

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 11, 1967.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

MURRAY BRIDGE ROAD BRIDGE.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: I refer to the reply given by the Minister to a question I asked on July 4 regarding the Murray Bridge road bridge. At page 283 of *Hansard*, the Minister said:

If the honourable member wants to know about the condition of the bridge, all I can say is that the bridge is in sound condition.

I also quote from a statement by the Minister that was reported in the *Advertiser* yesterday. It states:

It was felt by the Cabinet that the need for a new bridge was a pressing one because the present bridge could not carry heavy vehicles now used for long hauls.

In view of these extraordinarily conflicting statements, I ask the Minister whether he would care to retract his previous answer, with a view to giving honourable members new information.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: No, I do not retract the previous answer. The statement in yesterday's *Advertiser* was in answer to much propaganda that had been published in relation to Murray Bridge. Last week, I said that the present bridge at that stage was safe, barring accidents, and I repeat that now. The position is (and I suppose everybody may as well know what is what and who is who at this stage) that it has been considered that there will be a need for a new highway as an interstate highway which could by-pass Murray Bridge, thus necessitating a new bridge across the river at some point other than at Murray Bridge. I took this matter to Cabinet for the purpose of forwarding to the Public Works Committee a reference for an inquiry into the necessity for a new bridge at Murray Bridge and the most appropriate position for it.

This matter has been referred to the Public Works Committee for inquiry. I appreciate that a statement had been made in the press that some consideration was being given to a

new bridge across the river other than at Murray Bridge, and it could perhaps have caused some stampeding by local residents at Murray Bridge who, not knowing the details of it, might have had some fear in so far as Murray Bridge itself is concerned, which was the last thing I wished to create. Notification appeared in the local press at Murray Bridge as a result of a letter sent from the Commissioner of Highways to the council there for the purpose of discussing this matter. The letter was read at a council meeting, which was attended by representatives of the local press.

As a result, certain statements appeared in the local press taking it for granted that there would be a new bridge over the river, and that Murray Bridge was apparently going to be by-passed. The accounts I have read in the daily press in Adelaide have in fact supported a proposition for a bridge over the river at some place other than at Murray Bridge. Whether or not that will eventuate, I do not know, for this will depend upon the Public Works Committee's inquiries. My latest report from the Commissioner of Highways is that the present bridge, with its present restricted traffic, is safe for at least the next 10 years.

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Will the Minister give an assurance that the projected plans of the Government in connection with this bridge will be made known as soon as possible in order to allay the justifiable fears of certain business interests in the Murray Bridge district?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I have already said that this matter has been referred to the Public Works Committee, which will inquire fully into it. All persons will be given an opportunity of appearing before the committee to give evidence and to express their opinions in relation to the whole matter. I imagine that the committee will lose no time in conducting its inquiry.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Will the Minister of Roads indicate the terms of reference to the Public Works Standing Committee? If the scope of the inquiry, particularly whether alternative sites have been included in the reference, were made known, local people would be assisted when giving evidence.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The terms of reference to the committee are: whether a new bridge over the Murray River is necessary; and, if so, whether it should be on the site of the present bridge or elsewhere. This matter will be publicized. Honourable members who

are members of the committee know that the committee invites persons to give evidence before it. Everybody in the district concerned will know that there is a move afoot to have a new bridge over the Murray, but whether it will be at Murray Bridge will depend on the committee's report.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked the Minister of Labour and Industry some time ago regarding swimming instructors?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: On behalf of my colleague, I have the following reply for the honourable member:

Delays in the payment of claims from swimming instructors can be caused by a number of reasons. Before they are placed in the hands of the Accountant for payment they have to be checked by officers of the Physical Education Branch. Some instructors work in as many as 18 schools, and as claims have to be certified by the headmaster this means that 18 separate claim forms have to be submitted and checked. Where there are a number like this, it is normal to hold them until all are in to enable one cheque to be drawn. Not all claim forms are submitted promptly. The campaign ended towards the end of March and all claims should have been in by mid-April, but about 20 per cent had still not been received by the end of April. One claim arrived on June 29.

Some forms have to be returned for clarification and/or signature. This year each claim had to be amended because of a marginal increase in the award rate which dated from before the commencement of swimming classes but was gazetted after their completion. The Accountant states that he is not holding any claims at the moment, and therefore it is assumed that the cases mentioned by the honourable member have now been cleared up. However, to enable the apparent source of delay to be pin-pointed in these cases, it would help if the honourable member would provide details of the persons concerned when they will be investigated.

HOSPITAL CHARGES.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to directing a question to the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: In the policy speech of the Labor Party prior to the last election the then Leader of the Opposition (Hon. F. H. Walsh), in criticizing hospital charges imposed by the Playford Government, said that increased charges imposed by the Playford Government for public hospitals had had a discouraging effect on people who needed

hospital treatment and were not in a position to pay for same. The Leader went on to say:

Labor will so administer the regulations under the Hospitals Act that hospital charges will be remitted in cases where people cannot pay for them without hardship.

Can the Chief Secretary say how many persons using public hospitals have had their charges remitted because of hardship, and what is the total sum of the charges so remitted?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: It is obvious that I cannot answer the question straightaway but I will try to find out. I assure the honourable member that, if he wants to make political capital out of it, he will not win, because I have not received from a member either of this Council or of another place one complaint about hardship cases in respect of charges in a public hospital. We have been remarkably free from complaints in the last two years. I know of not one case of hardship where a person has had to pay. However, I will try to find out the number of cases that have been accepted without payment. I hope the policy pursued in the last two years will be continued in the interests of the community for a number of years to come.

AIR SEARCHES.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Recently, stockmen have been lost in the north of the State. The police have telephoned the owners of light aircraft in the near vicinity and asked them to help in the search for the stockmen. In one instance recently the owner of an aircraft was not a man of great means; he used his aircraft for sight-seers around the Flinders Ranges. Will the Government consider paying compensation for the limited use of search aircraft when requested by the police when looking for missing people?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: It is a difficult question. One must have sympathy, but it is a wellknown fact that many people at the request of the police do certain things to help the community, which is appreciated by the Government and the Police Department in general; but I do not know whether it would be in the best interests of all concerned to have an overall blanket policy. However, if the honourable member will give me the particulars of the specific case he has in mind, I shall be prepared to take it up with the

Commissioner of Police, ascertain the details of it, have it examined and see what, if anything, can be done.

BAROSSA VALLEY ROAD.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Roads an answer to a question I asked on July 4 about the Barossa Valley Highway?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The Commissioner of Highways reports as follows:

There are no immediate plans to undertake any reconstruction of the existing roadway between Gawler and Tanunda. Although the alignment is substandard in sections, the road is generally adequate to carry the traffic that uses it, and its priority for reconstruction, relative to the needs of other roads in the State, is not high.

NURSES AWARD.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of June 29 about the estimated cost to the Government of the new nurses award?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The estimated additional cost to the Government in a full financial year of the recently announced new award for nurses is as follows: Government hospitals, \$346,000. I draw the honourable member's attention to this: As regards Government subsidized hospitals, if, as is anticipated, this new award flows to nurses employed in the 50 subsidized hospitals in the country, it is estimated that the Government may be involved in payment of additional subsidy to these hospitals totalling approximately \$30,000.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: In the light of the information that the Chief Secretary has just given, will he say whether the Government intends to further increase hospital fees and charges?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No.

WAIKERIE COURTHOUSE.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: On June 27 I asked the Chief Secretary a question regarding the Waikerie courthouse, and I pointed out that the court was meeting in difficult circumstances in a very small room. Has he a reply?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Sketch plans for the combined courthouse, police station and office block have reached an advanced stage and should be completed shortly. Priorities for courthouse buildings in the 1967-68 programme will be discussed by the Director of the Public Buildings Department and court authorities

within the next few days. Further planning on this project beyond the sketch stage and the programme for the commencement of construction will depend on the priority allotted.

POLDA-KIMBA MAIN.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Has the Chief Secretary obtained a reply from the Minister of Works to my recent question regarding the Poldo-Kimba main?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: My colleague advises that no opportunity arose for this matter to be discussed officially with the Commonwealth Government at the recent meeting of the Loan Council. However, the Poldo-Kimba scheme has been listed with the Commonwealth for consideration, and detailed submissions will be submitted to the Commonwealth Government shortly for analysis by its officers.

FREIGHT RATES.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary representing the Minister of Transport this afternoon and also in his capacity as Leader of the Government in this Council.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I understand that the freight rate between Adelaide and other capital cities is more favourable than the rate from a country station to another capital, even when that station is closer to the destination. In many country areas there are industries and enterprises that may wish to submit tenders in other States. I recently came across an instance where a person wished to do this but could not tender at a favourable price because of the higher freight rates from his place of business to the destination. Many of these places, such as the case I have in mind, are on interstate lines. This man's goods would have had to be transported to Adelaide and sent from there to an interstate destination, and the additional cost was too great to compete with an Adelaide tenderer. Will the Chief Secretary ask the Minister of Transport to take this matter up with Ministers of Transport in other States to see whether agreement can be reached to fix a freight rate from a place within this State to a destination in any other State comparable with the rate from Adelaide to interstate capitals? In the meantime, will the Minister consider fixing freight rates that are favourable and comparable at least as far as the border, for industries in country areas that wish to compete with city industries in interstate trade?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I shall be pleased to refer the honourable member's question to my colleague so that it may be examined, and I shall bring back a reply as soon as practicable.

PORT PIRIE POLICE BUILDING.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Recently two prisoners escaped from the new police building at Port Pirie, and it was alleged in court that they cut their way through the iron bars of their cell with table knives. Will the Chief Secretary see that the steel used in kitchen knives is of a quality that will not cut through steel bars or, better still, will he see that high tensile steel bars are placed in prisons in future?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am glad that the honourable member said that the prisoners were alleged to have cut through the iron bars of the cell with table knives. I inspected the building just after it was erected and I would not believe that a prisoner would be able to cut the bars with a table knife. However, I will obtain a report on the matter, but I remind the honourable member that this is merely another instance of it being unwise to take too much notice of everything printed.

STOP-WORK MEETINGS.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: As the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the South Australian Trades and Labor Council have apparently decided that there should be stoppages in protest against the concept of a total wage, and as it is obvious that employees will lose wages as a result of the proposed stoppages, will the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will inform the unions concerned that stoppages or strikes are illegal in South Australia or take steps to see that the employees concerned have the opportunity of engaging in a secret ballot before taking part in these stoppages?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: If permitted, I could give a complete answer to that question, because everybody knows where I stand on that subject. My understanding is that stoppages will be in the lunch hour.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: The employees will still lose money.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Not when protest meetings are held in the lunch hour. The honourable member has a lot to learn if he does not know that. I have been associated with

industry all my life and in my experience such meetings have been held in the lunch hour; employees did not lose anything, and there was no loss of production.

The Hon. F. J. Potter: In this case the talk is of a four-hour stoppage.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Never mind what they are talking about: they have agreed to lunch hour protest meetings. An election is looming and Opposition members want to paint everything as black as possible. They should stick to the truth. Last Saturday the Trades and Labor Council said that protest meetings would be held in the lunch hour. I am not concerned with the Australian Council of Trade Unions; I am concerned with the decision of the Trades and Labor Council in this State. That decision is legal in this State: no-one has the right to say that it is illegal.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I wish to repeat a portion of my question, because I do not think the Chief Secretary answered it. On June 24 it was reported in the *Advertiser* that the A.C.T.U. executive said that there would be lunch-hour stoppages in protest against the total wage judgment and that in appropriate cases these would be extended to the remainder of the shift. The report went on to say that some industries could be adversely affected by the stoppages, which could expand to at least four hours. I think the Minister will agree that in those circumstances men will lose wages. Will the Chief Secretary say whether, if those circumstances come to pass in this State, the Government will see that some form of secret ballot is introduced so that the people who will lose the wages will have an opportunity to vote?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The executive of the United Trades and Labor Council has decided that lunch-hour protest meetings will be held, but the meeting will decide whether the stoppages will be extended further. The unions have been directed that there shall be no stoppages in Government departments. The Government will not interfere and direct the Trades and Labor Council what it should do. The council is a responsible body of people elected to do a certain job. It may want to hold a secret ballot or it may take a vote in the traditional way: by a show of hands. The Government will not direct that a secret ballot be held.

CHOWILLA DAM.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: On July 4 I asked the Chief Secretary a question in two parts concerning tenders for the Chowilla dam. Has he obtained a reply from the Minister of Works?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The reply, in two parts, is as follows:

(1) Following the May meeting of the River Murray Commission, the department has discussed with two of the tenderers for Chowilla the possibility of extending their offer to September 30. No firm advice has been received as to the acceptability of this by the companies concerned, but a practical working arrangement is expected to be achieved.

(2) An interim report on the present investigation into the benefits of Chowilla in relation to the new cost structure is expected to be received by the River Murray Commissioners early next week. The technical committee is proceeding with further detailed studies and the final report covering all present investigations should be made before the end of July. It is possible that the interim report will contain adequate information for the commission to proceed.

ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Last week I had occasion to make some comments about the Roseworthy Agricultural College and the new facilities being provided there. In view of the fact that around the new machine shop and the associated facilities there is a heavy bitumen sealed road and that a sealed road runs past the college, will the Minister of Roads ask his colleague to give further consideration to the sealing of the main internal access roads from the Government highway to the main college building and the farm headquarters?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I shall refer the matter to my colleague and obtain a reply as soon as possible.

MURRAY RIVER SALINITY.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: During the Address in Reply debate I mentioned salinity in the Murray River, with particular reference to Victoria and New South Wales. Can the Chief Secretary assure me that these matters are receiving attention by the River Murray Commission?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports:

Salinity in the Murray River is at present being investigated by a committee set up by the Minister of Works, the Murray Basin Irrigation Areas Drainage Committee. This committee comprises an engineer, an agricultural scientist, a geologist and other technical experts, and is particularly concerned with the diversion of salt water from the river in South Australia. It is undertaking a large amount of field investigations and, while this will take some time, it is essential to have proper technical information before taking action in this very serious and important matter. The River Murray Commission is at present seeking to engage a consultant to survey and report on the whole matter of salinity in the Murray River system. This work will comprise the whole river valley, and of course this is particularly important to us in South Australia as control of salinity of water entering the State is essential if problems in South Australia are to be kept within manageable proportions. At present there is pressure from the Sunraysia area of Victoria to increase minimum flows past Mildura, with the purpose of ensuring that those areas are not subject to salinity problems. This is being very carefully watched, as such action could ultimately mean that the upper States could use the river as a means of disposing of saline effluents that should be treated as carefully as is done in this State.

KIMBA WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to the question I asked on July 4 concerning the cost of water in the county of Buxton?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The Minister of Works reports:

Should cartage become necessary, the department would deliver water to the tanks, from where landholders would collect their supplies as usual. There would not be any charge involved.

LYELL McEWIN HOSPITAL.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: On June 21 I asked the Chief Secretary a question about deputations that had been introduced to him regarding the Lyell McEwin Hospital at Elizabeth and an investigation that was being conducted currently by one of the officers of the Auditor-General's Department. At that time he said he hoped that within a week or two he would have a reply that would satisfy the councils in the area. I do not want to be accused of being tedious about this matter but, as the honourable gentleman would know, the councils are at this stage trying to get their budgets out

for the coming year and it is important that they know where they are going. Therefore, I ask the Minister whether he is in a position to make an offer to the councils at an early date.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I regret that the whole question has not reached finality. I do not want to go into the matter further at this stage, except to say that sometimes things get bogged down at this time of the year. The docket covering this matter has not yet been returned to me, and to be quite truthful I am not very interested in what the docket might contain, because I have my own ideas on the matter. However, until I get it back and ascertain other officers' points of view, I cannot go any further. I know that the honourable member is anxious to have the whole matter cleared up but I am just as concerned as he is. I believe that the final decision reached will meet with everybody's approval.

FISHING RAMPS.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing either the Minister of Marine or the Minister of Agriculture, whoever is the more appropriate.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Work is proceeding with repairs to the jetty at Kingston. A new T-head is being constructed, and I believe it is the intention of the department to provide at this T-head a sloping ramp for use, amongst other things, by dinghies. It is proposed that this ramp will have a continuous slope to the water level. However, the fishermen in the area say that the provision of such a ramp would not be at all useful to them, and that

what is required is a sloping ramp with a certain area of the ramp at about normal water level being completely level so that they can load and unload their dinghies from that area. Such a ramp exists at Beachport, but some time ago it was decided to extend that ramp and convert it to a sloping ramp. The fishermen at both ports are concerned about this. Therefore, I ask the Minister representing either the Minister of Marine or the Minister of Agriculture whether the department intends to proceed with any work on the Beachport dinghy ramp and, regarding Kingston, whether consideration will be given to providing a ramp at the T-head with a level landing area?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I shall be happy to refer the Leader's question to the appropriate Minister. At the moment I do not know who that is, but I will see that the request reaches the proper place.

HARBOURS EQUIPMENT.

The Hon. L. R. HART (on notice): What number of the following items of equipment is owned by the Department of Marine and Harbours and what is the age and condition of same:

- (a) Diesel pile hammers?
- (b) Other pile hammers?
- (c) Pile frames?
- (d) Floating plant?
- (e) Auxiliary equipment?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: As the answers to the questions occupy three foolscap pages in tabulated form, with the permission and concurrence of the Council I ask that I be permitted to give the Hon. Mr. Hart a copy of these answers now, and to have the answers incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

HARBOURS EQUIPMENT.

Item.	Plant No.	Age Years.	No.	Conditions.
PILING HAMMERS.				
Diesel			Nil	
Steam/Air—				
No. 3 McKiernan Terry	N11-02	26	1	Fair
9B ² McKiernan Terry	N11-03	40	1	Fair
7B McKiernan Terry	N11-94	42	1	Fair
9 ^c Single Acting BSP	N11-05	40	1	Unserviceable—has not been used for approximately 30 years
7B McKiernan Terry	N11-07	18	1	Good
7B Morrison Bearby	N11-09	17	1	Good
9B ³ McKiernan Terry	N11-10	14	1	Good
7B Morrison Bearby	N11-11	14	1	Good
11B ² McKiernan Terry	N11-12	14	1	Good
11B ³ McKiernan Terry	N11-13	9	1	Good

HARBOURS EQUIPMENT—*continued.*

Item.	Plant No.	Age Years.	No.	Conditions.
Drop Hammers—				
10 cwt.	BN41-01	9	1	
8 cwt.	BN41-02	10	1	
18 cwt.	BN41-03	15	1	
24 cwt.	BN41-04	—	1	
15 cwt.	BN41-05	—	1	Unserviceable—to be replaced
42 cwt.	BN41-06	—	1	
15 cwt.	BN41-08	—	1	Unserviceable—to be replaced
18 cwt.	BN41-09	—	1	
10 cwt.	BN41-10	—	1	Unserviceable—to be replaced
24 cwt.	BN41-11	—	1	
20 cwt.	BN41-12	—	1	
20 cwt.	BN41-13	—	1	
15 cwt.	BN41-14	—	1	
38 cwt.	BN41-15	—	1	
30 cwt.	BN41-16	—	1	Most of these items are at outports
22 cwt.	BN41-17	—	1	
25 cwt.	BN41-18	—	1	
70 cwt.	BN41-19	—	1	3 hammers have been machined on the bottom face and derated
30 cwt.	BN41-20	—	1	
30 cwt.	BN41-21	—	1	
23 cwt.	BN41-22	10	1	
24 cwt.	BN41-23	—	1	Condition ranges from good to fair
4/5 ton	BN41-24	—	1	
4/5 ton	BN41-25	—	1	
24 cwt.	BN41-26	8	1	
24 cwt.	BN41-27	8	1	
30 cwt.	BN41-28	8	1	
30 cwt.	BN41-29	8	1	
40 cwt.	BN41-30	6	1	
40 cwt.	BN41-31	2	1	
40 cwt.	BN41-32	3	1	
3/4 ton cylindrical	BN41-33	1	1	
Extractors—Steam/Air—				
Zenith 120	N21-04	12	1	Good
PILE FRAMES.				
Under 35ft. timber	N01-00	21 (average)	16	{ N01-09 repair needed N01-06 unserviceable—under repair N01-15 repair needed N01-21 repair needed Remainder good to fair
Under 35ft. steel	N01-00	4 (average)	4	
Over 35ft. timber	N02-00	21	6	N02-53 repairs needed—remainder good to fair
Over 35ft., steel 38ft.	N02-62	3	1	Dismantled, needs minor repairs
Over 35ft., timber 50ft.	N02-63	1	1	Good
Over 35ft., timber 48ft.	N02-64	1	1	Good
BSP 93ft. steel	N02-52	38	1	Unserviceable—parts missing
Steel with traverser 70ft.	N02-92	16	1	Fair
Timber with traverser 70ft.	N02-93	35	1	Fair—rebuilt 1949
Steel with traverser 45ft.	—	—	1	} Good—for use with pontoons T11-07 and T11-19
Steel with traverser 70 ft.	—	—	1	
FLOATING PLANT.				
Barges—				
Barge—Dump Hopper	T01-13	41	1	Fair—repairs needed to hull—slipping overdue
168. 13ft. draft with crane and winch 5 ton 60/75ft. Jib	C61-01	15	1	Good
Navy type, 62ft. x 5ft. draft steel ..	T02-01 to T02-03	22	3	Good
Work boat 85ft., "Capt. Baddams" ..	S21-01	17	1	Good
Has a 10ft. pile frame for piling work			1	Good

HARBOURS EQUIPMENT—*continued.*

Item.	Plant No.	Age Years.	No.	Conditions.
Pontoons—				
Steel, 90ft. x 40ft. x 5ft. with Perry Electric Crane—5 ton.....	T11-07	15	1	Good—slipping overdue for pontoon
Steel 40ft. x 15ft.	T11-09	13	1	Good—Coal Elevator
Steel 40ft. x 15ft.	T11-10	12	1	Good
Steel 40ft. x 15ft.	T11-11	12	1	Good—Anchor
Steel 40ft. x 15ft.	T11-12	12	1	Good
Steel 40ft. x 15ft.	T11-13	11	1	Good
Steel 40ft. x 18ft.	T11-14	11	1	Good
Steel 40ft. x 15ft.	T11-15	11	1	Good
Steel 25ft. x 12ft. Divers	T11-16	12	1	Good
Steel 40ft. x 18ft.	T11-17	8	1	Good
Steel 40ft. x 18ft.	T11-18	8	1	Good—Lima Grab Dredge
Steel 78ft. x 30ft. for pile work	T11-19	6	1	Good—slipping overdue
Steel 80ft. x 20ft.	T11-20	6	1	Good
WINCHES.				
Steam—				
Double drum	N31-	40	9	Unserviceable—parts missing
Winches Steam/Air—				
Double drum	N31-08	17	1	Fair
Triple drum	N31-10	22	1	Fair
Petrol/Diesel—				
2 ton AU6 single drum	N32-06	16	1	Fair
2 ton AU6 single drum	N32-07	16	1	Fair
2 ton AU6 single drum	N32-08	16	1	From anchor pontoon damaged frame and gearing—repair or replace ?
2 ton AU6 single drum	N32-09	12	1	Fair
2 ton AU6 single drum	N32-10	12	1	Fair
2 ton AU264 single drum	N32-11	11	1	Good
2 ton AUD single drum	N32-12	4	1	Good
3 ton AU double drum	N32-50	11	1	Good
5 ton diesel Perry drum	N32-51	11	1	Dismantled. G.M. engine and gear box used on No. 1 Dredge
5 ton diesel Perry drum	N32-52	10	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-53	8	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-54	8	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-55	5	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-56	4	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-57	4	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-58	4	1	Good
3 ton AUD double drum	N32-59	4	1	Good
Electric—				
2½ ton single drum	N33-	22	2	Poor—not used
AIR COMPRESSORS.				
Gyroflow 600 I.R.	J02-10	12	1	Good
Gyroflow 600 I.R.	J02-21	8	1	Good
Broomwade 600.....	J02-21	6	1	Good
Broomwade 210.....	J02-23	5	1	Good
Broomwade 210.....	J02-24	4	1	Good
Broomwade 210.....	J02-25	4	1	Good
Broomwade 210.....	J02-26	4	1	Good
AIR HOISTS.				
Broomwade WE 5000	J11-03	6	1	Good
Broomwade 5000	J11-04	6	1	Good

GOVERNOR'S ILLNESS.

The PRESIDENT: I have to report to the Council that last week, following the news that His Excellency the Governor had suffered a sudden relapse, I wrote to His Excellency expressing the sympathy and best wishes of the officers and members of the Legislative Council for his speedy recovery. I have now received a message from His Excellency desiring me to convey to all honourable members and staff his appreciation of their thoughts and good wishes conveyed to him on the occasion of his illness.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR CLERK.

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that the Uganda Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, with the concurrence of all other Australian State branches, has invited the Clerk of the Council (Mr. I. J. Ball), who is also the Honorary Secretary of the South Australian Branch of the association, to accompany the Australian States' Delegation to the Thirteenth General Conference to be held in Uganda later this year. It will be necessary for this Council to grant Mr. Ball leave to attend the conference.

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

That leave of absence be granted to the Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) from August 22 to November 9, 1967, to enable him to attend the conference.

It does not seem very long since I seconded a similar motion and wished Mr. Ball well on the occasion of a previous conference, but it is at least six years ago, which shows how quickly time goes by. Perhaps it will even be that I will be fortunate to get another trip myself before very long. In speaking at that time I said that if any officer or member of this honourable Council deserved some form of reward for services rendered, no-one was more worthy of that honour than our Clerk, and what I said then bears repeating. We all know that Mr. Ball is courteous, efficient, and punctilious in the performance of his duties, and we all take advantage of his services at various times. It is pleasant to me to be in a position to move that he be granted leave to attend this forthcoming conference. I know that all honourable members will join with me in hoping that he has a successful and enjoyable trip, that it will be beneficial to him, and that on his return he will be even more fitted (if that is possible) for the performance of his duties as Clerk of this Council.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion and endorsing the remarks the Chief Secretary has made in relation to Mr. Ball. Every honourable member acknowledges the very efficient manner in which Mr. Ball carries out his duties in this Parliament. I am quite sure he will serve the delegation in the same efficient manner in which he serves this Council.

Motion carried.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with Standing Orders, Mr. A. D. Drummond, Clerk-Assistant and Black Rod, will act as Clerk of the Council during the absence of the Clerk (Mr. Ball). It is intended to appoint the Second Clerk-Assistant of the Council (Mr. C. H. Mertin) to act as Clerk-Assistant and Black Rod. Because the Clerk is not in a position to respond to the eulogies of the mover and the seconder of this motion, on his behalf I express to the honourable members his thanks for their kind expressions.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 4. Page 305.)

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES (Northern): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the Minister of Local Government and seconded by the Hon. Mr. Banfield. I agree entirely with all the sentiments expressed by other honourable members about paragraph 3 of His Excellency's Speech, and with the remarks made about His Excellency the Governor, Lady Bastyan and the Lieutenant-Governor. I congratulate wholeheartedly the Hon. Mr. Springett upon his entry into this Council and on the excellence of his maiden speech. Immediately the present Premier was appointed, he made this press and television statement:

I see South Australia as returning to the radical era which is its Chartist heritage. What Chartist heritage and what radical era are we in South Australia now going to see? The Chartist movement was started in England in 1836 because of the economic conditions brought about by the Industrial Revolution. The basic belief of the Chartist movement was co-operative Socialism, so it was completely opposed to free trade and enterprise; it believed in the complete nationalization of all property and industry. Its weapons to impose its opinions on Parliament were revolution and strikes. After 22 years, the Chartist movement ceased

in 1858. It died because of poor leadership because the working man soon found he was getting better value from his trade unions in order to achieve better working conditions which were becoming evident all the time. It became obvious that the trade unions were able, by discussing the problem, to do a better job than these radical Chartists. I believe the Chartist heritage that we are told by the Premier is now to be our heritage will die in the same way: it will die because of poor leadership and because there is a better way of life offering.

I notice that in paragraph 4 of His Excellency's Speech reference is made to the establishment of a trade officer in the Agent-General's office in London. I concur that in the past the United Kingdom has been a traditional source of trade for Australia and for South Australia, but with the possible entry of Britain into the European Common Market it is freely predicted by better experts than I that there could be a decrease in our trade with Great Britain. As export overseas is one of the things that industry in South Australia must look to in a big way, I believe, and suggest strongly to the Government, that greater emphasis should be placed on its officers in such places as Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and Hong Kong. The Government must play a more active part in stimulating industry to see that there is an export potential in those areas, because there are companies in Adelaide that have the potential to export but are too complacent about this obligation. I trust that our new Director of Industrial Development, about whom we have read in the press this morning, will be able to accept this challenge to remove this complacency where it exists in certain sections of our industries in South Australia and to push their export potential. I believe in the need for more representatives of the Government in these South-East Asian areas, to show industry what is needed.

Most primary-producing industries (fruit and citrus, wheat and cereals, wool, meat and dairy) on their own initiative have established export markets in the South-East Asian area but, unfortunately, some sections of our secondary industries are content to keep their heads in the sand and are not prepared to look outwards for the sake of the State or of the nation. Although there is a complacency in some sections of industry not to export, I deplore the use of the words by the Premier in the press when he refers to our "milk bar" type

of economy, notwithstanding that we have such companies as Philips Electrical, General-Motors Holden's, Chrysler, Broken Hill Pty. Coy. Ltd. and many other companies that came to South Australia with the idea of establishing industry to make a profit, to employ labour and to provide the necessary wherewithal for people within the State. Mr. John Curtin when he was Prime Minister of Australia once said to Mr. Playford (as he then was) that South Australia would always be a mendicant State and as such would always need Commonwealth assistance in the field of additional finance.

In those days the Treasury was dependent on the income from the farmer. The condition of the weather and the state of the harvest, even though they are still of great importance, were even more important in those days. We were a mendicant State with over 90 per cent of our land with a rainfall of less than 5in. But today the position has changed: we are no longer a mendicant State, but few people realize that half of the people of the State depend on secondary industry and that one-third of the population of this State is directly supported by nine companies, whose factories provide 80 per cent of their output for sale to the Eastern States and overseas. The work force is diversified and there is everything here for us to move forward, but industry has a psychological fear of what the Government will do next—fear of additional overhead costs, fear of this Chartist, socialistic, radical dogma, fear of restrictions on their way of life and on freedom of trade and enterprise. Paragraph 6 of His Excellency's Speech deals with agriculture, with special reference to the education of farmers. His Excellency stated:

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 Department of Agriculture or those who plan to work as consultants to farm management advisory services.

I agree entirely with what the Hon. Mr. Dawkins said about this problem last week. About 1½ pages of His Excellency's Speech dealt with various phases of agriculture. The Roseworthy Agricultural College has been referred to, where improvements will be implemented, such as extension services and farm management advisory services, but what about training the man who will produce the harvests in five years' time? What educational facilities will be provided for him?

The Hon. Mr. Dawkins referred to the urgent need for a second type of agricultural school. Urrbrae Agricultural High School has been begging for years for improved classrooms and laboratories and for boarding accommodation for boys wishing to be trained as farmers. The school has been told by the Government that plans that have been prepared have been classified as "desirable but not urgent", and this means that the plans envisaged by the staff and the school committee for a non-academic course for a proposed certificate of agriculture in the fourth and fifth years will be delayed still further. The plans envisaged more suitable preparation of boys in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, farm engineering and farm economics; it was envisaged that these courses would follow the boys' normal secondary education.

This State is no longer a mendicant State: it has secondary industries, but it is still depending greatly on primary production, yet we see a slowing down in the provision of educational needs in the realm of agriculture. Everyone would agree with this who saw the remarkable television programme "Our World", in which places all over the world could be seen through the use of satellites and in which great emphasis was placed on the problem of providing more food for the millions upon millions of people being born every year.

Greater technological advancement within the agricultural industry is urgently needed. Management in secondary industry would not consider employing people who were not prepared to study and learn modern techniques, yet today (with the exception of those boys receiving limited agricultural education through the secondary and area schools) there is no other means of agricultural schooling except that of following in father's footsteps. We can no longer afford to make do with this sort of education in this modern world.

Much has been said about the Aboriginal problem. It always fascinates me that the Aborigines lived in Australia before the white man arrived; when he arrived, the white man, in order to live, imported all his seeds and all his animals in order to have clothing and food. Rightly or wrongly, the Aborigines have now been granted more privileges in this State than they ever had before. The Aborigines now have the right to drink alcoholic liquor, and they have the opportunity to receive a decent wage and the opportunity to be assimilated into our society. I believe that there should now be a slowing down on both sides—a resting time. The opportunity is now open

for the Aborigines to learn quietly to get used to these rights and privileges that they have received.

In this way the time will come when we shall no longer experience the fuss and bother that goes on in the press and Parliament concerning football teams that once existed but do not now exist because of the alleged ravages of drink. I believe that because of the ravages of drink. I believe that all honourable members know of many a boy who, on his twenty-first birthday, has been given the privilege of entering a hotel, and he has gone out with the boys—and he has not played much football for a year or two afterwards, while he is getting it out of his system. It is so easy to point the finger, but if we look at this objectively we should realize that the best policy is to let the Aborigines get used to their new privileges.

When Aboriginal children with a limited knowledge of English enter civilized areas they are placed in special schools containing Aboriginal children only, where they are taught the three R's, with greatest emphasis on English. When they have mastered this work the children are sent to the primary school, but there is an age group difference. This happens at Port Augusta in connection with the Davenport Reserve. For example, an eight-year-old white boy may be in the same form as a 10-year-old Aboriginal boy; the latter boy is in the same form because he has taken longer to master schoolwork.

There is nothing harder on a boy who is a little deficient in his standard of schoolwork, and being a little older and taller, than to have another boy slinging off at him with comments such as, "He is 10, and I am only eight!" This will produce some hatred in the Aboriginal boy against those with whom we want him to learn to live. I do not want this to happen, but I do not know the answer. It is a problem that must be watched.

I agree entirely that Aboriginal boys should mix with white children at school. I do not know how we can stop children from being children, but it is another matter that will cause difficulties between the two races. The Minister of Transport made some interesting remarks last week concerning the use of reflective material on railway trucks that would give a motorist the opportunity to see such trucks and lessen the risk of crashing into them at a level crossing. The Minister stated that this State had 1,700 open level crossings, of which 242 had automatic warning signals installed, and that the fitting of reflective material to

goods waggons was "not a workable proposition". He then went on to substantiate his argument. Anyone who has experienced a near-miss at a railway level crossing will appreciate that a positive need exists and that this is not something to be shoved away as being not a workable proposition. There must be something to assist the modern motorist, travelling in a modern car, by warning him of trains on level crossings.

I think it is sheer bluff by the Railways Commissioner and that he is not prepared to do his share towards road safety. All sealed main roads have a white line painted down the centre, white posts on each side of the road and additional white posts at every corner. Each post has a reflectorized strip on it. Also, warning signs are erected near corners showing the maximum safe speed at which they can be taken. These small but wonderful safety measures have been increasing progressively through the years. Why has this been done? Because it is common sense, and thank goodness the Highways Department has not put its head in the sand and said, in effect, that it would be an unworkable proposition to paint a centre line along every sealed main road in South Australia and provide the other safety aids.

During last year it was decided in this Parliament that by July 1, 1968, flashing traffic indicators must be fitted to every motor vehicle, but it seems to be too much trouble for the Commissioner of Railways even to attempt to do something about having reflectorized material or some other warning device on railway trucks and carriages. The Minister claimed that reflective material could cause confusion in shunting yards and on curves where there are double railway tracks. Surely in this modern world it is not impossible for a shield to be placed so that there would be no possibility that reflective material could catch the engine driver's eye and confuse him into thinking that it might be a signal light, or confuse the shunter in the shunting yard! Possibly the reflective material could be placed in a certain pattern so that if it should catch the engine driver's or shunter's eye he would know that it was not a signal but merely a warning device on the side of a railway truck.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: It would be possible to have different colours.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: It is not an insoluble problem. The Minister has stated that motorists have even run into passenger carriages with lighted windows. However, let us consider the physical effort required by a driver

in a modern car when approaching a level crossing at night. His eyes are directed to the road, to the apex of the beam of the car's headlights. The floor of a railway carriage is about 3ft. 6in. high (these are my figures and not measured ones) and it must be at least another 3ft. to the window level, where the lights appear. In many cases in a modern car it would be necessary for the driver to crane his neck upwards to see the lights, because he is situated at a lower level and looking at the ground in front of him. The Minister concluded his remarks by saying:

The appropriate time to carry out the work would be when the vehicles were in the workshops for repainting. On this basis, it could be some time before all vehicles were so fitted. In the meantime, trains would be running with only some vehicles fitted with reflectorized material. If a road user collided with a part of a train where there were no reflectorized vehicles, there is a distinct possibility that the Railways Commissioner could be held liable to have been negligent.

Yet, if a motorist drives his vehicle on the road with one light and is responsible for an accident, he is deemed to have been negligent. Strangely enough, motorists have to carry insurance to cover certain abnormalities associated with their driving habits, but not so the Railways Commissioner. He may be negligent, but nothing will be done about it! However, one good point is that we are now going to have toast for breakfast when we travel on the Melbourne Express!

I turn now to the problems of the South Australian Housing Trust and of the building trade generally. It cannot be denied that the trust has been of real value in meeting the special needs of the people. Now that it has become so well established, a natural temptation is to extend its activities beyond the field in which it was originally intended that it should operate. Because of this, the trust has secured an unduly large share of building work in the State, and this, as I see it, is one of the factors that has restricted the private builder from being able to maintain the desirable level of work in that section of the industry.

The privileges and advantages enjoyed by the trust because of its Government association has made it a colossus in the field of building houses and factories in South Australia. Under the shade of this oak tree the healthy growth of the private sector of the building trade has been restricted. The free play of initiative and competitive enterprise has been dominated and subjugated by the trust's influence. Most of the Government's allocation for housing

loans is virtually earmarked for the buying of trust houses in South Australia, whereas in other States a much greater proportion of housing loans is allocated to building societies, which tend to encourage thrift. It is not quite the same here. Last week, in reply to a question, honourable members were told that 517 trust houses were vacant in South Australia, but there is a waiting list of 18 months for people wanting loans to enable them to build houses according to their tastes in positions where the trust is not building. Those people cannot get their money. Therefore, we have the ridiculous position that 517 trust houses are vacant (many people believe that such a figure is nowhere near the truth, but let us accept it as factual) and yet there is a waiting list of 18 months and over for people wanting to borrow money to build houses of their own.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I think it is true to say that there might be many more homes that could be completed much more quickly.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I thank the honourable member for his interjection. Figures can be made to give all sorts of answers. The trust's activities show an insidious trend towards socialization through the back door of nationalization, and this must be watched. After the Second World War the trust had a building depot at Torrensville in which building supplies were stored and taken out as the necessity arose. At the depot suitable wood-working machinery was installed, and it now produces prefabricated houses. Private industry has endeavoured time and time again to compete in supplying materials for these houses, especially, when they are to be built in the country, but has seldom, if ever, won a complete contract. Yet, when people analyze the cost of a prefabricated trust house, it is obvious that the trust has not taken into account the colossal overhead of the Torrensville depot. In consequence, a segment of the trade is denied the opportunity it needs to maintain full employment. Wonderful as the trust has been, it is an octopus that must not dominate the private sector of the building trade, which must be given a chance to exist.

Much has been said about the power of the Legislative Council. Every member of the Government has paid lip service to his Party by declaring that it should be abolished. I wish to place on record the statement made by the Hon. Frank Walsh at the conclusion of the nexus referendum. In the *Advertiser* of May 29 the Hon. Frank Walsh said the referendum had been defeated from the start. He also said:

The Holt Government sought to increase postal charges without a mention of this intention in the electoral campaign. The Senate's rejection of this proposal helped people to realize that the Senate had value in an emergency. By voting this way, the Australian people have declared themselves in favour of retaining the Senate and I am not the least surprised they voted this way. Mr. Walsh has said words of wisdom—"the people realize that the Senate has value in an emergency". The Senate is an Upper House. This Council also is an Upper House. I support the motion.

The Hon. C. M. HILL (Central No. 2): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and I wish to be associated with many of the introductory and personal remarks made by the mover, the seconder and other speakers. I congratulate the Governor's Deputy on the splendid manner in which he opened Parliament for this session. I understand that it was the ninth occasion on which he performed this ceremony.

I express my regret that His Excellency the Governor is not well, and I join with all the people of South Australia in wishing him a speedy recovery. As has been mentioned by other honourable members, His Excellency and Lady Bastyan have endeared themselves to the people of this State. Wherever I move throughout my Central District No. 2, I hear similar expressions—that everyone regrets that His Excellency is not well and hopes that he will regain good health in the near future.

I extend my sympathy to the relatives of former members of Parliament, namely, the late Hon. Robert Stanley Richards, the late Rufus Sanders Goldney, and the late Hon. Dudley Octoman. For his sincere contribution as Premier of this State, I extend my congratulations to the Hon. Frank Walsh.

When I was first elected to this Council the Hon. L. H. Densley was President, and I place on record how much I appreciated his kindness and help to me as a new member. Finally, I congratulate the Hon. Mr. Whyte and the Hon. Mr. Springett upon their election to this Council.

There are some paragraphs in the Governor's Deputy's speech on which I wish to comment. In paragraph 16, which deals principally with roads, reference is made to a current survey that is taking place. This must be the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Survey. I regret that local government in the suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide has not had the opportunity to discuss fully and enter into discussions relative to this particular survey. Problems are arising now on this point.

The authorities which have combined to make the survey, which is a necessary one for future transportation in metropolitan Adelaide, are the Highways Department, the Railways Department, the Adelaide City Council, the Municipal Tramways Trust, and the State Planning Office. Some local communities in my electorate will be seriously affected as a result of this survey. The arterial roads and freeways that will dissect council areas will ultimately affect those areas seriously. I consider that discussion with local councils is highly desirable. I refer particularly to Glenelg and Norwood, which are in my district.

Local government bodies should be brought into the maximum possible discussion in regard to this survey at this stage, because even though it may ultimately be necessary for freeways and arterial roads to be constructed where these combined authorities think they should be constructed, the people in those areas should have the opportunity to know what is going on and to contribute their points of view. I hope it is not too late for local government bodies to have the opportunity to be brought into this general discussion before the final report of M.A.T.S. is issued.

In paragraph 9 reference is made to mining. I notice that the value of minerals produced in South Australia in the calendar year 1966 reached \$72,300,000 and that this was an increase of \$3,500,000 over the production in 1965. During the recess I had the opportunity to travel through other States and also in the Northern Territory, and I was greatly impressed by the progress these other areas are making as a result of mineral development. I think we all agree that South Australia needs further mineral development.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Minerals have to be there before they can be developed.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I agree with the Minister, and that is the very point I was about to make. The question of mineral research is a very important one from this State's point of view. I have no figures on this matter, but I have some doubts whether in the general appropriation of the State's funds we are appropriating enough into this field of mineral research. As the Minister says, at this point we have to find the minerals first. Once they are found, we can progress in mineral development as other States are doing. I think it will be agreed by everyone that this Government has placed emphasis on social welfare and on endeavouring to honour the promises it made at the last election. I have

not been able to find in the election speech where there was any promise of increased allocation for mineral research. I have some doubt whether the State is allocating sufficient funds for this purpose, and I say that we should strive to appropriate more and more towards this most valuable field, from the State's point of view, of mineral research.

Paragraph 36 deals with town planning. I express satisfaction that the portfolio of town planning has now been placed with the Minister of Local Government. Since the people indicated at the last election that they wanted some further legislation in this realm of town planning, the Opposition has been very keen to see this portfolio placed with that Minister. It is a much better arrangement than previously, and I am sure that under this new arrangement things are going to work quite well.

There are some fundamental features of town planning as they apply in this State upon which I want to comment. I comment upon them because they apply at this stage in our town planning programme. They apply with the principle that maximum protection should be given to the people as town planning is implemented, and they apply at this stage because the Act has now been proclaimed, the various appointments have been made, the authority and the appeal committee have been formed, and the machinery in the practical sense is just beginning to work. I think at this stage there are one or two important things that are needed.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: The first meeting of the authority is today.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I read in the press that the authority had been appointed, and now the Minister informs me that it is holding its first meeting today. I turn now to the topic of urban renewal. On Wednesday, June 28, it was my privilege to be a guest at the founding conference in Canberra of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies. This is a new institute that has been formed, and its objects are, amongst other things, to support, stimulate, sponsor and undertake research into urban affairs in Australia, particularly urban problems, and to disseminate research findings. They also include the need to assess and list research needs in urban affairs in Australia, to promote effort towards fulfilling those needs, and to compile and maintain a comprehensive bibliography of urban research material.

This conference was well attended. Some of the Directors of Planning throughout Australia were in attendance. Some honourable Ministers of Town Planning and Local Government were there, as were other planners in the private sector of industry throughout Australia. An appeal for funds was to be made to the Commonwealth Government. I do not know whether or not an appeal has been made to State Governments, but if the present State Government is approached for some financial help in regard to the establishment of this institute I hope that it will give such an appeal every possible consideration. At the conference the Hon. R. J. Hamer from Victoria spoke of the lack of actual ground work on this matter of urban research. He talked of the unformulated theory that exists on this subject, and he said that in his view State Governments, through their agencies, would do everything to support this form of study. He mentioned that other advanced countries had entered into this field of urban research and that it was now Australia's turn. An expert from Canada, Mr. Humphrey Carver, who, as honourable members know, visited this State some little time ago, was also in attendance.

At this stage in Adelaide there is an urgent need for this kind of research because, as I have said so many times, when we start putting planning and development into practice we begin to affect the way of life of people. Of course, people are of paramount concern in this subject of planning, for it is really the people who must ultimately decide where they want to live and how they want to live. One of the great national planners in the Australian scene was the late Grenfell Rudduck, who died in 1964. In a paper that he delivered he gave the following as his final paragraph:

My final point is a plea to think of planners as professional people who are there to advise the public how our cities can be developed to let us lead the kind of lives we want to lead. The planner can present many and variable alternatives. The last thing he should do is to try to plan the lives of the community. It is the people who must decide.

Therefore, I submit that in the suburbs in metropolitan Adelaide, where there has been talk by planners and by the honourable the Premier of how these particular suburbs should be renewed residentially speaking, there is an urgent need for research to be carried out. Questions such as these arise: what do the people, for example, who live in small houses in Norwood think of the prospect of having their land acquired (if they are owners) or of moving out of their houses (if they are ten-

ants) and living in flat developments, which would take the place of their houses and other houses nearby if renewal took place there? Do the people who live there really want this? Are there people in other parts of metropolitan Adelaide who want to live in flats of that kind? If some people are interested in living in an area like Norwood, what kind of flats do they want? For example, how high do they want those buildings to go?

Further out, metropolitan Adelaide research would prove whether or not the people who lived in the outlying suburbs (I have in mind the newer areas such as Christies Beach, Morphett Vale and Reynella) really wanted more open space provided. For instance, are the people who live there satisfied that there is enough open space there, so that they need not go to the beaches or up into the hills?

A town planning fund will be provided for these purposes, but do the people themselves really want money spent in that manner? Research into those southern areas may reveal that the people would prefer some other form of amenity—for example, a theatre to be built in those suburbs that I have just mentioned.

Research may prove that people in those newer southern areas do not come to the city during the Festival of Arts because the distance is too great and the cost is too high. Money that was held in a fund of that kind could perhaps be better used not as the planners think it should be but as the people want it to be.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Don't you think the proper body to consider this sort of thing would be the local council?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yes. I am pleased to hear the Minister referring to the importance of the local councils in these matters. I agree that possibly research of this kind could be done by the council. The institute to which I have referred is trying to tackle the subject on a Commonwealth-wide basis. It may well be that the best means by which research of this kind can be carried out is through local government.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: That is what I am hoping, anyway.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Another point that may arise on this research is that people living in these locations that have been mentioned already as potential areas for renewal may prefer to have their existing houses remodelled and renovated; they may prefer to increase the standard of their present housing by staying where they are and being able to borrow

housing loan money for the purposes of remodelling and renovation.

This has been practised by businessmen in areas like North Adelaide, where some of the remodelled and renovated terraces and detached houses are most attractive. There is not much difference between this kind of housing and some of the home unit development taking place at present, which, of course, is new. These are some of the facets that arise.

We should pause at this stage and in a fairly calm climate look into the problems affecting the people before this newly appointed planning authority makes decisions about which areas it will renew, which buildings it will acquire or what kind of redevelopment or renewal it proposes to do in certain areas. I am not accusing the planners in this State of completely overlooking this: I am simply urging that it be done.

The Minister has given some indication that something like this will take place through local government. I am pleased to hear that but stress the point that lack of urban research has been a common problem in the planning profession.

I shall quote again from the article by the late Grenfell Rudduck. This gentleman, as I have said, was a national figure in planning in Australia. Articles of praise for his contributions in this field have been written by well-known planners, such as Mr. Gavin Walkley from Adelaide, Mr. Overall from Canberra, and Lord Holford, the English planner whom Mr. Menzies (as he then was) brought to Canberra to assist in the planning of the national capital and whose firm was retained as consultant in the planning and designing of the central area of Canberra. They have written articles of great praise about this man.

On this subject, planners sometimes neglect to find out what the people really want. Mr. Rudduck wrote along these lines. First, he dealt with some rather strange guide lines relating to planning some thousand years ago; he then continued:

To return to the 20th century, I find these dictums no stranger than some we hear today about neighbourhood planning, or about high-density housing, for example. Many planners dislike the spread of the suburbs with their single-storey bungalows, each on its own block. They see great virtue in flats or in what is now called non-traditional high-density housing. With some planners it is an obsession. They would like to see us all living in huddles like King's Cross, so that we could fraternise with each other each night in what are called open spaces designed for non-compulsive motion or for static circulation—that just means that

you walk around aimlessly in the one place. They write articles to each other about it in architectural and planning journals. You would think they would prefer to discuss it with the customers, or do some market surveys, or find out how people really wanted to live.

It is not unusual for people to have four cars per family plus a couple of boats and a trailer, not to mention the dog and some children. This is not the average—yet—but it is 'on the way. Higher material standards demand space and mobility. These characteristics do not go with high-density living even if we do try to appeal to popular credibility by calling it non-traditional in the hope that in falling for this some people will think they are way out in front. Planners' attitudes to housing are a constant source of irritation to the public. The reason is that planners seldom bother to find out how people want to live.

I have dwelt at some length on the need for this phase of planning in Adelaide at present. However, without carrying out any research myself and without being armed with the benefit of any research, I want to make the plea that I have made in this Chamber several times previously: I hope that the planners in this State will not plan for conditions of living here in Adelaide in which families with children are housed in flats, especially in flats that come into this high rise category.

We see this form of living in other parts of the world, with children playing in communal playgrounds between high blocks of flats. In my view, placing Australian families with children in flats of this kind is completely foreign to the way of life that is in the best interests of our young Australian families. I have no doubt that, if research is carried out and people are asked their opinions, it will be found that families with children—and I stress that point, "families with children"—do not want to live in these high rise flats in Adelaide.

Regarding urban renewal and the present stage of planning in this State, moderation and caution are needed in the statements made on these matters, because they are of great news interest at present and will undoubtedly continue to be of great interest for a long time. I criticize the Premier for some of his actions and statements regarding this planning, because I do not think they were made with the necessary moderation and I think they will prevent our getting the best out of the Planning and Development Act ultimately.

I wish to give three examples of such actions and statements where caution has been completely thrown to the wind. The first is the offering by the Premier of the office of Chairman of the Planning Appeal Committee to the senior partner in the firm of solicitors of

which the Premier is a member. In saying this I am not in any way criticizing Mr. Roder, who is the gentleman in question.

I do not suggest that he is in any way incapable of handling the job; indeed, he may well be the best possible person to whom this office could be offered. I am not in any way criticizing him for accepting the office, but I do say that for a long time in this State, perhaps going back 100 years, the people have come to expect a very high standard of prudence in appointments made by Leaders of Government, yet here we find the Premier offering this office to a partner in his own firm, and that offer in my view cannot do anything except raise some query and some doubt.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Mr. President, I must take a point of order at this stage. The criticism levelled by the honourable member is against the Premier, but it was wholly and solely my responsibility. It was my own appointment; the appointment was not made by the Premier of this State, and it was not even made in consultation with him. I myself approached Mr. Roder and asked whether he would be prepared, because of his high qualifications, to accept this office. He said that he would be prepared to do so. I myself made the recommendation to Cabinet for his appointment. The Premier did not come into it.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I repeat that the offering of this appointment to a senior partner of the Premier was not what the people of South Australia expected, because it has given rise to query and doubt and suspicion, and I cannot in any way see how this offer was characterized or dictated or directed by political prudence.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Mr. Roder was the only man in the State with the necessary qualifications. You cannot name any other solicitor with his experience and qualifications in town planning.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: If that is the case, and if he is the only man in the State with the necessary qualifications for the office, then it is a different story. However, what I am doing is reflecting the comments of people in the street on this matter.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: I have not heard any such comments.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: They are saying that this is an example of political impropriety, and that it is not the kind of thing that they experienced, for example, under the Playford Government.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: They are under a misapprehension concerning the circumstances of the appointment, and I hope I have made that clear.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: The Hon. Mr. Hill will correct them now that he knows the true position.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall not pursue the point any further, except to say that in my view it still does not conform to the accepted standards. It has, of course, brought criticism upon the Government, but that is not my affair. However, what is my affair is that it has brought criticism upon the institution of Parliament, and that is the point that has especially worried me in regard to this matter. I can only think that it was a rash appointment, but I again say that I am not criticizing Mr. Roder, for whom I have the highest respect and whose integrity I am not questioning at all.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: I suggest that the honourable member criticize me, because I was the Minister who made the appointment, not the Premier.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall now turn to a matter that I want to query, and I do not know how the Minister will be able to take responsibility from his Leader in this matter. On July 5 a large advertisement appeared in the *Advertiser* stating:

Major builder and developer is looking for land:

1. Broad Acres suitable for subdivision in parcels from 5-100 acres.
2. Subdivided land also of interest in parcels from 10-100 lots.

Address inquiries in writing to "Land," C/-Roder, Dunstan, Lee & Taylor, 13 Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

This kind of advertisement surely shows imprudence and political impropriety, because at this time, when one of these gentlemen has been appointed to the very high and important office of Chairman of the Planning Appeal Committee, when the second partner in the firm is the Premier himself (who is making all kinds of statements about the new era of development that the State is going to enter) and when the question of renewal and development is paramount in people's minds—this advertisement appears!

Everyone must surely agree that it would raise queries in the minds of the people. It must, in some respects, arouse suspicion.

People with whom I come in contact, mainly land agents, are wondering about the principle involved.

It has been suggested to me (and this is the kind of talk that stems from an advertisement of this nature) that the Housing Trust is that principal; others say that some other party who has been given some kind of office on one of these bodies is involved as principal. Is there any need in this period when we are trying to get planning started properly, when there is a need for caution and moderation, as I have tried to point out, in this phase of town planning, for an advertisement of this kind to appear? It is most improper from a political point of view, and any politician with high regard for the ethics of his calling would think twice before allowing such an advertisement to appear.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: It is legal. Does the honourable member want to debar them from acting on behalf of a client wanting them to act on his behalf?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am not saying it is illegal. The firm of solicitors is entitled to do it, because solicitors are excluded under the Land Agents Act. I am not querying that point, because solicitors may act as land agents if they wish. I expect leaders of this State to conform to accepted standards of political ethics. This is not characterized, dictated or directed by political prudence. If we do not watch out there will be much danger involved in various stages of planning in this State.

My third criticism is in relation to the statement made by the Premier in Sydney on July 1, as reported in the press. I do not think that this time we can say that the press has reported incorrectly, because I understand that the Premier had his press secretary with him at the time. Of the many statements made by the Premier while he was away, this one particularly interested me:

With the Planning and Development Authority appointed, South Australia would enter an era of planned development never seen before because the authority had flexibility and could acquire land at reasonable rates.

What he meant by "flexibility" I am not sure, but I certainly know what he meant when he almost rejoiced in making a public statement that at last the State or the planning authority would be able to acquire land at reasonable rates.

If a leader of a Government wants to see town planning established on a proper basis, I suggest that that leader ought to be telling the people of South Australia the reasons why

he has been given the power to acquire land compulsorily. He should also be trying to mould public opinion to accept this principle and be reassuring the people in this State, particularly those in areas that he has said are to be renewed: I refer particularly to the Norwood area. He should be reassuring people there when compulsory acquisition arises they will be justly and reasonably treated.

But that is not the approach he makes at all; he is almost rejoicing that at long last he has the power to acquire land compulsorily! People in Norwood and other areas mentioned as being required for renewal purposes are alarmed that the Government or the authority intends to acquire freehold property at what the Premier considers reasonable rates.

The Playford Government always went to great lengths to exercise prudence and care in compulsory acquisition. It always went to extreme lengths to try to ensure that the dispossessed party received a fair deal. That is the principle expected by the people of South Australia; they do not expect their Premier to say that there is going to be a new era and that there is going to be flexibility.

What that means I have no idea; all I think it can mean is that if the authority gets half way in an area acquired for demolishing, thus uprooting people, and then finds it cannot finish the job for some reason or other, it can jump into another suburb and have another go there! That is what I think flexibility and re-development mean in this instance. There may be another meaning, that I do not understand, but it is an unwise expression to use.

My main criticism is that the Premier is rejoicing that land can be acquired at reasonable rates. People in areas such as Norwood who battled for years to pay off mortgages and are happy to go on living where and how they are, fear the prospect that their properties may be compulsorily acquired. They face the prospect of being uprooted, which is one of the dangers involved in compulsory acquisition.

If it was in the public interest, everybody would support such acquisition and people would have to accept it. For instance, if a freeway or pipeline had to be constructed or the Electricity Trust had to instal a new line, that would be another matter.

The Hon. Sir Norman Jude: I do not think they will be uprooted before next April.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: We will try to see that they are not uprooted. However, I will not continue the matter further, but it is the third point in this general realm of town planning on which I express criticism.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Such members of the public would not be concerned if true representations were made.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: When going to a person and trying to acquire property one is forced to tell the truth: that no monetary value is placed on sentiment. Widows living in houses in the Norwood area who have all their lives heard people say that it was in their interests to remain on the premises will be approached and have their properties taken from them.

A special value could not be placed on such properties, because everybody knows that such values are assessed on comparable sales. If somebody down the street sells at a certain price, that is the value fixed for acquisition. There is no other way to assess values, and no value can be placed on sentiment. Those are some of the human problems that apply to renewal development, and they are serious matters because they affect people.

I again make a plea for consideration to be given by this Government to some high rise development in the city of Adelaide. Such development does not have to take place where people are being dispossessed of property in which they want to go on living. There is vacant land and also land on which some houses stand would be highly desirable for the construction of flats or apartments necessary to house people who are growing older, whose families have left them and who at present are living in spacious and partly unused accommodation in the suburbs.

Such people are interested in leasing flats of the kind I have mentioned. This would be building development, and we want building development of some kind. By moving into such apartments these people would release outer suburban household properties for others who might have young children to raise and who, perhaps, might want to come in from some of the suburbs where they now live. It is a great shame that the Government stopped the East Terrace flat development when it came to office.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Does the honourable member really believe that elderly people who have lived in suburban areas all their lives would want to live in such flats in the city?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am sure of it.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Then I would like to have a list of such people.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In every other modern city in the world it has been proved. I appreciate the Minister's point because, unless a pilot scheme is begun here, the point cannot be proved in practice.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I have talked to many people, but I did not get that point of view.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Many people have talked to me, and I have that point of view.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I cannot get it at all.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The city has much to offer people who want to live in this manner—magnificent gardens, which are not used to the extent they should be. In the fields of entertainment and dining, the city has many facilities and amenities to offer. People who sell their freehold properties and go to live in apartments of this kind give up much of the worry they have at present: the worry of maintaining their gardens and properties. These people use their capital for some other form of investment. They can travel more readily if they simply have an apartment.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I go along with you, but they want to go to the suburbs, not to the heart of the city.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I can understand the Minister's thinking that way, but I am submitting that they want to live in the city and be able to look out on the park lands and gardens.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I must talk with a different class than you do.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: It is not a question of class. I do not know what that word means, and I never use it. At the time of the East Terrace development there were three qualified town planners in the City Council including the former Town Clerk of Adelaide, who was a most senior planner and who held the office of Deputy Chairman of the Town Planning Committee. Research indicated that this demand existed. The present Premier (and the Minister cannot stand up for him on this point and say it was his decision) said it was all window dressing. They were his very words as printed in the paper.

The Government saw that the scheme did not proceed. It was the greatest blow the city had suffered in the last 20 or 30 years. If the Town Planning Authority could start pilot schemes of that kind, it would be providing Adelaide generally—not only the city, but the whole of the metropolitan Adelaide—with a wonderful service.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: In what parts of the city do you think high-rise development has application?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: East Terrace is one area.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Do you agree that the areas are limited?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yes, and they must be selected very carefully. Some of the terraces in North Adelaide—

The Hon. A. J. Shard: LeFevre Terrace is one.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yes, and Kingston Terrace is another. I do not want to confuse the subject I am on now with urban renewal. As I hope I mentioned earlier, slum clearance and urban renewal are entirely different matters from the high-rise development in the city that I have now been discussing.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: You are confining yourself to the square mile?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Plus North Adelaide, which comes within the city of Adelaide. Some weeks ago I saw the Leader of the Opposition in another place on television, and I heard him urge the Government to appoint a Minister of Development, a Director of Development and an advisory committee. I am pleased to commend the Government on the appointment made yesterday. I hope the Government proceeds with the third point, which I think on the basis of priority is the next essential ingredient towards the general aim of advancing this State industrially.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: Will you agree that the man appointed yesterday will make that decision?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: When any organization makes an appointment, I do not think it is wise in the early stage to allow all decisions and policies to be made by the appointee. In the early stage it is important to watch the progress of the appointee and to help him, if the Government considers that in the interests of the State further help is needed. I do not think we should wait for the Director to say that he needs an advisory committee. Consideration of the appointment of an advisory committee on development is the next essential ingredient towards the further industrial development of the State. However, I commend the Government on the appointment.

Paragraph 21 of the Opening Speech deals with employment. I again mention my regret that the unemployment position in South Australia is as bad as it is. If I could see the figures improving, I would not be as concerned

as I am as present, but I cannot see any evidence that the unemployment position has improved. I am greatly alarmed when I see television programmes and hear interviews with unemployed people in areas such as Elizabeth.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: When did you see the last one of them?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: About a week ago, when a person who had arrived from Liverpool was interviewed. He was a young man who was willing to take any work and go to great lengths to gain employment. He was not a grizzler, but was simply wanting money to take home to his wife and family. He was out of work, and it brought home to me the tragedy that exists at present.

To confirm my belief that the position is not improving, I repeat the following figures, which are the percentages of people registered for unemployment compared with the estimated work force. In South Australia in March, 1965, there was a percentage of unemployed of .8 per cent compared with the Australian average of .9 per cent. In March, 1966, the figure was 1.5 per cent compared with the Australian average of 1.3 per cent. In March, 1967, this State's percentage increased to 1.8 per cent compared with the Australian average of 1.4 per cent. Those figures indicate to me that the position in South Australia is not improving.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: It was 2.1 per cent in 1961.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I must correct the honourable member: it was 2.0 per cent in 1961, compared with the Australian average of 2.0 per cent. In that period, when there was an Australia-wide recession, South Australia's percentage was the same as the Australian average. In 1965 we were better than the Australian average, in 1966 we were worse, and in 1967 we are worse still.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: On the average, we are better than we were in 1961.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The honourable member ought to get his figures right before he enters the debate. I know the whole basis of his contention, and that is that we are not as badly off as we were in 1961 so what is there to worry about?

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: And in 1961 Sir Thomas Playford blamed it on the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: To further indicate the problems confronting us at present, I will mention the matter of motor vehicle registrations. I have here comparisons of this State with other States of Australia, and I obtained these from figures supplied by the Federal

Chamber of Automotive Industries. Here again we see South Australia's very gloomy position, and of course this highlights the need for everything to be done to bring confidence back into industry in this State.

In New South Wales, the rise in total registrations of vehicles in May, 1967, compared with May, 1966, was 15.4 per cent; in Victoria, there was a rise of 13.7 per cent; in Queensland, there was a small fall of 3.4 per cent; and in South Australia there was a fall of 10.5 per cent. In Western Australia there was a rise of 4.2 per cent, and in Tasmania there was a fall of 3.5 per cent. The overall average in Australia was a rise of 8.4 per cent.

The unemployment position is particularly evident in the building industry. I suggest that it is in that industry where concentration must be made into ways and means of improving the position and thereby, I think, improving the economic lot of the whole of the State. There has been a drop in activity in the building industry in this State, as is proved by the figures for building approvals taken from the statistical books issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

In 1964, building approvals for new houses and flats in South Australia totalled 14,576; in 1965, the figure was 11,631; and in 1966 the figure had dropped to 9,694. Now that is a drop in percentage from 1964 to 1966 of 33 per cent. If we take the number of approvals during the early months of each of the years from 1965 to 1967, we find that the approvals from January to April in 1965 totalled 3,277; the number of approvals from January to April, 1966, was 2,963; and the number of approvals from January to April in 1967 was 2,119. This is a drop of 35 per cent.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Was there any slackening in activity by the Housing Trust?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yes, a slight one. I will give the honourable member those figures presently. As further evidence of the problem, we find from the same statistics the value of approvals that have been given. For the five months ended in May, 1967, the value of new houses and flats approved in New South Wales was \$134,856,000, representing an increase of 17 per cent over the corresponding period in the previous year.

In Victoria the figure was \$106,590,000, which meant that Victoria enjoyed an increase of 15.1 per cent over the same period in the preceding year. In Queensland, the value was \$55,831,000, which represented an increase of 19.7 per cent in approvals over the same period

in 1966. In Western Australia, the figure was \$39,676,000, an increase of 26.7 per cent in approvals over the corresponding period in 1966. In Tasmania, the figure was \$3,191,000, a 5.9 per cent increase over the previous year.

Therefore, all of those five States I have mentioned had increased value of approvals granted over the preceding year, so high in one instance that it went up by 26.7 per cent. However, in South Australia the figure was \$22,365,000 which was a decrease of 15.5 per cent. Those figures are very revealing, and they indicate the shocking way in which the building industry here is battling at the present time.

The importance of the building industry in the general economy is very great indeed. It is not only those who manufacture building materials or those who sell hardware and other building materials that are affected, for a great number of other professions and businesses are affected.

The architects, the surveyors, and the engineers connected with the building industry are affected, and the businesses engaged in the manufacture of furniture and the selling of furniture are also adversely affected, as are the businesses engaged in the manufacture and sale of electrical appliances. That is a very important item in this State, because we produce many of these items locally. The industry of transport, especially in the country centres, is affected when the building industry wanes.

Therefore, I make the point that permeating through all our economy is the adverse effect that occurs when there is a recession in the building industry. I submit that the State will not regain its former commercial activity unless emphasis is placed on assisting the building industry. What is the solution?

At this time, when the position is getting worse and not better, there is an urgent need for action of some kind. I made some suggestions on this same point 12 months ago, and I am still convinced that the point or points I made at that time would go a long way towards getting the building industry in this State back on its feet again.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Are you going to reiterate those? Government members might take some notice now.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: They are very quiet now; I hope they are listening. The principle involved in my suggestion is to assist the liquidity within the building industry.

It is fundamental and orthodox in any business operation in difficulty that its liquidity be examined. The main cause of the trouble, particularly in the private sector of the building industry in South Australia, is that liquidity has completely disappeared.

Something must be done to right this state of affairs, and it must be done by more money being allocated for mortgage finance. When I say "more money", I do not mean money that is not there at present: I am talking of the re-allocation of existing Commonwealth-State loan housing money in such a manner that more will go into mortgage finance for a period of, say, 12 months. If more money went into that sector of the industry, we would be on the way to more activity and to regaining our confidence in the industry.

What is the present position of temporary finance? Many young people (and the Hon. Mr. Geddes mentioned some of them when he spoke earlier today) are waiting for housing loans. They have to wait for periods of up to 18 months, the figure given in answer to questions I asked during the last session in this Council. Many of them have to move into their houses before obtaining a loan—they have no alternative but to do this. They are living in some uncertainty: they do not know for certain whether or not they will obtain bank loans, but they have no alternative but to contract to buy these houses.

Unfortunately, the banks do not inspect the house and approve a loan until the people have been waiting for 18 months. They will not entertain an application until they have money available. I do not criticize the banks for that policy. Many young people are forced to borrow money temporarily at high interest rates. Often the builders themselves are forced to carry some finance during the 18-months period. This is where the drying up of liquidity started. It started some years ago and has reached a point where it has adversely affected the whole industry.

The builders have not been paid for the wares they have produced. They have produced and sold houses but have not got their money out of their business transactions. In turn, they have not been able to pay their suppliers, the manufacturers of the goods they use, so this problem of liquidity runs back through all phases of the industry.

It has caused bankruptcy amongst builders, most unfortunately for the builders and for the young people and migrants who have bought those houses and have got into all sorts of problems because of these bankruptcies, which have occurred because the builders

have not been paid for the houses they have built. They have simply let people go into them and have waited for financial settlements. Of course, everything in the garden would have been rosy had these people remained in employment; the money would have been forthcoming. But unemployment loomed up and much tragedy has occurred. Dealing with the need to re-allocate the Commonwealth-State housing funds, I suggest that a greater allocation is needed through the Advances to Home Builders' Fund, which means that the Housing Trust would receive a smaller allocation. Private enterprise will supply funds to build if buyers can obtain their money immediately. At present they cannot do that.

Young people cannot contract to build, so there is no attraction for private industry to bring capital into the private sector, because the prospective buyers simply cannot obtain bank loans at present. If buyers could contract, private enterprise combined with the buyers would supply about 30 per cent of the total funds needed for the construction of houses.

At present the Commonwealth-State housing funds are supplying all the money, so that ultimately fewer houses can be built under the present scheme than if there was liquidity and people could obtain an immediate bank loan and provide their own deposit and second mortgage money.

Getting down into closer detail about the allocation of the Commonwealth-State housing funds, at page 43 of the last Auditor-General's Report a table shows the total amount of funds allocated to this State by the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. It also shows how those funds are split up, under the two headings to which I have referred. In 1962-63 a total of \$19,012,000 was appropriated to South Australia, of which \$10,030,000 went to the Housing Trust and \$8,982,000 went to the Advances to Home Builders' Fund.

In 1963-64 the total allocation to the State was \$19,400,000, which was split up into \$9,200,000 for the Housing Trust and \$10,200,000 for the Advances to Home Builders' Fund. In 1964-65 the allocation to the State was \$20,500,000, which was split up into \$10,000,000 for the Housing Trust and \$10,500,000 for the Advances to Home Builders' Fund.

In 1965-66 the total allocation to the State was \$21,057,000, which was split up into \$10,200,000 for the Housing Trust and \$10,857,000 for the Advances to Home Builders'

Fund. I find from other inquiries that in 1966-67 the amount of money advanced from the Commonwealth was \$20,750,000, which was split up into \$10,000,000 for the Housing Trust and \$10,750,000 for the Advances to Home Builders' Fund.

This year, 1967-68, according to the *Advertiser*, \$21,000,000 has been allocated in the last few weeks to this State, but so far it has not been split into two. If for, say, this current year the whole of this \$21,000,000 was allocated for housing finance, it would reintroduce a healthy liquidity into the building industry and more people would buy existing houses; more people would build if they could obtain loans immediately. Migrants would settle by buying houses or having them built. Newly married people would willingly build houses. In other words, the demand for housing would strengthen and building activity would increase.

Perhaps I should have mentioned that the Home Builders' Fund is the fund used for mortgage finance; and from that fund the principal allocation goes to the State Bank, and smaller allocations go to building societies in this State. If this suggestion were followed, what are some of the problems that would arise? The main problem would affect the Housing Trust. A complete review of the trust's operations is needed; indeed, I suspect that this review may be under way at present, as the trust's General Manager is at present overseas making investigations on behalf of the trust and the Government.

The activities of the South Australian Housing Trust have been decreasing over the years. Statistics produced by the trust showing the number of houses completed each year do not clearly reveal this, but I submit that the trust has kept up its sleeve, as it were, many houses that have not been finished quickly, and it has in this way been able to produce the figures that have been produced as to the number of houses completed. I am not criticizing it for adopting this policy, but I do point it out.

I am interested in the number of houses under construction from time to time, and I think that this figure proves that the actual construction activity of the trust has been decreasing over the last few years, and this decrease is in some respects in keeping with the run-down in the private sector. In his most recent report the Auditor-General states that at June 30, 1965, the number of houses under construction by the trust was 3,220; on June 30, 1966, the number was 2,661.

Figures given to me in a Ministerial reply to a question last November (*Hansard*, page 3158) showed that the number of houses then under construction was 2,450. So, we see this decrease in the number of houses under construction.

In answer to another question a few weeks ago, the Minister representing the Minister of Housing disclosed that at June 15, 1967, the number of houses under construction was 2,186: here we see further evidence of a run-down in the trust's activities. This surely points to the fact that the trust ought this year to be able to reduce, or even eliminate, its use of funds under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement so that this urgently needed money may be channelled into the private sector.

This is sound reasoning because the trust had 517 houses unsold on June 15, 1967; this figure was given to me by the Minister representing the Minister of Housing. This figure represents more than \$4,000,000 worth of unsold stock, and that is a lot of money to have tied up in stock by any building organization. Surely this indicates that it is time for a complete review of the activities of the trust.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Do you suggest that the trust should be closed down?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am not suggesting that, but I make the point that the trust ought to be able to stand on its own feet for 12 months' time.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: Or sell out to Murray Hill and Company.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The Minister is joking. I do not intend to criticize the trust or its officers because it is splendidly led. Its top men, particularly, are men of the highest calibre and efficiency, and its present Chairman is a man of great worth from the viewpoint of professional knowledge and business ability. The same could be said of the previous Chairman. Over the long period that it has been established the trust's administration has always deserved great admiration, and it has enjoyed it, both within this State and throughout Australia. Indeed, I have read articles published overseas commending the trust very highly, but, of course, its original purpose was entirely different from its present activities.

The trust changed with the times when much public money was injected into it (and I think this proved its flexibility and its worth), and it enjoyed remarkable success, but it enjoyed that success not only because of its personnel but also because of the economic climate that

then existed. However, that climate, as I have indicated and as members know, has changed considerably, and I submit that the trust must start standing on its own feet to a greater extent, at least for one or two years (I believe a year would be sufficient). It must start getting along without the allocation of funds which it has long enjoyed and to which I have already referred.

One of the great problems that always results when a building operation is set up is that it needs increasing capital year by year to carry on its activities, and it plans its programme on the basis that it will receive such an inflow or allocation of capital. However, it is possible, when the economic climate changes, for this policy to be changed at least temporarily.

Another reason why the trust ought to be able to stand on its own feet relates to the resources that it possesses. Its size and resources are such that it ought to be able to stand on its own feet temporarily. In his report to which I have referred the Auditor-General states that the funds employed in the Housing Trust at June 30, 1966, amounted to \$202,686,000; its investment in rental houses then was \$124,160,000; its investment in shops was \$8,436,000, in factories \$3,027,000, and in flats \$11,896,000. Those figures compared with other industries in this State, are nothing short of gigantic. The trust's annual income from rents, according to the Auditor-General's Report on June 30, 1966, was \$10,162,000.

When the trust is running down in its building activity, as it is doing, when it has over \$4,000,000 worth of stock comprising over 500 unsold houses, and when it has income and resources of that kind, I submit that it does not need, at least for one year, this \$10,000,000 or \$11,000,000 which, under normal financing, it would be getting this year.

Even if it did need more funds, the trust could borrow those funds elsewhere. I realize the interest rate might be a little higher, but that is one of the problems in which I think, in comparison with the overall problems, it must forgo something. As an example of its borrowing I find, again from the Auditor-General's Report, that in 1965-66 the trust borrowed from other sources \$4,430,000, which was an increase of \$852,000 on what it had borrowed in the year 1964-65.

Therefore, I again stress the point that I consider the building industry could be improved considerably by a re-allocation of the Commonwealth-State housing money. If liquidity improved, general confidence would return to the building industry. If confidence were

returned to the building industry, a sense of confidence would be returned throughout the whole economy of South Australia. I say that because of the very important part that the building industry plays in this State.

I support the motion, but I place special emphasis on the two main headings that I have discussed today: the need for planned research before we proceed with urban renewal; and the method by which it may be possible to assist the building industry in this State.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP (Southern): I support the motion, and in doing so I wish to associate myself with previous speakers in their expressions of regret at the Governor's sickness and the wish for his speedy recovery. I think most people in South Australia realize that the reason for the Governor's bout of serious sickness is the excessive work he has done in the service of Her Majesty the Queen in our community. It is certain that in every corner of the State he has friends who wish him the speediest possible recovery.

I join with previous speakers in their expressions of regret at the death of former members. I have been associated with the late Mr. Octoman, and I wish to go on record for conveying sympathy to his relatives and many friends. He showed us, by his work and personality in this Chamber, just how many friends he must have had.

Formal regard must be paid to the retirement of that very great friend of all honourable members, the Hon. Mr. Densley. I do not think I have been in contact with a more kindly person or one who was more conscientious in the discharge of his duty. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

With that must be coupled congratulations to the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin on his elevation to the Chair of President. I also congratulate the Hon. Mr. Springett on his appointment to this Council in place of Mr. Densley, and I wish him fruitful years ahead as a fellow colleague of his in the Southern District. I have known him for some time, and I am sure that the district will be well served by him.

I wish to congratulate the Hon. Mr. Whyte on his election to the seat held by the late Mr. Octoman. Honourable members have already had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Whyte at work and of enjoying his company. I wish him all the best for the years ahead.

I come now to the consideration of the detail of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. From paragraph 4 onward, the Speech is a most curious one. One cannot help but

wonder what is behind the detail of the ordinary working of the Agricultural Department and the industries that have been included in the Speech. These can only have been included either in ignorance of what is going on or in an attempt to make political capital out of one of our most important departments.

Looking at it in more detail, the Speech is remarkable for what is omitted, because there is very little in it that deals with the very important future moves in the agricultural industry which are immediately before agriculture in this State, and the complete neglect to mention the very serious problems that are in front of us in many districts and in the State as a whole.

In fact, it rather indicates that the present Government is completely out of touch with agriculture in its day-to-day practice. Extraordinary statements have been made at times. Yesterday, the Government stated that there was no drought in South Australia, and prior to that it said that there was no great problem regarding the fruit stranded in the Suez Canal.

Admittedly, the latter statement was subsequently corrected at great detail later in the session, young as it still is, but this point must be remembered. Here is another line where great fuss has been made of the magnificent work done by the department with under-tree sprinklers, but with no mention whatsoever of the fact that the reason for the under-tree sprinklers being used by the growers generally along the Murray River is that the Murray water is, owing to its salinity, no longer safe to use in direct contact with the foliage of trees.

I must take this opportunity of saying just what the position is with the fruit in the Suez Canal, as it affects the individual grower in the Adelaide Hills. I will not deal with the dried fruit. The position of dried fruit is even more obscure, because at present the fumigation required to keep this fruit in good condition is being denied. People that are equipped to do this fumigation are being denied access to these ships, apparently for no other reason than political ones. This fruit must deteriorate badly.

Regarding our home-grown 80,000 boxes out of the 400,000 boxes of apples on board, even if they are unloaded in good condition they are a complete write-off to the grower in South Australia. If they are unloaded in good condition, of course, no payment from insurance can be expected. Even

if they are not unloaded in good condition, there seems to be great doubt whether insurance would apply.

Mention has been made that, with this fruit, payment is on a basis not of owner's risk but of guaranteed advance. What does this guaranteed advance mean? We started this year in the apple industry with one of the most difficult market situations that has ever confronted the fruit growing industry in Australia, with a blank refusal to purchase by customers that we had served for many years. Eventually they came round to saying, "We will buy, but we will not buy at anything else than a very low price".

This is a price that would return to growers far below the cost of production. In fact, the prices at which we were expected to sell our fruit at that stage would have brought bankruptcy to anybody who attempted to sell. Eventually there was an agreement to purchase the apples under guaranteed advance. That guaranteed advance would be just sufficient to carry the cost of shipping them.

It costs 210c today to ship one box of apples to the English market. To cover the cost of preparing the fruit and getting it down to the wharf requires something of the order of \$2.80 or just a bare \$3. There was no possibility of the industry raising the sums required to send this fruit to Britain without assistance.

It left the grower with the ability to get his fruit to London and Continental markets, but with no prospect of any return at all, if it realized only a guaranteed advance. It was a speculative move but one which, from the information to hand, we as an industry accepted, if not completely, at least with a tremendous sigh of relief, and in the upshot a great majority of the fruit that has been sent away has been sold on this basis.

This has occurred because the way the season has turned out the prices realized in Britain have been higher than we have had ruling for many years. Unfortunately, we have 80,000 boxes out of just over 400,000 boxes of fruit that has gone away, with the prospect of their returning to the growers the bare guaranteed advance or the bare rates, possibly, at which they were insured. In one case we know of the shipping agent has insured this fruit for a reasonably realistic value that would have been obtained if it had reached Britain, so in this case there may be some offset if we do get insurance.

However, the remainder of it is going to greatly debase the values of the whole of the fruit shipped overseas this year, because

naturally all this fruit must be pooled if there is to be fair payment made to the individuals concerned. This pooling will tremendously reduce the return to growers over the whole export. It will return, in the best of circumstances, very little indeed above the cost of production, and this will, in effect, be a very disastrous year for many of the growers who have contributed to these shipments.

Reading the statements put forward by the Government on this matter, I do not think there is anything at all to indicate that it realizes just how seriously this industry is being affected. The statement in the press yesterday that there was no drought in South Australia is, to my mind, just not understandable. Admittedly, the farmers in some areas in the Southern District, through making use of every opportunity and every passing shower, have completed practically all of their sowing. However, in other areas very little seed has gone in. If we do get rain, even within the next two or three weeks, it will still be possible for seeding to be carried out with some prospect of return. However, this prospect will decrease week by week and almost day by day.

Mr. President, the real seriousness of the drought is not on the crop side at this stage: it is in the fact that there is practically no feed in the paddocks and no feed reserve. Even right down into the South-East the feed stock reserve is very low indeed. This occurs in districts that have never had any thought in the past of a shortage of this nature. Even in the Adelaide Hills, just outside the 35in. rainfall line, we have paddocks as bare as can be. In fact, I know that one of our local farmers brings a load of potatoes down just to buy two loads of sheep nuts to take back to keep his stock going.

I am afraid I must say, despite what the Government says, that there is big trouble in the Southern District farming community, particularly on the stock side. During the Address in Reply debate last year I warned honourable members about the drought in this State. In fact, a considerable area, of which only a small portion overlapped the State's agricultural areas, had not received any rain at all. I warned of the westward extension of the drought and said that we were in a dangerous position. That position has worsened: we have now reached the stage of losing breeding stock that will be difficult and costly to replace.

Having discussed the matter with some of the financial houses, I can say that, if the Government is not worried, I am afraid the

banks that service our farmers are deeply worried about the position. No matter what is said, we cannot get around the fact that our milk yields are seriously down and our lamb crop is but a fraction of what it should be. Indeed, many farmers are being forced to unload breeding stock that will take a long time to replace. The position is made all the more serious because, by attempting to ward off any desperate measures, many farmers have exhausted their liquid assets and have used practically all their credit. The badly affected area in the Southern District is however limited; it is chiefly on the northern side of the Pinnaroo railway line.

The position at Karoonda is satisfactory, but the exhaustion of feed reserves and the need to unload all but the best stock will soon result in chaotic conditions in the livestock markets. Another illustration of just how much the Government is out of touch in respect of agriculture is last year's debacle concerning the Agriculture Department's policy in regard to seed certification. Although much money is being spent within the department on salaries and amenities for workers, the department is being completely hamstrung by the lack of working funds. The certified seed grower has built up a rich industry in a short time. This industry depends entirely on the quality and reputation of its produce; it depends on the certification of the strain, quality and purity, and on the closest inspections of crops in the field to ensure that the seeds of weeds, including thistles, which are difficult to separate and which will greatly reduce the value of the seed produced, are not present. Early in the season the weeds are almost impossible to find; at that stage they are little flat weeds that do not show above the crop itself but are completely hidden by foliage.

The department is lacking in funds to enable its officers to travel. Early this year it was announced that all the certification would be based on one inspection early in the year, the stage at which all weeds are in the rosette stage. At that stage, the weeds can be found only by working in close inspection; it is impossible for the farmer to pull them out. One inspection only was to determine whether the seed crop would be certified or not. If any prohibited weeds are found in a crop for certification, that crop is condemned. It took a large protest meeting and the expenditure of much time and money on the part of the farmers concerned to convince the department that the set-up was impossible and

that no seed could be certified in the current season if this was insisted on. In effect, this industry, which earns a large export income, had its whole year condemned through the lack of understanding of the practical seed certification on which the industry is based.

I was pleased to hear in Question Time today that the Government is at last realizing the importance of combating salinity and that attention is being directed to the matter on a broader scale than has been evident in the past. The whole matter of water obtained from the Murray River and its purity should be completely above politics. Indeed, I am afraid that unless the matter receives urgent consideration we will simply not have a water supply in South Australia we can use. I believe that 90 per cent or more of South Australia's reticulated water comes, at least in part, from the Murray River. Few people realize what adverse effects may be suffered soon through salinity. I am concerned not only with salinity but with the quantity of water available to us. Many people in the Southern District are vitally affected by water from the Murray River as far up as Blanchetown. South Australia's allocation of Murray River water is 1,200,000 acre feet. That is all the water we can obtain in any short year. The evaporation from the two lakes near the Murray mouth and from the river itself as far as Blanchetown totals 770,000 acre feet.

That figure should be indelibly graven in the minds of anyone who has any responsibility in regard to South Australia's water supply: it means that 770,000 acre feet of our 1,200,000 acre feet of water is dissipated as water vapour in the 3ft. to 4ft. of evaporation that occurs. This water supply has been augmented at times by the flow from the lower rivers of the highlands, to some extent from the Darling. It is water that could not be intercepted and stored later in the season in the Eastern States. This has given us precious flows over and above our allocation, which put us in a satisfactory salinity position at the beginning of the last irrigation season, the water having been freshened into a good, clean body of salt-free water.

This water, which keeps Lake Alexandrina fresh, is the water that the Chowilla dam is designed to intercept. As soon as catchment commences in the Chowilla dam, we cannot expect any water to be released intentionally to refresh the lakes. Therefore, we can no longer afford this huge wastage of 770,000

acre feet out of 1,200,000 acre feet, well over half of our water allocation, in evaporation in the lakes area.

Around the lakes and on the river below Blanchetown many people earn their living on irrigated land, and there has been active encouragement by the present Government of new industry in the Meningie area. However, there is no provision or thought for the future that I can detect as to how these industries will be supplied with water once the Chowilla dam catchment begins. This must cause grave concern about reticulated water for the southern coast, that water being drawn from the river at Goolwa. This is also a hazard, and something will have to be done for these people, who have riparian rights. They have been encouraged to go there and spend their capital to set up in that area. What will the Government do about it? This is the sort of stuff that should be in His Excellency's Speech instead of an attempt to capitalize politically on the work of a great department.

Another matter arises here. I have before me notice of a meeting in the river area to discuss the distribution of propagating material of the sultana vines which have been separated at the Merbein Research Station, one of the most significant pieces of research work done in the grapegrowing industry of Australia for some years. These cuttings are up to the stage of being increased on a wide scale and distributed to farmers in the Mildura and Sunraysia districts of New South Wales and Victoria. Surely the Agriculture Department in South Australia is participating in this distribution? Cannot we hear something about these vines? There is the prospect of increasing the yields of sultana grapes on the Murray River significantly—it is impossible to assess exactly but by at least 25 per cent extra fruit without any increase in production costs beyond those of today. This is important for South Australia. Has the Labor Government heard of it?

The other day, during Question Time, I drew attention to the scourge to all the farming industries of bacterial wilt of lucerne. This has been established in Australia for about 15 years. At first, it was isolated in the Gippsland district of Victoria. Today, we know of it in the northern rivers areas of Victoria, in the Goulburn valley, which is much closer to South Australia. It is a disease of vital importance to anyone who grows lucerne, to anyone who depends on other medics such as burr clover, barrel clover, and many others

which have transformed agriculture in the farming districts of South Australia in the last 20 years.

It is not appreciated just what an agricultural revolution has taken place in South Australia. It is remarkable what is being done on farms compared with what was possible before the advent of medicos. They are basically important, more important than any other plants to the agriculture of South Australia. It is not only the lucerne grower who will be affected here if bacterial wilt of lucerne gets into our important medicago species. It will have a great effect on our agriculture. The medicagos are irreplaceable as fertility builders.

We have an important lucerne seed growing industry. Large areas of the State depend on raising lucerne. These are negligible in importance compared with the importance of burr clover, barrel clover, harbinger, strain 693. All of these are medicagos and have transformed our low rainfall farming districts. We know that knowledge of bacterial wilt has been in the hands of the Government since August. New South Wales, which has realized the danger, has completely prohibited the movement of material likely to carry the disease. This embraces the seed of any portions of plants, for this is a bacterial infection which can be carried by any portion of the plant body and for which we lack any effective curative treatments so far. The menace to this State's agriculture as it stands today cannot be over-emphasized.

My next point I raised during my speech last year on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply: the need for controlled burning of the scrubby areas of the Adelaide Hills. As I am in part responsible for some of the well-being of the Adelaide Hills, I recently took the opportunity of going to Tasmania and examining just what had taken place as a result of the disastrous fires that occurred there in February this year. We were given an exceedingly good welcome and taken on a detailed tour through the area by the officers responsible for setting up defences to preserve Tasmania from similar disaster in future.

On reading the first reports on the fire, I more or less gained the impression that the reason the fires had been so disastrous was that the houses that had been affected were buried in the tremendously deep Mountain Ash forests on the sides of Mount Wellington. Actually the worst loss of life and the greatest property damage occurred not in that

type of country but right on the outskirts of Hobart and in areas almost identical to the closely subdivided parts of the Adelaide Hills. In these areas there is no great depth of forest: it is comparatively light scrub country exactly similar to what can be seen alongside the road leading to Crafrers.

The conditions that brought disaster to Hobart were not abnormal: we have them in Adelaide before every cool change in the summer. There was a temperature of about 100 degrees and humidity of 13 per cent, which would represent a fairly muggy day in South Australia at that time of the year. Apparently, the wind began in the morning and had a velocity of 30 to 40 miles an hour. The fire got into the scrub lands on slopes facing the wind—exactly the same circumstances and conditions that we had in the Adelaide Hills on Black Sunday about a decade ago, and on the occasion when fire broke out at Ashton.

As happens when a fire on a slope facing the wind gets on the rampage, the wind velocity developed tremendously under the drive of convection of heat. The burning fragments of the scrublands were showered over the suburban areas of Hobart. The disaster that occurred has been described by people far more eloquent than I, but the point is that in South Australia a large section of the community lives in exactly similar conditions in Crafrers or Stirling or in any area in the hills that has scrub land on the northern side, facing the north wind. These people live in great danger.

Mr. Kerr, who is in charge of the Emergency Fire Service, agrees that it is not a matter of saying, "If this occurs": it just must occur because we get these conditions so frequently. Hobart has such conditions once in 150 years, whereas we have them three or four times every year; it is only through the grace of Providence that we have been preserved from suffering an equally acute disaster as occurred in Hobart.

This situation cannot be left any longer, nor can people be left in ignorance of the danger in which they stand. We came back from Hobart with that message. People in these areas face a tremendously dangerous circumstance, a circumstance that arises so quickly that the best fire equipment and the most well organized emergency fire service are completely helpless.

This fire in Hobart travelled 70 miles in a little over 3½ hours. The fire in this State on Black Sunday travelled from Paracombe well down to the other side of Nairne in about two

hours. This is what happens when there are winds strong enough to blow burning fragments ahead.

Of the houses in the Sandy Bay area (which is an area like Springfield in this State), some were lost and some were preserved: it depended on whether anything inflammable was nearby, such as rubbish near a woodheap or dry grass. The whole area was covered by burning fragments.

Next time honourable members travel through the Adelaide Hills from Crafers to Verdun, I suggest that they observe the terrible danger that people are in there.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In the Eden Hills area, too.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: It will extend even further than that with the new developments past Flagstaff Hill around to the Tea Tree Gully area; these people are in great danger. Comparatively speaking, there is not much danger in the farming and orchard areas of the hills, because the people there are aware of the fire danger and they are usually protected by belts of green trees, irrigated pastures and vegetable gardens.

They are not taking the same risk as people in the subdivided areas of Bridgewater and Stirling, which are like tinderboxes. I am not telling any secret when I say that the fire controller for that district council area, Mr. Rosewarne, gives a sigh of relief when the scrubland near Mount Lofty is burnt out. When a fire occurs in this area it is encouraged to make a clean job of it, provided property is not endangered. As a result, this area is burnt out once every five years but, by the goodness of Providence, these fires have generally occurred when the wind conditions have been safe.

However, because of these fires, the scrubland in this area (which should be a valuable asset and a showpiece to any nature lover visiting South Australia) is gradually becoming more and more barren, because when a hot fire goes through the scrublands it kills many species and destroys very much wildlife, and this cannot be prevented with uncontrolled fire.

We visited the slopes of Mount Wellington a few weeks ago, and not a song of a bird could be heard; the songs of bower birds and mocking birds used to be marvellous features of that beautiful area. The problem of safeguarding these areas is largely the responsibility of the Government, which has abrogated much land that is in danger. The responsibility for keeping this land safe, through controlled burning, rests squarely on the shoulders

of the Government. Dangerous accumulations of fuel should be removed and burning should be carried out slowly and when conditions are suitable. Otherwise, this Cleland reserve of which we are so proud will be merely the crematorium of the animal and bird life there. Nobody who knows and lives in the Adelaide Hills is comfortable about leaving his house and coming to the city on a very hot and windy day.

We have had experience of how quickly fires can occur and spread. Inspector Howard, the inspector in charge of the Fire Research Squad in Hobart, went to investigate some small fires north-west of Hobart on the morning of the tragic fire in Tasmania and, although he travelled quickly in a radio-control car, before he got back to Hobart after deciding that the fires did not constitute a great menace, the fire had passed him. He had to stop because the roads were choked with burning debris and telegraph poles were burning. This can happen in our Hills areas at any time in certain weather conditions if precautions are not taken. We must clean up all the rubbish that is such a menace today.

In the Adelaide suburban area, there is recognition of the risk in leaving dry grass on an unoccupied block of land, but that risk is negligible in comparison with the risk of scrub and rubbish being allowed to accumulate for many years in the west Hills districts. If this rubbish is not cleaned up, the people who have so far refused to take the responsibility for removing it may one day face responsibility for the loss of many lives and houses.

Another matter affecting the Southern District which has had publicity elsewhere and which is becoming an increasingly urgent problem is the matter of underground water. I think all members are aware of what is happening in an area to the north of Adelaide, where the beds beneath the Virginia area have been over-exploited. There has also been over-exploitation in the Langhorne Creek district. In the South-East, we have extremely valuable beds extending over large areas. In some cases the limit to the quantity of the water is well known, especially where water has been drawn and used in the paper industry. In the Keppoch district the water tables are receding and, in future, some control must be instituted over the use of this immensely valuable asset. Control is exercised in the Virginia area by an instruction that there shall be no more pumping when such a situation arises. However, that is not good enough, because other matters have to be considered in the South-East area.

Extremely valuable water beds exist beneath Pinnaroo, Lameroo, and as far west as Geranium, which, if in any way endangered, would hamstring production in that area. Farming has progressed in the district, although it is completely impractical to conserve stock water in many cases, but these valuable water beds can be reached when water is needed. This is low-rainfall country, and some doubt exists about the source of the water in these beds.

Geologically, it is evident that the water comes from the sandy, high-rainfall country to the south-east of this region below the Melbourne line. Recently, a fairly large-scale attempt has been made to use these beds north of Bordertown. This is understandable, because underground water is of no use to anyone until it is used. However, such exploitation must be watched carefully, because it seems that this withdrawal is being obtained from the supply to Pinnaroo, Lameroo, Geranium, and other adjacent, valuable areas.

A critical survey must be made soon to ascertain what is happening as a result of these large water withdrawals, because the eventual consequences must be considered by every responsible person. Recently, publicity has been given to the projected new main from Murray Bridge to Hahndorf, and much political capital has been made of it. I believe that this was the third project on the list. We hear nothing now of the Kangaroo Creek reservoir (although I hope this project will be continued) and little is heard about the main from Swan Reach to feed into the Warren reservoir. However, what was the third project, the main from Murray Bridge to Hahndorf, has been placed at the top of the list, and much attention has been directed to it.

I do not oppose this policy, because much of my district desperately needs a reliable supply of stock water. The area from Kanmantoo through to the crest of the range has only very meagre supplies of underground water, and much of it is of very poor quality.

Why is there so much talking ahead when there seems to be very little prospect of its coming to fruition for a long while? The cry that is repeated again and again by the Labor Party is about the publicity which it claimed Sir Thomas Playford used to give to projects that were on the horizon. It seems that the horizon is very distant indeed in this case. When we hear any more from the Labor Party on this subject, all we should have to do is

say very quietly, "What about the Murray Bridge pipeline?", because there is the other pipeline that was promised to people east of Murray Bridge. It is sadly missed by many people to whom it was promised.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are a few votes up in Onkaparinga, I think.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: There seems to be no appreciation at all of the problems. The Keith pipeline will never be forgiven the Labor Party, because all the stock water for the district through which it had to pass had to come from that source and that source alone, for there was no other source of water.

This was one of the most rapidly developing areas of the State, and one in which many thousands of dollars of private capital had been invested and programmed so that the land would be in production last year when the pipeline should have been completed. Those farmers have been left completely devoid of water supply, despite the very heavy investment they made in the development of the State.

That country cannot be brought into production on any great scale until this project is completed. No matter if the Government has made itself quite popular with the people of Keith by giving them an interim bore water supply so that they do not have to use for household purposes their own septic effluents, I am afraid this is not effecting the very greatly increased production which would have enriched the State if the pipeline to Keith had gone forward. Apart from the increased number of sheep that could have been carried, the country could have supported many more cattle.

Efforts are being made to use some of this land by cropping, but cropping is going to endanger it, not improve it. This is sandy and shallow limestone country, and how people can get water on to it other than through a pipeline we have yet to find. I deeply regret the fact that, instead of proceeding with work on the hills freeway, the Government is directing much expenditure to improving an already completed part of the freeway. It is astonishing that work is being undertaken just over the crest of the hills that none of us really expected to see in his lifetime. The freeway is designed to carry large volumes of traffic at high speeds right through the hills. However, that work is to be interrupted by the provision of traffic interchanges at mile intervals (or at distances shorter than that). These interchanges must be by far the most costly item in the

whole of the construction programme. One is already nearly completed at Crafrers and another one is situated barely a mile away at Stirling. It has been announced that others will be located at Aldgate, Bridgewater, and Verdun.

Proudly sitting on the side of the road is the announcement that \$2,500,000 has been spent between Measday Hill and Stirling, but it is time that the whole project was re-examined and the necessary work proceeded with, leaving this ancillary work, except where it is vitally necessary, to be completed afterwards. Although it is appreciated that it will be necessary to undertake some of this ancillary work, surely the idea of installing (in the space of what will be less than 10 miles) traffic interchanges at intervals of less than two miles is a little lavish even for the Labor Government.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan: I think the honourable member should check on his facts.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Another matter of vital concern to constituents of the Southern District is the need to examine the system of education in area schools. This is causing more and more concern to parents, who have realized over the last two or three years the full implications of the change in the area school course and the effect it is likely to have on their children's education.

Although I cannot go into great detail in this respect, I point out that more and more parents are finding that, after accepting the recommendation of the school that their children be graded for an area school course, those children are precluded from going on to any other form of secondary education.

This is particularly bad in the case of children who show an interest in agriculture; it means that in such cases the child concerned will have little opportunity to take part in professional agriculture. The grading is performed at an early stage. With children entering a high school at the age of 11 or 12, it is often difficult (and in many cases impossible) to assess their abilities. Indeed, we are likely to witness a tremendous waste of ability and talent if this grading is allowed to continue unchallenged.

This is important at present because the area school system is spread so widely across the State. This affects the future of the State because no more important investment can be made than money spent on educating children. I make the plea that the whole matter of area school training and the grading of children be examined again.

It would seem far more sound if children carried on a basic education to a later stage before a grading was put on their careers and their future was determined for evermore. No matter how conscientious the teacher, I do not think it is possible to grade abilities to the enormous degree that is being undertaken today.

I now wish to deal with agricultural education. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit and examine in detail what is happening at Roseworthy Agricultural College. Undoubtedly the highest tribute must be paid to the Principal for the transformation that has taken place at the college. This is tremendously important to the State and the changes are being undertaken with ability.

At the same time, grading at the college has improved tremendously. In fact, in some respects the grading is now equivalent to the university level. At present, far too many children are being encouraged, at an early stage, to take on agricultural studies in area schools. There seems to be the feeling, both in the Education Department and in Government circles, that a tremendous demand exists for labour in agricultural industries and that as many children as possible should be trained in the elements of agriculture. However, that is not so.

South Australia has about 25,000 farms and that number is decreasing as the farms are consolidated into larger economic units. The farms pass from one owner to another on an average which is hard to determine but which has been variously estimated as low as 15 years and as high as 30 years. Therefore, a figure of 20 years would be fairly close. Only about one farm in 10 employs labour, and one farm in five has labour performed by the son of the owner or by someone who will eventually take over the farm. Therefore, on those figures the maximum number of people that can be expected to obtain employment on farms is not great: it is far less than 1,000 a year. Yet far many more than this are trained at the various schools. This matter should also be examined.

There has been a suggestion that we are at war with the Egyptians: we are giving them our apples and dried fruits from ships at present in the Suez Canal. If that is satisfactory to the Government, by all means let it do so, provided the apples are paid for and we are relieved of our potential loss.

We have again this year continual trouble in our district through another semi-governmental agency being hamstrung—the Electricity Trust. Some of our areas have been

cold. Although plans were made for supplies of electricity, they have been indefinite. We do not know when extensions will be made. There was a man who, after he had been informed that he could be supplied, had to buy a diesel tractor in order to pump water to irrigate his crops.

Then there was a dairy farm developed under difficulty for some years without a decent water supply, and a successful bore was struck. Officially, it was impossible for this man, without considerable assistance and pressure being brought to bear, to get a supply, which now that he has it has completely transformed his property and brought it into a prosperous state.

We are told that everything is the best possible under a Labor Government, but expansion in this district has again been stopped completely because the Electricity Trust has been starved of money. During the

one and a quarter hours that I have been detailing our troubles, I think it has become clearer and clearer that the election promise made by the Labor Party of "Living better with Labor" is far from being fulfilled.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE secured the adjournment of the debate.

LAND EXCHANGE.

The House of Assembly transmitted the following resolution, in which it requested the concurrence of the Legislative Council:

That the proposed exchange of portions of freehold section 216, hundred of Glen Roy, and section 406, hundred of Hynam, as shown on the plan and in the statement laid before Parliament in terms of section 238 of the Crown Lands Act, 1929-1967, on June 20, 1967, be approved.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 6.19 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 12, at 2.15 p.m.