

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 26, 1965.

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

### QUESTIONS

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked on May 18 last about the appointment of public relations officers to Government departments, especially to the Agriculture Department?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Public Relations Officer in the Attorney-General's Department is available to other departments for special campaigns. Cabinet approved the appointment to the Attorney-General's Department as an experiment which, if successful, could expand to a public relations office to cover all departments.

#### INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: In his policy speech, the Premier referred to service payments that would be made on the advice of an industrial advisory committee. Can the Chief Secretary say who constitutes that committee?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Industrial Advisory Committee has been in existence in connection with our Party and its branches for a number of years.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: It is not a statutory body?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No; it is the Industrial Advisory Committee to the Australian Labor Party. It comprises two representatives of the United Trades and Labor Council, two representatives of the Australian Labor Party and two representatives of the Parliamentary Labor Party. I am glad of the opportunity to say a word about this committee. I do so with some diffidence because I have been on it, with the exception of the last few weeks, ever since its inception. This committee has done a magnificent job, not only for the Labor Party but also for the State as a whole, in the interests of industrial peace, in respect of which the South Australian record is one of which we can all be proud. This committee is consulted by us on matters concerning the industrial life of this State.

We reach agreement on things of an industrial nature, and that agreement is given effect to. It is a valuable committee and we intend to keep it in being and hope that its work in the future will be as valuable to the State as it has been in the past.

#### TEACHING AIDS.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry, representing the Minister of Education, a reply to my question of May 19 last about subsidies to departmental schools?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The following answer has been supplied by the Minister of Education:

Earlier this year approvals for some subsidy applications were delayed for a short time until the financial position could be clarified. As additional funds are able to be made available by the Government, applications are being dealt with expeditiously and it is not expected that there will be any further delay in giving approval beyond what is involved in obtaining the necessary reports.

#### GAWLER COURTHOUSE.

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: Honourable members may recall that on two or three occasions I have asked questions with reference to the Gawler courthouse, which is a very substantial building but needs renovations. As I recall, the last time I made inquiries the then Attorney-General informed me that plans had been prepared for the renovation of these premises and I understand that tenders were to be called. I believe that the property, when renovated, will be a satisfactory courthouse and that there is no need to think in terms of reconstruction. Will the Minister representing the Attorney-General ascertain when the actual work on renovating this property will commence?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This is the first time that my attention has been specifically drawn to the Gawler courthouse. However, I will find out what is the position and inform the member as soon as possible.

#### TRAIN TOILETS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: It has been brought to my notice that trains travelling from the

metropolitan area to Elizabeth, Salisbury and Gawler are not provided with toilet facilities. Will the Minister of Railways ascertain whether this is a fact, and, if it is, will he take action to see that these facilities are provided?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will make an investigation and supply a report for the honourable member as soon as it is available.

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (on notice):

1. On whose advice did the present Government promise the electors of Eyre Peninsula that they could and would exempt that area from the provisions of the Road Maintenance (Contributions) Act?

2. Is the same person who gave that advice still acting as legal adviser to the Government?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Policy decisions made by the Government and its Party are not determined by or upon the advice of any one person.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

In September, 1964, Parliament considered a Revenue Budget that anticipated a deficit of £2,492,000 for 1964-65. Such a deficit would have absorbed surpluses aggregating £1,922,000 carried forward from previous years and would have resulted in a cumulative deficit of £570,000 at June 30, 1965.

During the year there have been a number of variations from the original estimate of both receipts and payments. It will be possible to provide appropriation for the smaller excess payments from the Governor's Appropriation Fund, but it is necessary for Parliament to consider a second Appropriation Bill to provide for the four largest items of excess, namely, service pay for certain Crown employees, Education Department running expenses, grants to the University of Adelaide, and grants to University residential colleges.

Despite these excess payments, it is expected that the year's eventual result will show some improvement on the original estimate. As a result of a good season and a high level of economic activity, revenues generally have been buoyant both in taxation and in the receipts of business undertakings, while for payments there will probably be several shortfalls below

estimate, the largest being for Hospitals Department, Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous, Agriculture Department and Railways Department.

Of the four items for which provision is included in the Bill, the major one is service pay. The Government has decided to pay a special allowance based on years of service to Crown employees, male and female, who are paid at daily or weekly rates. The payment, which will operate retrospectively from January 1, 1965, will be at the following rates per week: during the second year on the adult rate, 10s.; during the third year on the adult rate, 17s. 6d.; and during the fourth and subsequent years on the adult rate, 25s. It is intended that up to the end of the pay week closest to the end of March, 1965, the service payments should be flat additions to the weekly wage. Thereafter the rates of 10s., 17s. 6d., and 25s. a week will be taken into account in the calculation of overtime and penalty payments. The total cost to the Government for the half year to June 30, 1965, has been calculated at about £500,000, made up of about £225,000 for the first three months and about £275,000 for the second three months. It follows that a full year's cost of service pay, including its application to overtime and penalty rates, would be about £1,100,000.

Of the cost of £500,000 this financial year, it is estimated that £339,000 will be a direct charge to Revenue Account, £71,000 to Loan Account, and £90,000 to other accounts, including roads and forests and those accounts used to finance workshops and stores. Of the £90,000 to be charged to the latter accounts in the first instance, it is expected that about £16,000 will be recharged as part of the cost of various stores and services used on maintenance and operating activities financed from Revenue Account. Accordingly, the full charge to Revenue Account this financial year will be about £355,000. Of the £339,000 direct cost to salaries and wages lines within Revenue Account, provision for £333,000 has been included in the Bill for the 12 largest departments. The authority for the estimated £6,000 cost for 16 smaller departments will be provided from the Governor's Appropriation Fund, as will the authority for any excess payments on contingency lines caused by additional recharges from workshops and stores.

For the Education Department, excess payments will be incurred for the general operating expenses of primary schools, area schools, technical schools, high schools, and the recruitment and training branch. The increased payments arise from a general increase in the



amount to be provided under each department or activity. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan funds or other public funds if moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, 1964, or at a rate in excess of the rate which was in force under any return, award or determination. Clauses 4, 5 and 6 are standard clauses in an Appropriation Bill. I commend the Bill for consideration of honourable members.

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

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from May 25. Page 161.)

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): Mr. President, I join other honourable members in expressing appreciation of the work done for South Australia by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Bastyan. They have given real meaning to the governorship throughout the whole State, particularly in the country areas and their far-flung edges. I support any move that may be made to invite His Excellency to extend his term of office as Governor.

I join, too, other honourable members in offering sympathy to the families of the Hon. Kenneth Bardolph, Harold Tapping, James Corcoran, Hermann Homburg and E. H. McAlees. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Bardolph in this Chamber. I remember vividly my entry into the Council, when the hand of friendship was extended to me by him. As a new member I appreciated that gesture, coming as it did from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I appreciated his welcome and his friendliness towards me throughout our association.

I knew Mr. Tapping as a member of another place during the same period. I held him, too, in high regard. The other gentlemen served Parliament before I became a member of the Council. I have heard much about Mr. Corcoran, whose son now represents Millicent in another place. Obviously, from the many remarks I have heard about him from his

associates, the late Mr. Corcoran was held in the highest regard.

I join honourable members in congratulating the Ministers who represent this Council in the new Government. I have come to hold each of them in high regard. I am sure they will be a worthy acquisition to the new Government. I wish each of them well. I congratulate also the new members in this Council. I am particularly pleased to be associated with the two new members for the Northern District, the Hons. Mr. Octoman and Mr. Geddes. I have known both of them for a long time and I know something of the work they have done in their districts. Honourable members will agree that in their maiden speeches they displayed an extensive knowledge of the districts they represent and of the problems, not only of those districts but of the whole State. I congratulate, too, the Hon. Mr. Banfield and wish him well.

The honourable members who have so far spoken in this debate have each shown, in their own way, their great interest in South Australia and its future progress. I cannot help but think that it has all added up to a fine record of achievement for a State which is one of the youngest in the Commonwealth and which, in the history of the world, is a very young State indeed. If we examine the progress of South Australia since it was first settled, we cannot help but be impressed by what has been done with the relatively few assets we have, some of which were not known until a short time ago.

Probably we have five major assets. The first (and perhaps the one that created the first settlement) is a limited amount of first-class agricultural land. Then we have iron ore deposits, and low-grade coal deposits, which are of some size. We have the River Murray, which has its source in another State, but which is vital to the interests of South Australia. The fifth asset has been the 30 years of stable government that has assisted the development of this State and the confidence that the people have in the future. Another asset I should mention is the pioneering spirit inherited from our forefathers and retained by the people of South Australia. We see this in the enterprise shown in the development of secondary industry and rural areas which were once regarded as unsuitable for primary production but which are now being developed and accumulating large populations.

We can say that, generally, South Australia has made good use of its assets and with proper planning in the future it can look forward

to prosperity. When I read the policy of the present Government, as outlined at the opening of Parliament, I found a number of good points. However, there are some things that are disappointing, perhaps because there is a lack of forward planning in what Mr. Story called our bread and butter items. If I dwell a little on the things that cause me some concern, it does not mean that I disagree with everything outlined in the proposals. South Australia must continue to concentrate on the bread and butter items because three lots of children will leave school in the next three years. An ever-increasing number of children will attain school leaving age, and the maintenance of the present full employment probably rests on a fine balance. The position can easily alter unless we have forward planning to ensure that jobs will be available for these children. I refer to forward planning that will encourage the development of productive works. It is easy to fill a gap temporarily with Government works, but, in the main, we must have productive works that will in turn bring in additional income and create more demand and employment. That is one reason why some of the items in the opening Speech give me some concern. One of the advantages we have enjoyed in South Australia is our low cost structure. It has been largely instrumental in enabling us to achieve our industrial employment position. It is well known that we produce a number of items that are sent to other parts of Australia. For instance, I believe South Australia is the largest producer of washing machines and refrigerators. They are manufactured from steel produced at Port Kembla and are transported to the Eastern States where the major centres of population are located.

Many of the items mentioned in the Opening Speech will add something to our cost structure, and the position will have to be watched closely. Other items are concerned with Party policy, particularly the introduction of a policy that has been advocated by the Australian Labor Party for many years. I agree that we must not be too critical of the first proposals of a new Government, because it has not had much time in which to do forward planning. However, when in Opposition, and during the election campaign, the Labor Party suggested that consideration had been given to many items. The present Premier in his policy speech said that we were going to have fresh and progressive planning. I, with other members and many members of the public, looked forward with much interest to the opening of

Parliament to see what was proposed in the way of progressive ideas.

I commend the Government for carrying on the policy of providing the maximum number of houses with the money available. I commend it also for laying emphasis on the building of £50-deposit houses, because this encourages house ownership and a stable community, particularly at Whyalla, where we find frequent changes in the people seeking employment there. I also agree with the proposal to make money available for the purchase of older homes. This has a part to play in the community and although the sum of £100,000 is not much it is at least a start, and perhaps the amount will be increased later.

I was also interested in the programme regarding the provision of water supplies. The Minister representing the Minister of Works, in answer to a question in this place, informed us that it was intended to proceed with the Kimba water scheme early in 1966. I know this area and the problems it has faced over many years. This project was not mentioned in the opening Speech. Other proposals, such as the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline and schemes for water supplies for Burra and Booborowie, have been planned for a long time. I was pleased to learn that the Government intends to honour the undertaking given by the previous Government to proceed with the Kimba water scheme and I wait with much interest to see if finance will be made available in the Estimates to enable this project to be commenced early in 1966. Kimba has had its own local supply for years and the proposal to supply it with a more permanent scheme has involved much planning. I compliment the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Mines Department, which have been working in close co-operation to prove the capacity of the Poldra Basin, and on the fine work they have done to prove the extent of the permanent water supply on Eyre Peninsula.

A water supply for Kimba tends to be costly, and the scheme is necessarily one of those that cannot pay its way, but it is amply justified because of the benefits it will bring to the district and the greatly increased production that should eventuate from a plentiful and permanent water supply. It is not only the cost of providing a new and permanent water supply that is of interest. The present water supply to Kimba has cost a large sum of money over the years, and it is interesting to note that, from 1953 to 1959, the sum of £474,000 was spent on concrete storage tanks alone, so that,

although the proposed scheme to Kimba is perhaps not financially attractive, any losses in operations will be largely offset because it is already costly to supply water to Kimba and a large sum had been spent on the supply before this scheme had been proposed and approved. I commend the Public Works Committee's report to anyone interested in the scheme. That committee comprises members on both sides of Parliament, and they have done a fine job in presenting the report.

The decision to proceed with the scheme has much significance, as it is an acknowledgment by this Government of a principle, in that a project such as this can be justified because of the benefit it brings to the area. In the Northern District are many places smaller than Kimba where water supply is a problem. One of these is Terowie, which I mentioned in a question a few days ago, and another is Coober Pedy. There are other similar places on the far West Coast. Until now it has not been economical to supply these towns with water, but this State has had a long history of carrying out extensive water projects to take water to main centres, and most of the State is now well served. I know that the previous Government was seriously considering providing water to the smaller communities in outlying areas where it was not economical to provide it on the basis of the return on capital expenditure. However, because these communities are of great benefit to the State, because they produce exportable goods, and because something has to be done to keep people there, the previous Government was seriously considering a proposal to provide water to them. I hope the present Government, after indicating that it will supply water to Kimba, will further investigate the possibility of supplying water to the more distant and smaller communities.

In reply to my recent question about the possibility of supplying Terowie from the Yongola bore and railway dam, I was given an answer promising an investigation after railway gauge standardization. I point out that the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway line on the present 3ft. 6in. gauge is served mainly by diesel locomotives and that it is rare, particularly during the summer months when there is a high fire danger, to see a steam locomotive on it. If water is supplied from this bore, it can naturally be expected that the highest consumption will be during summer months, when steam engines are rarely used.

Yesterday the Hon. Mrs. Cooper spoke about the word "mandate", which has been used

too frequently in debate and in the daily press in the last few weeks. The honourable member gave a fine speech on this matter. It is difficult to define what people are really voting for when several proposals are put before them at an election. However, I think we can make an informed guess on what appeals to people when several proposals are put before them by rejecting those proposals that have been submitted unsuccessfully before. Many of the proposals of the Government and contained in the Governor's Speech have been put before us in previous election campaigns, and they did not get public support.

In looking for something that can be called a mandate in any specific election, we must look for something new. As far as I can see, those things which were mentioned in the 1965 election campaign and which were not mentioned in previous campaigns were things that received very little mention in the Governor's Speech setting out the declared policy for this session of Parliament. Free school books to students was one of the proposals that had much public appeal and could have influenced the results of the election. The actual words of the Governor on the subject were:

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.

The Premier announced some weeks ago that he expected that it would take two years partly to implement this scheme. One would have thought this would be one of the easiest proposals to put into effect, because the textbooks used in all departmental schools are authorized or approved by the department and distributed to children through the headmasters of the various primary and high schools. Therefore a complete record should be easily obtainable as to the number, type and cost of the books required. I hope that the Government will honour this promise at the earliest opportunity.

Other matters were mentioned for which a mandate might be claimed if one followed the reasoning that the people approved of everything that had been proposed. I will not mention them in detail but of the new proposals the matter of free books is the only one mentioned in the Governor's Speech. A matter that especially concerns me is the co-ordination of transport, which is referred to in His Excellency's Speech. The Hon. Mr. Kneebone, in his remarks in the Address in Reply as Minister of Transport, concluded his speech by saying:

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 tab of  $\frac{1}{4}$  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.

I have read the policy speech of the Premier carefully to see what is proposed in this proposition to co-ordinate transport. I think it is significant that in that speech there is no mention of the words "road transport", nor is there any indication of the reintroduction of transport control as we knew it or, even worse, as the Eastern States now know it. The nearest approach made by the Premier to a reference to road transport was his use of the words "mobile transport", whatever that may mean.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: That is transport that moves.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: We do not use the other type in our district.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: I thought you were asking for an interpretation.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: The Premier said:

Our policy provides for a co-ordinated transport system under the Minister responsible to Parliament. Mobile transport, both passenger and freight, must be co-ordinated with that of air, shipping and rail.

I will not read the rest of his remarks in detail but he went on to explain a policy of providing an increased number of railway trucks, better passenger facilities and extra parking areas for cars at railway stations, particularly in suburban areas. He also mentioned an alteration in administration, but nowhere in his speech did he mention the recontrol of road transport. I would be the first to agree with the proposition of co-ordinating transport if the railways intended to start a road service and operated a co-ordinated carrying service by collecting goods at warehouses or on farms and delivering them to the railhead. If that could be done

economically I believe that it would be co-ordinated transport and I do not consider that users of the railway transport or members of this House would object to it. However, the words "co-ordinated transport" have not been explained in detail in the policy speech of the Premier or in any other speech that I heard during the election campaign. I believe that this is an important issue and that we shall have to face it later.

The Premier also said that he intended by this policy of modernizing the railways and co-ordinating transport to increase the revenue by £1,000,000 annually. This is of significance to country residents who pay freight, both ways, on the goods bought and sold. It is of particular significance to people in the northern part of the State that I represent. That area touches on three State borders and covers about five-sixths of South Australia. Transport is one of the vital matters in the development of this area, and by that I mean good and cheap transport. It is obvious that, if we obtain an extra £1,000,000 revenue annually from the railways, this has to be paid for and, as the metropolitan area is mainly concerned with passenger traffic on domestic lines, and as under section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution interstate traffic is open to competition between road and rail transport, it is obvious that any increased revenue—particularly the sum mentioned—will have to be found within our own State railway system. Although it may be possible by increasing the efficiency of the railways to implement some savings, this proposition suggests that an attempt may be made to bring the State under the same severe road transport control as exists in the Eastern States.

Once having forced people to use the railways—I use the word "force" as this is what it amounts to—then the possibility of increased freight rates is a matter that will concern country people. The present system of open competition between road and rail has considerably reduced freight rates from country districts. I mention freight rates on wool as a particular item that has been halved in many instances. I know that approaches are being made to business people in country towns by the railway authorities offering reduced rates on goods. One business man told me that if this approach had been made 12 months ago he would have been happy to accept it. As the cost of transport greatly influences the development of our country areas I believe that this matter of the co-ordination of transport, or the intimation given by the Hon. Mr.

Kneebone, is of immediate concern to all country people. I cannot see anything in the Premier's speech that could be claimed to be a mandate for the control of a system of transport in South Australia such as exists in the Eastern States. The word "air" is mentioned, but air transport has little significance for the northern part of the State, although it has for Eyre Peninsula. I was pleased to see in the Governor's Speech a reference to agricultural policy. I quote:

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.

I do not really know what all this means. It contains no specific proposals; rather is it a general statement that could mean very little or very much but, on its own, it does not give much indication of what is intended. However, if we take it in conjunction with the Premier's speech, the election speech and one or two announcements that have been made since, it can mean much more than is indicated here. The Premier has said:

Labor will establish a land utilization council as a special organization under the control of a Minister. This council will have the task of co-ordinating the resources of the State on all phases of land use concerning the allocation of Crown lands for farming, forestry development, water resources, national parks and reserves and erosion control and will consist of heads of the Departments of Agriculture, Forests, Lands, Water Supply and Surveyor-General.

When this is coupled with the statement made immediately after the election by the Minister of Agriculture, that it will no longer be possible to convert leasehold land to freehold, it could mean something different—that the proposals taken together could mean a step towards State control of the land. It has always been the policy of the Australian Labor Party and part of its platform that the ownership of land should be vested in the State. It appears to me that a real danger exists that at least some control will be more rigid than it has been in the past.

The same Minister made a statement on the marketing of eggs at about the same time. I shall not debate the egg marketing plan or speak for or against it, but the egg producers in South Australia were probably the first of our producers to feel the initial squeeze of

Government control when they were denied a poll on the future of their industry. This did not occur in South Australia under the previous administration when the policy was that people should have a voice in their own affairs. In these two items there has been too wide a departure from the policy that the previous administration followed.

Little was said about succession duties except that the amount exempted from payment of succession duties by widows and children would be raised by £1,500 to £6,000. At present-day values, this will be readily acceptable to people who are realistic about these things. It was stated in the Premier's policy speech, but not in the Governor's Speech, that duties will also be substantially increased on larger estates. Whether or not this is to be introduced in the same legislation we shall have to wait and see.

The point that has aroused the greatest interest in this Council has been the proposal to alter the Constitution. Several honourable members have spoken about this. One article in the press has been on the wide powers of the Legislative Council. I wonder why this question is raised. After all, this is one of the Houses of Parliament: it is not a village committee, and without power this Council would be of little value. The final analysis must be based on the record of this Council and the way in which it has used its power.

After a close investigation of what has happened in this Chamber for many years—in fact, since the inception of Parliamentary government in South Australia—the record of this Council survives any criticism on this score. To give a balanced opinion on the role of the Legislative Council in the government of our State, one must do some research into the debate on Bills that have been passed into law and then sometimes amended. One must ascertain why they were amended and the ultimate results of their practical application to the affairs of this State. The Council's long record of service to this State speaks for itself. Of course, this article on the powers of the Legislative Council is not as serious as statements made by ambitious members in another place, reflecting not only on the Council itself but also on its members—rather personal attacks.

I cannot understand the thinking that, on the one hand, objects to the powers enjoyed by this Council and, on the other hand, would abolish this Council, if given the opportunity, and give all these powers to the one House of Parliament, whose legislation would not be

subject to any review. It is beyond my comprehension why people should, on the one hand, consider that this Council has too much power and, on the other hand, be prepared to give that power to one House of Parliament, in addition to the powers it already possesses. There is no doubt that if this question were put to the people in the proper manner, so that they had the full picture, they would endorse the present bicameral system of Parliament which has been largely responsible for the confidence people have shown in the future of the State. It is a confidence backed by investment and by people coming here to live, and in this way helping to build the future of South Australia. Most Council members come in close contact with all sections of the community over a large area, and I have never found a popular outcry to either abolish or alter our present system. In fact, I have found recently a much greater interest in the Council, and much relief is derived from the fact that we have a two-House system, where, if we have sudden swings of popular opinion, ordinary affairs at least would have some stability and would not be likely to alter overnight.

Finally, I want to add to what has been said about the record of the present Government regarding certain projects. It was unfortunate that for years an attack was made on the former Premier on this matter of promises, yet after only a few weeks in office there is a record of broken promises by the present Government. Some of the matters involved have been of great magnitude. Yesterday the Hon. Colin Rowe dealt very effectively with the matter of Giles Point, which is in an important part of his district. It is a vital matter for people who cart their produce over long distances to shipping points. I want to refer to the proposed exemption of Eyre Peninsula from the payment of road maintenance charges, which was promised by the Labor Party should it be successful in obtaining office. I know this area well, because it is in my district, and I came in contact with this question on a large scale during the election campaign. It was used extensively in an effort to undermine the personal standing of Sir Thomas Playford and the Government of that day.

It is interesting to read statements made during a debate on the matter in another place by some of the senior members of the Labor Party, who are now Cabinet Ministers.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday, now Minister of Education, rejected Sir Thomas Playford's argument that it was impossible legally to exempt Eyre Peninsula from the provisions of the Act. The record appears in *Hansard* of last year, page 845. The member for Norwood, the Hon. D. A. Dunstan, now the Attorney-General, described Sir Thomas Playford's argument as nonsense (page 848 of *Hansard* of last year). Later he described Sir Thomas Playford's statement as gobbledegook (page 1002 of *Hansard*). This is very significant, because that was the considered opinion of the man who, according to the press, proposes to alter our laws considerably. Following the election on March 6, a local government meeting was held on Eyre Peninsula on March 15. It was attended by delegates from councils throughout Eyre Peninsula, and it is probably the largest local government meeting that is held in South Australia. The *West Coast Sentinel* of March 17, 1965, contained a statement by the Speaker-elect at that time. I have a very high regard for the Hon. L. G. Riches and I believe that what he said on that occasion was said in good faith. The report stated:

Mr. Riches said he had authority from the two Ministers concerned to tell the conference that the tax would be exempt on Eyre Peninsula but would continue to be paid on goods carried to or from Eyre Peninsula to Port Augusta—Adelaide.

We have since heard that the promise has been repudiated, and I believe there will be widespread repercussions on Eyre Peninsula. Yesterday in another place it was said there had been a decision to not go ahead with the building of multi-storey flats in Adelaide. Although this is not the concern of country members to the same extent as applies in some other matters, it is a repudiation of a legal document, which is of great significance to us.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Who said it was a legal document? It was an undertaking.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe: It was a repudiation of an undertaking.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I stand corrected. It was a repudiation of an undertaking.

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins: It was still a repudiation.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: No.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: It was mentioned in the press, and the Premier made the definite statement, if he was reported correctly, that he was personally opposed to

the building of multi-storey flats. Whether he was entirely responsible must be left to the judgment of members but he was certainly quoted in the press as being completely opposed to the building of such flats. Whether that is a repudiation of a legal document or the breaking of an undertaking, I think that when such a thing is done by the Government, or by responsible people in the Government, it has a real significance for members of Parliament. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. L. R. HART (Midland): In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I associate myself with other members in their expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. Once again we were privileged to witness the opening of Parliament with the dignity and decorum that is an accepted custom at this important function. During their term, Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan have upheld the true democratic ideals of their high office by travelling extensively throughout the State to meet people in all walks of life, thereby fitting themselves to act as true representatives of Her Majesty the Queen. I join also with other members of this Chamber in expressing the hope that the Government will see its way clear to re-appoint His Excellency for another term of office.

I extend condolences to the relatives of former members who passed away during the year. I mention particularly Mr. Ken Bardolph, who was a very good friend to me when I first entered this Council, and Mr. Harold Tapping, who was esteemed by all members. I extend a welcome to new members and congratulate them on their contributions to this debate. The Hon. C. C. D. Octoman and the Hon. R. A. Geddes are recognized leaders in their respective districts, and will no doubt prove worthy successors to the Hon. R. R. Wilson and the Hon. W. W. Robinson. I congratulate the Hon. Don Banfield on moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and, although I do not agree with many of his remarks, I think his speech was at least delivered with much conviction.

To the members of this Chamber who have been appointed Ministers I offer my congratulations. I trust that in administering their departments they will be guided by wisdom and understanding. I join with my colleague, the Hon. C. D. Rowe, in acknowledging the grand work performed by the previous Government under the leadership of Sir Thomas Playford. The progress made in this

State in the last two decades will stand as a lasting memorial to Sir Thomas and his Government. Modesty prevented my colleague from pursuing the subject very far, but I should like to refer to the conspicuous part that he himself played in the development of South Australia as Attorney-General, Minister of Labour and Industry, and Minister controlling town planning. The Hon. Mr. Rowe was at one stage the youngest member of Cabinet, and he performed his allotted task with vigour and purpose that has seldom been rivalled. In the Midland District he is held in very high esteem, and I greatly appreciate the privilege of being his colleague.

During my term as a member of this Chamber I do not think there has been a higher standard of debate than has been witnessed during the last three weeks. The attitude of this Chamber has always been based on reason, and it is regrettable that so many people, many of them in high and influential positions, set out to belittle the Council even before this session was opened. One comes to expect these tactics from Labor members because, as the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin has said, it is their age-old cry, but at least we are entitled to a little more impartial consideration and judgment from some of the responsible people in the State's highest seat of learning.

It has long been Labor policy to abolish the Legislative Council. It was emphasized again in the policy speech delivered by the Hon. F. H. Walsh, the Leader of the Party, concerning which members opposite claimed that they had received a mandate from the people. However, the people are worried not about matters mentioned in this policy speech and in the Governor's Speech but about matters of policy that were not mentioned.

The Labor Party's only interest in reforming the Legislative Council is to gain control of it and eventually bring about its abolition. No doubt members opposite will readily agree with this, but why did they not enlighten the people about their Party's ultimate policy in relation to Parliaments? It is well known, and I do not think members opposite will deny it, that the Labor policy is not only to abolish the Council but to abolish all State Parliaments as we know them, and to abolish the Senate. That is written into the Party's platform, which every member is pledged to support.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: You cannot read if you say we will not deny that. I deny it now. You do not know what you are talking about.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I suggest that the Minister should once again read the platform of his Party.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: I think I am more conversant with it than you are.

The Hon. L. R. HART: If any member has doubts about it I will repeat what was said by the Hon. Don Dunstan, the present Attorney-General, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister of Social Welfare, who represents the Minister of Health in this Chamber, and who has recently had appointed a public relations officer.

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins: Unification!

The Hon. L. R. HART: When he made the statements I will quote he was the incoming President of the Federal Australian Labor Party, so undoubtedly he was speaking with some authority. Regarding uniform taxation, he said:

The only successful answer to the whole problem is that Australia shall have one enlarged sovereign Parliament with a central administration in some things and a decentralized administration through a county system subject to that Parliament.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Was this when he was senior vice-president?

The Hon. L. R. HART: Yes. In reply to an interjection about whether this was his personal view, or his Party's view, he said it was his Party's view. In reply to the further interjection, "Your Party believes in complete unification?" Mr. Dunstan replied, "Yes". After this, on September 19, 1956, Mr. Dunstan quoted from the Australian Labor Party's policy as follows:

Amendment of the Commonwealth Constitution to clothe the Commonwealth Parliament with unlimited powers and the duty and authority to create States possessing delegated constitutional powers.

In the same debate, Mr. Jack Jennings, M.P., who is at present the Labor Party Whip in another place and a leading member of the State Labor Party, said:

I believe that the proper Constitution for Australia would be a single Chamber national Parliament with sovereign powers.

In recent times we have frequently heard of a certain Pat Mackie of Mount Isa fame, who received much encouragement and support from Mr. Clyde Cameron, M.H.R., a former State President of the A.L.P. During the time that Mr. Cameron was State President, Mr. Dunstan—and again he would have been speaking with some authority—referred to Mr. Cameron as "the light and adornment of the Party". I mention these things so that the

people in South Australia will understand that the abolition of the Council is but the first step towards complete totalitarianism.

The Hon. C. R. Story: The slush light, I presume!

The Hon. L. R. HART: Yes. We all know what utter destruction this has brought to many countries. On reading the Speech of His Excellency one is immediately struck by the absence of any positive planning for projects for country areas, other than carrying out the policies planned by the previous Government. The trend of events since the Government assumed office tends to confirm the belief that matters of vital concern to country people, particularly to primary producers, are to receive scant consideration.

The deferring of the Giles Point deep-sea loading project has been ably dealt with by other speakers, especially by my colleague the Hon. C. D. Rowe. The deferring of this project is a complete repudiation of Labor Party election policy and is a typical example of what the electors can expect from the present Government, which seems to get some satisfaction from saying that these projects have been deferred only pending investigation by a committee on which the Government has stated it is not prepared to ensure primary producer representation. The appointment of a departmental committee to investigate all aspects of bulk handling facilities in South Australia is, in fact, a vote of no confidence in the Public Works Standing Committee, which unanimously recommended this facility. It is also a vote of no confidence in the Government's own two nominees on the board of directors, who were nominated to look after the Government's interests. These two members, Mr. G. Rosevear, the Comptroller of Railways and the bulk handling co-operative authority on finance, and Mr. Hal Dean, the Consulting Engineer of the Department of Labour and Industry, were sent overseas to investigate bulk handling facilities. In addition, Mr. Perce Sanders, General Manager of the co-operative, also went overseas investigating facilities in the United States of America and Canada. Mr. Sanders recently made a private trip overseas and further investigated facilities in the United States of America, Canada and Europe. These people have come back with the same conclusion that the South Australian facilities compare more than favourably with similar facilities overseas.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Did the previous Government reject the building of a silo on the recommendation of the board?

The Hon. L. R. HART: I did not say that the Government had rejected it. I am saying that the Government passes a vote of no confidence in people when it does these things.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Just now you were grizzling about repudiation.

The Hon. L. R. HART: It is up to the Minister to say whether there was repudiation. We will not have the last say in that matter. However, we might have the last say in it if there is repudiation.

To revert to my previous remarks, there is no consolation for primary producers on Yorke Peninsula who, in order to combat rising costs, are steadily converting to bulk handling. In addition to Giles Point, we have the deferring of the extension and reconstruction of the drainage system at the Cadell irrigation settlement, which is a project of some urgency. Great capital was made in Mr. Walsh's policy speech, and at subsequent meetings, of a 500-bed hospital at Tea Tree Gully, yet there is only a vague reference to hospitals in the Governor's Speech, and no specific mention whatever of a hospital at Tea Tree Gully. During the election campaign the Labor candidate for Barossa, Mrs. Molly Byrne, was photographed standing on the site of the 500-bed hospital at Tea Tree Gully. Now we find that the Government is investigating sites for this hospital, which is an admission that it never possessed one. I challenge the Government when I say that the foundations for a 500-bed hospital at Tea Tree Gully will not be laid by the end of this Parliament in three years' time, and that it will not be erected in 10 years' time.

Mr. Walsh, in his policy speech, stated that Labor would insist on the establishment of regional hospitals. Does this mean that the successful policy of subsidized hospitals is to be discontinued? Does it mean that country people will be required to travel long distances to large centres to obtain hospitalization, and does it mean that established areas like Salisbury and Elizabeth must be satisfied with their present subsidized hospital at Elizabeth while the Government plans the erection of a large general hospital at Tea Tree Gully?

Decentralization is a phrase often used by the Labor Party but seldom acted upon. This is evidenced by its policy although it was not mentioned in the policy speech. I refer to centralizing court work. Future policy is evident in its decision not to rebuild the Salisbury courthouse, but to require all cases previously heard there to be heard in future at

Elizabeth, five miles from Salisbury and considerably farther from many parts of the area. Salisbury's first courthouse was completed in 1859, over 100 years ago, and yet today this fast-developing city is to be denied this facility. One can easily visualize what is going to happen to many of the local courts in country towns. Even today there were inquiries on what was to happen to the Gawler courthouse. Gawler may receive the same consideration as Salisbury and be required to have all of its cases heard at Elizabeth.

Paragraph 8 of the Governor's Speech deals with transport. It states that the Government intends to co-ordinate the various forms of transport. In a subsequent statement the Minister of Transport stated that the Government intended to reintroduce transport control. In his policy speech Mr. Walsh stated that both passenger and freight transport must be co-ordinated with the air, shipping and rail services. This no doubt means that the motor passenger service for the Upper Murray towns from Adelaide, put into operation during the term of the previous Government, will be discontinued, and that the people in this area will again have to revert to the co-ordinated service from Morgan, which was totally inconvenient and inadequate. Does it mean that the people on Yorke Peninsula will be required to use the train from Melton, their nearest station, for passenger and freight purposes? The Government's statement that it intends to increase Railway Department revenue by £1,000,000 annually while decreasing freight charges is an interesting one. Undoubtedly it must result in an increase in rail travel. I suggest to the Minister that urgent consideration be given to the installation of warning devices at railway crossings, particularly those on busy highways where vehicular traffic is heavy, with trains passing only at infrequent intervals. Many of these crossings have stop signs, which result in traffic delays. Railway authorities acknowledge the need for warning devices at these crossings by establishing a priority list for the work to be done. The cost of the work is, incidentally, largely borne by the Highways Department through an arrangement between that department and the Railways Department. Despite the great need for warning devices at many crossings, progress in erecting them is alarmingly slow. This is caused by the Railways Department having only one gang employed on this type of work and its insistence that this work be done by this gang alone. They rarely erect more than six to eight a year.

Surely this work could be carried out by reputable contractors, working to railway specifications and under railway supervision, if need be. With a busy crossing like the one at Port Wakefield, in priority No. 34, under present arrangements we cannot hope to have the work completed for at least four years. Traffic lights at busy city intersections are erected by private contractors, and apparently satisfactorily. Freeways and dual highways in the city and near-city areas will have to proceed at a rate slower than many of us would like to see, because of their high cost. Traffic counts through some of the smaller towns near Adelaide will reach a high rate before their dual roads are built. To overcome this traffic hazard, I suggest to the Minister of Roads that consideration be given to completing the dual roads system through some of these towns well ahead of the time when the new highway will reach them. A typical example of the need for this to be done is the town of Virginia, in which the volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic is high and increasing at a fast rate. Much of the danger here could be reduced by an improved highway system.

I turn now to another major project which was started by the previous Government and which, I hope, will be carried to completion as early as possible. I refer to the sewage treatment works at Bolivar, which are planned to cope with the needs of an expanding population and will provide sewerage facilities for the many areas north of Adelaide not previously connected to the sewerage scheme. The problem of all sewage treatment works is the profitable disposal of effluent. This effluent, which amounts to many million gallons daily, is in the form of clear water. Much of it in the past has been disposed of into the sea, mainly because it has lacked proper treatment and was somewhat impure. This is an unhygienic practice that has tended to pollute the sea water along long stretches of the coastline.

The reuse of water is a problem commanding the attention of authorities in many countries today. The renovation of waste water, including sewage, offers exciting possibilities. This is confirmed by an article in yesterday's *Advertiser* dealing with water treatment in Lebanon (Ohio) in the United States of America. It states that scientists are close to the culmination of a venture in modern alchemy—transforming sewage into the purest sort of water, in fact purer than it was originally. It is estimated that the cost of this processing in a plant capable of handling 10,000,000 gallons daily would be 4s. 6d. a thousand gallons.

There are, however, a number of ways in which this effluent may be disposed of after it has been treated and purified; one is to return it, through recharge bores, to the underground basin.

The vast amount of water (I understand about 25,000,000 gallons daily, in the early stages, is to be disposed of by returning it to the underground basin) presents some problems. An alternative is to use it for irrigation. At this stage this means may offer the best possibilities. Apparently, the Engineering and Water Supply Department has in mind the possible use of the effluent for irrigation purposes and has in recent months obtained permission to conduct soil surveys of many acres of land extending from Bolivar to beyond the River Light.

This action has caused much speculation among landowners about the eventual use to which their land may be put; it has in fact tended to influence land values to a degree in some areas. There are vast tracts of land in the near-coastal area that would prove suitable for this type of irrigation, which would be on a similar scale to the Werribee scheme in Victoria. That scheme is run as a Government project. I think, however, that this State would be better served if this effluent was made available to private landholders. The Government should make some early announcement of its intentions about the disposal of the Bolivar effluent, particularly as to the amount that would be surplus, the number of acres that could be irrigated, its salt content, and the possible cost of this water to the consumer. I understand that there is at present a committee investigating all aspects of the Bolivar sewage disposal known as the Bolivar Sewage Disposal Committee.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: I hope you get full publicity on this.

The Hon. L. R. HART: As irrigation is largely a summer pursuit, vast quantities of water would become surplus during the winter period. To overcome this, water surplus to irrigation purposes during the winter could be returned to the underground basin if technical problems could be overcome, and I believe they have been in some countries, particularly Israel and America, including California.

I have already referred to the possibility of returning sewage effluent to the underground basin. I wish now to deal with that. The Morgan-Whyalla main, the Chowilla dam and other major storage projects of any magnitude have a spectacular appeal and tend to capture the public imagination. We are prone, however, to overlook the great asset of our underground

water basin which has been in the process of being charged for many years, possibly centuries, or even much longer in some cases. Today, I intend to discuss the underground water basin of the Adelaide Plains. My reason for so doing is to draw attention to the grave danger of this valuable asset being depleted and ruined through both over-use and misuse. The problems existing here are not peculiar to the Adelaide Plains alone but are in fact world-wide, in places where similar conditions exist, namely, a heavy withdrawal rate in excess of the rate of recharge. As I have stated, the process of building up and replenishing the underground water-bearing strata has been going on for centuries. The main point of entry of water into the aquifers underlying the Adelaide Plains is a series of block-faulted scarps over which run the rivers entering the sea in St. Vincent Gulf. As the State has developed over the years, reservoirs have been built on the upper reaches of these rivers, thus reducing the amount of flooding and thereby causing a decline in the hydraulic pressure needed to force water through the fault blocks.

The Para fault block, the main fault through which the deeper aquifers of the Adelaide Plains are fed, runs roughly in a line along the foothills. There are in addition other aquifers at shallower depths fed from accumulated surface water, which is an annual process occurring in the winter periods. With the industrial development of the State, many of these areas are being drained and the water is being channelled into the sea, in some cases along concrete-lined outlets, so as to make the areas suitable for housing settlements. When the housing settlements become established, there is a demand for open recreation spaces. I suggest that some of these low-lying areas, where water is known to accumulate but to disappear relatively rapidly, be used as recreation reserves and planted with suitable species of trees and shrubs. They would then serve a dual purpose and one for which nature originally intended them. One such area is west of Smithfield and has long been recognized as a trap for local floodwaters. At this stage, the Housing Trust is investigating the possibility of draining this area and using it for building purposes. The Town Planner would be well advised to investigate the possibility of reserving this area for the purpose I have suggested. There are also other similar areas, some of them south of Salisbury, that could be used for this purpose.

It is known that there are other places along the rivers themselves from which the aquifers

are fed but the amount of water entering the basin cannot be established without measuring the flow of the rivers. To do this, a series of weirs would need to be built along the Little Para, South Para and North Para Rivers and Cobblers Creek. It would then be possible to assess the quantity of run-off available for recharging the aquifers. I urge that the Government make finance available to the Mines Department for this purpose.

I have endeavoured to illustrate the decline in the recharge rate of the water bearing aquifers and I now wish to draw attention to the even greater danger of the excessive discharge from the underground basin. Water from this basin has been the sole water supply for a large area of the Adelaide Plains for many years, particularly in an area from the Little Para River to the Gawler River. Market gardeners previously carried on their occupation in the Fulham, Findon and other western suburbs and for many years extensively tapped the underground water basin in these areas for their supplies. However, these areas are now giving way to housing development and gardeners from these localities are settling further north in the areas I have mentioned, namely, from the Little Para River to just beyond the Gawler River. This movement, together with increased development of market gardening, both for local and interstate markets, has placed a heavy strain on the underground water supply. It is estimated that the present rate of withdrawal is in the vicinity of 23,000,000,000 gallons annually, which is well in excess of the rate of recharge, even before the South Para reservoir was built, thus reducing the head of water available.

According to Mines Department reports, heavy pumping in the Virginia area appears to be causing a reversal of the hydraulic gradient and thereby highlights the danger of high-salinity water entering the aquifer. A gardener acquaintance of mine in the Gawler River area had a bore 308ft. deep, with a capacity of 7,000 gallons an hour. The static water level of this bore was 25ft. and his pump was submerged in 90ft. of water. The test of this water was 66 grains to the gallon. However, through excessive pumping, this particular bore was unable to stand up to the rate of 7,000 gallons an hour, so he then deepened the bore to 408ft. and increased the depth of it by 100ft. At this depth, the static water level was 90ft. and he submerged his pump in 190ft. of water. At that depth, he was able to obtain a capacity of 8,000 gallons an hour but, by increasing the depth of the bore by 100ft., he

also increased the total salts and at 408ft. the test was 76 grains. Excessive pumping at 408ft. can even reduce the water level to below 190ft.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: How far above sea level is the place where the pumping is taking place?

The Hon. L. R. HART: This would be less than 10ft. above sea level. The static water level at this stage could well be 100ft. below sea level in some areas. Thus, it becomes abundantly clear what can happen if the hydraulic pressure is continually reduced. Because of its greater pressure, sea water will force its way into the aquifer and thus contaminate the whole system. The artesian supplies are a natural asset and must be preserved, not only for the present landholders but also for those of the future.

The rate of recharge of some underground basins is exceedingly slow. The rate of flow in some of the aquifers running from western Victoria into South Australia is approximately 25ft. a day. It has been calculated that water entering the Albert District of South Australia has taken 500,000 years to flow from the intake area in Victoria.

Beginning tomorrow, the third Australian symposium on water treatment engineering will be held in Adelaide. This symposium is sponsored by the chemical and engineering institutions in association with the Water Research Foundation of Australia and will no doubt discuss many of the matters I have mentioned in a much more scientific way than I have done today.

I now wish to refer to something that I will describe as the mushroom invasions. After the first winter rains each year mushrooms appear in many places in South Australia and this seems to herald a period of open season for the invasion of people's properties, particularly in areas close to Adelaide. Country people are very tolerant and have no objection to city people visiting country areas and enjoying themselves at roadside picnics and by visiting public places. However, the enthusiasm (or should we say "lust"?) for gathering mushrooms seems to erase completely from some people's minds what should be a reasonable regard and respect for the property of others. The lambing season seems to coincide with the mushroom season in most years, and it is in this direction that trespassers cause most harm. Sheep are temperamental animals and are easily disturbed and, once a new-born lamb is parted from its mother, she has very little hope of finding it again if she is con-

tinually disturbed by people gathering mushrooms. The result is that the lamb either dies of starvation and exposure or is taken by foxes on the following night.

A neighbour of mine informed me that he had lost over 20 lambs during the last two weekends. Their minimum value would be 70s. each, so it can be readily seen what degree of monetary loss is suffered by landholders. Many landowners have informed me that if trespassing continues they will have to take action under the Trespassing on Land Act. They are reluctant to do this, because the penalty for a first offence could be a fine of £10.

In addition to trespassing, we have those people who, after an enjoyable picnic lunch in the open, leave their empty bottles, beer cans, cardboard plates and other rubbish to disfigure the countryside. Some even regard a picnic trip as an ideal time to dump surplus rubbish that they have gathered in their homes. Then we have the other person who takes his rifle with him and uses road signs as targets. One seldom sees a road sign in a quiet spot that has not been shot to pieces. Is it any wonder that landowners are annoyed? The Trespassing on Land Act does not apply in all areas of South Australia. Some local government bodies have not, for reasons best known to themselves, had their areas proclaimed under that Act. However, it does apply over an area within a radius of 50 miles of Adelaide and in some other places. I ask what would happen if country people adopted a similar code of behaviour in city areas.

In conclusion, I express my appreciation to the electors of the Midland District for again returning me as their representative. I also express my appreciation to the staff of this Chamber, the staff of the dining room, and other staffs of Parliament, all of whom make the life of a Parliamentarian in this place so much easier.

The Hon. H. H. KEMP (Southern): In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply I do not intend to waste time in giving long formal acknowledgments. I will give my acknowledgments by associating myself with the tributes paid to those members who have died and with the congratulations and good wishes expressed to new members, which matters have been dealt with much more ably by previous speakers than I could have done. I especially acknowledge the kindness the two members who have retired from this Chamber, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wilson, extended to me in their last term of office. I thank them for

their help and wish them happiness in their retirement. I support as strongly as I can the remarks made by the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin about our appreciation of the work done by Her Majesty's representative in this State, Sir Edric Bastyan. I add my plea that the Government seek from Her Majesty an extension of His Excellency's term of office. Everywhere I go in the large Southern District, this idea seems to be popular, and I am sure the Government will win many friends if it does this.

The matter about which I wish to speak chiefly is contained in paragraph 10 of His Excellency's Speech. The subject that is of greatest importance to me is the fruitgrowing and horticultural industry as a whole. This industry is thought of as fairly small fry, but it is not. I do not think many people realize that, of the people of Australia who derive their major living from agriculture, between 26 and 28 per cent are engaged in horticultural activities. The horticultural industries are unique in that they are largely domestic industries, and many big industries—the huge canning industry, the sugar mills, and all the ancillary services that go towards packaging, transport and distribution of horticultural products—are dependent on them. These are huge industries, and a large proportion of the total population of this State depends entirely upon the fruit and vegetable industries for their livelihood. The distribution of the products from these industries reaches every street in the suburbs and every township in Australia. These industries have an effect on every grocer who sells canned fruit from his shelves and on a multitude of people who assemble and prepare these products.

I am afraid there is nothing else that can be said but that our fruitgrowing industries, particularly the citrus and wine grape industries, are in serious trouble, and I am afraid that trouble is just around the corner for all of us. Most people are envious of the potato growers this year. Possibly South Australian potato growers are in a happy position this year, but this is only because of the disaster and drought that have stripped the Eastern States of supplies. Next year they will probably be as badly off as they have been in the past four or five years and will deserve the sympathy of everyone.

It is characteristic of all our horticultural industries that they have produce that must be handled quickly or it runs to waste. This is our tremendous vulnerability, and it is why we inevitably get into a difficult position. I

think I can best lead into the subject by giving some of the inner history of apple growing, which is the industry in which I am, and have been for many years, engaged. Everyone in the apple industry was exceedingly glad at the end of the last war to get rid of the pettifogging interruptions and regulations that the Apple and Pear Board inevitably placed on growers. From the end of the war until 1949, the apple industry experienced years of great prosperity, as there was a growing population that was looking for all the fruit it could get. This cycle of prosperity was broken little by little between 1949 and 1951, when thrips wiped out the apple crop and left most growers without an income and a few with only a small income. In 1952 there was a natural reaction. All the trees that had not had a crop the previous year produced tremendously heavy crops. Coinciding with that, it was a year of bountiful crops. It was this huge crop that eventually broke the industry, as it had far more fruit than could be handled in the harvesting period and far more than could be stored. Growers were caught without an effective export trade because they had not resumed exporting to any extent since the war. At the end of that year many growers had drained a large proportion of their savings towards paying freight on fruit that would not return freight charges and in paying costs for packing fruit that would not return cost of packing.

The next year the trees that had cropped heavily in the previous year did not crop, so for three years in a row the apple industry produced practically no income for most of the growers. In the succeeding year we were forced to do something about it, and at this stage we were the only fruit-growers in trouble. We got to work and destroyed nearly half the crop in the form of blossom on the tree, thus reducing the tremendous overload for the next year and thereafter gaining breathing space for us. Out of our adversity we have gained an industry outlook and co-ordination, and developed a togetherness in the industry that enabled us to carry forward in the following years. From that time things have gone on steadily for those engaged in the apple industry. We have seen the crop grow year by year, and today we are either handling a crop, or have just finished handling one, probably only slightly smaller than the crop that broke the industry in 1952. There has been a huge investment in the industry. For example, in

is my own small co-operative in the Adelaide Hills in 1954 the storage capacity was 44,000 boxes. We had export troubles, but the packing capacity for sending fruit overseas was between 10,000 and 20,000 boxes. This year the export figure is about 100,000 boxes, and there is storage capacity for 86,000 boxes. The disposal to canneries will take about 40,000 boxes. This has been made possible only because of a tremendous expenditure on buildings and the packing facilities that go with them.

Because of the organization forced upon us by the disaster in 1952 we have been able to keep ahead of the crop increases. That is the only way to handle fruit that spoils quickly. We must know when the harvest commences, where the fruit is going, and what is to be done with any surplus. Unless that is done the industry will suffer, but I will deal with that point later. The present happy position in the apple industry is due to the fact that we have planned ahead and dealt with surpluses before a crisis has arisen. The industry must continue to do this as production is increasing steadily, which increased production is encouraged in every way by the Government. The production in future will become greater, and it is not an airy-fairy matter. It is something that is with us now and it will be even greater in future. To keep with it we must not remain static but continue to go ahead. In my district there is a production of 100,000 boxes of fruit for export, plus another 100,000 boxes, and it comes from 365 acres.

The crop from this acreage is steadily increasing, and it has risen during the last decade in the manner I have mentioned. It is still rising and will continue to rise. In addition, we have a further 95 acres of young fruit trees that will come into bearing in the next few years. Because of this there must be further capital expenditure at Balhannah and other apple districts, although it will occur little by little. In our own cold store this year anticipated expenditure to meet demands is about £17,000. In the big cold store at Lenswood the expenditure has been about £180,000 in the last few months. As Chairman of the Balhannah co-operative, about a week ago I went to the State Bank to make preliminary arrangements to get the money necessary to make capital improvements for next year. To my deep concern I was informed that the funds available under the Loans to Producers Act were exhausted. No indication

could be given of when money was likely to be available for us. That is why I asked a question last week. It is a matter of tremendous importance to the fruit industry. If the Government will sustain us the apple industry can carry on. The answer to my question was as follows:

I am informed by the Treasurer that the provisions by the Government under the Loans to Producers Act this financial year will be of record dimensions and considerably in excess of the provisions estimated by the previous Government. The future provisions will be determined having regard to relative priorities, the requirements from Loan funds for other purposes, and the aggregate Loan funds available. The honourable member may be assured the Government is fully appreciative of the importance of the needs of the co-operatives serving the fresh fruit, canning, winemaking, dairying and fishing industries. It will meet those reasonable needs as best it can within the limits of available finance.

The snag is in that final sentence. I do not think that the Government is aware of what is involved in the task ahead in keeping us and the wine and citrus industries solvent, although we have not yet got into serious trouble.

In addition, there is the small but important potato growing industry. Only in the apple growing industry has there been sufficient foresight to plan ahead to keep abreast of mechanical needs. In the citrus and the wine industries there are snags that make it necessary for those industries to catch up and provide what should have been provided years ago. There must be an alternative provision in the wine industry for a fermenting capacity, but after the grapes have been processed it must be made certain that the spirit is not going to spoil the sales of the future. This is a difficult subject and one of vital importance to the people whom I represent. I am concerned, but I do not want to confuse the issue. It is a characteristic of all our horticultural produce that, even with an organized market, normally a 95 per cent crop, and often a 92 per cent crop, will lead to a break in the market during the picking or harvesting season. We see this every year, particularly in the case of the potato industry, which is only partially organized. It is well known that a potato crop that is barely 92 per cent of Australia's requirement for the year will lead to a break in the market price, well below the cost of production. In the case of the organized markets, such as apples, we have been able to surmount this difficulty.

It is a characteristic also that this tendency to a market break is stronger the less liquid capital there is available upon which the growers can draw. The reason why it arises is that, unless the grower is in a fairly strong financial position, the only way he can meet his high picking costs is to sell immediately some of his produce. As soon as there is an immediate sale need, there appears the shrewd buyer who chips 1s. off the price, then another 1s. until eventually the grower has to sell if he is to have any income at all; he has to sell at whatever price he is offered. So, even if potatoes can be stabilized at about £35 a ton, it is normal to find them being sold during the digging season at £10, £12 or £14 a ton. This is because the grower lacks sufficient liquid capital to tide him over harvesting.

We have solved this problem with apples by making the co-operatives (of which there are eight throughout the State) the bankers of the growers, so that the grower can go to his co-operative and obtain money without fuss. He can have that money, so he need not sell his fruit unless he wants to. This has proved most important, in that it has taken the pressure off the growers, which makes them more independent. They are a very shrewd and hard-working community. They do not sell fruit at low prices unless they are forced to, but in this case lack of finance forces them to say that this is another line in respect of which it will be necessary somehow to find money to help them. The amount of capital required, both liquid and long-term, is not wanted as a gift. Under the normal working of the Loans to Producers Act, we repay all loans within 18 years and we find 30 to 50 per cent of the capital.

It is impossible for us to go much further than this under world fruitgrowing conditions as they are today because of the savage impact of taxation. I need not go into that, but it will be even more difficult for us to find this long-term capital requirement in the future because some of the privileges that we have enjoyed in the way of co-operatives are now being taken from us by the Taxation Department, which has left the grower in the position that, if he contributes to the fund, he does not get a penny of it but has to pay the full rate of taxation. This is the fund that has enabled us in the past not to put money aside but to ensure our future. I leave that aside for the time being because

there are other sides to this matter that I must put before the Council.

In producing and selling, to make a living out of a fruit crop there is a complication that cannot be easily appreciated by an outsider. It need not be a final figure but, as soon as the fruit is on the trees, we must in all our fruit industries have an accurate forecast of the maximum crop likely to be produced. The reason for this is simple. When an apple crop is coming, we have to order the boxes for them, if they are to be exported overseas, in September or October. The paper has to be bought from Sweden for wrapping. In November, we have to order the ships for the produce to be taken away as exports. Later in the year, if the season does not turn out to be favourable, we can make adjustments but, if we start the year by providing for our harvest with an under-estimate, that is the most disastrous thing that can happen to the fruit industry. We cannot draw boxes out of the air in a few days or weeks. The wood has to be sawn from timber and the boxes have to be made. That means that provision for them, even with our local timber supply, has to be made months ahead. This is one respect in which the Government must help us. At present, we are getting good estimates, but so much depends on this that we need really accurate estimates.

The reason why we are in trouble this year with citrus (it is not the fault of the Agriculture Department) is that, when the crop came to harvest, instead of the crop that had been budgeted for, the disposal of which had been planned, at least 40 per cent more fruit than anticipated was found to be on the trees, and there was no way in which we could handle it. We have faced this problem in the past in the apple industry and now we no longer trust any outsider to make our estimates for us. As a result, we have made no mistake in the last 10 years, but on one or two occasions in the past we have been bitterly frustrated when we knew we had an accurate forecast, and an official forecast was made of nearly 1,000 boxes less. That upset us greatly. We have seen another instance of this in this year's grape crop. I need not elaborate to the members of the Government the difficulties into which such poor forecasting drives us as an industry. I am sure that we have no need to fear any surplus in the fruit industries in the years ahead, that is, provided we can have access to Loan moneys to

get the capital required and can have access to funds that will give us the liquid capital to replace what has been completely drained out of some sections of our industry. Commonwealth officers who carried out a survey of the canning industry a few years ago stated that the average fruitgrower on the Murray River contributing to fruit canneries was receiving less than the basic wage. Since then, the position has worsened and we know what has happened to the citrus crop in recent years. I was rocked to the foundations in 1953 when I saw the economies that a family that I always considered to be very well off were effecting in feeding their children. That is the position along the Murray River at present.

There is no need to be fearful of the position with a fruit crop if we know where the fruit will be placed. This has been proved again and again in the fruit centres of the world. Even where there is no outlet for the fruit, a profitable existence can be provided. For example, a huge crop of canning peaches is grown in the Californian area. It is necessary that the highest possible quantity of canning peaches be available for sale every year. The growers know the volume of sales of canning fruit and must produce that volume. In order to do that, they need enough surplus trees in a bad year to allow them to keep the canning industry fully engaged. In most years, there is a surplus of fruit that cannot be canned because it must be retained to look after the lean years. What they do in such circumstances is that at about the pit-hardening stage (about halfway through the season, when the peach pits go hard) a close assessment is made and a green drop percentage is assessed by the industry for that year. The green fruit is actually dropped on the ground. Bitter experience has taught that if that is not done, it will be a poor year. On the other hand, if they do it, they have a good year.

We are fortunate that in our apple industry there is an export market and, although we have been warned for years that this market will fold up, it never seems to happen. We have been warned of competition from South Africa, Italy and elsewhere but the industry has been subjected to good regulation because the quantity of fruit available is assessed and the industry makes certain during the year that there is no surplus of fruit. In that way the grower is not placed in the position of knowing that his crop will be of no use to him unless he makes a sale.

We are in trouble in South Australia with potatoes in most years, because we have only two outlets for that product. One outlet is the normal potato trade and the other is the small quantity taken by the crisp-making trade. The potato-growing industry cannot be placed on a sound footing unless an excess over needs is grown and we know where we can place the surplus. In this case, the surplus may be disposed of by the unprofitable method of turning it into stock food or something of that nature. Depending on the amount of competition from other States, our potato prices may go to £100 a ton in one year and down below the cost of production in the next year. Until a sound marketing policy throughout the fruit industry can be achieved, we will continue to have trouble.

Apples are sold in Adelaide today at prices less than those ruling in the 1946-49 period and that is happening in a reasonably profitable industry, but not a rich one. We have been able to do that largely because of the replacement of many manual operations by mechanical methods. No longer do we see people wearing Balaklava helmets out in the cold weather pruning apple trees week by week, and we do not see the man working with a spray reed in his hand from August to January and doing nothing else. It has been possible for us to reduce costs greatly by mechanization and by the adoption of improved methods. We have also to thank the chemical industries for making available more effective pesticidal chemicals with which to treat our crops.

Today we are happy to be paying our workmen considerably more than twice the amount they were receiving in the 1946-49 period. I am not sure of the exact figure, but we are paying a little over twice the amount for our tractors and we are paying much more for all our services. We were able at one time to stay in a hotel at a tariff of 7s. for bed and breakfast. We cannot do that now, and the same charge differences apply to all costs. We are still making a reasonably prosperous living, not a rich one, but we have just about gone as far as we can go in economizing in the face of this rising flood of costs to fruitgrowers. An important factor is that, in dealing with fresh fruit, we must have pickers who just pick the fruit, select it for colour, size and quality and put it down. We cannot get far in solving this matter because of the need for manual labour for the harvest. This is peasants' work; it is fruit that has to be handled one by one, and I do

not think any other commodity handled on as large a scale anywhere in the world is handled in this way today.

If we are to continue doing this and selling our dried and canned fruit against oversea competition, we must inevitably, for our orchard workers who handle the harvest, adopt the standard of payment of the peasants of South America, South Africa, Italy and elsewhere, countries with which we are in competition. This is a terrible thing to contemplate. If we are to stay ahead of them and give our workers and our sons and daughters a decent standard of living, we must solve this problem and learn how to employ machinery in some way. This subject is of world-wide moment, and in some parts of the world tremendous sums of money have been spent and information gained. Most of the fruit produced for canning is already handled mechanically, although some is not. Some crops, which one would not expect to be suitable for mechanical handling, are handled entirely without the aid of human hands except in quality selection. One such crop is tomatoes; it has been possible to mechanize tomato harvesting to such an extent that the tomatoes are not touched by human hands until they are processed. If we are to continue to pay increased wages for labour, this problem must be broken. This matter is far too complex for the private grower to do anything about it. If the Government would only bring into Australia some of the machines that are already used in other parts of the world, we would soon adapt them to our requirements.

I turn now to the dangerous noxious weed that is again showing itself in the Adelaide Hills—the South African daisy. It is now thickly established from the Happy Valley reservoir right around the face of the Hills, and much of it is in almost completely inaccessible country where we cannot get in even for bush fire control. My plea is that we take a realistic attitude towards the position, bring together all the bodies interested in controlling this weed, and adopt a fresh approach to the matter. I have been informed by the authority most qualified on this subject in South Australia that South African daisy appears to be an ideal subject for biological control. Last year in the Adelaide Hills some patches were found that had been completely eradicated by the activity of one of our native insects, the old woolly bear caterpillar. It is now 10 to 15 years after its introduction, when we expect a biotype to arise, a type of insect which has adapted itself to a food type. However, it is

unlikely that any such native insect will give the control we need, because, as honourable members have no doubt observed, woolly bears are here in some years but in others they are not, as predators control them during their life cycles. However, there are other types, and, as we have had this weed in South Australia for a comparatively short time we must make efforts to eradicate it. Surely in other parts of the world where this pest has been established for some time there are insects that will control it. I am sure we can eventually get this weed under control, and in the meantime we must contain it, as it is a problem in this State, Victoria, and New South Wales.

Many unnecessary words have been spoken about South African daisy, particularly in the Adelaide Hills, where one council thinks that another is not pulling its weight and the other thinks it is not getting the backing it should. We must get an understanding of the problem, how it can be tackled, what is practical, and what is worth doing. We must stop the huge transfer of seeds that occurs every time a transport goes through the Glen Osmond gullies. When the weed is seeding, every transport that passes inevitably spreads the seeds. It has already spread to the Upper South-East and as far as the other side of Kingston on the River Murray.

Before this Council is some unfinished business: a Bill that was introduced very cheekily last year by a back-bench member dealing with aboriginal relics. This is extremely interesting to many people of this State, who want to see relics preserved. Is there time to do something about it this year?

In the South-East we have probably some of our richest minerals in the water beds that underlie such a large area. They are extremely valuable. They are being pumped continuously, and they are far too valuable for us to allow them to be exploited without any supervision. We should record the pumpings and see what is happening to the water that is being drawn upon. We have very little knowledge of whence the water comes or where it goes. These beds will have to sustain a tremendous amount of production in the years to come. They are practically our last remaining source of water supply. I support the motion.

The Hon. Sir FRANK PERRY secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.6 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, May 27, at 2.15 p.m.