

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, August 4, 1964.

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

QUESTIONS.**HOSPITALS.**

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: All members know that during the last few years district and community hospitals of various kinds have had to face the possibility of having to close because of either financial difficulty or staff shortage. That is common knowledge. Can the Chief Secretary, as Minister of Health, say whether the Government has considered (and, if not, will it consider) the establishment of a special fund under the control of a non-Party sub-committee to which any district or community hospital in South Australia threatened with closure because of financial difficulty or staff shortage can seek emergency assistance?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: The question is not without some difficulty. The final part of it suggests that some funds might be made available to some outside committee or authority from which to make certain grants. As the honourable member is aware, the Government is responsible, administratively, for the expenditure of funds appropriated by Parliament, and it would not be consistent to hand that responsibility or authority to somebody not having the responsibility that the Minister has. He is responsible to Parliament and an outside committee would not be. As regards the earlier part of the question dealing with hospitals closing, whilst occasional difficulties arise, not because of lack of finance but because of staff shortages, always something turns up at the last minute to prevent the hospital closing. The subsidized hospitals are protected by an independent committee within the department itself, plus a representative from the Hospitals Association. That is the authority that recommends to the Minister subsidies for maintenance purposes in hospitals. That is the system, which is on a most generous scale.

As a matter of fact, when Part IV of the Act (which deals with rating for hospital purposes) came into existence, the subsidy that was generally given by the Government approximated that of local rating and was intended to compensate the hospitals for looking after all

patients. They used to be referred to in those days as "indigent cases". Today, the assistance that hospitals receive from the Government by way of subsidies covers pensioners and people unable to pay—a twofold cover. So that, in effect, in subsidized hospitals the private patients receive some assistance. The history of community hospitals has been remarkable. Not one of them has failed to carry out its original intention. All have enlarged their activities by providing more beds. Every community hospital is doing an excellent job, justifying generous assistance for capital expenditure on development and enlargement. Considering the overall picture, I do not think there is any demand for the special fund suggested by the honourable member.

FESTIVAL HALL.

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: Last week I asked the Chief Secretary whether the authorities would call for competitive designs from practising architects in South Australia for the proposed festival hall. Following my question and a statement made by the Premier in another place, the President of the South Australian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects made the institute's position quite clear. The following is a press report of his statements:

Mr. Boehm said that the principle of architectural competitions had long been recognized as a means of obtaining the finest architecture available, particularly in respect of buildings of a public or national character. Mr. Boehm said it should be remembered that some of Adelaide's finest buildings were the outcome of architectural competitions.

Examples included the Adelaide Railway Station, the Adelaide Boys High School and the War Memorial, North Terrace. Other Australian examples of competitions were the design of the city of Canberra, the Perth Town Hall, the Reserve Bank in Canberra, and Anzac House, Sydney. The first houses built by the South Australian Housing Trust were the winning designs of an architectural competition.

Will the Chief Secretary say whether, in view of Mr. Boehm's observations, the Government will reconsider its attitude towards holding a competition for the purpose of having the best architectural features embodied in the festival hall?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I see no reason to alter the reply I gave last week,

because I do not think the Government is called upon to give any direction in this matter. It is being handled by the Adelaide City Council, which has competent architects, and which I am sure knows how to get the best plans for the building. If the honourable member is so married to having a competitive design, I think we have many examples to show that the competition could be won by an architect from America, Queensland, or some other place outside this State, and I do not think that would give satisfaction to the President of the Royal Institute of Architects. I wonder if he would have the same views if a person from outside this State won the competition. However, I am answering a question, and I do not wish to debate the matter.

I point out to the honourable member that a competitive design was used for a building that was referred to previously. It was estimated to cost £3,000,000 or £4,000,000, but its cost will be more than £20,000,000. I do not support his suggestion. Competitive designs were sought in relation to a hospital within the Adelaide metropolitan area, which was estimated to cost about £250,000, but at the time nobody had £250,000. Big prize money was handed out, and much money was wasted because the plans were not proceeded with. They had to be scrapped and another design, which the people concerned wanted and could afford, was adopted. I think that is the position in relation to a building for which land has not yet been obtained.

GAWLER BY-PASS.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Roads an answer to my question of June 10 relating to the Redbanks intersection on the Gawler by-pass road?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: As I indicated at the time, this matter was under the consideration of the Road Traffic Board, which realized that it was a dangerous intersection. I received the following report from the Commissioner of Highways:

Improvement to the safety of the intersection of the Gawler by-pass and Gawler-Redbanks main road presents a very difficult problem. After investigation, a proposal has been prepared and submitted to the District Engineer for consideration. He is at present examining this proposal and possible alternatives. If this scheme proves practicable and acceptable, closing and deviation of adjacent roads involving land acquisition may be necessary. The investigations, survey, design, preparation of plans, and land acquisition will take considerable time, and it is doubtful whether an acceptable proposal will be ready for construction until 1965-66.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S RETIREMENT.

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: There has taken place recently a most historical event in the House of Commons, the Mother of Parliaments. It concerns the retirement of the Right Hon. Sir Winston Churchill as a member of that House. I do not need to eulogize his efforts during the Second World War, when he not only saved Great Britain and its overseas dominions, but stood as a beacon of light as the champion of the free world. The House of Commons carried an all-Party resolution commending the right honourable gentleman for his work in connection with the war. Seeing that we as a Parliament carry out the traditions of the Mother of Parliaments, is it the Government's intention that this Parliament should carry a similar resolution in appreciation of the work done by Sir Winston as a war-time leader?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I am sure that everyone would support the commendation mentioned by the honourable member in regard to the work of the former Prime Minister of England. The honourable member has asked a question in relation to a special resolution of Parliament which, if it were carried, should embrace the views of this Parliament as a whole. I will refer the honourable member's question to the Government for consideration.

MONEY FOR ROADS.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The Premier announced last week that the Highways Department would have £1,000,000 less to spend this financial year than last year. Can the Minister of Roads say whether this will result in the retrenchment of any employees from his department?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I am very happy to be able to say that this is most unlikely. The problem of this department, particularly in regard to employees, is to maintain them constantly in camps often far removed from the city. It is very difficult to maintain skilled staff at the increasing level desired.

LAND VALUATION.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked last week whether the Government had received a report from the Land Valuation Committee?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I informed the honourable member when he asked the question that I would get the information, which is as follows:

The committee consists of Sir George Ligertwood (Chairman), Mr. C. A. Reiners, Mr. T. Shanahan and Mr. H. Tyler. The committee has sat many times and has taken a great deal of evidence. Its report is now in draft form and it is expected that it will be completed and forwarded to the Government within the next two months.

ROAD FREIGHT CHARGES.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of last week regarding road freight charges?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: As I indicated then, I referred the question to the Premier who has reported:

This matter is being closely examined by the Prices Commissioner. An increase in the rates is being requested on account of the ton-mile tax and also on account of the increase of the basic wage. The Prices Commissioner did not agree to the proposed increases at a conference held this week and has called for all accounts for examination.

MAIN ROAD RULE.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: During the Address in Reply debate I referred to the desirability of a main road rule for traffic in country areas. Will the Minister of Roads refer this question to the State Traffic Committee or the Road Traffic Board, whichever he may consider the appropriate authority, for a report?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: At first thought, I realized that the Road Traffic Board would be fully empowered to deal with this matter under its various regulations. However, that would probably be undesirable, because this is major Government policy, which would be reflected in traffic rules throughout the State. I have expressed the opinion many times that something in this direction is desirable. To refer the matter to the State Traffic Committee means calling together a large committee, the chairman of which already has an unusual number of memberships of committees. Whether that committee could deal with the question expeditiously, or whether it would be desirable to refer it to a smaller committee I do not know, but I will take the matter up and advise the honourable member as early as possible.

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: In the early part of the session I asked the Minister of Roads a question relative to the zoning of a portion of the newly made South Road highway. He was kind enough during the recess to give me an answer to the question and informed me that the Road Traffic Board would consider making this zoning when the road was completed past Reynella. On my observation that might still take a considerable time. As several miles of this highway has been completed and as traffic is daily being impeded by the lack of speed zoning, which I pointed out was desirable, will the Minister refer the matter again to the Road Traffic Board to try to get some speedier action?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: Yes. As a matter of fact, I took up the point raised by the honourable member a week or two ago. In the meantime, we have been confronted with Salisbury becoming a city, through which there is now a 35-mile per hour limit on the North-East Road. I do not mean the Main North-East Road, but the road that goes across to Two Wells. The matter is having the attention of the Road Traffic Board at present, but I will take it up with the board again.

PORT WAKEFIELD ROAD.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I am glad to see that some progress has been made in the duplication of the Port Wakefield Road from Gepps Cross to Cavan. The Minister of Roads is well aware of the dangerous nature of the railway crossing. Can he indicate when the duplication of the crossing will be completed?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: No. I have not got the information but I will obtain it for the honourable member.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.
(Continued from July 29. Page 102.)

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern): I rise with pleasure to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I was sorry to learn a few moments ago that the Hon. Jessie Cooper, who obtained the adjournment of this debate last Wednesday, is not present because of the illness of her husband. We all sincerely hope that the illness is not of a serious nature.

I am proud to be a member of this august Chamber on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the building. I wish to refer to the fact that today is the Queen Mother's birthday. We all heard the salute at 12 o'clock today. It is not only the Queen Mother's birthday, but 50 years ago today England declared war on Germany. The Governor's Speech in opening Parliament, delivered on June 10, was delivered in his usual competent manner. Undoubtedly he and Lady Bastyan have a busy life attending many functions throughout the State, entailing much travel, and we are most fortunate in having people like them to represent Her Majesty the Queen in South Australia.

I congratulate the mover of the motion (Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill). Because of his legal training in his early days and his vast experience in public life, he gave us one of his usual speeches, which always contain much interest and information. I also congratulate the seconder of the motion. I support the Hon. Mr. Shard's remarks about my colleague the Hon. W. W. Robinson. Mr. Robinson had a busy life before coming to Parliament, and he is still having a busy life with his Parliamentary work, including his work as a member of the Public Works Standing Committee. I have found him to be a faithful colleague over the 16 years we have been together as members for the Northern District, and to be a thorough gentleman at all times.

I extend a welcome to our new member, the Hon. Harry Kemp, better known to members as "Garrya" in the *Sunday Mail* and other papers. We are fortunate in having a member of the type of Mr. Kemp. I have never known a new member to make his maiden speech so confidently as he did, but it was because he knew his subject. I asked him what his occupation was, whether it was horticulturist, but he said he did not know. He said he had used the title of journalist, but whatever he calls himself this Parliament will benefit from the information he imparts to us in future. His appearance in this Chamber reminds me of the time when the Hon. C. R. Story became a member. The information we have obtained from him on fruit-growing and irrigation has been most valuable to those who know little about this type of primary production.

I now refer to members of this Parliament who have died during the last 12 months. First I refer to our late President, Sir Walter Duncan, who was one of the greatest Parliamentarians of all time. His memory will be always with those of us who had the privilege to be in Parliament during the time he presided in this Chamber. I also refer to the

late Sir Shirley Jeffries, who gave valuable service as Minister of Education for many years and who, since his retirement brought about by illness—we know he lost his voice and that it was compulsory for him to retire from Parliament—did much good work for Prince Alfred College and Westminster College, he being one of the instigators of the latter. He gave great service to South Australia. I also refer to the late Mr. W. W. Jenkins who, at the time of his death, was the Chairman of our Parliamentary Land Settlement Committee. He really excelled in that office. He was a member of the 27th Battalion during the First World War and in the Second World War was one of South Australia's best instructors on the Vickers machine gun. He was a keen and enthusiastic member for his district. Finally, we all remember Senator John Critchley, who was well known in South Australia and who gave valuable service.

With the retirement of Mr. Les Harding, Mr. Fred Walsh and myself at the end of this session, it will leave, as far as I know, only the Premier, Hon. P. H. Quirke, Mr. Bockelberg and Mr. Loveday as returned soldier candidates (First World War) for the next election. So time is marching on and is taking its toll.

The 1963-64 season was an all-time record. All kinds of primary production in South Australia were phenomenal. This year, 1964-65, is somewhat indifferent because the rainfall has been irregular in many parts and severe damage has been caused by heavy winds in recent months. Last Friday, when travelling to Minnipa by air, I noticed extensive damage around Darke Peak and Rudall, and I believe the Murray Valley has suffered badly, too. Once soil erosion has started, the least wind then sets the sand moving again. In those areas where good rain is falling following those winds, good recovery is taking place, but elsewhere it is not.

I commend the Government for the assistance it is giving to research activities—in particular the Department of Agriculture, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and the Education Department. I am pleased to read in His Excellency's Speech that three day schools are to be held in country areas in wool shearing-shed routine. That will be most valuable. I note that it is intended also to hold permanent schools in the country for training people in weed control, about which I shall have something to say in a few moments. All this intensifies the production to which we must look forward in the future.

Paragraph 7 of His Excellency's Speech provides for much discussion, and it is on that paragraph that I wish to make the major part of my speech. First of all, it refers to the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. Only 17 allotments are now to be made. We can say that the scheme has been most successful although it had its teething problems at the beginning. Such places as Eight Mile Creek, Wrattenbullie, Kangaroo Island and Wanilla had their teething problems, but by and large the settlers have done reasonably well. In fact, some of them have done so well that they are now in retirement after 16 or 17 years on their land. They have sold it at today's prevailing high prices and, if not actually in retirement, a number are in semi-retirement. I was amazed to see the improvement in the settlement at Wanilla, through which I passed last Saturday week. They are having a good year again this season and the pastures are really flourishing. I appreciate the wisdom of saving trees to provide shade and shelter for the stock. The African daisy, which caused such a problem at Wanilla, is not to be seen on many properties now where once it was prevalent. In fact, it was so bad at one stage that the Government even relieved the settlers of any commitments for 12 months. It is well known that with the aging of the land this weed disappears. That is happening there at the present time. Unfortunately, this weed has found its way into our beautiful Adelaide hills. It is indeed the worst threat that the hills have ever had. It is a seed that lies dormant in the ground until either fire or cultivation takes place. Then it germinates and comes up very quickly, creating a control problem. Where cultivation is possible in the hills, we have a chance. Last year the Stirling District Council imposed a special rate on the ratepayers to control this weed on the roads and reserves, but there are many places where landowners take no action. I do not know of many landowners who control the weed on their own properties and I think it is a waste of time trying to deal with it on roads and reserves unless the property owners are compelled to make a similar effort. Everybody must take note of the weed, for it is spoiling the flora that has been so beautiful in the Adelaide hills, as this weed takes charge of everything. The shade from it does not allow any other small plants a chance to grow. That has happened at Wanilla. The pasture did not have a chance as this weed was so prevalent. I hope the authorities and the department and Minister of Agriculture

take steps to see that the property owners must either pull or poison it in the Adelaide hills. I look forward to that being done straight away.

About the Rural Advances Guarantee Act, which was passed by our Parliament last year, many people have doubts. I remember that the Chief Secretary in his reply was not very pleased with some of the remarks made but, as a member of the committee dealing with the applications, I want to say that we are more than pleased with the results. So far, up to the time of His Excellency's Speech, there have been 59 applications. Thirty-one were considered by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement: 25 were approved, three were rejected and three were sent back for further information. Many applications have been made and a number dealt with by the committee since then. This gives young people a chance to get a property on their own provided they can find only 15 per cent of the amount of money required. The banks are providing money with a guarantee from the Treasurer, and it appears that the scheme will be successful.

The committee has had a busy time this year with many trips to the South-East. A thorough inspection was made of the drainage at Beachport and Bool Lagoon on one occasion. I was amazed to see the amount of work done over the years in drainage. Approximately £8,000,000 has been spent there on drainage alone. I also found that many of the property owners in that part thought that the drainage was a good scheme when the years were wet but, when they were dry, as they have been in these last few years, they thought the drains should never have been created. However, it is a job to win with some people.

Much has been said in the press about Bool Lagoon. The committee has been there twice. Letters have been written by people who just do not know what they are writing about. The committee intends to provide for the future of bird life there. That is the first essential. The water will be controlled by regulating gates on the southern side of Bool Lagoon. The big problem is a drain from Mosquito Creek coming from Victoria down to Bool Lagoon and flooding many hundreds of acres. That has happened during this last month. Practically all that land is now under water but, if the drain had been constructed, not as much would have been affected.

Between Keith and Bordertown much virgin country can be made available for settlers, as you, Mr. President, know. A report has been

tabled on the inspection made and the evidence taken by the Land Settlement Committee in relation to this area. His Excellency referred to wild life reserves and national parks, which is a most contentious matter in my district. This afternoon at four o'clock the Premier will meet a deputation of people concerned that a large area of land on Eyre Peninsula will be used for a fauna and flora reserve. In the area about which these people are concerned, 93,000 acres is involved. Last Friday I travelled to Minnipa by air, and, after the aircraft left Cleve, I asked the captain if he would make a detour so that I could see the reserve from the air. He did so, and I was able to see it clearly. After having seen it from the air as well as on foot, I am more than ever convinced that it contains some of the best agricultural land on the peninsula. It is within nine miles of the township of Lock, and its use as a reserve is frustrating the progress of the district, which is bursting at its seams with production. This is one of the best districts in South Australia. From the air one can see that on three sides of the reserve crops and pastures are flourishing. Last year many settlers grew crops on properties adjoining the reserve and reaped seven bags to the acre with the first crop. The average rainfall of the area is 16 inches.

I commend the Minister of Lands for what he has done this year in dedicating certain areas for fauna and flora. I have seen the areas dedicated as reserves at Penwortham, Humburg Scrub, Alligator Gorge and Flinders Chase. The land in these places is suitable for the purpose, but I think it is wrong to use good agricultural land as a reserve, particularly as I do not think any tourist will go to the place about which I have been speaking. Plenty of land is available at other places for use as reserves, and I hope that the Minister of Lands and the Premier will change their minds. It has been suggested that reserves will be fenced only where there are adjoining landowners. Naturally, reserves are infested with kangaroos and vermin such as foxes, and adjoining landowners are paying a big penalty because of the lack of fences. The Minister of Lands has suggested putting up vermin-proof fences and charging adjoining landowners half the cost of ordinary stock fences. If they do not bear this proportion of the cost, vermin will be able to go on to their pastures. The deputation I mentioned will present a petition containing 900 signatures. Last year a meeting, at which 200 were present, was held, and farmers do not go to the trouble

of attending meetings and getting up petitions unless such things are justified. I hope this land will be made available for settlement in the near future.

We travelled along the road from Port Lincoln to Lock a fortnight ago, and on the road from Port Lincoln to Minnipa last Friday. The base of the portion of new road from Yeelanna to Lock is being put down. It will take two years to complete the sealing of the road, but when it is completed it will be a big boon to the people living on that part of the peninsula. The road is at present a quagmire because of the heavy rains that have fallen there.

The Electricity Trust has had a record year. As a member of the Northern District, I am extremely pleased that a 132,000-volt transmission line is to be constructed from the power station at Port Augusta to Whyalla and that it is intended to continue it to Port Lincoln. On the route that has been mapped out from Whyalla to Port Lincoln, the line will pass through much good agricultural country, and the people who live there will be greatly assisted.

The duplicated water main from Morgan to Whyalla will create much interest in the next 12 months. The new line that will be laid under the seabed will be something new for this State. It will enter the sea just north of Port Pirie, and I shall be most interested to know how the work is to be done. I believe this method will bring about a big saving in cost.

I was extremely pleased that the Government arranged for members to inspect the Snowy Mountains scheme last April. This enabled us to see what must be one of the greatest engineering feats in the world, and the knowledge we gained was most valuable. The Snowy Mountains Authority extended the utmost hospitality and gave us much valuable information. We were given some idea of whence our future water requirements would come. This scheme uses the water for generating power, and it is then available for other purposes. The water previously went out to sea, but it is now being diverted into the Murray and the Murrumbidgee. It will be available in the proportion of five-thirteenths to New South Wales, five-thirteenths to Victoria and three-thirteenths to South Australia. After seeing the scheme, I was convinced that the Chowilla dam would assist this State to get a plentiful supply of water from the Snowy River. Sir William Hudson, who has been in charge of the scheme since it was commenced,

came to South Australia and gave a wonderful lecture at Kintore Avenue for those who did not have the opportunity to see the scheme.

The Police Force has done invaluable work for the people of this State. I am disappointed, however, that the police are not receiving the encouragement, assistance and respect they should be receiving from certain sections of the community. Some district councils have taken exception to what the police have done in their districts. The police have a job to do, and I appreciate the way they do it. They are courteous at all times, as can be seen in front of Parliament House. Practically every day of the week men like Mr. Roy Elliott, who is a friend to everyone, courteously give information to members of the public who pass Parliament House. I hope that Mr. Elliott, on his retirement, will have the comfort and pleasure he deserves. The Royal Association of Justices, of which I have the honour to be the President this year, has done wonderful work through its members. This also applies to the magistrates in South Australia. Unless one is closely associated with the justices, one cannot be aware of the amount of honorary work they do in the courts and other places. Educational classes are held each year and lectures are given by magistrates. The Hon. Mr. Frank Potter, who is its honorary solicitor, gives wonderful service to the members without charge and also submits excellent lectures. We appreciate his work in that regard. There is a very grave shortage of magistrates in South Australia.

The South Australian Housing Trust has, since 1937, built 52,315 houses, including flats, and it collects yearly a total of £4,939,002 in rent. At Whyalla 2,454 houses have already been built by the trust. Additional tenders have also been accepted for 1,125 houses for Whyalla, and it is expected that 600 houses a year will be built.

I recently had an experience in regard to the renting of houses. My daughter and her husband purchased a business at Lockleys, and they wished to rent a house. They answered an advertisement and when they called at the agent's office in Victoria Square they were told that if they wanted to look at the house they would have to pay £5. They did that and while they were at the house another party arrived that had also paid £5 to have a look at it. Everyone who applied to inspect the house had to pay a similar amount. The conditions were that if you were the successful applicant, you would lose the whole deposit of £5, and if unsuccessful you

would receive only £4 back. If, for instance, there were 10 applicants at £5 each the total received would be £50. The successful applicant would lose his £5 and the other nine £1, making a total of £14, and therefore the agent would make that amount out of the advertisement. When I went to have a look at this house I found that it was only a filthy hovel and I would not allow a child of mine to be seen in it. The place was advertised again a few days later. This is something that should be looked into.

I realize that this will be my last opportunity to speak on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. This motion gives members an opportunity to say something about the contents of His Excellency the Governor's Speech in opening Parliament, and I hope that this afternoon I have made at least a small contribution in my last effort.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Central No. 1): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I join with other members in expressing my regret at the death of former members of this Parliament, and extend my sympathy to their respective families. Two of those who have passed on were members when I first took my seat in this Chamber almost three years ago. I refer to the late Mr. Bill Jenkins, a most friendly gentleman, who represented Stirling in the House of Assembly, and the late Sir Walter Duncan, who was President of this Legislative Council at that time. I count it as an experience I shall never forget to have sat in this Chamber under the presidency of Sir Walter, a gentleman who truly became a legend in his own lifetime.

I, also, join with previous speakers in welcoming the Hon. Mr. Kemp and I congratulate him upon his first contribution to the debates in the Council. It is evident that he brings with him a specialized knowledge, which will be of benefit to us all in our deliberations. I listened attentively to His Excellency's Speech when he declared this session open in June. In addition to commenting on the work of the various Government departments and semi-public institutions and the development of the State generally, His Excellency referred to legislation proposed to be brought down this session. As is usual in speeches of this nature, His Excellency's advisers omitted to make any reference to the Opposition. The Government assumes the credit for all legislation passed, despite the fact that amendments moved by the Opposition in the House of Assembly have been carried, thus

bringing a measure of improvement to the original Bills. Indeed, on occasions in this Chamber, Government legislation has been in danger of defeat but for the votes of members of the Party to which I belong. I noticed the eulogistic references to the work of the Electricity Trust. I believe that if it had not been for the support the Government received from Labor members in this Chamber when it was endeavouring to nationalize the Adelaide Electric Supply Company it is doubtful whether the trust as it is today would even exist. I believe the Bill was carried by one vote on the second reading and one vote on the third reading. The four Labor members voted for the Bill on each occasion. Therefore, some of the credit for this wise move and its resultant benefit to South Australia is surely due to the Opposition.

Before proceeding to refer to another matter mentioned in His Excellency's Speech I should like briefly to comment on one point made by the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill when moving the motion which is now before us. I understood him to say that it was arrant rot to express the opinion that there should be no rise in the price of commodities following the recent basic wage increase. I, for one, was not surprised to hear him say this. After all, haven't we heard him on all occasions oppose any suggestion of price restriction by legislative action? I think he believes in the law of supply and demand and of competition in regard to the control of commodity prices. Whether he does so in regard to labour, which is the only commodity the worker has to sell, I do not know. But I would hardly think so. There have been price increases in almost everything one can think of. I was interested to see a rise in the price of the Liberal and Country Party propaganda publications. The increase has been one penny a copy, or from 12½ to 20 per cent according to which publication one buys.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: It is still very good value.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: It is a matter of a person's political opinion whether it is good value or not.

Sir Arthur Rymill referred to the basic wage increase as a "7 per cent rise in the basic element of all costs, the basic element on which prices are based." This statement may be basically correct, but it tends to mislead. There is hardly one person today who is on the basic wage. Most workers have some margin above that wage, thanks to the efforts of the great trade unions on their behalf. Therefore, the

increase to most workers was a percentage less than 7 per cent. The increase in the minimum wage payable to the tradesman was only 5 per cent. For the toolmaker, or other more highly skilled worker, the percentage of increase was even lower. Despite this, increases in the price of commodities and services were by percentages which went far beyond even the 7 per cent of the basic wage, which applies to so few people. The previous increase in the basic wage was granted in June or July 1961. Then we witnessed the same scramble to increase prices. For three years employers have had the benefit of the price rises, and for a slightly shorter period those tacked on since. The arbitration authorities, as on other infrequent occasions when rises have been granted, accepted the evidence submitted by the employees' representatives regarding the rise in the cost of living resulting from these price increases; as well as the increase in productivity, the increase in profits of companies, and the ability of the economy to meet the increase. The unions did not get as much as they considered the employees were entitled to, but the Arbitration Commission granted the increase of the £1. It is a case of which came first—the egg or the chicken—the egg being the price rises and the chicken the wage increases resulting from price rises. The unions maintain that the egg came first and that the cycle should have ceased with the hatching of the chicken. Unless in the future some form of effective price control is administered the workers will never get the full benefit of wage increases.

Included in paragraph 19 of His Excellency's Speech was the bald statement that there had been a 25 per cent increase in the number of apprentices. Such a statement on its own sounds encouraging until one goes into the matter and looks for figures to get a real picture of the position. When I went looking for figures I found that a much higher percentage of increase than 25 per cent, even if there had been such an increase, was necessary if we were to hold our own with replacements of skilled tradesmen let alone provide additional tradesmen for future development. I was shocked to find how few employers engaged the number of apprentices they were permitted to have, having regard to the number of tradesmen employed and the provisions of awards and determinations. Although the private enterprise employer is the most serious offender in this regard, the Government is not altogether blameless. I am aware that an announcement was made a few years ago that

heads of Government departments had been directed to employ all the apprentices they could. I have been informed by some tradesmen employed in the Public Service that there is still room for improvement in the number of apprentices employed. It is this failure on the part of employers to employ apprentices in the past that is primarily responsible for any shortage of apprentices that may exist today. Failure to do so now is criminal negligence and could seriously jeopardise Australia's future industrial development.

It was recently reported in the *Printing Trades Journal*, the official publication of the Printing Industry Employees' Union of Australia, that the union had conducted a survey in the printing industry and found that if 353 employers had taken full advantage of the apprenticeship provisions of the Graphic Arts Award they would have had 755 more apprentices than they were now training. Apply that finding to the printing industry generally, and it would seem that about another 1,300 apprentices could be indentured under the provisions of the award.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: Is that in South Australia?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: No, it is for the whole of Australia. As apprentices become tradesmen they increase the number of tradesmen working and this, in turn, enables a greater number of apprentices to be indentured. By following this pattern sufficient apprentices would be coming forward as tradesmen each year to meet the needs of the industry. The experience cited regarding the apprentice position in the printing industry is repeated in the metal trades and building industries. It is even worse, although the need for tradesmen in these industries is said to be greater. This was borne out by a spokesman on a certain television segment at the weekend. Conferences have taken place on many occasions in recent years between representatives of trade unions, employers and both Commonwealth and State Governments, and they have agreed that it is noticeable that many employers in Australia are failing to acknowledge their responsibilities to the nation, and to the industry from which they receive their profits. They should have been training apprentices throughout the years and thereby providing the tradesmen that are required to replace those dropping out, and to provide for expansion. A Department of Labour and National Service publication issued early in 1962, following one of the conferences I have referred to, estimated that only about half the employers who might

employ apprentices were taking the permissible number, a quarter less than the permissible number, and the remaining quarter none at all. It is interesting to recall the following report that appeared in the *Advertiser* of June 27, 1962:

South Australian manufacturers have been told that the shortage in skilled tradesmen could be ended in a few years if every apprenticeship vacancy were filled as soon as it occurred. Writing in the *Journal of Industry*, the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers' senior industrial officer (Mr. G. Bennett) said that industry was barely replacing its retiring tradesmen. Many employers sought craftsmen who had been brought to that status by other manufacturers, rather than train men themselves. This practice was largely responsible for the level of over-award payments because such an employer was buying labour on a short market which he was not supplying.

If South Australian employers had taken sufficient notice of their senior industrial officer 2½ years ago they would be more than half-way towards solving any difficulty they might have in regard to the supply of tradesmen. There are probably several reasons for the reluctance of employers to face up to their responsibilities in the matter of the employment of apprentices. One, which I feel has quite an effect, is that in comparatively recent times the trade unions have been successful in improving the wages and conditions of apprentices generally. Years ago the apprentice received either no wages at all in return for learning the trade or craft or a very meagre sum.

In the early 1920's, when I served my apprenticeship, I received the princely sum of 10s. a week in my first year. Industry proceeded at a more leisurely pace then than now. It was the custom for the employer to assign an apprentice to a tradesman and the apprentice was taught his trade by that tradesman. He sometimes remained under the control of the same tradesman during the whole of his apprenticeship. It did not seem to matter to the employer in those days whether the apprentice was a profitable production unit immediately so long as he eventually became a well-trained replacement for the craftsman who retired or a well-trained operative in the expansion of his business. Now that the apprentice was receiving a higher though still inadequate wage and could not be exploited as youth labour, some employers expected to get an economic return from the employment of the apprentice as soon as he was indentured. As this was not forthcoming—and, indeed, could not be reasonably expected—a large

number of employers were not interested in employing apprentices and left this operation to other employers who were prepared to face up to their responsibilities.

The early history of the trade union movement in Australia is freely punctuated with reports of disputes over the excessive use of youth labour. This resulted in the restrictive provisions inserted in awards which provided for a minimum number of tradesmen being employed for each apprentice employed. Over the years unsuccessful applications have been made to the arbitration authorities by employer organizations to have these restrictions either lifted altogether or liberalized. These applications have failed because the unions have been able to prove that the employers have not availed themselves to anywhere near the extent they could have of the present provisions.

The advent of the efficiency expert with his stop-watch and time-study methods has proved to be another major factor in reducing the effectiveness of the apprenticeship system as a means of supplying the tradesmen of the future. The sight of a tradesman stopping his own job for a minute or two to instruct an apprentice, the tradesman of the future, how to go about a job properly caused efficiency experts to suffer nightmares. Most thinking people agree that the apprenticeship system as a means of supplying the tradesmen required by industry has not failed. It is being sabotaged by those people whose need of it is the greatest—the irresponsible employer. It can still be saved and any shortage of tradesmen that may exist be made to disappear in the course of a few years by its full, effective use by all employers.

Some employers, with the help of their efficiency experts, have worked out the amount of money that they say it costs to train an apprentice. This has been stated at various amounts. Whatever the amounts were (and I have forgotten what they were), these employers have said that they were too great and have used this as an excuse for failing to employ apprentices. In times of recession and depression their plan works very well. They are then able to replace any tradesman who becomes too old or dies or is burnt out in their employ from those trained by their opposition or from the ranks of the pool of unemployed which it is in their interests to see established and maintained. However, when there is no recession, as at the present time, this type of employer has to compete with his opposition for the available labour. This, of course,

results in an upsurge in the over-award payments, to which this employer and indeed most employers object. His plan in these times becomes penny wise and pound foolish. Incidentally, the award payment is fixed by the court as the minimum that may be paid to a worker employed in the appropriate classification, not the maximum, as many employers seem to think.

The main shortage of skilled labour is said to exist in the metal and electrical trades industries and also in the building industry. Only about two years ago there were over 100,000 unemployed persons in Australia. These were not all unskilled workers: there were semi-skilled and skilled workers also. During the recession which resulted from the Commonwealth Government's 1960 credit squeeze there was no great demand for tradesmen of any kind, even in the metal and electrical industries, and many building workers were thrown out of work. Many metal trades tradesmen, particularly in smaller factories, lost their jobs and found it difficult to find work. Secretaries of metal trades unions have told me that during the recession they had great difficulty in placing tradesmen in jobs.

The economy of Australia since the Second World War has been of a seriously unstable nature. We have had periods of inflation followed by periods of recession and these have appeared with monotonous regularity. Economists and bankers have been, during the past nine months, pressing the Government to again apply some form of credit restrictions. I have a copy here of a report that appeared in *The News* on October 29, 1963, when Sir Ian Potter, who was said to be one of the greatest economists in Australia, warned that another squeeze could take place.

Should the Commonwealth Government feel secure enough after the pending Senate election, I have no doubt that it will accept the advice of these people. We shall then have the makings of another recession. Employers do not increase the number of apprentices they employ during periods of recession. Indeed, they are relieved when an apprentice completes his period of apprenticeship during these periods: they terminate the employment and do not replace him.

It is interesting to note here that section 32 of the Apprentices Act of South Australia provides that an employer may proceed to have an indenture of an apprentice cancelled if he, the employer, suffers financial difficulty or lack of orders. There is no provision in the

Act for a transfer to another employer. The effect of the most recent recession on apprenticeship figures is indicated by the following figures extracted from the latest report of the Secretary for Labour and Industry which, although it is not in print, has been laid on the table in Parliament. The report is for the period ended December 31, 1963. It is interesting to note that this is the first report issued under last year's amendment to the Industrial Code. It is made by the Secretary for Labour and Industry whereas all previous reports that we have received covering this type of statistics have been provided by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Steam Boilers. They have been published since 1895. The two most recent inspectors, of course, were Mr. McColl, followed by Mr. Roberts. Before proceeding, I should like to express congratulations to these inspectors for the excellence of the reports submitted by them. The 1962 report is the last to be made by Chief Inspectors, and I express my appreciation to them for the assistance they have given to many people in industry.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: They have both done a really good job.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Yes. I have studied the apprenticeship figures in the report and have glanced casually through the rest of it. It is much more comprehensive than the previous report, and I congratulate the staff of the Department of Labour and Industry on its excellence. I found no reference to the percentage increase in the numbers of apprentices. The figure quoted by His Excellency must have been supplied by his advisers, and I do not think it was as accurate as it could have been. I will show where the inaccuracy is. It will be seen that the number of apprentices, both generally and in the three sections where the shortage of tradesmen is said to be most severe, showed a gradual rise from 1959 until the credit squeeze took effect. The improvement was not maintained in 1962, when the worst effects of the squeeze became evident. I will give figures of the numbers of new apprentices from 1959 for the metropolitan area and the country combined. In 1959 there were 1,538 new apprentices in all trades. In 1960 the number increased to 1,774, which was a 15½ per cent increase. In 1961 the number increased by 3½ per cent to 1,836, but dropped by 1¼ per cent to 1,813 in 1962. In 1963, when the effects of the recession had passed, there was an increase of 23 per cent to 2,230, which was the highest number of new apprentices recorded in

this State at any time. This increase was due to the increase in industry, and, if the State is developing, apprenticeship must be increased instead of being retarded from time to time.

Generally, there was no improvement in 1962; in fact, there was a decline, so the improvement in 1963 was not as satisfactory as would appear. The increase in 1963 was only 25¼ per cent over the 1960 figure. Perhaps that is what was meant in His Excellency's Speech, as the increase was certainly not 25 per cent on the 1962 figure.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Does the report give percentages of apprentices compared with the work force?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: No. That can be assessed to a certain extent, but not accurately. In the metal trades, including the electrical trades, there were 829 new apprentices in 1959; in 1960 there were 974, which was an increase of 17½ per cent; and in 1961 there were 994, which was an increase of only 2¼ per cent. In 1962 the numbers hit bottom; there were 1,014 new apprentices, which was only a 1¼ per cent increase. In 1963 there was a good rise of 31½ per cent to 1,335.

The building trade is said to be even more seriously affected than the metal trades, so one would think some efforts would be made by employers to build up the number of apprentices. However, the position in the building trades is worse than in the metal trades. In 1959, 241 new apprentices entered the building trade; in 1960, the number increased by 1½ per cent to 245; in 1961 there was an increase of 2½ per cent to 251; in 1962 there was a decrease of 3½ per cent to 242; and in 1963 the number increased by 12½ per cent to 272.

The position is much clearer when one looks at the apprenticeship figures in relation to the building trades. I have taken out three of these trades to illustrate the position—bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, and plumbing and gas-fitting. Bricklaying is a highly skilled apprenticeship trade, and in 1959 there were eight new apprentices; in 1960, 14; in 1961, 16; in 1962, nine; and in 1963, 10. The big builders now have workshops in which windows and doors are made up, and these provide a good opportunity for them to employ apprentices. In the carpentry and joinery trade in 1959 there were 118 new apprentices; in 1960, 119; in 1961, 128; in 1962, 98; and in 1963, 138. In 1959 there were 87 new apprentices in the plumbing and gas-fitting trade; in 1960, 76; in 1961, 72; in 1962, 70; and in 1963, 91. The report stated that the

difficulty of training people in the building industry was due to the widespread and increasing use of labour-only subcontracting and to the fact that the supply of tradesmen in the industry had for many years been maintained by a considerable amount of upgrading of some semi-skilled persons who had had little normal training. If that is the case, it is no wonder that people are complaining daily about the decrease in skill of many people employed in the building industry. That is the answer to it. If we could only get back to the system which provided for training apprentices in the building industry, we would overcome many of the difficulties and complaints regarding skill in this industry.

Taking figures from the same report, I find that at November 30, 1962, there were only 4,695 metal and electrical trades apprentices in the State. There are 1,682 separate factories engaged in the industrial metals, machines and conveyances section of industry in the metropolitan area, and 341 in the country. In answer to the question posed this afternoon by the Hon. Mr. Shard as to assessing the number of tradesmen in the metal trades industries, I contend that this cannot be done accurately. In addition to the other figures that I have given, there are many tradesmen, both of the electrical and metal trades classification, employed in other industries as maintenance workers, who work under the Metal Trades Award. The apprenticeship provisions of the award are also available to the employers of these tradesmen.

I draw attention to the fact that the numbers I gave do not include those in the Government and those employed in the Public Service. These have not been included in the report from which I am quoting. Employers are required to register apprentices with the Government department concerned and that also applies to apprentices in the Government service. I ask members to consider the employees engaged at the Islington workshops, the Highways Department, other Government departments, the Electricity Trust of South Australia and the Municipal Tramways Trust. It would appear that only few employers are taking advantage of the apprenticeship system. A large number of the 2,023 factories would be entitled to employ two apprentices or more.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: Do you think that they could be trained?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Not every place can train apprentices because of the nature of the work.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: Of course they can't.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: But there are many employers who could train them but do not.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: You can't include all the employers in that comment.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Are not the metal trades employers complaining about shortages?

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: They are trying to prevent them.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I do not think they are doing enough. The number of employers in other industries employing metal tradesmen is not available but it must be a substantial one. Using only the figure given in the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, we find that the average number of apprentices to a factory in the metals section is a very small fraction of what it could be. A large number of these factories would be entitled to two apprentices or more, one-third would be entitled to four or more, and some of them to a considerable number more than four. There are more than 100 very large employers of labour in the metal trades group in South Australia. Very few employers would not be entitled to take one apprentice. The proportions clause of the apprenticeship provisions of the Metal Trades Award specifies one apprentice to three or a fraction of three tradesmen. When these figures are considered, it is evident how many more apprentices could be trained in South Australia.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry: Many shops have more than one to three.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Not unless it is provided in the award. In certain classifications the proportion is one to two, and this makes the position even worse and shows that many employers are not taking advantage of the position. The unions cannot be accused of being unco-operative on this occasion in their effort to overcome the position in the metal trades, despite their feeling that it has been brought about by the actions of the Commonwealth Government and the inaction of the employers in training apprentices. They feel that any shortage that does exist could disappear almost overnight if credit restrictions, with the resultant misery, were re-imposed; also, that if all employers recognized their responsibilities in the training of apprentices the position would improve in a comparatively short time. Despite this feeling by the unions, the metal trades unions and the electrical

trades union agreed in 1962 to some far-reaching concessions to the employers in an endeavour to assist in meeting any shortage of tradesmen that may exist in the industry.

These, in effect, reduced the apprenticeship period from the traditionally accepted period of five years. In the case of a lad with certain educational and age pre-requisites the period was reduced to three years. Other youths in the same age group of between 17 and 20 years, but with slightly less educational pre-requisites, would serve a period of 3½ years. These provisions for shorter periods of apprenticeship were made the subject of amendments to the Metal Trades Award. Thus, they become a permanent feature of the award, not just a temporary measure to overcome the present position. The amendments went through by consent as a result of the co-operation of the unions.

In addition, the Commonwealth Government, in an effort to encourage country employers to take more apprentices and to encourage more country youths into apprenticeship, granted financial assistance both to employers and to apprentices. Firstly, where a country employer took an additional apprentice in excess of his normal intake during 1958-62 the Commonwealth Government paid to that employer an incentive allowance of £3 a week during the first year of the apprenticeship. Secondly, where it was necessary to provide training supplementary to that which could be given by the apprentice's employer, the Department of Labour and National Service would attempt to make arrangements with other employers in a position to give this training. A living-away-from-home allowance of £2 12s. 6d. a week in the first year and £1 a week in the second year of a five-year apprenticeship would be paid to the apprentices in country districts who were placed with country employers or needed to undertake supplementary training with another employer and in either event had to live away from home. As a part of the scheme for a 3-year or 3½-year apprenticeship metropolitan apprentices would be required to attend a trade school for a continuous period of 20 weeks in the first year of the apprenticeship. Where a country apprentice is engaged under the amendment that provides for this short-term apprenticeship, and attends in the city or some other apprentice training centre away from the town where he is employed, the Commonwealth Government has agreed to pay a living-away allowance of £2 12s. 6d.

It is interesting to note that in 1963 there were four new six-year apprenticeships. When

we realize that it is not many years since apprenticeships of six years' and even seven years' duration were not uncommon, and unions in recent years here have strongly opposed any reduction below five years, the nature of the unions' co-operation on this occasion can be seen. The Commonwealth Government in offering financial help to country employers had also made a major contribution towards increasing the number of apprentices. One would have expected there would have been a considerable upsurge in the number of new apprentices as a result of these concessions to employers by the unions and the Government. However, such has not been the case. The amendment to the award was made in December 1962. Although the response from youths seeking to take advantage of the shorter term of apprenticeship has been fairly good, judging by the number of applications that the Apprentices Board has been asked to consider, the employers have given the scheme only limited support. Many applications from youths indicated that they had not found an employer prepared to apprentice them. Only one group of youths apprenticed under the scheme commenced the 20-week period of continuous training at the Engineering Trade School in 1963. There were 10 boys in this group and they came from six employers. One of the boys was withdrawn because of ill-health after one week. Two others did not make the grade, for after 10 weeks their marks were so poor that the concessional reduction of the period of apprenticeship was withdrawn. This left only seven boys from only four employers to complete the 20-weeks of continuous training. This was the only group trained in 1963.

In 1964 three groups commenced training. There was one group of nine apprentices from six employers in the electrical trade, one group of seven apprentices in fitting and turning from three employers, and another group of five apprentices in fitting and turning from four employers. Including the seven apprentices from four employers from last year, the total number of apprentices who have either completed or commenced the 20-week continuous training period under this scheme in South Australia is 28. They have come from only 10 employers. Of the employers who have taken advantage of the scheme one was a Government Department and another a semi-Government institution. This left only eight other employers. This was not an encouraging response from industry supposedly crying out

for tradesmen, particularly when we recall that at least 2,023 firms are entitled to employ apprentices in the metal trade group in this State. One might be excused for thinking there was a conspiracy in operation on the part of some employers to cause a complete breakdown in any attempt made to cause the present apprenticeship system to become an effective means of providing the tradesmen needed in future. Indeed, this type of thinking is supported by the enthusiasm with which some employers welcomed a proposal said to have come from the Commonwealth Minister for Labour and National Service (Mr. McMahon).

The proposal sought to overcome a deficiency caused by the lack of foresight on the part of employers, as well as the instability of the economy since 1949, by giving to unskilled adults a minor degree of training over a two-year period and then letting them loose on industry as so-called tradesmen. The plan showed lack of thought, lack of understanding of a problem, and lack of ability to plan properly to fulfil a need. The enthusiastic support I referred to by some employers was given on the understanding, of course, that the Government would subsidize the employers in the payment of the wages of the trainees. The trade unions have rejected this plan and have expressed the opinion that it relegates the apprenticeship system to a position of minor importance, leading inevitably to its elimination. The unions have also said that, having regard to past experience in emergency training of tradesmen and the accepted requirements for trade qualifications, the proposed scheme could not produce skilled tradesmen, but rather would worsen trade standards generally.

Just prior to Christmas each year thousands of boys leave school and in many cases search in vain for apprenticeships. During 1962 thousands of boys who had left school at the previous Christmas were still unemployed in July. Happily, since then there has been some improvement. School-leavers, particularly boys, have been able to find employment, but not necessarily as apprentices. In 1962 school-leavers found it difficult to find employment and they were not assisted by employers to become skilled tradesmen. The boys were added to the growing number of unskilled or semi-skilled workers. The suggestion that it is possible to train unskilled adults to become tradesmen in two years is ludicrous, when we realize that it take five years to train most apprentices in only the rudiments of the trade. A tradesman

in these times of great technological advances is required to continue to use the skills that he learned as an apprentice, augmented by his experience in the industry. Without a proper foundation in the rudiments of his trade a tradesman would have great difficulty in coping with these technological changes, and adapting himself to them. The half-trained or semi-skilled tradesman that would result from Mr. McMahon's proposal would not receive a proper foundation in his trade. He would be trained for the purpose of being able to take his place not in any establishment in the industry, but solely the establishment in which he had done his training. How will these so-called tradesmen be able to train the apprentices of the future?

It is the tradesman of today who trains the tradesmen of the future. The training an apprentice gets at his trade school is only intended to supplement the training he gets at his place of employment. It would not be possible to produce a fully-trained tradesman in the meagre time spent by an apprentice at a trade school in Australia, especially in South Australia. I know that the Technical Branch of the South Australian Education Department will agree with me on this point. Realizing this I repeat, how can the so-called tradesmen that the proposed expedient would produce train the apprentices of the future? Furthermore, as an employer can employ only as many people as his factory and machines can accommodate, the employment of unskilled adults for training purposes must result in the exclusion of the same number of prospective apprentices. This results in the return of the problem of unemployment among school-leavers.

It is not long before the school-leavers become unskilled adults, thus enlarging the army of those who find it difficult to get employment at any time. The unions do not agree that there is a serious or acute shortage of tradesmen in all industries. Shortages that exist have come from the failure of employers, both Government and private, to train apprentices in adequate numbers. It is my opinion that any shortage of tradesmen that exists can be readily corrected in a comparatively short time by (a) all employers meeting their responsibility to train apprentices; (b) more employers utilizing the additional scope for training apprentices, as agreed upon between the unions and the employers in 1962; and (c) encouraging back to the industry experienced skilled labour that has left it over the years for one reason or another.

Some tradesmen are forced to retire at 65. There must be many prepared to continue working but who are rejected by industry on grounds not of ability but solely of age. I experienced that difficulty myself, when I was a union official, in placing tradesmen in new jobs after they had reached 50 years of age, despite the fact that vacancies were advertised. If a man aged 50 or over was sent along, he was turned away. Other tradesmen left industry for white-collar jobs and more pay. It is interesting here to read a letter that appeared in yesterday's newspaper signed by a professional engineer. It reads:

Some time ago I applied to the Department of Labour for further employment, having been discarded on reaching 65. I was told my age presented a substantial barrier as the tendency of employers was to seek younger men.

Remember, this is at a time when we are supposed to be short of skilled tradesmen! The letter continues:

It appears strange when there is an avowed shortage of qualified engineers and metal workers that men in my category who do not wish to retire can find no outlet for their services other than menial jobs.

Workers over 65 should still be recognised as essential and allowed to continue if they wish, as in the more privileged groups, otherwise retirement at 65 should be compulsory for all.

It is better to wear out and preserve one's independence than to rust out, but in the event of another full-scale war would all these derelicts remain on the scrap-heap?

"Prof. Engineer."

In conclusion let me say that the trade unions are not likely to accept dilutee schemes with any degree of favour until proper use is made of existing apprenticeship provisions.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.9 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 5, at 2.15 p.m.