

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT (1966)

Parliament, which adjourned on March 3, 1966, was prorogued by proclamation dated March 25. By proclamation dated May 12, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, June 21, and the Second Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 21, 1966.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. L. H. Densley) took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier) summoning Parliament.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. Members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

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

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

2. We are indeed gratified that Her Majesty the Queen Mother was able to be with us for a short period in the early part of this year to close the fourth Festival of Arts and to open officially the new Flinders University at Bedford Park. The spontaneous welcome given to

Her Majesty by all sections of the community at these and various other functions, formal and informal, were evidence of the great esteem in which Her Majesty and indeed all members of the Royal family are held in this State.

3. Following the enactment of the Constitution Act Amendment Act last year to provide for an additional Minister of the Crown the Honourable James Desmond Corcoran was sworn in as Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation and Minister of Irrigation on November 11, 1965.

4. During the past year we suffered the loss of Sir Frank Tennyson Perry, a member of the Parliament for a total period of 23 years. I place on record our appreciation of his services as an outstanding member of Parliament and an active member of the community in other spheres. I refer also to the loss of three former members of Parliament in the persons of the Honourable Sir Richard Layton Butler, a member for some 23 years and the Premier and Treasurer of the State for a total period of some eight years; the late Albert Victor Thompson, a member of the House of Assembly for a total period of 16 years and a member of the House of Representatives for 17 years; and the late Edward John Craigie, a member of the House of Assembly for some 11 years. In recording our appreciation of the services of these

gentlemen I know that you join with me in expressing our sympathy to their respective families.

5. The Premier's Department has actively pursued the Government's policy for the attraction of new industries to the State and the expansion of existing enterprises. The recent decision of Chrysler (Aust.) Ltd. to erect a multi-million dollar plant near Port Stanvac and inquiries from other sources are evidence of the success of this policy and of the confidence which industrial and commercial interests have in the prosperity of the State.

6. My Government will continue to pursue policies designed to make full use of the potential of the State in agriculture, mining, land settlement, irrigation, forestry and other fields.

7. In view of the importance of natural gas supplies the Premier, the Minister of Mines, the Director and Deputy Director of Mines have just returned from an extensive overseas tour studying the piping and use of this product. The new discovery of natural gas at Moomba near Gidgealpa adds to the known reserves and has confirmed the belief that further supplies exist in that region. The Department of Mines continues to assist and lead the activities of general mining exploration companies in the State.

8. The work of the Social Welfare Department continues to expand, the number of persons in receipt of relief being higher during the present financial year. The Social Welfare Act came generally into operation in January of this year and the interstate maintenance provisions took effect in April. It is expected that the provisions relating to overseas maintenance will be brought into operation during the next financial year. Co-operation between the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is very close and the facilities of the former department are being used to a greater extent for Aborigines.

9. My Government is pursuing a strong and forward-looking policy in connection with the welfare of Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood. The housing programme has been expedited and other projects including the further increase in welfare services, consolidation of developmental programmes and further expansion will be vigorously pursued. The Aboriginal Lands Trust Bill will be re-introduced and a Bill to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race or colour will be laid before you.

10. My Government continues to pursue an active and progressive policy in connection with

educational services. This policy will be continued with a corresponding rise in total expenditure. Enrolments, particularly in technical high schools, continue to increase rapidly. The Government has approved provision of school books without charge to the parents of children in primary schools, both State and private, and the scheme will operate from the beginning of 1967.

11. My Government continues to pay attention to provision of adequate hospital services throughout the State, particularly in the field of mental health. Consideration is being given to the drafting of a completely new Mental Health Act designed to bring administration and practice in this field up to date.

12. My Government continues with its road programme, the principal works carried out during the year consisting of maintenance of existing roads, reconstruction and widening of major roads in the metropolitan area and the extension of the country roads system. The length of new bituminous roads was increased by approximately 300 miles, mainly in country areas.

13. My Government has continued to give close attention to the maintenance and improvement of water supplies and sewerage facilities in all parts of the State. Much work has been done and will continue on the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline, the Kangaroo Creek dam, the Happy Valley works, the Tailem Bend-Keith pipeline and the Middle River dam, as well as on sewerage systems to serve LeFevre Peninsula, Mansfield Park, Christies Beach, Grange and Fulham and the Bolivar sewage treatment works. Other schemes in hand include the augmentation of the Warren trunk main pipeline, improvements in the water supply in Elizabeth, Salisbury and Ingle Farm, commencement of the Chandlers Hill-Heathfield pipeline and other major pipelines, installation of a desalination plant for Coober Pedy, a major reorganization of sewerage in the southern suburbs and other sewerage schemes in and around Hope Valley, Highbury, Modbury and Tea Tree Gully.

14. Progress is being made in the deepening of the Port River channel, improvements at Outer Harbour, Port Pirie, Port Lincoln and other country areas. I would refer in particular to a scheme for an unloading jetty at Port Lincoln for the fishing fleet and a scheme for the construction of a new oil berth remote from the centre of Port Pirie. Both of these projects are before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. In connection with the Harbors Board I would mention that in

accordance with Government policy a Bill to provide for the abolition of the board and the creation of a Harbours Department responsible to the Minister of Marine will be laid before you.

15. As suitable opportunities are offered the Government has provided land for dedication as wild life reserves and additions to existing reserves. In all nearly 100,000 acres have been dedicated within the past 12 months. The Government is fully aware of the need to ensure the preservation of native flora and fauna and will continue its policy of setting aside land for this purpose.

16. Work continues on Government buildings, particularly the new Public Library building in Kintore Avenue and the multi-storey Government office block in Victoria Square.

17. The South Australian Housing Trust expects to complete about 3,150 houses during the current financial year and has continued to aid industrial expansion in the metropolitan area and in country towns. The trust expects to provide for a substantial programme of rental purchase houses on a minimum deposit of \$100. During the forthcoming financial year the trust will complete the first group of houses designed specifically for handicapped people.

18. Operations of the Electricity Trust have continued to expand, sales having increased by 12 per cent over the last 12 months. In the metropolitan area tariffs have now been constant for 14 years and metropolitan tariffs are now available to all country consumers supplied by the trust. The trust has in hand a large construction programme designed to cope with the continuing increase for the demand for electricity. Work is progressing on the supply of electricity to Kangaroo Island. The trust has examined its future financial requirements in connection with the supply of power throughout the State and has estimated that it will need to spend \$192,000,000 on capital equipment over a period of six years. My Government has agreed to co-operate in finding the necessary funds for this important work.

19. In the industrial sphere I would mention that following last year's legislation an Apprenticeship Commission has been established. For the first time the number of apprentices being trained in the State exceeds 10,000. It will be the function of the commission not only to supervise training but also to endeavour to attract more young people to serve as apprentices. The Industrial Commission provided for in last session's amendments to the

Industrial Code will be established as from July 1. My Government continues to be concerned at the number of persons who suffer accidents during employment and consideration is being given to amendments to industrial safety legislation.

20. Further meetings of officers of weights and measures from all States have been held during the past year and work on a uniform code for the marking and standardization of packaged goods has continued. A draft uniform Bill is being prepared by draftsmen from three States including South Australia. It is hoped that the Bill will be ready for introduction later during the present session as it is desired that it should come into force in all States on January 1 next.

21. In September last the Government appointed a committee to revise the Local Government Act. The committee has received numerous submissions and is studying corresponding legislation in other States. It will be at least two years before a draft Bill can be produced. The Royal Commission into Local Government boundaries in the South-East has continued its inquiries and its report is expected within a few weeks. It is expected that the committee appointed in 1964 to investigate accounting procedures in the sphere of local government will submit its report by the end of 1966.

22. Early this year my Government appointed Royal Commissions to inquire into and report upon the licensing laws in this State and the question of road and railway transport co-ordination. My Government looks forward to receipt of the reports of these two Commissions later this year and will carefully consider what legislation may be desirable to give effect to any recommendations that they may make.

23. My Government has approved in principle of the drafting of a modern Public Service Act. The existing Act was originally passed some 50 years ago and, although it has been amended from time to time, it is unsatisfactory for present-day administration. Much preliminary work has been done with the assistance of the former Public Service Commissioner and a new Bill will be laid before you as soon as possible.

24. A Bill to provide for strata titles to real property is in course of preparation.

25. The Planning and Development Bill which lapsed last year will be restored to the Notice Paper. The Government has received many suggestions for the amendment of this Bill and steps will be taken to introduce such

amendments as are considered to effect improvements to the general scheme which appears to have met with general approval.

26. The Registration of Dogs Act Amendment Bill will be restored to the Notice Paper.

27. The Bill for the Abolition of Capital and Corporal Punishment will be re-introduced during the present session.

28. My Government has received many complaints concerning the operations of certain insurance companies, particularly in the fields of workmen's compensation, personal accident and comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. As a means of enforcing satisfactory general standards of service to the public, in accordance with my Government's policy a Bill to provide for the establishment of a State Government Insurance Office will be laid before you.

29. Following upon last year's referendum, a Bill to provide for the conduct of lotteries under the control of the Government will be laid before you.

30. A Bill to provide for off-course totalizator betting will be laid before you.

31. A Bill to bring the Adoption of Children Act up to date will be laid before you.

32. It is the intention of my Government to place before you legislation to continue the operation of the Prices Act.

33. Wide-scale exploitation in the renting of substandard houses continues. A Bill to provide that the Government may bring cases to court to have contracts designed to avoid the Housing Improvement Act and Excessive Rents Act declared void and for consequential orders to protect exploited tenants will be placed before you.

34. A Bill to make provision regarding certain undesirable trade and business practices will be laid before you. Negotiations are proceeding between this State and the Commonwealth regarding the form of any necessary legislation to give effect to the Commonwealth Restrictive Trade Practices Act. The necessary Bill may be laid before you during the current session.

35. A Bill to provide a new and satisfactory system of controlling opal sales will be placed before you.

36. A Bill to provide for the payment of water and sewerage rates in quarterly instalments will be laid before you.

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

38. A Bill to provide for the prevention and control of floodwaters in the metropolitan drainage area will be laid before you.

39. A Bill to amend the Superannuation Act to provide for optional retirement at 60 years for males and 55 years for females will be laid before you.

40. A Bill to provide for land tax rates for the financial years ending on and after June 30, 1967, will be laid before you.

41. A Bill to ratify an amending financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States consequent upon the introduction of decimal currency will be laid before you.

42. In September last my Treasurer presented a Budget of Revenue and Expenditure estimating a deficit on current operations of \$3,082,000. This was done in a situation in which the revenue budget was running at a net real deficit of \$4,000,000 a year to maintain existing services, without any changes in Government expenditure. After allowing for a small balance of surpluses carried forward from previous years, the estimated net deficit at the end of this financial year, given the revenues intended to be raised, was \$1,859,000. The very dry season has had adverse effects throughout this State; it has reduced the earnings of the Railways and Harbors Board Departments and it has increased the costs of supplying water, while the general slowing down in the Australian economy has reduced a number of major Government revenues. The overall effect of the two influences, and Parliament's rejection last session of certain revenue raising measures, has been to increase the prospective deficit for 1965-66 considerably above the original estimate. My Treasurer finds it necessary to submit to Parliament Supplementary Estimates to make provision for increased costs of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, for further grants for educational purposes, and for other excesses above estimated expenditure.

43. My Treasurer found last year that the Government had been previously committed to expenditure in 1965-66 of Loan moneys in excess of those available for 1964-65 on works in hand or commenced even without new works being undertaken. Careful forward planning of Loan works in the long term has now been undertaken to ensure that this situation does not recur. The Loan Budget presented to Parliament in August last anticipated that expenditure on capital projects would require virtually all new Loan moneys becoming available, but that it would be possible to achieve a minor reduction in the small deficit balance carried forward from the previous year. The rate of progress on Government works has been somewhat faster than estimated, payments have been correspondingly

greater, and at the end of the year it is now anticipated that the Loan Account will show an increased deficit.

Members of the House of Assembly:

44. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of approximately \$1,500,000 during the current financial year will be laid before you. Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1967, will also be laid before you.

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

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

46. In addition to the matters to which I have referred, my Ministers have under consideration Bills dealing with anatomy, audit, births, deaths and marriages, companies, Crown proceedings, dentists, firearms, health, irrigation, justices, land agents, legal practitioners, local government, marketable securities, mining, money-lenders, motor vehicles, national parks, pistol licences, police offences, police regulations, prisons, road traffic, stamp duties, underground waters and other matters.

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

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

(Sitting suspended from 12.37 to 2.15 p.m.)

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

COBDOGLA SCHOOL.

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

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: During the last session I asked on a number of occasions whether the survey on the Sturt Highway to serve the proposed new bridge at Kingston would in any way encroach upon the school grounds of the Cobdogla school and the school teacher's residence. The last reply that the Minister of Local Government gave was that the information was not available till the end of the month. Has he that information now so that he can inform the Council about the road and its possible encroachment on the school grounds?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The position is that the Highways Department's investigation of a site for a second bridge over the River Murray has been finalized and the report has been forwarded by Cabinet to the Public Works Standing Committee for investigation and report to the Government. That report contains two possible sites: one is at Kingston and another is at Overland Corner. This will now be investigated by the Public Works Standing Committee and a report will be made available to the Government at the conclusion of its investigations.

At this stage the Kingston site is the one favoured by the department for a second bridge over the Murray. Assuming that the report from the Public Works Standing Committee is favourable to this site, it will interfere slightly with a small corner of the school grounds at Cobdogla and with the school teacher's house. The report I have states that the inspection of aerial photographs (the survey has not been plotted yet) indicates that the alignment was primarily decided by the position of an irrigation channel on the northern side of the centre line. This channel is an important one affecting the whole of the northern side of the river. The report continues:

The distance between the teacher's house and the channel is approximately 170ft. which would allow the shift of the centre line to save the house and also reduce the severance of the school yard. It would require, however, considerable alteration of the suggested alignment at this section. It would also transfer the severance to other areas including orange orchards and grapevines to a much higher degree than judged by Mr. Taylor.

In relation to that report, if it is decided that the site should be at Kingston it is possible that the re-alignment of the road may not interfere with the school house, but at this stage, as far as the plotted route is concerned, it would interfere slightly with the school yard and school house.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

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

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Towards the end of last session in company with some other members I had the privilege of inspecting the Government Printing Office. At that time I was made aware, as other members have been for some time, of the inadequacies and the cramped position and conditions (in some instances possibly dangerous conditions) existing in that building. Subsequently the Chief Secretary was good enough to tell me that he

was investigating the position, or that the Government was doing so, and he said that he would let me have further information on the selection of a new site as soon as possible. Has the Chief Secretary any further information on this matter to present to this Chamber now?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: As far as the site for the new Government Printing Office is concerned, the position is that this has been decided by the Government. I cannot remember the name of the street at present but it is somewhere near the West Beach Road and near the Griffin Press building. A planning committee has been appointed, although planning and development will not proceed immediately because of the planning in connection with the Loan works programme, but possibly within a short period of perhaps a year or so it is expected that the new printing office will be commenced. The planning committee is investigating the erection of a modern structure at present and the site, as I have said, has been decided upon. If the honourable member is prepared to ask a question at a later date I will present a full report showing the progress made. There will be liaison with the Public Stores Department which will be situated nearby and arrangements will be made as regards stationery storage and other matters. At present finality has only been reached as regards the site.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: My question relates to the Government decision, as indicated by the Chief Secretary, on the establishment of a new Government Printing Office as far afield as West Beach Road. It is a long way from Parliament House. The matter of a new printing office was before me, as Chief Secretary, for many years and several sites were investigated. On all occasions it was pointed out that the paramount consideration was proximity to Parliament House, because during Parliamentary sessions it is necessary to have speedy communication between the House and the printing office. This is related to the printing of Bills, and the work of Parliament cannot proceed without Bills being available. Land was purchased and a check was made, and only a matter of two minutes was involved. Proximity to the House is important in the functioning of Parliament, particularly at the end of a session. Can the Chief Secretary say whether this matter was

considered when another site was decided on, or whether the representations of other departments wanting to establish storehouses were dominant?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I can assure Sir Lyell that the matter he mentioned was thoroughly considered. It was thrashed out by heads of departments and a full meeting of Cabinet and, according to the people who checked, the difference in times between the West Beach and Kent Town sites was small, having regard to traffic flow on the roads. I assure the Council that all factors were considered. The decision was not made lightly. The roads between here and the West Beach site are excellent for a courier service, and the people who should know think that the work of Parliament will not be hindered in any way when the Government Printing Office is transferred to the new site. I hope the views of those people prove to be correct.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Can the Chief Secretary indicate which officers of the Public Service were represented at the conference?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I said they were heads of departments. I think they were from the Public Buildings Department, Government Printing Office, Supply and Tender Board, and the Public Service Commissioner. I think that is correct.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I thought it was a little circumspect.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: They were the people present.

DIREK SIDING.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Some time ago there was a railway accident at the old Direk siding situated between Virginia and Salisbury and a considerable length of the permanent line was torn up. A by-pass line was constructed within 24 hours of the accident. Since that time the railways have continued to use the by-pass line and there does not appear to be any move to repair the damaged section. In recent times there have been many requests from the Metropolitan Meat Company to have a spur line erected at the siding to facilitate the loading of sheep for transport overseas to Kuwait. The approaches have been unsuccessful on each occasion and the Metropolitan Meat Company has had to continue to use the Virginia railway station for the loading of the sheep. In doing so, it

has had to drive the sheep about three or four miles to Virginia. This causes considerable dislocation of traffic and damage to the road concerned. The local governing body concerned recently spent from £2,000 to £3,000 on repairs to this particular section. In addition, considerable inconvenience is caused to railway workers, whose cottages adjoin the sheepyards at Virginia, by dust nuisance in summer and mud nuisance in winter.

I wonder whether the delay in repairing the Direk crossing may be taken as an indication that the railways are considering the installation of a spur line, now that work is necessary at this particular site, to provide for loading facilities at this place for the Metropolitan Meat Company. Can the Minister of Transport comment on the matter?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I am not able to answer the honourable member's question offhand, but I will get a report and let him have an answer as soon as possible.

PINE RESERVES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: During the last session of Parliament the Hon. Mr. Kemp and I spent some time collecting information from interested bodies regarding horticulture and associated matters. After an interview with the Minister, we were told that we should be fortunate if we had enough timber from the pine forests of South Australia to merely cope with requirements for the export of citrus and apples. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Forests say whether there has been any change in Government policy on this matter?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: As far as I am aware, there has been no change in Government policy as enunciated previously.

FRUIT BOXES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: The Government has, in several ways, committed our whole fruit industry to use the Bruce box. This is a wire-stitched wooden construction made of veneer wood, and is cut with less waste than our present sawn wooden boxes. This was done with the assurance in print (and many times repeated) that this container was the best and is taking over in world markets. The

information in my hands is that this is untrue. The Bruce box is generally regarded . . .

The PRESIDENT: If the honourable member wants to ask his question, he should do so and not debate it.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I am not debating it. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture present to the House the information that led his officers to promote this container above all others in fair competition?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: At this stage I am not in a position to present anything on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture. I will ask him for a report and present it to the Council as soon as possible.

MOUNT BARKER ROAD.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: My question is directed to the Minister of Roads. During last session, on at least two occasions, I asked whether the Minister could enlighten me with regard to plans for passing bays on the up-grade of the Mount Barker Road between Aldgate and Crafers. He gave me an answer supplied by the technical officers of the department as to the progress that might be made. His final reply was that no progress would be made on the up-grade. However, the plans provided for the widening of the road, particularly between Stirling and Aldgate, to meet the increasing demands of traffic. I informed the Minister at the time I was aware that plans had been drawn up some time previously for passing bays on the up-grade, but apparently the policy had been changed. On the down-grade widening, the public who travel on it are faced with an extraordinary set of lines running at right angles to the left-hand strip-line, that is, the one on the near side of the road. I have here the Australian standards for road traffic control lines. I can assure honourable members and you, Sir, that there is nothing in the book that suggests any interpretation of this extraordinary hotch-potch of lines on the down-grade from Stirling to Aldgate. I can assure the Minister (and I think he is sympathetic) that no-one can interpret the purpose of these extraordinary lines at right angles to the road. Are they meant for parking or "Keep off"? The public wants to know what they mean. Would the Minister arrange for publication by the Road Traffic Board of the intention or interpretation of

these unusual, or even unique, markings on the road south of Stirling?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I will refer the question to the board for reply and let the honourable member have it as soon as possible.

MELROSE POLICE.

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

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: The police constable at Melrose has recently been moved, and many residents of that town are concerned about rumours that there will be no replacement for him. Can the Chief Secretary tell me whether the Police Department intends to fill the vacancy at the Melrose police station?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: If my memory serves me correctly, this is the first I have heard of it. I assure the honourable member I will take up this matter with the Commissioner of Police, find out the position and give him an answer as soon as possible.

GRAND JUNCTION ROAD.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: My question concerns the placing of a median strip along Grand Junction Road between Gepps Cross intersections and Prospect Road. This is in the district of the Minister of Roads. The reason why I am involved in this is that some electors from my own area are being inconvenienced by this median strip where they use depots along this road. A number of heavy industries are located in this area, and in particular several loading depots from which large transports operate. Prior to the placing of the median strip on this road, transports leaving depots on the northern side of the road and wishing to travel in a westerly direction had no problem in entering the road and proceeding to their destination. The same applied to transports coming from the opposite direction and wishing to enter depots. A similar position, of course, applied to trucks leaving depots on the southern side of the road, except that it was in reverse. The median strip placed along this road has openings in it only at intersections or road junctions, which means that transports entering the road from depots and wishing to make a right-hand turn have to proceed in the opposite direction until they come to an opening in the median strip, and then they are required to do a turn of 180 degrees.

To negotiate such a turn successfully means that they must veer to the left-hand side of the road before commencing their turn. To do this in a light flow of traffic is rather difficult but to perform this U-turn in a heavy flow of traffic is practically impossible. I am reliably informed that 30 or more trucks a day leave some of these loading depots and, unless the position is improved, some of the transport operators will refuse to use these depots.

To further complicate matters, a girls technical high school has been placed in the midst of this heavy industry area, and the median strip has the effect of channelling the traffic on to the school. One of the openings in the median strip is opposite the entrance to the school and trucks having to make a U-turn in this spot are finding themselves having to go even on to the footpath to complete their turn. Will the Minister of Roads have a thorough investigation made into the difficulties being experienced, because of this median strip, by transport operators using depots on this road?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I do not intend to reply by giving a second reading speech, but median strips in the middle of roads is nothing new. They are put there specifically for road safety. Grand Junction Road has been realigned and widened, as we all know, and carries a huge volume of traffic. These median strips are put there as a dividing line for the traffic using that road. As the honourable member says, there are various openings for traffic coming out from such places as he has instanced. Those vehicles will have to proceed down the road until they come to an opening in the median strip before they make a turn. As I say, these median strips are there specifically for road safety. A great volume of traffic uses this road. Previously, when a truck came out on to the road (and nobody will willingly collide with a truck) traffic had to slow down or stop to let it get into position to make its turn. In the name of road safety, surely it is more appropriate for such a vehicle entering a carriageway to turn with the traffic until it reaches the opening, easing its way over and then making its turn when possible?

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: But you cannot turn.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: It is ridiculous to say that. What are you talking about? A couple of commercial vehicles have been inconvenienced because they had to go a few yards down the road before coming to an opening, and they are complaining. I will do everything possible to make our roads safer than

they are now. However, I will call for a report on this matter and see whether the position is as mentioned by the honourable member and, if it is possible, I will see what can be done to relieve it.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I have recently noticed that a reference has been placed before the Public Works Committee in connection with extensions to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. From that picture I gather that the new building will extend over the present courtyard (as I call it), which is a feature of that hospital. Last session I asked on two occasions questions of the Minister, who replied that some discussion was taking place about whether the building could go upwards to provide the necessary extension or whether it would have to go out over this area. His statement was to the effect that it might be advisable for the architects who designed the original building to be brought into consultation. Did that consultation take place prior to the plans being submitted to the committee?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No, not to my knowledge.

RAILWAY SLEEPING CARS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I have been informed that it is the intention of the Government to build new sleeping carriages for use on the Adelaide to Melbourne service. Can the Minister of Transport say whether it is the intention of the Government also to provide modern sleeping carriages on the Mount Gambier to Adelaide service?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Plans have been drawn up, or are in the process of being drawn up, relating to railway sleeping carriages for the South-East. Whether this will be proceeded with this year or not depends upon Loan money being made available. I cannot give the honourable member an answer of yea or nay at this point.

MENTAL TRAINING CENTRES.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Can the Minister of Health say whether the Government expects to proceed with the erection of

mental institutions at Elanora and Strathmont training centres?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: At present I am unable to say when the work will commence: no date has been fixed. I am aware that there may be differing views on this matter; I am also well aware that members are keenly interested and that this is an important project. The Director of Mental Health, Dr. Shea, is leaving next Friday on an overseas trip to attend a conference of the World Federation on Mental Health. Dr. Shea has certain views on this matter and I know that it is not expected that the work will commence during this financial year because of the difficulties of the Loan programme. On his return, Dr. Shea may have something else to place before us. It has even been suggested that if his ideas and thoughts have any foundation it may be necessary to again refer the matter to the Public Works Standing Committee.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Will the Minister now inform this Chamber whether negotiations have taken place and whether an extension of the Commonwealth aid which was available until next June on the basis of a one-third contribution has been considered? Have arrangements been made for this finance to be available if work has not commenced within the specified period?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes, steps have been taken in that direction. The Premier, on behalf of our Government, has written to the Prime Minister asking that the date be extended to 1970, but no decision has been given at the present time. However, as the honourable member would know, a conference of all State Ministers of Health is held each year and many matters dealing with financing of hospitals and other items are discussed. The Commonwealth Minister for Health, Dr. Forbes, was unable to answer some questions at the recent conference. Arrangements have been made for a further conference to be held, probably in July in Canberra. The intention is to discuss these problems and the matter raised by the honourable member is one of the items listed for discussion. It affects not only South Australia but other states also.

TREE SHELTER BELTS.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture in this Chamber. Could the Minister inform me of the amount of work being done on investigations into suitable varieties of trees for use as shelter belts in

the South-East? In relation to those investigations as to suitable trees, could the Minister inform me as to the extension work being done in this regard? Further, is the Minister satisfied that sufficient work is being done in both investigation and extension in this matter?

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

RAIL STANDARDIZATION.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Following the recent visit of the Treasurer to Canberra to procure the necessary finance for the coming 12 months and the subsequent press announcement made by the Minister of Works that it may be necessary to curtail some planning in that department, can the Minister of Labour and Industry advise whether there will be any reduction in the work on the standardization of the railway line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: This has no bearing on the standardization project, and I cannot see how it will be affected.

PRESS STATEMENT BY MR. CALWELL.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The Leader of the Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament is reported to have said:

Generally speaking, the Walsh Government has done a good job, despite the difficulties of the purse-proud, power-drunk Legislative Council. The Legislative Council is worse than that; it is a legislative abattoirs.

Does the Leader of the Government in this Chamber agree with that statement?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: If I took notice of everything printed in the paper and if, *vice versa*, I asked such a question, I would be told "I do not wish to reply to that question." That is my reply.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Does the Chief Secretary agree that normally the Leader of the Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament is misquoted on all matters as he appears to be by his statement?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No reply.

COPPER MINING.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: My question is directed to the Minister of Mines. For some years exploration has proceeded pertaining to important minerals in areas where mining has been discontinued, such as at Moonta, Burra and so on. Much work has been carried out in the Burra area and that work was progressing favourably. Since the change of Government I am glad to say that the work has continued and apparently has met with some success, judging by a report in the *Advertiser* of last October that supplies of copper estimated at more than 100,000 tons had been established. Can the Minister of Mines say whether that report has been confirmed and what steps the Government is taking regarding the extraction of copper, which is very valuable at present?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: In relation to Burra, as was reported to the Council during the last session, an amount of low-grade ore had been established in relation to the old workings and it was estimated that this ore would go about 1.4 per cent, from memory. It has been publicized that a lease has been taken of the property at Burra for the exploitation of the known quantity of low-grade ore and for the purpose of enabling the possibility of further loads lower down in the old workings or in the near vicinity of the workings to be explored. In terms of the lease the company must carry out the exploratory work and it is now doing that. However, I have not a recent report and shall obtain information regarding the carrying out of the conditions of the lease.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: In item 28 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech it is stated that the Government has received many complaints concerning the operations of certain insurance companies, particularly in the field of workmen's compensation, personal accident insurance and motor vehicle insurance. Will the Chief Secretary name those companies for honourable members and so that the public will not be taken in by people who, the Government alleges, have not been doing the proper thing in regard to insurance?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I certainly am not going to name any company offhand. I shall

refer the honourable member's question to the Minister to whom this paragraph refers.

GAWLER BY-PASS.

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

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I am sure that honourable members will be stunned to know that another shocking tragedy took place on the Gawler by-pass only last week. Most of the regrettable accidents on this by-pass have happened at either the Redbanks Road intersection or on the Gawler Belt intersection, which is actually the end of the by-pass where it joins the Sturt Highway. I have been pleased with some of the improvements made on this by-pass as a result of previous representations by interested persons, including my colleagues in this Council. However, I think that much of the trouble (not necessarily this last accident) is caused by speed on what may be called the through roads of the intersections—other than where the "give way" signs are placed. Will the Minister of Roads consider having speed limitation signs placed on the through sections, or ask the Road Traffic Board to do so if that is the correct procedure? The Sturt Highway, in particular, runs downhill from the direction of Nuriootpa to Gawler and the very heavy transports travelling through there at high speed are, I am sure, a contributing factor to the accidents. If "25-mile-an-hour" signs could be put at these two intersections in particular, the number of accidents may be minimized.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall refer the question to the Road Traffic Board for consideration.

LAKE BONNEY.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Last week there was a report regarding the concern of the National Trust Committee at Barmera in connection with damage to Lake Bonney and the drainage of seepage water into the lake, which was originally a fresh-water lake. A pipeline is now being connected to take seepage waters into the lake. In view of the fact that it has been reported that a deputation has waited upon the Minister of Lands, can the Minister of Local Government give any information regarding an alternative to the proposal or can he assure the Council that the expected damage will not occur?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall refer the question to my colleague, the Minister of Lands, for report and let the honourable member have it as soon as possible.

LAND PRICES.

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

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: My question concerns item 32 of the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, regarding the operation of the Prices Act. Recently a report appeared in the *Advertiser* that the Attorney-General had said that the Labor Party would love to see controlled prices for land in South Australia. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Bill concerning the Prices Act has anything to do with the introduction of controlled prices of land in South Australia and whether the Labor Party believes that this is desirable, or is this just a further dream of the Attorney-General?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Paragraph 32 of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech means exactly what it says. No Bill has yet been prepared, as far as I know. The ordinary extension of the period of operation of the Act may have something to do with it, or it may not. At this moment, I cannot say.

POTATO REJECTION.

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

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Growers who have for years been marketing potatoes that have not varied in quality have been having their consignments to the receival depot rejected this year because of sub-quality, in the opinion of the inspectors. It is certain that potatoes of a much higher standard are being demanded this year, a year in which supply is much more plentiful than normally. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture say on whose authority this change of standard has been imposed?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture and let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

LAND ASSESSMENTS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Over recent times there has been a new assessment of land

throughout South Australia. The assessment has risen rather steeply in particular areas. I am informed that certain land valuers, who have been assessing land in the Virginia area, have given as the reason for the steep increases the fact that sewerage water will be available to particular lands. Can the Chief Secretary say whether it is a fact that valuers, who have been assessing land on this basis, have been acting under Government instructions?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: To the best of my knowledge, the answer is no, but I will refer the matter to the Treasurer, who is the appropriate Minister, and get an answer. I think it is one of those things that have been said and wrong conclusions have been drawn on the revaluation of land.

WORKS PROGRAMME.

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

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The Treasurer is reported to have said at the end of the Loan Council meeting that it was unfortunate that, when the Government took over 15 months ago, it found itself committed by the previous Government to a works programme and other expenses that could not possibly be covered by the funds becoming available, and the Government had therefore been unable to begin any of the works it wanted to provide. Can the Chief Secretary name the projects that were, in the opinion of the Treasurer, outside the provision of the moneys available to the State at that time?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I do not know whether the honourable member thinks I am a mind-reader. He wants me to name the works that were "in the opinion of the Treasurer"

The Hon. C. R. STORY: You can ask your experts.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The honourable member asked his question and I listened to him in silence. Surely I am entitled to be heard in silence? If he wants to debate the question, I have nothing further to say.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Will the Chief Secretary provide an answer, because I want to know the projects that the Government feels the previous Government could not have undertaken within its Budget?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: If I had been left alone, I should have answered the question properly. I will not have a question debated sideways while I am attempting to answer it.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: You are temperamental.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am not temperamental at all. If the honourable member wants to throw brickbats, and he does it kindly, I am entitled to come back.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I always do it kindly.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I move that a Standing Orders Committee be appointed consisting of the President . . .

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Mr. President, does the rising of the Chief Secretary on other business preclude me from getting a reply from him to the question I asked?

The PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary is not obligated to make any reply.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: He is not obligated? The PRESIDENT: No.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: He is not obligated to make a reply to a legitimate question?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: You debated it while I was replying.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: There was no debate—just a small interjection.

The PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Then I am refused a reply?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: It will keep.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: If the honourable member had asked the question properly he would have got a reply.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

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

- Renmark Primary School,
- Karoonda Area School Additions,
- Port Adelaide Girls Technical High School Additions,
- Reconstruction of the South-Eastern Suburbs Sewerage System,
- Swan Reach to Stockwell Pipeline,
- Engineering and Water Supply Department Depot at Elizabeth,
- Augmentation of LeFevre Peninsula Water Supply (Semaphore Road to Taperoo),
- Roseworthy Agricultural College (Science Block and Farm Engineering Centre),
- Ingle Farm Water Supply and Sewerage System,
- Tea Tree Gully Sewerage System.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS SEWERAGE.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the progress report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on Reorganization of South-Western Suburbs Sewerage System and provision for Sewerage at Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills and Flagstaff Hill Areas.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Hons. A. J. Shard, Sir Lyell McEwin, F. J. Potter, and Sir Arthur Rymill.

Library: The President, the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, M. B. Dawkins, and H. K. Kemp.

Printing: The Hons. S. C. Bevan, D. H. L. Banfield, R. A. Geddes, L. R. Hart and C. C. D. Octoman.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA COUNCIL.

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

That two members of the Legislative Council be appointed, by ballot, to the Council of the Flinders University of South Australia as provided by the Flinders University of South Australia Act, 1966.

Motion carried.

A ballot having been held, the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield and Jessie Cooper were declared elected.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

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

Motion carried.

SUPPLY 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.
It provides for the appropriation of moneys so that the Public Service of the State may be carried on in the next part of next financial year. The Bill is in the same form and for the same sum—\$36,000,000—as the Supply Bill (No. 1) 1965, passed by the Parliament 12 months ago. Honourable members will be

aware that the annual Appropriation Bill normally does not receive assent until the end of October and that, as the financial year begins on July 1, some special provision for appropriation is required to cover the first four months of the new year. Such special provision takes the form of a Supply Bill. Without this Bill there would not be any Parliamentary authority available for normal expenditure from July 1 of this year.

Although the Supply Bill for \$36,000,000 is without any details of the purposes for which it is available, it does not mean that the Government or any individual department has a free hand to spend, as they are limited by the provisions of clause 3. In the early months of 1966-67, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government must use the \$36,000,000 within the limits of the individual lines set out in the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates for 1965-66. Honourable members will have the opportunity to debate the details of the 1966-67 expenditure proposals when the Budget is presented.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): I support the second reading. The Bill contains the usual provisions to enable the Government of the State to be carried on pending the presentation of the Budget for the next financial year. I notice the Chief Secretary has suggested that the amount of \$36,000,000 will be sufficient to cover expenditure until October, but I shall be surprised if that proves to be correct. A Budget of \$100,000,000 represents expenditure of \$2,000,000 a week, so this amount of \$36,000,000 will probably run out before the date mentioned and it will be necessary to introduce a further Supply Bill, as has been the custom in previous years. It is not necessary to debate the Bill. There are probably financial matters that concern members, but there will be opportunities to discuss them in the debates on the Address in Reply, the Budget, Supplementary Estimates, and so on.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 passed.

Title.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Where is the Bill?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This has been the procedure for many years, and I doubt whether we have ever had a copy of the Bill!

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.37 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 22, at 2.15 p.m.