

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 18, 1965.

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

### QUESTIONS

#### CADELL DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Minister of Local Government obtained a reply from the Minister of Irrigation to a question I asked on May 13 about drainage of the Cadell irrigation settlement?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The Government intends to carry out this work. However, my colleague, the Minister of Irrigation, has informed me that, although it had been expected that the first stage of the work would be completed during 1964-65, the urgent need for improved irrigation facilities in another area prevented a start being made at Cadell. Arrangements are now in hand for the full programme to be undertaken during 1965-66, and provision will be made for the Loan funds required. Tenders for replacing sections of the main drain will be called very shortly.

#### TEROWIE WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to a question I asked on May 13 about a supply of water to the township of Terowie?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The Minister of Works informs me that, from investigations made by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, it is evident that a water supply to Terowie from any source would be a very costly proposition and one which the Engineer-in-Chief could not recommend at the present time. If in the future a working arrangement could be made with the Railways Commissioner for the supply of water from the Yongala reservoir and wells this source of supply would undoubtedly provide the cheapest method of supplying Terowie. As the matter stands at present, a supply from this source is not practicable but the position will be reviewed after rail standardization is completed.

#### WAIKERIE COURTHOUSE.

The Hon. C. E. STORY: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of May 13 about a new courthouse at Waikerie?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. The Attorney-General informs me that the courthouse at Waikerie is bound up with negotiations

concerning the future of a civic centre and general Government building for that town. When those are completed, an announcement will be made.

#### SALISBURY COURTHOUSE.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked on May 13 about the courthouse at Salisbury?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: A report from my colleague the Attorney-General is to the effect that the Salisbury courthouse is the subject of a deputation to the Attorney-General this week. An announcement will be made by him after consideration of the matters submitted by the deputation.

#### PRINTING COMMITTEE.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I refer to a recent article in the *News* which reads as follows:

An angry Premier, Mr. Walsh, today attacked the Liberal and Country League-dominated Legislative Council for contesting elections for "domestic" Parliamentary committees yesterday . . . Mr. Walsh said: "The honourable members (Liberal and Country League members of the Upper House) should consider being more co-operative with the desires of the Government of this State in matters involving necessary Government expenditure." The committees referred to are the Standing Orders Committee, the Parliamentary Library Committee, and the Printing Committee—all of which are concerned with internal workings of Parliament. . . . "It is the responsibility of the Government to find the money for things involving Government expenditure."

I have had the privilege of working on the Printing Committee under the chairmanship of the now Minister of Roads (Hon. S. C. Bevan). It met twice in 1964 and ordered 13 papers to be printed. These papers were: Dried Fruits Board of South Australia—Report for year ended February 29, 1964. Elections—Statistical Returns of Voting—Local Option Polls, 1964. Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia—Report and Accounts, 1963-64. Health, Department of Public and Central Board of—Report for year ended December 31, 1963. Municipal Tramways Trust—Report and Accounts, 1963-64. Statistical Register of South Australia—1961-62 (Part I—Social; Part II—Demography; Part V (a)—Primary Production; Part VI—Transport and Communication). Waite Agricultural Research Institute—Report for year ended December 31, 1963. Commissioner of Charitable Funds—Report and Accounts, 1963-64. Highways and

Local Government Department—Report, 1963-64. Police Commissioner's Report, 1963-64.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Who was the Chairman of that committee?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The Hon. Mr. Bevan.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Of what Party was he?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I think the honourable member can work it out for himself. Can the Chief Secretary say what was the cost involved in printing those 13 papers?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I have no idea of what was the cost involved. If the honourable member is really serious, I will make inquiries and let him have an answer.

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Can the Minister of Transport say whether effect is to be given to the election promise of the Government to remit road maintenance tax collected on Eyre Peninsula and whether this will prevent the councils in that area from receiving maintenance grants under that fund?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that the Act to which he refers is not under my jurisdiction but is administered by the Minister of Roads.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I have a long list of portfolios but am not quite sure of the co-ordination of them or of what is a local government matter and what is a road transport matter. Perhaps the second Minister can supply the information.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: This question was anticipated and, hence, a reply has been prepared, as follows:

Prior to this Government's assuming office, it was announced that its policy would be to exempt Eyre Peninsula from the provisions of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act. It was believed that there were circumstances peculiar to Eyre Peninsula, which did not have as complete a railway service as other parts of the State, that made this action desirable. Since assuming office the Government has made further inquiries as to the means by which action could be taken to exempt Eyre Peninsula. At the present time those inquiries indicate that to bring forward amendments to exempt Eyre Peninsula would result in the Act as a whole being open to immediate challenge through the courts, with the real likelihood of the legislation being declared invalid. This would mean that to provide this benefit to Eyre Peninsula the whole system of road contributions would collapse and local governing authorities throughout the State would no longer receive any grants from these contributions for the maintenance of roads. The need to have road maintenance contribution legislation has been

clearly established in this and other States and it is regretted that at the moment it does not appear possible to carry out the announced policy of exempting Eyre Peninsula.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: On the night of March 6, which was election night, I heard the honourable member for Norwood indicate that if Labor were elected to office he would advocate testing a statement by the Playford Government that the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act would be invalidated by any exemptions. In view of the answer given by the Minister of Roads to the question by the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, can the Minister say whether the Government rejects the attitude of the new Attorney-General on this matter?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The question was more or less in relation to exemptions under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act. Cabinet, as yet, has not considered any exemptions, or reductions, or at this stage any increases in the present circumstances of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE: I think the Minister has missed the point, which was that the Attorney-General suggested that the Act be tested in the High Court in regard to exemptions.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: With regard to that, Cabinet has not considered the alleged statement by the Attorney-General in connection with testing the matter in the High Court.

#### WINE GRAPES.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Has the Chief Secretary replies to the two questions that I directed to him on May 13 in regard to the situation with surplus grapes in this State?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. Following representations from the Wine Grape Growers' Council, the Government has agreed to the provision through the State Bank under the Loans to Producers Act of about £67,500 to finance an emergency co-operative to process up to 3,000 tons of surplus grapes. Finance is also being provided by the State Bank out of its own funds and out of the Loans to Producers Act funds provided by the Government to allow regular wineries, and particularly permanent co-operatives, to help absorb surplus grapes. The Government takes the view that it is much more desirable that the grapes be absorbed through the regular channels than through an emergency co-operative. In fact, the Government regards the latter procedure as potentially very dangerous, likely to act in the longer run

contrary to the interests of growers generally, the regular co-operative, and the industry.

Because of the situation existing in the industry when the Government assumed office and the lack of time and opportunity to take other than emergency measures, it agreed to provide finance for the emergency co-operative on the same basis as the 1964 emergency arrangements. The co-operative proposes to make a harvesting payment for grapes of £5 a ton and pay a transport allowance to bring the grapes to the winery. It has arranged for the grapes to be processed by the Penfold Winery in the Barossa Valley on an agency basis and it seems likely that the product will be converted eventually into brandy. Other than for the harvesting and transport payments, the growers supplying to the emergency co-operative will await realization for their payments.

#### APPILA SILO.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question that I directed to him on May 13 in regard to the erection of a silo at Appila?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The reply that I have received from my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, is that it is Government policy not to approve of the erection of silos on sites not served by rail.

#### EYRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. C. C. D. OCTOMAN: In view of the favourable report of the Public Works Standing Committee and the recommendations of that committee that the proposed pipeline from Polda to Darke Peak and Kimba be constructed, will the Minister representing the Minister of Works indicate Government policy regarding this matter and when this very urgent work will be commenced?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will convey the question to my colleague and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

#### FIELD PEAS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: In certain specific areas of South Australia, primary producers grow a lot of field peas. One of those areas is the Barossa Valley. Recently, the growers had some trouble with a disease in their crops. This is an important crop in that a lot of field peas are exported and, if it is not possible for these people to continue to

grow them, the export markets may well be lost. The situation is that a weevil appears in the field peas and quite a widespread infestation has appeared in the lower north of South Australia. This could have an important effect on the industry in the future. I believe that some growers have taken this problem to the department, which has been very helpful, and one of the suggestions it made was that the producers should stop growing field peas for a year or two. That, of course, is one possible solution, but it has the difficulty I mentioned—the possible loss of export markets. In view of the problems created, will the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture ask that steps be taken to assist growers to obtain clean seed, because I believe this is one of the main requirements? Also, will the Minister of Agriculture ensure that the department provides assistance and advice to enable growers to obtain suitable fumigants in order to fumigate the seed? I believe this would have the great effect of reducing the incidence of weevil in field peas.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I will refer the question to my colleague and obtain a reply for the honourable member.

#### MYPOLONGA WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Will the Minister representing the Minister of Lands inquire whether he intends to honour the undertaking given by his predecessor in that office and proceed immediately to provide domestic and stock water in the Mypolonga settlement?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I will refer the question to the Minister of Lands and get a reply for the honourable member.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Since the present Government has assumed office one has become accustomed to hearing announcements on Government policy made by the Attorney-General, so, of course, it is not surprising to learn that a public relations officer has been appointed to that department. The Minister of Agriculture also has a number of portfolios, all of which are of vital interest to the primary producers. In view of this can the Chief Secretary indicate whether it is Government policy to appoint a public relations officer for the Agriculture Department, because at present the only means of disseminating information from the department to the people concerned is through the present press medium?

If it is wise to appoint a public relations officer for the Attorney-General's Department I consider such an officer should also be appointed for the Agriculture Department.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The question has not been discussed but as it is one of policy I will discuss it with my Cabinet colleagues and give the honourable member an answer.

#### YEELANNA-MOUNT HOPE RAILWAY.

The Hon. C. C. D. OCTOMAN: Can the Minister of Railways inform the Council when a Cabinet decision will be made on the matter of the Yeelanna to Mount Hope railway, which the Public Works Standing Committee has recommended should be retained?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I have not a final answer as yet. When Cabinet has considered the matter I will let the honourable member know.

#### FRUIT BOXES.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Some weeks ago the present Minister of Agriculture was reported as making an appeal to boxmakers to bring the price of orange boxes particularly to the minimum possible price, in view of the parlous condition of the citrus industry and because that industry is the largest consumer of new boxes. This is important to the fruit industry at present because the department under the Minister of Forests is by far the largest boxmaker in South Australia and is the greatest beneficiary under the present high price of boxes. The Minister of Agriculture, who is also Minister of Forests, administers the quarantine applying along the Murray River and this prevents orange growers from using any but new boxes. Also, as Minister of Lands he is the greatest landlord along the river, and the small residue that remains to orange growers to live on at present is entirely at his discretion. In view of all these things there is a possibility that the statement by the Minister of Agriculture may foreshadow something important to the fruitgrowers generally, because he as Minister of Forests may break from the ring that at present determines the prices of all soft wood products. Does the Minister of Forests intend to break from the price fixing ring that obtains at present?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I will obtain the information from my colleague and inform the honourable member of his decision later.

#### FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVES.

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

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: During the last two or three years several areas have been reserved as flora and fauna reserves in South Australia. This has been greatly appreciated by many people in the State. Most large areas of original stringy bark scrub in the lower South-East are at present in the hands of the Woods and Forests Department, and these lands are being rapidly cleared for the planting of *pinus radiata*. However, an area of about 1,000 acres of original heath land and stringy bark scrub still exists on the south-western flank of Mt. Watch. Although I am not asking that this area be handed over to any other control, will the Minister of Local Government ask the Minister of Forests to consider reserving this area under the control of the Woods and Forests Department to preserve the remaining stringy bark scrub and heath land in the Mt. Watch area?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall refer the question to the Minister of Forests and obtain a reply for the honourable member.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The House of Assembly notified its appointment of sessional committees.

#### JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The House of Assembly intimated its appointment of four members to the Joint House Committee.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary): In accordance with section 4 of the Joint House Committee Act, 1941, I move:

That the members of the Legislative Council on the Joint House Committee be the President and the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, Jessie Cooper, and A. F. Kneebone.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition) moved:

That the name of the Hon. D. H. L. Banfield be struck out and the name of the Hon. N. L. Jude inserted.

The Council divided on the amendment:

Ayes (15).—The Hons. Jessie Cooper, M. B. Dawkins, R. C. DeGaris, R. A. Geddes, G. J. Gilfillan, L. R. Hart, N. L. Jude, H. K. Kemp, Sir Lyell McEwin (teller), C. C. D. Octoman, Sir Frank Perry, F. J. Potter, C. D. Rowe, Sir Arthur Rymill, and C. R. Story.

Noes (4).—The Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, S. C. Bevan, A. F. Kneebone, and A. J. Shard (teller).

Majority of 11 for the Ayes.

Amendment thus carried; motion as amended carried.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

A message was received from the House of Assembly requesting the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment of a Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

A ballot was taken, and the Hons. G. J. Gilfillan, N. L. Jude and F. J. Potter were declared duly elected to represent the Legislative Council on the committee.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:

May it please Your Excellency:

1. We, the members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open Parliament.

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Central No. 1): I move that the Address in Reply as read be adopted. As a new member of this Council I deeply appreciate the honour of having been invited to move the adoption. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Sir Edric Bastyan, on the clear and concise manner in which he delivered his address. It is a little more than four years since His Excellency and Lady Bastyan commenced their duties in South Australia. During that period they have travelled extensively throughout the State and have taken a keen interest in the welfare and development of this State. They have not spared themselves in their devotion and attention to the many onerous duties of their high office, and as a result have made friends from all walks of life. In return, the people of South Australia have taken them to their hearts. The friendly manner in which His Excellency has carried out his duties has been appreciated by all citizens, and they acclaim Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan as very worthy and popular representatives of Her Majesty the Queen.

His Excellency made reference to the passing of a number of members and past members of Parliament. I, too, wish to refer to them. The

first is Mr. Harold Tapping, the member for Semaphore, who died on September 6 last year. He served the people of Semaphore as their representative for 18 years. He gave valuable service as a member of the Public Works Committee from April 23, 1953, until April 6, 1960. Mr. Tapping was in ill-health for a long time prior to his death. His passing was a sad loss to the people of the Semaphore district.

The late Hon. Ken Bardolph, M.L.C., was another member who served the people with distinction for many years. Mr. Bardolph, who died on November 9 last year, was a member of this Council for 23 years. He was a member of the Industries Development Committee for 22 years. Mr. Bardolph had announced that he intended to retire from political life at the end of the last Parliament. It is regretted that he did not live to enjoy a long and happy retirement, which he certainly deserved.

Mr. James Corcoran, although not a member of Parliament at the time of his death, had served this State as a member for more than 10 years. It must have been a proud day for the late Mr. Corcoran when his son (Desmond) was elected to represent the people in the district of Millicent. To the families and relatives of the late members we express deepest sympathy.

I also wish to refer to the retirement of Mr. Fred Walsh from Parliament after having served the State for more than 22 years. Mr. Walsh is a man whose ideas and judgment are often sought and always respected, both within Australia and overseas. He was a leader in the trade union movement in South Australia and in other States for a great many years. He is at present on the executive of the South Australian Trades and Labor Council, a position he has held for longer than any other man in this State. He was a foundation member of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Many industrial reforms in this country have come about as the result of the hard work, sound judgment and clear thinking given by Mr. Walsh to the trade union movement and to the Parliament of this State. He was also a member of the Public Works Committee for over 14 years. The people of this State will be forever grateful to Mr. Walsh for the valuable services given by him.

It is most regrettable that the people I have just mentioned served their time in Parliament as members of the Opposition. This was contrary to the wishes of the majority of electors who consistently voted in favour of a Labor Government but, because of the vicious and undemocratic gerrymander of electorates

brought about by the Parties at present in opposition, the people of this State were denied the Government they wanted and elected. They were denied the Government which would have done the most for the individual and the State. They were denied their rights because a Government elected by the minority for the minority clung to office for the sole purpose of looking after the selfish interests of 40 per cent of the people and not the welfare of the community and State generally. I congratulate the people of this State who, in spite of almost insurmountable obstacles, eventually and constitutionally succeeded in getting rid of the dictatorship of this State.

I compliment the Government on its election to office. The Ministers have wasted no time in getting down to the serious business of running the State. I am not one who believes that, because the present Ministers have not had previous experience in office, they will not be successful. I believe that the experience gained by the Ministers in studying the mistakes of the previous Government will be sufficient to spur them on and keep them from making the same mistakes.

The Premier's early action in officially creating the office of Premier of this State and setting up a Premier's Department is something which should have been done years ago. In addition to giving prestige to the Government it will also be the means of encouraging and fostering new industries for this State.

The new portfolios of Housing, Social Welfare and Transport will spotlight the present deficiencies existing in these departments. The lack of adequate service and social welfare provided by the Government in the past for widows, deserted wives and other needy people is something of which the previous Government should be ashamed.

It is gratifying to see that the Government intends to spend greater amounts on education. This State has for a number of years been well below other States in the amount spent on education per capita. I am very pleased to see that the Government is paying attention to the welfare of the mentally retarded people of this State. Figures reveal that approximately 3 per cent of the population are intellectually retarded. The interest and welfare of this type of person has been sadly neglected in the past. Previous Governments cannot claim that they were unaware of the necessity to do something years ago for these people. In 1924 the Government of the day sent Dr. Constance Davies overseas to study the position of the mentally retarded in other countries. On her

return Dr. Davies reported to the Government, and made certain recommendations on what should be done to assist these people. However, it appears that her recommendations were promptly pigeon-holed.

In 1950 a group of interested people formed themselves into a society now known as the Mentally Retarded Children's Society Incorporated. Following the formation of the society, approaches were made to the Government to set up special schools for the mentally retarded. However, it was four years before the first occupational centre was opened at Kent Town for mentally retarded children between the ages of 8 and 16 years. From that time the then Minister of Education, Sir Baden Pattinson, showed a keen and sympathetic interest in this type of training. The society continued to press for the establishment of further centres both in the metropolitan area and in country districts. As a result of the continued efforts, centres are now operating at Kent Town, Woodville, Minda Home, North Adelaide, Berri, Kings Park, Whyalla, Kensington, Parkside, Hillcrest, Mount Gambier and Alice Springs, and a new centre is to be opened at Elizabeth this month. Approval has also been given for a centre to be set up at Port Pirie. These centres cater for approximately 700 children, 300 of whom are inmates at Minda Home, Hillcrest and Parkside.

I wish to pay a tribute to Mr. Piddington and the staff of the Psychology Branch of the Education Department for the enormous amount of work they have done not only in the course of their duties but also for the time they have given outside their normal duties. Their assistance, guidance, understanding and patience have been deeply appreciated by the Mentally Retarded Children's Society and by all parents who have, through necessity, had to take their children to the psychology branch. Unfortunately, the society could not get the same interest and understanding from the then Minister of Health as was given by Sir Baden Pattinson.

Following correspondence from the society to the Minister of Health in July, 1956, a deputation waited upon him early in 1957 asking him to set up sheltered workshops for the children after they had reached the age of 16 years, which at that time was the age limit for training given by the Education Department. It was not until February, 1959, that the society received a letter from the Secretary to the Minister of Health advising that, pending other more suitable developments, the arrangement for retaining suitable children to the age of 20 years at the occupation centres

should be continued. I point out that the Minister of Education agreed that while investigations were being made by the Minister of Health he would keep these children at the schools until they attained the age of 20 years. During that 2½ years of waiting for a reply numerous requests were made to the Minister for a decision, but without result. Had there been any understanding by the Minister of the problems and the frustrations of the parents of these children he would no doubt have taken much less than 2½ years to give his decision and the parents would thereby have been saved much mental strain. Since that time the Minister continued to show little appreciation of the problem.

The society appreciates the help of Mrs. Steele, M.P., in arranging deputations and in assisting to secure transport for the children to and from the centres. Many members of the Government—and I would especially mention the Hon. R. R. Loveday (Minister of Education), the Hon. G. A. Bywaters (Minister of Agriculture) and Mr. Clark (member for Gawler)—when they were in opposition took an active part in calling together the parents of mentally retarded children and also other interested people for the purpose of getting occupation centres established in the various towns. Because of the keen interest shown by those members the Mentally Retarded Children's Society looks forward to a better understanding by the people of the position regarding the mentally handicapped. This must result in greater activity in setting up more occupation centres and subsidized sheltered workshops, and in establishing hostels. I believe this is referred to in the Governor's Speech.

It is pleasing to see that the Government is providing for service pay to its daily paid employees. This will make for a greater stability of employment within Government departments and will bring Government employees into line with a large number of employees outside the Government.

The decision to amend the existing industrial legislation will meet with widespread approval. The Industrial Code served a useful purpose in the early days after its introduction, but its provisions have been outmoded for years. It requires a complete overhaul to bring it into line with today's conditions.

The Apprentices Act is far behind the legislation of other more progressive States, and intended amendments will no doubt be appreciated by all apprentices. These will be the means by which apprentices will take a greater

interest in their training. They will also mean that apprentices will be more interested in remaining at their work and be less interested in breaking their contracts.

The Workmen's Compensation Act in this State has for many years denied workers the same protection and benefits as those enjoyed by the majority of workers in other States and those employed by the Commonwealth. Amendments to this Act must give South Australian workers benefits at least equal to those given in other States.

A Bill to amend the State Constitution to provide for an increase in membership of the House of Assembly is vitally necessary in the light of our ever-increasing population. Provision for universal adult suffrage for the Legislative Council will mean that this Council will be comprised of members truly representative of the electors of this State. At present, the number of electors eligible to vote for members of the House of Assembly is 562,824 compared with a total of 213,377 electors for the Legislative Council. This is about 37 per cent of the electors who should be entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The fact that voting for the Legislative Council is not compulsory resulted in only 149,910 votes being recorded for members of this Council at the last State elections.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: How many voted in New South Wales?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I have no doubt that the honourable member will have those figures provided at a later stage. The voting figures for the last election show that Labor Party representatives received 274,432 votes out of a total of 498,638 votes cast for the House of Assembly. This means that 55 per cent of the votes cast were for the present Government. Members of the Labor Party in the House of Assembly received 61,055 votes more than the total number of electors on the Legislative Council rolls, and 124,522 more votes than were actually cast for members of the Legislative Council, yet the Labor Party has only four representatives in this Council compared with 16 representatives of a Party that received only about 40 per cent of the votes cast for the House of Assembly. The people of this State desire to be truly represented in this Council, and by the proposed alteration to the Constitution to provide for adult suffrage for this Council their desires will be achieved.

The trade union movement appreciates the interest shown by the Government in the safety

and welfare of workers in industry by appointing two more general inspectors and two scaffolding inspectors to the Department of Labour and Industry. This will mean that more inspections will be carried out. It will also mean that more employers will be informed of their obligations regarding safety for their employees, as no doubt once they are notified they will carry out their obligations. It will also mean that there will be less hardship incurred through people meeting with accidents, and that industry will not lose so many man hours through accidents that could have been avoided. The filling of vacancies in the clerical staff of the Department of Labour and Industry will also allow inspectors greater time to visit the factories instead of having to do a large volume of clerical work.

The proposals in the Governor's Speech are steps towards the fulfilment of the promises made to the people at the last elections, and they are in line with the policies voted for by the majority of electors over many years. This Government, therefore, does not expect obstruction or delay in the passage of these far-reaching Bills, which have been approved by the people of this State on numerous occasions.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I thank the entire staff employed at Parliament House for the help I have received and the courtesies shown me since my election to this Council. I also thank those people who placed their confidence in me by electing me to this Council, and I assure them that I will do my best to see that their confidence has not been misplaced.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I am indeed honoured to have the opportunity to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate my friend and colleague, the Hon. Don Banfield, upon his election to Parliament and upon the excellence of his first contribution to the debates of this Council. It is obvious that his presence in this Council will maintain the usual high standard of the debates.

I join with the previous speaker in expressing regret at the unfortunate passing of the Hon. Ken Bardolph, who was a member of this Chamber when I entered it. Ken Bardolph was an excellent debater who had a long association with the industrial and labor movements. Unfortunately, like too many other members who have retired or intended to retire from Parliament recently, he was not spared to enjoy his retirement. Two members of another place who died recently were Harold Tapping and James Corcoran. The former passed away shortly before he could commence his intended

retirement, as did Ken Bardolph, and Jim Corcoran survived only three years after seeing his son succeed him as member for Millicent. To the families of the late members, I express my sincere sympathy.

His Excellency the Governor carried out his duties in opening Parliament in his usual most efficient and dignified manner, and I agree with the mover of the motion that during their sojourn in South Australia both Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan have endeared themselves to all sections of the community.

I congratulate my colleague, the Minister of Local Government, Roads and Mines, upon his re-election to this Chamber, and I also congratulate the Hon. Mr. Geddes and the Hon. Mr. Oetoman upon their election. This is only the ninth occasion upon which members of a Labor Government have moved and seconded the adoption of the Address in Reply in this Chamber. On some other occasions a Labor member has either moved or seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, but this is only the ninth occasion on which Labor members have done both. It is, therefore, a historic occasion of which I am proud. I am proud that, although great difficulties had to be overcome by the electors before they could return a Labor Government, this has at last been achieved after 32 years.

One of the contributing factors in the defeat of the previous Government was undoubtedly its failure to vacate the Treasury benches in 1962. On that occasion that Government remained in office despite an overwhelming vote against it and the loss of its majority in another place. The electors do not relish having their wishes frustrated in this manner and made certain on the occasion of the election on March 6 that there would be no doubt about who should govern this State. It is to be hoped that the members of the Opposition in this Chamber will have learnt the lesson of that election well and will not seek to frustrate the electors further by capriciously rejecting legislation introduced in accordance with the desires of most of the electors as expressed through the ballot box in the election to which I have referred.

We have seen some high-sounding and seemingly reasonable statements published in the newspapers and attributed to the members of the Opposition regarding the attitude they will take towards Government legislation reaching this Chamber. If the events of last Thursday are any indication we can assume that the lesson has not been properly learnt; nor can we take



much notice of those published statements. I hope subsequent events will prove me wrong in this.

The Premier has allotted portfolios to the various Ministers on a different basis from that of the previous Government, and Cabinet has created additional portfolios. This has been done in the belief that it will enable important aspects of administration to be more effectively carried out. This re-arrangement of portfolios has caused much re-organization of some Public Service Departments and the creation of additional offices. Despite all the necessary re-organization caused in these departments, I think I am speaking for the new Ministers when I say that we appreciate the capable manner in which members of the Public Service have co-operated with the new Government, thus bringing about the smoothest possible change-over to the new administration. I have always held the Public Service in high regard, and experience since my recent elevation to Ministerial rank has confirmed my previous views.

Part of the Government's election policy was the appointment of a Minister of Transport to co-ordinate all transport activities in the State. In past years as the Opposition we considered the co-ordination of transport activities under one Minister was sorely needed in South Australia. It is apparent that to bring about proper co-ordination will involve much research and it cannot come about in a short period of time. Action has already been taken to place under the control of the Minister of Transport the South Australian Railways Commissioner's Act 1936-1957, Road and Railway Transport Act 1930-1964, Metropolitan Taxi-Cab Act 1956-1963, and Municipal Tramways Act 1935-1952.

These Acts were previously spread over three Ministerial portfolios. Another Act is in the course of being committed to the administration of the Minister of Transport, and action is about to be taken to abolish the portfolio of Minister of Railways, leaving all existing transport legislation under the control of the Minister of Transport.

Investigations made since the Government assumed office clearly show that the previous Government in the amendments it made to the Road and Railway Transport Act in 1964 had little regard for the public funds invested in the South Australian Railways and the effect that that Government's action would have on the Railways Department by passing legislation that made the roads free to all road transport users on the payment of a tax of one-third of a penny a ton-mile, with an 8-ton exemption. This undoubtedly has placed the department in an impossible position to compete with road transport operators whose road maintenance contributions by no means compensate for the wear and tear on the roads used by their vehicles. Although I cannot yet give complete details, because we are in the process of examining all phases of co-ordination of transport, I can intimate now that the Government intends to reinstate transport control under the provisions of the Road and Railway Transport Act, and legislation to give effect to this will be introduced.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.43 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, May 19, at 2.15 p.m.