of bulk handling of wheat and its carriage in bulk on the railways, the risk of spreading weeds has become greater because the grain is no longer contained in sacks and weed seeds can become lodged in railway trucks and in some circumstances can be left alongside the railway line. Will the Minister of Railways say what precautions are taken by the South Australian Railways to prevent the spread of weeds from railway trucks used for the carriage of bulk grain and subsequently used for the cartage of superphosphate or general goods, and will he indicate what additional precautions have been taken to control the spread of weeds on railway property since the introduction of the bulk carriage of grain?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I cannot give this information at the moment, so I ask the honourable member to put his question on notice.

SOUTH ROAD SPEED LIMIT.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: My question, which is directed to the Minister of Roads, follows in another way a question I asked yesterday about the South Road. Much of this road has been completed, and it has a triple carriage-way on both sides. We passed legislation a couple of sessions ago giving the Road Traffic Board power to make speed zones, and I think the public is assuming that the dual highway that has been completed so far has been speed-zoned, as people are travelling considerably in excess of the speed limit and nobody is taking any notice of them, obviously for the very good reason that this is perfectly safe. However, no signs have yet been erected indicating that the road has been speed-zoned. Will the Minister of Roads say whether it is intended that the part of this road that has been completed will be zoned for a higher speed, because it appears to be perfectly safe in that part?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I cannot give a definite answer, but I can say that the matter is definitely being considered by the Road Traffic Board. It was probably delayed somewhat in the hope that the by-pass would have been completed sooner and that the whole could be done at once rather than piecemeal. I will take up the matter with the Road Traffic Board.

BOOL LAGOON.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Will the Attorney-General, who represents the Minister of Lands in this Chamber, say what progress has been made with investigations into the future of Bool Lagoon, near Naracoorte, and when it may reasonably be expected that a report on the investigations will be made?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I cannot give the information without referring to my colleague, but I will refer to him and see that the honourable member is informed of the position.

(Sitting suspended from 2.22 to 4.15 p.m.)

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The House of Assembly notified its appointment of sessional committees.

APPROPRIATION 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.

The Revenue Budget for 1963-64 anticipated a deficit of £492,000. Since its presentation to Parliament in September last there has been a heavy impact from a succession of awards increasing the salaries and wages of public servants, teachers, and other Government employees. On the other hand, however, the rate of economic recovery has been so rapid that many major items of Crown revenue have shown increases greater than were anticipated early in the financial year. The upward movement in receipts has been accentuated by the favourable effect of an excellent harvest on railway and harbour earnings. Further, the growing competition for labour has made it more difficult for departments to engage and hold the full staff required for the maintenance and expansion of services, and this has led to a shortfall against estimated expenditure in a number of departments.

Overall it appears that revenue increases, together with savings in departmental expenditures, will have the combined effect of offsetting completely the cost of increased salary and wage rates, and of converting the anticipated small deficit of £492,000 into a modest surplus.

Despite the improvement in the revenue situation, it is still necessary for a second Appropriation Bill to be considered by Parliament. A clause in the main Appropriation Act gives sufficient authority for the payment of practically all of the increased salary and wages rates which I have mentioned, but there are several items of additional expenditure incurred or to be incurred this year for which no automatic appropriation exists. As honourable members are aware neither increased revenues nor savings in other departments can offset the need for appropriation in such cases. Appropriation over and above that provided in the original estimates must come either from the Governor's Appropriation Fund or from a second Appropriation Bill. The £400,000 of the fund will not suffice to meet known requirements for additional appropriation this year, and an Appropriation Bill is therefore necessary for the following purposes:

Hospitals Department, £40,000.—This sum is provided for the Hospitals Department to meet additional running expenses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Northfield Mental Hospital and to permit the purchase of further medical and surgical equipment.

Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous, £10,516.—Grants under this heading are a pound-for-pound subsidy of £4,016 to the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for aged persons at Myrtle Bank for expenditure on furnishings; £1,000 to the A. J. Ferguson Memorial Appeal to relieve hardship of children of Australian servicemen in Japan; £3,000 to the South Australian Olympic Council towards the cost of sending Australian athletes to Tokyo for the 1964 Olympic Games; and £2,500 to the distress fund opened following the loss of H.M.A.S. *Voyager*.

Lands Department, £4,550.—For the Lands Department an additional appropriation of £4,550 is required for development of bores drilled by oil exploration teams. The bores are now to be used to provide supplies of artesian water on travelling stock routes in the Far North and North-East of the State at Witcherie, Pandieburra and Gidgealpa.

Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous, £96,000.—The sum of £11,000 is required in connection with the extension of the town of Loxton where more than 50 additional blocks are being prepared. It will cover the cost of roads constructed by the district council and the provision of water services. The cost will be recovered when the land is sold.

An amount of £85,000 is for the purchase of land for national reserves. Of this, £25,000 is required for the extension of Para Wirra reserve and to supplement existing appropriation for several smaller purchases of land, and £60,000 is provided to recoup the Highways Fund for part of the purchase price of "Arbury Park", Bridgewater. The purchase price of the whole property, £120,000, was met initially from the fund.

It is estimated that, had an area sufficient only for freeway purposes been acquired, the cost to the Highways Fund for compensation would have been about £60,000. Therefore the Government has decided that it is appropriate for £60,000 to remain as a charge against the fund, and for £60,000 to be met from Revenue as the cost of land for national reserves. The 230-acre property has been placed temporarily under the control of the National Park and Wild Life Commission. When a decision has been taken as to how the new Adelaide Hills freeway will traverse the property the Government will consider the best means of using the remaining area for the purposes of public recreation.

Public Works, £145,000.—An additional £45,000 is required for minor works and general maintenance expenditure upon the upkeep of

education buildings. The sum of £100,000 is sought for similar expenditure on hospital buildings. A major part of the additional provision sought for hospital buildings is to cover improvements and purchase of furniture, furnishings, and equipment at mental hospitals, particularly Parkside Mental Hospital. It is a direct consequence of the higher standard of mental health services being provided by the Government.

Minister of Works—Miscellaneous, £10,000.—A contribution of £10,000 to the Metropolitan Drainage Maintenance Fund has been provided. Expenditure on the maintenance of drains in areas previously flooded by the River Torrens, River Sturt and Keswick and Brownhill Creeks is met from this fund. Under the Metropolitan Drainage Act an annual contribution is paid by certain local government authorities and the Municipal Tramways Trust. Recently, contributions to the fund by these authorities have not been sufficient to meet expenditure, and accordingly an appropriation from revenue is necessary to cover the anticipated deficiency.

Education Department, £50,000.—Additional expenditure by the Education Department for normal running and maintenance requires appropriation of a further £50,000. The sum of £27,000 is provided for primary schools, mainly to cover purchases of school materials and equipment. Provisions of £13,000 for area schools and £10,000 for technical schools are partly attributable to a slightly higher enrolment in 1964 than was anticipated when the Budget was prepared. This latter factor involved increased total payments to students for book allowances and for travelling allowances. Expenditure on school materials and equipment will also be a little greater than originally estimated.

Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, £285,000.—For the University of Adelaide—additional general purpose grant—the original provision was £3,275,000. A further £175,000 is now required for factors which were not known in September last. When the Estimates for this year were compiled, provision was included for payments to the University of Adelaide to complete approved grants for 1963 and to provide funds for the first half of the academic year 1964. At that time the report of the Australian Universities Commission, with its recommendations for assistance in 1964, 1965 and 1966 had not been presented, and there was necessarily a degree of estimation about the probable 1964 requirements of the university. Subject to appropriation being approved by Parliament, Cabinet accepted the

1964 budget of the university, which was drawn up in the expectation of grants as finally recommended by the Universities Commission and accepted by the Commonwealth. The University budget includes provision for the expenditure of a special research grant of £110,000 recommended by the commission, and the Government now proposes to pay a grant of one-half of that amount—£55,000—towards the cost of special research projects in the first half of 1964. The Commonwealth's half share of this grant will be paid into Consolidated Revenue as received.

Of the £175,000 appropriation now sought, the remaining £120,000 is required to cover increased rates of academic salaries. When the Commonwealth Government accepted the recommendation of the Universities Commission, it agreed to make funds available towards increased salary rates as from July 1, 1963. The State for its part also agreed to provide its share of funds for this purpose. The additional cost to the University of Adelaide of salaries at the currently approved increased rates is about £120,000 a year. The Commonwealth contribution of roughly one-third of the cost of increased salary rates will also be paid into Consolidated Revenue as received.

For the general purpose grant to the South Australian Institute of Technology, the original provision was £555,000. A further £110,000 is now required, £100,000 being towards the cost of building projects which were still subject to discussion with the Universities Commission in September last and for which progress has since been more rapid than anticipated, and £10,000 towards salary increases. Of the £100,000 for building projects, £45,000 is towards a new building at Whyalla and £55,000 is towards major alterations at North Terrace. At Whyalla a major building is being erected at a cost of £452,000. The Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. and the Electricity Trust have each offered to contribute £100,000 towards the cost, the Universities Commission has recommended Commonwealth assistance of £121,000, and the State will be required to find the remainder—£131,000. The provision on the original Estimates included £75,000 towards the building, but it is desirable that a further provision of £45,000 should now be made to meet progress payments. The Commonwealth contribution is being paid into Consolidated Revenue as received.

Agreement with the Universities Commission on an extensive programme of building alterations for the Institute of Technology at North Terrace was reached in the latter part of

1963. The cost of the programme is about £120,000. The commission has accepted half, or £60,000, as being applicable to university purposes and has recommended Commonwealth grants of £30,000 towards the work. Progress to date requires the payment this year of grants totalling £55,000, which includes the Commonwealth proportion being paid into State revenue. The increased salary rates effective for the University of Adelaide have also been applied to comparable staff teaching university level work at the institute. An additional grant for £10,000 is to be paid on this account.

Mines Department, £71,400.—Further appropriation of £71,400 is required for the Mines Department. Of this sum, £24,000 is proposed to cover the payment to the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories in consequence of the organization taking over from the State Government the liability for accumulated sick leave and long service leave of officers transferred to the laboratories staff from the Public Service. This transfer and financial arrangement were authorized by legislation passed by Parliament last session.

The sum of £6,000 is provided as a contribution towards the Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress to be held in Australia and New Zealand between February and April, 1965. Such meetings permit Australian mining and metallurgical specialists to meet their overseas counterparts on common ground. Besides considerable technical benefits, advantages may accrue from the opportunity to interest overseas people in Australian developments. All States are contributing to the cost of the congress. The sum of £2,400 is provided for an overseas visit by the Senior Geologist to examine projects concerned with the development of potash, bromine and phosphate resources, and £39,000 is provided for additional drilling of exploratory bores and testing of mineral deposits as part of an accelerated programme to assess the mineral resources of the State. The increase in the drilling programme now proposed includes work on a stratigraphic bore at Fortville on the Yunta stock route.

Minister of Local Government and Minister of Roads—Miscellaneous, £22,500.—A further £22,500 is provided for the purchase of land under the Public Parks Act. The Government assists local authorities to acquire suitable land for parks and open places, usually by contributing one-half of the Land Board valuation of areas to be acquired. The additional provision is required for the Crown's share of

the cost of acquiring about 37 acres for the District Council of Tea Tree Gully.

I will now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further £734,966 from general revenue. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out the amount to be provided under each department or activity. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts of the payee shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made.

Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan Funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. This is a normal clause, and the authority is not expected to be required this year. 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, award or determination. This also is a normal clause.

I commend the Bill for consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I support the Bill, which is for the appropriation of revenue for the year ending June 30, 1964. The measure is similar to the Appropriation Bill brought before this Chamber at about this time each year, and one can readily understand that estimates made about 12 months ago have not been exactly correct. For the Hospitals Department, £40,000 is required to meet additional running expenses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Northfield Mental Hospital and to permit the purchase of further medical and surgical equipment. To the best of my knowledge the wages paid to employees in these particular institutions have not varied to any extent during the last 12 months. If the additional money is for more equipment I have no objection to the expenditure.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: You would not object if it were for increased wages, would you?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No, but I cannot reconcile the amounts. If the increased expenditure is not for increased wages I presume it will be used to improve the running of the hospital. An amount of £4,016 is provided as a grant to the Little Sisters of the Poor at Myrtle Bank. My only comment is that I should like the Government to improve on

the present practice of providing a pound-for-pound contribution. Also, an amount of £1,000 is provided for the A. J. Ferguson Memorial Appeal for Australian-Japanese children in Japan. I understand that South Australia was asked to raise £6,000 for this fund, and the Government's offer of one-sixth of that total meets with my approval. The Government also proposes to provide £3,000 as a grant to the South Australian Olympic Council for the Olympic Games to be held shortly in Tokyo. That is all to the good.

One could not justly criticize the Government's proposed contribution of £2,500 towards the *Voyager* distress fund appeal. I also approve of the Government's proposal to provide an additional £85,000 for the purchase of land for national reserves and recreation grounds, which will be for the benefit of the present generation and future generations. An amount of £60,000 is provided to recoup the Highways Fund for part of the purchase price of Arbury Park, the total for which is £120,000. This will be of great benefit provided that it is used for the benefit of the general public, and not only for a few people. It has been suggested that it could be converted to a golf course, the home itself being used as a club house. I hope that that does not eventuate. Although I am very sport-minded, as everyone knows, if that were done it would be for the benefit of only a very select few. I hope that the Government considers this point of view very closely and converts Arbury Park to a recreational area for as many people as possible, so that they may enjoy the lovely surroundings.

Reference was made in the Chief Secretary's speech to the Parkside Mental Hospital. Within the last month I visited this institution and noticed that some improvements had been made, but there is still much room for further improvement. With others, I was shown over the institution by Dr. Hof. Efforts have been made to improve the surroundings, not only for the benefit of the patients, but for those who care for them. However, with all fairness to the Government, there is much more that should be done there and the sooner it is done the better. I understand that during the past year many improvements have been made but, despite that, the work already completed is not enough and it is taking too long. If the Government can expedite these improvements, it will all be to the good.

I have also visited the Yatala Labour Prison and I am pleased that arrangements are being made for criminally mental patients at the

Parkside institution to be moved to the Yatala prison. The sooner this is done the better. In saying this, I am not pointing the finger of scorn at the Government, but I think it is fair comment. Despite the improvements at the Parkside Mental Hospital, including the bathrooms, much more remains to be done.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: If the honourable member had seen the institution a few years ago, he would have even greater appreciation of what has been done.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am not criticizing the Government, but I think the Minister will agree that there is still much to be done there, and the sooner it is done the better for everyone concerned.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: The spending of £4,000,000 will make a bit of difference!

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That is so. I hope that it is done and done speedily. I support the Bill.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I also support the measure. We are quite used to having these Appropriation Bills, but we realize they are quite necessary. I am exceedingly pleased to see that the Budget will probably be balanced, because I am a believer in balanced Budgets if this is at all possible. It has been the fair boast of this Government that it has been able, over a period of years, to come out with balanced Budgets. That reflects great credit on the Treasurer and those who work with him in managing the affairs of the State.

As has been mentioned, some of the money in the Supplementary Estimates is to be used to provide for increases in salaries and wages of Government employees. I am afraid that this will be extended throughout the State, and will apply not only to Government departments. I understand that the recent increases will involve the Government in an additional £2,000,000 expenditure in the Public Service. To meet such increases, the Government must collect more money from the public, or something else must go short. I think that the public appreciates the fact that it will take much planning for the Government and private enterprise to meet the increased wage costs. I am not criticizing these increases in wages, but pointing out that to meet this additional expense it is not just a matter of using the printing press at the Treasury and churning out more money. Some people seem to have the idea that that is the way Governments can run countries.

Turning to specific items, I am particularly pleased to see that the amount of £100,000

has been made available for the town of Loxton for 50 additional blocks of land. This land was acquired some time ago to enable Loxton to develop in an orderly fashion. This town is mushrooming. Its population has more than doubled in the last 10 years, mainly as a result of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. It is necessary that blocks of land become available to enable people who want to build their own houses to do so. The Housing Trust's programme should be stepped up in this town because at the moment there is a large waiting list of people desiring houses. The provision of these additional 50 blocks of land will not only enable the Housing Trust to get on with its job but will also provide housing for private individuals. Certain areas have been made available adjacent to the town for light industry, a necessary adjunct to the orderly development of this fast-growing area.

I am also pleased to see that some money has been put aside for national parks—Para Wirra in particular and the purchase of the Arbury Park property, which has been somewhat controversial. I am pleased to note that it has been placed, at the moment anyhow, in the capable hands of the National Park and Wild Life Commission. The Hon. Mr. Shard has said that he does not want this to grow into anything that will restrict its use for the general public. I feel similarly. We are spending £60,000 additionally over and above what is required for the freeway, and, if the Government can consider turning the area into something that will be a show place for the use of the general public, future generations will look back upon this as one of the great landmarks in the development of this State.

National parks, wherever they are in a country, need to be attractive and, above all, useful—not just rabbit-breeding reserves. They have to be developed along orderly lines. In my opinion, the further away they are from the

population, so that the population has to go out to those areas to see them, the better. I do not think they should be situated in the midst of fast-developing areas. I know sporting fields are necessary but I would far rather the national parks policy was directed towards natural fauna and flora country and ensuring that it was properly preserved in appropriate areas. I am not keen on these huge tracts of land being left idle to breed rabbits and become absolute waste country, serving no great purpose for the State.

I am also pleased to see that the Mines Department is receiving additional sums of money, because we all realize that, if that department is to get on with surveying this State for natural mineral resources, not only will the population of this State be decentralized but some of the older areas where minerals have in the past been worked will take on a new lease of life. As the department searches for new lodes, it will infuse new life into many country towns that have run down because the mineral resources have been worked out. Then there is oil, which we probably need more urgently in this State than it is needed in any other. It is heartening to see that we have at least some results from the activities of those people who have been searching for oil in the northern parts of the State. It is to be hoped that with the combined efforts of the Mines Department and the private firms we can look forward to some useful strikes in the State generally. I do not think it matters much where they are, provided we pursue this policy of geological survey. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.57 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 28, at 2.15 p.m.