

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, September 4, 1969.

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

QUESTIONS

AFRICAN DAISY

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I desire to make a short statement before directing a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: On last night's television programme *Today Tonight*, Mr. Caldicott was being interviewed about noxious weeds in the Adelaide Hills area. He stated that in his opinion there was no enforcement of the Weeds Act, particularly in respect of the control of African daisy. Will the Minister say what action is being taken to enforce the provisions of the Weeds Act in the Adelaide Hills area?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: All noxious weeds, whether in the Adelaide Hills area or elsewhere, are, of course, controlled by the Weeds Act. The district councils have the responsibility of serving notices upon landholders where they are not conforming to the provisions of the Act. I suggest that Mr. Caldicott has an area that is very run down and has been grossly neglected over many years so that African daisy has taken hold. It is a problem that all councils have had to face up to in the Adelaide Hills and outside the metropolitan area, where a good deal of spraying and hand-pulling has been done. Only a couple of months ago I had a conference with representatives of all the district councils in the area, at which it was agreed to set up buffer zones between council areas where arable land was likely to be severely affected by areas nearby that were so steep that they could not be adequately sprayed.

In Cleland National Park experiments were carried out using a helicopter to spray the African daisy; on the first occasion the results appeared to be encouraging, but on the second occasion there seemed to be resistance to the spray and the results were less successful. Each district council has a weeds officer, a person whose salary is subsidized by the Government, and I believe that district councils generally are thoroughly acquainted with the problem. It is one thing to serve notice on people, but it is another thing for them to be able to afford to deal with the problem. I agree with the

honourable member that African daisy is very difficult to eradicate in areas so steep that people cannot reach them with knapsack sprays.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I could not more thoroughly agree with what the Minister has just said in reply to the question by the Hon. Mr. Geddes regarding African daisy. The problem in the Adelaide Hills in many instances is just not understood by many people in this State, and to blame the inadequacy of the Weeds Act is grossly unfair. One block that I have in mind is about 15,000 acres of scrub land with vertical cliff faces, and it is heavily infested with African daisy. No matter how much money was spent in that sort of country there could be no adequate control. The scheme that the department has set forward of having a buffer zone between the arable country and this type of country could not be too highly commended.

One thing that disappointed me very much was that there was no reference in the Minister's reply to biological control. This is the only thing that can possibly bring this weed under control, and I had hoped that some attention was being given to this subject. We have had some indication—

The PRESIDENT: I am afraid the honourable member is debating the question.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: He is making a pretty good second reading speech.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I am sorry, Mr. President. Is no attention being given to biological control?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I thank the honourable member for his question and the prompt regarding biological control. The department most certainly is looking at this and is actively engaged in it. It is a matter of finding the right predator to do the job. South Africa, of course, where this weed originated, still has the problem. I understand that this is one of the few weeds in the world on which very little biological control work has actually been done. I will refer the matter to the Weeds Advisory Committee for a report.

PORT WAKEFIELD CROSSING

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask 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: My colleagues and I have been concerned for a considerable time about the railway crossing at Port Wakefield over the road from Adelaide to Port Pirie. As all honourable members know, there is a stop sign at the crossing. I am told that 2,500 vehicles a day pass over the junction of the roads that lead to Snowtown and Yorke Peninsula, which junction is about a mile north of the crossing. (I thought that the 2,500 vehicles to which I referred passed over the junction in a week, but am told that the figure is a daily one.) I assume that most of these vehicles pass over the railway crossing too and, if the drivers obey the law, they must stop there.

I believe, too, that in normal circumstances six trains a week use the railway (one train each way on three days a week, with no trains on the other four days). For a long time we have been trying to get flashing lights installed at this crossing. Can the Minister say whether the priority for the installation of such lights at this crossing can be upgraded? Also, since it is difficult to cope with the demand for flashing lights (only a limited number is installed each year) and since there are many such installations in some other States, will the Minister consider using the assistance of private enterprise, under proper supervision, to catch up with the backlog in respect of flashing lights at railway crossings in South Australia?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The question of the Port Wakefield railway crossing was raised earlier this session by the Hon. Mr. Hart. I fully realize that, because of the volume of traffic passing along the road, the stop signs have been a source of worry to motorists, many of whom believe they are unnecessary and that flashing lights should be installed. I will obtain the latest statistics relating to the crossing so that the honourable member can be fully informed.

In regard to his second point, I share the honourable member's concern that we have not installed enough flashing lights at railway crossings over the past few years. I am making endeavours at present to investigate this matter, and I hope that we can increase the rate of installation of these flashing lights. I am also at present closely looking into the possibility of the work being done by private contract as a means of increasing this activity.

I shall also include in the report for the honourable member the latest information concerning our negotiations with the South Australian Railways Department and the Highways Department in regard to this latter matter.

ORROROO-WILMINGTON ROAD

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning the Orroroo-Wilmington Road?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The allocation for the current financial year of expenditure on the sealing of the Orroroo-Wilmington Main Road No. 29 is to enable continuation of the work commenced last financial year.

In addition to the sealing of this road, a warrant from traffic considerations also exists for the sealing of the Wilmington-Quorn Road and the Orroroo-Hawker Road, and it is intended that the work on all three roads be carried out as one continuous project. Priority has been given to the Orroroo-Wilmington Road as it forms part of an east-west link between National Route 32 and National Route 1.

So far as is known the councils in the area are in agreement with the department's assessment of priority, and agree that these three roads should be sealed. The department is not aware of other roads in the area which have higher priority for sealing.

HIGHWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1401.)

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT (Southern): There have been variations in electoral patterns all through the ages, and the detail and the minutiae of the different systems have reflected the organizations and complexities of the areas and the communities concerned. But one persistent limitation has always been, and still is, in existence: that is the age limit. It is not always the same in every community, but there is always an age limit of some sort. Other limitations have varied, but this has always existed and been the condition laid upon those eligible to vote, either explicitly in communities able to judge accurately the

age of people such as our own or, in some other countries, where it is accepted that adulthood is sufficient; and that can be judged anatomically.

We think, for instance, that 21 years of age is the age of majority. There are those, as we all know, who think that this should be lowered in the light of the degree of advancement of young people today compared with their predecessors. It is said that modern youth is more mature. Maturity, as I understand it, is a state that results from having lived through numerous vicissitudes and experiences, and these in their sum total add up to wisdom and a sense of responsibility.

Throughout the ages the right to vote has been limited not only by age or physical maturity or even mental maturity, but also by a variety of other factors, some of which still apply. In the ancient city states of the old world, citizenship by birth, coupled with maturity of years, was all that was required. The head of the family, the chief and the head men of the tribes still exist as criteria in some parts of the less developed world. Payment of rates, ownership of property, the sex of the voter: all these, in varying combinations, have controlled the voting population. In some countries some people have the right to choose whether to vote or not. In other countries the people are compelled to vote. The justice of compulsory voting causes much discussion. In so far as we all have many rights at law but are not forced to exercise them, it could be argued that a vote withheld is a vote cast in a negative way. We do in any case give the right to withhold their vote to certain people on religious grounds. I respect that reasoning and view but I wonder whether it is just that any person should not have the right to withhold his vote on polling day for personal reasons.

Clause 4 of the amending Bill, which will affect section 18 of the principal Act, makes one common roll for all elections, both Commonwealth and State. Does not this make the suggestion of non-compulsion for voting very much more difficult in actual fact if not in theory? With one roll with the names of all the electors on it, whether or not they have the right to withhold their vote, it is much more difficult to call it a voluntary vote.

Clause 3 strikes out Part XIV of the principal Act, which deals with election expenditure. It seems to me that this could well make the sky the limit. On the group or Party with ready access to extensive financial resources there will devolve a greater

advantage and opportunity. A strictly controlled limitation makes for a more equitable presentation of differing views. Financial affluence under a strictly controlled limitation system prevents the swamping of the humbler candidate or smaller group by greater publicity resources.

I am glad that an amendment is foreshadowed to clause 15, which refers to section 80 of the principal Act. I am not criticizing the competence of the modern 18-year-old—or even the “apparent” 18-year-old—but, bearing in mind the care with which we try to ensure that the law regarding voting is spelled out, it seems to me unreasonable that a legal minor should be allowed the opportunity to be responsible for a duty that carries quite a heavy penalty.

As has already been suggested in this debate, probably hotel keepers themselves would like an “apparent” clause in respect of their responsibilities in their sphere in deciding the age of a person. Likewise, I think it is ambiguous to provide for the illiterate but not for that probably larger group that suffers from physical and other limiting handicaps.

Finally, I refer to postal voting. Many post offices are closed on Saturdays. Most of them, especially those outside the metropolitan area, have only one delivery a day. To be sure of a vote being in the hands of the returning officer before the closing of the poll, therefore, it must be received by the time for delivery on Friday. This means that, with one posting a day, the vote must be posted by the Thursday, at the latest. From my own experience, confirmed by that of other honourable members, letters not infrequently take four or five days to travel a comparatively short distance.

It seems wrong to me that a person whose need for a postal vote may not arise until a day or two before the polling day loses the opportunity to vote, and his vote does not have the influence it is meant to have. The vital purpose of the whole Act and its successive amendments is to ensure that no-one who is entitled to vote shall be denied that right because of any avoidable reasons.

Therefore, it seems rational that the right to cast a vote should be available as late as possible and a time lag allowed for postal votes to be received. I support the overall purpose of the Bill. I am glad that, in keeping with its tradition, this Council is seeking to improve the Bill by the amendments that have been foreshadowed.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP secured the adjournment of the debate.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1406.)

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Midland): I support the Bill. It is rather significant that the Treasurer opened his statement on the Loan Estimates as follows:

I am very pleased today to be able to present to the House estimates of Loan expenditures which restore a level of activity of works and advances which is consistent with a progressive and expanding economy based upon full employment and a strong migration programme.

These words are justified; they indicate the upturn that has occurred in this State's economy in the last 12 months, which must be very pleasing to everyone concerned. As far as I can see, the housing industry is showing an upturn in its activities and, in my own electoral district, it is gratifying to know that, whereas a couple of years ago there were 500 or 600 unoccupied houses at Elizabeth, today practically all those houses are occupied. Employment is at a high level, and I can see a gradual improvement in industrial development. All these things must be gratifying to the Government and to the people of South Australia.

One of the factors bringing about this promising situation is that the State's finances are now on a sound basis and are being properly managed; this is the key to development. Anyone who studies the history of South Australia's development over the last 25 or 30 years will know that one of the things that has attracted industry to South Australia is that this State's finances have been on a sound basis. People have known that the Government will honour its contracts. I am pleased to see that the present Liberal Administration is keeping up the tradition of previous Liberal Administrations in this regard.

Reference was made to the fact that there was a surplus of \$12,477,000 in the Loan Account at June 30, 1969; it was made up of a surplus of \$6,819,000 for the year ended June 30, 1969, and a surplus of \$5,658,000 for the year ended June 30, 1968. In his statement on the Loan Estimates the Treasurer says that it is proposed to retain these accumulated credits in Loan Account against possible future contingencies, and I think that this can be regarded as wise accounting. The balance of \$6,819,000 for the year ended June 30, 1969, was larger than had been anticipated, because \$1,700,000 of that sum came into the Loan Account from the Highways Department.

That department apparently purchased sooner than necessary certain areas of the old sewage farm.

I realize that a fairly extensive programme is being carried out in connection with the sewage farm area; some of it will be for road purposes, some for industrial development, and some for school purposes. I would be interested to see as soon as possible a detailed programme of what is to happen to the area of the old sewage farm. It is encouraging to note that the Highways Department has bought the area it requires for road purposes.

In connection with Government buildings and land, there was underspending to the extent of almost \$4,000,000 in connection with the Strathmont Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where the Government apparently found that further investigations were necessary with regard to the proposed development of those hospitals. Consequently, the expenditure was delayed on the grounds of economy and efficiency. In connection with the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Engineering and Water Supply Department, there was underspending as a result of the late delivery of equipment. Last year's Railways Department provision was apparently underspent to the extent of \$600,000 because of the late delivery of a locomotive. I think it is wise that, where a Government is satisfied that further investigation is necessary in order to effect economies and achieve efficiency, it should adopt such policies. I agree entirely with the following statement of the Treasurer:

I would like to make clear the Government's firm view that it would be financially irresponsible to attempt at short notice to implement a crash programme of new works simply designed to mop up temporary savings which may occur in a particular year.

Those who know the history of the rebuilding of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the criticism that the Playford Government suffered because progress was not as rapid as some people thought it should be and those who know the economies ultimately effected will see the justification for the delay. Whilst I regret that work on the Strathmont Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has not gone ahead as quickly as some may have wished, I congratulate the Government that it has delayed work in order to ensure that economy and efficiency prevail. With regard to roads and bridges, the Treasurer said:

A provision of Loan funds of \$200,000 is proposed this year in case it should be necessary to supplement the funds available to the Highways Department from State motor taxation

and from contributions under the Commonwealth Aid Roads legislation. The Government intends to ensure that this State qualifies for the maximum matching grants available from the Commonwealth Government. To attract those grants in full, and to cover temporary variations in the impact of acquisitions it may be necessary to make some short term advances of State Loan funds.

I congratulate the Government on managing our affairs in such a way that we qualify for the maximum matching grants from the Commonwealth Government. Such management has not always been evident, but it is very much to be desired. The provision of \$200,000 for the purpose described by the Treasurer is wise. In connection with railways the Treasurer said:

A special provision of \$600,000 is made in the Railways Loan Estimates this year as a first contribution toward a special programme of betterment of permanent way adopted in accordance with the recommendations of an expert committee which inquired into derailments. The special programme will also require additional revenue appropriations for overtaking deferred maintenance of the permanent way upon the main railway lines.

I congratulate the Minister of Roads and Transport and the Government on trying to get over the difficulty of areas of maintenance, particularly in connection with our main lines. I was privileged to travel from here to Melbourne and through New South Wales and Queensland recently, and my own opinion is that the express between Adelaide and Melbourne is one of the most comfortable and best designed expresses anywhere in Australia, not excepting the Southern Aurora express between Sydney and Melbourne. It has had a remarkable record of satisfactory and safe operation. I congratulate the Government on spending this additional amount to ensure that the standard of safety will be even further increased.

I want to say a few words about the development of Port Giles, on southern Yorke Peninsula. The Treasurer's statement regarding this is as follows:

The sum of \$1,037,000 is provided for further work on the provision of bulk loading facilities at Port Giles. The estimated total cost is \$2,264,000, and \$1,150,000 had been spent to the end of June last. Of this, \$730,000 was spent last year on the jetty structure and the fabrication of the conveyor structure. Additional funds have been allocated this year and, as previously announced, the provisions will enable the new port to operate as from May next, instead of October-November as previously planned.

Present indications are that Yorke Peninsula will have an excellent wheat and barley harvest,

and I know that the Ardrossan silo is holding a large quantity of wheat. I congratulate the Government on expediting the completion of Port Giles, because this could enable us to get rid of some of our surplus wheat earlier than would otherwise be the case. We on Yorke Peninsula have not been blessed with a railway system; we have managed without that for very many years, although people there have contributed their fair share, in taxes and charges, towards the losses on railways in other parts of the State. It is therefore very pleasing that this additional facility will be provided.

I sincerely hope that notwithstanding all the difficulties that occur at present with regard to the sale of wheat, with the international problems and so on, the Wheat Board will be successful in making some effective sales and in clearing the surplus. I know that there are problems regarding the sale of wheat and that there will be surplus wheat that people will not be able to get into the silos. However, I think this is causing some unnecessary apprehension amongst farmers. Two issues are involved, one being the storage and the delivery of wheat and the other being the return received from the wheat grown. I think it ought to be made quite clear that under the guarantee provided by the Commonwealth Government, of a first advance of \$1.10 a bushel on wheat for home consumption up to a total of 357,000,000 bushels, we will get \$1.10 a bushel first advance on what is virtually a normal crop in Australia. I understand that the total average crop over the last 10 years has been about 367,000,000 bushels.

Therefore, the farmers can look forward in total to a first advance that will not differ in amount very greatly from the figure they have received over the last 10 years, and I think this should lead to a degree of confidence that I am afraid is lacking at present. I am hopeful that measures will be taken that will enable something to be done with regard to the surplus wheat. I think we have to understand clearly what is the firm arrangement with regard to the payment for the first advance that will ensure that farmers get about the same as they have received over the last 10 years. In the Treasurer's statement reference is made to the Government Printing Office as follows:

An amount of \$100,000 is provided to commence the construction of a new printing office and mapping branch at Netley. The estimated total cost of the scheme is about \$4,550,000, and it has been designed to incorporate the most modern facilities for all printing purposes.

Adjacent to the new printing office will be located the mapping branch building comprising photogrammetry and cartography production areas together with ancillary training facilities.

I had overlooked the fact that a decision had been made that the new Government Printing Office was to be at Netley. I take it that the Public Works Committee has inquired into this and that this is the decision the Government has arrived at. I am not quite certain how this works out with regard to printing that is required fairly quickly, such as Parliamentary Papers and other Parliamentary requirements, when Parliament is in session, but I presume that, although this may cause some difficulty for members of Parliament, the overall advantages of segregating the Government Printing Office into a suburb have had prior consideration. I support this move because I think it is wise. When speaking on another topic a short time ago I said that in my opinion Government departments should be decentralized as far as possible into the suburban areas so that traffic could be removed from the centre of Adelaide.

I am particularly interested, because of my association with the Central Methodist Mission, in the fact that the Government has made \$120,000 available for a rebuilding scheme in connection with Kuitpo Colony, an institution that has been run by the mission for 30 or 40 years for the rehabilitation of alcoholics and other people in the community who need specialized care. This is a costly thing for the mission both in regard to money and in regard to the nervous strain on people in charge of the organization. At one time people at the colony made pottery, but there is not very much demand for pottery products at present and we have had to adopt other measures. I know that the mission is grateful to the Government for this grant of \$120,000 to enable work to be carried out during the current year, and I can say from my experience of the management of that colony that every care will be taken to see that we get value for the money spent.

I have already mentioned the Royal Adelaide, the Queen Elizabeth, and the Strathmont Hospitals. I am very pleased that an amount of \$300,000 has been placed on the Loan Estimates to enable the hospital at Maitland to be rebuilt. The Government has agreed to provide a subsidy of \$2 for each \$1 raised locally and, whilst the total cost of the hospital is \$300,000, a grant of \$150,000 is provided so that work may commence this

year. I was for some years the Secretary of the Maitland Hospital Board, and I know the problems that the present board faces because of the age of the buildings there. In fact, I was born in one of the existing buildings.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Have you deteriorated as much as the buildings, or is it the other way?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I remember the honourable member's interjection some time ago describing me as a "has been", so I think I must have deteriorated. The buildings have reached the stage where demolition is the only answer and the construction of a new hospital is to be desired. Not only has age taken its toll but the ground on which the hospital is built is of a shifting nature. I compliment the Government on making this money available and, knowing the board of management as I do, I believe that it will see that the new structure will be built to the highest standards, and it will serve the community in that district for many years to come.

Another item in which I am interested is the water supply to Yorke Peninsula. Although I cannot see anything relating to that item in the Loan Estimates, it is interesting to note that the supply to the peninsula has been operating for just on 10 years. The existing system is now loaded to capacity and, because of this, Mr. Ferguson, the member for Yorke Peninsula, and I were asked to attend a meeting of district councils of Central Yorke Peninsula and Minlaton, Yorketown, and Warooka at Minlaton recently in order to discuss what should happen with regard to the provision of a water supply to the peninsula in the future. As a consequence of that meeting, and with the concurrence of Mr. Ferguson, I wrote the following letter to the Minister of Works on August 25:

A few days ago Mr. J. R. Ferguson, member for Yorke Peninsula, and the writer attended a meeting comprised of representatives from the district councils of Central Yorke Peninsula, Minlaton, Yorketown and Warooka with regard to the problems which have arisen regarding the water supply for the peninsula. Briefly, the position is that the present scheme seems to be loaded to its capacity and there are areas, particularly on the lower portion of the peninsula, which are not adequately served with a water supply.

In addition there are approximately 1,000 shack sites at various positions on the coastline which are without water at the present time. I have not an accurate statement of all these sites but I mention the following:

Balgowan—50 sites;
Hardwicke Bay—22 sites;
Sultana Point—45 sites;

Stansbury—150 sites;
 Black Point—156 sites;
 Rogues Point—40 sites;
 Tiddy Widdy—25 home sites;
 Port Rickaby—15 sites;
 Point Turton—150 sites without water;
 Coobowie—42 sites;
 Port Julia—12 sites;
 Sheaoak Flat—45 sites;
 James Well with potential for 300 holiday home sites.

The above list does not purport to be accurate nor does it cover the whole of the areas involved. Because of the development which has taken place at some of these sites a health hazard is created and there is a rising public demand for a water supply.

Since the original scheme was introduced some ten years ago there has been considerable development in the Hundreds of Moorowie, Para Wurlie, Coonarie, Carribie and Warrenben. It is realized that because of distance involved there is difficulty in providing an economic supply to these areas but it is felt that an investigation should be made so that the possibility can be adequately explored. I think this letter sets out in broad terms the problems which have arisen on the Peninsula. However, both Mr. Ferguson and I would be prepared to make ourselves available at your convenience to discuss the matters raised in this letter in greater detail so that an investigation can be implemented as to whether the existing scheme can be expanded to meet the demands referred to above.

In accordance with the offer we made in that letter, the Minister of Works agreed to see us earlier this week, when Mr. Ferguson and I discussed with the Minister in greater detail the situation that faced Yorke Peninsula. All the water that goes to the peninsula has to be pumped by what is known as the Kainton pumping station. Inquiries reveal that that station operates for 15 hours a day over the 12-month period and pumps about 1,000,000 gallons a day. Possibly during the summer season the plant operates for considerably more than that 15 hours a day, while during the winter season it probably operates for fewer hours. However, the capacity of that pump is one of the factors that would have to be examined if the scheme were to be expanded.

I believe that the Mines Department, or some other appropriate department, has made an investigation of underground water supplies on the peninsula and that fairly large supplies have been discovered in what is known as the Carribie Basin. If my understanding of the matter is correct, I hope that more work can be done in connection with that basin, which is located in an area not served by a reticulated water supply at present. If underground water should be obtained from that

area, it would, perhaps, be the cheapest means of serving the lower portion of the peninsula with water and a means of augmenting the reticulated supply.

I would also like to see work done on the Curramulka well, which I understand was tested before the Yorke Peninsula scheme was implemented. It was found then that it did not have a capacity sufficient to supply the peninsula, but I think it could possibly be used satisfactorily as an emergency booster during the summer months, particularly for the areas at the lower end of Yorke Peninsula. I would like to see this done. However, apart from the commercial requirements of water in the barley-growing and grazing areas, most of the 1,000 shack sites I have mentioned have no water supply, and this creates a health hazard. I think something must be done to try to provide water for them.

The policy of the Government has been not to connect water to those sites until the scheme has had a chance to settle down and until a judgment can be made as to the capacity of the scheme to serve the area. Time has gone by, and a judgment has now been made; the judgment is that the scheme is operating pretty well towards its capacity. I believe that there is a terrific potential on Yorke Peninsula for the development of shack sites. There are almost hundreds of miles of beautiful beaches that are of a much better quality than anything I saw on the Gold Coast in Queensland. The peninsula offers tremendous possibilities for tourist development. However, its development will be limited until a water supply is provided. Whilst I realize this cannot happen overnight, I think the time has come when the people of the peninsula are entitled to look for some movement on this matter and, if water from the Carribie Basin or the Curramulka well can be used to bolster the existing scheme, I think the whole proposal should not prove to be as difficult as envisaged.

I do not propose to speak further on the Loan Estimates except to say that I congratulate the Government on its efficient management of the financial affairs of this State since it came into office. I realize that this has involved, in some instances, implementation of taxation measures which are not popular and which are being exploited to the full by people who have nothing more practical to offer. I am still of the opinion that the States are entitled to more assistance from the Commonwealth Government with their budgetary problems. I know people

have studied this matter, and I know one prominent person who considers that the Commonwealth Government has been fair in its treatment of the States regarding reimbursement grants. However, I do not take that view. I study the Commonwealth Budget, as I have done recently, and I see the relative ease with which the Commonwealth Government is able to meet the requirements that fall to its lot. I also observe that many matters that one would normally expect to be charged to Loan Account are paid for out of its Revenue Budgets. When I realize also that the Commonwealth Government is in receipt of taxation from nearly all the avenues available on a fast-growing growth basis, I think it has a very much easier job in front of it than this State has. This is a problem that has to be tackled.

It must involve common sense and a reasonable approach. Personally, I should like to see the whole thing removed from the political sphere and investigated by an entirely impartial committee looking at all the angles and making a recommendation, because I believe in the maintenance of the federal system, the maintenance of State Parliaments and, incidentally, the maintenance of two State Houses of Parliament, each House being elected on a different basis. If we are to maintain this system, which has meant so much to our democracy in years gone by, this financial problem must be ironed out. I cannot

emphasize too strongly my view that this is a matter requiring urgent attention. I support the Loan Estimates.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ABSENCE OF CLERK

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that the Clerk of the Legislative Council, Mr. Ball, in his capacity as Honorary Secretary of the South Australian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, has been invited to act as Secretary to the Australian States' Delegation to the Fifteenth General Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from October 4 to October 18, 1969. In order that the Clerk may undertake these duties, it will be necessary for the Council to grant him one month's leave of absence, from October 1, from attending the sittings of the Council.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Chief Secretary) moved:

That leave of absence be granted to the Clerk of the Council for one month from October 1 to enable him to attend the conference.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition) seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.13 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, September 16, at 2.15 p.m.