

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT (1965)

The Thirty-seventh Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until February 23, 1965, and the life of the House of Assembly, having expired on that date, general elections were held on March 6. By proclamation dated March 25 the new Parliament was summoned to meet on May 13, and the First Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, May 13, 1965.

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan) summoning the first session of the Thirty-eighth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION.

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable Sir John Mellis Napier (Chief Justice) and the Honourable Reginald Roderic St. Clair Chamberlain (a judge of the Supreme Court), were announced by Black Rod (Mr. A. D. Drummond) and conducted to chairs on the dais.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that House to attend to hear the Governor's Commission for the opening of Parliament. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the Commission.

The Senior Commissioner (the Honourable Sir John Mellis Napier) announced that His Excellency the Governor would, in person,

declare the reasons for his calling the Parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the House of Assembly had notified its election of Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and the Commissioners withdrew.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The PRESIDENT produced a Commission from the Governor authorizing him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly-elected members the Oath of Allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof, also writs and returns for the election of ten members.

The Oath of Allegiance was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll for their respective districts.

[*Sitting suspended from 11.28 a.m. to 2.15 p.m.*]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At 2.15 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the

Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

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

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

2. During the month of March this year the Ministry led by the Honourable Sir Thomas Playford tendered its resignation from office. I thereupon sent for the Honourable F. H. Walsh and invited him to form a Ministry. He was successful in so doing and the new Ministry was sworn in on March 10. The portfolios in the new Government have been allocated as follows:—

The Hon. F. H. Walsh—Premier, Treasurer, Minister of Immigration and Minister of Housing.

The Hon. A. J. Shard—Chief Secretary and Minister of Health.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens—Minister of Works and Minister of Marine.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan—Attorney-General, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Social Welfare.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday—Minister of Education.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Minister of Local Government, Minister of Roads and Minister of Mines.

The Hon. A. F. Kneebone—Minister of Labour and Industry, Minister of Railways and Minister of Transport.

The Hon. G. A. Bywaters—Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation, Minister of Irrigation, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forests.

3. During the past year we suffered the loss by death of two sitting members and three former members of the Parliament. I refer to the late Kenneth Edward Joseph Bardsolph, a member of the Legislative Council for 24 years; Harold Leslie Tapping, a member of the House of Assembly for 18 years; Hermann Homburg, a member for 20 years and Minister of the Crown for over six years; Edmund Herbert McAlees, a member of the House of Assembly for six years; and James Corcoran, a member of the House of Assembly for 11 years. I place on record our appreciation of the services of these gentlemen and know that you all join with me in expressing our sympathy to their respective families.

4. Since taking office my Ministers have devoted their attention to many of the problems confronting the State and already have effected important administrative changes. One of the earliest was the creation of the Ministerial office of Premier and of a Premier's Department. In addition to the normal activities associated with the office of Premier, the new department will be charged with encouraging and fostering the introduction of new industries, the expansion of established industries in the State and the decentralization of industry.

My Government will continue to encourage migration to the State and will do everything in its power to assist in the growth of the tourist industry. Creation of the new portfolios of Housing, Social Welfare and Transport will enable my Government's policies in relation to these important aspects of the administration to be more effectively carried out.

5. The Minister of Housing will co-ordinate the building resources of the State with a view to the construction of a greater number of homes to meet the increasing population. Every effort will be made to speed up the erection of homes for sale on deposits of £50. As a first step towards giving effect to my Government's policy that loans should be available for the purchase not only of new but also of existing homes an amount of £100,000 will be made available to the State Bank for this purpose.

The South Australian Housing Trust expects to complete about 3,200 dwellings during the present financial year, bringing its total to over 55,500, and it is expected that the rate for the next financial year will be higher. A substantial part of the housing programme is being carried out in country areas. The rental purchase scheme for sale of houses on a minimum deposit of £50 is progressing and houses are being erected at the rate of about 800 a year. The trust continues to build cottage flats for elderly pensioners and is providing housing at reduced rents to deserted wives and widows with young families. It is proposed to build rental houses of special design to meet the needs of persons confined to wheel chairs.

6. The Minister of Social Welfare is charged with the duties of care of deserted wives, of the destitute, with family welfare and the whole range of youth and child welfare activities. A series of Bills bringing the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department directly under the control of the Minister,

completely revising juvenile legislation and making a number of other urgent amendments to existing provisions, will be laid before you.

7. Administration of the Alcohol and Drug Addicts (Treatment) Act has also been committed to the Minister of Social Welfare, and urgent attention is being given to the revision of plans for the treatment of alcoholics.

8. One of the principal tasks of my Minister of Transport will be to devise a system of co-ordination among the various available forms of transport, both passenger and freight. It is my Government's policy to encourage the use of public transport to the greatest possible extent. Improvements to existing railway services will be made and more rolling stock provided.

9. An active policy will be pursued in connection with the welfare of Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood. Some steps indeed have already been taken. I refer to the recent proclamation removing restrictions on the consumption of liquor. Conditions on reserves will be improved. A Bill will be laid before you providing for the creation of a board, consisting entirely of Aborigines, who will form an Aborigines Lands Trust. Provision will be made for the progressive transfer to the trust of Crown lands reserved to Aborigines and other Crown lands. This will be the first State in Australia to provide land rights for its indigenous people.

10. My Government will pursue policies designed to make full use of the productive potential of the State in agriculture, mining, land settlement, forestry and other fields. Research facilities will be provided and investigations conducted. Private industry will be encouraged to the greatest possible extent.

11. The discovery of natural gas in the Gidgealpa area is, of course, of the greatest industrial significance. Gas reserves proved to date in the area are sufficient to supply the heating requirements for the first two units of the new Torrens Island power station for 15 to 20 years, provided the supplies are reserved wholly for the trust. Preliminary studies indicate that usage on this restricted scale might possibly be an economic proposition if the necessarily large volume of capital funds for a pipeline could be found at favourable rates of interest. However, if considerably increased natural gas supplies are not found there would be neither significant returns to the prospecting companies for expenditures already made nor appreciable economies to the Electricity Trust as compared with using alternative fuels. It appears to

my Government, therefore, that a further waiting period is necessary to see whether considerable increases in gas may be found. However, it has been decided that the Electricity Trust will make some additional provisions and expenditures on its Torrens Island power station development, so that its plant may be fairly readily converted to use natural gas should further discoveries make such utilization desirable. My Government appreciates the initiative of the exploration companies concerned and the very large amount of risk capital which is still being poured into petroleum exploration in this State, and accordingly any agreements the Government may contemplate in connection with the purchase and distribution of natural gas will recognize the necessity of a fair return for the effort made.

12. Enrolment in our Government schools, both primary and secondary, continues to increase at a rapid rate and we have had and will still have to cope with a much greater rate of increase in our pupils than any other State. It is the intention of my Government to make available large sums for the promotion and advancement of education in this State and the proportion of our total revenue which is devoted to education must rise still further. The policy of providing free books for students will be implemented progressively. The supply of free books to all primary school students as a first stage will be investigated immediately. Consideration will be given to increasing the allowances paid to teachers college students to attract a sufficient number of well-qualified young people to the teaching service. The Education Act has not been substantially changed in recent years. My Ministers propose to review this legislation to ensure that all necessary changes are made to bring the Act into line with modern developments and needs. The Government will appoint a committee to report on the measures to be taken to achieve the integration of high schools and technical high schools into a system of comprehensive high schools.

13. My Government will pursue an active policy in connection with the health services in the State. Two new general hospitals are being planned and additional teaching hospital provision is included. Improvements will be effected in connection with the care and treatment of the mentally sick and mentally retarded patients.

14. My Government will continue major road works already in progress. Among more important proposals for the next financial year are the commencement of the Jervois bridge over

the Port River and commencement of reconstruction of the Sturt Highway. The construction of a bridge over the River Murray at or near Kingston is being investigated.

15. The sustained heavy demand for electricity throughout the State may make it necessary to accelerate the plant installation programme for the Torrens Island power station and my Government will do everything to assist the trust in its operations.

16. My Government will give the closest attention to the maintenance and improvement of water supplies and sewerage facilities throughout the State. Work will continue on works now in progress, including the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline, the Kangaroo Creek dam, the inlet and outlet works at Happy Valley, the Tailum Bend to Keith pipeline, the Tod River main enlargement, the extensions at Yorke Peninsula and sewerage works at Le Fevre Peninsula, the Mansfield Park and Semaphore Park areas, the Dry Creek Valley and the Salisbury Highway trunk sewers as well as the sewerage works at Bolivar. Other works envisaged are schemes to supply Burra with River Murray water, improvement of supplies of water to a large area between Adelaide and Gawler, and the possibility of augmenting supplies to the Bridgewater-Crafers area. In addition, major sewerage schemes are proposed for the metropolitan area and country towns, particularly Gawler.

17. The Harbors Board is continuing with its important works in the Port Adelaide area, Port Pirie and other country areas. Among major development projects now under consideration are the conversion of the tidal swamps between Port Adelaide and Grange into a large and attractive housing estate surrounding two boating locks and other waterways, including a new connection to the sea. This scheme, estimated to cost £9,500,000, has been prepared jointly by the Housing Trust and the board and is before the Standing Committee on Public Works. A scheme for the construction of an oil berth down river and remote from the centre of the Port Pirie harbour has been submitted to my Ministers, the estimated cost being nearly £1,000,000.

18. Considerable improvements in connection with Government and police and courthouse buildings will be undertaken. Investigations are proceeding in connection with projects for various Government departments, including a new Government Printing Office, a new Government office block at Mount Gambier, and new courts adjoining the Supreme Court.

19. The employment position in this State continues to improve. My Ministers will do everything in their power to assist this trend. Greater emphasis will be placed on industrial safety with a view to reductions in the present accident rate. My Government has decided to make provision for service pay to Government employees and will introduce Bills to amend existing industrial legislation, including the Industrial Code, the Apprentices Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

20. It is the policy of my Government to take early action to give effect to the Town Planning Committee's report. Any necessary amendments to the Town Planning Act to enable this to be done will be introduced.

21. My Ministers will continue to co-operate with Ministers from other States in connection with uniform weights and measures legislation, particularly in the marking of packaged goods. It is anticipated that if agreement is reached the Governments of all States will introduce appropriate legislation in the second half of this year for uniform laws to operate from January 1, 1966.

22. A Bill will be laid before you at an early date to amend the State Constitution by providing for an increase in the membership of the House of Assembly, to provide for universal adult suffrage for the Legislative Council and to make better provision for the resolution of deadlocks between the Houses. My Ministers are considering other possible amendments to the Constitution.

23. A Bill will be laid before you for the amendment of the criminal law. Provision will be made for the abolition of capital and corporal punishment, and for certain other amendments which my Ministers are now considering.

24. A Bill will be laid before you to amend the Evidence Act.

25. A Bill to amend the Stamp Duties Act will be laid before you.

26. A Bill to amend the Succession Duties Act will be laid before you, principally to provide an exemption of £6,000 in estates passing to widows and children.

27. A Bill will be laid before you to amend the Marketing of Eggs Act.

28. A Bill will be laid before you to amend the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act.

29. Legislation will be introduced to provide for the licensing of electricians.

30. Bills to amend the legislation concerning local government bodies, including the Local Government Act, the Impounding Act and the Registration of Dogs Act, will be laid before

you. It is the view of my Ministers that the Local Government Act is in urgent need of revision and it is proposed to appoint an expert committee to overhaul the Act completely with a view to the preparation of a completely new Act to meet present-day requirements.

31. A Bill to amend the Superannuation Act by providing benefits in this State as good as those obtaining for public servants of the Commonwealth and other States, and optional retirement at 60 years for males and 55 years for females, will be laid before you.

32. It is the intention of my Government to place before you legislation to continue the Prices Act in operation. The Government is also considering inclusion in this legislation of additional provisions relating to unfair trading practices.

33. In September last the Treasurer introduced a Budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a deficit on current operations of £2,492,000. After allowing for surpluses carried forward from previous years of £1,922,000, he estimated a net deficit at the end of the year of £570,000. As a result of a good season and a high level of economic activity revenues generally have been buoyant. Some expenditures not contemplated have been incurred, while some departments, notably the South Australian Railways, have operated more economically than estimated. On balance it is anticipated that the net Budget result for the year 1964-65 will probably be somewhat improved as compared with the estimate. My Treasurer will, however, find it necessary to submit to Parliament Supplementary Estimates to make provision for certain items of expenditure rather greater than the original estimate, notably for Education Department contingencies, for grants to the university to cover increased salaries, and for service pay for Government employees.

34. The Loan Budget presented to Parliament in August anticipated that expenditure upon capital projects would absorb all new Loan moneys coming to hand and so far absorb balances carried forward as to leave only a nominal balance of £18,000 at the end of 1964-65. In August there seemed some prospect that as a result of growing and competing demands within the community contractors and suppliers would be under heavy pressure, and that some under-expenditure in the programme would occur. Contrary to that expectation, while under-spending is being experienced in some activities corresponding over-spending is being incurred in others because of more rapid progress by contractors. On balance it seems

likely that an aggregate capital works programme at least as high as the original estimate will be achieved.

Members of the House of Assembly:

35. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of approximately £800,000 during the current financial year will be laid before you. Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1966, will also be laid before you.

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

36. A Supply Bill providing £18,000,000 for the Public Service of the State during the early part of the next financial year will be laid before you.

37. My Ministers have under consideration in addition to matters which I have mentioned Bills dealing with associations incorporation, births and deaths registration, business agents, foreign judgments, hide, skin and wool dealers, justices appeals, land agents, local courts, motor vehicles, noxious trades, pistol licences, police offences, statute law revision, wills, and other matters of law reform.

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

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

The PRESIDENT again took the chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary):
I move:

That the Legislative Council express its deep regret at the recent deaths of the Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph, M.L.C., and Mr. James Corcoran, and place on record its appreciation of their public services, and that, as a mark of respect to their memory, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

The late Mr. Bardolph was first elected to this Council on March 29, 1941, for Central No. 1 District, which he represented for the whole of his term here—almost 24 years. He was a member of the Library Committee for 13 years from 1951 to 1964; a member of the Joint House Committee for 14 years from 1950 to 1964; and a member of the Court of Disputed Returns for 17 years—from 1941 to 1956, and again from 1962 to 1964. He was a member of the Industries Development Committee since its inception in 1941, which committee has done much work for the benefit of

the State. The late Mr. Bardolph was also Chairman of the State Manpower Advisory Committee during the Second World War, and a member of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee. He had a remarkable record in the trades union movement and the political field of the Australian Labor Party. He was President of the South Australian Trades and Labor Council for three terms. He was also President of the State Australian Labor Party for three terms, and a member for many years, as well as being a delegate to several conferences. He was a member of the Interstate Executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions for a number of years, and President of the State Labor Day Celebrations Committee, as well as other committees associated with the trade union movement.

He was also a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, and he dearly loved to tell us about this profession. It can be fairly said that he was always keen in his attendance at sittings of this Council, and was a fearless and able debater. We have already placed on record an expression of sympathy to his widow and family, and I endorse those remarks.

The late Mr. James Corcoran was one of the most spectacular and likeable members of Parliament that we could wish to have. He was first elected to Parliament as the member for Victoria in the House of Assembly at a by-election held on September 29, 1945, and he served until the end of that Parliament in 1947. I well remember that occasion, as I was then a member of another place. I remember Mr. Corcoran entering Parliament—and he was quite a character! He was re-elected as member for Victoria in 1953 and in the next Parliament as member for Millicent, which district he represented until ill health forced his retirement in 1962. Thus, he served this Parliament for about 10½ years.

Mr. Corcoran served with the first Australian Imperial Force in the 27th Battalion in Egypt and France for 3½ years, and was wounded and gassed. We all know that, particularly in the latter years of his life, he suffered from his injuries, but he endured them without complaint. Before entering Parliament, he took a prominent part in local government matters, and held the position of District Clerk of the District Council of Tantanoola for about 23 years. He was President of the Tantanoola Pastoral, Agricultural and Horticultural Society for some

time, and Vice-President of the Millicent Sub-Branch of the Returned Servicemen's League. I am sure that I speak for all members in extending deepest sympathy to Mr. Corcoran's family and in saying that we all held him in very high esteem.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of the Party I represent, I second the motion. The Hon. Ken Bardolph was a member of this Council for many years; as a matter of fact, he was almost the senior member. At the time of his death he had not reached retirement, although he had announced that he would not seek re-election. He enjoyed the respect of everyone associated with him; even if we did not always agree with him politically, we appreciated his sincerity of purpose, and I admired him because he was a family man. We heard references to his family many times in this Chamber, and I witnessed the way in which he brought up his family. His children were educated at private schools, from which they matriculated. They have done well, and the late honourable member placed them in a very high position in his life, for which we respected him. On behalf of my Party, I join with the Chief Secretary in expressing our sympathy to his widow and to the members of his family.

Mr. Corcoran represented a South-East district in another place, and he, too, was a personality in Parliament. He was a man of ideals, and, as the Chief Secretary said, he represented his country as one of the old diggers and served his country and this Parliament with honour. He had a distinguished career, and in many ways he was a personality. His personality was so strong that I have no doubt that it contributed greatly to the success of his son, who followed him into Parliament. It is not often that upon a member's retirement his place is taken by his son, and I think this was due greatly to the respect felt for the late Jim Corcoran. On behalf of my Party, I extend sympathy to his family and relatives, and support the Chief Secretary's remarks.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of members of this Council, I support the motion, as I know that all members agree with the sentiments expressed. The Hon. Mr. Bardolph was here for nearly 24 years and obviously had a very wide knowledge of the institutions of the Legislative Council and the Parliament generally. He did much work on behalf of his Party. The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin mentioned that he was a family man. I think he

subjugated almost everything to the welfare of his family, and it was with great regret that we learned of his passing.

Mr. Corcoran, who was the member for Millicent in another place, knew the South-East very well. Having lived there for so many years and having traversed the country so many times in his occupation as an overseer for the District Council of Tantanoola, naturally he had great knowledge of the South-East and, playing such an important part in the resettlement of our returned soldiers, his knowledge was valuable to everybody associated with that work.

I ask honourable members to join me in conveying to the widow of the late Mr. Bardolph and the family of the late Mr. Corcoran our sincere sympathy, and to stand in silence in carrying the motion.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[*Sitting suspended from 3.12 to 3.31 p.m.*]

QUESTIONS

SITTINGS.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Can the Chief Secretary give honourable members any information about the proposed sittings of this Council?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Government intends that Parliament shall sit continuously until the debate on the Address-in-Reply is completed. Then, to meet the convenience of honourable members with commitments in other States, we intend to adjourn not later than June 2, a Wednesday, to enable them to get away. If we get through our business we may adjourn earlier. The Council may not sit on Thursday, May 27 but, if necessary, it will. However, I intend seeking the co-operation of honourable members to see whether we can avoid sitting on that day. The Council will resume on Tuesday, June 15. I think that is as far as the honourable member wants me to go at the moment.

TEROWIE WATER SUPPLY.

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

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: The township of Terowie has been in a rather desperate situation for some time in regard to water. The previous Government had been investigating a scheme to bring water from the Yongala bore to Terowie, and this proposal showed some promise. I ask the Minister of Labour and Industry, representing the Minister

of Works, what is the present Government's policy in regard to a water supply for the township of Terowie?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will convey the honourable member's request to my colleague, the Minister of Works, and let him have an answer.

CADELL DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Lands, and is in relation to the Cadell drainage system. During the term of the previous Government, arrangements were made for the extension and reconstruction of that drainage system. The total estimated cost of this reconstruction was about £36,000. It was decided that the work would be carried out in two stages. The first stage was estimated to cost £21,250 and Loan funds were available for carrying out this particular work. The Engineer-in-Chief had arranged that the work should be put in hand so that it could be completed by June 30, 1965. However, at this stage there is no sign of the work being started.

During the election campaign, the Labor Party stated that it would honour all commitments that the previous Government had entered into. In view of that, and the fact that some projects have already been deferred by the present Government, I ask the Minister whether it is the intention of the Government to carry out this work and, if so, when we can expect that the work will be commenced.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall seek the information that the honourable member desires and inform him as early as possible.

MINISTERS' LETTERS TO MEMBERS.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: On April 8 I addressed a letter to the Minister of Local Government regarding the proposed establishment of an abattoirs in the Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo area and I received a reply dated May 11, 1965, which reads in part as follows:

In 1963, polls of ratepayers were held within the areas of the Corporations of Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta, and the District Council of Kadina, on whether these areas should be declared an abattoirs area in terms of the Abattoirs Act, 1911-1950. The result in each case was in the affirmative and, pursuant to

section 11, details are published in the *Government Gazette* of August 8, 1963, at page 405. However, no further action has been taken pursuant to section 13 to supply me with the prerequisite evidence necessary before the area can be proclaimed in terms of section 12. Government policy on metropolitan quotas for country abattoirs is unchanged. Provided the country abattoirs is registered under Commonwealth legislation as an export works, it qualifies under section 78b of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Act, 1936-1964, for a metropolitan quota as follows:

1. Not exceeding 50% by weight of the total slaughtering at the country abattoirs; or
2. Not exceeding one-seventh of the total metropolitan consumption, whichever is the lesser.

The question of financial assistance to establish the works is one for consideration by the Honourable the Treasurer, to whom you should direct your inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) G. A. Bywaters,
Minister of Agriculture.

At the bottom of the letter there is a postscript, which reads:

A copy of this letter has been sent to Mr. L. C. Hughes, M.P.

Will the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will give an undertaking that the reverse will apply, namely, that when representations are made by Mr. Hughes on matters concerning the district of Wallaroo copies of replies will be sent to the representatives of the Midland District?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This is the first I have heard of this situation. I think it is a matter that affects Cabinet policy and I ask the honourable member to wait a day or two so that I may consult Cabinet, and I will then give him Cabinet's decision on the question.

TOW TRUCK OPERATORS.

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

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Recently there was a case in the court before Mr. R. F. Newman, S.M., about the operation of a tow truck operator in Adelaide. The case concerned the All Suburbs Towing Service, a subsidiary of S.A. Crash Repairs Pty. Ltd. The manager was gaoled for a month on a denied charge of having at Adelaide between July 31, 1964, and January 28, 1965, been the occupier of premises frequented by reputed thieves. In convicting the manager of the company, Mr. Newman said:

I am satisfied that a towing service headquarters does not have to be turned into a den of thieves in order to function successfully. It

seems to me that the rescue of damaged motor vehicles—vehicles which often have a number of loose parts and other articles of value left in them—calls for men of good repute, not those of ill repute. If what the defendant contended to the police is true, namely, that his business, which presumably means like businesses, cannot be run unless the men employed in it to perform rescue work are of such a character as to be aptly described as reputed thieves, then it is high time that such businesses were the subject of special legislative attention and regulation.

Like other members of this Chamber I have seen at first hand the operation of some of these towing services, particularly some of the actions taken at the scene of an accident. Can the Chief Secretary say whether this matter has been brought to the Government's notice and, if so, does the Government contemplate taking action to protect the public against such operators?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The question has not been brought to the Government's notice officially. Now that it has been raised I will ask for a report from the Commissioner of Police to see whether there is a recommendation from him that it is necessary to introduce any legislation. I read about the case in the press and that is as much as I know about it.

APPILA SILO.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Can the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture inform the Council whether the Government has refused to erect a bulk handling silo at Appila and, if so, the reason for the refusal?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I am not aware that the Government has taken any action such as that suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. However, I will get a report from the Minister concerned and inform the honourable member.

WAIKERIE COURTHOUSE.

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

The Hon. C. R. STORY: At Waikerie the justices of the district are sitting under difficult conditions in a courthouse measuring 12ft. by 14ft. They had taken up the matter with the previous Government and the question of building a new courthouse, on land which I understand is available from the Lands Department, was under consideration. Can the Chief Secretary indicate the present position regarding the erection of a new Waikerie courthouse?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am not sure whether Waikerie is included in the places where it has been decided to build. Tenders

have been called for the building of police courts and police stations in two or three country towns, but I cannot remember whether Waikerie is one of them. I will make inquiries as to the exact position at Waikerie and inform the honourable member as soon as possible.

ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: In view of the alterations in the allocation of portfolios, whereby the Chief Secretary has been relieved of his administration of the Mines Department and social services under the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, and as a Deputy Premier has been appointed, can the Chief Secretary say whether the changes will affect the precedence and emolument appertaining to his office?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No. The Chief Secretary is still No. 2 in rank in the Cabinet. When the Premier is absent from the State I become Acting Premier and there will be no difference in the emoluments paid to various Cabinet Ministers from those operating previously.

SALISBURY COURTHOUSE.

The Hon. L. R. HART: In his inquiry about a new courthouse for Waikerie, will the Chief Secretary investigate the position in relation to the courthouse at Salisbury, which is totally inadequate and, in fact, has been abandoned for a temporary site?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Probably other honourable members also have read the article in the *News* of May 3 about the increase in the incidence of venereal disease in this State, down to youths and girls of 16 years of age. It was rather a startling story, and something new to South Australian morals. Can the Minister of Health inform the Council whether the report was accurate and whether there are proposals to prevent the spread of the disease?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That is a press report that I have not seen and the matter has not been brought to my notice, but I will check on the article and call for a report from the department as to its accuracy.

WINE GRAPES.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: My question relates to the following advertisement that appeared in the *Advertiser* of March 5:

Grapegrowers beware! The Prices Commissioner has fixed recommended wine grape prices for this year's vintage, and this decision must not be interfered with by the Premier. If Playford is still Premier on Monday when he meets the Wine and Brandy Producers' Association, he could deal a death blow to growers. Safeguard the livelihood of growers by voting A.L.P. Live better with Labor. Can the Chief Secretary indicate what has been done by the Premier as a result of the promise in that advertisement?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The matter of grape prices has caused the Premier real concern. I know that several conferences have been held between the parties involved, and I understand that some form of co-operative has been formed to take the balance of the unwanted grapes—I think about 3,000 tons—for processing. The position is rather difficult, however. I believe when the agreement was accepted the cost to the Government was estimated to be about £40,000, but when it was finally brought to notice and accepted the cost had almost doubled. I do not know whether my reply fully answers the honourable member's question. If it does not, I will get a further reply from the Premier, who is handling this matter.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: During the election campaign great publicity was given to a statement that the Government would set up a commission or inquiry into all the ramifications of the wine industry. Will the Chief Secretary say whether the Government still intends to carry out that inquiry and, if it does, when it is intended that it will be instituted?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This matter has been discussed fully by the Premier and members of the Wine Grape Growers' Association for the Upper Murray and Barossa Valley. I have heard in conversation and in discussions that there is some difficulty about having a Royal Commission on the wine grape-growing industry. However, I do not recollect that Cabinet has at any time decided not to proceed with a Royal Commission. As this

matter is under the control of the Premier, I will try to obtain the information the honourable member requires, and I will give a reply as soon as possible.

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 was interested to hear the Chief Secretary say that the Government had provided for handling 3,000 tons of grapes. However, I believe that the surplus is between 4,000 and 5,000 tons. Will the Chief Secretary indicate what the Government intends to do about the balance of the surplus grapes?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The only quantity I heard mentioned was about 3,000 tons. I believe that the Government intended to handle all the extra grapes this year. I am not clear on the tonnage, so I will make inquiries and inform the honourable member whether all the surplus grapes will be processed.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Although I think the Government has made finance available for processing 3,000 tons of grapes, many of my constituents are curious to know under what terms and conditions these grapes are to be bought and what effect this purchase will have on the wine industry. Will the Chief Secretary make available to me or to this Council, or both, a full summary of the terms and conditions under which this 3,000 tons of grapes is being purchased, indicating by whom the grapes are being purchased, for what purpose they are being purchased, and what is intended in relation to the ultimate disposal of the juice?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I will take up this matter with the Premier and see whether it is possible to have a full report, which I will make available to members of this Chamber. Members will realize that this matter is not within my department, and I have not been present at any of the discussions. However, I will see if a full report can be made available.

YORKE PENINSULA TRANSPORT.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: Part of the Midland District is the area known as Yorke Peninsula, where there are no rail facilities apart from the line that runs through Melton to Paskeville, Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta. Consequently, farmers in the area have incurred

considerable capital cost in providing themselves with trucks and trailers to handle their produce, to bring their fat lambs to market at the Metropolitan Abattoirs, to get their supplies of superphosphate, and to deliver their grain. They are concerned to know what the Government's policy will be with regard to the co-ordination of transport. Will the Minister of Transport give an undertaking that the freedom of movement that farmers on Yorke Peninsula now enjoy with their trucks and trailers will be allowed to continue under the co-ordination proposals?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The Government is at present considering all the pros and cons of the co-ordination of transport, and these things will be considered at the appropriate time when legislation is introduced to co-ordinate transport.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Parkside Mental Hospital Kitchen,
South Road and Millicent South Primary Schools (Final),
Carlton (Port Augusta), Draper, Hope Valley, Kidman Park and Whyalla Far West Primary Schools (Final),
Para Hills Primary School,
Duplication of the Morgan to Whyalla Pipeline (Final),
Bedford Park Teachers College,
Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science New Wing,
Installation of Additional Electric Cranes at Nos. 13 and 14 Berths, Port Adelaide,
Thebarton Boys Technical High School Additions,
Kensington Girls Technical High School,
Kimba Water Supply (Final),
Giles Point Bulk Loading Facilities,
Whyalla (Bradford Street) Primary School,
Elizabeth Downs South Primary School,
Glenelg Primary School,
Mannum Area School,
Yeelanna-Mount Hope Railway Line,
Clare High School,
Upper Port Reach Development Scheme.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a Standing Orders Committee be appointed consisting of the President, the Hons. A. F. Kneebone, Sir Lyell McEwin, D. H. L. Banfield and the Chief Secretary.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): Under Standing Order 415, I demand a ballot.

A ballot was taken, and the President, the Hons. Sir Lyell McEwin, Sir Frank Perry, Sir Arthur Rymill and A. J. Shard were declared duly elected.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a Library Committee be appointed consisting of the President, the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, M. B. Dawkins, and A. F. Kneebone.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): In accordance with Standing Order 415, I demand a ballot.

A ballot was taken, and the President, the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, M. B. Dawkins and H. K. Kemp were declared duly elected.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a Printing Committee be appointed consisting of the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, S. C. Bevan, R. C. DeGaris, L. R. Hart and A. F. Kneebone.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): Under Standing Order 415, I demand a ballot.

A ballot was taken, and the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, S. C. Bevan, R. A. Geddes, L. R. Hart and C. C. D. Octoman were declared duly elected.

COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, 1929-1959, four members be elected by ballot to be members of a Court of Disputed Returns.

Motion carried.

A ballot was taken, and the Chief Secretary, the Minister of Local Government, and the Hons. Sir Lyell McEwin and C. D. Rowe were declared duly elected.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. A. F. Kneebone, Sir Lyell McEwin, C. R. Story, D. H. L. Banfield and the Chief Secretary be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.52 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, May 18, at 2.15 p.m.