

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT (1967)

Parliament, which adjourned on March 23, 1967, was prorogued by proclamation dated April 13. By proclamation dated May 4, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, June 20, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 20, 1967.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin) took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy (Sir Mellis Napier), 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. On June 1 this year the Honourable F. H. Walsh tendered his resignation as Premier and Treasurer of the State and that of other Ministers. The Lieutenant-Governor thereupon invited Mr. Dunstan to form a Ministry and a new Ministry was sworn in on the same day.

The portfolios in the new Ministry have been allocated as follows:

- The Hon. D. A. Dunstan, Q.C.—Premier, Treasurer, Attorney-General and Minister of Housing.
- The Hon. A. J. Shard—Chief Secretary and Minister of Health.
- The Hon. C. D. Hutchens—Minister of Works and Minister of Marine.
- The Hon. F. H. Walsh—Minister of Social Welfare.
- The Hon. R. R. Loveday—Minister of Education and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.
- The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Minister of Local Government, Minister of Roads and Minister of Mines.
- The Hon. A. F. Kneebone—Minister of Labour and Industry and Minister of Transport.
- The Hon. G. A. Bywaters—Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forests.
- The Hon. J. D. Corcoran—Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation, Minister of Irrigation and Minister of Immigration.

3. Since I spoke to you last we have lost two former members and one sitting member of this Parliament. I refer to the late Robert Stanley Richards, a member for many years, Leader of the Opposition for some 11 years, a Minister of the Crown for some three years and Premier of the State for a short period in

1933; to the late Rufus Sanders Goldney, a member of the House of Assembly for some 15 years; and the late Charles Caleb Dudley Octoman, who was a member of the Legislative Council for an all too short period but who had performed meritorious public service for some nine years before his election. All of these gentlemen performed signal service for the State and I place on record an expression of our sympathy with their respective families in the knowledge that you all join with me in so doing.

4. The Premier's Department has actively pursued its policy of industrial promotion and has had successes in the establishment of industry as well as increased inquiries for the expansion of industry in the State. The accommodation in the Agent-General's Office in London has been greatly improved and the staff has been re-organized so that a Trade Officer is solely engaged to assist in the promotion of trade and the attraction of industrial investment to the State.

5. During the past season above average crops were reaped in all districts except the Murray Mallee, where conditions deteriorated after a poor start and very little grain was reaped. The exceptional wheat harvest on Eyre Peninsula (24,000,000 bushels), compared with a previous best of 18,000,000, created some delivery problems and the final grain deliveries were not made until towards the end of March, 1967. The wheat production of 1966-67, estimated to be 53,250,000 bushels, almost equals the best wheat yield ever in South Australia—53,900,000 bushels in 1963-64—and it was reaped from nearly 3,000,000 acres at an average yield of 17.87 bushels an acre. The barley harvest of 24,250,000 bushels was reaped from 1,100,000 acres at an average yield of 22 bushels an acre, and 9,800,000 bushels of oats was produced from 473,000 acres at an average yield of nearly 21 bushels an acre. The orange crop, the harvest of which will start this month, will be less than 60 per cent of last year's crop because of the effects on tree health of the leaf drop associated with the high river salinity early in 1966 and the heat wave conditions during flowering in November. As oranges are the principal fruit crop of the State and South Australia provides 60 per cent of Australia's export oranges, the influence of the light orange crop could be widely felt. A record crop of 3,000,000 bushels of oranges was harvested last year and sold at good prices, reflecting credit on the Citrus Organization Committee in its first year of operation.

Fruit fly was discovered at Devon Park on January 30 of this year, the first outbreak since 1963. Despite the long period since the last outbreak and the fact that the outbreak was detected on a public holiday, eradication measures were commenced within three hours of the detection and the outbreak was limited to one suburban garden. Over the past year, the department has expanded greatly its studies of soil fertility, which are becoming increasingly urgent as farm production is intensified. Rehabilitation of Northfield Research Centre has continued with emphasis on fallowing and cropping to control weeds and provide feed for the dairy herd, demolition of obsolete buildings and fencing, re-fencing and establishment of essential buildings for housing and maintenance of implements and storage of hay and establishment of a healthy herd of uniform genetic composition suitable for dairy production studies. Improved laboratory facilities and additional appointments have enabled development of research techniques as well as research programmes based on calf husbandry and the influence of productivity and quality of dairy forage crops, supplemental feeding, mastitis, etc., on compositional quality and suitability of milk for processing. A number of pasture species plots were sown to provide a guide to pasture development during 1968. This and the erection of the dairy shed will enable further sound development of dairy research work. Coupled with the opening of the laboratory office block of the Nuriootpa Viticultural Station in 1965, a research programme into the cause of "dying arm" of grapevines was initiated. This condition is estimated to reduce yields over the whole Barossa Valley by some 40 per cent. The research programme has associated the death of the vine arms with previously unidentified mites. Several new species of mites have been identified and results from preliminary trials with mite control treatments are promising. South Australia is pioneering the use of under-tree sprinkler systems in Australia and this project and other projects related to salt management in irrigation areas are being given high priority in our research programme.

6. Enrolment at Roseworthy for the current year stands at 112, which is believed to be a record. A contract has been let for a second group of new buildings consisting of science laboratories, lecture room and a plant breeding centre. It is expected that these buildings will be ready for use by March, 1968. It has also been decided to add a fourth year to the Roseworthy Diploma of Agriculture

course in 1968. The present diploma will continue but those electing to do the fourth year will be awarded a new diploma—the Roseworthy Diploma of Agricultural Technology. This course is designed to provide training for those joining the extension services of the Agriculture Department or those who plan to work as consultants to farm management advisory services.

7. In the field of forestry, my Government has continued its progressive policy. New plantings during the year were about 6,300 acres and log production from State forests will be about 250,000,000 super feet.

8. Amendments to the Crown Lands Act designed to cover the changing needs of settlers and landholders, mostly rural producers, continue to be considered and I refer in this connection to the amendments made in 1966 and 1967. Progress continues in the preparation of plans for the opening to settlement of the very considerable area of scrub land extending from the Victorian border and bounded by the Lameroo-Pinnaroo railway and the Keith-Bordertown line, and it is hoped that the first blocks will be open for application at the end of the present year or at the beginning of 1968. Legislation to provide special conditions for the leasing of these blocks will be introduced. Following the proclamation of the new National Parks Act and the consequent extension of the powers of the commission, it is intended to prepare plans for the management of each national park, the setting aside of suitable portions to preserve natural landscape, flora and fauna and the development of suitable areas for public recreation and tourism. Work continues on irrigation schemes throughout the State and on the South-Eastern drainage scheme.

9. The value of minerals produced during the calendar year 1966 reached the record figure of \$72,300,000, being \$3,500,000 higher than in 1965. Mineral search has been maintained at a high peak with many exploration companies active, particularly in seeking copper. Although no commercial copper fields were established, encouraging deposits have been revealed in several areas. Following on the discovery of additional gas at Moomba, many of the steps necessary to ensure utilization of this important source of energy have been taken, including financial arrangements with the Commonwealth Government, legislation to set up a Natural Gas Pipelines Authority, and pipeline engineering studies by Bechtel Pacific Corporation Ltd.

10. Much has been accomplished in connection with Aboriginal welfare. During the past

year activity increased in the northern area of the State and patrol officers operating from Andamooka, Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and the North-West Aboriginal Reserve now conduct fortnightly patrols; it is planned to establish a welfare centre at the newly purchased reserve at Indulkana and to appoint a patrol officer at Marree. Further extension of the department's policy in providing houses both on the reserves and in country and metropolitan areas is doing much to improve general living conditions. Improvements in educational facilities, including in some instances a provision of expenses for tertiary education, have been made. Increased activities and avenues of economic employment are being provided on reserves. At the North-West Aboriginal Reserve a venture into mining has proved highly successful and Aborigines are being encouraged to produce good quality artifacts. Formation of Aboriginal councils has been successful and it is hoped that eventually all reserves will be controlled by the Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal Lands Trust has already inspected a number of reserves and arranged for their economic utilization in co-operation with Aboriginal councils.

11. The Department of Social Welfare continues to provide extensive welfare services to the community and this work, which is carried on throughout the State, is continually increasing. During the next financial year, while continuing to provide existing services, the department proposes to extend them. Following the passing of the Adoption of Children Act during the last session, regulations are being prepared and it is anticipated that the Act will be proclaimed early in the next financial year. Besides continuing existing adoption procedures, the Act will enable the department to prevent abuses. Consideration is being given at interstate conferences to improved procedures for dealing with adult probationers who move from one State to another, and the opportunity will be taken to examine also the interstate movement of juvenile probationers. To enable the Minister to promote social welfare under the Social Welfare Act, an organizer of youth welfare activities has been appointed to the department.

12. My Government's progressive policy in the educational field has been continued, the total expenditure for the calendar year 1966 having increased by 13 per cent. The most important development has been the provision of free text books to all children in primary schools, both Government and independent.

Another important development was the establishment of special rural schools at the beginning of 1966, providing secondary education for children in sparsely populated areas. During the forthcoming financial year, among other things, the Government will proceed with stage 2 of the Bedford Park Teachers College, substantial additions to the In-service Training Centre at Arbury Park, the planning of a Northern Teachers College south of Elizabeth, the provision of language laboratories in a number of secondary schools as well as the teachers colleges, and the provision of a new curriculum in the vernacular language at the Musgrave Park School, which is to open in 1968.

13. In the field of public health, among other things I would mention that the first course of training commenced in February for work in the School Dental Health Services. The two-year course will have an annual intake of 16 girls. A Superintendent, School Dental Services, was appointed in March, 1967, to supervise both the training school and the field service. By courtesy of the New Zealand Government, the Senior Dentist of the training school worked for several months during the latter half of 1966 in the New Zealand Dental Service, where the system of dental nurses for children has been in operation for many years. A senior tutor sister, on loan from New Zealand, commenced duty early in April. I would also mention that, following considerable discussions in the National Health and Medical Research Council, the use of Sabin (oral) poliomyelitis vaccine was recommended as the normal method of protection against poliomyelitis. It is proposed that use of the vaccine will commence as from July 1, 1967. In general, this vaccine will replace injections of Salk vaccine.

14. Hospital services throughout the State have been improved during the past financial year. In particular attention has been given to improvement of services for the mentally ill. During this financial year the second child guidance clinic, and also an outpatients' clinic and advisory service for the intellectually handicapped both located at Prospect, have become fully established. A child-minding day centre for intellectually handicapped children has also commenced in a limited way at the same address.

The first community mental health centre in this State opened at Parkside in February and is providing a good range of initial psychiatric services and social support for a portion of

the southern suburbs of Adelaide comprising some 50,000 people. During 1967-68 a third course for mental health visitors is to be held, and these new workers in the psychiatric field have aroused considerable interest in other States. The Tasmanian Government is sponsoring five nominees to undertake the course by arrangement with my Government. It is also hoped that during 1967-68 it will be possible to open a second community mental health centre to serve the Woodville and Port Adelaide areas. It is anticipated that the initial contracts for the construction of the Strathmont Hospital and Training Centre will be made during 1967-68 and it is pleasing to advise that the Commonwealth intends to extend the present subsidy arrangements for capital works for psychiatric institutions for a further three years from July 1 next.

15. Work has continued on hospital buildings, the amount of capital expenditure during the current financial year approximating \$7,100,000, while capital expenditure on school buildings will amount to nearly \$11,000,000, and on other Government buildings will approximate \$7,400,000. During the next financial year work will proceed on the Royal Adelaide Hospital and preparatory work for the southern district and Modbury hospitals. Provision for new schools and additions to existing schools will be made and work will commence on the planning of a new Government Printing Office at Netley and an agriculture office block at Northfield.

16. The road programmes continues: during the current financial year the bituminous road system was extended by about 200 miles. General improvements in the State road system have included progress towards the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the development of transport facilities and services in the metropolitan area; approval by the Public Works Standing Committee of the construction of a new bridge over the Murray River at Kingston; consideration of a new bridge at Port Augusta; and other works. The schedule of proposed works for the new financial year, including better roads in the remote areas of the far north, will involve a total expenditure of some \$34,000,000.

17. Work has progressed in connection with the Port Pirie to Cockburn railway standardization project, and this work will be continued.

18. Progress has been made on the Kangaroo Creek dam, the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla, Tailem Bend to Keith, and Swan

Reach to Warren trunk mains, the Middle River dam, Happy Valley reservoir works and other works in connection with water supplies throughout the State. Much work has also been done on sewerage facilities. Works in progress will be continued, and other projects include the Murray Bridge to Hahndorf main, an increase in capacity of the Mannum-Adelaide main, supplies of water to Coober Pedy, sewerage facilities in various parts of the metropolitan area, at Mannum and at Millicent, and work associated with the Chowilla dam.

19. The South Australian Housing Trust expects to complete about 3,200 houses and flats during the current financial year, a number almost equal to last year when 3,250 were completed. The trust has continued to aid industrial expansion especially in the country—indeed, a record number of houses is expected to be completed in Whyalla while more houses have been built than in previous years in towns such as Millicent, Murray Bridge and in the Upper Murray area. The first group of houses designed for handicapped people, particularly paraplegics, was completed at Mitchell Park in March of this year. The trust hopes to expand its rental programme in the country during the forthcoming financial year and considerable housing programmes will be carried out at Ingle Farm, Henley Beach, O'Sullivan Beach, Smithfield Plains and Parafield Gardens.

20. The Electricity Trust has had a record year with the value of electricity sales exceeding \$50,000,000 for the first time. The construction programme has also been a record at \$35,000,000 for the year. The most important part of this programme has been the construction of the Torrens Island power station, where the first 120,000-kilowatt turbo-generator in this station has now been brought into service. This is the largest and most efficient power unit so far installed in South Australia. It has twice the capacity of the largest machine installed at Port Augusta or Osborne. Work is continuing on the installation of three more 120,000-kilowatt machines, and the second will be brought into service in March, 1968. During the year work was completed on the 33,000-volt undersea cable to supply power to Kangaroo Island. This is the longest undersea cable of this type in Australia. The trust has taken over the existing electricity undertaking in Kingscote and has provided power supply to Penneshaw, American River and Parndana. A second 132,000-volt transmission line is being con-

structed from Port Augusta to Whyalla to strengthen supply to this important industrial centre. The 132,000-volt transmission line from Whyalla to Port Lincoln is almost completed. A new 132,000-volt transmission line will be constructed in the next few months to provide additional power to Port Pirie for the new zinc production plant being built there. Apart from these major projects, a widespread construction programme is required to enlarge the distribution system to provide for additional consumers and for the increasing requirements of existing consumers. During the year over 14,000 new consumers were added to the trust's system bringing the total to over 380,000.

21. The Industrial Commission was established on July 1 last and has dealt with almost double the number of claims than were made to the Industrial Court during the previous year. Despite the large number of claims there was, for the second year in succession, a decrease in the number of industrial disputes in the State. The Government has encouraged the settlement of claims by conciliation and acknowledges the responsible attitude generally shown by trade unions and employers. Despite the difficult economic conditions resulting from the prolonged drought and other factors beyond the control of the Government, there was during the last year an increase in the number of persons in civilian employment and the number of factories in the State. My Government will lay before you a complete revision of the Industrial Code particularly in respect of working conditions and the policy of equal pay for equal work. My Government will also lay before you a Bill to provide for three months' long service leave after 10 years of continuous service. It is pleasing to record that the Government's efforts to reduce industrial accidents have been effective, there having been a substantial decline in the number of such accidents during the past year. A Bill to extend the scope of the Steam Boilers and Enginedrivers Act to include vessels in which any gas or liquid is stored at high pressure will be laid before you.

22. The committee to revise the Local Government Act has continued its work, having taken evidence from some 50 organizations and persons as well as considering numerous written submissions. The committee has also investigated local government activity in some of the other States. The Royal Commission into local government boundaries in the South-East completed its inquiry during the year and no

changes in boundaries have resulted. The committee appointed to investigate local government accounting procedures expects to submit its report by the end of June this year.

23. The Licensing Bill, which lapsed during the last session, will be restored to the Notice Paper. The Government has received many suggestions for the amendment of the Bill and amendments considered to effect improvements will be introduced.

24. The Road Traffic Act Amendment Bill to provide for the use of breathalysers will be re-introduced with some amendments.

25. The Bill to provide for a State Government Insurance Office will be re-introduced.

26. A Bill to deal with a wide variety of unfair trade practices within the State will be laid before you.

27. A Bill to bring the Mining (Petroleum) Act up to date and a Bill to amend the Mining Act will be introduced. When agreement has been reached with the Commonwealth and the other States, a Bill to deal with off-shore oil operations will be introduced.

28. Following detailed consideration, a Bill for a new Public Service Act will be laid before you. The present Act has been in operation for over 50 years and many of its provisions are out-dated.

29. A Bill to make provision for strata titles will be laid before you.

30. A Bill for a completely revised Workmen's Compensation Act will be laid before you.

31. My Government intends to place before you legislation to continue the operation of the Prices Act.

32. A Bill to amend the Succession Duties Act to provide relief for members of the military forces operating in Vietnam and to include certain uncontroversial matters in the Bill that failed to pass during the last session will be laid before you.

33. A Bill to provide for the adoption of a uniform code for the marking and standardization of packaged goods will be laid before you.

34. Discussions concerning necessary measures for the protection of the public and the building industry have been taking place between my Ministers and interested parties, and a Bill to provide for registration of builders and contractors may be laid before you.

35. The decline in purchases of pressed metal products from South Australia has had adverse effects on the South Australian economy in the last two years. However, a

revival of the markets for these products is now evident, and this, combined with my Ministers' success in achieving budgetary stability, augurs well for a period of planned expansion of industrial and commercial activity immediately ahead. For this task the Industrial Development Branch of the Premier's Department will be expanded.

36. The Planning and Development Act is expected to come into operation shortly. The Act establishes an 11-man State Planning Authority to implement and review the Town Planning Committee's 1962 development plan for the metropolitan area, and the authority may prepare similar types of plans to guide the growth of country towns. The authority is empowered to acquire land to assist in promoting development. A planning and development fund is to be established to assist the authority. The Act also establishes an independent Planning Appeal Board. The administration of town planning has now been transferred to the Minister of Local Government.

37. In August last my Treasurer presented a Budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a deficit on current operations of \$2,316,000. The deficit on Revenue Account at the end of 1965-66 was \$5,612,000, so that the forecast was for an accumulated deficit of \$7,928,000 at June 30, 1967. During the year several factors have influenced the State Budget. The continued low level of economic activity throughout Australia has affected adversely a wide section of industry in South Australia and this has had secondary effects in reducing Government revenues. Prospective revenues were also reduced because of the rejection by Parliament of amendments to the succession duties legislation. A number of wage and salary determinations have meant heavy increases in payments. On the other hand, an improved rural season and cool summer have had favourable effects on some revenues and in reducing the cost of pumping water. Half way through the year it appeared that the net effect of all factors would be a considerable increase in the current deficit beyond the forecast. An increase in Commonwealth grants negotiated at a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers in February, and a subsequent small improvement in some areas of the economy, give prospects that the deficit within the Budget as planned might be held to a figure very close to the original estimate. However, having regard to the consequences under the Financial Agreement of funding a revenue deficit from Loan funds and to the prospect of some improvement in Loan

balances, it is now proposed to relieve Revenue Account further by transferring against Loan Account certain grants towards non-Government hospital buildings originally contemplated on the Estimates of Expenditure, but in other States usually charged against Loan Account. This adjustment is expected almost, if not entirely, to eliminate the prospective revenue deficit for this year.

38. The Loan Budget presented in August last anticipated that it would be possible to reduce the deficit in Loan Account of \$2,465,000 at June 30, 1966, to only \$144,000 by June 30, 1967, and that the improvement of \$2,321,000 so achieved would offset the estimated current revenue deficit of \$2,316,000. Payments by the Public Buildings Department will be well above estimate due to rapid progress by contractors and through my Government's policy that all possible State action to keep building employment high should be taken, but it now appears that certain major payments for railway and water projects will carry over into 1967-68. The net effect at June 30, 1967, is expected to be an improvement in the Loan balance greater than originally estimated. The proposed transfer from Revenue Account to Loan Account of certain grants towards non-Government hospital buildings will probably result in some deficit on Loan Account at June 30, 1967, but not a large one.

Members of the House of Assembly:

39. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of \$1,360,000 during the current financial year will be laid before you. Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1968, will also be laid before you.

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

40. 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.

41. In addition to the matters to which I have referred, my Ministers have under consideration Bills dealing with abattoirs, cattle compensation, citrus marketing, Crown lands, dentists, electoral, fruit fly, hairdressers registration, highways, hours of driving, Institute of Technology, land settlement, local government, lottery and gaming, Morphett Street bridge, Parliamentary superannuation, pest control, place names, places of public entertainment, public examinations, stock diseases, vermin, veterinary surgeons, vine fruit and vegetables, waterworks, and other matters.

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

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

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

NEW MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

The Hon. Victor George Springett, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the President, took his seat in the Council as a member for the Southern District in place of the Hon. L. H. Densley (resigned).

DEATH OF HON. R. S. RICHARDS.

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

That the Legislative Council express its deep regret at the recent death of the Hon. Robert Stanley Richards, a former Premier of this State, and place on record its appreciation of his public services, and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late honourable gentleman, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I had the privilege of knowing the late Mr. Richards rather well. He was a gentleman one could not help admiring. He was born on May 31, 1885, so it will be seen that he lived longer than the average person, being over 80 years of age at the time of his death. He was educated at the Moonta Public School and the Moonta School of Mines. Mr. Richards had a long and distinguished record of public life in the Parliament of South Australia, to which he was first elected on April 6, 1918. He served as a member for Wallaroo for 31 years. From 1924 to 1927 he was Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly. From 1930 to 1933 he was Commissioner of Crown Lands and Minister of Mines, and in that same period he was also Minister of Marine. From 1931 to 1933 he also occupied the position of Minister of Labour and Employment. He was Treasurer (at that time recognized as Premier), Minister of Irrigation and Minister of Repatriation for a short period in 1933. He was a member of the Public Works Standing Committee from 1933 to 1938, and he was Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly from 1938 to 1949, a period in which I had the honour and privilege of serving under him as the member for Prospect, as the District was known in those

days. One could not have worked with a more dedicated and respected man than the late Mr. Richards.

Mr. Richards resigned from Parliament in 1949 on his appointment by the Commonwealth Government as Administrator of Nauru, in which capacity he served until 1952, when he retired. On his return to South Australia he was appointed a member of the South Australian Forestry Board and served in that capacity from 1954 until 1965, when he relinquished the post at his own request because of failing health. Mr. Richards was a gentleman that I always respected, and I think every member of Parliament respected him, too. He was a firm but tolerant man, and one that stuck religiously to his convictions. He was a very good church-goer, and no-one would question his right to that. He did many acts of kindness that many people never knew about. Mr. President, I can say that it was a pleasure to have known the late Mr. Richards, and I know that all members of this Chamber will join with me in this motion of regret at his passing and in expressing sympathy to his family.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I take this opportunity of supporting the motion before the Chair, which is an expression of regret at the recent death of the Hon. R. S. Richards, a former Premier of this State. The Chief Secretary has given details of the public career of Mr. Richards, and I do not think anything can be gained by repeating those details. I emphasize that Mr. Richards gave very long and dedicated service to this State. He was a member of Parliament for 31 years, and following his resignation from Parliament he served this country further in other capacities. Perhaps I could quote the words of Sir Thomas Playford on the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Richards from Parliamentary life in 1949 to take up his position in Nauru. On that occasion Sir Thomas said that Mr. Richards was leaving after a very honourable career in politics in South Australia, and I am sure that is a correct appraisal of the position. I and my Party lend support to the motion and also extend sympathy to the surviving members of the late honourable member's family.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to add to the remarks already made regarding the services of the late Hon. R. S. Richards. As has been mentioned by previous speakers, he had a long career in public life, some 31 years being spent in serving the public in this Par-

liament. During about half of that period Mr. Richards was personally known to me. The late honourable gentleman was a man of integrity and one that I always respected. We had different political views, but that did not in any way influence the opinion I had of him. He was a man who appeared to be serious minded, but he had quite a keen sense of humour and was particularly entertaining when he indulged in Cornish stories. As has been said, when he relinquished his position in Parliament he served in other spheres, and I know that he applied the same zeal in carrying out to the best of his ability the responsibilities entrusted to him. I consider that South Australia owes a great deal to Mr. Richards for the services that he rendered. I ask honourable members to stand in their places in silence in carrying the motion.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 1.7 to 2.30 p.m.]

QUESTIONS

SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Education.

Leave granted.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: The Education Department employs quite a number of women on a part-time basis as swimming instructors. These teachers work approximately from October until Easter during the third and first terms respectively of the school year. They are paid, I am informed, on an hourly basis. First, is the Minister aware that teachers who worked for the department in this capacity last summer did not receive their pay until last week for work performed in February, March and April? Secondly, is the Minister aware that when these women receive their cheques, frequently months late, an amount of five cents has been deducted for the duty stamp, despite the general rule that a debtor is responsible for finding and paying his full debt to the person to whom it is due? Thirdly, can the Minister ascertain for me whether there are any other employees of the Education Department or any employees of any other Government department being denied the wages for work they have done, through either departmental negligence or the Government's lack of funds?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I am surprised to hear this type of question and the

allegations it contains. I cannot answer fully the various questions asked by the honourable member but I shall convey them to my colleague and bring back a report as soon as it is available.

GILES POINT.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary, the leader of the Government in this Chamber.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I direct this question to the leader of the Government in this place because I believe this matter is at present at Government level. In last Saturday morning's newspaper tenders were called by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited for the construction of a 1,500,000-bushel silo at Giles Point. Contingent upon a favourable report from the Public Works Committee, will the Chief Secretary indicate to the Council whether the Government intends to proceed with the construction of deep-sea loading facilities at an early date at Giles Point?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The honourable member knows that this matter is not under my departmental control. However, I shall refer his question to the Premier, on the assumption, as the honourable member thinks, that this matter is at Government level, get a reply and convey it to the honourable member as soon as practicable.

NORTHERN WATER SUPPLIES.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: My question relates to the water supply situation for the coming summer period in the northern part of the State, in which area water is derived from three reservoirs—Beetaloo, Baroota and Bundaleer; also, some water comes from the Morgan-Whyalla main. A recent press report stated that the present combined storage of these reservoirs was only 732,000,000 gallons out of a total capacity of 3,589,000,000 gallons. As most members are aware, the State is suffering from a very dry season. When this occurred previously it was the Government's custom to pump water into the reservoirs through the Morgan-Whyalla main. Of course, the main from Morgan has since been duplicated. Can the Minister say whether the Government intends to resume pumping into

these reservoirs at an early date, and, if it does not, can we have an assurance that the capacity of the duplicated main is sufficient to meet all needs at peak periods during the summer?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I am sure that the Minister of Works is as much concerned as we are about the State's present position, which has resulted from the drought that we appear to be passing through. The Minister looks closely at the water supply position in the north and I should say that he has the matter well under control. However, I shall refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring back a reply as soon as possible.

HOUSE MORTGAGES.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary, who represents the Premier.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: It is understandable, although regrettable, that many people are leaving South Australia for other States, and this trend results in there being vacant houses that are difficult to sell because some lenders are unable to advance mortgage money on other than brand new houses. Many young people prefer to buy these vacant houses rather than purchase houses in the outer suburbs. Will the Chief Secretary ask the Premier to consider instructing the State Bank to grant mortgages under the Advances for Homes Act, 1928-58, for both old and new houses so that no differentiation is made between these two categories? Such a differentiation has been the main policy in the past.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I was under the impression, and still am, that part of the honourable member's suggestion is already in operation. However, I believe he wants a larger amount to be available for these houses. The tenor of the question—that nothing is being done—is not factual. More money has been available for established houses. If members ask this type of question they will get that type of answer. However, I shall take up the question with the Premier to see whether further—and I emphasize "further"—money can be made available for this purpose.

I should like, Mr. President, to take this opportunity to place on record my congratulations and those of my colleagues to the Hon. V. G. Springett on his election to this Chamber. I apologize for not seeking permission to do this earlier. If I do not take the opportunity

now it may be some time before I am able to extend our congratulations. I know that, because of his educational standing and ability, he will bring quite an amount of wisdom to this Chamber. His election will be in the interests of people in the Southern District, which he now has the honour to represent, and his presence here will be an enlightenment to honourable members. He will be made most welcome and accepted among us as an honourable member of this Chamber. He may well find that we will not always agree with his politics, but what is said in the Chamber expresses the point of view of honourable members and that is where it is left. No doubt over the years Mr. Springett will come to be a respected and welcome member of this place. On behalf of my colleagues, in particular, and all the members of this Chamber, I extend to Mr. Springett a sincere welcome.

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:

Gawler Sewerage System,
 Happy Valley Water Supply and Sewerage System (final),
 Kangaroo Creek Reservoir (Revised Scheme) (final),

Kingston Bridge (final),
 Mannum Sewerage System,
 Millicent North Primary School,
 Port Augusta Bridge.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Hons. A. J. Shard, R. C. DeGaris, 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. M. Hill.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

That a committee consisting of the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, S. C. Bevan, R. C. DeGaris, 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 Governor's Deputy and to report on Tuesday, June 27.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.50 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 21, at 2.15 p.m.