

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, September 28, 1967

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Institute of Technology Act Amendment,
Land Tax Act Amendment,
Licensing.

QUESTIONS

EFFLUENT FOR IRRIGATION

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my question of September 19 about the Bolivar sewage effluent?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Yes. My colleague, the Minister of Works, advises that saline water was found to be seeping into the effluent channel from the new Imperial Chemical Industries evaporation ponds. The seepage entered through the underdrainage system in the channel which is provided to relieve ground water pressures. A technical investigation to investigate the problem is being carried out. This investigation has included the installation of a temporary weir in the channel to determine the effect of raising the water level in the channel and to simulate operating conditions when the effluent is used in the future. At this stage in the investigation it appears that the problem is not acute and the engineering solution should be relatively simple.

GLENELG POLICE STATION

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The police station at Moseley Square, Glenelg, and the adjacent four shops are owned by the Railways Department; this parcel adjoins the town hall and the municipal offices of the city of Glenelg. The Glenelg corporation hopes ultimately to develop Moseley Square in a town planning scheme, with civic and other buildings, so that it will become a famous focal point in the whole redeveloped Glenelg area. Negotiations are in train between the Railways Department and the Public Buildings Department to extend the police station facilities to cover the land now occupied by the adjacent shops. There has been a long established belief within the Glenelg corporation that ultimately the city of

Glenelg will either buy or occupy most, if not all, of this site owned by the Railways Department.

Three of the shop tenants are greatly alarmed; at least one has been given notice by the Railways Department to vacate by October 31, 1967. A plea has been made by the tenants to the department to be allowed to remain in occupation until February, 1968, in order to permit them to profit by the Christmas trading, thereby recouping at least some of the losses in plant, equipment and stock that will result when they are forced to quit. Discussions on this matter have been held with the Premier and the member for the House of Assembly District of Glenelg. An article on this whole matter in the *Guardian* on September 20, 1967, under the heading "Rate-payers congratulate Glenelg mayor", stated:

The Mayor of Glenelg, Mr. J. Anderson, has been congratulated by ratepayers and visitors on the prospect of Glenelg having a jetty and increased tourist trade. In August of this year, the Premier (Mr. Don Dunstan), assured Glenelg Council that he would examine ways of assisting council in the development of a tourist trade. The Premier informed council that the Government would assist in the development of a community centre in Moseley Square, and would consider whether the plans for a police station could be tailored to accommodate the needs of council on the site. He would also examine ways of protecting existing tenants for a period until it was necessary to make substantial alterations.

All these issues have now assumed great importance, because the parties involved believe that inter-departmental decisions may be made this week, possibly today. I ask the Minister of Transport: first, is the Glenelg corporation to be given the opportunity to negotiate further in order ultimately to purchase or occupy the railway property comprising the present police station and adjacent shops; secondly, will the Minister investigate the tenants' plea, so that they may at least occupy their shops until after the Christmas trading period?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I shall look at this matter and see what can be done to assist.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I recently had the opportunity of visiting the Eastern States in order, among other things, to investigate the workings of the industrial development

departments operating there, because of the lack of industrial activity in this State. I was quite a strong advocate of the establishment of a similar department in South Australia. Since then a Director of Industrial Development has been appointed in this State, and South Australia should now be on a competitive basis in this respect with the other States. Can the Chief Secretary inform the Council of the nature of the work being undertaken by the new department; is it similar to industrial development departments in the Eastern States; are any full-scale surveys being made for new industries that may require them; are feasibility studies being undertaken in matters concerning water, sewerage and electricity requirements; and does it make recommendations in regard to the availability of land?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This office is not under my control. In the main, the answer would be "Yes" to most of the questions; however, I shall obtain a reply for the honourable member from the Premier as soon as possible.

SUPREME COURT CHARGES

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of September 13 concerning fees charged for copies of evidence?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The last part of the honourable member's question was: can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will consider reducing this fee of 50c a page? The answer to that is "No". The charge was fixed bearing in mind the cost of court services and only after careful examination.

OVERLAND

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Recently on proceeding to catch the Overland I found that my booking had been transferred from car No. 6 to car No. 10. The reason given was that there was insufficient custom to warrant the running of car No. 6. I wonder, therefore, whether the patronage on the Overland is dropping off. Also, I have been told repeatedly by people who have done much travelling that if this train had a dining car and a lounge car it would be the best train in Australia. I ask the Minister whether patronage on the train has dropped and whether, in view of the comments that I and others have heard from time to time, he would give further consideration to

the provision of a dining car and a lounge car on that train?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The fact that on one occasion the bookings might have been reduced to such an extent that a carriage was taken off does not indicate that the patronage on this train is dropping. In fact, the last report of the Railways Commissioner shows that patronage on the interstate services has increased. I have replied to several questions regarding the provision of a dining car. On most occasions the train is so well patronized that if another type of carriage such as a dining car (which is a heavy car) were added, two passenger cars might have to be taken off the train. Now added to this is the request for a lounge car. This seems to be unnecessary, but if at some future time when there is sufficient patronage to run two trains every day, this could possibly be done. As the trains are hauling heavy loads of passengers interstate it is not possible at this point to introduce a dining car, let alone a lounge car.

COPPER

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Can the Minister of Mines inform the Council of the progress being made in the commercial development of the copper field at Mount Gunson?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The company itself is now seeking the co-operation of the Commonwealth Government in regard to the supply of water and power from Woomera. However, up to the present neither the company nor the South Australian Government has been successful in getting any co-operation from the Commonwealth Government in these two matters.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The Minister stated that the co-operation of the Commonwealth Government is being sought. What form of co-operation is required from the Commonwealth Government in this matter?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: The Commonwealth Government has been asked to supply power and water from Woomera, which is under its control. Unless power is supplied, Mount Gunson cannot be operated. At this stage we have not received the co-operation expected from the Commonwealth Government in making power and water available so that Mount Gunson can be fully exploited in order to make use of whatever copper may be discovered there.

LICENSING BILL

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: As I think most members know, I am very anxious that the forms and procedures required of this Council and of the Constitution should be followed meticulously, and for that reason I was most distressed about a fortnight ago when it was announced that the new Licensing Act would take effect as from today. I think it unfortunate, to put it mildly, that the Premier should have announced, even before the Bill had gone through the procedures of this Council, that today would be the day on which it was to come into force. I think that is a wrong attitude to adopt. However, that is not my main point in speaking on the matter today. I do not think any of us should assume that His Excellency the Governor will approve any Bill submitted to him, and I think it is being extremely discourteous at least—

The PRESIDENT: I think the honourable member is debating the question.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: Perhaps so, Mr. President, but the point I want to make is quite clear. I do not think it is for us to assume that a Bill automatically will be approved or that legislation will come into force on a certain day. I ask the Chief Secretary whether in future he will bear this aspect in mind in the interests of maintaining respect for democratic institutions on a proper basis.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. However, let us get the facts straight. At no time did the Premier say the legislation would come into operation on September 28, and nobody was more upset than I when I read the announcement in that rag, the *News*. What the Premier said (he told me this when I asked him, and it was supported by other people) was that it was expected that it would operate from September 28. The headline in the *News* in black letters stating that the legislation would operate from September 28 annoyed all honourable members of this Chamber. Of course, that was vastly different from what the Premier had actually said. What appeared in the *News* was not honest, proper, or decent reporting. The fact that the Government should be placed in a position like that through bad reporting shows bad taste by the newspaper and by the person responsible, and I have told the person responsible this. I make it clear that I agree that no-one can assume that Bills automatically will be assented to. Of course, in the normal course of events very few Bills that pass through this Parliament are not approved by His Excellency.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: He has amended them occasionally.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That may be so, and he still had the right to do that on this occasion if he so wished. I believe that decorum, democratic machinery and protocol should be observed as much as possible. However, I do not want the Premier and the Government to be blamed for what was blatant misreporting by the *News*.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: In view of the Chief Secretary's remark about the *News* being a rag, can I take it that the Labor Party is not satisfied with the deal it is getting from that section of the press in this State?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I do not wish to comment on that. I have various opinions of various newspapers at various times; my only reason for calling it a "rag" at this time is that the report was not truthful, not factual, not fair and not honest.

WARREN WATER DISTRICT

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 14, regarding a shortage of water supplies in the Warren water district?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: My colleague has supplied me with the following reply:

The position regarding supply from the Warren reservoir has been kept under close observation for the past few weeks and it is now clear that unrestricted consumer demand during the coming summer can not be safely met. The current storage in Warren reservoir is 695,000,000 gallons which compares with 1,400,000,000 gallons at this time last year and our chances of receiving significant natural intake are now considered to be very slight. Natural intakes since the beginning of this calendar year have amounted to only 102,000,000 gallons compared with 1,425,000,000 gallons for the same period last year.

Although gravity flow from the Mannum-Adelaide main was commenced on January 21, 1967, and continuous boosting has been in progress since April 6, 1967, and intake from this source has now amounted to 959,000,000 gallons this is not sufficient to ensure a satisfactory residual storage at the end of summer in April, 1968. For the period October to April inclusive we can expect a further intake of 850,000,000 gallons from Mannum-Adelaide which will with current storage provide a total of 1,545,000,000 gallons less an estimated 133,000,000 gallons for evaporation making a total of a little over 1,400,000,000 gallons.

Unrestricted consumer demand for October to April has been assessed at 1,260,000,000 gallons and it will be necessary to restrict this by 110,000,000 gallons in order to have a safe residual of approximately 250,000,000 gallons

at the end of April, by which time it is anticipated that intake from Mannum-Adelaide will be sufficient to hold demand in the absence of early natural intake. It is anticipated that 110,000,000 gallons can be saved by the prohibition of sprinklers for watering of private gardens and the prohibition of all forms of irrigation except under and in accordance with permits which will be issued on application to the Regional Engineer, Central Region, Elizabeth. Under permit, consumers will be allocated a monthly quota which will be basically 25 per cent less than normal usage. This degree of restriction has been discussed with representatives of commercial growers and it is felt that little real hardship will result. Savings will be made by the growers in the use of water and certain private bores not usually used will be brought into commission by the growers.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Salisbury East High School Additions,
Salisbury High School Additions.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

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

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The total appropriation proposed in this Bill is \$206,929,000. Payments already authorized by special Acts are estimated at \$71,060,000, giving a total of proposed payments from Consolidated Revenue Account for the year 1967-68 of \$277,989,000. Estimated receipts total \$274,022,000, so that an estimated deficit of \$3,967,000 is forecast for this year. Before dealing with the appropriations proposed in the Bill, I shall comment briefly on last year's experience and on anticipated receipts this year. For 1966-67 actual receipts at \$258,823,000 were \$3,121,000 in excess of the original estimate of \$255,702,000, and payments at \$258,717,000 were \$699,000 above the original estimate of \$258,018,000. Included in the actual receipts for 1966-67 was a contribution of \$2,624,000 from Loan Account to meet the cost of building grants for non-government hospitals which had been made from Revenue Account during the course of

the year. As a result all building grants for non-government hospitals were met from Loan Account instead of about half of those grants, as had been proposed in August, 1966. This adjustment brought the practice in South Australia fully into line with the practice followed in other Australian States. The net effect of these variations was to convert the result for the year from the estimated deficit of \$2,316,000 to a small surplus of \$106,000.

Taxation receipts overall were \$336,000 below estimate, the major factor being stamp duties, which were \$708,000 less than estimated. This shortage was a result of the general quietness in the economy last year. Land tax receipts were \$154,000 below estimate, due partly to an increase in outstanding accounts following late completion of billing and partly to some reductions of values following objection to assessments. The only other significant variation from estimate within this group was in succession duties receipts, which were \$573,000 above estimate as a result of a sharp increase in the number of larger estates assessed. Receipts for business undertakings were \$1,204,000 below estimate. For the Railways Department actual earnings for the year fell below the estimate by \$833,000, the main shortages being for grain carriage, general merchandise and livestock. However, temporarily outstanding accounts at the end of June last rose by \$333,000 above the corresponding figure of 12 months earlier; thus the fall of \$1,166,000 in cash receipts were greater than the shortage in the volume of business. Harbour revenues were \$224,000 below estimate due to the volume of business being less than anticipated. Receipts from water and sewer rates exceeded the estimate by \$167,000 as payments for excess water usage were greater than expected.

For miscellaneous departmental charges, recoveries and fees there were numerous variations above and below estimate, most of them small. The largest movement was in receipts from fines and fees of the law courts—\$330,000 above the original estimate. Receipts from territorial sources were \$145,000 above estimate, about half being due to additional mining royalties and half to additional Crown lands rents. Commonwealth general purpose grants exceeded the estimate by \$1,380,000. This increase above estimate was due to two factors. At the conference of State and Commonwealth Ministers held in Canberra in February last, the Commonwealth agreed to a more up-to-date calculation of the movement in average wages throughout Australia, which

is one of the three factors used in determining the annual grant. The Commonwealth also agreed to make available a special grant of \$5,000,000 distributed among the States in the same proportions as the main grant. The excess of \$699,000 above estimate for payments was the net result of many variations, some above and some below the original appropriations. The major excess above estimate was \$692,000 for the Railways Department, due partly to the effect of increased awards and partly to additional costs incurred in track repair following floods on Eyre Peninsula and heavier costs in repair and maintenance of rolling stock. Payments by the Engineering and Water Supply Department were \$720,000 less than estimated, due almost entirely to reduced costs of pumping water from the Murray River following the favourable spring and cool summer last year.

The social service departments were all more costly than expected originally. The payments of the Police Department were \$278,000 above estimate mainly because of the impact of increased salary scales which became effective during the course of the year. For the Hospitals Department actual payments exceeded the estimate by \$654,000, largely in respect of additional costs for laundry services, drugs and appliances for the Royal Adelaide and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, while special requirements in school bus contract rates, conveyance allowances for student teachers, and lump sum payments on the death or resignation of teachers were responsible for the expenditure of the Education Department exceeding the estimate by \$272,000. Because of unforeseen costs in controlling a new occurrence of fruit fly in January last actual payments by the Agriculture Department were \$131,000 above estimate.

In framing its financial proposals for 1967-68, the Government has had regard to the necessity of encouraging a clearly improving economy and avoiding any action that might inhibit increased activity in industry, commerce and employment. As the State must maintain its services in line with an expanding economy, the Government was faced with the alternatives of either increasing charges and taxes or budgeting for a moderate deficit. No major revenue-raising measures are proposed this year and a current deficit of \$3,967,000 is anticipated. This financial year the Hospitals Fund, which derives its revenues from the profits of the State lotteries and the commission from pools conducted by the Totalizator Agency Board, will for the first time play a major role in

providing additional finance for the maintenance and operation of hospitals. It is estimated that about \$3,150,000 will be available in the Hospitals Fund for distribution to hospitals in 1967-68. There has been an understanding that the moneys available out of the Hospitals Fund shall not be used to reduce the provision from Consolidated Revenue either for public hospitals or for grants to subsidized hospitals, and accordingly the provision made from Revenue Account this year in respect of the running and maintenance of hospitals is greater than the amounts provided for those purposes from revenue in 1966-67. The whole of the costs of major buildings, whether for Government or for other hospitals, will continue to be met from Loan Account, and the whole of the provisions for minor building alterations and equipment for subsidized hospitals will continue to be met by vote out of Consolidated Revenue.

The estimated total receipts from all sources in 1967-68 are \$274,022,000, an increase of \$15,199,000 above actual receipts last year. The receipts are expected from:

	\$
Taxation	44,277,000
Public works and services— charges, recoveries and fees	123,595,000
Territorial receipts	2,042,000
Commonwealth grants	104,108,000
	\$274,022,000

The estimate of \$44,277,000 for taxation is \$2,008,000 in excess of actual receipts last year. Motor vehicle taxation receipts are expected to maintain last year's rate of growth and an increase of \$562,000 to a total of \$13,000,000 is estimated. As these taxes are required by Statute to be made available for road purposes a variation in this item has no net impact on the Budget.

Stamp duty receipts are estimated to increase by \$802,000 to \$12,010,000, due partly to the operation for a full year of higher rates for conveyances and certain credit transactions that came into force during the course of 1966-67 and partly to increased business. For succession duties a small increase of \$127,000 to a total of \$7,450,000 is forecast. These receipts are extremely difficult to estimate. Actual receipts last year were \$573,000 above estimate and almost \$1,200,000 above receipts in the previous year. A repetition of last year's sharp upward movement cannot be anticipated.

Because of the application for a full year of increased rates of liquor taxation effective from the commencement of the 1967 licensing year, and because of an increase in the value

of liquor turnover, it is estimated that total receipts from publicans' licences will reach \$2,100,000, an increase of \$477,000. Betting tax receipts of the Betting Control Board are expected to be affected adversely by the extension of off-course Totalizator Agency Board facilities and by a variation of the provisions in respect of winning bets tax. As a result, a fall of \$66,000 to \$1,250,000 is expected for the board's revenues.

Receipts by the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department are expected to increase by \$37,000, of which about \$35,000 will be due to an increase from \$2 a year to \$4 a year in gun licence fees to operate from January 1, 1968. This increase will not assist the Budget as the additional revenues will be used primarily to expand the activities of the department in the provision of game reserves, research and facilities.

For public works and services it is estimated that receipts will total \$123,595,000, an increase of \$4,915,000 above actual receipts last year. Due largely to poorer seasonal conditions and a possible reduction in the throughput of grain at bulk handling installations it is estimated that receipts from the operation of the State's marine and harbour services will be \$6,560,000 this year, a decline of \$116,000 from the actual receipts of last year.

Railway fares and freights are expected to total \$30,440,000, an increase of \$356,000 compared with last year. Increased revenues are anticipated from a full year's operation of increased book rates which came into force last year, and improved cash receipts are expected because of no further increase in outstanding accounts in 1967-68 whereas 1966-67 cash receipts were reduced because of a temporary increase in outstanding accounts at the year's end. However, net reductions in revenues are anticipated from variations in the volume of carriage of different commodities and in special contract rates. Overall cash receipts are expected to increase by \$356,000.

For the State's water and sewer services it is estimated that receipts will be \$22,400,000, an increase of only \$83,000 above actual receipts last year. The normal expansion of services would be expected to bring increased revenues of about \$700,000, but two factors will combine to offset the major part of this increase. Receipts on account of excess water usage are expected to be less than receipts last year and, with the introduction of quarterly billing this year, it will be unavoidable that some bills rendered for the fourth quarter of 1967-68 will not be paid until early next

financial year. Anticipated recoveries of interest and sinking fund total \$23,918,000, an increase of \$1,049,000 above actual recoveries last year. The main increases will be \$409,000 to be received from the Electricity Trust and \$511,000 from the Housing Trust.

For other departmental fees and recoveries the estimated total receipts are \$27,277,000, an increase of \$1,462,000 on last year's receipts. This increase is expected to be the net result of several factors which may be summarized as:

	\$	
Contribution from the Hospitals		
Fund towards the increased costs of running and maintaining Government hospitals	2,085,000	
Net increase in various departmental charges for services, fees and recoveries	2,761,000	
		<u>4,846,000</u>
Less—	\$	
Reduced recovery from the Highways Fund	760,000	
Non-recurrence of special transfer of non-government hospital building grants to Loan Account in 1966-67	2,624,000	
		<u>3,384,000</u>
		\$1,462,000

The reduced recovery from the Highways Fund of earlier contributions made from Revenue Account is the difference between the actual recovery of \$1,000,000 made last year and \$240,000 to be recovered this year. This year's recovery of \$240,000 will complete the recoveries of \$2,480,000 to Loan and Revenue Accounts as authorized by section 31a of the Highways Act.

Within the group of various departmental charges for services and recoveries the principal increases expected are in Commonwealth grants towards universities and institutes of advanced education, patients' fees for Government hospital services, and fines and fees of the law courts. Territorial receipts are expected to decline by \$78,000 from the 1966-67 actual receipts to \$2,042,000 this year. Receipts from mining royalties last year were \$82,000 above estimate and on present information it seems that 1967-68 production and payment of royalties are likely to move back towards the original estimate of last year. The operation of the statutory formula for the taxation reimbursement grant is expected to increase South Australia's grant by about \$8,354,000

this year to a total of \$102,700,000. Estimated payments in 1967-68 for purposes for which appropriation is contained in existing legislation are \$71,060,000, of which the main items are:

	\$
Interest and sinking fund in respect of the public debt of the State	58,500,000
Transfer to the Highways Fund of the net proceeds of motor taxation	7,910,000
Contributions by the Government to the South Australian Superannuation Fund	3,475,000

The difference between total estimated expenditure for the year and payments already authorized by Special Acts is \$206,929,000, which is the amount to be appropriated by this Bill. Details of the requirements for each department to carry out its normal functions for the year are shown in clause 3. I shall now give honourable members a brief outline of the major appropriations sought to continue and expand these activities during 1967-68:

Police Department, \$9,246,000—This is an increase of \$751,000, or about 9 per cent, above last year's payments; \$603,000 of the increase is provided for salaries and wages. At June 30, the active strength of the force was 1,660, compared with 1,558 two years earlier. A further strengthening of the force will be possible this year.

Prisons Department, \$1,663,000—The increase above the actual payments of 1966-67 is \$110,000, or about 7 per cent. Since June 30, 1965, the number of prison officers has increased from 236 to 266 and a further strengthening of staff is expected this financial year.

Hospitals Department, \$22,150,000—The amount proposed represents an increase of \$1,642,000, or about 8 per cent, above payments in 1966-67. The provision of \$8,043,000 for the Royal Adelaide Hospital is an increase of \$639,000 above expenditure at this hospital last year; \$5,073,000 is included for salaries and wages and \$2,970,000 for general running expenses. An increase of \$342,000 to \$4,763,000 is sought in the appropriation for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital; \$3,086,000 is included for salaries and wages and \$1,677,000 for expenses of normal operation and maintenance of the hospital. Provision is included for the cost of running a new Community Mental Health Centre at Woodville, which will commence operations early in 1968. It is intended that the new centre will operate along the same lines as the existing centre at Parkside, where people who

do not require admittance to mental hospitals may receive psychiatric help and social support. The total cost of running and maintaining Government hospitals in 1967-68, including provisions met by the Public Buildings Department and elsewhere in the Revenue Budget, is expected to be \$26,768,000, of which \$2,085,000 is proposed to be provided from the Hospitals Fund and \$24,683,000 will be a net charge against the Budget. The gross provisions are to be met initially from revenue appropriations and the contribution from the Hospitals Fund is to be taken into revenue as a receipt.

Department of Public Health, \$1,007,000—An increase of \$135,000, or more than 15 per cent, is proposed for the Public Health Department this year. This increase will enable the department to continue and expand its services in combating poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, in eliminating or reducing conditions which adversely affect the health of the community, and in providing school health services. The School Health Branch will continue to administer the dental therapists' training scheme, which commenced early in 1967. By February, 1968, the first intake of 16 trainees will have completed one year of the two-year course and a second group of 16 will have commenced the first year of their training. To cater for this doubling of the number of trainees it will be necessary to increase the teaching staff of the branch and to provide additional equipment. Provision for the expenditure involved has been included in the amount proposed for the School Health Branch.

Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous, \$7,255,000—The appropriation sought under this heading may be divided into two parts, the first being medical and health payments, and the second other social service payments, war obligations, committee expenses and sundries. Medical and health payments proposed this year total \$6,938,000, an increase of \$1,072,000, or about 18 per cent, over comparable payments of \$5,866,000 last year. Of the total, \$1,065,000 is to be provided directly from the Hospitals Fund, compared with \$100,000 made available from that fund in 1966-67, and \$5,873,000 from Revenue Account, compared with \$5,766,000 paid from revenue last year. For individual hospitals the largest provision is \$2,189,000 for the Adelaide Children's Hospital, an increase of \$254,000. The sum of \$35,000 has been provided as a maintenance subsidy for the Lyell McEwin Hospital. Following submissions from the three councils responsible

for administering this hospital the Government undertook to meet portion of the deficiency arising from the treatment of patients admitted to the hospital and the full cost of operating the casualty section. The maintenance subsidy of \$540,000 proposed for the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital will be an increase of \$106,000 over the amount paid last year. Honourable members will recall that the Government is meeting the full costs of a new 150-bed hospital building and major alterations to the existing building. The new building is already in use and it is expected that the renovated old building will be occupied during the course of the year. The sum of \$550,000 has been provided for a maintenance subsidy to the Home for Incurables, an increase of \$339,000 above the figure for 1966-67. The amount proposed has regard to the cost of operating the recently completed multi-storey building, which will increase the accommodation available at the home from 203 to 410 beds. The provisions for other social service payments, war obligations, committee expenses and sundries total \$1,382,000, an increase of \$44,000.

Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Housing—Miscellaneous, \$17,757,000—The principal items in the appropriation sought under this heading are amounts that appear on both the receipts and payments sides of the Budget. The total proposed is \$2,968,000 more than actual payments in 1966-67. Principal and interest contributions to the Commonwealth Government in respect of moneys borrowed under the terms of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement are estimated at \$5,368,000, an increase of \$483,000 above payments last year. These contributions are entirely recouped to the Budget by the South Australian Housing Trust.

The transfer to the Railways Department is designed to reduce the prospective deficit in the Railways Account to a figure that could possibly be eliminated by further achievements in reducing expenditure or attracting revenue. Last year the adverse impact of the railway undertaking on the Budget was \$1,858,000 heavier than expected due partly to the effect of awards and partly to unforeseen contingency items, including the heavy costs incurred in track repair following floods on Eyre Peninsula. The effect of higher awards this year is estimated to involve additional expenditure of about \$800,000. Taking all factors into account, the Government has deemed it desirable to increase the transfer to

the Railways Department to \$10,000,000, compared with \$8,000,000 in 1966-67.

An amount of \$300,000 is provided as a contribution to the Electricity Trust for the payment of subsidies to country electricity suppliers in terms of the Electricity (Country Areas) Subsidy Act. The subsidies are to enable various country electricity suppliers to reduce their tariffs to within 10 per cent of the rates charged by the trust in the metropolitan area. Other significant provisions under this heading are \$632,000 for principal and interest repayments for moneys borrowed under the Railways Standardization and Railways Equipment Agreements, \$470,000 for expenses of conversion and public loans, and \$430,000 for interest on Trust Funds and other moneys.

Lands Department, \$3,252,000—The amount proposed is an increase of \$241,000 above the amount actually spent in 1966-67. It includes a provision of \$130,000 for a contribution to the Commonwealth towards the State's share of the costs of war service land settlement, and a provision of \$120,000 for the purchase of land for reserves.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, \$12,978,000—The appropriations set down for the Engineering and Water Supply Department total \$12,978,000 and represent an increase of \$1,792,000 above payments in 1966-67. Included in the provision is \$314,000, being South Australia's expected contribution towards the maintenance of Murray River works, \$2,150,000 for electric power for pumping water from the Murray River through the two major mains, and \$10,514,000 for other departmental costs of operation and maintenance. It is clear that the department will face a prolonged period of full-scale pumping to meet the needs of the metropolitan area, and accordingly the cost of power for the Mannum-Adelaide main and bores has been estimated at \$1,550,000, an increase of \$940,000 over similar payments last year. I hope that estimate is proved wrong.

Public Buildings Department, \$6,972,000—This provision is mainly for maintenance and repair of Government buildings, for cost of replacement furniture, and for minor alterations. It exceeds actual payments last year by \$422,000. Apart from salaries and wages totalling \$2,945,000, the main items of expenditure under this heading are \$1,160,000 for education buildings, \$720,000 for hospital buildings, \$175,000 for police and courthouse buildings, and \$500,000 for other Government buildings. Provision has been included for the

cost of providing essential services for the State Library for a full 12 months and for the new office block in Victoria Square for part of the year.

Education Department, \$49,492,000—The amount proposed for the Education Department represents an increase of \$4,322,000, or almost 10 per cent, above the actual payments of last year. The additional cost for special items such as major awards and the second instalment of the five-year programme of equal pay for female teachers, offset by a somewhat reduced requirement for free books for primary schoolchildren, is estimated at a net \$1,115,000, leaving an increase of \$3,207,000 to finance general expansion of the department's services.

Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, \$12,197,000—This year's provision is an increase of \$1,545,000, or nearly 15 per cent, above expenditure in 1966-67. The major part of this provision is for grants to the University of Adelaide, \$7,330,000; the Flinders University of South Australia, \$2,414,000; and the South Australian Institute of Technology, \$1,586,000, for normal recurrent purposes and for special research purposes. The proposed grants to the three institutions include the amount to be recovered from the Commonwealth in addition to the State's net contribution. The Commonwealth grants will continue to be credited to revenue as received. An additional grant of \$1,162,000 to the University of Adelaide for the Waite Agricultural Research Institute is included in the amount provided under Minister of Agriculture-Miscellaneous. General agreement has been reached between the Commonwealth and State Governments, the Australian Universities Commission, and the universities for a new scale of academic salaries to apply from July 1, 1967. The suggested new scales provide broadly for a 15 per cent increase in academic salaries, which were last increased as from January 1, 1964. The final details have not yet been worked out, but the Government has considered it desirable to include provisions which are expected to cover the additional costs after allowing for the portion to be met from increased university fees. Other major items included under this heading are the grant to the Kindergarten Union of South Australia, \$542,000; the cost of assistance to students for meeting tertiary education fees estimated at \$75,000; and the cost of concession passes for scholars using licensed bus services in the metropolitan area, \$52,000.

Agriculture Department, \$2,397,000—The provision for this year is \$162,000 more than

the payments for 1966-67. Additional expenditure was incurred last year in stripping and spraying trees and disposal of fruit following the outbreak of fruit fly in January, 1967, the first major outbreak since the summer of 1963-64. The funds provided do not anticipate a further serious outbreak during the present financial year. However, provision has been made to complete work arising from last year's outbreak and to enable the department to continue to carry out its normal measures, such as road blocks, which have been largely responsible for keeping this pest under control. The total amount provided will also permit the department to continue its activities in guarding against the introduction of other pests and diseases, its information and advisory services, and its work at research and experimental centres.

Mines Department, \$1,981,000—The amount proposed for 1967-68 is \$16,000 above actual payments last year, which included an amount of \$52,000 for costs of investigations by engineering consultants into certain aspects of the construction of a natural gas pipeline. A provision for this purpose is not required this year, so the amount available to the department for other purposes in 1967-68 is an increase of \$68,000. Included in the appropriation is an amount of \$240,000 for the Government's contribution towards the operating expenses of the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories.

Department of Marine and Harbors, \$3,634,000—This is \$135,000 more than was spent last year for maintenance of wharves and facilities, operation of bulk loading installations, and other current purposes.

Railways Department, \$32,489,000—For the Railways Department the provision this year is \$861,000 above last year's payments, and is designed to cover the cost of increased wage and salary awards and to provide a small increase for other purposes. Expenditure in 1966-67 was about \$1,800,000 above comparable payments in the previous year, but it is not expected that the increase this year will be anywhere nearly so great as awards were more costly last year and the department was also involved in heavy non-recurring costs for repair of track and rolling stock.

Highways and Local Government Department, \$3,526,000—The amount provided for the Highways and Local Government Department this year is \$419,000 above actual payments in 1966-67. Of this increase, \$287,000 is required to meet increased salaries and wages, and \$132,000 to meet other higher

costs of operation. Any variation in the amount provided has no net impact upon the Budget, as costs associated with the department are deducted from motor vehicle taxation receipts in determining the amount to be transferred to the Highways Fund in accordance with the Highways Act.

Department of Social Welfare, \$3,049,000— This amount is required for the upkeep of schools, training centres and other institutions under the control of the department, and for assistance to families in serious need through continued sickness or unemployment or for other reasons. The provision is \$235,000 in excess of actual payments last year. Occupation of new buildings at the Boys Reformatory Institution, Magill, will be completed during the year and provision has been included for the increased number of boys to be accommodated at this institution.

Additional expenditure is provided for at Davenport House, Millswood, which has been operating at reduced capacity pending the completion of renovations which are now in progress. It is anticipated that the work will be completed before the end of 1967. The completion of these renovations will enable the capacity of the institution to be more than doubled. An amount of \$420,000 has been provided for public relief during 1967-68. The Commonwealth has recently agreed to provide assistance in appropriate cases during the first six months in which a wife is deserted or left without income because her husband is in prison. It is expected that Commonwealth assistance to the extent of some \$60,000 will be received during the year. This will be credited to revenue as received.

Turning to the clauses of the Bill, clause 2 provides for the further issue of \$140,928,853, being the difference between the amount authorized by the two Supply Acts, \$66,000,000, and the total of the appropriation required in this Bill. Clause 3 sets out the amount to be appropriated and the allocation of the appropriations to the various departments and functions. The clause also provides that if increases of salaries or wages become payable pursuant to any determination made by a properly constituted authority the Governor may appropriate the necessary funds by warrant, and the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased accordingly. The clause further provides that, if the cost of electricity for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main, from bores in the Adelaide water district, and through the Morgan-Whyalla main, should be

greater than the amounts set down in the Estimates, the Governor may appropriate the funds for the additional expenditure, and the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount of such additional expenditure.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time up to the amounts set down in monthly orders issued by the Governor, and provides that the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid. Clause 5 authorizes the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by clause 3 of the Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, 1967.

Clause 7 authorizes the expenditure of \$4,150,000 from the Hospitals Fund. Honourable members may recall that last year a similar clause gave authority for the expenditure of \$350,000 from the fund in 1966-67 and during the early months of 1967-68. That authority was given as one figure. This year the clause is in the same general form but it has been deemed desirable to show separately the figures for the two years concerned. The authority of \$3,150,000 sought for 1967-68 is the amount expected to be available for distribution during the year. Should the amount available for distribution prove to be in excess of \$3,150,000 in 1967-68 then it would be necessary for the Government to seek Parliament's authority before actually making further expenditures beyond that figure. The logical time to seek that approval, if necessary, would be when a supplementary Appropriation Bill is before Parliament.

For the early part of 1968-69 until the passing of the new Appropriation Bill an authority is sought to expend from the fund amounts not exceeding \$1,000,000. This should suffice to cover the sums becoming available until about mid-October, 1968. It would be reasonable to expect assent to the new Appropriation Bill in the middle or latter part of October, and in accordance with present practice that Bill would give authority for the whole of the expected expenditures from the fund in 1968-69. Clause 8 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated. I commend the Bill for consideration of honourable members.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS secured the adjournment of the debate.

CONTROL OF WATERS ACT

Adjourned debate on the resolution of the House of Assembly.

(For wording of resolution, see page 2041.)

(Continued from September 26. Page 2152.)

The Hon. H. K. KEMP (Southern): I think every responsible person in the Southern District heard of this proclamation with a sigh of relief. At least some recognition was being given to the dire danger in which all industries requiring water and drawing supplies from the Lower Murray find themselves at present.

I have spoken on this subject before, and I think it is apposite to review the position in the Lower Murray areas and the difficult and dangerous condition that has so rapidly developed in the last few years. This year has brought what we feared might be a danger in the future—possibly 10 years hence or even 15 years—immediately before us.

South Australia receives an allocation of 1,250,000 acre feet of water from the River Murray Waters Agreement each year, but if that flow cannot be sustained then the State is entitled to three-thirteenth's share of water in storage and the flow from the Upper Murray. Much has been made of the fact (particularly in another place) that the flow is much greater than that, and that over a 20-year period the average wastage each year is about 6,000,000 acre feet of water, which flows out to sea at the Murray mouth. However, I have not been able to check that figure, but in years of shortage such a flow does not occur and we return to the basic allotment of 1,250,000 acre feet, which is the normal entitlement of the State and the restricted amount to which we will be held when the chips are down.

Another figure must be placed alongside that, because the River Murray Waters Agreement takes cognizance of the water needs of irrigated sections along the river and originally extended as far as Blanchetown. More recently, water use has been controlled as far as Mannum, but beyond that point no control has existed until the proclamation before us. People below Mannum are entitled to the normal riparian rights that apply under British law, except where those rights are displaced by statutory law.

The reason for this difference in the lower river is that between the Murray mouth and Blanchetown lies a large storage of water in

Lake Alexandrina and in Lake Albert from which the evaporation is 770,000 acre feet. That quantity is calculated on recorded evaporation rates obtained with meteorological instruments installed in observation stations. Put together 770,000 acre feet and 1,250,000 acre feet and one realizes why it has been impossible to enforce licensing from Mannum to the sea coast.

With a shortage, there can never be any guarantee that anybody downstream from Mannum could obtain useful supplies of water. We have experienced great difficulty in the lakes, and particularly in the summer in recent years, in finding water of sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the dairy pastures and industries that have established themselves in that area. We could see trouble coming in a big way and I hoped sincerely that this proclamation would recognize that and that the authorities would really set to work to try to find a solution to the problem.

It is apparent, from studying the speech with which this matter was presented in another place and the speeches that followed, that the people who have devised this measure do not really understand the problem. Reading the Minister's speech in this Council, we observe that one of the main points in favour of controlling supplies from Mannum southwards was not the restriction on water use but the heavy contamination, and the reason put forward was the proliferation of holiday shacks along the river, which were likely to contaminate the supplies of water for all industries. However, the development of shacks from Mannum southwards is but an iota compared with the hundreds of shacks north of Mannum, so that point can be regarded as no more than eyewash.

The assumption is, apparently, that if people are limited in the amount of water that can be pumped from the river and the two lakes, sufficient water will be conserved to maintain those industries in that area. Reduction of pumping, no matter how severe it is (even if it is stopped completely) will not cut down that 770,000 acre feet of water that will be lost over a period of 12 months from the lakes and the lower part of the river. This loss is completely overlooked.

Another important fact is that if we begin the summer, as we are this year, with water having a salinity of 500 parts in 1,000,000, by the time evaporation has occurred that water will have at least twice and perhaps three times the salt content that it has at present.

The Hon. Sir Norman Jude: Plus all the second-hand water we are getting from higher up.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: There are many aspects of this question, but I shall deal with the river first. This applies not only to the lakes but also to the river up to the Blanchetown lock; that is where the most serious problem arises. It means that this year, even if we can maintain the present quality of the water, which is doubtful, it is reasonably certain that the water withdrawn from the lower part of the river for all purposes will be not only limited in amount but also doubtful in quality.

This concerns not only the lucerne patches near Narrung but also the dairy pastures on the lower reaches of the river. In the Mypolonga settlement there is fruit block development that cannot tolerate poor water. What will happen there?

The Hon. C. R. Story: That is the horticultural section?

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Yes. Apart from that, another withdrawal from the river that seems to have been completely overlooked is the Mannum main. When the inevitable deterioration in the quality of the water occurs, as it will in spite of any restrictions, I do not know what the people in Adelaide will receive, because that water will become close to being impotable for human beings.

Why has this proclamation been made? I cannot see that technically, with our present resources, we can do anything about the supply of water from the Murray River, except let clean water down from upstream. The point was made in debate the other day that the upper river storages were very small. I have here the figures of present storages to which we have access in the Upper Murray. Lake Hume, which has a capacity of 2,500,000 acre feet, is now holding 1,209,090 acre feet.

Yarrowonga, which is a large reservoir by our standards, has a capacity of 95,000 acre feet but now holds 8,825 acre feet. Kow Swamp, another large storage well up the river, has a capacity of 40,900 acre feet but now holds 32,960 acre feet. That is almost full. Another major storage in Victoria, on the Goulbourn River, is the Eildon Weir, which is holding nearly to capacity.

The Hon. C. R. Story: But Victoria gets the benefit of that, not South Australia.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Its capacity is 2,750,000 acre feet and it now holds 2,275,000 acre feet. Therefore, it is practically full, but we have no entitlement to any of that

water. Then on the Campaspe River, Lake Eppalock, with a capacity of 252,800 acre feet, at present holds 162,870 acre feet. Then on the Loddon River the Cairn Curran dam has 120,600 acre feet capacity, and it now holds 58,700 acre feet, roughly one-third of its capacity. I do not have the figures for Lake Victoria, but it is one of the smallest; in all cases the picture is exactly the same. We have no entitlement to water from the largest of the storages. The storages from which we can draw our share are at considerably below half their capacity.

The Hon. Mr. Story recently stated that, if a bottle were thrown into the river, its position would have to be observed in relation to a fixed object in order to see whether the bottle was moving upstream or downstream. However, what the honourable member neglected to say was that the slightest breeze would cause the bottle to move against the river's flow, which is negligible. It is at this time of the year that we normally have the maximum flow in the river; this quantity of 6,000,000 acre feet that normally runs to waste should be flowing at its strongest between now and November.

I assume that this proclamation is mainly designed to ensure that we can have water withdrawal to support industry from Mannum downwards. However, we cannot get away from the fact that much evaporation occurs in the lakes at the river's mouth and in the river itself up to the last point of control, Blanchetown. This year we will have no allocation whatever from the River Murray Commission to maintain the level and replace this huge amount of evaporation. It is not taken into account in the agreement. If we are to have merely the minimum possible flow in the river to take clean water as far as the Mannum district, people further down the river will be in a very precarious position.

I hoped that, if water withdrawal in the lower section of the Murray was licensed, the Government would at the same time take measures to ensure that good water would be available. However, there has been no official recognition. Apparently, the Government's intention is merely to restrict pumping to the present area of irrigation, but this will not in any way overcome this year's troubles. If we are to have restricted water withdrawal for industries below Branchetown, the Government must also preserve the supply of good water without upsetting the surplus flow in years of plenty. However, no mention has been made of this point, except by a back bencher in another place.

No official recognition has been made of the fact that, if there is to be licensing, the responsibility of delivering fresh water to the licensee must be recognized. The lack of such recognition is very worrying. It is inevitable that in years of restriction, such as this year, work must be done that will allow us to keep a good water supply safe in the lower river. The evaporation loss amounts to 770,000 acre feet. This figure is theoretical and has been worked out on the acreage of water exposed to the air and on the evaporation rates calculated by the meteorological observation stations.

I point out that these rates are observed from a still water surface, and in practice it has been found that a large body of water under wave action is evaporated at a rate that is 20 or even 30 per cent higher than this rate. If we add one-third of 770,000 acre feet to that figure we probably get a truer picture of the loss that is occurring in the Lower Murray and the lakes. We have heard *ad nauseam* that we are getting salt in the river today and that the only thing that can be done with it is to wash it through.

This has been successfully done over the last two years when several seriously contaminated bodies of water have moved down the river. We must not forget that this will happen again and again in the future, much more frequently than in the past, but this year we do not have the water to wash through. All we can do is dilute salt slugs to reasonably safe levels and then let them come down the river and make use of them as they pass.

At the foot of the river it is completely impossible to wash the saline slugs through the lakes, so lake contamination will occur, and much evaporation and concentration will go on at the same time. The lakes are not deep: their depth is much the same as that which was proposed for the Chowilla dam—10ft. or 12ft., except in the dredged channel. It is possible to walk through much of the area of the lakes.

People in this area must take the warning that they are certain to face very high salinities in the immediate future: there is no way of escape. It is very uncertain how long the water in the lakes will remain usable this year. I believe that a study of these matters was not made before the issue of this proclamation, which was a political move. If these matters had been studied properly and the approach were genuine I am sure that accompanying this proclamation would be a report on the costly and long-term measures that must be

taken if we are to continue pumping from the river for river and lake-side industries and for use in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

The first need is to stop the increasingly saline water that must occur in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert from coming back into the river. There is no possibility of allowing salt to accumulate in the lakes without it coming back up the river and contaminating Adelaide's water supply and the water supplies of the settlements below Mannum. A level surface of water cannot have a high saline content in one area and fresh water in another. Inevitably the heavy salt water from the lakes will find its way back through the depths of the river.

During the summer water with a very high saline content will be coming into the water supplies of Adelaide, Myponga, Murray Bridge and elsewhere. The consequences of this will be serious and should be looked at. There is a reasonable certainty that it will be impossible to maintain a good clean water supply at Mannum.

At present the peak river should be passing, with water of high quality escaping, but this is not the case. The water coming from the river into Adelaide's water supply now contains 500 parts of salt a million but there is the prospect that it will have a much higher saline content later in summer. A reasonable water supply has been built up in the reservoirs (some by recent pumping and a little by run-off) but it is poorer quality water than we had at the start of the last season.

Soon we may not be able to pump 70,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Murray River if the rise in contamination continues. I do not know what is the level of salinity in water that industry can use. I know that 25 per cent of the water from Adelaide taps goes on to gardens. This will give trouble if it contains over 50 grains of salt a gallon. If we get water near 100 grains a gallon (which seems likely) and there is insufficient volume in the reservoirs to dilute it to a reasonable level it will be disastrous for Adelaide.

I do not know whether the Government knows what it is like to live with water containing 60 or 70 grains of salt a gallon. This is something that most city people do not experience. People sometimes visit country areas and find a household living with this kind of water. It is not a pleasant experience for people who have been used to good quality water. A man who has been used to drinking rainwater is still thirsty after he has had a drink of salty water. When the water gets on

to the gardens many good roses, beans, lettuce and other delicate plants will die.

The use of water containing 60 or 70 grains of salt a gallon on the clay soils on which a great part of Adelaide is built will be disastrous to garden plants in the coming summer. I suppose gardens are a luxury, but what effect will this water have on the industries in Adelaide? I doubt whether the Government has had a close look at this point. This matter concerns not only the people who are growing tomatoes, beans and lucerne around Murray Bridge and the lakes but everybody drawing water for their homes or industries from the Lower Murray River below Blanchetown.

I do not want to be over-pessimistic in this matter because too many consequences attach to it, but it must be seriously considered. This proclamation will not help matters this year because there is no possibility of completing the works that will safeguard the water. This proclamation will only stop people from putting in extra pumping facilities. It will not solve the problems in the lower river, or help in preventing exceedingly bad quality water coming into the Adelaide system this year.

This position has been expected for a long time, and I do not think there is any possible excuse for allowing it to arise. The officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department must have known about it but have not been allowed to express their opinions. The Bremer River has been brought under control, but it will be seen from the map displayed on the notice board in the Chamber that the proclamation will apply only to the bottom reaches of the river.

Last year I directed the Government's attention to the serious position developing in the Bremer, which, above the controlled area, is now desperately short of water. Many vegetable growers, potato growers and dairymen are dependent on the underground supplies from the Bremer River, but its water is receding more rapidly than ever. This proclamation will not help these people because they obtain their water from higher up the Bremer itself, but this shows the completely irresponsible attitude on water control that the Government has taken over the past few years.

Recently work on the Keith pipeline was resumed. This pipeline, which will take a considerable time to install, will draw its water from the most vulnerable point of all in the lower reaches of the river, and if we start putting through the pipeline water of the quality now in the lakes it will do very little good at all.

Certain rather vague remarks have been made by various members of the Government to the effect that eventually we will have to bring water up from the South-East. However, I do not believe this is possible, for at present there is no great surplus of good quality water in the South-East. This year the Padthaway district, which was stated to have unlimited quantities of water at 5ft., now has its watertables 25ft. or more below the surface. This is very serious indeed.

In the vicinity of Millicent, where one of the richest water supplies was thought to exist in the Knight sands, the pumping from the bores, which have been very scientifically placed not to rob each other, is rapidly draining the whole district of reachable water. In the South-East further down we have Eight Mile Creek which, if we believe what we have been told just recently, discharged to sea 70,000,000 gallons of water a day. However, this is not the truth. It used to deliver 70,000,000 gallons of water daily, but the yield last year was well below 30,000,000 gallons. I have not heard the measurement this year, but I will be surprised if very soon it is not down below 20,000,000 gallons.

This whole matter of water in South Australia is of extremely important moment, and is too important to be treated as a matter of politics. I do not think there is any doubt whatsoever that it will catch up with the State much sooner than is anticipated. It is my belief that the water in the Lower Murray towards the latter part of this summer is going to become too saline for domestic use, unless we have flooding rains of a nature never experienced before.

The Government has worked it out that water restrictions may not be necessary if everyone saves 50 gallons a day. This is just balderdash. If we cannot pump from the river from December onwards, what is going to be Adelaide's water supply? The Government is just playing with this vexed question, and in so doing it is playing with the life of South Australia. This business of saving dripping taps is just too silly. Water restrictions should have been in force in Adelaide half way through this winter when it looked as though we were going to run into trouble.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There could have been a bit more pumping going on, too, couldn't there?

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Victoria has its main metropolitan reservoirs in an area that has a reliable summer rainfall, yet it has had severe water restrictions for months past. Here,

where we depend entirely on a winter rainfall and where we started winter with restricted supplies, the position has been let drift on and on, without water restrictions being imposed. In this case the Government has endangered Adelaide's water supply and the supply for the huge part of the State that is inter-connected with the main from Mannum.

I suppose this proclamation will come into force, but it can do no more than cloud the issue. To have a proclamation saying that people cannot take water from below Mannum and to regard this as an effective measure in the present emergency is absolute rubbish and dangerously misleading. The amount of water that is removed by pumping from below Mannum is a fleabite; the evaporation is what counts. To put restrictions on these people and have a back-bencher—and a back-bencher only—say, "Well, if you have restrictions it will mean you will get a guaranteed water supply", I think is completely dishonest.

It will cost not a few thousand dollars but many million dollars to safeguard the quality of water down to Wellington in a year of shortage. The first thing that will have to be done is build a barrage at Wellington to stop the saline water that must inevitably occur from now on in the lakes from getting back and contaminating the river.

This site at Wellington was the one originally considered for the location of the first lock in the Murray, but it was not installed there because of the great cost involved due to the nature of the country there. Just what will be involved in putting in that one barrage is anyone's guess, if it was considered far too costly in the early 1930's when the barrage system was built.

If the people on the lakes are to maintain their industry and have good water, not just when the water is flooding but every year, there is another duty imposed on the Government and another charge. The Government will have to get good water around the lakes to the pumping station at Goolwa, which supplies the southern areas in the reticulated scheme, and the other way to Meningie and Narrung. Just what the channels or pipelines to carry this water these very great distances will cost is anybody's guess, but it will be at a cost of many millions of dollars that the industries in the southern part of the Murray are sustained.

It is all very well to talk about this 6,000,000 acre-feet that goes to waste on an average every year. No industry of great

value to this State can be built on an ephemeral water supply. That good water supply has to be there every year if people are to be able to build a stable industry based on any form of cropping. To say that it is possible for the Government to guarantee a water supply in this area is nonsense. It is significant that this side of the question was mentioned not officially by the Minister who introduced the proclamation but by a back bencher from the Upper Murray area.

My impression in looking at this thing as a whole is that it has been brought in mainly for political purposes and not with the idea of effecting any practical benefit. I think it has been brought in because the people who have been hurt so badly in the Upper Murray area, where restriction is necessary, have been saying, "Well, look at those blokes below Mannum; they have no restrictions at all, so why should we?" It should have been a warning to the Government that from the beginning, when close consideration was given to using Murray River waters and the agreement between the States was set up by very wise men, that this whole question was looked into not just as regards the Upper Murray water use but the Lower Murray as well. It was found then to be completely impracticable with the resources of the State as they were then (and as I am sure they are now) to safeguard the Lower Murray supplies.

I was interested when the Hon. Mr. Story said that this matter should be the subject of a special Select Committee of Parliament, but I do not think this would be of much help at this stage. South Australia is dependent on good water for its survival. Our voices have been crying in the wilderness for some years saying that it is not the quantity of water in the Murray River that will create problems in future but rather the quality that is the immediate problem. That is becoming more and more obvious.

Any investigation to be of value must take into account all alternative supplies, because some of those supplies which in the past had been thought were limitless (or nearly so) are proving very limited indeed. Water supplies in the Southern District must be given critical examination very soon. I have previously said that pumping in and around Bordertown is dangerous to the Lameroo and Pinnaroo districts and to that part of the Murray Mallee area that is dependent on good underground supplies; it is possible that they may be out of water eventually. It was thought that large quantities of water were available

to supply the Keith area if things went wrong with supplies from the Murray River and that, if necessary, supplies could be obtained from Padthaway and further south. It was thought that, with water lying so close to the surface at Padthaway and only a few feet down, supplies would be adequate, but in one year the water level has dropped down below 25ft. That is a dangerous situation that must be examined immediately and some way found of allocating available supplies before the whole area is irreparably ruined.

In examining the Murray River and the future availability of water supplies for Adelaide, with the Chowilla dam scheme knocked on the head, it can be seen that the State is in an immediate and future parlous condition. In spite of that, the Government is fooling around with a proposition which cannot be of practical benefit and which can result only in restriction and annoyance to the people now using that water. It is fooling around with voluntary saving and suggesting a saving of 50 gallons of water a day for each person and saying, "If you do the right thing, you will be all right." If a conscientious approach was being made, with an appreciation of the seriousness of the position now facing the State, severe restrictions would have been imposed long before now. I am sorry for Adelaide gardens which must die when, if salty water has not already ruined them, Mr. Dunstan says, after the elections, that restrictions must be imposed.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: You concede a victory, then? Thank you.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I wonder whether it will be a victory if somebody does some conscientious instead of political manoeuvring.

The Hon. A. F. Kneebone: When are you going to start? I have never heard anything more political than your comments so far.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: The Minister seems satisfied with the present position. Water quality in the Lower Murray is going to deteriorate seriously and there must be grave doubt whether continuous pumping will be possible throughout the summer period. That contingency must be borne in mind.

The Hon. A. F. Kneebone: Yet the honourable member is criticizing the Government for exercising control.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I am criticizing the Government for not imposing restrictions.

The Hon. Sir Norman Jude: Water is being used on thousands of acres in the city while the man down at the lakes cannot water his cattle.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: It has been calculated that the State is about 1,200,000,000 gallons short of the quantity required to carry it through the summer. That figure assumes that the pumps will run continuously at a rate of 60,000,000 or 70,000,000 gallons daily. The position is (and I cannot spell it out in more detail) that the deterioration in the quality of the water may prevent the pumping of good water for Adelaide. The shortage that must be envisaged is what will occur if the pumps have to be stopped in January or February because the water is too saline for use. If this resolution from the House of Assembly had been a conscientious attempt to solve the problems of the Murray River then nobody would give it more wholehearted support than I. The only thing it might do is to help Mr. Curren when he can say to his constituents in Chaffey, "Those blokes further down the river have been placed under the same restrictions as you are under." That is the only purpose this measure can serve.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE secured the adjournment of the debate.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 26. Page 2142.)

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): The matters covered by the Bill were first mentioned in this Chamber by the Hon. Mrs. Cooper—I think in her Address in Reply speech. At that time considerable public interest was generated, and later the Chief Secretary, as Minister of Health, made a lengthy Ministerial statement to this Council concerning the matter. If I remember correctly, some action was promised in that statement.

The treatment and rehabilitation of the mentally ill is rapidly changing in South Australia, and this has largely precipitated the problem that this legislation sets out to remedy. Therefore, I commend the Bill and I congratulate the Hon. Mrs. Cooper on raising the matter and the Minister on the rapid action he has taken to introduce corrective legislation.

The Hon. Mrs. Cooper and the Hon. Mr. Hill have analysed the Bill at some length and I do not intend to repeat what they have said. However, the Bill introduces provisions into the Mental Health Act relating to trial leave for mental patients. I think the Minister pointed out in his second reading explanation that, ideally, it would be best for a patient

to live with his own family during his rehabilitation period. However, this is not always possible. So that there can be some control, the Bill envisages licensing hostels to cater for this category of person.

The Hon. Mr. Hill drew attention to what I consider to be an important point in this legislation. Section 550 of the Local Government Act provides for people who seek to establish private hospitals and rest homes. I agree with Mr. Hill's contention that that section should apply to the establishment of hostels under this Bill. I think the Government, too, would agree with that. I do not know that the Bill should be amended so that section 550 should apply. The Local Government Act itself should be amended so that it will apply to hostels that are established under this Bill.

At this stage I would be prepared to accept from the Minister a firm assurance that local government would be consulted before the establishment of these hostels. Provisions can be inserted in section 550 when the Local Government Act comes before Parliament. The Local Government Act Revision Committee is still considering it and, before we are very much older, a revised Local Government Act will be before us. I believe the Minister will have powers wide enough to allow him to take action along these lines. Therefore, rather than amend this legislation to include the application of section 550, I for one would be prepared to accept the Minister's assurance that before a hostel could be established local government would be consulted.

There is one point that so far has not been mentioned. As I see it, very small hostels may come into being—probably ordinary houses catering for one or two patients under this trial leave provision. I do not know what the Minister intends to do about this but I suggest there is no need for this type of establishment to be involved in any application to local government; there is no need to amend this legislation in that regard, but I would be prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the Minister. Once again, I commend the Hon. Mrs. Cooper for having raised this matter and the Government for introducing this necessary legislation.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): I wish to address myself briefly to this Bill. There is little I can say that has not already been covered by my honourable friend the Leader and previous speakers. I indicate at the outset that I support the Bill and I join

with the Hon. Mr. DeGaris and other speakers in commending the Minister of Health for introducing it. I join, too, with the Hon. Mr. Hill and the Hon. Mr. DeGaris in paying a tribute to the Hon. Mrs. Cooper for bringing this matter so forcibly to our notice some time ago, I think in July. As the Hon. Mr. Hill has said, the attention that the Hon. Mrs. Cooper was able to give to this matter probably hastened this legislation. What she said certainly highlighted its need.

The Bill is straightforward. The first four clauses are formal, and clause 5 strikes out an outmoded reference in the Act to "boarded out". Clause 6 repeals Division V of Part IV of the principal Act and inserts a new Division V—"Psychiatric Rehabilitation Hostels". It also sets out provisions for trial leave and for the granting of licences. I approve of all these provisions. As the Hon. Mr. DeGaris has just said, the Hon. Mr. Hill referred to section 550 of the Local Government Act and went to the trouble of reading that section to the Council. He said:

I think the provisions that apply in that section should apply also regarding the hostels that are to be covered by the Bill before us. I agree with that statement. Later, he said:

It would seem to me that an application to the local government authority could be complementary to the application to the Minister that must be made under the Bill before us. Again, that is commendable. It would mean that the local people would have the opportunity through local government of making their views known. I shall note with interest any amendment which the Hon. Mr. Hill may bring forward. However, if the Minister is prepared to give an assurance on these matters, that may well meet the case. In his second reading explanation he stated that under the provisions of this Bill the Minister has very wide powers. That is true. I am always a little wary of giving too much power, but I believe (in fact, I am sure) that in this case the Minister will use these powers both moderately and wisely—though whether all future Ministers will remain to be seen.

In general terms, I support the Bill. I wonder whether with these fairly detailed conditions set out (which I did intend to refer to in slightly more detail but that is not now necessary as other speakers have referred to them) it will mean that some places that are now unsatisfactory but which nevertheless are providing some accommodation, rather than conform to the standards to which they ought to conform by the provisions of this Bill, will close down. In some cases that may be a

very good thing but in other cases it may raise some problems of accommodation that will have to be overcome.

Some of the so-called hostels now in existence and working to a limited budget, trying to make a profit, cannot keep staff for 24 hours a day on their income. I believe that, in many instances at all events, it will be desirable and necessary for competent staff to be kept on duty full time. Undoubtedly

these matters will receive attention as they arise and, if necessary, the Bill will be amended in due course. I believe this Bill is a step in the right direction; I commend those responsible for it and I support it.

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.32 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, October 3, at 2.15 p.m.