

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 18, 1968.

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

### QUESTIONS

#### GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I seek the permission and concurrence of the Council to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: This morning's newspaper reported that the Minister representing the Minister for Shipping and Transport in the Senate in answering a question referred to the programme for the completion of the gauge standardization of the route between Sydney and Perth, and finished by saying:

Under an agreement to be approved by the South Australian, New South Wales and Federal Parliaments, the standard rail link between Cockburn and Broken Hill was to be completed by October 1, 1969.

Can the Minister tell me what progress has been made towards reaching final agreement on the ratification of the agreements between the three Governments and, if progress has been made, what progress has been made in the drafting of a Bill for introduction into the Council?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The draft agreements have been passed between the States of South Australia and New South Wales, and the Commonwealth. The officers from those States and from the Commonwealth are now satisfied with the contents of the agreement, and so are the appropriate Ministers. The final agreement, I understand, has now been prepared. It has been typed and is to be signed first by the Premier of New South Wales before being sent to South Australia for signature by our Premier. Then it is to be forwarded to Canberra for the signature of the Prime Minister.

I inquired about this matter on Monday of this week and was told that this final agreement was on the Premier's desk, so to speak, in Sydney and it was expected that only a day or two would elapse before we received it here, signed by the New South Wales Premier. We intend to expedite the matter then as much as we can to have our Premier sign it and to send it off to Canberra. As soon as that signing has been completed, each of the three

Parliaments, as the honourable member indicated, must ratify the agreement. There will be no delay in preparing the necessary Bill in South Australia once the signing has been completed.

#### FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: At a recent meeting in Canberra the State Ministers of Agriculture decided that in future foreign fishing vessels would be denied entry to Australian ports except in an emergency. Did the Minister or his representative agree with this decision and, if he did, on what grounds did he do so?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The honourable member is quite correct in saying that this matter was raised at a meeting of Ministers and he is also correct in saying that the recommendation of the standing committee, which is composed of the State Directors of Fisheries, was that the course he has described should be adopted. The standing committee's recommendation was ratified by the Ministers. In certain circumstances foreign fishing vessels have been permitted to enter Tasmanian and Western Australian ports. I point out that there is no suggestion that foreign vessels, in an emergency, would be denied entry to any Australian port. The long-line tuna fishermen from Japan will continue to have access to Tasmanian ports. This practice, however, will be phased out over a period, as a result of amicable diplomatic negotiations between the Australian and Japanese Governments. The Australian fishing industry has taken on a new face recently and is becoming a very much more important part of the Australian economy. For the first time the State Governments and the Commonwealth Government have agreed on a uniform policy.

The committee I have referred to, which has been meeting for some years as an *ad hoc* committee, will shortly be constituted as a permanent committee on the same basis as the Agricultural Council, and the Commonwealth Government will provide much financial assistance for the fishing industry. I point out to honourable members that questions of international law and the protection of our continental shelf, which is vital for this State's crayfishing industry, must be considered. The question of foreign fishing vessels entering Australian ports will be taken up at diplomatic

level by the Commonwealth Government. The reason, from South Australia's viewpoint, for the decision referred to by the honourable member is that we are having great difficulty in maintaining ports such as Port Lincoln and South-East ports as fishing ports. Our cray-fishing industry has passed through a difficult period because fewer crayfish are in our waters. Also, during the last two seasons the tuna fishing industry has experienced difficulties, so it is essential that we look after our fishing industry. It is for these reasons that we believe the Ministers have taken the proper course.

#### PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Honourable members are no doubt aware of the history of the Port Augusta Hospital, which was referred to in debate yesterday, and they will be aware of the plans to provide a new hospital at Port Augusta. This was originally intended to follow the completion of the Port Lincoln Hospital. I understand that the Chief Secretary made a special trip to Port Augusta last night to investigate further the proposal to build a hospital there. Can he therefore inform the Council of the future plans with regard to the provision of this very necessary building?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: This matter was reported on by the Public Works Committee two or three years ago, and the Government has provided certain moneys on the Loan Estimates this year to enable a start to be made on this hospital. The work to be carried out this financial year will be largely in the field of planning and of producing working drawings. Last night, at its invitation, I visited Port Augusta and discussed with the board the proposals regarding the new hospital. The Hospitals Department has recommended certain minor variations to the original plan that came before the Public Works Committee.

Air-conditioning was considered by the Public Works Committee and provision was made for the installation of ducts and heating. However, no provision for a cooling system was included in the original proposals. It is proposed now to install this air-conditioning, at an extra cost of \$40,000. Further new proposals include the provision of a

regional mental health service, using the present maternity wing as a psychiatric block. The refractory section is to be completely discarded from the plan, and one operating theatre that was originally to be located adjacent to the delivery rooms is also to be deleted.

Another matter of interest is that no laundry facilities are to be provided at the new hospital: laundering is to be carried out at the Port Pirie Hospital which, it is hoped, will provide this service for most of the other hospitals in the area. It is hoped that tenders for the construction of the first stage of the work on this new Port Augusta Hospital of 108 beds will be called in May or June, 1969.

#### NORTH ADELAIDE SHUNTING

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question regarding shunting at the North Adelaide railway station?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: For the months of July and August, 1968, the shunt locomotive arrived at North Adelaide as follows:

Between 4.00 a.m. and 4.09 a.m. on 35 occasions; between 4.10 a.m. and 4.19 a.m. on 9 occasions; between 4.20 a.m. and 4.29 a.m. on nil occasions; between 4.30 a.m. and 4.39 a.m. on nil occasions; between 4.40 a.m. and 4.50 a.m. on 1 occasion;

while the movements departed from North Adelaide, as follows:

Between 4.20 a.m. and 4.29 a.m. on 16 occasions; between 4.30 a.m. and 4.39 a.m. on 20 occasions; between 4.40 a.m. and 4.49 a.m. on 7 occasions; between 4.50 a.m. and 4.59 a.m. on 1 occasion; between 5.00 a.m. and 5.09 a.m. on nil occasions; between 5.10 a.m. and 5.19 a.m. on nil occasions; between 5.20 a.m. and 5.29 a.m. on nil occasions; between 5.30 a.m. and 5.39 a.m. on 1 occasion.

#### GAS

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: During my term of office as Minister of Mines and Minister of Roads the planning for the Gidgealpa-Adelaide gas pipeline was that the pipes would be carted by rail to the nearest railhead. To begin with, the pipes were to be carted by the railways to Mount Lyndhurst siding, and from there they were to be road transported along the Strzelecki track to Gidgealpa. Then,

as the building of the pipeline progressed, the railhead itself was to be changed; for instance, the next railhead could have been at Peterborough. I am now told that all the pipes to be delivered (and some are in the course of being delivered at present) will be transported to the field and to the site of the pipeline itself by road transport, and that the railways will not be handling any of these pipes. Can the Minister say whether it is a fact that all these pipes will be carted by road? If that is the position, why are the railways not to be used for this purpose?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall bring down a detailed reply to the honourable member's question. The whole matter of the cartage contract is involved, and the question of the work the Highways Department may have to carry out in this matter also covers a wide area. Therefore, in order to obtain for the honourable member all the information he desires, and to get a proper picture of the situation at present, I think it is necessary to get a detailed report, and I shall do that.

#### FIRES

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: In view of the very inflammable stage this State will reach shortly, will the Minister of Agriculture consider erecting signs about the lighting of fires in areas outside of local government jurisdiction?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I shall have pleasure in taking the matter up with the Bush Fires Advisory Committee.

#### FLAMMABLE CLOTHING

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: During the last session of Parliament I asked the then Chief Secretary whether he would inquire into the situation regarding the manufacture of flammable material and clothing. Can the Chief Secretary say how far these proceedings have gone and what steps have been taken by the various States to provide material which is safe for the wearer?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I shall obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### STURT PEA

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: According to Australian Broadcasting Commission reports over the weekend, many visitors to the Flinders Ranges area north of Hawker are picking

large numbers of the Sturt pea flower, decorating their motor cars with them and thereby denying other tourists the chance of seeing the beauty of the State emblem. I understand also that not only is the flower being picked but the whole plant is being pulled out of the ground at the same time. I understand that Western Australia has legislation restricting the picking of wild flowers. Will the Minister consider looking into the desirability of preventing the indiscriminate tourist from spoiling what is not only the State emblem but a native flower indigenous to Australia?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I am in complete sympathy with the honourable member on this question. It is indeed a pity that people are so thoughtless as to denude the country of its natural heritage. Surely, as the Sturt pea is a flower unique in this State and in certain parts of New South Wales, people ought to have enough common sense to realize that it should be left to seed for its reproduction. I have been so worried about this since the press reports that I have taken the matter up with the Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee, which is the body that advises the Minister on these matters. I am also having our own Act investigated to see whether we have sufficient power to deal with the matter. If we have not, I shall certainly take the necessary action to see that we have some control over this matter. I do not believe that we want to be foolish over this question by prescribing that people cannot pick a few wild flowers. However, the destruction of natural beauty is something that we must prevent.

#### PLYMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Plympton High School Additions.

#### STATE BANK REPORT

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the annual report of the State Bank for the year ended June 30, 1968, together with balance sheets.

#### STOCK DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Stock Diseases Act, 1934-1962. Read a first time.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It makes a number of significant amendments to the Stock Diseases Act, 1934-1962, to extend and improve its operation in the control, and matters ancillary to the control, of animal diseases. Perhaps the most significant amendment is the inclusion of a provision dealing with the control and eradication of rabies. Australia is fortunate in being free of this disease, which is of such a deadly and infectious character that, in countries where it does occur, an outbreak can lead to public hysteria. The rabies virus is extraordinarily versatile and can adapt itself to many kinds of adverse environments. In countries with an extensive wildlife population, the infection may establish itself to such an extent that it cannot be eradicated. It is thought that dog rabies was introduced into the Antilles and the southern states of the United States of America by early Spanish and English colonists. It has now established itself amongst various species of feral and domestic animals from the Arctic to South America. It is found in a wide variety of ecological forms and has so far resisted intense efforts to eradicate it. An outbreak of rabies in Australia could have a disastrous effect upon the livestock industry.

The present Bill embodies one measure designed to prevent the growth of this problem in this country. It provides for the application of certain specific controls over dogs and cats which are, of course, potential carriers of the disease and, because of their frequently close association with human beings, are abnormally dangerous if infected with the disease. It is thought that the existing provisions of the Act provide adequate power to deal with the disease, as far as other animals are concerned.

The Bill empowers the Governor to prescribe the sprays, dips and medicines by which stock shall or shall not be treated. The use by some stockowners of dieldrin, prepared for white ant control and the treatment of lice in sheep, has been causing some concern. Dieldrin preparations of this type, diluted for use on sheep, can result in a high level of residue in meat, and residues have in fact been detected upon a random sampling of mutton by an inspector of stock. The sale of preparations containing dieldrin for use on stock is prohibited in South Australia but there are at present no provisions preventing the use of such preparations. The Bill remedies this deficiency.

Another provision of the Bill is designed to deal with the problems raised by the establishment of diagnostic laboratories by certain drug manufacturers. These laboratories present three main dangers to the stock industry. First, it is likely that diagnosticians employed by a drug manufacturing firm would recommend a preparation marketed by the firm whether or not it was the best treatment available. Secondly, the proper diagnosis of disease demands the availability of a number of scientists from different disciplines such as histopathologists, bacteriologists, virologists and biochemists. A private laboratory with a small staff could fail to make proper diagnoses of serious diseases. Thirdly, the use of such laboratories could lead to the suppression of any publicity that could give competitors of the firm an advantage. The Bill meets these problems by providing that diagnostic laboratories are not to be established in this State without permission of the Minister and it prevents diseased stock, or stock suspected of being diseased, from being sent out of the State without the permission of the chief inspector, for diagnosis by such laboratories in other States. The Bill provides for certain amendments to the provisions of the Act dealing with foot and mouth disease and other serious diseases. The amendments ensure that, where foot and mouth disease is suspected, the provisions are capable of effective operation, and that adequate power exists to enable disinfection and disinsectization to be carried out.

The provisions of the Bill are as follows: Clause 2 amends the interpretation section in the principal Act. The definition of "destroy" is struck out. The definition is redundant and to some extent in conflict with subsection (3), which also deals with the manner in which stock is to be destroyed. In fact, that subsection is repealed by the Bill and a more comprehensive provision dealing with the destruction of stock is inserted in lieu thereof. The words "infectious and contagious" in the definition of "disease" are struck out as that terminology is now outdated and misleading. The definition of "stock" is amended to include animals and birds that were not previously specified in the definition but have been declared under paragraph (b) of the definition to be stock for the purposes of the Act. New subsection (2) is a re-enactment of the previous subsection (2), which is necessary because of an error made in the consolidation of the Act and its amendments in 1964. New

subsections (3) and (4) deal more comprehensively with the destruction of stock.

Clause 3 expands the powers of the Governor under section 6 of the principal Act. He is empowered to prevent fodder and fittings from being moved into certain areas of the State in addition to his present power of preventing such movement from or within those areas. An amendment of similar effect in relation to quarantine areas is made to section 6 (1) (d) of the principal Act. Clause 4 amends section 8 of the principal Act. At present the Governor has, under section 8, power only to prevent the introduction of stock into the State "by land or water". It is clearly necessary to extend this power to cover introduction by air, and the provision is amended accordingly. A new paragraph VIA is inserted to enable the Governor to prescribe the sprays, dips, vaccines and therapeutic substances by which stock shall or shall not be treated. This is necessary to prevent the use of medicinal preparations that may ultimately be injurious to human life or health. A new paragraph XV is inserted giving more extensive powers of inspection.

Clause 5 extends section 8a of the principal Act to enable the Governor to give the chief inspector power to destroy farm fittings, insects and vermin if such destruction is necessary to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease. Clause 6 enacts new section 8b of the principal Act, which deals with the prevention and control of rabies. The Governor is empowered to make proclamations:

- (a) requiring the owners of dogs or cats within an area specified in the proclamation to confine them within enclosures or to exercise such control over their movement as may be specified in the proclamation;
- (b) requiring the owners of dogs to muzzle them;
- (c) authorizing the destruction of dogs and cats that are not under the strict control of any person;
- (d) requiring the vaccination of dogs and cats;
- (e) authorizing the destruction of dogs and cats that have not been vaccinated or do not bear a mark indicating that they have been vaccinated.

Clause 7 amends section 10 to provide that quarantine grounds should be under the control of an inspector rather than of the chief inspector, as at present. Clause 8 amends section 10a of the principal Act, which at pre-

sent provides that diagnostic tests, biological tests and inoculations given for the purpose of discovering whether stock is diseased must be given by a veterinary surgeon. These tests may be given properly and safely by persons not fully qualified as veterinary surgeons, and the amendment thus provides that such tests may be given either by a veterinary surgeon or by an inspector acting under the authority of the chief inspector. Clause 9 expands the kinds of marking that may be employed to indicate that stock has been examined under the Act. Clause 10 enables an inspector to place stock in quarantine in the place where they are found to be diseased; at present, they must be quarantined on the owner's property. Clause 11 re-enacts section 16 of the principal Act. The powers of the inspector are expanded to enable him to subject stray stock to treatment designed to prevent or eradicate disease. Clause 12 makes a decimal currency amendment.

Clause 13 amends section 19 of the principal Act. The owner of diseased stock is required to notify an inspector who is an officer of the Agriculture Department of the existence of disease rather than simply to notify an inspector as at present. This is necessary in order to overcome administrative difficulties that have been experienced. A new paragraph (b) is inserted to require the owner of diseased stock to comply with oral or written directions given to him by an inspector for the purpose of controlling or eradicating disease. A new subsection (3) is inserted to overcome difficulties in prosecuting a small minority of stockowners who have proved unwilling to give the prescribed notification when their stock are found to be diseased.

Clauses 14 to 16 make a decimal currency amendment. Clause 17 makes a drafting amendment to the principal Act. Clause 18 enacts new sections 28a and 28b of the principal Act. These are provisions designed to deal with the difficulties encountered in relation to commercial diagnostic laboratories. New section 28a prevents diseased stock from being sent out of the State without the approval of the chief inspector. This section thus imposes restrictions upon diseased stock (or the carcasses of diseased stock) being sent to laboratories in other States for analysis. New section 28b provides that diagnostic laboratories are not to be established without the approval of the Minister.

Clauses 19 and 20 make decimal currency amendments. Clause 21 repeals sections 35 and 36 of the principal Act. Section 36 is now redundant in view of a provision in the Justices Act, and section 35 is re-enacted by the Bill in a more general form as new section 45a. Clause 22 makes a decimal currency amendment. Clause 23 enacts new section 45a. This new section is substantially a re-enactment of section 36 but its provisions are widened to embrace stock generally. Clause 24 makes a decimal currency amendment. Clause 25 makes a drafting amendment to the principal Act.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 17. Page 1129.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): I support the Bill, and I compliment the Government, particularly the Treasurer, on drawing up what I consider to be a very satisfactory document. In his statement on the Loan Estimates the Treasurer said:

The proposed programme of works of \$89,740,000 apart from housing is about \$12,400,000 or 16 per cent above last year's actual expenditures of \$77,338,000. This will undoubtedly make an important contribution towards meeting the demand for urgently needed works, towards increasing employment opportunities, and in promoting a recovery of economic activity generally.

I believe that this is a correct summing up of the position. The Treasurer had an unenviable task in preparing the Loan Estimates and he has done a splendid job. It is one of the first major steps toward putting this State back on a sound financial footing, from which we shall be able to progress and increase employment and activity generally.

The provision of \$500,000 for advances for homes is the same as that made last year, because the provision of \$700,000 last year comprised \$500,000 for purchases of Housing Trust houses and \$200,000 to assist purchasers of existing houses. I am pleased to note that this year the Government intends that the assistance from Housing Agreement funds to purchasers of existing houses will be three times what it was last year. I will deal with this matter more fully in connection with another Bill.

The sum of \$900,000 is provided for loans to producers, and \$100,000 has been carried forward from last year. The Treasurer expects

to raise another \$300,000 by way of semi-government loans, making a total of \$1,300,000. I believe that the provision for loans to producers and advances to settlers is very necessary because of the development of co-operatives and of individual properties. The State Bank must be able to continue to assist in financing capital extensions by co-operative packing houses, distilleries and other enterprises, so I am pleased to see this provision of \$900,000, which will be supplemented, as I have indicated, to a total of \$1,300,000.

The provision of \$180,000 for advances to settlers compares favourably with last year's payments of \$141,000, which were advanced last year by the bank under the Advances to Settlers Act. This, too, is an excellent provision. As honourable members are well aware, amending Bills are before this Council that will raise the maximum loan for a house from \$7,000 to \$8,000 and, in other circumstances, from \$4,800 to \$6,000. The provision for further advances for agricultural purposes will assist people who would otherwise find it difficult to obtain necessary finance.

I am pleased that the provision of \$425,000 for irrigation and reclamation of swamp lands includes \$65,000 to complete a new pumping station at Cadell, the estimated total cost of which is about \$90,000. Together with the member for the Assembly District of Light (Mr. Freebairn), I recently visited Cadell and noted the need for this station. I am also pleased that the Government has allocated \$35,000 to improve drainage facilities in the same area, because the need for these facilities was also brought to our attention during our visit.

I do not wish to go into the provision for railway accommodation except to express pleasure that the standardization project for the conversion to 4ft. 8½in. gauge from Port Pirie to Cockburn has proceeded satisfactorily. I am pleased, too, that it is expected that the complete run through from Perth to Port Pirie will be in operation from May next year and that it is hoped that, in the latter part of the year, the link-up between Port Pirie and Broken Hill will mean a complete run through from Perth to Sydney on the one gauge. I ask the Government to continue pressing for standardization from Adelaide to Port Pirie or Crystal Brook, which is a most necessary provision, and also for the construction of a standard gauge line from Whyalla to Port Augusta. Both these projects are, in my

opinion, urgent necessities and should be continued with the completion of the existing construction across the continent.

I see that \$3,000,000 has been provided for the provision of extra harbours accommodation and the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. The sum of over \$1,000,000 is provided for berthing facilities for interstate container and roll-on-roll-off traffic. This, too, is necessary. I see also that \$750,000 is provided for further work on widening and deepening the river channel between the outer and inner harbours. I believe that includes the deepening of the swinging basin at the Outer Harbour.

I draw to the Government's attention (as I did with the previous Liberal and Country League and Labor Governments) the necessity for new passenger terminal facilities for people disembarking at Port Adelaide and, particularly, at Outer Harbour. I first visited the new terminal at Fremantle about five or six years ago. All honourable members who have been there will know that it has all the facilities that a modern terminal should have and those that one expects to find at a major airport or modern seaport. To say the least, the set-up at Outer Harbour is primitive, and a building of this nature is needed there, because large numbers of tourists (although a large number arrive by air) enter the State there. The first impressions of these people should not be underrated and, of course, that first impression will not be a good one until worthy terminal facilities are provided.

I noted with pleasure that \$150,000 has been set aside to purchase land suitable for national reserves as it becomes available. I am pleased, too, that this sum has been allocated from Loan funds rather than from the Revenue Budget, as was the case previously.

I noted that last year about \$2,250,000 was provided for afforestation and timber milling and that this year \$2,440,000 is provided, \$2,250,000 of which is to be provided from the Loan Account and \$190,000 of which is to be made available by the Commonwealth Government under the Softwood Forestry Agreement. The increase in acreage of 6,500 acres (which it is intended to plant during the 1968-69 season) is an important step forward that we must, if possible, continue to take each year. This means that the total area of the State's pine plantations will be about 180,000 acres at the end of June next. I compliment the Government and the Minister on the continuing progress that has been made in afforestation in this State.

The sum of \$28,420,000 is provided for waterworks and sewers and, while that is a large sum, I believe it is by no means too large. Indeed, it is a necessary provision. The allocation of \$1,300,000 for work on the projected Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main is indeed of prime importance to the State. This is a most necessary project to augment the metropolitan water supply and to supplement the provisions made through the Mannum-Adelaide main. Of course, this allocation is only a drop in the bucket, because the whole scheme will cost more than \$25,000,000, but it is a step in the right direction.

I notice that, after considerable pressure from my colleague in another place, \$15,000 is provided to commence work on the Water-vale scheme in the Warren water district. While that is not by any stretch of the imagination a large sum, it will enable a start to be made on this scheme.

The Hon. Mr. Hart yesterday mentioned the provision for fishing havens and foreshore improvements. I do not intend to reiterate what he said, but I underline his remarks about the facilities at Edithburgh. I had the opportunity to examine the facilities there, and I saw the way in which someone had methodically cut off two or three feet from each plank, which meant the difference between someone being able or not being able to drive down the small jetty. I join with my colleague in asking that this matter be examined to see what can be done about it. Often people go along and do a job without taking any notice of the local people who, although they may not be qualified in the academic sense, are qualified by their local knowledge. I believe that in this case it would be a good thing if someone went there and listened to what the fishermen had to say, so that they could understand just what was needed.

I express appreciation that the Government is continuing with the construction of the main from the Murray River at Swan Reach to Stockwell. Nearly \$2,500,000 is being provided this year to continue the construction of this main. I believe that this is a very important addition to the Warren water district. The Warren reservoir is a relatively small one when we consider the very large areas that have to be serviced by it. I think it holds 1,401,000,000 gallons which, compared with, say, South Para, Mount Bold and the other larger reservoirs, is quite a small capacity. Admittedly, it has

been supplemented (we could never have got anywhere with it if it had not been) by a branch line from the Mannum-Adelaide main.

I am very pleased indeed to see that the main from Swan Reach to Stockwell is being proceeded with, for this will be a very great asset to the whole of the Warren water scheme. It will mean that the present pipeline from the Mannum-Adelaide main to the Warren will largely become a stop-gap or auxiliary pipeline and that that extra amount of water which it now discharges into the Warren for the most part will then be available to go into the Adelaide system.

Although it is not in my parish, I am also pleased (and I know my honourable colleague Dr. Springett will be pleased about this) that about \$1,500,000 is being provided to continue the construction of the trunk main from Tailem Bend to Keith. To my mind, this scheme is nearly as important as is the scheme from Swan Reach to Stockwell, because in each case it will enable large areas of agricultural land as well as country towns to be served with water and to do far more with a permanent water supply than with the limited supplies they have had up to the present.

Another matter which also does not directly concern my parish is the commencement of the construction of the main from Lock to Kimba. After all, we in this Council endeavour to look at the State as a whole. I know that my friends in the Northern District will be very happy about this project. I do not know Eyre Peninsula as well as I should know it, but I know enough about it and I have seen enough of it to know the vital necessity of extending water supplies in this area.

I know that recently very large portions of Eyre Peninsula looked not unlike what we have been led to believe the Garden of Eden looked like. Whether the tail-off in the season at the moment has tightened things up a bit I do not know, but I know that the potential of Eyre Peninsula in a good season is very good indeed. In fact, when we look at Eyre Peninsula and the number of our fellows in the closer settled areas nearer Adelaide with 500 or 600 acres who when they are able to sell this land at a reasonable figure cannot get over to Western Australia quickly enough, we wonder perhaps why they are going to Western Australia when there is so much potential in our own State in this particular area.

I am sure that my colleagues from the Northern District will be pleased to know that provision for the commencement of this much-needed main has been made.

The Hon. C. R. Story: What about the rental for it?

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: That may be high, but I think I will let the members for Northern talk about the question of the rental. My colleague, the Hon. Mr. Hart, yesterday referred to the provision of over \$1,800,000 to continue work on the Bolivar sewage treatment works. I think all honourable members have had the opportunity to look at the work that has been done on this scheme and at the splendid facility we shall have when the job is finished. I have said this before, and I make no apology for saying it again, that I think it is vital that further consideration should be given to the use of the very large amount of effluent that is now being run into the sea. As the Hon. Mr. Hart said yesterday, the amount of effluent being run into the sea is considerably larger than the drain-off of the deep underground basin in that particular area of the Adelaide Plains.

I believe that this water could be used for very many of the activities carried out in that area at present. I am aware that it probably would be dangerous to use it for the growing of vegetables which are consumed uncooked. On the other hand, I believe it could be used (and it may have to be used this way) more or less as a shandy in order to reduce the average saline content. I am not thinking about the sort of shandy that one might wish to drink, Mr. President: I am thinking of its use as a shandy with underground water to reduce the average saline content of this particular effluent. The Minister may correct me, but I believe the saline content is about 70 to 100 grains. A great deal of water has been used for irrigation purposes with a considerably higher saline content than that. I agree that water of that saline content has not been used for growing certain vegetables.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: Is it salinity that is the problem?

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I think salinity would be one of the main problems.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: I thought the problem was the other impurities in the water.



The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: That may be so, and I would be interested to hear the honourable gentleman give a learned dissertation on that matter. I would be the first to admit that I am not an authority on that point. We must be very careful indeed of the way in which we use this underground basin on the Adelaide Plains. I have been told by people using the basin that the water level has risen considerably over this recent wet period mainly because this water has not been used extensively while we have had the wet winter. I am told that the shallow basin is holding fairly well. This basin has a limited use because most bores on the shallow basin (I have one myself) average between 3,000 and 4,000 gallons an hour, which is a small quantity when people are going in for big acreages. Also, the salt content is somewhat higher than one would use for growing vegetables. However, the deep basin, so I am led to believe (although the level has risen and the people who are using it are hopefully saying that their level has risen 16ft. over the last few months), is in a very difficult position, and I believe that this temporary rise in the levels will, unfortunately, be quickly lowered again unless we are very careful in the way we use this very valuable basin, because we can easily reach the stage where we shall no longer have a valuable basin.

For this reason, if for no other, I believe we still have to do everything we possibly can to examine the ways and means in which we may be able to use that large amount of effluent which is at present, in this normally dry country, running out to sea. I must compliment the Government (it is not a very large sum of money but it is, once again, a start) on the fact that it has provided some money to commence the extension of sewerage facilities to the town of Gawler. Ever since I have been a member of this Council, I have been asking the previous two Governments to consider the provision of sewerage facilities for this town and its surrounds. To be quite fair, I should say that the member for Gawler in another place (Mr. Clark) has been doing likewise ever since he has been a member of Parliament.

I am pleased that at last we have reached the stage where we can make a start on the provision of sewerage facilities in that area. I have no doubt that some of the people who have been screaming the loudest for sewerage there (only some of them, because the thinking people may not do this) will also scream

the loudest when they get their first accounts for sewerage charges. Nevertheless, this is a move in the right direction and I commend the Government for this particular provision.

I am pleased to see that \$1,800,000 is set aside for continuing the work on the new Strathmont Hospital. This is to provide a centre for the intellectually retarded, something that I believe every honourable member will support. I add my support to the Government for doing this. A sum of \$150,000 is proposed for commencing the construction of the new Modbury Hospital to serve the north-east suburbs through Modbury, Tea Tree Gully and Golden Grove. Almost all of these suburbs are within the new city area of Tea Tree Gully. The gross estimated population of this area, so the planning people tell us, is 104,000 people. At present we are not very far short of 104,000 people in Elizabeth, Salisbury, Para Hills, Parafield Gardens, etc. There we have a hospital with 150 beds serving the area very well indeed, without being overcrowded or overstrained. I notice that stage one of the Modbury Hospital, which is also to serve 104,000 people (if we can believe the planning people, who say that 104,000 is the optimum population of this area), is estimated to cost \$9,600,000. It consists of the main hospital buildings to accommodate 236 beds, a home for 250 nurses, accommodation for 10 resident medical staff and various other facilities.

I think that this stage one at least would probably be 50 per cent greater than the final requirement. Whether it ever goes beyond stage one only the future will tell, but in one instance north of Adelaide there is an area of nearly 100,000 people now being served comfortably by a hospital with 150 beds, and in another area to the north-east of Adelaide, with about the same population, we are planning to put in 236 beds, or 50 per cent more; then we are to spend a further \$X million to put in another 200-odd beds at a later stage. Perhaps some of us may not be very interested when that happens. However, I am definitely in favour of a hospital in the Modbury area and, to that extent, I am pleased that \$150,000 is provided to make a start on it. Whether it will be necessary to have such a large hospital in that area the future will no doubt tell us.

Yesterday, we heard something about the south-western districts hospital from the Leader of the Opposition; and we were pleased to hear from the Chief Secretary that planning was going ahead for that hospital.

I have always said (and I am sure that practically all honourable members will agree with me on this) that the south-western districts hospital is a first consideration; and it should have been at a more advanced stage of planning than the Modbury Hospital. It should be a teaching hospital allied to the Flinders University. I was interested to hear that my friend the Leader of the Opposition had heard on the grapevine that we were not going to get this hospital. I am sorry to learn that he feels this way, because this hospital is far more vital than perhaps some of the other hospitals, necessary though they may be. I hope the Government will continue to plan for this hospital and get it started as soon as possible. I do not know on what basis the Leader predicted that the hospital would not get off the ground or that we would not get it, but I trust that this Government will do all in its power to see that it does go forward. I wonder why the Leader of the Opposition, now that he is in Opposition, is in a position to know so much about the hospital not going forward, because I feel, with all due respect, that the previous Government did not do much, other than talk about the south-western districts hospital during its three years in office. However, I hope—in fact I am confident—that this Government will be able to make at least more progress than the previous Government did on this facility.

I am pleased to notice the provision of nearly \$14,000,000 for school buildings, including adult education centres and large schools and the second stage of the Bedford Park Teachers College. I am glad that facilities are being provided for the training of teachers. If we take the long view, we realize that over the last 10 to 15 years from having one somewhat outdated teachers college put in commission 40-odd years ago we now have several and in a particular case we have a very fine building on what was the original Adelaide Teachers College site; and there are other teachers colleges of which we can be proud.

The Government cannot do everything at once (as my colleagues opposite discovered when they were in Government) because we are always limited by the amount of money available for providing these facilities; but I suggest that the Government look sympathetically at the needs of the Western Teachers College, which is being operated at present in temporary buildings and in an old school which was part of the old Adelaide High

School. I appreciate the difficulties, whether it be a teachers college or a broadcasting station, because over the years I have had something to do with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and I know the great difficulties under which it works through having facilities on each side of Hindmarsh Square and also out at Collinswood. Similar conditions obtain at present with the Western Teachers College, and they should be corrected at the first available opportunity. So, I ask the Government to consider this matter. I commend the Government on the allocations, viewed as a whole, for school buildings. Of course, one can always think of particular needs in one's own area. I am pleased to know that the Minister of Education will consider the school buildings, such as they are, at Nuriootpa, and I shall be accompanying her when she inspects them. This is one of the places where old school buildings have become overcrowded and have outgrown their usefulness. With the population explosion in this State, particularly the explosion of school enrolments, and with the increase in educational standards it is inevitable that existing school buildings will become inadequate, and this can be corrected only as time and money permit.

Some time ago I was privileged to visit the Roseworthy Agricultural College with the then members of the Public Works Standing Committee and I saw the wine cellars there. Even to my unskilled eyes they appeared to be as old and out of date as are some of the school buildings I have just referred to. I am pleased to note, however, that \$200,000 is provided, through Commonwealth Government assistance, to remodel the cellars and to improve laboratory facilities for oenology students. These necessary and long overdue improvements will upgrade the college, which is unique in that it provides the only oenology course offered by an agricultural college in Australia.

Some years ago I, together with you, Mr. President, when you were Chief Secretary, was privileged to visit the Cadell Training Centre in the Upper Murray. I was very impressed with the facilities there for the rehabilitation of men who had gone wrong, but who were being encouraged to become useful citizens. Very valuable work is being done at this centre, and men who in past years would have been condemned to spend the rest of their lives in prison, to become mere caricatures of men and to become embittered

have been encouraged to regain standards of responsibility and a good outlook. A year or two after my visit to the centre I met a man who had graduated from it, as it were, and I was gratified to see that he had become a useful citizen. Of course, there are many other such men. Consequently, I am pleased that the Government intends to look after the centre and to improve it as the opportunity occurs. The sum of \$42,000 is provided for improved dormitory accommodation, messing and recreational facilities there. A few months ago I paid another visit to the centre, when Mr. Newton Lashbrook proudly showed me over it, and I was pleased to see the attitude of the staff toward the men.

It is pleasing that the Government intends to assist the Electricity Trust of South Australia to extend electricity supplies, which are so necessary for the development of both primary and secondary industries. I also commend the Government for the assistance it is giving to non-Government hospitals and institutions. In particular, I am pleased that the Helping Hand Centre is to be assisted. Also, the Government will meet the full cost of a new nurses dining room, pharmacy and staff amenities at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, which certainly deserves assistance, as do the Calvary Hospital, Minda Home and the Woodville Spastic Centre.

If the Government expands facilities for exploration and the actual exploration activities of the Mines Department as it intends to do, it will certainly deserve commendation. Because this Bill is probably the most important step the Government has yet taken towards rehabilitating this State and bringing it back to the high road to prosperity, I support it.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN (Northern): I, too, support the Bill. I realize the problems that the Government, and particularly the Treasurer, had in drawing up the Loan Estimates. When there is a change of Government, the incoming Government must necessarily carry on much of the previous Government's programme. Much of the expenditure outlined is for progress payments on works already in progress and works in respect of which commitments have been made. Consequently, this document is only partly the work of the present Government, because the previous Government's influence is necessarily present. Of course, a new Government taking office in a prosperous com-

munity faces a very different situation from that confronting the present Government. Unfortunately, this State's economy was not very buoyant when the Government took office.

The accumulated revenue deficit at June 30, 1968, was \$8,365,000. Taking into account these problems, I believe, as does the Hon. Mr. Dawkins, that both the Treasurer and the Government have shown a constructive approach towards the financial position of this State. I believe they have set a pattern that will put South Australia on the road to recovery. Indeed, I believe the economy is at present showing some signs of recovery. One could see from the unemployment figures published in the *Advertiser* yesterday that the general improvement throughout the Commonwealth was shared by South Australia.

Most members of Parliament who travel extensively throughout the State must have noticed that in the last two months or so there have been far fewer young people hitchhiking on the roads throughout the State looking for employment. This has been a noticeable change and is a practical illustration of how the unemployment position is improving. The Leader of the Opposition suggested yesterday that the change in the season was the main factor in the present more optimistic outlook. True, people are much more optimistic when there is every prospect of a good season, but I must point out that, so far as the economy is concerned, the impact of seasonal conditions is not felt until the results of the season are turned into hard cash. During the drought year those people most directly affected by the drought (the people on the land) of necessity had to reduce their stock numbers and take measures which, although affecting their long-term income, brought in ready cash for the time being. It is often the period before the results of the better season are realized that these people find themselves in their most stringent financial position. Therefore, although a good season produces optimism, many people have yet to receive the reward for their efforts.

I believe that in another 12 months this State, while it is under the leadership of this Government and once it has the opportunity of reaping the benefits of both a good season and good Government, will show a decided improvement. In reading through the Loan Estimates and the allocation of money to the various departments and projects within the

State, and taking into account that this document was somewhat influenced by the previous Administration (although in some matters of policy one can see changes), I am interested that a large sum of money has been allocated for spending within a comparatively small area of the State, although I am pleased to see that money is also allocated for such projects as the Port Augusta Hospital and Tod River mains on Eyre Peninsula.

As a member of the Public Works Committee I am aware of the necessity of many of these projects, but it causes me concern when I see the trends in population changes in this State. For some months we have heard much from people about electoral redistribution within South Australia, implying that the areas of large population are not getting their full value. If people think in that way, I suggest they look at the allocation of moneys in the Loan Estimates. I realize from investigations the Public Works Committee has made into these projects that they are necessary and, indeed, some are urgent.

I was interested also to see in the railways allocation that further progress is envisaged in this important asset of South Australia. The Hon. Mr. Dawkins mentioned the standardization of the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line. I hope, following the Minister's explanation in Question Time today, that when agreement has been reached and when the documents are duly signed, the work will be proceeded with as soon as possible on the comparatively short distance between Cockburn and Broken Hill as it appears to be uneconomic to hold up the benefits that could ensue from having this line in operation as soon as possible. Much money is invested in this line which, when it is in operation, should produce economies in the transport system in that part of the State.

I was interested to see the allocation for signalling and safety devices. Unfortunately, the brief explanation did not say whether these devices were for railway operation or whether they were intended to safeguard the travelling public who use the roads that cross railway lines at numerous places. Earlier this year I asked a question regarding experiments with directional reflectors on railway trucks, and I looked back through questions that had been asked over the last few years. It was interesting to note that such questions as mine have been asked of three Ministers in successive Governments and of two Railways Commissioners and, without exception, the answers have followed the same line of thought.

Some of the reasons given for not putting reflector strips or directional reflectors on railway trucks are cost, difficulty in shunting operations, difficulty of cleaning, and the legal liability to which the Commissioner may be subjected if these should become obscured or dirty.

This is the type of answer we have been getting as a reason for not doing anything, and it seems to me to be a negative approach, particularly when we have a Road Traffic Act which puts many obligations on motorists and transport drivers who use our roads. In fact, an ordinary truck possibly 30ft. in length used by most business houses would have more lights on it than would a goods train half-a-mile long, yet these vehicles are subjected to all the troubles (with the exception of the shunting) that may affect railway trucks. Motor transports use tarpaulins, and their operators have a legal liability if the vehicle's lights are not operating. They also have to keep the trucks clean and in good repair.

Following an answer to a question I asked earlier this year on this matter of cleanliness, I took note of the reflectors on the back of motor vehicles that had been travelling in very dusty and muddy conditions, and I found that those reflectors although very dirty still give quite a reasonable reflection. The rear of such a vehicle can be so dirty that its number plate is completely obliterated, yet reflectors will still show through. Road transport vehicles carrying a large range of goods also use tarpaulins.

This excuse we have been given surely is not a legitimate excuse. I remember on one occasion one answer given to a request for, I think, a signalling device at a railway crossing was that this was not entirely the answer because people still ran into trains even where there were warning devices. If we took this attitude towards the accident problem on our roads we should, of course, abolish the Road Traffic Act altogether, because this reasoning means that because people still have accidents there is not much value in introducing preventive measures.

I do not want to be critical of the present Railways Commissioner in this regard, for I know there are other problems associated with this matter in which the Railways Commissioners of Australia and the Australian Transport Advisory Council are involved. Many railway trucks travel on lines in more than one

State. However, much of our railway system in South Australia is completely self-contained. I refer to Eyre Peninsula, for instance, where the 3ft. 6in. gauge does not connect with any other railway system. We have that same gauge in the northern part of the State running into New South Wales as far as Broken Hill. When the 4ft. 8½in. gauge is completed there the northern 3ft. 6in. gauge will be self-contained.

I do not wish to be too repetitive about this but I believe that we have a very serious matter before us when we consider the number of lives lost each year and the amount of damage done not only to people travelling on the roads but also to the railway rolling stock itself. We are living in a period where motor vehicles are travelling faster and where trains, I believe, are also travelling at a higher speed.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: And getting longer.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Yes.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The question of the length of the train is important to your argument.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: In the northern part of the State where the standard gauge line is going through, the trains will be excessively long, and both the engine and the guard's van could be completely out of sight in almost open country.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: That is the position now on the Leigh Creek to Port Augusta line.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Yes. I think most members who motor in the country will have come up against this problem where a goods train has been crossing a road and they have not seen it.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have started to paint yellow some of the vehicles that carry mineral loads in long trains.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Because it is necessary for the line to follow an even grade where possible, many railway crossings are above road level, and when motorists have to drive with dipped lights they are at a disadvantage because these trucks do not show up until the motorist is immediately opposite them.

The proposal of the railways to experiment with reflectors at the railway crossing itself so that oncoming motorists can see them flickering through the wheels of the railway trucks may be a step in the right direction. However, I approach this proposal with some caution, because I believe the more we clutter up our railway crossings with signs, reflectors

and painted stripes the more this tends to divert the attention of the motorist to the crossing itself rather than to what may be going on around him.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: To a certain extent it reduces his field of vision of the railway line.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Yes, because the motorist is concentrating on the crossing itself. I should imagine that if a determined effort was made it would be possible at very small cost to fit a directional reflector, which would not reflect in any direction other than towards the person approaching the railway line, on a position on the railway trucks where it would be easily reflected from the head lamps of an approaching motorist and would be out of the normal area covered by tarpaulins. This reflector could very easily be kept at least clean enough to give a reasonably effective warning.

I hope the Government will take this matter up in a positive manner, because these complaints and suggestions have come from a wide range of organizations over many years: it is not just something that has occurred in the last year or two. Also, these suggestions have come from responsible organizations throughout the State which are in no way connected with the people who sell reflectors or reflectorized strips.

I will now leave this subject and move on to the various items of the Bill, which I shall not list in detail. Like the Hon. Mr. Dawkins, I am pleased that \$175,000 will be made available for the Kimba water scheme in this financial year. The story of water for Kimba is a long one, going back many years. Kimba is in the unfortunate position of being in a part of the State where a satisfactory underground water supply is not available. Until now the district has had to rely largely on water catchment and, as it is in an area of uncertain rainfall that is not ideally suited to the catchment of water, this has been an ever-present worry to the people living there.

It was proposed some years ago to lay a main from Iron Knob to supply the township of Kimba but it was found, on investigation, that the cost of water from this source, which had to be pumped originally from the Murray River, would be great. Then, following more optimistic assessments of the water resources in the Polda underground basin, it was decided fully to investigate this area as a possible source of water for Kimba. The Polda Basin is large;

for some time it had been known to exist but its full extent was not accurately known. This entailed much research by the Engineering and Water Supply Department in conjunction with the Mines Department to prove not only how much water was contained in that basin but also its rate of replenishment from the annual rainfall. I remember being part of a deputation to Sir Thomas Playford in his last year of office when the testing of the Poldia Basin was almost completed. I well remember that Sir Thomas told the deputation that the authorities were sure at that stage of enough water to supply the township of Kimba but that they had not done sufficient work to be sure that enough water would be available to supply Kimba and district and those districts en route to Kimba. He told the deputation that if it was prepared to accept an extension to Kimba alone the work could go forward at an early date but that, if it wished to have a larger scheme to supply the districts surrounding Kimba as well, it would take some extra months to prove whether sufficient water was there to warrant the expenditure.

When the E. & W. S. Department brings forward a proposition like this, it has to give evidence to the Public Works Committee and has to be able to justify its statement that there is sufficient water in a scheme such as this to warrant a large expenditure. However, Sir Thomas did not remain in office. We struck a period of financial difficulty and the previous Labor Government (either under Mr. Walsh or under Mr. Dunstan) decided to put this proposition to the Commonwealth Government in the hope of obtaining funds from that source. However, the present Government in its election speech promised to proceed with the scheme to provide water for Kimba, and I am pleased that it has honoured that promise and that the work will commence in this current year. This is one of the most pressing problems for any district in South Australia.

Likewise, I am pleased that the Port Augusta Hospital will be proceeded with. The Hon. Mr. DeGaris reported to the Council this afternoon on the progress made. I had occasion to speak at Port Augusta just before the last election and I asked Mr. Hall what plans were in hand for the hospital, because I well remember Sir Lyell McEwin as Chief Secretary saying that the work would be proceeded with on the completion of the hospital at Port Lincoln. Mr. Hall told me prior to my going to Port Augusta on that occasion that a Liberal Government, if elected,

would honour the promise made by Sir Lyell McEwin. I am pleased that that promise is being honoured in this year's Loan Estimates.

Student hostels is a small item, perhaps, in the overall total, but the \$100,000 last year has been increased to \$400,000 this year. This is a worthy expenditure, because one of the difficulties facing parents and children living in remote areas is accommodation for those children when they have to leave home to attend school. It is not only a matter of finding accommodation; it is also a matter of finding accommodation where the child is well cared for and has young people of his own age around him, as it is often a big break in his life to leave home. Without a home to which he can invite friends it can be very lonely for him if he has not the company of young people of this own age.

The sum provided for education has been increased this year as a contribution towards meeting the great problem of educating our children. Among the lines in the Loan Estimates the provision for craft centres, typing rooms, etc., has been increased from \$271,000 last year to \$659,000 this year. In studying problems associated with education, I have been somewhat concerned about our educating children in the more remote country districts to a standard where they can compete with children who live in the more populous areas. We know that economics are such that, where there are large numbers of students, it is easier to supply a wider range of subjects and teaching facilities. However, many young people in remote areas attend a secondary school that is, perhaps, the only such school within 50 miles or more of their homes, whereas in more populous areas, even though a certain subject may not be taught at the nearest school, it will be taught at a school reasonably close to the student's home. In smaller schools in remote areas a difficulty arises in the provision of two craft subjects, which require not only suitable craft rooms but also suitable teaching staff. Although at first glance it may appear that, because of the small number of students involved, the expense is unjustified, I believe that we must give the young people in remote areas opportunities that are as near as possible equal to those enjoyed by students in the larger population centres.

The percentage of self-employed people in rural areas is far greater than the percentage of such persons in the State as a whole. We are living in times when self-employed people

are under stronger pressures than have been experienced for a long time. We often read in the press that people who profess to be experts believe that the man on the land must increase his efficiency, although he already produces more for every person employed in the industry than is produced in any other country.

If we are to fit country people to meet the challenge of overcoming present difficulties, we must provide suitable educational facilities. It has also been suggested by the would-be experts that smaller rural holdings should be amalgamated and thereby increased in size to make more efficient units, which would increase the drift of young people from rural areas to the larger population centres. Consequently, I believe that every consideration should be given to the standard of education and to the facilities in country schools. I am well aware, as are most honourable members, of the facilities in many new schools being built. When we remember the magnitude of this expenditure, surely there is every justification for giving country children educational facilities comparable with those enjoyed by city children.

Because members of the Police Force have been working under difficulties in a very small building at Ceduna, I am pleased that provision has been made for a new courthouse there. I do not want to suggest another possible site for a festival hall—

The Hon. C. R. Story: Why not? Everybody else has had a go.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I am sure we could find sites in the Northern District where a hall would look very nice. Seriously, though, I believe the Government has been very generous in offering a grant of \$2,500,000 toward a hall, the estimated total cost of which is \$4,000,000. The Government has also promised \$40,000 a year for 10 years toward the running costs of the hall. The sum of \$500,000 is provided this year to commence this project. When we consider the pressing needs of the State as a whole, I believe, in spite of the rather emotional arguments raised, that the Government's offer is generous. Many of the critics of the Government's move have failed to be constructive. When communities are really behind a project such as providing a hall there should be more offers of physical and financial assistance.

I am pleased to see that the provision for capital equipment for the Mines Department has been increased from \$220,000 to \$300,000. For many years this department has not received publicly the credit due to it for the constructive work it has done toward developing the State. Other States have made amazing progress in the exploitation of mineral discoveries in the last few years, and if we wish to see such developments here we must play our part and encourage exploration. The Government has taken a constructive and wise attitude in channelling money into projects such as increasing the Mines Department's capacity for exploration work.

Although much of the money in this year's Loan Estimates is committed to works already approved, throughout this document one can see items that show a change of thinking and a more positive approach toward a practical and forward-looking financial policy for the State. I support the Bill.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 17. Page 1133.)

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE (Northern): I support the Bill and commend the Minister for introducing it. It is high time that the people who infringe the comfort of others should be proceeded against, and that is the purpose of this Bill. Most of the world's population have known for generations the real threat of disease spread by fleas and lice, and it is appalling that some people in our communities do not take the necessary precautions and avenues available to rid themselves of these pests, which are to the detriment and discomfort of the rest of the community.

Yesterday, the Hon. Dr. Springett outlined the history of fleas and lice and the work done to eradicate them. The people he mentioned would have given the world to be able to avail themselves of today's methods of eradication. Although they may not be a large number, we still have among us people who are not prepared to abide by the standards of sanitation that our community deserves and desires. Having done some scratching during my seven months in Tobruk, I know something of the discomfort these pests can cause. Also, I have seen fleas in plague proportions in the northern part of this State. I remember on one occasion, when a flash storm

flooded a creek, the saddle room and stockyard of a property became isolated and the fleas that apparently had been living in the banks of the creek took shelter on the island. The stockmen, when recovering their saddles and equipment from the saddle shed, did not use any of the Latin terms used in the Bill to describe the fleas but they made it plain that such fleas could be most disturbing. I do not know whether this was the type of flea that adheres to the human body, but they certainly made the men in question jump.

The Leader of the Opposition made a good point, and I hope he proceeds further with it in Committee. I hope, too, that the Minister of Health can clarify the qualifications of a health inspector, as there seems to be much doubt and misapprehension about this. The Leader also pointed out (and I agree wholeheartedly with him) that people who have the necessary authority to enter another person's home should be easily identified. It seems a pity that in much of our legislation there are uninterpretable definitions of people and objects that not only laymen but also the experts find hard to follow. Indeed, as the Leader pointed out, he had conferred with the Parliamentary Draftsman, who could not find a true definition of "health inspector".

The crux of the Bill centres around clause 10, which provides:

Any parent or guardian of any child infested with vermin—

Previously in the Act, vermin were described as lice, fleas and mites—

shall not—

(a) refuse or fail to take all reasonable steps necessary to—

(i) free the child from that infestation;

and

(ii) keep the child free from further infestation;

or

(b) suffer or permit the child to attend school until the child is free from that infestation.

Although previous speakers have said that the maximum penalty of \$40 is too high, I do not think it is too severe, although perhaps the Minister of Health would be scratching to obtain that sum from an offender. I have known of this problem where children infested with lice have attended schools. It seems wrong that a child should be penalized by being sent away from a school through no fault of his own. In many cases the teachers take it upon themselves to clean up these children and send them back to their respective homes,

only to find that within a week or two of their return the children are reinfested. Of course, the children become conscious of this and, like the well-trained princess that the honourable Mr. Springett spoke about yesterday, they are discreet about how and when they scratch themselves. It is not until another child who is not so discreet and begins scratching himself has to share a desk with him that someone realizes the child is reinfested with lice.

This is indeed a big problem, because not all parents are the responsible type, and it is doubtful whether \$40 could be obtained from them if they were prosecuted. The Minister of Health will have to face this problem, but I commend him for introducing this Bill, which is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, I do not know whether its provisions can be properly enforced, but prosecutions can be brought under this legislation. It is to be hoped that some sense of responsibility can be forced on parents who are not doing the right thing. This problem is not decreasing in country areas; in fact, in areas in the west and north of the State the problem is increasing, much to the discomfort of all concerned, and I hope that this Bill will provide some means of solving the problem. I support the second reading.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADELAIDE TO GAWLER RAILWAY (ALTERATION OF DRY CREEK TERMINUS) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 17. Page 1136.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): This short Bill sets out to validate something which to all intents and purposes has been in operation for some considerable time. The railway from Dry Creek to Northfield was originally known as part of the Gawler railway, and at that time I believe it was known as a ballast siding. This is why we have this Bill with the title "Adelaide to Gawler Railway" and then the words in brackets "Alteration of Dry Creek Terminus".

The alteration, as I said earlier, will validate something that happened in August, 1962, when the then existing terminus at Northfield was abandoned by the railways and brought back to the western side of Briens Road. The difference in the distance, actually, was a matter of 17 chains and 5 links, not half-a-mile as we have heard previously. I believe that the railway originally did go on into the



gaol area, and that that part of it was actually regarded as part of the gaol and not legally regarded as railway.

My friend the Hon. Mr. Kneebone, who was Minister of Transport for three years and who had jurisdiction over these things during that time, was rather concerned yesterday about the fact that the terminus could be shifted; he even suggested, I think, that a terminus could be shifted from Victor Harbour back to Mount Barker, and that this sort of thing could go on without there being any proper legislation.

I beg to differ with my honourable friend on this, because even though he mentioned the terminus at Kingston that was shifted, that terminus, although it is in a slightly different location, is still at Kingston. The terminus at Northfield, a whole 17 chains and 5 links distant from where it previously was, is still at Northfield. I believe this is very different from closing X number of stations, for example, between Mount Barker and Victor Harbour, as the honourable member suggested yesterday might be possible as a means of, in effect, closing a line down.

I am prepared to support this Bill for the ratification of this alteration which has, in effect, been operating for a matter of six years. I believe that when the railways changed the station and brought it back this short distance the rails were left there and the Highways Department was given permission to bituminize the road over the rails. Whether or not they are still there, I do not know, but at all events this legislation will give the railways the opportunity to pick up whatever remains of the railway which went across to the eastern side of Briens Road to the old terminus. I believe that this is something that ought to have been done some time ago; it might have even gone through while my honourable friend was the Minister of Transport.

The Hon. A. F. Kneebone: I was not the Minister in 1962.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I realize that, but from 1965 to 1968 the honourable member had three years in which to correct the situation. Without taking up the time of the Council any further, I support the Bill.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADVANCES FOR HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 17. Page 1137.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): I just wish to say briefly that I support this Bill, which increases the limit of the amount available by way of loan from the State Bank from \$7,000 to \$8,000. I think this is a move in the right direction. I believe it is 10 years since the last alteration was made in the figure that would be available and, that being so, I think this alteration is somewhat overdue.

My honourable friend, Mr. Banfield, said that he thought more money should be made available, and I think he also suggested that the increase in the amount of loan might mean that fewer people could get loans. However, the information I have been able to gather is that on this particular type of loan there is no very significant waiting list and that this concern for the man who is a long way down the waiting list might not really have any basis in fact.

I commend the Government for making this alteration, but I regret to say that nothing was done by the previous Government to increase the amount during the past three years. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 4.39 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, September 19, at 2.15 p.m.