

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

Third Session of the Thirty-Ninth Parliament (1969)

Parliament, which adjourned on February 20, 1969, was prorogued by proclamation dated March 13. By proclamation dated May 15, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, June 17, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 17, 1969

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

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir James Harrison) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

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

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.
2. On addressing you for the first time as Her Majesty's representative in South Australia, I wish to express on behalf of my wife and myself our deep appreciation of the warm welcome which has been accorded us by the Government and the people. We look forward

with pleasure to our stay among you and I assure you that we will do all in our power to promote the happiness and well-being of the people of this State, a task so ably fulfilled by our predecessors.

3. We are delighted that Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Kent have graciously consented to visit this State in August. The people of South Australia will look forward to their visit with much enthusiasm. A warm welcome to Their Royal Highnesses by the community can be assured. We were gratified recently when we had the opportunity of welcoming Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Hasluck to South Australia on their first official visit to this State since His Excellency took office.

4. Since you were last called together Senator Keith Alexander Laught, who was a member of the Senate for South Australia for 18 years, has died. We also suffered the loss of the following former members of Parliament: The Honourable Clarence Goode, a member of the House of Assembly for 13 years and a Minister of the Crown from 1915 to 1917; the Honourable Robert Richard Wilson, a member of the Legislative Council for 16 years; Hector Burnard White, who was a member of the House of Assembly for three years and Even Ernest George a member of that House for a like period. In recording our

appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to this State I know that you will join me in expressing our sympathy to their families.

5. My Ministers recognize the great potential that exists for the development of South Australia, and also recognize that this cannot be realized unless we have more people. To this end the Government has supported strongly the resumption of migration to the State to match the vigorous programme which has been adopted for the promotion of industry here. During the first nine months of this financial year 9,774 assisted migrants arrived compared with 6,743 during the comparable period last year. Arrivals under the nomination scheme for British migrants, which is a responsibility of the State Government, totalled 4,435 compared with 3,825 last year. The Premier and Minister of Industrial Development recently went overseas to undertake personal negotiations with industrial leaders who have shown interest in establishing enterprises in South Australia. Arising from his discussion he has reported decisions for the commencement of two important industries and the prospects of a favourable decision by a number of other companies. This success further highlights the importance of the Government's policy for an expanded migration programme.

6. Agriculturally, the past season has been a mixed one. Cereals and pastures benefited from favourable rains. However, hail and summer rain caused losses to the fruit industries, seriously so in the canning and dried fruit sectors. In the animal field, production was satisfactory but affected by the depletion in sheep numbers during the 1967 drought. Milk production was maintained at a high level. South Australia entered last summer with vast quantities of dry pasture and an extremely high fire risk. Yet, I am thankful to say, the State was relatively free from serious fires during the summer. A large carry-over of wheat has prompted the industry to introduce a quota delivery scheme for the 1969-70 harvest and my Government is co-operating in its implementation.

7. The Department of Agriculture has continued to expand its regional research and extension services for primary producers. A laboratory has been opened at the Kybybolite Research Centre and similar facilities will be provided at Turretfield, Kangaroo Island and Loxton Research Centres in the coming year. An irrigation research unit being established at the Struan Research Centre will contribute

towards efficient use of South-East underground water resources. Farm management advice has been expanded and substantial progress made towards the establishment of a soil analysis service for prediction of fertilizer needs.

8. Expenditure on education during the year rose by 10.74 per cent. Nineteen new schools and major additions to nine schools have been completed. As from the beginning of 1969, the Government introduced a scheme for making an annual grant of \$10 for every student liable to pay fees at private schools. The estimated cost of this scheme is \$375,000 per annum. As a further step towards decentralizing the administration of the department, two Regional Education Officers were appointed in February, one with headquarters at Mount Gambier and the other at Whyalla. These officers will have powers in connection with educational and professional matters, buildings, property, equipment, staffing and accounts.

In January this year my Cabinet approved of the appointment of a committee of inquiry into education in South Australia. This implements an undertaking given by my Ministers before assuming office that a searching examination of the State's education situation would be made to determine the best use of our resources. The first group of trainee school dental therapists, who commenced training in February, 1967, began advanced clinical training in July, 1968. Those who satisfactorily complete the course will be available to commence duty under supervision at primary schools in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Peterborough, Renmark and Murray Bridge where clinics are being established. From the beginning of the school year 1969 approval has been given for the medical examination by medical officers of the School Health Branch of children in private schools as well as in Education Department schools. Children will have a complete medical examination in their first and last years at primary school, with a further examination restricted to vision and hearing in Grade IV. In secondary schools one complete medical examination and a further examination of vision and hearing will be made.

9. The Government has decided on a scheme for travelling art exhibitions using a mobile unit belonging to the Art Gallery of South Australia, thus making works of art accessible to persons living in country areas.

10. During the past 12 months the Electricity Trust of South Australia has continued its programme of expansion of electricity

generating and distributing facilities throughout the State involving the expenditure of \$25,000,000. The first 120,000 kilowatt turbo-generator in the Torrens Island power station was brought into service in 1967, the second in 1968 and the third has just commenced operation. The fourth turbo-generator and associated boiler plant (which will complete the first stage of the power station) are now under construction and will be brought into service late in 1970. Work is in hand to fit the four boilers at Torrens Island with equipment to burn natural gas when it becomes available in November, 1969, when that power station will be the first major power station in Australia to use natural gas as a fuel and will become the biggest single user of natural gas. Sales of electricity continue to break new records and now exceed 3,000,000,000 kilowatt hours per annum. Despite continually rising costs, particularly labour costs, electricity tariffs have remained at a constant level for 17 years and the average selling price of electricity in South Australia is lower than in any other Australian State except Tasmania.

11. A number of major works have been completed by the Public Buildings Department during the year in hospital, school and other Government buildings, and work is proceeding on all projects already begun. Work completed on Government buildings includes the State Administration Centre in Victoria Square, the Adelaide Juvenile Court and the Elizabeth courthouse and a number of other projects. A site has been acquired in Victoria Square West to provide for a future Government office building. Planning is proceeding urgently to enable the provision of accommodation for the proposed new intermediate courts.

12. On October 24, 1968, my Government appointed the Law Reform Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Howard Zelling, Q.C., presently an Acting Judge of the Supreme Court. The committee has been meeting monthly to consider various matters of law reform referred to it by my Attorney-General. Reports of the committee dealing with amendments to the Evidence Act and to the Oaths Act are being finalized. A wide variety of other topics dealing with matters such as the law relating to commercial arbitration, the law relating to animals and the law relating to the remaining disabilities of married women are presently being considered by the committee.

13. Since my Government took office, surveys of the extent of the work undertaken by the Supreme Court, Local Courts and Courts

of Summary Jurisdiction have disclosed the need for improvement and change in court structures generally. During this year and last, the Government has had under close consideration plans for the creation of courts of intermediate jurisdiction to improve the administration of justice. It is hoped that legislation will be introduced this coming session to implement those plans.

14. During the past 12 months work has continued on the deepening of the Port River. A new 700-foot jetty was completed at Glenelg and work has been accelerated at Port Giles for the provision of a bulk grain loading facility to be completed by May, 1970. During the year 1969-70 work will commence on the deepening of the Thevenard entrance channel and on the strengthening of the shipping pier. A number of other projects have been commenced, continued or completed by the Department of Marine and Harbors and improved facilities have been provided for fishermen at Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell. The Government is considering and making provision for the speedy and effective development of container traffic at Port Adelaide.

15. Considerable progress has been made on the Kangaroo Creek dam which, when completed, will impound a reservoir of 6,000,000,000 gallons capacity on the Torrens River for the Adelaide water supply. It is expected that water will be impounded from August. The dam should be substantially completed by the end of 1969. During the year considerable improvements have been made to water supplies to Whyalla and the northern areas by the provision of additional storages and new pumping stations. Construction of the Tailem Bend to Keith pipeline continued during the year and less than 20 miles of the pipeline remain to be completed. The section between Tailem Bend and Tintinara is in service with temporary pumping equipment. The Tailem Bend pumping station should be in operation early in 1970.

A considerable amount of work has been done in connection with the Swan Reach to Stockwell pipeline. It is now connected to the Warren trunk main. It should be finished by the end of June, 1970. Progress has also been made on the Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga pipeline which is scheduled for completion in 1973-74 and the Lock to Kimba pipeline, commenced in February this year, will also be completed in the same year.

Work is in progress on preliminary designs for the Clarendon dam on the Onkaparinga River. This will impound a reservoir of approximately 8,700,000,000 gallons capacity for the Adelaide water supply. Considerable progress has been made on the scheme to increase the normal capacity of the Mannum to Adelaide main. The scheme is expected to be completed early in the next financial year. Following the recent decision of the Government, steps are being taken for the fluoridation of metropolitan water supplies.

16. This year the Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works, begun in 1963, should be completed. Work is in progress on the first stage of a sewerage scheme designed to be extended to serve all development between O'Halloran Hill and Moana.

17. With the aid of Commonwealth Government financial assistance, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has expanded its developmental programme during the last 12 months. Considerable progress has been made towards ensuring that standard housing is available to Aborigines whenever needed. A programme of public health education has been prepared by the Department of Public Health and a hostel for maternity and medical cases is to be constructed at Port Augusta.

18. The value of minerals produced in South Australia during the year 1968 was approximately \$76,000,000. Exploration for petroleum is continuing both on- and off-shore and new gas fields have been discovered which are well placed for inclusion in present pipeline plans. The Moomba to Adelaide pipeline is being built on schedule. My Government is aware of the importance of a vigorous mineral industry for the welfare and development of the State. It is providing, wherever possible, enabling legislation and technical advice and assistance with a view to encouraging exploration.

19. During the financial year approximately 6,500 acres of land have been planted by the Woods and Forests Department, log production from State forests approximated 230,000,000 super feet, and 3,150 acres of land suitable for afforestation purposes have been purchased or approved for purchase.

20. A steady and increasing demand continues for housing loans from the State Bank. About 95 per cent of all advances are made from funds secured under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Advances aggregating \$11,600,000 will be provided from this source during the current financial year and

this amount is supplemented by approximately \$650,000 provided out of State Loan funds. The advances from these sources will have provided nearly 2,000 separate housing loans. My Government is proposing to seek an increased allocation of funds under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement in an endeavour to meet increasing demands. A record volume of loans to producers aggregating about \$1,900,000 will have been made during the current year. About \$300,000 has been provided to finance student hostels and school boarding accommodation for the current year. This is the greatest annual expenditure for this purpose during the past five years.

21. My Government continues to expand hospital and mental health services throughout the State. I mention particularly that construction of a new hospital at Port Augusta is expected to begin shortly and to be completed in 1971. The first stage of building development of the Port Pirie Hospital has been recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Arrangements are being made for the Hospitals Department to take over the Whyalla Hospital as from July 1 next. Tenders are about to be called for the construction of the first stage of the Modbury hospital buildings which will be completed in 1971 and provide for 218 beds. Work is in progress on the redevelopment of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and on a new wing for the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. Major extensions or improvements are in progress at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the maternity block at Port Lincoln Hospital and other hospitals.

22. My Government intends to commence a long-term programme of irrigation works to replace open channels with pipemain in upper river districts and to continue the Renmark Irrigation Trust rehabilitation works.

23. The law restricting the times of trading in retail shops has not been altered for many years. My Government is making a complete review of the situation with a view to inviting Parliament to enact laws appropriate to current conditions.

24. Efforts made in recent years by the Government, management, workmen and voluntary organizations have resulted in a reduction during the year ended June 30, 1968, of 8 per cent in the number of persons injured at work. This followed reductions in the two previous years. In maintaining its policy of co-operation with employers and trade unions in this field,

my Government is taking the lead in establishing in Adelaide a permanent industrial safety exhibition.

25. The redevelopment of Roseworthy Agricultural College has made rapid progress. Plans are in preparation for the housing of an additional 70 students and by 1972 the student numbers will have increased from 127 to about 190. Representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government to have Roseworthy recognized as a College of Advanced Education as from January, 1970.

26. In furtherance of my Government's promises to foster the fishing industry of this State and to promote research programmes consideration is being given to the appointment of additional research officers to commence investigations into the abalone, crayfish, prawn and sports fisheries of South Australia. My Government also proposes to submit for your consideration new legislation for the fishing industry of this State to meet the requirements of modern fisheries management.

27. At the end of February, 1969, there were 531,155 vehicles on the State Register of Motor Vehicles, an increase of 17,233 on the previous 12 months, whilst licensed drivers numbered 500,049, an increase of 11,604. In considering methods to promote driver improvement through the licensing system and to promote road safety, my Government proposes to introduce legislation for a driver "points demerit" system. Other proposals for amendments to the legislation include concessions in registration for pensioners whose mobility is impaired to the extent that they are unable to use public transport and exemptions from registration of bulk grain field bins used by primary producers.

28. The provision of a separate local government office in the Minister's department under the direction of the Secretary for Local Government will facilitate a closer liaison between Government and local government and will enable increased advisory services to be given to councils. The Local Government Act Revision Committee will submit its report in July, 1969. This report will contain recommendations on the revision of the Local Government Act.

29. The State Planning Authority has completed three development plans for country regions of the State. One has already been placed on public exhibition while the other two will shortly be made available for public inspection. During the present financial year 155 acres at Onkaparinga Estuary, 16 acres at Aldinga Scrub and 70 acres at Athelstone South were purchased for open spaces follow-

ing recommendations made in the 1962 development plan. The State Planning Authority is reviewing the Metropolitan Planning Area and preparing a supplementary development plan for that area, taking into account the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study.

30. Considerable progress has been made on the rail standardization project between Port Pirie and Cockburn and work has started on the section between Cockburn and Broken Hill. The South Australian Railways will run and operate the railway between the State border and Broken Hill. Present plans are to bring the standard gauge into operation at the beginning of 1970. Railway revenues have shown a substantial improvement over those for the previous year, significant increases being realized in the grain and general merchandise traffic. Indeed, inter-system general merchandise traffic has shown a remarkable increase. The South Australian Railways' plans for 1969-70 include further progress in the upgrading of the Eyre Peninsula system, the completion of centralized traffic control between Tailem Bend and Serviceton and the construction of new rolling stock to meet increased business.

31. During the financial year the bituminous main road system was extended by about 150 miles. The Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report was issued in June, 1968. It contains recommendations for the co-ordinated development of bus and rail passenger services and highways within the metropolitan area to cater for the expected travel demand up to the year 1986. A debate will be initiated on metropolitan transportation proposals. Planning and construction work on a number of new bridges is well advanced. So also are construction works on a number of drainage schemes. During the financial year 1969-70 the Highways Department plans to carry out works at a total expenditure of \$37,500,000.

32. The work handled by the Social Welfare Department continues to expand. This year there has been an overall increase of more than 20 per cent in the average number of children in the department's homes and institutions as compared with the previous year. Increases and extensions to State public relief benefits were made in October, 1968. Expenditure on public relief (excluding residential care) is expected to reach \$543,000 as against \$446,000 in the year 1967-68. The total of maintenance moneys received in the department this year for payment to wives and families will approximate \$1,430,000—an increase of about \$130,000 over 1967-68.

33. During the current financial year it is anticipated that the South Australian Housing Trust will have completed about 2,000 houses. The trust has in the past six months let new contracts mainly for rental-purchase houses and for flats. There is an upward movement in this area and this increase in production is expected to gather impetus during the next financial year. The policy of the trust to aid industrial development within South Australia has been strengthened. Elizabeth, Christies Beach, Whyalla and Millicent are four major centres where the trust has assisted in the establishment or expansion of industry.

The trust's programme in the country during this financial year has been lifted to a very satisfactory level and it is expected that approximately 47 per cent of the total number of houses built by the trust will be in country areas as compared with 38.3 per cent in the year 1967-68 and 32.7 per cent in the previous year. During the current financial year the trust resumed its programme of building three-storey flats in the metropolitan area. Blocks of flats are nearing completion at Brooklyn Park and Henley Beach and work has recently commenced on 84 flats at Gilberton. More flat projects are planned for other suburbs. There is a strong demand from young married couples, both of whom are in employment, for this type of accommodation which can be occupied whilst an endeavour is made to accumulate savings to enable them to purchase a home of their own.

34. Shortly after the enactment by Parliament of the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Act, 1968-1969, I appointed an electoral commission under section 4 of the Act. After the commission had begun its work, the Honourable Mr. Justice Chamberlain, who had been appointed Chairman, became ill, and the Honourable Mr. Justice Bright, a Judge of the Supreme Court, was, pursuant to section 4 of the Act, appointed in his place. The commission has been actively carrying out its duties and has already issued Part I of its report which determines the metropolitan area for the purposes of the Act. Copies of that part of the report have been sent to the President of the Legislative Council and to the Speaker of the House of Assembly. It is expected that the commission's report on actual boundaries will be available soon.

35. My Government hopes that a Bill for a revised Mining Act and a Bill to control agricultural chemical spraying will in due course be presented for consideration by Parliament.

An amendment to the Supreme Court Act dealing with the appointment of Acting Judges will be presented for consideration as a matter of urgency.

36. My Government has approved in principle of the preparation of legislation to amend the Superannuation Act, the Firearms Act, the Prisons Act, the Lifts Act, the Footwear Regulation Act, the Apprentices Act, the Construction Safety Act, the Industrial Code, the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, the Police Offences Act, the Licensing Act, the Harbors Act, the Land Tax Act, the Stamp Duties Act, the Social Welfare Act, the Legal Practitioners Act, the Real Property Act, the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, the Gas Act, the Coroners Act, the Marketable Securities Transfer Act, the Justices Act, the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, the Companies Act, the Planning and Development Act, the Marketing of Eggs Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act and a number of other Acts.

37. It is the intention of my Government to place before you legislation to continue for another year the operation of the Prices Act and to restore to the Notice Paper of the House of Assembly the Licensing Act Amendment Bill, the Electoral Act Amendment Bill and the Criminal Law Consolidation Act Amendment Bill.

38. The Budget of Revenue and Expenditure presented to you last September anticipated a nominal surplus for the year 1968-69. However, since that time additional salaries and wages awards have involved the Government in further costs of some \$4,000,000. Certain revenue measures came into operation later than had been at first contemplated and produced approximately \$1,000,000 less than had been budgeted. On the other hand, as a result of special Commonwealth grants amounting to about \$3,350,000 and firm control of expenditure generally, the present indication is for a balance or a surplus of minor proportions.

39. The Loan Budget presented in August last year was based on achieving a nominal surplus of \$400,000 for the year, thus reserving past surpluses towards offsetting the cumulative Revenue deficits.

Members of the House of Assembly:

40. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of \$1,235,000 for this financial year will be laid before you and Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1970, will be presented for consideration.

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

41. A Supply Bill providing \$40,000,000 for the Public Service of the State during the early part of the next financial year will be laid before you.

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

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

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS

The PRESIDENT: It is with profound regret that I draw the attention of honourable members to the recent lamented deaths of Senator Keith Alexander Laught, a member of the Senate for 18 years; the Hon. Clarence Goode, a member of the House of Assembly for 13 years and a Minister of the Crown from 1915 to 1917; the Hon. Robert Richard Wilson, a member of the Legislative Council for 16 years; and Messrs. Hector Burnard White and Even Ernest George, members of the House of Assembly for three years. These honourable gentlemen served their respective Houses with distinction, and we mourn their passing. The sympathy of the Council is extended to relatives of the deceased honourable gentlemen, and I ask honourable members to stand in silence as a mark of respect to their memory.

Honourable members stood in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 12.59 to 2.15 p.m.]

QUESTIONS

GAS

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works in this Council.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: As at the present time a programme for the conversion of gas appliances in the metropolitan area to the use of natural gas is being undertaken and this morning an accident in connection with this conversion programme was reported (I am aware that similar and also different types of accident have occurred in other States) will the Minister ask his colleague

what precautions are being taken to see that this type of accident does not recur in the future?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

REFLECTORS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: My question concerns a matter that has been raised several times in this Chamber and has been highlighted by an accident on the Peterborough to Broken Hill section of railway line—reflecting material on the sides of railway trucks. The answers received in the past have been used as a reason for not providing reflecting material or reflectors, including such things as the risk of the reflectors being covered by tarpaulins, the problem of keeping the reflectors clean, their durability, shunting difficulties, etc., all of which can readily be answered; but I believe the main stumbling block is liability. Can the Minister say, first, whether any progress has been made in this matter and, secondly, as this affects all the railways of Australia, whether he will, at the next meeting of Transport Ministers, consider with them the possibility of introducing a Bill to make the use of such reflecting material compulsory?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In regard to the accident on the railway line from Peterborough to Broken Hill, I assure the honourable member that the Government has not yet made a definite decision in this matter. It is still actively considering the whole question. The Railways Commissioner and his department are at present experimenting by painting some trucks colours that they think will assist in regard to illumination at night. I understand that some trucks are being painted light grey and others bright yellow. In view of the comparison between trucks painted in these colours and trucks painted the traditional black, we believe that this move will result in an improvement.

I know that the Railways Commissioners throughout Australia have not yet changed their previous decision that a form of reflectorized material on the sides of trucks would not be advantageous. However, I assure the Council that I share the honourable member's concern, and I myself believe that the time is drawing near when a definite decision,

which I believe will be acceptable to the honourable member, may have to be made.

This matter was raised at the meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council held in Melbourne in mid-1968. The whole question was discussed, but the council did not agree that it would be wise to recommend the use of reflectorized material on the sides of trucks. I assure the honourable member that at the meeting to be held in Darwin in July I will ensure that the matter is raised, if it is not already on the agenda.

WATER RATES

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I have read in the newspapers that some landholders in the Culburra district are opposed to the laying of a main from Tailern Bend to Keith because they claim they are self-sufficient in respect of water supplies. It is well known that some landholders on Upper Eyre Peninsula have been seeking a main for about 30 years. Will the Minister ascertain whether any landholders adjacent to the proposed Polda-Kimba main would be opposed to paying rates?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I understand that the Polda-Kimba main is in the very early stages of construction, and I think it would probably be a very good time to take a census.

ELIZABETH BUS SERVICE

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Recently there has been much publicity and, indeed, pressure applied toward having a bus service provided for the citizens of Elizabeth. As far back as August 12, 1965, in a speech during the Address in Reply debate, I suggested that the Municipal Tramways Trust be made the responsible authority for transport in this area. Indeed, the Playford Government at a later stage placed this area under the trust's control. Opposition to providing a bus service in this area has always been that it would compete with the railways. I think it is recognized that transport the world over is either a State responsibility or, if it is

privately owned, has to be heavily subsidized by the Government.

I think the Minister would also recognize that if a bus service were established in this area it would provide some fringe benefit in that it would take a number of motor vehicles off the road and thereby reduce considerably the congestion on the roads from Elizabeth to Adelaide. Will the Minister say whether the Government is prepared to give serious consideration to providing a bus service to the Elizabeth area?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Ever since the Government came to office it has been actively investigating the question of a bus service to Elizabeth. Throughout these investigations we have not at any stage indicated that we have been opposed to the principle of a direct bus service to Elizabeth along the Main North Road, but the problem has been a complex one because it has touched (as the honourable member has said) the question of competition with the other form of transport and it has been a very involved question as far as the existing feeder service within the city of Elizabeth is concerned.

Also, at one stage we announced that we had deferred consideration for a time until the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study had been fully considered. However, as a result of the Government's long deliberations, it has now reached a definite decision regarding this question. The present feeder bus service in Elizabeth will be further improved, and a direct bus service via the Main North Road will be implemented from Adelaide to the eastern districts of Elizabeth. The changes will take a little time to implement but the relevant authorities are being advised to hasten the introduction of the new services as much as possible.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: In view of the answer the Minister gave in reply to the Hon. Mr. Hart's question concerning transport to Elizabeth, will the Minister give an undertaking to the members of this Council that, if such a service is provided, neither the Act nor the regulations will be altered to permit the present metropolitan buses to operate on further roads at the present bus width which, of course, is over the legal limit?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I think I should like to look at the honourable member's question in complete detail. I shall do that, and bring down a report for him as soon as possible.

FIRE HAZARDS

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: In view of the fire risk and hazard, especially in modern office blocks, can the Chief Secretary inform the Council what legislation exists to encourage and indeed, enforce, co-operation between architects and builders on the one hand and fire prevention authorities on the other hand to reduce fire hazards?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: This matter has caused me some concern since I have occupied the position of Chief Secretary. Certain studies are being made at the present time. I think the honourable member realizes that certain legislation on this matter is in the Statutes but the Government is not completely satisfied with the effectiveness of the legislation. I will obtain a full report on the present situation for the honourable member's benefit.

RAIL STANDARDIZATION

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I am quite sure all honourable members were interested to hear in His Excellency's Speech of the progress being made on the rail standardization between Port Pirie and Cockburn and of the commencement of work from Cockburn to Broken Hill. Also, we have noted that through passenger trains have just started running from Port Pirie to Perth, which means that very shortly through passenger trains will be running from Sydney to Perth on the one gauge. I am sure every honourable member is persuaded of the vital necessity for connecting this standard gauge line with the line from Port Pirie to Adelaide. As I know that the Government has been negotiating on this matter, can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether there has been any progress made for the standardization of the line from Port Pirie to Adelaide?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: There has not been satisfactory progress, in my view, and the fault for that lies at the door of the Commonwealth Government. I have not this

information in front of me, but from memory I think it was last November that this State agreed with the Commonwealth Government that a feasibility study be undertaken so that an independent report on all aspects of the link-up in the standard gauge between Adelaide and the East-West line running from Port Pirie to Cockburn could be made. We have been endeavouring to obtain agreement with the Commonwealth on the terms of reference for that feasibility study.

Honourable members will recall that the Commonwealth would not agree to this State's original proposal, put forward soon after the present Government came to office, as to how the State believed this standardization link-up could be best achieved in the interests of the State. So we agreed to this independent feasibility study being made and we agreed that it ought to be completed within six months of the work being given to the consultants.

However, that was last November, as I said, and we still have not reached definite agreement regarding the terms of reference. I thought I had reached verbal agreement when I went to Sydney about six weeks ago and interviewed the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport, and I expected then to receive a letter from him confirming the arrangements shortly after I returned from Sydney; but that letter has not arrived.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: That's not unusual.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: So we are still waiting on the Commonwealth Government in this matter. I repeat that the whole situation from the State Government's point of view is most unsatisfactory.

DERAILMENTS

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: During the last session of Parliament the Minister of Roads and Transport told the Council, following a question that I asked, that he would set up a committee to inquire into the possibility of reducing the number of train derailments. Can he say whether that committee has yet brought down a report?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I regret that we have not yet received the committee's report. I have been in touch with the Chairman of the committee over the past few weeks, and I had hoped that by today the report would have been in my hands and that I would have had time to study it and report to the Government. I understand that this report is

being typed today, so I think it will be available within a few days. As soon as we have perused it, I shall report further to the Council.

ADOPTIONS

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Can the Minister representing the Minister of Social Welfare say whether the Social Welfare Department encourages or permits children with physical handicaps to be placed for adoption by couples who have expressed a willingness to accept such children; in other words, what degree of handicap must a child not have before that child is considered by the authorities as suitable for adoption?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall obtain a report from my colleague and bring it down as soon as possible.

LAND TAX

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: Owing to the unrealistic values placed on rural land, values which are totally unrelated to productive capacity, there has arisen in recent times considerable discontent among primary producers, particularly in relation to the assessment of land for land tax purposes. I understand that Victoria has vacated the field of land tax on land used for primary-producing purposes, and that New South Wales is also phasing out this procedure. In fact, I understand that South Australia will soon be the only State that has a tax on primary-producing land. In view of that, will the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will consider vacating the field of land tax on primary-producing land, if not immediately then over a period of time?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: As this question involves Government policy, I ask the honourable member to put it on notice.

LICENSING

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Local Government, representing the Attorney-General.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: When the present Licensing Act was introduced it was intended that the system of licensing through the Licensing Court would streamline the procedure. However, because of the vast financial resources of many of the people

interested in the liquor industry, it has now become quite a common thing for leading counsel to be employed on both sides, with the costs involved in some instances being \$1,000 or more.

This presents difficulties to small organizations and individual people in business who wish to obtain a licence or to vary the terms of an existing licence. As it has been foreshadowed that amendments to this Act will be introduced this session, will the Minister take this matter up with his colleague with a view to giving some relief in these cases?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I will take up the matter and bring back a reply.

FISHING INDUSTRY

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I read in the press recently that the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry has said that about \$1,000,000, on a dollar for dollar basis, will be set aside to assist research in the fishing industry. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether fishermen or the fishing industry in South Australia will contribute to this scheme; whether the fishing industry in South Australia will benefit from the scheme; and whether the fishermen of South Australia can afford to contribute to the scheme?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: This three-pronged question is fairly involved. The honourable member's first point is that the Minister for Primary Industry made an announcement concerning a sum of \$1,000,000—which is about \$500,000 more than I knew of. I think the Minister said that about \$500,000 would be made available to the States for matching money. That \$500,000 will not all, by any means, come to the States. I recently attended a meeting in Darwin on this matter. For that \$500,000 that the Minister said could be made available the States are to have matching money. This matter arose during the conference, when the Minister controlling the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Mr. Fraser) was present. He stated that certain moneys out of this \$500,000 might be utilized in prawn research in the northern areas. This was discussed fully by the Ministers representing the States because it was felt that the C.S.I.R.O. had previously carried out most of this research from its own grant. It looks to me as though about \$300,000 may be available to the States for research.

A committee has been set up comprising the Minister for Primary Industry (Chairman), a

representative of the C.S.I.R.O., a representative of the States, and a representative of the fishing industry. The States will submit to this committee various projects which they think are worthy of research within their areas. The ones in which we in South Australia are particularly interested are prawn fishing, crayfishing, and scallops.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: What about abalone?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Abalone at the moment is something that we must make sure we keep; we do not know much about the others.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: Will our fishermen contribute to the scheme?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes. The abalone fishermen are contributing \$200 a licence at the moment, which is very generous; the prawn fishermen are paying \$200 a licence, which is also, in my opinion, a generous contribution. The crayfishing industry at the moment is not contributing, but I think that with negotiations we shall be able to reach some agreement in the near future on the amount it will contribute. However, it is necessary for the States to have a contribution from the fishing industry which can be matched by Commonwealth money, in the same way as wool research, wheat research and various other industries attract matching money. I hope that, when this Council receives the legislation that will be put before it in respect of the fishing industry, provision will be made for us to collect money to be set aside in a trust fund so that South Australia, too, can receive the benefit of the moneys made available by the Commonwealth.

DRUGS

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: During the last session of this Parliament, I asked a question of the Minister of Health about drug addiction. Has he any further information on this?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The question asked by the honourable member was:

Can the Minister of Health tell me of the estimated incidence of addiction to hard and soft drugs in South Australia?

I have a lengthy report so perhaps I can read to the Council the important parts of it:

Clinic records of the Alcohol and Drug Addicts (Treatment) Board indicate contact with 32 persons addicted to hard or soft drugs during the period July 1, 1968, to December 31, 1968. For the same period, Mental Health Services records show a total of 21 persons where the primary diagnosis was stated to be drug addiction.

In addition to this, I took the matter up with the Director-General of Public Health, who made the following comments:

Statistics are available on addiction to narcotic drugs, the so-called hard drugs, in this State. The estimate as set out in the annual report for the United Nations Organization is 35 addicts to narcotics. This incidence is lower than in some of the other States. No statistics are available on addiction to, or rather dependence on, the so-called soft drugs. This group encompasses a very wide range of substances, including the amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquillizers and hallucinogens. The cases of dependence that come under notice involving excessive dosage or unlawful use are of therapeutic and non-therapeutic origin. Prosecutions for the unlawful possession of, for example, the amphetamines are of course not necessarily an indication of the incidence of dependence on these drugs, but nevertheless are significantly lower than in some of the other States.

FESTIVAL HALL

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: We have heard a lot about the site of the festival hall, in respect of which there has been much concern. Some people who are most concerned that the hall is to be situated near the Torrens Lake are members of the Railways Institute, of whom there are many. They include railway employees not only at the Adelaide railway station but also in other districts. The members of the Railways Institute have invested a considerable amount of their own money in the present institute building, in equipment, and so forth, so they are concerned about what may happen when the festival hall is built on the proposed site. As I know that the Minister and the Railways Commissioner have been approached on this matter, can the Minister say what steps are being taken for the provision of an alternative and suitable institute building in place of the present one?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: First, let me say that I have great respect for the Railways Institute, its members and all those who are concerned for its welfare and that of its members. When the Government decided to build the festival hall on the present proposed site, I was concerned about the future of the institute building and the other buildings there. I inspected them, and particularly the

institute building, with the Railways Commissioner, accompanied by the Director of Planning (who was a member of the original Premier's committee that recommended the site). The Chief Engineer and one or two other senior officers from the Railways Department were present, too. I was most impressed with what I saw in the institute building. It reflected the activity of the institute generally. I am concerned about what will be the final decision on a new home for the institute.

The Government is at present considering several alternatives; one is for a new building near the festival hall but a little farther west. Indeed, a building could be designed so that it could be incorporated in the festival hall complex. The main problem would be one of cost, because it would cost a great deal to erect a structure comparable in size with the present building and suitable for the institute. The other alternative, which is now being investigated, is that of purchasing a property elsewhere but fairly near the Adelaide railway station. As soon as the Government has made a decision on this matter I will be pleased to let the honourable member know.

BRACHINA CROSSING

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: For some time the Commonwealth Railways has been working to improve the approaches to crossings on the railway line from Port Augusta to Leigh Creek. At present it intends to deck the approaches with wood, which it is hoped will be much superior to the crushed metal which is close to the line and which is used at present. A request has been made to the South Australian Highways Department to realign the Brachina crossing. Can the Minister say what progress has been made in realigning the road at the Brachina crossing?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Partly because of the very active representations made by the honourable member, the department is carefully considering the whole plan for the northern road to Leigh Creek. In regard to the specific crossing he referred to, I do not know the exact position, so I will obtain a report for him.

M.A.T.S. DEBATE

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: In his Speech His Excellency the Governor said that a debate would be initiated on the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study proposals. Will this debate be initiated in this Council or in another place?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: As far as I know the debate will be initiated in the House of Assembly. However, I am quite certain that, if honourable members want a debate in this Council, the same opportunity for a debate will be given here.

GROUP LAUNDRY

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Is the Chief Secretary satisfied with the working of the communal laundry of public hospitals and institutions in the metropolitan area? On his recent oversea trip was he able to compare the laundry service in this State with similar facilities overseas, and with what result?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: While in London I attended a dinner at which Lord Hayter was Chairman. He referred to one of the outstanding hospital developments in Australia—the group laundry in South Australia. If anyone interested in this development wishes to inspect the laundry, I advise him to do so. It has enabled a laundry service to be provided not only to hospitals in the metropolitan area but to some country hospitals. A complete linen service is made available at 8½c a pound dry weight; this takes into account not only laundry but mending, repairs and an exchange service. In other words, the hospital itself is not involved in purchasing any linen. In connection with the new Port Augusta hospital, we have noticed that savings can be made through centralizing services and through transporting the laundry between Port Pirie and Port Augusta. I assure the honourable member that we are extremely satisfied with the operation of the group laundry in South Australia and we hope that as time goes on further developments not only in the laundry field but in other industrial operations of hospitals will occur in South Australia.

KULPARA SCHOOL RESIDENCE

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: Will the Minister of Agriculture ascertain from the Minister of Works what the position is with regard to the erection of a residence at the Kulpara Primary School? I have raised this matter previously.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I will ascertain the position and let the honourable member have a report.

RAILWAY BUFFET CAR

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: As Ministers and most honourable members know, I take a great interest in transport, particularly the South Australian Railways. I am keen that the best facilities should be provided for them. I was delighted to hear about the dining car that is to be attached to the Overland Express, and that, following my question, the Railways Department will seek a tavern licence for the Adelaide railway station. The South Australian Railways must keep up with the competition and give the customers what they want. Earlier this year I made a trip by train to Perth. On the train from Adelaide to Port Pirie a buffet car was attached and the trip was comfortable. The section from Kalgoorlie to Perth was previously known as one of the worst sections of railway on a main line in Australia. On the return trip I was very fortunate to travel in one of the new carriages, and it was of a very high standard.

On the return journey from Port Pirie to Adelaide I was in a comfortable train but I was surprised to find that there was no buffet car; indeed there was not even a stop along the line where one could get off and have a cup of tea or some other beverage. The only drink available was water. Being a person who does not drink water very often, I did not find this suitable. Now that the Commonwealth Railways train is of such a high standard, will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider whether it is possible to have a buffet car on trains travelling to and from Port Pirie, at least when such trains meet the Transcontinental Express?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall take that matter up and find out why on the return trip southward that train did not have a buffet car. I had heard that sometimes it is included in the train, but there may have been some reason for the omission on that occasion. Perhaps, if there was any possibility of the department knowing that the Hon. Mr. Shard was travelling on the train, a buffet car would have been included.

I want to correct one of the points he made, and that is our proposal for an additional vehicle on the Adelaide-Melbourne Overland Express: that is what we term a "club car" and not a "dining car". I also comment on his reference to a railway line in Western Australia being classed as the worst in Australia, because it was pointed

out to me in strong terms only this week that South Australia had a railway line near Mount Gambier that came under that category.

ELECTORAL REPORT

The PRESIDENT laid on the table Part I of the Report of the Electoral Commission.

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:

Clovercrest Primary School,
Ingle Farm East Primary and Infants School,
Milendella-Sanderston (Hundreds of Finniss and Angas) Water Supply,
Port Lincoln South Primary and Infants School,
Port Pirie Hospital Additions,
Royal Park Sewerage Scheme,
Stanvac Primary School,
Whyalla (Eyre Avenue) Primary School.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Hons. R. C. DeGaris, F. J. Potter, Sir Arthur Rymill, and A. J. Shard.

Library: The President, the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, M. B. Dawkins, and H. K. Kemp.

Printing: The Hons. S. C. Bevan, R. A. Geddes, L. R. Hart, A. F. Kneebone, and V. G. Springett.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a Committee consisting of the Hons. S. C. Bevan, R. C. DeGaris, R. A. Geddes, A. J. Shard, and V. G. Springett be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1)

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

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Chief Secretary): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It provides for the appropriation of \$40,000,000 so that the Public Service of the State may be carried on in the early part of next financial year. As members know, the annual Appropriation Bill does not normally receive assent until the latter part of October and, as the financial year begins on July 1, some special provision for appropriation is required to cover the first four months of the new year. That special provision takes the form of Supply Bills, normally two such Bills each year, and without this Bill now before the Council there would be no Parliamentary authority available for normal Revenue expenditure from July 1, 1969. The appropriation proposed in the first Supply Bill is normally designed to cover requirements throughout July and August and may be required for the early part of September. The amount, \$40,000,000, is the same as the first Supply Bill introduced 12 months ago. It will be necessary for a second Supply Bill to be submitted to the Council in the latter part of August to provide for requirements while the Estimates and the main Appropriation Bill are being considered.

A short Bill for \$40,000,000 without any details of the purposes for which it is available does not mean that the Government or individual departments have a free hand to spend, as they are strictly limited by the provisions of clause 3. In the early months of 1969-70, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government must use the amounts made available by Supply Bills within the limits of the individual lines set out in the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament for 1968-69. In accordance with normal procedures, members will have a full opportunity to debate the detailed 1969-70 expenditure proposals when the Budget is presented. In recent years the Budget has been introduced just prior to Parliament's adjourning for the week of the Royal Show, and it is proposed to follow that practice this year. I commend the Bill to honourable members.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I support the second reading of the Bill. One would think that a Bill which permits the Government to spend \$40,000,000 should not go through so quickly, and people who did not know the true facts would think it should not be passed quickly. However, it has been the practice over the years that a Bill of this type is necessary at this stage of the year to make sure that members of the Public Service departments and the people who work for the Government, and

that includes ourselves, receive their salaries and wages in the first few months of the new financial year. We must agree to this Bill, otherwise that could not be done.

As the Chief Secretary has said, in the early months of 1969-70, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government can only use the amounts made available by Supply Bills within the limits of the individual lines set out in the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament for 1968-69. It is not my intention to debate this Bill at any length this afternoon, because it is necessary to get it passed quickly. However, I think it is necessary to say a few words in order to forestall any objection that the Bill is being put through rather quickly. It is a matter of practice and custom that this Bill be passed promptly by Parliament. I have no hesitation in supporting the Bill.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (Central No. 2): I, too, support the Bill, which is in the usual form presented to this Parliament, usually on the first day of every session. Honourable members, of course, are fully aware of this procedure. They realize what is involved in the Bill, and although it does provide for the expenditure by the Government of the large sum of \$40,000,000 this, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, must be strictly applied within the actual limits provided in the Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates. In these circumstances I am sure that all honourable members will agree to the Bill in its present form. In the meantime, we shall wait to see what will be provided in the Supplementary Estimates for this financial year when they come before us. The full Estimates for this coming year will be presented to us when they are introduced by the Chief Secretary in about August or September. I support the Bill.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1): I support the measure. As has been pointed out, from year to year at about this time it is necessary for money to be made available so that the various activities of the Government and departments of the Public Service can be carried on until the Estimates are brought down. The sum of \$40,000,000 is to be allocated for the purpose of paying the salaries of public servants and other officers of the Government (and, as the Hon. Mr. Shard has said, ourselves) until the Budget is introduced. The only comment I want to make about the measure is that I hope the details of the allocation of the \$40,000,000 will contain much more information than the Bill that we have

before us this afternoon contains, otherwise we will be giving a blank cheque.

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

SENATE VACANCY

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated that the President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia, in accordance with section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, had informed him that, in consequence of the death of Senator Keith Alexander Laught, a vacancy had happened in the representation of South Australia in the Senate of the Commonwealth. The Governor had been advised that, such vacancy having happened, the place of the Senator had become vacant before the expiration of his term of service within the meaning of section 15 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, and that such place must be filled by the Houses of Parliament, sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with that provision of the said section.

The PRESIDENT: I have to confer with the Speaker of the House of Assembly and

arrange to call a joint meeting of the two Houses for the purpose of complying with section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act.

Later:

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform honourable members that I propose to issue notices to members of both Houses of Parliament to attend a joint sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, for the purpose of filling the Senate vacancy caused by the death of Senator K. A. Laught.

ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

The Hon. H. K. KEMP (Southern): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.
Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. Kemp moved:

That the Select Committee on the Welfare of Aboriginal Children, appointed on December 4, 1968, have power to continue its sittings during the present session and to report on Tuesday, August 5, 1969.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.33 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 18, at 2.15 p.m.