

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 22, 1969

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

ASSENTS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated the Governor's Deputy's assent to the following Bills:

- Appropriation (No. 1),
- Supply (No. 1),
- Supreme Court Act Amendment.

PETITION: POTATO REGULATIONS

The Hon. H. K. KEMP presented a petition signed by 146 registered potato growers alleging that regulations made under the Potato Marketing Act on May 22, 1969, would preclude any person from perusing board documents and records (unless given permission by resolution of the board) and respectfully praying that regulations 3 and 4 be disallowed.

Received and read.

SENATE VACANCY

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the minutes of proceedings of the joint sitting of the two Houses held on June 25, 1969, to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Keith Alexander Laught, at which Mr. Martin Bruce Cameron was the person so chosen.

Ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS

ISLINGTON CROSSING

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: 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. J. SHARD: Almost exactly 12 months ago (on July 31, 1968) I commenced a series of questions regarding what has been known as the Islington railway crossing on Regency Road just west of Churchill Road. Nothing has been done to improve the crossing for the travelling public. I am afraid the position may become worse, because I understand that traffic lights are soon to be installed at the corner of Regency Road and Churchill Road. I foresee that in peak periods there will be a considerable bank-up of traffic because of the narrowness of the crossing. In

my opinion the Minister gave satisfactory replies to my questions last year. To refresh his memory I shall quote his reply (at page 1281 of *Hansard*, September 24, 1968):

The Highways Department has been aware for some time of the necessity to improve traffic conditions at the Islington railway crossing on Regency Road. Two basic proposals are at present being considered, one to widen the existing "at grade" crossing and the other to provide an over-pass. Both are costly projects.

The widening of the crossing would require extensive alterations to railway signalling, power, lighting, trackwork and buildings, involving very costly alterations, which would still not provide an ideal solution as it would still remain a level crossing. The alternative solution of providing an over-pass is under active consideration.

Will the Minister say, therefore, how active that consideration has been and whether any action has been taken to correct the position or, if none has been taken, what action can we expect to be taken to make this railway crossing much safer for the public to use?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: This is one of the crossings involved in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study. I understand that the M.A.T.S. Report recommends the construction of overways or underpasses at 20 level crossings. I think all members acknowledge that this is the only real answer to the problem of railway crossings: separating the grade of motor vehicles from that of the railway traffic.

At this point, too, the crossing is near the proposed freeway that will pass north from the Hindmarsh interchange and through the old Islington sewerage area, finally joining up with the main road to Two Wells. As honourable members know, some delays have occurred regarding the M.A.T.S. proposals, as a result of which the action that I would like to have seen taken regarding this crossing has been deferred for the present.

However, I appreciate the honourable member's concern in raising the question again because this is undoubtedly a dangerous crossing, and it might well be that the departments concerned (the Railways Department and the Highways Department) will have to turn back to the first of the two schemes to which the honourable member referred (which is by no means the better of the two) and to spend considerable public money there so that the existing crossing can be improved. I will be only too pleased to pursue this approach forthwith. I will, therefore, confer with officers of the two departments and obtain

their views regarding some action being taken in the relatively near future, and I will subsequently report back to the Council.

CARE OF AGED

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Recently the Minister has made statements regarding the extension of home care to the sick and the aged. He spoke of co-ordinating such services as the District and Bush Nursing Society, Meals on Wheels and other organizations that now individually help in the care of these people. The extension of this service is obviously one of the most exciting things that could happen in this field, as it could ultimately affect almost every family. However, the organizations I have mentioned are not represented in some areas of the State, although very efficient hospitals with both kitchen and laundry facilities could act as bases for this type of care. The Local Government Act Revision Committee recommended that local government should take a part in such a service where possible. In view of the fact that the Commonwealth Government has also made a grant available for home care, can the Minister say whether consideration would be given to allowing local government to participate in certain areas in this field?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I think most members of the Council are aware that I have been deeply interested in the question of extending services into the field of domiciliary care in South Australia. The Commonwealth Government recently passed legislation making available to the States, on once again a matching basis, certain moneys for certain purposes. It has made available \$90,000 a year for five years in the provision of more State-run beds; \$47,000 a year to South Australia for the provision of domiciliary services; \$23,000 a year for the provision of paramedical services as part of a home-care programme; a dollar-for-dollar subsidy in the provision of welfare officers to senior citizens' clubs; and a subsidy on a dollar-for-dollar-for-dollar basis with senior citizens' clubs or local government organizations and the State and the Commonwealth for capital programmes as far as senior citizens' clubs are concerned.

We had not made any move in the States until such time as the Commonwealth Government made known its views to the States. This legislation has been passed by the Commonwealth Government. Quite recently I called a meeting of all organizations that are at present interested or involved in the provision of home-care services in South Australia, with the idea of looking at this thing on a State-wide basis and from the point of view of some co-ordination of services in South Australia. The meeting agreed to elect an advisory committee of many organizations which are directly involved in the provision of these services, and I think the Government will agree to establishing certain pilot schemes in South Australia basing and organizing these schemes in a slightly different way so that the advisory committee can look at the operation of these schemes and make firm recommendations to the Government regarding the implementation of a comprehensive home-care scheme in South Australia.

I think we all appreciate that more and more we are looking to the question that we want people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. Of course, there is a humane angle to this as well as an economic angle. I think it is better for people to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and it is better if hospital beds are maintained for acute illnesses. In this whole programme, the general practitioner must still remain the key to the situation. I believe there is a part to be played in this matter by local government, by the senior citizens' clubs, and by the local hospital, which can provide an extension of nursing services to the community. I am extremely hopeful that we may develop in this State a domiciliary or home-care service which could lead the thinking on this matter throughout Australia.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER: My question refers to the frequently made statement that personal information referring to members of the public and held by Government departments is confidential and never made available other than to those who require it for the performance of their governmental duties. I understand that it has been stated in the past

that this general principle applies to the activities of the Motor Vehicles Department just as to other Government departments. My question is in five parts.

First, will the Minister please inform the Council whether personal information as to the registration numbers and names and addresses of persons purchasing motor vehicles is, or has been in the last few years, in any circumstances supplied in the form of lists or individually to non-governmental commercial parties? Secondly, is this information of a private nature sold by the department, or has it been sold? Thirdly, if a charge is made for this service, will the Minister inform this Council of the rates? Fourthly, if the answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, does the Minister consider that the practice of this department in revealing confidential information to commercial houses (so that owners of motor vehicles may be individually pestered by high-pressure advertising and selling propaganda) is maintaining the high degree of ethics and integrity customarily expected and practised in our Public Service? Fifthly, if none of the foregoing suggestions are true, will the Minister take up with the Attorney-General the matter that some trading houses in Adelaide are in a position to write to private individuals disclosing that they have the registered number and make of vehicle held by that person, all, of course, with a view to suggesting a change or a sale? I ask the Minister if he will do this in order to ascertain if there is any leakage of information of the nature I have inferred.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I will obtain replies to those questions for the honourable member.

CAR TRIALS

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Minister of Local Government a reply to my question of June 18 relating to car club trials?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I appreciate the problems facing councils when roads are damaged through their use by car trials. My department has received several submissions in this regard. You will appreciate that if legislation is provided to empower councils to grant or refuse permission for a car club to conduct a trial, this would have the effect of prohibiting the use of public roads by members of the public. This of course is impractical.

Because of this position, an agreement was reached with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport some years ago that individual car clubs would advise the council concerned of the roads to be used. I have recently arranged

with the confederation that clubs will provide appropriate maps of the trial routes. This arrangement does enable a council to be aware of the roads to be used, and if certain roads are unsuitable, to negotiate with the club for an amended route.

However, it does appear that councils are involved in considerable expenditure in repairing roads after use by car trials. Accordingly, consideration will be given to the desirability of introducing legislation to enable councils to recover the cost of repairing damage to roads, which has been caused by such use.

CASUALTY TREATMENT

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: On December 18 last the following notice was distributed to all members of the honorary medical staff and all surgical registrars of the casualty section of the Royal Adelaide Hospital:

Instances have occurred whereby patients have been diverted during the course of their attendance at casualty to the care of a consultant for treatment elsewhere. You are reminded that this practice is not in accordance with hospital policy and will not occur. You are requested therefore to draw the attention to the Resident Medical Officers working in casualty to this aspect of the work of casualty services.

On Saturday, June 28, 1969, at 8.20 a.m. an employee of the Islington Workshops reported to the casualty room at the workshops with an amputation of the top joint of the right hand index finger. The sister treated the patient for shock and bandaged the finger. At 9.20 a.m. the patient was sent in a taxi to the Royal Adelaide Hospital casualty section where a doctor (I have his name, but I will not mention it) examined the finger and then sent the patient to Ru-Rua Hospital for treatment. The patient, with a finger dripping with blood, sat until 2.30 p.m. (a matter of some five hours from the time he had reported to the Royal Adelaide Hospital and six hours from the time of the accident) whereupon the same doctor performed a further amputation on the end joint of the index finger. He has since this operation been attending as a patient of the first doctor he saw at the casualty section of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. From that report it would appear that some medical practitioners at the Royal Adelaide Hospital are using the casualty section in order to exploit workmen's compensation cases. Not only has

this particular case come to my notice but there have also been, to my knowledge, at least three similar cases, also from the same workshop, where the patients have been directed to a private hospital. This sort of exploitation should not be tolerated.

First, will the Chief Secretary thoroughly investigate the matter and bring down a full report? Secondly, will action be taken to see that there is no recurrence of this practice in the future? Thirdly, what action, if any, has been or will be taken against offending doctors?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I think the Hon. Mr. Banfield has really answered his own question by reading the direction that is given to all honoraries at the hospital. If any honourable member could inform me of any departure from this, I should be only too pleased to have the matter investigated and take the necessary action. I am aware of the case that the honourable member has drawn to my attention. This matter is currently being fully investigated but, if he has details of any other cases in his possession and advises me of them, similar action will be taken.

SAND

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Can the Minister of Mines say whether the lease in the West Lakes area for the extraction of sand for glass manufacture has been terminated?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: To my knowledge, there is no lease in the West Lakes scheme where sand is being used for glass manufacture.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I ask leave to make a brief statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Mines.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: I have been forced into this position by the Minister. A scheme to improve the upper reaches of the Port River was finalized by the Labor Government, and an indenture was signed for the building of what has become known as the West Lakes scheme. Various mining leases to extract sand and other materials from this area were held by different companies. I do not know whether alterations have been made under the present plan, but at that time it was intended that much building would take place on the western side of Military Road, going past an area that was held by Australian Glass Manufacturers Company for the extraction of sand for manufacturing glass. Negotiations had been commenced for the closure of the

leases held, so that the project could be proceeded with. Can the Minister of Mines say whether the lease that was held by Australian Glass Manufacturers Company for the extraction of sand in this area has now been terminated?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I will obtain a full report for the honourable member. I may be wrong, but I understand that no leases are held by Australian Glass Manufacturers Company.

RED CROSS HOME

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Has the Minister of Health a reply to my question of June 19 last about the effect of the closure of the Red Cross Home at Glenelg on the treatment of asthmatic children?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Some asthmatic children, who previously may have been treated at the Junior Red Cross Home at Glenelg, have been accommodated at the Estcourt House section of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and I have indicated that, if difficulties should exist in the admission of asthmatic children to Estcourt House, I would be pleased to consider any submissions on the matter raised by the Board of the Adelaide Children's Hospital.

KIMBA MAIN

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Has the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to a question I asked on June 24 last about the possibility of transferring some of the \$6,000,000 Commonwealth grant allotted to the Tailem Bend to Keith main to the Polda-Kimba main, as many people on the route of the Tailem Bend to Keith main had indicated that they were not in need of water, anyway?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: My colleague the Minister of Works has furnished me with the following information:

The grant being negotiated from the Commonwealth Government is specifically assigned to the Tailem Bend to Keith project. The proposed terms allow for payment from the Commonwealth to be matched with the expenditure of State funds. Under these conditions, the money is only available on the Tailem Bend to Keith project and requires a continuing State expenditure.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Will the Minister of Agriculture ask the Minister of Works what stage a similar request for assistance from the Commonwealth Government for the Kimba main has reached?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I will inquire.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport tell me whether he has reached any agreement with the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport on the terms of reference of the independent inquiry into the standardization of the Adelaide to Port Pirie route and ancillary lines?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The final terms of reference have not been completely agreed to between the State and the Commonwealth. The State Government is most anxious that agreement be reached and we are hoping that this can be achieved in the very near future. In fact, we are waiting for a communication from the Minister for Shipping and Transport on this matter. We are doing all we can to prompt him. The Premier is most anxious to expedite this matter and is in touch with the Minister for Shipping and Transport in Canberra. I know he was endeavouring to telephone him only this morning in regard to the whole matter but so far we have not reached agreement.

ADOPTIONS

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Has the Minister of Local Government, representing his colleague the Minister of Social Welfare, an answer to my question about the standards of suitability of children for adoption?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: My colleague has furnished me with the following reply:

No action to place a child for adoption is taken until after a medical report (Adoption of Children Regulations, Form 15A or 15B) is received. If the report indicates that the child has, or is likely to have, physical or other defects, referral for specialist medical examination is normally arranged. The specialist may find that the child is suitable for adoption. Alternatively, he may consider it desirable that an adoption placement be delayed until the child can be further assessed. In a few cases he may indicate that the child is unsuitable for adoption. Depending on the child's medical condition and need of skilled care, children in the two latter categories may be placed with foster parents with the possibility of adoption later, with foster parents for short term or long term foster care or in a children's home or nursing home (Seaforth Home, Torrens House, etc.).

Pursuant to the legislation, care is taken to ensure as far as possible that children placed for adoption are medically suitable or, alternatively, that the adopting parents are fully informed about the extent and seriousness of any defect or defects in the child they propose to adopt. In some cases it is considered advisable to delay an adoption application for children placed with foster parents with a view to adoption until the child's condition can be more accurately assessed.

RESERVOIRS

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I seek 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. M. B. DAWKINS: Recently, I had the opportunity to notice the situation with regard to the Millbrook reservoir and the Warren reservoir, both of which are at a very low level. I understand that the Millbrook reservoir is designed to be in that condition because of the construction of the Kangaroo Creek dam, and this would be covered by other units of the metropolitan system. However, the level in the Warren reservoir is very low indeed, as some honourable members may know. Can the Minister say when it is expected that pumping will be started from the offshoot main from the Mannum-Adelaide main into the Warren reservoir and whether the new main from Swan Reach to Stockwell can be used yet?

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

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: Will the Chief Secretary obtain from the Treasurer, or possibly the Minister of Industrial Development, a report on what preference, if any, is given in Government purchases to South Australian and/or Australian industries? If such preference is given, what is its nature, and is the actual price of the commodity concerned the only consideration? Is any preference given to Australian-owned companies and, if it is, is a wholly Australian-owned company given any preference over a partly Australian-owned company; and is the degree of Australian ownership taken into consideration?

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

GUN PURCHASES

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: In view of the ease with which lethal weapons can be purchased over the counter in this State, can the Chief Secretary say whether consideration is being given to tightening up legislation and regulations, thereby making it more difficult for irresponsible persons to purchase guns?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The short answer is "Yes". I hope that legislation will be before this Council this session.

RAILWAY BUFFET CAR

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my previous questions about the railway buffet car on the journey from Port Pirie to Adelaide?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The South Australian Railways possesses only one cafeteria car and therefore it has never been possible to provide a cafeteria service on both the "up" and "down" east-west trains, because they cross on the journey. The car works between Adelaide and Port Pirie on the east-west express on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, returning to Adelaide on the local train from Port Pirie at 5.45 p.m. in order to be available for the next day's journey.

The "up" west-east express could stop at Bowmans to enable passengers to obtain refreshments from the rooms there but this has always been considered to be a retrograde step in that the journey to and from Port Pirie takes only 3 hours 20 minutes. Any attempt to stop an express train *en route* from Port Pirie at Bowmans would be sure to elicit complaints. However, some inquiries are now being made regarding the practicability of providing "on train" refreshments. If these proposals prove successful, both "up" and "down" trains will have a similar service and the cafeteria car would be withdrawn from the train.

MAIN ROAD No. 410

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on June 24 about the intersection of Heaslip Road and the Salisbury-Bolivar main road?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: General agreement has been reached between the Highways Department and the City of Salisbury regarding road realignment at this intersection, and it is expected that detailed design will be completed in November, 1969. Before construction, it will be necessary to acquire land, but it is hoped to carry out the work during 1970.

SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Education.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: My colleagues and I have received a report from the Findon High School Staff Association pointing out the situation that exists with regard to textbooks. The report says that the school uses

the traditional suppliers of textbooks to secondary schools (Rigby Limited and E. S. Wigg and Son Proprietary Limited), with some orders being placed with smaller firms. Orders were placed with the two firms I have named on September 20, 1968, for books to be supplied at the commencement of the first term, 1969, so 19 weeks was allowed for delivery. E. S. Wigg and Son Proprietary Limited acknowledged the order on September 30, and Rigby Limited acknowledged the order on October 29. Prior to the first week in February, 1969, no correspondence or indication was received about the likelihood of any title being unavailable. However, in the first week of February, prior to the commencement of the school term on February 10, Rigby Limited stated that 20 of the ordered titles (21 per cent of the order) were unavailable, and E. S. Wigg and Son Proprietary Limited stated that 12 titles (14 per cent of the order) were unavailable.

It was three weeks into the first term before 24 of the previously unavailable titles were delivered, and at the end of the first term eight titles were still unavailable. During this period students in many classes were unable to receive adequate instruction, as textbooks were not available for classroom exercises or for homework, and senior staff were unable to plan the year's work satisfactorily. Will the Minister ask his colleague whether positive steps have been taken to ensure the availability of all necessary textbooks for the 1970 school year, and will he ask her to impress upon the traditional suppliers of textbooks the need to inform schools early if ordered textbooks will not be available by the opening of the school term?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I will obtain a report from my colleague.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on June 19 regarding agricultural education?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The honourable member asked me a question regarding remuneration for certain members of the Agricultural Education Committee, which was established before I came into office. Since then a new chairman has been appointed, and the committee is doing good work. In many cases, when seeking the services of persons outside the Public Service to act in a non-permanent capacity on such a committee, the

question of remuneration becomes difficult. It would appear that, when this committee was set up, there were no discussions on whether its members should be paid. However, in the light of the honourable member's question I have taken up the matter with the Public Service Board and I have also informed the Chairman of the committee (Mr. A. M. Ramsay) that I would consider a payment being made to those members of the committee who desired it. Remuneration is not always desired by persons serving on committees because, when public servants are involved, work is often done during office hours, and in other cases some members consider that any such additional remuneration only gets them into greater difficulty with their income tax. However, I will follow up the matter with the board.

COPPER ORE

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Mines.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: As members are aware, there is a large deposit of low-grade copper ore in the Burra district. When questions have been asked in the past about the treatment of this ore, members have been told that the processes involved were too expensive to make its extraction a favourable commercial proposition. However, I believe that since then further experiments have taken place. Also, honourable members have read in the press from time to time of discoveries having been made. Can the Minister of Mines say whether sufficient progress has been made in this type of experiment to make the extraction of such ore a commercial proposition?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The honourable member is correct in saying that we have a metallurgical problem in separating low-grade ores in South Australia, particularly in the Burra area. The process to which the honourable member refers would be the Glycerol process, announced by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. This process works satisfactorily in the laboratory. The Government is examining the process at the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories to see whether it is a practical proposition on a commercial operation, and it is awaiting the findings made at the laboratories.

DERAILMENTS

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: In reply to a question I asked on June 17 about a committee set up to inquire into the possibility of reducing the number of train derailments, the Minister said that he had not received the committee's report but that he had been in touch with its chairman over the previous few weeks. He also said he understood that the report was being typed that day and that it would be ready within a few days. As it is now over one month since the Minister said that, will he now inform the Council of the result of the committee's inquiry?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I have received the report from the derailments inquiry committee, and the Government is at present considering it. Until it makes some decisions on the report, I cannot say what action the Government intends to take. However, the Government hopes to be able to advise the Council further and to table the report next week.

GAWLER PLAINS WATER SUPPLY

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on June 24 regarding water supplies in the Angle Vale area?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The Minister of Works states that it would appear that the honourable member's question relates to the recent subdivision of 10-acre allotments comprising various sections in the hundred of Munno Para to the west of the Angle Vale Road. Water mains were laid throughout this subdivision under agreement with the subdividing company, which met most of the cost of the work. Provision has been made for the fixing of a three-quarter inch service to each of the 62 allotments. The purpose of the scheme was to provide a water supply for stock and domestic purposes, not to provide water for large-scale irrigation. The Engineering and Water Supply Department could not supply water for large-scale irrigation without detriment to the water supply system. If such irrigation were commenced, consideration would have to be given to means of limiting the quantity of water available. The department also considered requests from this subdivider to extend

mains to the large residue of its holding further to the north of its existing subdivision but stated that no further extensions would be made.

BUS OPERATORS

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of June 24 about the fees charged by the Municipal Tramways Trust for licences issued by it, about the charge for the road-worthiness test carried out by the trust and also about the amount of subsidy, if any, paid to private bus operators?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Private bus operators are charged an annual supervision and inspection fee in respect of each bus used on services licensed by the trust. The fee is normally \$60 a bus a year but in a few special cases a reduced fee of \$15 a bus a year is charged. The fee for roadworthiness tests carried out by the trust on buses owned by private operators is included in the fee of \$60 or \$15. No private bus operators are subsidized by the trust. All operators licensed by the trust do, however, receive reimbursement from the Government in respect of concession fares granted to pensioners and schoolchildren. A number of privately-operated buses on which passengers are carried free of charge provide regular services to and from various shopping centres, mainly on Thursdays and Fridays. The service is paid for by shopkeepers in the area served. Similar services are provided by private operators to carry students to and from a number of schools and colleges by arrangement with the schools concerned. The exact extent of these operations is not known, although it is known that they are becoming fairly widespread.

LAND TAX

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins, for the Hon. L. R. HART (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to consider vacating the field of land tax on land used exclusively for, and intended to be used for, primary-producing purposes?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Land tax on land used exclusively for primary production will be reviewed before the next quinquennial revaluation takes effect in the financial year 1971-72.

POLICE FORCE

The Hon. F. J. POTTER (on notice):

1. How many members of the Police Force are engaged in the work of:

- (a) the Criminal Investigation Branch;
- (b) the Traffic Branch;
- (c) other duties?

2. What is the approximate number of motor vehicles regularly allocated to:

- (a) the Criminal Investigation Branch; and
- (b) the Traffic Branch?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The replies are:

1. (a) 258—including women police.
- (b) 205.
- (c) 1,339.

2. (a) Vehicles allocated to the Criminal Investigation Branch and used almost exclusively by members of this section number 21 in the metropolitan area and 10 in country districts. In addition, members of the Criminal Investigation Branch are allotted vehicles from the transport pool in the metropolitan area, and the actual number being used each day by members of this branch varies according to necessity.

(b) 130 solo motor cycles, 44 motor vehicles. The motor vehicles are supplemented as required according to work demands with vehicles from the general transport pool.

ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

The Hon. H. K. KEMP brought up the report of the Select Committee on Welfare of Aboriginal Children, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Re-establishment of Murray Bridge High School.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from June 24. Page 154.)

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I take this first opportunity officially to welcome to our State the first Australian to be appointed Governor of this State, Sir James William Harrison, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., and his good lady. Having met His Excellency on a few occasions and having taken an interest in what he is doing, I feel sure that he will develop into just as good a Governor as we have had previously. Let me hurriedly say that we

have been blessed over the years in this State with Governors of a very high calibre, men who have attained a very high standard in the performance of their duties, but I have no doubt that His Excellency and his good lady will attain that same high standard. On behalf of the Opposition in this Council, I offer His Excellency and Lady Harrison a very warm welcome to this State. I hope and trust that they will enjoy carrying out their duties, and that they will enjoy good health and be happy and contented among us.

Several former members of Parliament have passed away since the end of the last session of Parliament. I refer first to the Hon. R. R. Wilson, whom we all knew in this place as a very fine, dedicated and kindly gentleman. The longer one knew the late Mr. Wilson the more one's respect and affection for him grew. We have already expressed to his family our regret at his passing, but I take this opportunity now of placing our regret on record.

The second member of Parliament I want to refer to is Senator Keith Laught. I did not know Senator Laught quite as well as I knew Mr. Wilson, but I grew to appreciate him for his kindly actions and for the sincerity of his friendship. Not everyone is unfortunate enough to become ill and be taken to hospital when one is thousands of miles away overseas, and I can assure members that in such circumstances one is wondering what will happen next. When I was in that situation Senator Laught visited me to make sure that I was all right, and I have never forgotten that. I express to his widow my personal sympathy at his passing.

It was not my pleasure to have known the Hon. Mr. Goode, Mr. H. B. White and Mr. E. E. George, but to their families also I offer my sympathy. Any person who reaches Parliament must have had a good family background, and no doubt that applies to these particular gentlemen. I am sure that all members of this Council express sympathy to the families of those departed comrades.

I had omitted to say how pleasing it was to hear the way in which His Excellency the Governor delivered his Speech on the opening of this session of Parliament. I do not want it to be taken for granted that I agree with the contents of the Speech, because they are debatable. However, I did want to refer to the excellent way in which the Speech was delivered. His Excellency was very confident in his delivery, and that is no mean feat on such an occasion. I congratulate His Excellency on his very fine effort.

I wish to speak briefly on one or two subjects this afternoon because I have my own opinions as to the value of Address in Reply speeches. First, I refer to paragraph 8 of the Governor's Speech dealing with the establishment of the first group of trainee school dental therapists who commenced training in February, 1967, and who began advanced clinical training in July, 1968. That portion of paragraph 8 continues:

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.

I mention this in order to thank the Minister of Health and the Director of Public Health for their kind invitation to me to be present when certificates and medallions were presented to girls who had completed their courses of training. I think that was an excellent idea.

I believe the number enrolled was 16, and only two failed to complete the course. One failed because of ill health, and the other girl, although apparently a brilliant student and able to absorb all the theory, was unfortunate in that her eyesight was not good enough to enable her to perform the practical side of the work. To the remaining girls I add my congratulations on their achievement, and I look forward with complete confidence to the future success of these classes.

I now refer to the Address in Reply speech of the Hon. Mr. Springett, who mentioned the dental care service. It is a new service within the State, but I believe it is something that will be a great success in the years to come and will be looked upon as possibly one of the best things Parliament has done in recent times in the interests of schoolchildren. The Hon. Mr. Springett had this to say (and I think it is worthy of repetition), as recorded on page 43 of *Hansard*:

The care of the health of the schoolchild is an insurance for the future well-being of the State's work force. Dental care, for too long a neglected part of general well-being, cannot but benefit as the first batch of school dental therapists goes into action and ensures, for the first time in our history, overall care at an early age as part of the inalienable right of our youngsters. I personally am particularly happy that this service is quite early on being extended to country areas, centres where dental care for the large numbers who live there is less readily available than it is in the capital city. Nothing but benefit to health can accrue from this new service, and we wish all the newly qualified participants well as they go out and

treat their patients, inculcating in them the good habit of regular dental care for the rest of their lives.

It was refreshing to hear those comments, and the honourable member expressed his views possibly in better language than I am able to use. I agree entirely with his remarks. Politics did not come into it at all: it was a sincere statement of facts concerned with the benefit of the children of the State. I believe it was something that we hear too little of in this Chamber and in this Parliament, because I believe more attention should be paid to the future development of the children of the State rather than to playing politics.

I turn now to paragraph 21 of the Governor's Speech. Unfortunately, the same comments cannot be applied to the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Dawkins.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: He was not playing politics, was he?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I would not know about that, but the relevant portion of the Governor's Speech reads:

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.

I do not know whether the Hon. Mr. Dawkins was brave or foolish, because I have never in my time heard a member criticizing an important institution being built within his own district for the benefit of the community. His remarks ran contrary to those of the Hon. Mr. Springett, who said how necessary it was to care properly for the children of the State. I do not want to read all that the Hon. Mr. Dawkins said, but at page 109 of *Hansard* he is reported as saying:

In this instance I say the Government is building something that will be a kind of white elephant in the Modbury area, especially if the building is taken to the second stage of 400 or 500 beds.

The honourable member went to some length to quote figures, and mentioned the hospital that bears your name, Sir, and I refer to the Lyell McEwin Hospital at Elizabeth. He said that the hospital was only about two-thirds full, but what he did not tell the members of this Council was that the hospital and the people within the corporations responsible for running it were not prepared at one stage (nor did they go out of their way to encourage this) to admit patients from outside the district to that hospital. If my memory serves me correctly, they went as far as to say, at the time when I was Chief Secretary, that they would refuse to take patients from the Modbury district.

Apparently the Hon. Mr. Dawkins did not know this, or perhaps he had not read the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in relation to the Modbury Hospital. I remind the honourable member that during most of the time the matter was before the Public Works Committee his Government had a majority of members on that committee, and when the final recommendation was made there were three members of his Party on the committee who were later to become Ministers of the Crown, and I refer to the Hons. C. R. Story, J. W. H. Coumbe and D. N. Brookman. If the honourable member had taken the trouble to read the committee's report I do not think he would have criticized the building of a hospital at Modbury, but later there was a change of heart by the people of the Modbury district in relation to the hospital when a Labor Government came to office. I am afraid that some members of this Council have not stopped playing politics. The Hon. Mr. Dawkins presented numerous figures and referred to population trends but, if the honourable gentleman had taken the trouble to read the committee's report, he would have seen what was said. I shall not do otherwise than refer the Council's attention to paragraph 2 of the report and look at the array of people who gave evidence before it, including Dr. B. J. Shea (Director-General of Medical Services), Mr. C. G. Rankin (Administrator, Royal Adelaide Hospital), Mr. S. B. Hart (Director of Planning), Professor R. P. Jepson (Professor of Surgery) and a number of local government representatives. Paragraph 3 of the report (and I think this is important as background to the inquiry) states:

In June, 1966, the Director-General of Medical Services was requested to take the necessary steps to proceed with the administrative planning of a Government hospital to be

erected at Modbury. Initially, it was proposed that the hospital should be constructed in two stages, the first stage to provide approximately 100 beds with provision for a final total of between 400 and 500 beds. Following an examination of population trends in the area to be served and taking into account technical problems of construction, a hospital comprising a first stage to cater for approximately 250 beds with ultimate provision for approximately 450 beds was considered more practicable. It was also considered that subsequent to the completion of the second stage it might be found desirable and suitable to use the hospital for the clinical instruction of medical students.

The importance of this hospital at Modbury when it is completed (as I hope and believe it will be, and I do not say that with any misgivings) will be great. Then paragraph 5 states:

A teaching hospital or general hospital. Most witnesses agreed that a hospital was needed in the Modbury area but there were strong differences of opinion regarding the size of the hospital and whether it should be a teaching hospital or a community hospital capable of expansion to meet the needs of the people in the immediate vicinity. The committee gave full consideration to all matters put forward by members of the medical profession, to the views expressed by representatives from the local councils, and to the submissions from the community hospitals in the northern suburbs. The committee was most appreciative of the constructive suggestions put forward by witnesses and is most sympathetic towards the persons and organizations that are faced with difficult administrative problems, but no major objections to the proposed hospital were substantiated.

Then we turn to paragraph 7, the findings of the committee, which are:

(1) Population trends justify the construction of a 236-bed hospital at Modbury with planning for an ultimate capacity of 450 beds.

(2) The future planning should be flexible enough to allow for changes in medical treatment which may occur in the foreseeable future.

(3) In order to be effective peripheral hospitals should be of a size in the vicinity of 450 beds.

The paragraph goes on to set out what can be done out there when the hospital is built, similar to what is done in country hospitals, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in New South Wales, etc. The final recommendation (and here I return to the Hon. Mr. Banfield's interjection) is (and it was unanimous):

The committee is satisfied that the construction of a hospital at Modbury is required and it adopts the department's proposals.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: Is there any particular reason for putting the hospital out as far as Modbury?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. We feel it is no farther from Adelaide than the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is from the city.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: But the local government bodies in Adelaide might have been rated for it; is that right?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: We shall get the views of the department and the people who know the trend of population far better than I do. It was generally accepted and it was promised that one hospital would be in the north and one at Flinders University. If we have them sited like that, we believe that in the years to come the centre of Adelaide will have Government hospitals surrounding it. Sooner or later, and particularly after the Whyalla Hospital has been taken over by the Government as a State hospital, the Lyell McEwin Hospital will come in, and then we shall be well served all round. I think the Chief Secretary knew, before he was Chief Secretary, of the shortage of beds in the Royal Adelaide Hospital and has followed it up since being Chief Secretary. It is a never-ceasing shortage.

When you, Mr. President, were Chief Secretary and Minister of Health and when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was being built, some people thought it would last for years and years without needing additions. I forget exactly when it was completed (I think it was about 10 to 12 years ago) but during my time as Chief Secretary the Queen Elizabeth Hospital did not only have 100 per cent occupation of bed capacity: it exceeded it. When that hospital reached that stage, additions were necessary and they are in the process of being made now. When Modbury is completed, the second part of the building will go on almost immediately. That is as I see it, yet a member for that district gets up and criticizes the action of the Government in going on with this hospital. We can say openly that we all agree without any division that we need a teaching hospital at Flinders University, and the sooner the better, but it is proceeding according to plan. Whether or not the Modbury Hospital was built, the Flinders hospital would not have been started yet because, from the moment they start to be built, teaching hospitals are very expensive places.

There is an authority known as the Australian Universities Commission that recommends to the Commonwealth Government whether money should be made available to universities and State Governments for these institutions. To the best of my knowledge (the

Chief Secretary may know, but I do not think he does), there has been no decision whether that money will be made available in the next triennium. I have heard two stories on the grapevine about it—one to the effect that it will not be made available and the other (the latest story) to the effect that money is to be made available—thank goodness! Whether or not it will be made available in the forthcoming triennium, the hospital at Flinders will go on as proposed and planned, but it was only as recently as July 17 (so far, it does not ring true to me about where we are going because no decision has been reached yet) that the *Advertiser* reported “\$650,000,000 tertiary grants forecast”. I think that would be the amount of money for the triennium. The report is as follows:

University spending is expected to jump by more than \$120,000,000 in the three years 1970-72. The Universities Commission is reported to have recommended allocating about \$650,000,000 among Australian Universities for the triennium.

This compares with \$530,000,000 for the three years 1967-69. The programme is due for consideration by Federal Cabinet within the next few days but approval of the programme does not necessarily mean the universities will get the full amount recommended.

The programme requires that Federal grants are matched by State allocations—\$1 for \$1 recurrent spending, and \$1 of Federal money for each \$1.85 of State money for capital expenditure.

This is the part that concerns me: other States always seem to know what they are going to get. The report continues:

The allocation for Victoria in the coming three-year period is expected to exceed \$160,000,000, which would entail a cut in projected spending by Melbourne and Monash Universities. The allocation recommended for each is understood to be about \$68,000,000—about \$4,000,000 below the amount requested. There was no grant estimate for South Australian universities available tonight.

It annoys me that this State is always left out, irrespective of the Party that is in Government here. We are never able to get from the Commonwealth Government a straightforward answer or a square deal. I sincerely hope that the money for the Flinders University that is to be provided through the Universities Commission is made available, so that the teaching hospital at this university and the Modbury Hospital can be built according to plan. When these hospitals are developed I believe that not one person in the State (and I include the Hon. Mr. Dawkins in this remark) will say that they are not well merited and necessary.

I am more enlightened on the question of Commonwealth help to the State as a result of the reply given to the Hon. Mr. Gilfillan earlier today. The Commonwealth Government comes to the aid of the State in connection with the needs of aged persons. I wish to refer to a report in the *Advertiser* of June 28, 1969, concerning Commonwealth aid for the aged. I do not want to read all the report, so I ask that I have leave to have it inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

AID FOR AGED

Legislation to provide increased Federal Government assistance for the aged was introduced in the House of Representatives tonight. Three Bills—outlined by the Minister for Health (Dr. Forbes) in March—will mean annual Government expenditure of \$2,500,000.

They provide for assistance to the States in running nursing homes and implementing home care programmes, establishing senior citizens' centres (including the employment of full-time welfare officers) and establishing housekeeper and home-help services.

Two of the Bills—the State Grants (Paramedical Services) Bill and the State Grants (Nursing Homes) Bill—were outlined by Dr. Forbes. The first would provide \$250,000 a year to the States on a \$1 for \$1 basis for expenditure on physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, chiropody and other services for the aged in their own houses.

A similar subsidy, totalling \$5,000,000 over five years from July 1, would be made available to the States on a population basis to assist State-run nursing homes, by the second Bill. Dr. Forbes said the Federal Government recognized there was a shortage of low-cost nursing home accommodation of acceptable standard throughout Australia.

“It is intended that nursing home beds made available as a result of the Federal assistance will be used mainly for the sick aged of little means,” he said. “If the States take full advantage of the measures provided by this Bill, more than 1,000 new public nursing home beds could become available over the next five years.” The States Grants (Home Care) Bill—for housekeeper services and senior citizens' homes—was introduced by the Minister for Social Services (Mr. Wentworth).

The Bill provides \$1,000,000 annually—again by subsidy—for housekeeper and home help services, either run by the State or voluntary organizations, and the development of senior citizens' centres and payment of full-time welfare officers. All the Bills will be debated tomorrow.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The important sentence is as follows:

If the States take full advantage of the measures provided by this Bill, more than 1,000 new public nursing home beds could become available over the next five years.

In a statement in the *Advertiser* on May 29 the Chief Secretary outlined what he intended to do, and he has given further information today. I hope the Government takes full advantage of whatever money is made available for the care of the aged, whether it be care in the home or care in institutions. I clearly recollect another Commonwealth offer made some years ago of which full advantage was not taken by the Government of the day. I refer to the Commonwealth State Grants (Mental Health Institutions) Act. When I became Minister of Health and when the importance of these grants hit me, I wondered what we were doing. I made inquiries and was shocked to find that very little use had been made of them in this State. When I inquired from Ministers and departments in other States I found that they had taken full advantage of the grants.

If the Commonwealth Government does come in (and I am not saying it comes in properly—I do not want to be misunderstood) with matching grants to help the States to look after unfortunate people, we should take full advantage of the grants. I realize that it is necessary to secure co-ordination between all the bodies working in this field, and the Government has started off very well in this respect. While I am a member here and able to point out things that should have been done years ago, I will do so. If full advantage is not being taken of a grant, I will want to know why. I do not think the Commonwealth Government does the fair thing in regard to these subsidies. It is relatively easy for the Commonwealth Government to say, "We will give you \$2 for each \$1 for capital needs. You can build a nice infirmary, a nice hospital or nice homes for these people." I point out, however, that these places must be run and someone has to care for them.

Prior to the reply of the Chief Secretary this afternoon, to which I have referred earlier, I knew little about the maintenance of these institutions. All that should be done is not being done in this respect. The charitable institutions in this State are second to none in the Commonwealth. They do a magnificent job looking after people who are not as fortunate as we are. I refer particularly to all the church organizations with their infirmaries and homes, to the magnificent job that is being done by Meals on Wheels and, finally, to the work of Red Cross and of the District and Bush Nursing Society. All these organizations are doing jobs of which they can be justly proud. They are worthy of all the

support that this Government can give them, and, in turn, the State Government is worthy of more support from the Commonwealth Government in that direction.

Before I leave the question of health services I should say that I have ideas of my own and that I watch projects developing, although some people might not think I do so. I was pleased about a week ago when I went for a drive to see the progress that is being made on the women's gaol at Yatala. I do not know when it is expected to be finished, but it certainly looks as though work is well advanced. I presume that it should be near completion by the end of this year.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: We hope it will be finished in October.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I thank the Minister for that information. Although no gaol can be a pleasant place, this one looks as though it will have a much better environment than does the Adelaide Gaol. I think that on the completion of the women's gaol the maximum security section at Yatala is the next on the list to be done and, if necessary, Yatala could be enlarged so that we will at last be able to take the horrible-looking Adelaide Gaol away from its present position so near to the city.

I am also pleased to see the progress that is being made on Strathmont, the school that is being built for the retarded people of our community. I hope it will be occupied early next year. This work is certainly a step in the right direction, and I hope that staff for it can be secured without too much difficulty. I should add that I have nothing but the highest praise for every retarded children's home that I have visited.

On June 24 I mentioned the way in which water rate accounts are sent out, and I said that there was dissatisfaction amongst the public in this respect. However, I did not realize at that time that such general dissatisfaction existed; since then I have received numerous verbal complaints and telephone calls regarding it, and many people have written to the press. I have also received correspondence from people living as far away as Mallala. I will not mention the writer's name, as the letter was written in good faith, but one man sent me the following letter:

I was very interested and pleased to see on page 144 of *Hansard* of June 24 your comment on the payment of water rates. I have only recently paid my quarterly account, and very little time after we received the excess water account.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: Are you talking about water accounts or excess water accounts? There is a difference!

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: They are all the same. The way the accounts are sent out is the trouble.

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins: Who wanted to start sending out quarterly accounts?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That does not matter. The people wanted quarterly accounts, but they do not want to be treated as they are being treated. If a Labor Government were in office I would submit the same point of view that I am submitting now.

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins: That's good.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I do not play politics half as much as do honourable members opposite. When something new is implemented little things are bound to go wrong, and it is our duty to try to correct them. That is what I am asking the Government to do now, and I am substantiating what I am saying by telling the Council what people have told me. The letter continues:

This I thought stupid, and I fully intended not to pay until the next quarterly account was sent, but I have received the final notice and, if it is not paid by a certain date, action will be taken.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: Some people receive a final notice and a receipt in the same post.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That is right, but that should not happen. The letter continues as follows:

I have always been willing to pay all my accounts as soon as possible, but I will say a few words under my breath when writing out the cheque for this account. I sincerely hope you can convince the Engineering and Water Supply Department of its silly ways.

As I understand the position, notices are sent out to groups of districts and, if the quarterly accounts are to be sent out within a few days, the department must know what the excess is.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: It does not know what the excess is at that stage.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Doesn't it? The honourable member should wait until I read another letter I have received. The department has had two goes in 12 months, so it should know.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: There is a reason for this.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I do not know whether there is a reason for it.

The Hon. L. R. Hart: I agree that the public relations of the Engineering and Water Supply Department could do with a little brightening up.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: That is right, and that is what I am trying to say. I am not an accountant, but the Government of the day should take a decision, and, when such a decision is taken, we expect the department to give effect to it efficiently, properly and with good public relations. When I receive my quarterly water account I merely multiply it by four and send in the money, but the department still sends me an account each quarter. It is beyond me, for 15c in stamps is involved, plus the account and the envelope. Why should this happen?

The Hon. F. J. Potter: The trouble is you just can't stop that computer working.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Then perhaps they should get rid of the computer. I just cannot understand it, neither can the public. A person gets an account for his excess water, which is promptly paid, and then he gets his quarterly account a few days later, which has been paid nine months previously, with the excess water deducted (which has also been previously paid), with the advice that, if he does not pay, action will be taken within 14 days. No-one can tell me that that is good public relations. All I ask of the Minister and of the department is that they get down to facts, try to meet the wishes of the people, and not make themselves look so foolish in the eyes of the public. The Hon. Mr. Hart referred to a certain matter. A recent letter in the *Advertiser*, headed "Two Water Bills in Year", states:

A reader recently complained of receiving an excess water account with quarterly account added—

that on its own would not have been too bad—although the latter had been sent out just a few days earlier, thus showing a lamentable waste of paper, time and postage by the E. & W.S. Department. But did she find, as I did, that the account for excess water was issued two months early with the demand for payment by June 26, making it the second excess account in the financial year 1968-69?

The Hon. Mr. Hart said they do not know when it is coming. In reply to that, I say that they know when to get the money in. The letter goes on:

I would like to know what authority the E. & W.S. has to issue two excess accounts in the one year. Our previous payment for excess was made on August 15, 1968, the due date.

Where are our public relations getting to? I hope the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works in this Council, does not think we are just talking about this for the sake

of talking. I would like to see action taken to correct the position. If it cannot be corrected, we had better have a more general investigation.

I could say much more on a number of topics, but I do not intend to take up time on this occasion because other opportunities will arise later for me to do so. I do not know whether I have grown too old and too serious, but I feel that this session of Parliament will be one of the most important sessions ever for the people of this State. The way of life of the people, what they are permitted to do and what they are not permitted to do, will be greatly affected by the decisions of this Parliament in this session, more so, in my humble opinion, than in any previous session that I can remember. We have such things as the redivision of electoral boundaries. This may not sound very important to people outside, but I can assure everyone that it is because,

if the job is not done correctly and if the redivision is not fair, people will suffer in the future.

The next thing I want to refer to is the abortion legislation. I do not like this one little bit. We also have the M.A.T.S. proposals, a subject about which I do not wish to speak at this stage. The effect these proposals will have on the people of the metropolitan area will be tremendous. Then we have the Dartmouth-Chowilla issue. The decisions taken in these matters will be most important, and they will have a tremendous effect on the community generally. I hope the correct decisions are arrived at.

The Hon. L. R. HART secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.7 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 29, at 2.15 p.m.