

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 28, 1966.

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

QUESTIONS

HANSARD INDEX.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: It has been the practice in the past that, before Parliament assembled for a new session, members had the advantage of bound copies of *Hansard* of the previous session. They were useful and, without them, considerable inconvenience is caused in making necessary searches regarding Bills or debates of the previous session. I know that it is no fault of the Government Printer that the bound volume is not available now, because we had a much longer session than usual and the bound volume will be much larger than was the case previously. However, I have been wondering whether, if the index has been prepared, it would be possible for members to have copies of the index so they may refer to matters in the old weekly volumes which are still available. If there is going to be much longer delay in getting out the bound volumes, can the Chief Secretary say whether the index could be made available in pamphlet form to enable members to refer to what has happened previously?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am not clear on the position, naturally, but I am glad that the Hon. Sir Lyell has said that it was not the fault of the Government Printer. I do not know how the Government Printer is going to keep up with all the work. He has staff problems and this morning I gave permission for vacancies for compositors to be inserted in the *Advertiser*. The Government Printer wants six compositors. So, if he needs that number, it will naturally take time to catch up the arrears and to keep up with current work. However, I assure the Council that I shall take up the matter of the *Hansard* index immediately with the Government Printer and, if it can be done, I am sure he will do it.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: Can the Minister representing the Attorney-General say whether any progress has been made in the matter of appointing new justices of the peace

and whether it would be possible for the department concerned to communicate with applicants informing them whether they are likely to be considered soon or whether they are being refused appointment, especially in cases where applications have been made a year or more ago?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I shall be pleased to draw the attention of the Attorney-General to the question and get a detailed reply.

MELROSE POLICE.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Chief Secretary an answer to my question regarding the police establishment at Melrose?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. The police station at Wirrabara was not occupied between October 11, 1962, and March 21, 1966. During that period three police officers stationed at Melrose, Booleroo Centre and Port Germein respectively provided all necessary police services for the public in the Port Germein District Council district. There was no significant increase in the work-load at the stations concerned as a result of this arrangement. A police officer is now stationed at Wirrabara and, although Melrose police station is not manned, there are still three police stations operating in the Port Germein District Council district. When compared with the rest of the State, this is considered to be ample police coverage for the area concerned. The Melrose police district has been apportioned between Booleroo Centre and Wirrabara police stations, with Wilmington as a standby. It is not proposed to replace the officer at Melrose for the present.

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: In the *Government Gazette* of June 23, 1966, the determination of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal appears. I have read this and find that there are certain matters that are not clear, and ask the Chief Secretary who will determine the meaning of the determination—will it be the Government or the tribunal?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I have not had an opportunity to give any thought to this question. I do not want to say it is one of policy, but I will refer the matter to the Treasurer and obtain his considered reply as soon as practicable.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I realize that the Chief Secretary may want to know specifically what I have in mind. If the Government is to interpret the meaning of the determination, I draw attention to clause 8, which deals with country members accommodation allowance, and which reads:

A country member (other than a Minister of the Crown) whose place of residence is not less than 35 miles from the General Post Office at Adelaide, who is required, in order to attend any Parliamentary sitting, to stay in Adelaide overnight other than at Parliament House, and who incurs expense in so doing, shall be paid an accommodation allowance at the rate of six dollars (\$6.00) for each such night.

If the Government is to interpret the meaning of the determination, will consideration be given to the meaning of the words "and who incurs expense in so doing"?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I thank the honourable member for his explanation. Now we know to which clause he was referring. I will draw the Treasurer's attention to the question and get a reply.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking the Chief Secretary a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: Clause 4 (1) (c) of the determination reads:

... to each person (other than the Premier and Treasurer and the Chief Secretary) for the time being holding a Ministerial office, an additional salary calculated at the rate of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) a year and an expense allowance calculated at the rate of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a year.

Clause 9 (a) reads:

A Minister shall be paid when travelling within the State ten dollars (\$10) per day or part thereof;

Is this an additional allowance to the present Cabinet (and I emphasize "Cabinet") decision on payments to Ministers travelling within the State? I draw special attention to the words "per day or part thereof". I gathered from the Chief Secretary's comments that the Government will interpret this determination, to which I have no objection. Can he tell the Council how Ministers will construe the determination regarding hours of duty and so forth when it is related to the part of a day, even down to minutes? To give a practical example, if a Minister were to travel to Port Adelaide tonight to attend a meeting on

Government business, would that be part of a day and entitle him to receive \$10?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The answer to the question concerning Port Adelaide is "No". I understand the determination refers to outside the metropolitan area, for example, if a Minister were to go to Strathalbyn or to Kimba to open a hospital.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: It is in substance what applies now.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I think that when the present Government took over the amount was \$9 a day. It has now been increased by \$1. I have not had any complaints about that, whereas I have had some complaints regarding trips to other States. I was always out of pocket on them, but I think that the position has now been overcome.

KIMBA-CLEVE ROAD.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Can the Minister of Roads say whether the Highways Department has any firm plans for the sealing of the Kimba to Cleve road?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I will make inquiries in relation to the programme for the forthcoming year and notify the honourable member.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I refer to the South-Western Suburbs (Supplementary) Drainage Bill which was passed in this Council on March 1. The Bill was to control and prevent flooding along the Seacombe Road area in the House of Assembly District of Glenelg by the construction of a drain known as Drain No. 10, which was to run along Seacombe Road and then to the sea via Brighton Road and Portland Street. In his speech on this Bill the Hon. Mr. Bevan said:

This is an important Bill and one of urgency.

He gave an assurance that there would be no delay in the construction of Drain No. 10. Last Saturday, when attending the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone in the new Marion Council Chambers, I heard strong rumours that another drain in the vicinity of Marion Road, which is in the Assembly District of Edwardstown, was to be proceeded with before Drain No. 10. As this is a time when floods can occur at any moment, I ask the Minister of Local Government whether construction has started on Drain No. 10 and,

if not, why not and, secondly, whether any money has been allocated towards another proposed drain along or near Marion Road?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The answer is "No" as regards Drain No. 10. In relation to the other drain the honourable member mentioned, I do not know what drain he is referring to. If he tells me what drain he is referring to, I might be able to obtain the necessary information. If the drain he is referring to comes under the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, which has been in operation for a considerably longer period than Drain No. 10, which is not covered by the original Bill of the south-western drainage scheme, and if that drain is within the proposals of Drain No. 10, I have no doubt that this work will be provided for in this financial year. But, if it is a completely new drain that is not covered, I can tell the honourable member that no new drain that is not covered by the legislation will be commenced in the drainage scheme before Drain No. 10. No plans are in hand for that drain. Plans for the outlet into the sea have to be considered. When those plans are completed, I have no doubt that Drain No. 10 will be commenced.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE LIFT.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a statement before directing a question to the Leader of the Government in this Council representing the Treasurer, who, I believe, is the appropriate person to whom to address it.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Over recent weeks workmen have been remodelling the large centre lift in Parliament House. We were looking to a period when we would not again be inconvenienced by this lift's being out of action. However, during the greater part of this morning it has again been out of action. Would the Chief Secretary tell the Council what has been the cost of remodelling this lift and of any further repairs that have had to be effected?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I can reply by stating that this matter comes under the Minister of Works. I will draw his attention to this question and get a reply as soon as possible.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I have recently been reliably informed that the new Sabin anti-poliomyelitis vaccine has now been released by the Commonwealth Government. Because of that and of the importance of keeping poliomyelitis in check, with which we all agree, I wonder whether the Minister of Health can tell this Council what arrangements are being made for its general distribution in South Australia, and when this is likely to occur?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I would prefer not to call upon memory in answering this question, but I can say that a decision has been made that the new vaccine is to be used. However, I should like to get a detailed report and give a full explanation.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to directing a question to the Minister representing the Minister of Education.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I presume that all honourable members have been supplied with a copy of the *S.A.I.T. News* (I think it is called), the paper of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, containing a statement by the Minister of Education. My question relates to this paper, which cites the Minister's and the Government's plans about the issue of free books in schools. Underneath is stated the proposal of the institute which, to some degree, varies from the proposal of the Minister. Does the Government intend to insist upon the principle that it has enunciated or is it considering the suggestion of the Institute of Teachers, which does vary a little, regarding the issue of free books?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: No doubt the Minister of Education has seen this publication and is considering the matter. However, I will refer the question to him and obtain a considered reply.

TRACTOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Advertisements have appeared frequently in the *Chronicle* and other newspapers advertising Allis Chalmers tractors. They show a tractor and a petrol tanker going around a corner on the incorrect side of the road. In the interests of road safety, this is a retrograde step. Will the

Minister draw the firm's attention to the error and ask it to make a correction?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The honourable member gave me a copy of the advertisement that appeared in the *Chronicle*. It depicts an Allis Chalmers tractor and a petrol tanker on the wrong side of the road while going around a bend. If the advertisement were purely international I could understand the error, as in practically every oversea country traffic proceeds on the opposite side of the road to what it does in Australia. However, this is an experienced company, which should know on which side of the road traffic proceeds in each State. The advertisement is completely misleading and, in my opinion, the company should know better. I shall refer the matter to the company and suggest that the advertisement could be misleading to some people and that in future when making advertisements of this nature available for publication it should conform to the traffic laws of the States concerned.

LAND ASSESSMENTS.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Chief Secretary, representing the Treasurer, a reply to my question of Tuesday last regarding land tax assessment valuations?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes, the answer to the question is "No". The Government has given no instruction to valuers regarding factors that should or should not be considered in making valuations. They are made entirely in accordance with accepted principles of valuation.

WILD LIFE RESERVES.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Lands.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Paragraph 15 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech says:

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.

Will the Minister supply particulars of where the reserves are situated, the area of each, and the total area of such reserves in South Australia? This matter was of particular interest to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, when he was here with Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the Royal visit, and my concern in the matter arises from that.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall refer the question to my colleague, the Minister of Lands, and let Sir Lyell have the information sought as soon as possible.

POTATO REJECTION.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked last week regarding the rejection of potatoes?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes. My colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, informs me that the Department of Agriculture carries out all fruit and vegetable inspections for quality. Information supplied by the department indicates that rejections of potatoes at the receipt depot in the past three months, covering deliveries of the main hills crop, compared with the same period in 1965, have been:

	Deliveries to Depot		Rejections	
	1965 Tons	1966 Tons	1965 Tons	1966 Tons
April	4,787	3,902	84 (1.75%)	33 (.84%)
May	3,982	3,979	46 (1.15%)	41 (1.03%)
June	1,433	2,179	78 (5.44%)	19 (.87%)
(two weeks)				

The figures show that rejections this year are at a lower level than last year. There is no change in the standard being demanded by the inspectors this year. The standard is laid down in the regulations under the Fruit and Vegetables (Grading) Act, as approved by the Agricultural Council.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: In view of the reply, I ask leave to ask a further question of the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: The reply makes no mention of potatoes that have been diverted

for re-sorting or for washing because of claimed low quality. Can the Minister give details of diversions to outlets not mentioned in the reply?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Agriculture and obtain a reply as soon as possible.

COPPER MINING.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Has the Minister of Mines a reply to my question of Tuesday last regarding development of the Burra copper mine?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes, the answer is as follows:

The Burra area was investigated in some detail by the Mines Department and in January, 1966, it was awarded to Mines Exploration Pty. Ltd. as an exploration project. The company has completed 6,500ft. of drilling in the interim and has amplified the tonnage of low-grade oxidized ore previously indicated by the departmental work. The drilling shows encouraging extensions, both to the north and south of the ore in the open cut area. The company proposes to undertake at least 4,000ft. of drilling, including diamond drilling, and is considerably encouraged by the results to date.

LAKE BONNEY.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Lands a reply to the question I asked last Tuesday regarding drainage into Lake Bonney fresh water lake?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The answer to the question is as follows:

The pipeline, approximately 20 chains in length, will take the place of an open earth channel which has been discharging seepage water into Lake Bonney since August, 1937, and no additional seepage water will enter the lake as a result. An appreciable proportion of seepage water formerly discharged into Lake Bonney has been diverted elsewhere and the practicability of diverting more is to be investigated.

ORROROO-HAWKER ROAD.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: During the last session I brought up the matter of sealing the Orroroo to Hawker road, which carries much tourist traffic and which is important for that reason. An added reason why it should be a first-class all-weather road is the situation regarding medical services in that part of the State. The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin made this

clear when in a question he said that the whole of this area is served by the doctor at Orroroo, which is 70 miles from Hawker. The replies to my questions last year were to the effect that this road would be considered when other major projects were completed or were nearing completion. As a large portion of the Broken Hill road has now been sealed, and as work on a number of other roads is well under way, will the Minister consider sealing the Orroroo-Hawker road? If that is not possible, will he make sure that sufficient funds are available to maintain it as a safe, all-weather road?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The answer to the first question is undoubtedly "Yes". In answer to the second question, everything possible will be done to make it an all-weather road.

TOW TRUCK OPERATORS.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking the Chief Secretary a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: During the last session I directed a question to the Chief Secretary concerning the activities of tow truck operators in the metropolitan area. At the time I explained that I had had some personal experience of the activities of some tow truck operators in South Australia, and I think I referred to a case in the court that concerned one operator. Has the Government investigated this matter and does it intend to introduce legislation concerning tow truck operators in this State?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Government has considered this matter and I think a Bill is being prepared to control the operations of tow truck drivers.

STRATA TITLES.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I think my question concerns the Minister representing the Minister of Lands. It relates to clause 24 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, which refers to a Bill to provide for strata titles to real property. Can the Minister indicate what will be covered by the Bill?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: There has been a discussion on this matter. The strata titles apply to home unit dwellings. This is a Bill that is difficult to prepare, but the matter is under consideration. The Bill will apply to home units, where a number of private homes are together in a body.

ROADSIDE VEGETATION.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: In the last session a statement was made that roadside vegetation in the Wellington area would be protected by pine forests. As far as I can see, no action has been taken. Will the Minister of Roads follow up this matter, as was promised?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes.

PINE RESERVES.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: On opening day of the session I asked the Minister representing the Minister of Forests a question concerning Government policy with regard to the supply of box timber to horticultural and primary industries. Has the Minister obtained a reply?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: On opening day the honourable member addressed this question to me:

Can the Minister representing the Minister of Forests say whether there has been any change in Government policy on this matter?

I said that as far as I was aware there had been no change in the Government policy as enunciated previously. I repeat that, and give further information from the Conservator of Forests that no difficulties are being experienced in coping with citrus and apple case requirements. The future is difficult to predict, but it is expected that other types of wooden containers, and perhaps also cardboard cartons, will be available in sufficient quantities to handle the situation.

ROAD SEALING.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: In many parts of the hills what are very interesting by-roads are being completely cleared of vegetation to allow sealing to go on. I believe the policy is not to seal substandard roads and, as such, that is understandable. Much of the recreational value of the hills areas rests on their appearance, particularly in respect of roadside vegetation, which is disappearing quickly. I think there is good reason to modify the policy in view of the damage that is being done. It is appreciated that this is a difficult question for the Minister because in many cases pressure comes from district councils for the provision of firebreaks, which good roads constitute. Would it be possible to

look at the policy in these closely wooded hills districts to see whether there is not a reason for having a lower standard of roadside clearing in order to help preserve the appearance of the hills?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: This question may be outside the jurisdiction of the Highways Department and under the jurisdiction of the district council in the work it is doing to meet the circumstances as they arise. However, I will inquire into the matter and obtain a report, from which we can see where we are going and what can be done to meet the request of the honourable member.

HOSPITAL SUBSIDIES.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask leave to make a statement before directing a question to the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: As the Chief Secretary is well aware, there are a number of smaller hospitals within the State's country areas that do not come under the contributory scheme or compulsory maintenance contributions by district councils. Because of the strategic placement of some of these hospitals and their value in their locations, there are some district councils that make voluntary contributions to their maintenance, which contributions are made in addition to the compulsory contributions to other larger hospitals. Whether officially or unofficially, I believe it has always been the case in the past that some notice has been taken of the fact that councils are voluntarily helping these hospitals at the time of assessing the compulsory contributions to the larger hospitals. Can the Chief Secretary say whether it is the Government's policy to continue to take due notice of the voluntary contributions when it is assessing compulsory contributions?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The whole question of subsidizing country hospitals is under the control of a committee appointed to do that work. In fact, it was meeting in my office this morning and making recommendations for next year's amounts of subsidies, both council and Government. I assure the honourable member that what has been taken notice of in the past in connection with subsidies to these hospitals that are not subsidized will continue to be observed. While I am replying, let me say that I realize and appreciate the difficulties of these hospitals that are not subsidized compulsorily by the Government or the councils. It is not an easy matter. I have had two investigations in my time. One we decided

should be a subsidized hospital, and that operated from July 1 last. Unfortunately, the second one did not measure up to requirements. Each hospital must be dealt with on its merits. I am sympathetic to those hospitals that are not subsidized and I assure the honourable member that the procedure followed over the years has not been altered. If he happens to know of a hospital that has been treated unfairly and will draw that to my notice, I will give it my sympathetic attention.

HACKNEY BRIDGE.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: I ask leave to make a statement before directing a question to the Minister of Roads.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: At some stage during the last session of Parliament the Minister of Roads was asked a question about Hackney bridge and I think disappointment was expressed that there was considerable delay in the work because of some problem with the steel being used or something of that nature. Many months have elapsed since then. I appreciate that the Minister may not have the information to hand immediately, but could he report to the Council on what appears to be the protracted construction of the new bridge at Hackney?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: This question has already been answered in another place, and I have no further comment on it here.

ROADS.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Last year when certain legislation about axle loadings was before this Council, the Minister of Roads had some things to say about roads overseas. He has had the benefit recently of close observation of roads overseas. Can he give the Council the benefit of some observations on roads overseas compared with those we are building in South Australia?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I do not desire to delay unduly the business of the Council but I did take particular notice of roads overseas and was considerably impressed. Smaller countries like Holland, if I may use the vernacular, "leave us for dead" in their road construction. Another thing I noticed about freeway construction was that in nearly all cases (and America was no exception) there are sections of the freeways under toll. All

vehicular traffic entering those sections of freeway must pay a toll, which is used, naturally, to help defray the cost of the road. For instance, there may be a section of five miles of roadway and any vehicle entering that section from either direction would have to pay a toll. I think that practice can be investigated in relation to our own roads, for the purpose of obtaining more money for further freeway construction in South Australia. Our funds are, naturally, limited. My general observation of roads in all countries leads me to believe that they are superior in freeway construction to us. That does not mean to say that I, as Minister of Roads, can go ahead and plan a programme identical with that being pursued overseas. It can be done only with the funds available from time to time in this State. I should like to be able to do it.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Are much the same methods of construction used?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes. Our construction of overpasses, such as that on the South Road, is typical of oversea freeway construction, involving the use of concrete pillars and concrete reinforcing. It is identical with such work overseas. In San Francisco, where a series of freeways diverts the traffic from passing through the heart of the city, there are outlets going off the freeways in various parts of the city. There is strong agitation in San Francisco to pull these down and do away with them. There is strong agitation at present as far as central San Francisco is concerned to do away with overhead freeway systems. It appears that the volume of traffic is using the roads fully at present. My observations lead me to believe that overseas roads are far superior to those of South Australia.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: Are figures available as to the comparison in cost of construction?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: No, except that costs of construction are much higher than those of South Australia even at the freeway level, which I found to be considerably higher when comparing the roads themselves. Various factors must enter into the calculations as far as cost of materials is concerned. The standards of wage rates are higher than those operating in this State.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: What about materials?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The materials are similar to those used here and their methods are similar, although other countries have more up-to-date machinery, but in other

respects the methods are similar to ours and our costs are lower. I believe that the overall cost a mile on a comparable basis would be lower in South Australia, brought about by the prices of materials and the wage structure, which is higher overseas than it is here.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: The Minister stated that he considered that the toll system for freeways has some merit. Does he know the level of revenue received from motor taxation in those countries where road tolls are collected for freeways and is he able to say whether their level of taxation compares with that of the South Australian motorist?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: As far as I could ascertain, the methods of taxation in other countries, especially in the United States of America, are similar in many ways to ours although they have various means of raising such money. They have such things as a petrol tax and other levies which are placed towards the maintenance and construction of roads. My comment as Minister is that I would like to be in possession of the amounts raised by the methods employed by other countries as I am sure that it would result in the standard of our roads being improved. Motor taxation would be on a comparable basis with our own and the road toll helps to pay for freeway construction.

The PRESIDENT: I point out to honourable members that it is close to the time of calling on general business and I now call for any papers to be laid on the table.

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) laid on the table the report and recommendations of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal. Ordered that report be printed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

Received from the House of Assembly.

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

That this Bill be read a first time.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): Does this mean that the opportunity for honourable members to ask questions is closed?

The PRESIDENT: We had only about two minutes remaining before calling on general business and if an honourable member had been in the middle of a question I would have had to ask him to take his seat.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I ask a further question—

The PRESIDENT: We will not have any further questions.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: I am rising on a point of order. The business of the day has not been called on, and I understand it is the right of the Minister to suspend Standing Orders at any time and lay on papers. I am only raising this point because of the rights of members to ask questions.

The PRESIDENT: We have had almost an hour of questions, and Standing Orders lay down the time when we go on with Orders of the Day.

Motion carried.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

In September, 1965, Parliament considered a Revenue Budget which anticipated a deficit of \$3,082,000 for 1965-66. After allowing for the carry-over from previous years of a small balance of surpluses of \$1,223,000 it appeared that the cumulative deficit at June 30, 1966, would be \$1,859,000. During the year there have been several factors which have had adverse effects on the Budget and which will mean a deficit considerably greater than that originally forecast. The season was particularly dry and this had a direct impact on railways and harbours revenues as the volume of produce handled was less than estimated. There was, of course, a further direct unfavourable effect as the Engineering and Water Supply Department incurred additional costs in the pumping of water. The indirect effects, also unfavourable, have been reflected mainly by reductions below estimate in a wide range of Government revenues. The failure of many revenues to reach the estimates has been due in part to two other factors—a general slowing down in the Australian economy and the rejection or amendment by Parliament during the last session of several of the Government's revenue raising proposals.

At this stage it appears that Revenue receipts could fall below estimate by as much as \$4,000,000. In addition to the sharp decline in railways and harbours earnings, there have been very heavy shortfalls in receipts from succession duties and stamp duties. For payments in total the net variation from estimate is likely to be relatively small, but within the net figure there has been a number of variations, some above and some below the original provisions for the year.

As honourable members are aware, the movements above and below estimate may not be offset one against the other for appropriation purposes. The appropriations approved by

Parliament are for individual departments and, where excesses above the departmental provisions are incurred, it is necessary for the Government to rely on other sources of appropriation authority. One of these sources is the section in the main Appropriation Act, which gives additional appropriation to meet increased costs due to awards of wage-fixing bodies and to meet any upward movement in the costs of pumping water through the two major pipelines. This special appropriation authority is being called upon this year to cover the costs of a new award for teachers in the Education Department, a number of smaller award variations, and the increased cost of pumping through the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline.

Another source of appropriation authority is the Governor's Appropriation Fund, which in terms of the Public Finance Act may cover the expenditure of up to \$1,200,000 in addition to that otherwise authorized. The appropriation available in the fund is being used to cover a number of smaller excesses above departmental provisions, but it is not sufficient to provide for the larger excesses, and therefore it is necessary for Parliament to consider a supplementary Appropriation Bill, in which the provisions sought are:

Department of Social Welfare, \$185,000.—The main Appropriation Act includes provision of \$2,287,000 for the department, but a recent estimate indicates that total expenditure will exceed that figure by about \$185,000. The excess is due to higher numbers of children under the department's care, to higher numbers in receipt of State public relief, and to increased costs of care and accommodation.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, \$400,000.—The main Appropriation Act includes provision of \$10,498,000 for the department. It is expected that the provision will be exceeded due to increased costs of pumping water and to higher costs of operation and maintenance. The probable excess cost of some \$80,000 for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline will be covered by the special appropriation section in the main Appropriation Act to which I have referred. However, it is necessary to provide in this Bill the appropriation of a further \$400,000 to cover increased expenditure in several districts for repairs, maintenance, water treatment, and some minor pumping.

Public Buildings Department, \$180,000.—The main Appropriation Act includes provision of \$5,988,000 for the department. The general costs of maintenance, repair, and furnishing of Government buildings have been greater than

anticipated and further provisions of \$100,000 for education, police, and other Government buildings are proposed. Additional provisions of \$80,000 for power, telephone services, and various rates are also necessary. The total excess is thus estimated to be \$180,000.

Minister of Education — Miscellaneous, \$770,000.—The main Appropriation Act includes \$12,532,000 in total for Minister of Education — Miscellaneous. Additional appropriation of \$770,000 is now sought, \$530,000 being for grants to the University of Adelaide and \$240,000 for grants to the Institute of Technology. For the University of Adelaide further grants are required primarily for two purposes — \$240,000 for research and \$290,000 for buildings. For the triennium 1964 to 1966 the Australian Universities Commission recommended grants totalling \$10,000,000 for research purposes at all universities in the States, and at the time of preparation of the Budget the distribution of the first \$6,000,000 was known.

Subsequently, a special committee set up by the Commonwealth Government made recommendations for distribution of the remaining \$4,000,000. Projects at South Australian universities attracted a very high proportion of the final \$4,000,000, and from the total of \$10,000,000 the final share of South Australian universities was about \$240,000 more than earlier anticipated. Because of the timing of quarterly grants to the University of Adelaide research payments will require additional appropriation to this extent this year. Also, progress on buildings at Bedford Park, now known as the Flinders university, has been more rapid than earlier expected and additional grants are required accordingly. For this financial year all grants for the Flinders university are being paid directly to the University of Adelaide. The legislation which established the Flinders university gives authority for such financial transactions as may be necessary between the two institutions.

The research and building grants are each financed dollar-for-dollar by State and Commonwealth. The gross payments are appropriated under Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, and the Commonwealth grants are credited to Revenue as received, and accordingly the additional net impact on the State's accounts will only be half the gross figures appropriated. For the South Australian Institute of Technology additional grants of \$240,000 are required—\$120,000 being for recurrent purposes and \$120,000 for

buildings. Enrolments have increased rapidly in all the technical courses and the Government has agreed to make recurrent grants at a higher level than previously estimated. Also, additional grants are required to meet payments for a new building being erected for the institute on its Frome Road site.

Subsequent to the presentation of the Budget negotiations were conducted with the Commonwealth for the provision of funds for institute buildings under advanced education arrangements on a dollar-for-dollar basis as well as under university arrangements. Agreement between the State, the Commonwealth, and the institute was reached and a contract let for the new Frome Road building. As with the university grants there will be a partial offset to these excess expenditures by receipt of Commonwealth assistance.

Now, dealing with the clauses of the Bill, clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further \$1,535,000 from the general revenue. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out 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, other public funds or bank overdraft, if the 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, 1965. Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated.

With one exception all clauses are in the general form which has been followed for Appropriation Bills for many years. The exception is clause 6, which previously include the wording in the Bill now before you and also the final phrase "at a rate in excess of the rate which, during the period in respect of which the payment is made, was in force under any return made under the Acts relating to the public service, or pursuant to any regulation or any award, order or determination of a court or other body empowered to fix salaries or wages." On October 5 last year (see *Hansard* page 1942) the need for the additional authority given by the final phrase was questioned. The

Bill was passed in the form in which it was presented, but it was proposed that a report on clause 6 be obtained.

The Under Treasurer examined the matter and found that clause 6 was first inserted in an Appropriation Bill in 1936, when it was apparently thought desirable to secure appropriation authority for certain salary and wage increases made retrospective into the previous financial year. The Under Treasurer has expressed some doubt as to the necessity for clause 6 and considerable doubt as to the necessity for the final phrase. The Government then sought the opinion of the Crown Solicitor, who reported that he saw no legal necessity for the insertion of clause 6. However, he saw no harm in the continued inclusion of the clause to cover some situation which could conceivably arise in the future.

It was decided that the best course would be to retain the first part of clause 6, which makes quite clear the Government's right to use appropriation to make retrospective payments, but to omit the final phrase, which seemed to add nothing in authority, to be open to misinterpretation, and thus was likely to cause confusion. The Auditor-General was informed of the proposals and he indicated that he had no objection. Clause 6 in its shorter form is, therefore, included after full consideration by the Under Treasurer, the Crown Solicitor, and the Auditor-General. I commend the Bill for the consideration of members.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Leader of the Opposition): I support the Bill. This appropriation is supplementary to the main Budget adopted last year, but it is not unusual. It is to cover unforeseen expenditure. I remember that when we had a fruit fly epidemic there was no appropriation for the expenditure and we had to ask Parliament for an appropriation. As the Chief Secretary said, there is to be some tidying up.

This is a money Bill, and the Council can do little but express opinions and discuss the matters mentioned in the measure. We have heard suggestions that the Council would hold up Supply. I do not know whether there was a whispering campaign that came from the Government, but I was asked by someone in the street whether that was so.

These Estimates are unique inasmuch as last year we approved a record Budget of \$240,000,000. That was an increase of 11 per cent on the previous year. Now we have a further appropriation of \$1,535,000. This would seem to be what the Opposition used to

say to us, "That is bad budgeting". I do not remember a position so bad as the position related to these estimates. I compliment the Chief Secretary on his explanation of the Bill, because it helps members if they have some information before them. However, his statement merely repeats what was mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech about the financial problems of the Government being due to the dry seasonal conditions, which have had an impact on railways and harbours revenue. The cost of water pumping was also mentioned.

Although it was a low average rainfall season, the harvest was particularly good. I think it was a 36,000,000-bushel harvest, which is far from unfavourable. I hope the State never experiences anything more serious than a harvest of such a dimension. As far as I can see, there has been no impact on railways revenue, which is well up to the Estimates. Although harbours revenue is not what the Government expected, it will measure up to the previous year.

Water pumping, as the Chief Secretary explained it, has nothing to do with the amounts in these Estimates, which deal only with amounts for which there was not sufficient appropriation. Another matter was the suggestion that the failure of revenue to reach estimates was the general slowing down of trade and the way in which Parliament last session dealt with Government revenue-raising proposals. Where did any rejection of its proposals take place? I can remember only one Bill, dealing with succession duties, not being passed.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Stamp duties was another.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: That Bill was passed after a conference and the only alteration made to it dealt with the holding of receipts.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: The amount was also altered in the conference.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Yes, voluntarily by the Treasurer himself, and it certainly had nothing to do with arbitrary action by the Council. The rejected Bill cannot be responsible for the position at the end of the financial year. The rejection came because the Bill did not conform to certain promises made in the policy speech about exemptions for widows, and concessions to landholders to provide a more living area and to tax large estates more heavily. It was only later that we learned that the Government

expected to obtain substantial revenue. There was still a possibility of redrafting the measure if the Government was so keen upon it. However, it was the Government's responsibility if it wished to conform to promises made. This is the only instance I can recall where the Government was in any way inconvenienced in the attitude taken about its legislation. I think the Government must hold itself responsible for the position in which it finds itself, because it took certain legislative and administrative action which increased costs against itself, and which no doubt had a serious influence on the year's finances.

For the Department of Social Welfare there is a further provision of \$185,000. On referring to last year's Supplementary Estimates I find that some of the items for which there is further provision have increased by 50 per cent or 60 per cent. That is a tremendous discrepancy. There is a further provision of \$185,000, yet the Department of Social Welfare has had more or less the same problems to deal with as in the past year, the only difference being that we have had a change from the board to a Minister, whose benevolence, apparently, has made such a difference that last year's supplementary appropriation of \$8,000 has now become an appropriation of \$185,000. The expenditure on practically every item before us today represents an increase of 10 per cent. Considering that this Government has been so critical in the past of accurate budgeting, I think this is a poor performance.

I turn now to the Engineering and Water Supply Department, which is a good department. I do not criticize it when I refer to the discrepancy here. An additional \$400,000 is required, compared with \$40,000 last year, and again there is an increase to 10 times the amount. Surely there is something wrong with the administration of the department, unless there is an explanation that has not been given to members. I said earlier that I appreciated the information given, but I notice, bearing in mind the Chief Secretary's remarks about water pumping and other charges that some items included in the lines submitted to another place are excluded from his explanation. I wonder whether, perhaps because of the problem the Government faces with its Loan expenditure, it has been found necessary to supplement that money with Revenue expenditure in order to maintain employment. If that is so (and we all agree that it is undesirable to have unemployment and a stop-go system operating) we should be told about it. The Public

Buildings Department has a large discrepancy. There is provision for an additional \$180,000. Last year the amount was about \$39,000. The amount last year took in three months of the Playford Government but when I compare that with this year's amount I find a considerable discrepancy. I do not know whether the Minister can give any additional information on these matters. It will not make any difference to my vote, but I am interested to know the real facts. I have no criticism to offer of the department of the Minister of Education, and grants to the University of Adelaide and to the South Australian Institute of Technology. This Council will support the education grants because we realize the increasing demands, which are important. We have to develop our new university and maintain the existing one with increased amounts. Also, we have to match grants made by the Commonwealth Government. Therefore, I accept without comment the further provision of \$770,000 for the Education Department. It is only the other items I mentioned that suggest bad budgeting or poor administration. If the answer is that the Government has been prodigal and inept in its administration, and it is not a good year, it is not a good recommendation for the Ministerial control, as has been placed before us from time to time during the life of this Government. If this is an example of Ministerial control, it is not a good one. However, as I indicated earlier, we cannot amend the Bill: we can only discuss it. Because of the assurance by the Chief Secretary that these appropriations are necessary, and because the end of the financial year is near, I will not delay the Council. I support the Bill.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES (Northern): I support the appropriation of revenue for the State as set out in the Bill. I was interested to hear the Leader of the Government in this Council refer to seasonal conditions and the problems of primary producing industries in connection with the deficit that has occurred. I do not know whether Australians are a peculiar race of people, but they greet one another with the salutation "Good morning!" and "Good afternoon!", and then invariably refer to the weather in some shape or form. With those who are essentially primary producers or farmers, it is tradition that they be allowed to make a more pertinent comment about the weather or about how it is affecting the season at this or that point of time, it is always too wet, too dry, too

hot or too cold. It is interesting when Governments, too, can have the same problems as the individual man in the street and blame the season for all the ills. The primary producers of this State are often ignored when times are good. They are ignored in their rights when electoral boundaries are considered. Many of their requests are ignored in the clamour of the more popular demands from people living in the cities. Despite this, country areas are still blamed for the present financial position of the State. I suggest that the position is not due only to seasonal conditions. I consider that some of the facts have not been honestly presented to this Parliament.

Last year the wheat harvest totalled 36,000,000 bushels and the barley harvest 10,000,000 bushels. The State average harvest for wheat over a 10-year period has been 30,000,000 bushels, and even though it is fair to say, as the Minister said, that the year was dry it must be noted that cereal yields were above average. Of the 36,000,000 bushels of wheat, 32,000,000 bushels went into silos, and it is reasonable to assume that the railways handled the movement of that grain to the ports.

Wool production for the 11-month period to May 31 was down 4,500 bales on the previous year. Surely such a small amount would not materially affect the revenue of the State! With the wheat yield about average, and with wool production running on a "line ball", it seems a little hard to say "the dry season has materially affected the financial structure of the State".

It was further said that Parliament as a whole, or, if the finger is to be pointed, the Legislative Council, left much to be desired in the matter of raising revenue. The Succession Duties Act Amendment Bill and the Road and Railway Transport Bill were defeated, but they could have been passed in February, 1966. It has been claimed by the Minister that in the 3-month period from February to the present time the income from both Bills would have helped materially the financial structure.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Do you think the Government could have worked out the ramifications of the Road and Railway Transport Bill in that time?

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: That is a good question. I am sure that the ramifications, together with deciding the long list of exempt and dutiable articles, would have been a protracted process, but I hesitate to believe that it

would have been effective during or at the end of the period of three months from February until today.

I admit the necessity for these Supplementary Estimates. I am aware of the problems of budgeting for a period of 12 months, and that at the end of that period there is a need for making alterations to the Budget. The Department of Social Welfare, under the control of the Attorney General, has produced some interesting figures. I appreciate that the slight increase in the number of unemployed in this State has resulted in added problems for the Department of Social Welfare, and that it is something for which we could not budget. Money must be made available for that department. I realize also that wage determinations, some of which were retrospective, have taken their toll of State finances.

The increased costs in pumping, particularly to the metropolitan area, have been given as the reason for the allocation of \$400,000 to the Minister of Works. The foresight used in the conservation of water in this State is commendable, because Adelaide was able to go through the last dry season without water restrictions being imposed. Credit is due to the department and those responsible for planning that so far the State has not suffered in that respect.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin: The costs mentioned are provided in the main appropriation and not this one; they are quite separate.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: The increase in water rates must have assisted the department, although this has not been mentioned. A sum of \$180,000 is provided for the Public Buildings Department and is necessary for the preservation of public buildings. I believe that any State, town or home is judged by its appearance, and I approve this allotment of money. Here again the problem of wage increases and unknown costs affect budgeting, and additional moneys may be needed.

Dealing with the item \$770,000 for the Minister of Education, it is pleasing to see that the State is matching Commonwealth grants for the University of Adelaide and for the Institute of Technology. I hope the threats made during the last session that the Government may not be able to assist the University of Adelaide financially as strongly this year as it did last year will not eventuate and that the problems of education with relation to the university will not be insoluble.

There has been an overall increase in the Budget for the year 1965-66 of between 10 per cent and 11 per cent, yet it has been stated that the economy of the State is slowing down. This problem must be closely examined in the coming year. I support the Bill.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): It seems to me that as we near June 30 this is the appropriate time to examine the economic trend. Although the figures are interesting, some of the points made in the Chief Secretary's explanation do not seem to bear a great relationship to the figures set out in the Bill. It is merely a Bill for a further appropriation of the revenue of this State for the year ending June 30 next, and for other purposes. It is to the words "other purposes" that I wish to address my remarks. The Chief Secretary referred to a small deficit and to the carrying over of a small surplus from the previous year, but the surplus carried forward was of \$1,223,000, which was a useful surplus to have. I am sure the Government wishes it could say it was able to budget for a surplus.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: It would have been awkward for the Government if that surplus had not been there.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: It would. When the previous Government went out of office the State was in a sound position, and there were no rumblings or troubles. In the past financial year the value of exports was \$10,500,000 more than in the previous year (an all-time record), yet the Chief Secretary said that the Government got into difficulties because of the direct impact of a dry season on railways and harbours revenue. A State in which the value of exports, mainly of primary produce, has increased by over \$10,000,000 should not be in difficulties over railways and harbours, particularly as the Government increased the dues during the last session. If the Government is to get into any difficulties with the railways, this will happen between June and December this year, as the lighter harvest will be reflected in railways finances.

We hear that the Australian economy is depressed, but I do not know where this fits into this State's scheme of things. We know that New South Wales and Queensland have had droughts and that we produce many consumer goods for the Eastern States, but it is doubtful whether this can have had any effect on this State yet. Another matter mentioned by the Government was the additional cost

of pumping water. This is particularly interesting, because a considerable time ago we passed legislation giving the Government the right to pump water. The present position has not been affected by the cost of pumping water; this Bill relates to something in addition to what was granted earlier. Early in the regime of this Government about \$2,000,000 was collected in excess water charges and increased rates, which one would have expected to offset any additional pumping charges.

The Government has not been perfectly honest in this matter, and in saying that I do not think I will be attacked by any member of the Government, because silence is golden at this stage. The reasons given for these increases do not match up with the Bill. Rather, they are necessary because of several new things introduced by this Government in the first five or six Bills it brought down after assuming office. These Bills were drafted by the Attorney-General, and dealt mainly with welfare. Also, service pay cost the Government much more than it expected, and it will cost in future much more than the Government thought possible. I think the Government expected that it would cost about \$600,000 a year, whereas in the first year it cost over \$2,000,000. This is a very much better reason than the railways position for the present situation, because I am sure that when the final figures come out it will be seen that the railways are not in a parlous condition.

The Department of Social Welfare seems to have been a very costly department. Whether the benefits derived from the reorganization of this department are commensurate with the cost, I cannot say, but it has been an extremely costly experiment, which the Government will find applies to everything the Attorney-General does. We all know there cannot be hand-outs unless they are paid for. An additional \$20,000 is provided for the maintenance of children placed out. Does this mean that foster parents have been granted an increase in fostering fees, or is there some other explanation? A further \$20,000 is provided for clothing, motor vehicle expenses, fares, medicines and sundries in relation to children placed out. All these things are lumped together so that there is no clear picture of just where the increase is needed, and there is no explanation in the Minister's speech.

An increased provision of \$15,000 is made for Brookway Park, which was started by the previous Government. In addition to the \$1,310,240 provided for salaries and wages in this department, a further provision of \$30,000 is now required. We know that the

Minister employs public relations officers who are not on the general list of public servants but are daily paid people in receipt of far more than the normal daily paid rate. These things all increase the cost of administration in this department. We have had the new department for only about nine months and we find an additional \$185,000 required to run it for that time. What will be the deficit in the next year, or is the Government going to provide bigger Estimates in its original appropriations in future?

I do not want to labour this point but it seems to me that the finances of this State are drifting badly in various ways. The State had been run on economical lines previously. Everybody had a job and appeared to be fairly happy, except that people wanted a change. That was the common talk. Well, they have had a change. I do not doubt that South Australia has had a change and it may be that, when people look at these various matters, as they will, they will see that it was not a change for the better. In fact, they have been short-changed.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: And they want another change.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: They will have another change.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Not for a long time yet.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Hope springs eternal in the human breast and the Minister is probably following his colleague, the Chief Secretary, in saying, "We are going all right." However, I am not sure that that is so.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: The people in your district were satisfied when I went there.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: My friend has come back to the Chamber. Now we might get down to some solid debating. I was lonely here on my own. I am not going to encourage in any way those people who try to get on the band wagon on TV and say that this Legislative Council is likely to hold up the Governments's financial policy. I have never heard greater rot, and these people are held up as authorities on what is happening to us day by day. I am going to support this measure, with one other observation.

I notice that the university is mentioned and I have some thoughts about universities at present, never having been to one myself. It seems to me that we are being generous in Australia in providing money for education. It is costing the Australian taxpayers a tremendous amount of money. Education and the money provided for it, if properly placed

and used, are the greatest assets any country can have. Also, Commonwealth scholarships are very good, because everybody is entitled to a decent education, irrespective of whether the parents can afford to provide it.

However, I am disappointed, as many thousands of people must be at present, with the antics of a small minority of university students who, if they were older, would be called long-haired dandruffed intellectuals, but they are not yet old enough to be called intellectuals. They are acting in a most peculiar way. In my opinion, they are acting to the detriment of the Australian way of life and the sooner the sane young persons at universities take a strong stand on these matters the better it will be, because the youth of this country is being wrongly judged, by and large, by the antics of these people.

I abhor the conduct of people who break down the Australian way of life, which is a magnificent way of life when compared with that in the rest of the world. There is not another country anywhere, including the mighty America that we hear so much about, where people have the same equality and the same ability to express themselves freely on any subject. Yet, we still are not satisfied. It seems to me that the time has come when a stocktaking ought to be carried out.

Perhaps Mao Tse-tung is not so far wrong in looking at the people whom he admits to his universities at present. I think we ought to have a good look (not for the same reason as he is) at whether these people are going there to be educated so that they can hand on something to the community or whether they are going there to make fools of themselves and, in my opinion, act in a subversive manner towards Australia.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Southern): I do not intend to spend much time on this debate, as most of the matters have been adequately covered by previous speakers. I am sure all members of this Chamber appreciate the fact that variations and alteration must occur in a budgetary year, particularly when we are dealing with a Budget the size of the present one. Honourable members appreciate the necessity at this time for Supplementary Estimates to be dealt with by Parliament. As has been said by other honourable members, I think the thing that is of vital concern to most of us and to the general public is how much damage has been done to the economy of South Australia by the financial policy of this Government. In this year's Budget, which we dealt

with earlier in the financial year, the Government budgeted for a deficit of some \$3,000,000. It started off with a carry-over of \$1,200,000 from the previous Government. I think in the Chief Secretary's second reading explanation he referred to this as a small credit balance. Looking back, it appears to be a rather large credit balance, and the Budget did look to a cumulative deficit of some \$1,800,000. It seems to be in many people's minds that this Government started with a deficit from the previous Government. I have heard this point of view from many people who say, "The financial difficulties the Government finds itself in are due to the fact that it began with an empty Treasury." This is not so.

This Government, as was pointed out in the Chief Secretary's speech, had a credit balance of some \$1,200,000. Having begun with this credit balance, the question in most people's minds is, "How large will the deficit be, and what are the consequences of deficit budgeting?" The only way I know of meeting a deficit in a general revenue account is by the use of Loan moneys and, of course, most of us realize that this does have an effect upon the formula that is used to allocate Loan moneys to the States. We all know that if these Loan funds are used to balance the Budget the formula is altered. I believe the present formula is favourable to South Australia, in that we have a call on 13.7 per cent of the Loan funds available. I realize that one deficit on its own does not have any great effect upon this formula, but one can only become somewhat concerned that, with the further financial commitments facing the Government, the position of deficit budgeting may not be rectified, which would have a detrimental effect upon the economy of this State.

Also in the second reading explanation on the Supplementary Estimates the Chief Secretary laid some blame in certain quarters, and some blame was laid on this Council for rejecting some of the Government's financial measures. This has been adequately dealt with by previous speakers. I do not think that the rejection of two of the revenue Bills—Road and Railway Transport, and the Succession Duties—had any appreciable effect upon this budgetary year. I hope that the Government does not persist with its attitude of constantly blaming the Council for everything possible. I believe that last session the Council dealt with matters in a manner befitting its historical role as a House of Review. I think that the action taken by the Council has in no way been

responsible for the present financial position of this State.

Further blame was placed on the fact that railways revenue was down due to the adverse season. I feel this has been dealt with by previous speakers. Although the season was not an excellent one, it was possibly better than an average season. As has been pointed out, the actual export income of the State rose. I think we all appreciate that the drought conditions in New South Wales and Queensland have had some effect upon the economy of South Australia, but one would not expect that the economy of South Australia would be more seriously affected than the economy of those States.

One can see this from unemployment figures. In the last few months the percentage of people unemployed in South Australia has risen more dramatically than in any other State in the Commonwealth. I remember when I first came into this Chamber two speeches being made—one by the present Minister of Transport (Hon. A. F. Kneebone), and I would like to quote one or two of the matters that were mentioned in that speech, which he made on July 25, 1962. Concerning unemployment he said:

At the end of June this year, 6,886 persons were unemployed in this State. In February, 1961, when many people were upset at the situation, and representatives of the trade union movement approached the Premier and told him the situation was bad, the unemployment position was not as bad as it is today. At that time the figure was 6,656, which was lower than at the end of June this year. People believe that a marvellous job has been done in South Australia, but there is that large number of people registered as out of work.

Further on the Hon. Mr. Kneebone said:

These figures show that number of people registered for employment. In my opinion something should have been done earlier for these people.

Then I come to a speech made by the present Chief Secretary (Hon. A. J. Shard) on July 24, 1963, concerning this same subject. He said:

When we come to the number of unemployed we can see that the South Australian Government can no longer say it has the lowest ratio in the Commonwealth. I believe Victoria is .2 per cent below us now. This is an aspect of our economy that has always worried me and I shall never be happy about it, notwithstanding how low a figure we get, while there are still able-bodied people who want to work but are unable to get work.

Further on, Mr. Shard said:

If the Department of Industry can do nothing, would the Government consider the

possibility of money being made available to local government to enable councils to provide work of value at that time of the year, particularly for unemployed persons? I do not mean making money available to them to keep ordinary staff at work, but to make a special effort to reduce the number of unemployed persons in those months. It seems that the figure in South Australia is about 6,000, and it is possible that it will not be much lower, unless something is done to alleviate the position as it arises each year.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: They were pretty good sentiments.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: They were. I wish the Minister could apply the sentiments he expressed two years ago to the present position. I do not wish to make political capital or to make an emotional speech on unemployment. It is quite obvious that the present Chief Secretary was rather concerned with the position in 1963, and the present Minister of Transport was concerned in 1962.

The Hon. C. R. Story: See what the Hon. Mr. Bevan said.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I have not had a chance to check that. In those days the Government was in a position to assist the employment position. The present position of the State's finances is the result of self-inflicted wounds and the present Government cannot blame anybody else. It is not in a position to make any contribution to alleviate this position, and perhaps we can compare the current figures with unemployment figures in the 1962 and 1963 periods which I have quoted.

In 1962, when Mr. Kneebone spoke, the number of unemployed persons registered was 6,886. On June 28, 1963, when Mr. Shard spoke, the unemployed figure was 6,479. As at May 27, 1966 (the last figures I have, and there is a strong possibility that the figures have deteriorated in the last month), the number of unemployed persons in South Australia was 6,714, so that the position has deteriorated since 1963.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I cannot follow your figures. Would you quote them again? We don't seem to be much worse off today than we were then.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The figures have deteriorated since June, 1963, from 6,479 to 6,714.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: That is not a great deterioration. You emphasized the "great".

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Shall we say it is 5 per cent?

The Hon. A. J. Shard: It might be, but that is not great. You are not winning your

argument by quoting those figures. The figures are somewhat comparable. You can't win on that one.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The point I am making is that the previous Government, by very strong economic measures, did assist the position at that time, but I do not think the present Government is in a position to make any contribution to help overcome this problem now.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: You can't win on those figures. They compare very favourably with Western Australia's, as I have had a look at them. You want to be careful when you bring up industrial matters. You can't get away with those figures.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The position up to 1963 was that South Australia year after year had the lowest unemployment figures in the Commonwealth.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: What is the position today?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: In 1963 we rose from the point of being lowest to that of second lowest, with Victoria at a .2 per cent lower unemployment figure. That was the first time for many years that South Australia was not on the lowest rung of the ladder. The present position is that South Australia has the second highest unemployment figures, on percentage, in the Commonwealth.

The Hon. C. R. Story: And we haven't had a drought.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I made that point earlier. The economy of New South Wales and Queensland has certainly been seriously affected by drought.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: You must have a different set of figures from ours. What is your authority for them?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I rang the Commonwealth Department—

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I do not accept your figures.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: You do not accept them?

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I think your figures are wrong.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: My main point is that the difference between the two positions was that the previous Government was able financially to make a contribution to overcome the slight drift in unemployment. With the financial policies that this Government has followed, this State is not in a position to make any contribution in this matter. My other point on this is that capital is a very shy bird and, when confidence is lacking, we

do not have a capital flow into the State's economy. I hope the Government will, in the ensuing year, have learnt from some of its difficulties in its first session of Parliament. I support the Bill.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): I, too, support the Bill. Most of the main points have been effectively covered by previous speakers. It is, of course, a short Bill. It covers money needed to enable certain departments to meet the expenditure they have incurred in excess of that allowed for in the last Budget. I am somewhat surprised to find that in the Minister's explanation of the Bill so much emphasis and time was given to making excuses about the financial position of the State and the expected deficit. This has also been mentioned publicly from time to time by members of the Government. It was mentioned in His Excellency's Speech when he opened Parliament. It appears to me that some effort is being made to condition the public to accepting something worse than it has been led to expect.

The Hon. C. R. Story: A slow softening-up?

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Yes. The deficit in the Budget is entirely different from the Supplementary Estimates. It is another matter altogether. In fact, the departments mentioned both in the Minister's explanation and in public statements—the Railways Department and the Harbors Board—are not mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates; so their operations could not have any effect on the departments mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates. Also, it is obvious that the accuracy of these statements is open to serious question. The Harbors Board charges were one of the reasons given for the financial difficulties of the State. I understand the returns so far from the Harbors Board charges for the 11 months of this financial year are more than double what they were in the last financial year.

Railway revenue was down only slightly and the financial year has not yet finished. One reason given (covered by other honourable members) is the dry season. In fact, I have heard it said on occasions in public statements by the Government that there has been what it has called a drought. This last year, although some people were, unfortunately, affected by the dry finish to the season, the general production yields from the State were appreciably above average. Any Government or any private person who arranges his finances in the expectation of a season with a

bumper return will soon be out of business. As I have said, railway revenue is down only slightly for the 11 months of this year compared with the corresponding 11 months of last year. I understand that much of the grain from the last harvest is still in country silos to be carted to the ports, and this revenue to the railways will ultimately become available. Because of the big harvests in Western Australia last year, and the pressure on its storage facilities, I understand the shipping of grain overseas to fulfil the orders placed has been largely undertaken from Western Australia, where the pressure on wheat silos and storage systems was most severe. In South Australia there still remains much grain in country silos, which will ultimately be carried to the ports by the railways.

As regards the Government's attempts to find excuses to condition the public for what appears to be a most unfavourable balance-sheet at the end of the year, I believe that some of the statements it has made are grossly unfair. I refer particularly to those that reflect on the work of the Council in the last session as having some effect on the State's revenue. As has been pointed by other honourable members, the two measures in question—the Transport Control Bill and the Succession Duties Bill—were brought in very late in the session and were dealt with early this year, so the amount of revenue from those two sources, had the measures been passed, would have had very little effect on the State's finances. In fairness to this Council, I also point out that the Bills were not rejected as financial measures: they were rejected, as we all know, because of the provisions of the Bills themselves, where the Government attempted, particularly in the case of succession duties, to alter the whole principle of the Act. This was the point on which honourable members made their stand, not on the general financial provisions.

Another thing that surprises me in these Supplementary Estimates is the listing of the departments concerned, because I know there are other departments that have exceeded their allocation. There are many organizations and district councils that have been promised subsidies for certain works, and these subsidies have not been and cannot be paid until the Estimates come out in the next financial year. It is serious when the Government is unable to meet its commitments in this regard. The Government should be an example to local government authorities and to other organiza-

tions. After all, private individuals are expected to balance their accounts and to be able to meet their commitments, even though they must meet increased charges and taxes. Unlike the Government, they cannot produce Supplementary Estimates to meet increased costs, but must meet them out of their own pockets.

The financing of this State will have to be watched very closely. It will be one of the most important issues in the next year, because the future of the State is in the balance. We once had an expanding economy and good employment figures, with inquiries from new industries. The history of this State is so well known that it is not necessary for me to repeat it. However, much of the confidence in South Australia has been lost, and unless we can regain it there may be a serious effect on employment, particularly of young people leaving school. Children who left school at the end of last year were absorbed, although the increase in unemployment in this State is greater than that of any other State. The Hon. Mr. DeGaris gave figures in relation to unemployment. An article in the *Sunday Mail* of June 25 gave figures relating to the building industry in South Australia and expressed the concern of leaders of that industry. The Secretary of the Carpenters and Joiners Union (Mr. V. J. Martin) said:

Near the end of last year we sent 80 members to jobs in Western Australia. Now we are trying to find jobs for 40 in the Eastern States. There has been an increase in unemployment and, although the Chief Secretary may claim that the increase has not been considerable, any increase is important to the people concerned. As people are leaving this State to find employment elsewhere, the position here may be much worse than is shown in the figures. It is significant that some of the leading trade union officials are complaining about it. I do not wish to hold up the passage of this Bill, which I support.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary): I thank honourable members for their courtesy and co-operation in enabling this Bill to be passed this afternoon. I never dispute that each honourable member has the right to his point of view and, of course, there will always be conflicting views on a Bill of this nature. The Hon. Mr. Gilfillan said, amongst other things, that confidence in this State had declined and that the number of unemployed persons here had increased to the same extent as in other States. However, the figures to the end of March are rather favourable.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: Immigration has been mentioned in relation to this matter.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: It should be remembered that South Australia continues to receive on a population basis a larger percentage of immigrants than most other States receive. Although there has been some increase in the number of persons registered for employment, there has also been a significant increase in the number of persons employed. In the year ended March 31 the number of persons in civilian employment increased by 2.8 per cent, which was the same percentage increase as in one of the Eastern States and higher than in the other two. This shows the confidence in this State.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: The figures are rather out of date, aren't they?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: They are from year to year, and they have been obtained from the Commonwealth Government by the Minister of Industry.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: Seasonal employment may be involved in the figures.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This statement is factual. At the end of May we were, I think, next to bottom in relation to unemployment. The percentage of unemployed to the work force in this State is 1.5 per cent. In Queensland it is 1.8 per cent; in New South Wales, 1.2 per cent; in Victoria, 1 per cent; in Tasmania, 1 per cent; and in Western Australia, 0.9 per cent.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: To what date do these figures refer?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Today, and they are from the Commonwealth Department, so it is correct that we are second from top. Confidence in this State has not diminished, as our work force has increased by 2.8 per cent. I said that I could not accept the figures given by the Hon. Mr. DeGaris, but on checking I found that they were approximately correct, if not exact.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: I think they are exactly correct.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I have checked them, and they are approximately correct. I again thank the Council for its co-operation in getting this Bill through.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

MOTOR MILEAGE RATES.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In view of the dissatisfaction and unrest within the Public Service, will the Chief Secretary give the Government's reasons for its attitude in the matter of claims by the Public Service Association of South Australia Incorporated, seeking increases in motor mileage rates?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The basis of reimbursement to officers of the Public Service for using their private motor vehicles on official business is prescribed by Public Service regulation 67. The Public Service Board has the authority and responsibility of recommending to the Governor the content of the regulation. The Public Service Board has recently examined the current rates and, after hearing submissions from the Public Service Association, advised the association on April 7, 1966, that, in its opinion, no justification has been established for any increase in rates at this stage. No recommendation has, therefore, come before the Government up to date requiring the adoption of an "attitude" by the Government.

It is understood that the Public Service Association has asked the board to reconsider the matter. Any recommendation by the Public Service Board for an alteration in the regulation will be considered by the Government when it is received. The policy as recommended under review by the Public Service Board has been in operation for many years, and the Secretary of the Public Service Association has been informed that the Government will be reviewing the policy concerning usage of all motor cars by departmental officers when the new government garage is completed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. C. D. ROWE.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN moved:

That four months' leave of absence be granted to the Hon. C. D. Rowe on account of absence overseas on Commonwealth Parliamentary Association business.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.52 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 29, at 2.15 p.m.