

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 21, 1969.

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

QUESTIONS**DRIVER TRAINING**

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of September 23 about driver training?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: A committee has recently been set up to consider the whole question of driver simulator equipment in South Australia. The committee will obtain the views and opinions of interested groups and will submit their findings to me for consideration by the Government. The bodies that have representatives on the committee are: the Road Safety Council, the Education Department, the Police Department, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, the South Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures, the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce, and the Royal Automobile Association.

APPRENTICE BAKERS

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of either the Minister representing the Minister of Labour and Industry or the Minister representing the Minister of Education.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: As my question relates to apprentice bakers, I do not know whether to address it to the Minister representing the Minister of Labour and Industry or the Minister representing the Minister of Education. In yesterday morning's newspaper, the Secretary of the Bread Manufacturers of South Australia (Mr. G. B. Piper) was reported as saying that—

... the bread industry was concerned at the lack of suitable training facilities for apprentice bakers in South Australia.

He also said:

South Australia is the only mainland State which does not have a special course for apprentice bread bakers at a recognized technical training school.

Can the Minister inform me whether the Education Department is planning to introduce a course for apprentice bakers at a recognized technical trade school in the foreseeable future?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall refer this question to the appropriate Minister and bring back a reply.

KYANCUTTA RAILWAY YARDS

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to a question I asked on October 2 regarding a loop line at Kyancutta?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Earthworks for the extension of the siding at Kyancutta have been commenced and material for track work is on hand. It is expected that the siding will be completed before the end of November, 1969.

WHYALLA KINDERGARTEN

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: It was reported in the *Whyalla News* recently that citizens at Whyalla Stuart were trying to establish a community building to serve as a kindergarten and a recreation centre in this area. Part of the land necessary for this community centre is one-quarter of an acre of land that these people require from the Lands Department. Negotiations were opened up with the department in June this year but the people concerned have still not received any satisfactory reply concerning the actual tenure of the land. Can the Minister ascertain from his colleague when it is expected that the land in question can be handed over to this centre?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall refer the question to the Minister in another place.

BOLIVAR EFFLUENT

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: 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. H. K. KEMP: Yesterday I received a report that excellent vegetable crops, typical of the area, have been grown by using effluent water at Bolivar and, further, that instead of the salt being a problem the salinity of the soil beneath the plots has fallen and it is now quite clear that this water can be used without harm in the vegetable industries now running short of water. Can the Minister ascertain for me how soon this water can be brought to the use of the industries in the district?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: This question could perhaps more appropriately have been directed to the Minister of Health, because a

think the only thing really holding up the situation at present is a clearance from the Health Department on this matter. The honourable member would realize that some care must be taken to ensure that the health of the public is completely protected. Tests have been carried out by the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science on the production of the crops. These were carried out in the last harvest. If there is a clearance on this I imagine that there will then be nothing to impede the progress of the whole scheme. Unfortunately, I cannot report such a clear picture on the use of effluent water on pastures. Tests that were carried out fairly recently on beef cattle have not conclusively proved that *Cysticercus bovis* is still a problem. Further tests are being undertaken. I will certainly get a complete report for the honourable member.

UNDERGROUND WATER

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Earlier this month I asked a question of the Minister of Mines regarding the allocation of a Commonwealth grant for the survey of underground water supplies in the pastoral and marginal areas. Has he a reply?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Proposed expenditure on underground water investigations and the Commonwealth subsidy attracted thereby amounts to \$208,350. This money will be spent under the following broad headings:

1. Hydrological staff salaries and travelling expenses.
2. Water analyses.
3. Investigations in Northern Adelaide Plains, West Coast area, Uley area, Milang area, Kingston and Robe areas, Padthaway district, general South-East investigation, Murray Mallee, Great Artesian Basin, water supplies for country schools, and publication of results.

ABORIGINES

The Hon. L. R. HART: In this morning's *Advertiser* is a report that the State Cabinet has approved the construction of a 20-bed educational hostel at Beulah Park for Aboriginal secondary students. The construction of such a facility is fully in accordance with the recommendations of the Legislative Council Select Committee on the Welfare of Aboriginal Children, the report of which was tabled in this Council earlier this year. The article states:

The Commonwealth Government had made finance available to start construction later this year or early next year. All necessary planning

and design had been undertaken and the South Australian Housing Trust had called tenders for construction on departmental land in Oban Street, Beulah Park.

It is proposed that the hostel be operated by a private organization, preferably with Aboriginal participation. Interested welfare groups should submit enquiries to the department.

I express concern that it has been decided—

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member may ask a question.

The Hon. L. R. HART: As this matter is indeed important, and as it seems we are putting the horse before the cart, can the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, indicate what interested groups would probably take advantage of the opportunity to make submissions in connection with the provision of necessary staff for such a hostel for Aboriginal children?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall direct the whole matter to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

SPEED LIMITS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN JUDE: The Minister was recently reported as saying that South Australia came nearer to Australian standard rules in respect of road traffic than did any other State. Having completed a trip of over 1,000 miles during the weekend, I realize that many so-called townships throughout Victoria are far larger than many so-called townships in South Australia, but the Victorian townships have no speed limits at all: there is no need for motorists to reduce speed below the 35 or 40 miles an hour limit imposed in this State. I refer to the townships on the Western Highway and the Midland Highway. Consequently, before pressing on to the Committee stage of the Motor Vehicles Act Amendment Bill, will the Minister consider the desirability of lifting speed limits in many so-called townships in South Australia that consist of only a few houses or buildings?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am prepared immediately to look into the matter raised by the honourable member, but I cannot undertake to defer the Bill now before the Council. I trust that the matter the honourable member has raised relates to that Bill, not to the Road Traffic Act.

INCOME TAX

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the serious taxation obligations of wheatgrowers who store over-quota wheat on their own properties?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Following Cabinet consideration of the honourable member's question, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister last week drawing attention to the interpretation placed on this question by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation in South Australia, and suggesting that a simpler and more satisfactory arrangement would be to enable over-quota wheat to be brought to account as income when the grower received payment for it, as had been proposed by the Treasurer in his earlier letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation. A reply from the Prime Minister is still awaited.

**PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Minister of Mines) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, 1967. Read a first time.

**GOODS (TRADE DESCRIPTIONS) ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

Read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE BILL

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

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMEND-
MENT BILL**

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

**JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL
(GENERAL)**

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

OATHS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

**DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT
BILL**

Returned from the House of Assembly without amendment.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 10 and 11 and disagreed to amendments Nos. 1 to 9.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to continue the operation of the Prices Act for another year. By the Prices Act Amendment Act, 1968, the principal Act was extended for 12 months and made to apply to transactions taking place before January 1, 1970. Therefore, if no action is taken during this session, the Act will cease to have any force and effect after that date.

The Prices Act has been continued by successive enactments since its commencement in 1948. At this period in post-war history, strong inflationary pressures were already apparent, with the demand for goods rapidly outreaching supply, and a consequent strong upward movement in prices for most goods. These pressures continued and indeed were accentuated during the following several years, during which period most State Governments in Australia enacted and maintained in operation price control legislation in their respective States. With the growth and expansion of industry that occurred during the late 1950's and the early 1960's, the supply of goods was materially improved to a point where, in respect of many categories, the market turned through a period of equality of supply and demand to a strongly competitive situation in buyers' favour. During this latter period, State Governments progressively abandoned their legislation, and for several years now South Australia has been the only State to retain it.

The present Government has recognized and assessed the competitive situation as it has developed in various categories, and has therefore revised the schedule of items under control. As a result, many of the items previously controlled have been removed from control. In respect of another group, the Government has instructed the Prices Commissioner not to fix prices but to retain them under surveillance. A third group, consisting mainly of essential food and clothing items of importance to families and lower income earners, as well as basic and essential items used in rural industries, has remained under orders fixing maximum retail prices. In the Government's opinion, movements in prices in

the exempt and surveillance groups have not increased at a rate above the rate of their upward movement while they remained under control, because, while under control, the Commissioner had been obliged to approve successive increases through rising costs. Therefore, the Government will continue to keep the list of controlled items under review. However, there are other important reasons for retaining the services of the prices organization, so the Government proposes in this Bill to extend the Act for another year.

With regard to petrol prices, determinations by the Prices Commissioner are applied by the oil industry throughout Australia. The effect of the higher cost Bass Strait oil on the price structure when production commences in December will need to be closely examined to ensure that unwarranted price increases do not occur. The oil industry has already intimated that it desires to increase prices from the end of the year. In addition to the fixing of maximum prices of declared items, the Prices Commissioner also keeps a watch on price movements of non-controlled items, and some arrangements exist with industries with regard to advice and discussions in some cases before prices are increased.

Other important functions carried out by the Prices Commissioner include the fixing of minimum prices for wine grapes (which is of considerable benefit to wine grapegrowers), the supervision of the unfair trade practices provisions of the Prices Act (including misleading advertising), and the investigation of complaints of excessive charges. For the year ended June 30, over 700 complaints were investigated. In the last two years the number of complaints from members of the public concerning either excessive charges or unfair or misleading trade practices has grown. The Prices Commissioner provides an avenue through which complaints can be investigated and, where found justified, remedial action can be taken. In some other States where control has been entirely removed, the respective Governments have considered it desirable to set up machinery to receive representations, hear complaints, and intervene in disputes between parties to various transactions covering a wide field. These functions, as I have indicated, are presently carried out very successfully by the Commissioner and will be continued under this Bill.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD secured the adjournment of the debate.

TEXTILE PRODUCTS DESCRIPTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 2189.)

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Central No. 1): I support the second reading. As the Minister of Agriculture has told us, discussions have been held among the various State Ministers of Labour on the problem of finding a suitable and satisfactory method of describing synthetic and artificial fibres. I was fortunate enough to have taken part in the first conference of Ministers of Labour, and I had much to do with the introduction of regular conferences of Ministers because I considered that this was a necessary and worthwhile part of Government in a country like Australia made up of several States, each with a Minister of Labour, and a Commonwealth Parliament with the appropriate Minister there.

At the first of these conferences the problem of textile descriptions was discussed. Members are aware that the principal Act requires that a label on a textile product shall specify the fibres contained in that product. Section 6 specifies how this description shall be worded. Some modifications were made to this section last year as a result of agreement being reached by the various Ministers of Labour, Ministers of Agriculture and the Wool Board.

The Minister has told us that legislation similar to that contained in this Bill is to be placed on the Statute Books in other States and also in the Commonwealth Commerce (Imports) Regulations. However, he has not told us whether the Ministers of Agriculture agreed to these amendments or whether the Wool Board approved. The Ministers have agreed that artificial fibres should be described by one of 12 generic terms and that these are to be those used in the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature but that, if any synthetic fibre does not fall within any of those generic terms, the words "artificial fibre" or "man-made fibre" will have to be used on the label. I agree that it is probably advisable in the circumstances to put these provisions into regulations. With the ever-increasing technological changes taking place in ever-increasing spheres of scientific research, one can envisage many changes in synthetic fibres in years to come.

Whilst speaking of synthetics, I point out that an article that appeared in a newspaper about a week ago illustrates how scientifically-minded we are becoming. The article referred to the playing of a round of synthetic golf in a person's own living room, with real clubs

and golf balls; synthetic suntan achieved by means of an electric lamp; the auto tutor, which teaches a person to drive without putting a motor car in motion or venturing on a road; the flight simulator, which tests every ounce of skill of a future airline pilot and takes a trainee pilot through a simulated flight to any part of the world and through all types of weather; and synthetic snow slopes made from nylon criss-cross matting upon which would-be ski enthusiasts acquire the necessary techniques of the sport. The article concludes with the following quotation of an observer: "If this is the shape of things to come we will never need to leave our houses; all our leisure activities and favourite pastimes will be on tap in the living room at the flick of a switch."

We see how synthetics have crept into almost everything. I think that, if possible, the description of the fibre content of a textile product should be permanently attached by label to the article. I can foresee that there may be some cases where this is not possible. If this is not done, however, it is difficult for the drycleaner to know how to treat the article in the cleaning process, and well-nigh impossible for the average housewife to do so.

One important matter not covered specifically in the principal Act or in this Bill is the control of flammable materials in clothing. True, the labelling of textiles may be some guide to the purchaser but, unless the purchaser is aware of the degree of flammability of various textiles, this is little protection.

The Ministers at their conferences were discussing this matter when I was in office, and it was held then that, because of the climatic differences between the United Kingdom and Australia, standards set in the former would not be suitable in this country. The problem was handed over to the Standards Association of Australia for it to formulate acceptable standard methods of testing for flammability applicable in Australian conditions. The British Standards Institute has produced standards for the United Kingdom based on requirements for materials of low flammability.

I fully expected that this important matter, which affects so many lives, would have reached a conclusion before now. It is urgent that this be pressed on with and that legislation be introduced in the interests of safety. Whatever is done in this matter, there should also be a greater degree of safety education of the general public in order that they may be aware of the dangers caused by the flammability of some textiles and of the actions they can take to minimize these dangers.

I was interested to see that recently a Victorian company that produces synthetic materials has published a small booklet entitled *Safety from Fires*, and there are some interesting passages in this booklet that I intend to quote. The booklet states:

Children sustain as many burns as people in all other age groups, and among children the greatest number of burn injuries occur within the first four years of life. Next to children the age group most affected by burns are elderly people, who often fall asleep while smoking, use stoves carelessly, or get too close to open fires and radiators. Two Melbourne doctors associated with the Burns Unit of the Royal Children's Hospital carried out a survey in 1962. They analysed the causes of serious burns suffered by 794 children under the age of 13 admitted to the hospital from 1958 to 1962. The general facts are alarming. Over half of the children (429 cases) were admitted after scalds caused by hot water, tea and other hot liquids. One-sixth of the total (125 cases) were admitted after clothes caught fire. Although it is far less than the other group, it is the group with the highest degree of serious burns and 11 out of 21 deaths that occurred in the five-year period resulted from clothing catching alight.

Of the 125 cases where clothing caught fire, 93 were girls and 32 boys. Nine of the 11 deaths which resulted from clothing which caught alight were girls and only two were boys. The Melbourne survey shows that children playing with matches contributed to 29 cases of clothes catching alight; 28 cases resulted from children being too close to an open fire; open fires without some kind of safety guard resulted in 23 children falling into the fire; nine cases—all girls—suffered burns after clothing caught alight from an electric radiator; and in one case a child was playing with a cigarette lighter.

In their report, the two doctors who conducted the survey said:

The co-operation of manufacturers, retailers and safety organizations should be sought in providing safer clothing. Even a Government subsidy would be reasonable, particularly when the enormous cost of treating burned children is considered. . . . The British Government recently passed some very important legislation in regard to flammable clothing, and it points out that both design and trimmings are most important. The children's nightdress regulations provide that a child's nightdress shall not be made of, or trimmed, below the waist or elbow with any fabric of a kind not capable of satisfying the performance requirements specified as "low flammability". Provision is also made for the use of non-flammable sewing thread as a flammable thread can act as a wick and set the whole garment ablaze.

This emphasizes the need for action to be taken. The Government should closely examine this problem and consider introducing legislation on it.

Clause 4, which relates to filling substances, amends section 6 of the principal Act by striking out subsection (1) (i) and inserting a new paragraph providing that, if the product contains loading or weighting substances other than ordinary dressing, the words "loaded" or "weighted" shall be included on its label. Previously this situation was open to abuse, and the proposed new provision gives much more protection.

Most honourable member's wives would have complained at some time that after washing certain articles they had found that a large percentage of the weight of the articles had gone down the drain with the washing water, because filling materials had been used. This situation could be covered by the Goods (Trade Descriptions) Act, amendments to which the Council has been dealing with recently. These sorts of practice, which constitute misrepresentation, are misleading the public.

In this regard there always seem to be loopholes that one can take advantage of, and one finds that many articles are exempted from the provisions of the Act as a result of the regulations. As I said when speaking on another Bill, it is always wise to see what has been done in the regulations, because under regulations made in 1954 many articles were exempted from the provisions of the Textile Products Description Act, which was introduced at that time.

The 1955 amendment to the regulations deleted pillow cotton and table damask from the list of exempted articles; they are not now exempted from the provisions of the Act, yet serviettes, doileys, tray cloths, centres, runners, duchess sets, etc., are. The regulations are therefore contradictory. Many articles are on the restricted list. Consideration of an amendment to the Act is bound up with what is included in the exemption clause of the regulations, which has a modifying effect on the amending Bill.

Clause 5 relates to the powers of inspectors and, as the Minister has informed us, this amendment is necessary to ensure that the inspector can effectively carry out his duties. It proposes to introduce new sections 7a, 7b and 7c, which provide for the effective carrying out of the inspector's duties.

Proposed new section 7a (3) provides that any articles or textile products seized and detained as a result of the inspector's finding what he maintains are wrongly labelled articles can, once seized, be detained for only one month unless proceedings under the Act

are commenced. I first thought that one month was not long enough, in view of experience we have had with breaches of other Acts and the time taken to bring cases to court. However, if this period has the effect of hurrying up the hearing of cases that have in the past hung on for a long time before proceedings have been taken, I agree that this may be a good provision.

Clause 6 provides for the conversion to decimal currency of two penalties in the principal Act and for increasing the maximum penalty for a second offence, and I can see nothing wrong with it. I support the second reading.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 2193.)

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Midland): I regret that I was out of the Chamber when this matter was called on previously, and I apologize. Unfortunately, a telephone call relating to a charitable matter in which I am interested came on the line, and I did not realize that the other business had proceeded so quickly.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: There is no charity in the Appropriation Bill.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I support the Bill, which is one of the best Appropriation Bills introduced into this Council for some time. It makes a total appropriation of \$246,606,000; there is a further appropriation of \$81,655,000 under various Special Acts, making a total appropriation for the year of \$328,261,000, which is \$27,666,000 more than last year's appropriation. This means that we are spending \$27,666,000 more on State services this year than we were last year. Consequently, the comment that there is no charity in this Bill is hardly justified. Of the increased amount, about \$5,000,000 results from increased wages under various awards that have come into operation during the year. If revenue and expenditure run according to estimate, it is expected that there will be a deficit of \$2,240,000.

I compliment the Treasurer on his accurate budgeting and his efficient management of this State's financial affairs. One of the first responsibilities of a Government is to see that the State's financial affairs are kept in order, and the present Government has faced up to

this responsibility, even though it has been criticized in some quarters as a result. We could not allow the previous position to continue, when everyone had lost confidence in the Government's ability to manage South Australia's financial affairs properly and when this State was losing its reputation as one that kept its house in order. The present Treasurer's rigid control of the State's financial affairs is paying off: we have reached the stage where the economy is picking up, where we have almost over-full employment, where the 600 houses at Elizabeth that were empty during the Labor regime are now occupied, where there is a shortage of houses in the area and where new industries are coming to South Australia almost every day.

At present a New South Wales industry is applying to set up operations in South Australia, and the Premier recently announced new industries that would be established here. This is pleasing and almost surprising—after the dearth of this kind of development between 1965 and 1968. So, notwithstanding the criticism levelled against the Government in certain quarters about the imposition of gift duty and the receipts tax, the Government's policies are paying dividends in the form of an improved financial situation.

I notice that gift duty receipts this year are estimated at \$550,000. From my knowledge of this matter, I believe that this is an underestimate. It is unfortunate that the Gift Duty Act does not follow more closely the Commonwealth Act. The impression people got from the Treasurer's Budget speech last year was that the gift duty legislation would be along the same lines and incorporate the same principles as the Commonwealth Act. However, that has not happened, and the different principles behind the two Acts are causing much confusion.

An aspect that worries me is that, notwithstanding the excellent efforts made by the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill to have the rates reduced, the State gift duty rates still exceed Commonwealth rates. I should like to see the State rates adjusted at least to the level of the Commonwealth rates. This would save embarrassment and difficulties for those who advise people about their liability in respect of gift duty. For example, on a gift of \$20,000 (a common amount for people to give) the Commonwealth duty is \$600 and the State duty is \$1,000. As far as I can see, generally speaking the difference between Commonwealth and State gift duty is about \$500.

In view of the total value of gifts that I expect to be made, the estimate of \$550,000 of gift duty would be achieved even if the rate of duty was reduced. I submit this point for the Government's consideration.

The provision for the Police Department is \$10,271,000, an increase of \$557,000, or 6 per cent. I am pleased about this increase, because in this modern age the police have a far more difficult job than they used to have. Because of the number of demonstrations and breaches of the peace by many people, the difficulties facing the Police Force are very considerable. Consequently, all who have respect for the maintenance of law and order, for democracy and for the maintenance of the right of ordinary citizens to go about their business without molestation, believe that the Police Force has an extraordinarily difficult job in keeping demonstrators under control and seeing that they obey the law. I support the efforts of the force in every possible way.

The number of cadets in training will be increased from 410 to 450, and emphasis will be placed on recruiting men at the cadet stage rather than at the adult stage. This is very desirable. I believe that 120 cadets graduate each year and that this figure will increase still further. It is not surprising that the Commissioner of Police (Mr. McKinna) has been asked to go to Queensland to advise on improvements to the Police Force there, because his work here and the standard reached here certainly justify the confidence placed in him.

Although I do not want to go into detail in connection with the provision for the Hospitals Department, I want to mention one aspect: in recent years councils have been required to contribute considerably towards the maintenance of hospitals in their areas. Many councils have thought that the amount of the contribution required was unfair. Some councils were required to contribute to a hospital even though it did not serve their area. The maximum contribution that can be levied for these purposes has been reduced to 3 per cent. This reduction will save councils throughout the State \$80,000 and I compliment the Government on this move.

In connection with the Engineering and Water Supply Department, \$1,280,000 has been provided for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main, the Morgan-Whyalla main, and the main to the Lower North. Last year the actual cost of pumping was \$722,000, so it seems that an extra \$500,000

has been provided this year because it is expected that the coming summer will not be as cool as last summer. I sincerely hope the estimate will be adequate and that the expenditure on pumping will be kept down to \$722,000—last year's figure. Of course, that is beyond our control.

Nowadays we are hearing much criticism about the sum spent on education. Whilst some of this criticism is justified, much of it is made purely for Party-political purposes, and nothing will convince me to the contrary. The Government proposes to spend an amount of \$59,821,000 from State funds this year, an increase of \$5,189,000, or 9½ per cent, on the figures of last year. Anybody acquainted with the problems faced by the State Treasurer today will appreciate that that is a substantial increase. Provision for salaries totals \$48,537,000, and in that amount allowance is made for 550 new appointments as well as for a student intake into teaching colleges of 1,550.

I have made it my business to make inquiries into student teaching as well as into conditions in various schools. The Education Department has a responsibility to educate our children, but it also has an obligation to operate as a business enterprise and to operate efficiently. I am satisfied that the need exists for a firm of consultants to be appointed to inquire into the management, control and operation of the Education Department. I am also satisfied that in some instances subjects are being taught that have no real value to the students concerned, and that in some other instances a duplication of work exists that could be avoided.

I think that if a firm of competent consultants were appointed to investigate expenditure on education, to streamline procedures both in the schools and on the administrative side, to report whether more effective use could be made of available staff and also to examine the necessity for some of the work performed in some subjects, then we could probably get a better result than we are getting at present. I am not raising these matters by way of criticism of any particular person in the Education Department or by way of criticism of the department as a whole, but my experience with any undertaking is that a firm of consultants is always able to give valuable advice and assistance, and whilst there is talk of appointing committees to examine the general situation it seems to me that in a considerable number of instances the members of such committees have no specialized knowledge or any particular experience of the job

expected of them. I would think this is a case where a firm of specialist consultants would provide the answer required.

With regard to the Highways Department and to town planning, experts were called in from America in some instances because they had a specialized approach to the problem, and I believe that would be the answer with education. It needs somebody completely independent, completely competent, completely free from any political interference or persuasion and free from bias, somebody with nothing to gain and nothing to lose as a result of recommendations made. If this were done, I believe we would get something that would assist us in overcoming our education problems.

I want to mention the Electricity Trust of South Australia, which I believe is possibly our largest semi-governmental undertaking. At least it is set up under its own Act, and although it may probably be incorrect to describe it as I have, nevertheless its affairs are guaranteed by the State Government. It is pleasing to note that in the year ended June 30, 1969, its total revenue from all sources amounted to \$59,787,527, an increase on the figure of \$56,105,773 for the previous year. It is also interesting to note the following comments of the Auditor-General in his report under the heading of "Income":

Sales to all classes of consumers for 1968-69 were higher than for the previous year and the increases and respective percentages are given later in a separate table. Because of reduced pumping on the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline, revenue from this source decreased from \$1,544,000 for 1967-68 to \$310,000 for the year under review.

So the trust's income was adversely affected to the extent of \$1,200,000 because of reduced requirements for pumping but, notwithstanding that, the gross income of the trust increased by about \$3,500,000. The report continues:

Electricity sales for the year totalled approximately 3,214 million kilowatt-hours, an increase of 207 millions or 6.9 per cent on 1967-68, notwithstanding a reduction of 165 millions in Mannum-Adelaide pipeline consumption. Excluding the latter, consumption increased by 372 millions (13.3 per cent).

I note under the heading of "Debt Charges" that interest for 1968-69 amounted to \$13,619,000, which was \$982,000 higher than for the previous year. Then there appears in the report this important reference:

As in the past four years, all interest was charged to Revenue Account and no amount allocated to major capital works in progress. The average rate of interest payable by the trust on its borrowings at 30th June, 1969, was 5.33 per cent, an increase of 0.08 per cent over the previous year.

It is gratifying to note that the interest commitments in respect of trust borrowings were met from revenue, but it is unfortunate that the cost of the trust's borrowings increased by 0.08 per cent during the year. That increased interest charge must be a matter for consideration when it is decided whether the trust will continue to operate as it has, for so many years, without increasing its charges. The Auditor-General's Report states that the excess of income over operating expenses amounted to \$13,831,294; interest charges amounted to \$13,619,441, leaving a balance retained for use in the undertaking of \$211,853. That is a negligible amount in relation to a total income of \$59,787,527.

This causes me some concern, because I hope the time will not arrive when increased electricity charges will be imposed, because cheap electricity in South Australia is the basis upon which industrial development in the State depends. If our fuel and power costs cease to be competitive with those of other States, then we will be in difficulties. I do not know what the position will be when the Torrens Island power station comes into full production. Larger machines will be involved there, and the cost to generate electricity may decrease and that may offset the necessity for higher charges. This is a matter of concern to me, as indeed is the general overall picture of costs. In almost every sphere costs are increasing and in a large section of our economy, namely, in the primary industry sector, income is falling, and falling more rapidly than most people imagine. There are many people on the land today in various avenues of primary production who are wondering what the future will be. This kind of feeling occurs from time to time, but I think perhaps there is an air of undue pessimism at present. For instance, the wheat farmer is worried about his quota, but the Commonwealth Government has given a guarantee of an advance of \$1.10 a bushel on, I think, 357,000,000 bushels, which is the average crop, so the amount of money that will go into circulation this year on the first advance on wheat will equal, or perhaps exceed, what has obtained in years gone by. The wheat farmer will have a problem with his surplus of non-quota wheat, and that is something with which we shall have to live. The income he gets from the first advance on wheat will be equal to what has obtained for the last few years.

With barley, there is difficulty in maintaining prices but, as against that, it looks as though, generally speaking, this year's crop will exceed

considerably the average; and that will help the position. However, as legislators we should be aware of the importance of this particular section of the community and realize the contribution it makes to the State's economy; we should do what we can to see that its interests are protected. This is very important. On the other hand, it is true to say that for the primary producer the home market is the best market: the home consumer pays more for his wheat than we get on the overseas market. Therefore, the building up of secondary industries and of the population of the State is of advantage to the primary producer. The interests of both sections of the community must be looked after.

In conclusion, I emphasize my concern about the situation in which the primary producer finds himself. I am not as pessimistic as some are of the future but I am fully mindful of the responsibility that we owe him. I have nothing further to say except to congratulate the Treasurer on the Budget he has brought down. It is not necessary for me to comment on the absence of interjections from the Labor Party during my speech. If I have missed noting any interjections, I tender my apologies.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Central No. 1): To put the Hon. Mr. Rowe at ease, let me begin by saying that, had he said anything worth listening to, the Labor Party members would have been interested in what he said and would have interjected accordingly, but he put forward nothing that warranted interjection from us. However, because we did not interject, do not let him get the idea that we agreed with what he said. In supporting the second reading, I agree with statements made earlier that the Government is possibly doing the best it can with the money available to it. We know it is short of funds. The Chief Secretary's speech stressed the point that the Government finds it necessary to rely more heavily on funds from the Commonwealth, which is completely opposite to what Government members said when we were in office, when most members opposite, including the Chief Secretary and the Hon. Mr. Rowe, kept telling us that we should not expect too much from the Commonwealth. In fact, they went further than that and said that we should spend more money but raise less. They did their best to see that the Government of the day did not raise the money it required.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Where does it appear in *Hansard*?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am not reading from *Hansard*. We do not have to quote *Hansard*. Obviously, the honourable member wishes at times that *Hansard* was not printed, because we can go back and read the statements made by honourable members opposite. When we confront them now with statements they have made in the past, because things are different now they do not want to hear about them. They have the opportunity to refer to the *Hansard* index and see what they have said. If they are not interested in what they were doing at that time, it is obvious that it has escaped their memory and they are talking merely for the sake of talking, or they would recall what they said when they were in Opposition. Had certain steps not been taken by this Council about taxation measures introduced by the Labor Government, the State would not be in the financial mess it is in today. In addition to the desire of members opposite to protect the interests of the people best able to pay added taxation during the terms of Labor Governments, when measures taken to deprive the State of additional revenue to the extent of over \$2,000,000 a year—

The Hon. C. R. Story: What about succession duties?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Succession duties had something to do with this. Not only did this Council take that action in the days of the Labor Government but it acted likewise when the present Treasurer wanted to raise more money from gift duty. The Hon. Mr. Rowe said again today that he thought gift duty was too high and should be further reduced. This is the type of action that members of this Government talk about and then they complain because the Commonwealth is not coming to the party. How can it come to the party when it sees actions taken by members of this Government in their desire to decry the Labor Government's raising of finances? That is what this Council has done in the past, and that is what the Hon. Mr. Rowe is advocating again today—spare the rich and soak (or sock) the poor. That is the attitude of members opposite. The Hon. Mr. Rowe talks about generous gifts of \$20,000. Give me \$20,000 for me to live on for the rest of my life! I would not mind paying tax on \$20,000, nor would 80 per cent of people in the State.

The Hon. C. R. Story: Is the honourable member complaining about gift duty?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am not in a position to be involved in paying gift duty; I shall never be in that position, and I am not complaining about it. The Chief Secretary would have been on much safer ground had he included in his speech criticisms of this Council as well as of the Commonwealth for shortage of funds.

Members on both sides of the Chamber have no doubt received letters and petitions from teachers throughout the State drawing attention to the serious problem existing in the Education Department today. Either the Hon. Mr. Rowe has not read his correspondence or people think he is not worthy of being written to, knowing he is on the Government side of the Chamber and so would take no action to correct the position. He said at the beginning of his speech that everything in the Education Department appeared to be nice and rosy, but later he made suggestions about appointing consultants. The Government in its attempts to sidetrack people and to hide the facts from the public did a grave disservice to the teachers when it implied that 95 per cent of the teachers in this State were being led by the nose by one man. In degrading the teachers in this way, it paid a great compliment to Mr. Bob Harris when it suggested that it was he, and he alone, who was able to point out to the teachers the great difficulties under which they were working—as though they themselves did not know of those difficulties before this campaign started. Not only do the teachers know of the difficulties but the public have been made aware of them. From looking at the correspondence, let us see what some of these difficulties are.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Do you think these difficulties came about because the Labor Party reduced its expenditure on education during its term of office?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: No, I do not; I think many of the difficulties have come about because the finances were cut short by members of this Government and because Government members are not standing up to their responsibilities. I have a letter from the Walkerville Primary School congratulating the Government. It states:

We, the staff of Walkerville Primary School, wish to express our appreciation of the recent measures taken by the Government to alleviate some of the radical shortcomings of our present educational system. We appreciate also the consideration given to schools and staff by the members of the Education Department, despite their difficult task with such large

numbers of staff and children and such comparatively small budget. However, we are agreed that for too long our neglect as citizens and Parliamentarians to improve these conditions has been an indictment of the indifference of many of us to (a) the welfare of our children and (b) the economic, industrial, scientific and cultural future of this State, for this future is dependent on the standards of our present education.

More teachers and smaller classes will bring some immediate improvement. At Walkerville the majority of classes are over 35 in number. Of these, one-quarter contain over 40 children and another quarter are composite classes over 35.

It is well known that 30 should be the maximum number in any class. The letter goes on:

We are expected to teach creatively with group work and maximum child participation in rooms, some of which are inadequately sized and barely equipped. This situation gives no opportunity for individual attention or remedial work. Here as in many schools infants commence school having known attention in their own small family group and are thrust into classes of up to 40 children with one teacher who, with these numbers, cannot give the children the individual attention that would be in their best interests. At the refurnishing rate of one room a year it is taking eight years to fully remove the original furniture, and with crowded rooms, storage of teaching aids and craft work becomes a problem.

New courses have been or are being published in mathematics, social studies, physical education, music and nature science and we are expected to teach all new methods with limited training in these new courses.

Yet the Hon. Mr. Rowe says that everything is nice and quite all right. The letter continues:

In addition, new approaches demand adequate equipment. Were it not for committee and welfare club expenditure the school would be sadly lacking. We feel that all equipment necessary to implement new courses should be supplied to schools by the Government. We are gratified to see that this is being done in mathematics and trust that science and other courses will so benefit and that the housing of the equipment will be considered also.

Teaching can be and usually is very rewarding work, but we do feel sad and frustrated that we are able to devote so little time to remedial teaching. Teachers do their best but have not the time to give the necessary care and attention that would allow the sad failures to achieve instead a basic grounding and some confidence. When a teacher is ill, the headmaster must include full time teaching amongst his duties or the class is split and two or three other classes have their work and routine disorganized. Relieving teachers are available only if two or more staff members are absent or if one is to be away for at least three days. Even then they are not always available. Ideally, a highly-qualified teacher could be attached to each school or group of schools for remedial and relieving duties.

As stated above, we realize the difficulties of the Education Department with its limited budget and appreciate such benefits as we already receive. However, the conditions mentioned need immediate consideration.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: I think all budgets are limited.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The letter goes on to say:

We call therefore on both State and Federal Governments to continue their efforts to make available the necessary funds that will enable the department to offer attractive salaries to increase staff, improved training, sufficient equipment and smaller classes. Then we can expect quality education for our children. Thank you for your consideration.

That letter is signed by a number of teachers. Let us have a look at some of the conditions that exist in other schools today. I wish now to quote from the proceedings of a teachers meeting held at the Goodwood Boys Technical High School. The shocking toilet facilities for staff and students at the school were referred to in the following way:

There are not enough toilets for the boys and they are too far removed from the main body of the school. In wet weather the boys are faced with a run of nearly 100 yards to get to the toilets. At best the staff toilets can be described as primitive. There are two toilets under the hall-stage for the 21 male staff, but one of these is used as a storage room for the band instruments. There is also a small staff toilet block next to the students' toilets. This too is very primitive as the urinal is open to the weather.

The following is the notation regarding the lack of changing facilities for physical education:

At present, during fine weather conditions the boys change by the chain-mesh fence which separates the classblocks from the playing area. This changing area is completely open to view to Hardy Street and the children's playground on the corner of Hardy and Albert Streets. During times of inclement weather the students must change in the classrooms. There is no change-room for the physical education teacher, who must either go to school in his teaching clothes or change in the staff toilets or the sports room. There are no showering facilities for either staff or students. It should not be too difficult to imagine the offensive body odour of a group of about 35 boys who have just completed a 70 minute lesson of physical education in warm or hot weather.

The questions of inadequate eating facilities for the students and other matters were dealt with as follows:

Most of the seating is outdoors, and consequently is of little value during wet or hot weather. There is not enough under-cover seating to provide even half the students with a sheltered eating area. There is no sick-room

to which an ill student can be taken. At present there is no bed, at the rear of the stage in the hall, which is used when a student feels ill. How much comfort a student obtains there is open to question since the hall may be being used for films or a music lesson at that time.

There is a lack of cloak room and blackboard space at the school. It is equipped with a very poor library, and the size of the laboratories is insufficient for the number of students who have to use them. There is also insufficient storage space in some of the craft shops. The craft teachers told the meeting that the shops were not up to the health standards required by industrial law in industrial establishments, namely, in relation to the dust hazards. The meeting then dealt with the lack and inadequacy of specialist rooms and the lack of suitable administration offices. Regarding special staff, the following appears:

Very little help, especially trained staff, is available for the considerable number of students whose reading ability is below standard. This skill is basic to success in all school subjects and should therefore receive immediate and effective action.

The meeting then dealt with further complaints, and stated:

The Minister's reply of June 27 to the President's letter of May 7 is quite inaccurate. The Estimates of Expenditure for the year ended June 30, 1969, show the Education Department's allotment to be \$53,267,000 out of a total expenditure of the State of \$295,284,000, and this is much closer to 18 per cent than the 25 per cent which the Minister claims the Government is spending on the Education Department.

It is true that those figures have since been revised by the introduction of the Budget, but it is also true that the estimated expenditure is only about 18 per cent of the total Budget, not 25 per cent. We also get the same sort of story from the Gilles Plains High School, the teaching staff of the Croydon Park Technical College, the Pennington Primary School and numerous other schools which highlights the weaknesses existing in the rosy position as outlined by the Hon. Mr. Rowe in his speech today. I assure the Government that it was as a result of the reflections cast on the teachers by the Government and again today by the Hon. Mr. Rowe in regard to being "led by the nose" by Mr. Harris that the teachers themselves were stirred into action to let the public know the actual position in the Education Department today. Whatever the Government has said about the teachers and their representatives, it cannot deny that today a critical situation exists. In fact, some people

have said that there is a crisis in the Education Department today, and I do not know that they are very far wrong. The critical situation in primary and secondary schools and the allocation of only \$60,000,000 of the total revenue Budget does very little to relieve this position.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: What would you suggest cutting?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am not suggesting cutting anything; I am suggesting that Government members are not making a determined effort with their Liberal mates in Canberra to do something in regard to education. I am suggesting also that we could cut out the expenditure on the F111 aircraft and put it into education. What is the good of broken up F111's in this country? We are already \$200,000,000 down the drain over this. Why did the Government spend \$6,000,000 on Chowilla for nothing? That money could have been used for education. This is the type of thing on which the Government could have taken action to preserve its funds, and I suggest that it should take that type of action to enable it to improve our education facilities.

The Hon. C. R. Story: How much did you spend during your term of office?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Never mind about that. During the Minister's term of office the Government has allowed \$6,000,000 spent on Chowilla to go down the drain, in spite of its being the only practical promise that the Government made on the hustings in its policy speech at the last State election. The Government says it cannot do anything more for education, so it increases university fees by 20 per cent because, it says, it has not enough money. The Budget does nothing in relation to a definite programme to reduce class sizes to a reasonable level.

Teachers in this State, backed up by educationists in comparable countries, say practical experience indicates that 30 should be the maximum size for a single-grade primary class. A survey taken by the South Australian Institute of Teachers shows that 92 per cent of primary single-grade classes in this State comprise 30 or more pupils. Teachers in South Australian secondary schools say that the maximum size class for the first three secondary years should be 30 students, with 25 students in each fourth-year class and 20 students in each Matriculation or pre-university class.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: In what countries are those figures attained?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: These figures are practically identical with the recommendations of the Scott committee of inquiry into secondary education in New South Wales, yet more than 70 per cent of the secondary classes in this State exceed those figures. This clearly indicates that the majority of the children in this State are not receiving the minimum individual attention they need. No-one expects the Government to achieve these desirable class sizes overnight. I understand that the Institute of Teachers has put forward a proposal for the reduction of general class sizes over a five-year period. I do not know whether the Government is interested in the proposal, but this Budget does not provide for a plan of action necessary to achieve these desirable levels. It appears that the Government has no target in sight for the reduction of class sizes.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Doesn't our Budget allow for more assistance in schools?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am coming to that. The Budget does little to tackle the problem of the shortage of teachers. The Hon. Mr. Rowe spoke about the provision of 550 additional teachers, but I point out that this figure is lower than the increase of 634 teachers in 1968, as stated by the Minister on June 17 this year. Therefore, this year we are getting 80 teachers less than we did last year. Yet the Government says it is doing a good job in regard to education. The Education Department admits that there is at present a shortage of over 700 teachers needed to meet its present-day requirements. That number comprises the 450 teachers that the department is short, as well as a further 290 who are on leave of one kind or another (oversea leave, study leave and so on) but whose names are still listed as being teachers. The Budget provides for another 550 teachers, so the department will still be 150 teachers short. Those teachers will be needed merely to cope with new enrolments, and that figure does nothing to provide for reductions in class sizes.

A survey which was conducted recently showed that 25,800 teacher-days had been lost through absence for official or personal reasons, of which only 4,228 teacher-days were covered by relief teachers. The situation in the high schools was alarming, as 4,715 teacher-days were lost and only nine teacher-days were covered by relief teachers. Therefore, 4,706 teacher-days were lost there. The Budget makes no attempt to tackle the teacher

shortage in the long term. The provision for an intake in the teachers colleges of 1,550 is an increase of only 60 compared with last year's figures. No attempt has been made to obtain the extra 700 teachers, of which the department is short at the moment.

No provision is made for a direct attack on the conditions of employment that cause dissatisfaction amongst teachers. An effort must be made to improve the working conditions of teachers if we are to reduce the number of resignations and improve the results of recruiting drives. Dr. Broadbent of the Bedford Park Teachers College has found that in 1964, when Adelaide Teachers College was the only college training secondary students, 166 first-year students were doing university science or mathematics courses. This year, with an additional secondary teachers college at Bedford Park, only 115 students are doing university science or mathematics courses. Over the same period there has been a 30 per cent increase in secondary school enrolments.

The situation is becoming drastic, because large science and mathematics classes, combined with a lack of qualified science and mathematics teachers, are resulting in small proportions of students opting for science courses at universities. When they have completed these courses, a wastage of science teachers occurs, because these people are enticed into private industry, where the working conditions are much better than those in the Education Department.

The Hon. C. R. Story: No.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The figures speak for themselves in relation to the wastage of science students who are in the teachers colleges for the purpose of returning to the department to teach in its schools. Their preparation has been inadequate, and only the most interested students have been able to retain their interest. I am pleased to see that the Budget provides for 246 additional clerical staff. This will be a small measure of assistance to over-worked teachers.

I am sorry that provision has not been made for bursars, maintenance fitters in craft shops, teachers' aids or for groundsmen. The Chief Secretary was interested to hear me mention that provision has been made for 246 additional clerical staff, but that is indeed a small number. What is wrong with assistance being given in this category? Why should we not relieve teachers of some of their duties to a

much greater extent than we are doing in this respect by employing such people as groundsmen, etc.?

The Hon. C. R. Story: What are you setting out to do: to teach children or to grow plants?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Government is certainly not setting out to teach the children. Indeed, it seems to be doing everything possible to stop our children being taught properly.

The Hon. C. R. Story: When one listens to someone like the honourable member, one realizes that there is room for further education.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Obviously, these facilities were lacking when the Minister went to school. Facilities were bad even then, and obviously this Government intends to carry on that state of affairs which existed during the Minister's school days. The Education Department is the only Government department that does not employ groundsmen, the provision of whom is left to the parents if they want decent sports grounds at their children's schools. Teachers are at present prevented from teaching our children properly because they have to perform other duties that could easily be performed by other people at a small cost.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Your Minister of Education said the State could not spend any more money on education.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Budget merely removes the glaring injustices of the subsidy system. It provides for mathematics equipment, which was formerly purchased under subsidy, but it leaves many other deficiencies untouched. It does not provide for specialist school counsellors and careers officers; it does no more than continue the present gradual approach to the problems of handicapped children; it does nothing to cater for the different needs of gifted children; it makes no added provision for educational research; it ignores the need for general high schools to replace our present dual secondary system; and it does little to remove the inequalities of opportunity that persist in education today.

As I pointed out, the Government proposes to increase university fees by 20 per cent. This will effectively prevent people in the lower income group from sending their children to the universities. No responsible Government, no responsible Treasurer, no responsible

Minister of Education should seek to give the impression that this Budget provides an instant remedy for the problems of education in South Australia, because it does not provide such a remedy; yet the impression given in another place and in the press is that the Budget will solve the problems I have referred to.

I congratulate the Government's public relations officer on the way he managed to get a favourable press in respect of a Budget that was not unusual in the attention it gave to education. The morning after the Budget was presented the *Advertiser* carried a front-page article about a record \$60,000,000 allotted to education. Of course it was a record for expenditure on education—record expenditures are provided for most Budget items, simply because more is to be spent on each item than in the preceding year. Because each department must expand, the Government could not avoid increasing the Education Department's allocation for this year. Of course it was a record, but nothing constructive is being done with the record amount.

Following the introduction of the Budget the Premier announced the building of a new teachers college in the eastern suburbs. Actually, in one sense it will not be a new college, because it will replace an existing college. I will never know why the eastern teachers college is receiving priority over the Western Teachers College. The conditions at the Western Teachers College are deplorable and a disgrace to the Government.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Are you quite sure about your statements?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Yes, because the Public Works Committee is already taking evidence about replacing the Wattle Park Teachers College. Perhaps I should not be perfectly sure, because it may be only another Government publicity stunt. The Government has not yet completed even the negotiations for purchasing land in connection with the Western Teachers College, so perhaps all we are seeing is another publicity stunt by the Government. I was most interested to hear the Chief Secretary's interjection: the public should realize that the Government stoops to this kind of practice.

We have heard about some new industries coming to South Australia (the Hon. Mr. Rowe referred to this point this afternoon). In the newspapers new industries have been announced on three or four occasions, but not one has yet bobbed up. However, we are

always hopeful! We will hear a few more announcements over the next 12 months, but they will not mean that we will necessarily see the industries themselves. Let the Government produce the goods and then publicize them! We realize that some industries have expanded, but even the astute Mr. Rowe has been taken in by the publicity: I think he believes that these industries have already been established. He did not, however, name one of them this afternoon.

We can only assume that this publicity campaign will continue for another 18 months—until the Government goes out of office. Nowadays we see the Premier driving around in a little sports car; this is most appropriate. Never mind about the increased expenditure resulting from the purchase of this car! The Premier with his sideburns must have a special car to travel in! So, he gets a two-door sports car to suit his sideburns. This is the sort of publicity that this Government goes for—cheap publicity that does not achieve results. The building of the eastern teachers college will not increase the accommodation for student teachers because it simply replaces the Wattle Park Teachers College. Indeed, since the new college will accommodate 800 students and the present college accommodates 840 students, 40 fewer students will be accommodated. Consequently, the new college's accommodation will be taxed from the beginning. The Premier did not say that the Western Teachers College, too, needed replacing and that the work on the Bedford Park Teachers College and the Salisbury Teachers College was far behind schedule and that there were no plans for additional teachers colleges.

The impression gained from the Premier's announcements was that progress was satisfactory and could not possibly be faster, and that nothing was wrong, anyway. That, however, is not the impression that teachers and parents have. It is poor government to pretend that everything in the garden is rosy and to mention only the progress made so far without informing the public that there is still a long way to go. It is the responsibility of the Government, particularly of the Premier and the Minister of Education, to tell the people of this State that their children are not getting the education they need and deserve. If the Government is prepared to admit to itself and to the public that a problem exists, it can plan a course of action to tackle it. Early in his term of office the Premier asked for advice; he received it, but he is not acting on it.

The problems of education cannot be put off until tomorrow: as every year goes by without action thousands of children are being deprived of their right to a full and adequate preparation for life. A high standard of education is vital if children are to succeed in our complex, affluent and technological society. It is vital if they are to succeed in their vocations and if they are to lead useful, worthwhile and happy lives. We need to show a sense of foresight when considering education and to regard it not as a short-term expense on the public purse but as a long-term investment by the community for the future.

Professor Russell, of the economics department at the Adelaide University, has shown how a higher standard of education contributes remarkably to economic growth. If this Government was to invest a few more dollars in education it would get back five times as much in dividends in later years. More money must be made available for education—more than the \$60,000,000 allotted to the Education Department in this Bill. More money could be made available if it was not necessary to subsidize the railways heavily. Had this Council not rejected the Road and Railway Transport Act Amendment Bill, the losses of the Railways Department might not be the heavy burden on the Budget that they are today. More revenue would be available today if this Council had not rejected the Succession Duties Act Amendment Bill.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe: Why don't you have a glass of water and let *Hansard* catch up?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: If the honourable member took more interest in the children of this State, they would be better off. The interests of a minority, those who inherit large estates, were put before the interests of the State's schoolchildren as a result of the action of the Liberal Party members of this Council, and nobody in this Council will deny it.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: I will deny it.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Of course you will deny it, but not truthfully, and it does not alter my comments. The interests of those who evade estate duties by using loopholes were placed before the need for a better education system. However, even if such measures were to make a few million dollars available there would still be inadequate funds available to provide desirable standards for primary and secondary education. The State Government must actively seek additional funds from the

Commonwealth Government. If there have been any such overtures to the Commonwealth by this Government, then they have not been remarkable for their success.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: The present Government blamed the Commonwealth Government this time for having enough money.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Of course it did, but its members did not blame the Commonwealth Government for anything at the time when our Party held office. Obviously, the relationship between the State and Commonwealth Governments will depend largely on the result of this week's election. If a Labor Government is elected, then the Commonwealth Government will take over all tertiary education and demand a guarantee from the States that funds thus released will be channelled into other areas of education. In addition, a Commonwealth Labor Government would appoint a schools commission to inquire into the areas of need, and emergency grants would be made where immediate attention was required. In other words, a Commonwealth Labor Government would provide the initiative in making funds available for education. If, however, in the unlikely event of a Liberal Government being elected on Saturday, the State Government will have to take the initiative. It has not done too well in the past, and I imagine it will not do any better in the future. The task would not be easy, and the State Government would have to present some solid arguments and do some tough bargaining.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: It has been done before.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am aware of that, and it looks as though it will be done again in another 18 months. The State Government will get nowhere if it approaches the Commonwealth Government and says, in effect, "Look, we have difficulties with our Budget. How about some help?" The needs of education will have to be presented, with full documentation, and without the usual camouflage. I am at a loss to understand why it is not possible to identify the areas of need until the current five-year survey has been completed. We have been informed that this much-vaunted survey has not even reached the stage of all States agreeing on a common statistical base. So we do not know when it will be started. If the Government were really concerned about education it could prepare a case in weeks or perhaps months, but it certainly should not take five years. The Commonwealth Government would

have to be given a firm idea of how these needs could be met. Some firm proposals for action would have to be presented, and the case should be put forward with a sense of urgency. That urgency has been sadly lacking.

The Hon. M. B. Dawkins: Have you any specific thoughts on this?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Yes—get rid of the present Government! The State Government must be prepared to prove that it is providing as much money as possible for education. That may be difficult, because for some years South Australia has spent less money on each child than has any other State except Queensland, and therefore it has nothing to be proud of in that regard. In addition, it would be necessary for a State Government to guarantee that it would not reduce its contribution to education following the provision of funds by the Commonwealth Government. That point is important, particularly in view of the reduced distribution of State Loan moneys for school buildings following the additional Loan money made available by the Commonwealth Government for teachers colleges. Unfortunately, the Loan Estimates for this financial year make any such guarantee far less credible.

I do not believe this Government has exerted the necessary pressure on the Commonwealth Government, in spite of the fact that at the last election the Prime Minister came here and said, "Let us be buddies"—now look at the mess the Commonwealth Government and State Governments have got themselves into as a result of the coalition that has taken place! The State Government has a responsibility for education and this Government has not done all that it could have done to budget the funds necessary. It has not been prepared to take the first step and admit that a serious situation exists. It has not attempted to present the needs of education to the Commonwealth Government, nor has it designed any proposals for meeting those needs. This Government has not even attempted to talk about additional funds specifically for education, and it has weakened its credibility by salting away Loan funds that could have been used for school buildings. The State Government has the constitutional responsibility for education, but it has not done all that it could have done to obtain the funds necessary to meet that responsibility.

I have pointed out the deficiency in education, and I am aware of the urgency with which the Government is awaiting the passing

of this Bill and its anxiety to start spending money. Otherwise I would continue and speak about the allocation of money to other departments. However, I have concentrated on the Education Department because I thought it was the most needy of the departments. The Government has complained about a shortage of money but at the same time the Minister of Roads and Transport has been prepared to hand over a bus service to private enterprise, and at the same time announce that, as the result of such handing over, the Government will lose an amount of from \$70,000 to \$100,000, but he has made no attempt to recoup any of that money to Government funds. Is the Government not aware that we are in a parlous state with our finances? Regrettably, I support the Bill.

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

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 2203.)

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE (Northern): In rising to support this Bill I point out that, although it covers a number of worthwhile amendments to the existing Act, portions of it cause me some concern. However, at the outset I mention that I agree with the amendments and I am prepared to support them.

Clause 7, which amends section 26 of the principal Act, should, I believe, have been brought forward some time ago, inasmuch as it provides for a discretion on the part of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in respect of an application for renewal of a licence which was not applied for at a time when it would correspond with the insurance certificate. This has been revised and brought forward in better form.

Clause 23, the points demerit scheme, causes me a great deal of concern, and I believe it could be more aptly described as a persecution clause. Under the provisions of the existing Act, a driver may be penalized for any misdemeanour or breach of the road traffic laws, including cancellation of licence and the imposition of a gaol sentence. I believe that is a necessary safeguard, but I also believe (as has been mentioned by the Hon. Mr. Bevan) that under the proposed points demerit scheme it is possible for people to be penalized twice. The Hon. Mr. Gilfillan also pointed out that a person could become a nervous instead of a safe driver

if the points demerit scheme is introduced; that is also my belief. People who unconsciously left their indicators on or perhaps did not switch them on could easily find themselves apprehended and liable to have demerit points recorded against them, which could eventually lead to their losing their licences. Many people today have enough problems without having to contend with trivial ones such as the points demerit system would create. This system has been operating for some two years, I think, in New South Wales, but it is of some significance that the Minister of Roads in that State has suggested that the system be reviewed.

The Hon. Sir Norman Jude: What have they been doing in Victoria about it?

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I am not quite sure.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: They have been investigating it and intend to take action.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I believe action will be taken by those States to review the points demerit system, and perhaps we are jumping into a scheme that has not been proved to be of any great benefit to the community. Maybe we should be wise to wait until those investigations in the Eastern States have been completed before we pursue the matter further.

I am concerned that we are debating in this Bill a controversial issue without knowing what the points demerit system is. It is true that the Minister of Roads and Transport did supply the newspapers with a schedule for the apportioning of points, but whether these are to constitute the actual points demerit system to be used I do not know. Therefore, I find it hard to condemn the whole system without knowing the individual points scale. I understand that a driver could lose six points by causing death by negligent driving. I should think he would lose more than six points for that offence. Surely the present law covers such a situation? What is gained by adding the points demerit penalty to the present penalty? I have not a copy of the complete list of the points and their allocation, but one offence is for failing to show a "stop" sign. This points to a defective electrical system. We have no legal hand signal to cover that contingency.

The newspaper said something about the slowing down signal. As far as I know, that is illegal in South Australia. If a driver used that signal, he would soon accumulate enough points to have his licence suspended for three months. The system should be considered

further and we should at least have a comprehensive list of the demerit points as they will apply to various offences. This scheme should not be introduced until the studies in the Eastern States have been completed. Therefore, I intend to vote against this clause. Otherwise, I am in accord with the amendments proposed and support the second reading.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE secured the adjournment of the debate.

FOOTWEAR REGULATION BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 2190.)

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Central No. 1): I support the second reading of this Bill. It is suggested that it makes the existing Act workable. It repeals the existing Act, so this will really be a completely new Act. Clause 3, which deals with repeal and savings, repeals the Footwear Regulation Act, 1920, and the Footwear Regulation Act Amendment Act, 1949. The legislation has not been amended during the last 20 years. I agree with the Government's introducing this Bill, which makes some attempt to make the Act workable. Clause 4 is the interpretation clause. It states:

"inspector" means any inspector appointed or deemed to be appointed under section 205 of the Industrial Code, 1967, as amended, and in office.

I never can work out why it is necessary, when a Bill is introduced containing an interpretation clause, to refer to another Act in that clause. The new Act should be able to stand on its own feet. Even if the interpretation of a word is the same as in the Industrial Code, it should be included in the new legislation so that, when a person comes to study the new Act, he does not have to get a copy of the Industrial Code (as he will have to in this case) to understand fully the meaning of "inspector". It should be easy for the Government at this stage to insert the complete definition in clause 4 without having to refer to another Act.

Clause 5, which deals with the marking of footwear, is the main clause. It provides that shoes shall be marked either "all leather sole" or "non-leather sole", according to the material used in the sole. This does not give very much protection to the buyer, because there are various qualities of material used in the making of soles. In 1920, when this legislation was first introduced, practically every shoe had a leather sole, but now there

are many variations in the quality of leather and in the types of material used, and more often than not a good pair of shoes would be stamped "butt leather", which would indicate that a certain quality of leather was used in the sole.

Today, because of the various grades of leather used, although the manufacturer would be in order and within the law in stamping the sole of a shoe "all leather sole", we could find that the leather sole could have been cut from a stiff belly leather or even from a lining leather, as distinct from butt leather. So a person buying a pair of shoes marked "all leather sole" would not receive the protection he believed he was entitled to, because such a marking would imply that it was a good quality leather; but that would not necessarily be the case.

Clause 6 is the penalty clause. It is significant that, as a result of the actions of the Commonwealth Liberal Government and the South Australian Liberal Government, it is now found necessary to increase the fine from a maximum of \$40 to a maximum of \$500. This is possibly in line with the inflationary trend that has taken place as a result of the present Government's being in power. Although I understood that this was to be uniform legislation, I point out that it is not comparable with the Victorian Act because the penalty imposed under that Act is a fine of not less than \$4 and not more than \$100. Therefore, it is obvious that the inflationary trend has not extended quite so much to the Eastern States as it has to this State.

Clause 7 relates to weighting substances in soles. It is true that all leather has to contain a weighting substance. I presume that this will be controlled in regulations. In the manufacture of leather it is necessary to include weighting substances such as fixation salt to prevent the tannin between the fibres being washed out. Nevertheless, it is a weighting substance. It is also true that some manufacturers of leather, in an attempt to get around the regulation, would probably add an extra amount of fixation salt because leather is sold by the weight and no doubt the fixation salt is cheaper than the leather itself. Therefore, it is necessary for this clause to be included. It is necessary also to use glucose in the manufacture of leather to assist in preventing sole leather from cracking in the hot weather. The problem will no doubt be overcome by specifying in the regulations the maximum amount of any weighting substance that can be used.

The Bill is in a different form from that in which it was originally introduced in another place. I am pleased to see that a new clause that has been inserted stipulates that an inspector has to show some proof of identity before exercising his power. Although the Bill gives a limited amount of protection to the purchaser regarding what the sole is made of, it gives no indication of what the upper is made of and this is an omission which should be looked at, because it is comparatively easy for a sole to be repaired or another sole put on provided the material in the upper is of a good enough substance to enable the shoe to be repaired. However, with some of the rubbish (I say that deliberately) that is being used in the manufacture of uppers today, the uppers perish long before the soles are worn out. I know that the Government has had representations made to it by the tanners' association to make it compulsory to indicate also what the upper is made of. The manufacturers, for some reason or another, have put up excuses that this is impracticable.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Some shoes don't have very much upper at all.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: No. The fact remains that people should at least know the type of material they are purchasing. The manufacturers claim that because so many different types of material are used they would be unable to mark the footwear accordingly. This, of course, is not true, for all these obstacles can be overcome. The manufacturer knows what he is going to include in the manufacture of a shoe, and it would be quite easy for him to place a printed sticker on the shoe indicating not only what the sole consists of but also the material that is used in the manufacture of the upper. Obviously, up to now the manufacturers have carried far more weight with the Government than have the tanners, but I know that the tanners are hoping that eventually, in the interests of the public, they will also get the same protection as do the manufacturers.

We have heard this afternoon about the many Bills that are to be introduced. It seems that the Government has now decided to come in with a mad rush, and possibly this has happened in regard to this Bill because I find that in clause 8 (d) reference is made to the fact that an inspector "may seize and detain any of the shoes or other articles referred to in this subsection which he was reasonable cause to believe, etc." I suggest that the

word should be "has" and not "was", and I point out that it will be necessary to make that amendment in Committee.

I was under the impression that in the uniform legislation that was to be passed any footwear taken by an inspector had to be paid for. However, I understand that in our legislation an inspector is to have the right to seize shoes without paying for them. This is not in accordance with the position in Victoria where I understand that the shoes must be paid for. If an inspector seizes a shoe from a retailer, I fail to see why the retailer should be held liable and why he should have to stand the loss involved, because it should be the manufacturer or the wholesaler who stands the loss. I consider that it would be the wholesaler's job to see that shoes were marked, and I have some sympathy with a retailer who has to stand the loss of any shoes that may be seized by the inspector.

However, I consider that the Bill has enough in it to commend itself. It does not have enough in it to make it completely satisfactory to the public. However, because it goes some of the way (and many measures introduced by this Government only go part of the way towards doing much good), and because we have to accept half a loaf instead of a full loaf, I support the Bill.

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

LAND VALUERS LICENSING BILL

Adjourned debated on second reading.

(Continued from October 15. Page 2188.)

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): The purpose of the Bill is to bring about a system of licensing of land valuers in South Australia. In his second reading explanation the Minister said:

Several cases have arisen in which the incompetence or dishonesty of persons holding themselves out as land valuers has been very detrimental to the interests of the public.

In the interests of the public and of the occupation or profession concerned, it is necessary very often to have a form of licensing that will look after the interests both of the profession concerned (in this case land valuers) and of the public. The Bill is a step in the right direction and will serve a useful purpose in bringing about more general satisfaction in relation to land valuations throughout the State.

I am informed that the Bill has been reasonably and sensibly drafted. I have discussed it with people I know, and I cannot take exception to anything contained therein. Without any further ado, I merely say that I support its second reading.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.42 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, October 22, at 2.15 p.m.