

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 27, 1971

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

QUESTIONS

DAYLIGHT SAVING

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to addressing a question to the Chief Secretary as the Leader of the Government in this Chamber.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: My question refers to daylight saving as it was announced to be introduced later this year in this State, and also to the possibility of South Australia's adopting Eastern Standard Time at a later date. No-one amongst primary producers likes the idea of daylight saving and many of my constituents are perturbed at the possible (or now the probable) introduction of daylight saving in South Australia, and also more perturbed, if that is possible, by the suggestion that, at the end of the daylight saving trial period, we may retard our clocks by only half an hour, thus putting South Australia on Eastern Standard Time. As I understand it, the correct alignment for our present Central Standard Time is somewhere about the town of Portland in western Victoria. As we are thus already ahead of time, so to speak, will the Chief Secretary give an assurance that, before any further moves are made, and certainly before any permanence is given to the present trial period, the Government will give full and due consideration to the predicament of the primary producers in these circumstances?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I assure the honourable member that full consideration will be given to all that he has said about various suggestions made, prior to the Government's decision to adopt daylight saving as now proposed (that is, that we advance our clocks an hour and still remain half an hour behind the time prevailing in the Eastern States). Also, I assure the honourable member that no decision has been reached about any finality or otherwise on South Australia's adopting Eastern Standard Time. The Government took the view that the most we could advance our State time at present was one hour, in line with what the Eastern States were doing; and that was the only question that Cabinet considered. I give an assurance that, before

daylight saving can be adopted in this State, we shall need an Act of Parliament to give effect to it, in which case all honourable members will have an opportunity in debate to put their points of view and, if they do not like the Bill, they can throw it out.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I support what the Hon. Mr. Dawkins has said, as considerable discontent has been expressed to me by the people in Southern District regarding the adoption of daylight saving in South Australia. Bearing in mind that the Government sought a referendum on the shopping hours question before closing shops early in certain fringe areas, will the Chief Secretary take up with Cabinet the question of referring the matter of daylight saving to a referendum before introducing legislation thereon?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I will certainly refer this matter to my colleagues in Cabinet and will leave it to their judgment.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Education.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Organizations in the community amongst those most disturbed by the proposed introduction of daylight saving are the schools to which pupils have to travel on long bus routes. Will the Minister ascertain from his colleague whether school times will be adjusted to suit individual schools or whether any adjustment made will apply throughout the whole school system?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I think a similar question was asked of my colleague in the other House recently, and I understand that he informed the member asking that question that it was the responsibility of the headmasters to determine the school times in each individual school. I point out, for the information of the Leader, that some headmasters already vary school times. I know from my own experience that this applies in the summer months, particularly in the Far North.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: Several country members having asked questions on this matter from the country's point of view,

I, too, will enter into the matter. I explain my question by saying that much emotion exists on this topic, especially in the country. It seems that young children will be the most affected of all, there being more of them in the town than there are in the country. Business men are also affected. I should like to refer to a few figures I have worked out regarding airline schedules. For instance, the present evening flight from Adelaide to Sydney leaves here at 6.25 p.m. and arrives in Sydney at 8.25 p.m. Sydney time. If South Australia did not go on to daylight saving time, that flight would arrive in Sydney at 9.25 p.m. instead of 8.25 p.m., and one would probably get into the city of Sydney by about 10.15 or 10.30 p.m. instead of 9.15 or 9.30 p.m. The same applies to the morning flight, which at present leaves at 7 a.m. and arrives in Sydney at 9 a.m. If this State does not adopt daylight saving, it will arrive in Sydney at 10 a.m., and one will not be able to get into the city until about 10.45 a.m., which is a big slice out of the business day. I have also worked out some figures regarding telephones, an aspect which is probably even more important. If South Australia does not go on to daylight saving, the present six hours' overlap between Adelaide's time and that of the Eastern States will be reduced to 4½ hours out of the 8-hour working day. Although I am not allowed to state an opinion, if I do so quickly I might get away with it before you, Sir, stop me. On my calculations, the Government has made the only sensible decision it could in this matter. Will the Chief Secretary therefore justify my statement and say whether the Government took into account the figures regarding aeroplane flights and telephones to which I have referred?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I assure the honourable member that everything he said was considered by Cabinet in its deliberations. I should add that another section of the community is affected besides children: the aged.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill: And there are others.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes. Cabinet considered that, from a community point of view, the two sections most affected were young children and the aged. The Railways Department said that unless the State adopted at least daylight saving the system of time tables and train connections and everything else would be practically unworkable. All these things were considered. I know that there is much emotion in this question, as I have been

through it all before. Personally, I like daylight saving. I repeat that, before daylight saving can be introduced, each member will have the right to express his opinion and to vote for or against its introduction. The way he votes will be the individual member's responsibility.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: It was announced during the last weekend that there had been a considerable lowering of the death rate from road accidents in the first part of this year, which is very pleasing news. However, many accidents, although not causing death, cause maiming in various degrees. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain from his colleague what are the comparative total accident figures this year compared with last year, especially in relation to those involving persons who became quadraplegics or paraplegics?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will convey the honourable member's question to my colleague and obtain a reply as soon as possible.

COCKATOOS

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Has the Minister of Agriculture received from the Minister for Conservation a reply to the question I asked on July 21 regarding the number of permits that had been issued for the export of the Major Mitchell cockatoo?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation reports that during the last two years five permits have been issued by the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department to facilitate the export overseas of nine Major Mitchell cockatoos, eight of these being on a zoo-to-zoo basis and one as the family pet of a migrant returning to Europe. As the honourable member is aware, the approval of the Customs Department is also necessary before native fauna can leave Australia, but the usual prerequisite to this final authority is an indication that the State fauna authority has no objection to the proposed export.

OAT BOARD

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: There were two headlines in the rural press last week regarding the suggestion made in His Excellency's Opening Speech of the introduction of legislation to set up an oat marketing board. One article stated that a deputation from the corn trade section of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce requested a poll to be taken of all oat growers and that, if 60 per cent of the growers agreed to the poll, it would be wise to introduce the legislation. The other article stated that the growers were "to vote at a poll for an oat board". Will the Minister of Agriculture therefore say whether oat growers are to get the opportunity to vote at a poll on whether an oat board should be set up?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Some months ago I was approached by the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated to introduce legislation for the formation of an oat board to facilitate the orderly marketing of oats. I pointed out to the members of that organization that to the best of my knowledge the marketing overseas of 60 per cent of the marketable oats was being transacted by a Victorian firm, and that before such a scheme as this was even contemplated they would have to assure themselves that this marketing organization in Victoria was quite happy with the arrangements. I also pointed out to them that the growers in South Australia had to indicate exactly how they felt about the formation of an oat board.

The U.F. and G. informed me by letter that all but two of its branches in South Australia had unanimously passed a resolution in favour of an oat board, and it was on this understanding that I told them that there was sufficient time to introduce legislation to enable such a board to operate for this season. At a recent meeting with the oat merchants in South Australia I said that before any legislation was introduced I would allow them to peruse the draft legislation to see whether or not they agreed with it. I told them that if they did not agree with it I would inform the U. F. and G. authority accordingly and that perhaps then we would take the necessary steps to ensure a poll of growers. I believe that in all these cases a poll is perhaps the best thing. However, in view of the lateness of the season and the fact that it would be necessary for legislation to be passed for any board to be operating in this new harvest, I said I was prepared to accept the recommendation put to me by the U.F. and G. following

the practically unanimous decision of its branches in favour of an oat board. That is the picture as it was put to me and that was my proposal to the people who came before me.

FLAMMABLE CLOTHING

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my question of July 21 about the use of flammable materials in the manufacture of children's garments?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: My colleague reports:

Ministers of Labour and Industry throughout Australia regret the delay in introducing legislation in respect to children's flammable nightwear but have accepted the fact that, until a reliable standard test procedure for determining textile flammability can be evolved, it is not practicable to introduce such legislation. It would be pointless to have a law that was unenforceable in the absence of any reliable and acceptable method of determining whether children's nightwear was or was not within the safe limits of flammability. At the conference last week the State Ministers of Labour and Industry therefore welcomed the advice they received that the Standards Association of Australia expected to finalize before the end of this year test methods regarding the flammability of clothing that would allow the setting of safe limits of flammability. Suitable uniform legislation will be introduced in all States as soon as this reliable standard for testing textile flammability is available.

I recall that when I was Minister of Labour and Industry the test of flammability that was accepted in another country was not acceptable here, because of climatic conditions and so forth. Consequently, there had to be a test of flammability that would apply generally in Australia.

CALF FOOD

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: My question relates to the milk powder that is used for rearing calves in dairying and other areas of the State. In many cases this powder is either in short supply or unobtainable. Has the Minister's attention been drawn to this problem and is there any action that he can take to ensure that an adequate supply of the powder is available, because its short supply is already affecting the prices obtained for surplus calves from dairy farms?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Because I recently sent a reply on this matter to another place, I can say that the milk powder in

question is Denkavit, which is manufactured in Victoria. There has been a rush on supplies of Denkavit because of a diversification from other spheres of agriculture to raising calves. Of course, such diversification is only natural. As a result, the supplies of that product have become somewhat depleted during these colder months. Also, more milk has been channelled into the cream factories during the past four or five months; that has aggravated the problem, too. My department has informed me that, when the warmer weather comes, we will have more milk and, therefore, it will be possible to produce more Denkavit. I hope the problem will be straightened out very soon.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I am sure that I have seen Denkavit packages being filled at Mount Compass. I seek leave to make a short statement in explanation of the reply of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: The second problem that the Minister's reply raises is the question of diversification to cream factories.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: I think I said "cheese factories".

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: The Minister's interjection clears up the point of uncertainty, which seems to betray a great divergence from the factual position. We have in South Australia the very happy position that it is becoming difficult to find sufficient milk to supply the cheese orders which are available, thanks to the extremely high standard of manufacture which has evolved in the past three years as a result of the excellent work of officers of the dairying section of the Agriculture Department. Nothing but the highest praise should be given these men. When we have Denkavit put forward as an interstate product, I feel there is a grave risk of injustice to a group of men who have organized the industry so that any surplus is diverted to this valuable product.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I apologize if I said "cream" in my answer; I meant cheese. It is true that Denkavit is being produced or bagged at Mount Compass. Last year I contacted the manager of the firm producing Denkavit in Melbourne, and he agreed to show me over his calf-raising facilities located outside Melbourne.

STURT HIGHWAY

The Hon. L. R. HART: Has the Minister of Lands received from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning the by-pass road on the Sturt Highway at Greenock?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: My colleague the Minister of Roads and Transport has informed me that the matter of a road to by-pass Greenock and Nuriootpa has been under investigation since as far back as 1967. Considerable difficulties have been experienced and many objections raised. Several public and local government meetings have been held in the areas concerned. The Highways Department has gone to unusual lengths to try to meet the desires of all concerned, but regrettably the problem has not yet been resolved. It will be seen, therefore, that there are no present plans available to lay on the table of this Council.

DRIVERS LICENCES

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Has the Minister of Lands an answer to the question I directed last week to the Minister of Roads and Transport concerning the possible introduction of special drivers licences in the interests of road safety for drivers of heavy commercial vehicles?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The Government is considering the introduction of special classes of drivers licences in South Australia for those persons who drive heavy commercial vehicles, as well as other types of vehicles. An appropriate announcement will be made when the matter has been resolved.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question in which I put forward the view that the efficiency of South Australian drivers was being unfairly reflected on?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: A short time ago I replied to a question on the subject of truck drivers licences asked by the Hon. Mr. Hill. In his earlier question, the Hon. Mr. Kemp said:

In respect of the accident reports on heavy vehicles recently given, most drivers concerned have come from other States. I believe that our own drivers in this State are remarkably free from accident records.

He then asked:

Before the Minister considers imposing further restrictions on drivers licences in this State, will he analyse the origin of these accidents?

My colleague has informed me that the matter raised by the honourable member will be taken into account in the total consideration of the matters raised.

YORKETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Education in this Chamber, a reply to my question of July 15 regarding the

replacement of the Yorketown Area School by a high school?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The design problems that arose in relation to the Yorketown High School project were similar to those experienced with the replacement project for Gladstone, namely, the problem of providing the necessary specialist facilities in a small high school without incurring an excessive capital cost per student. Revised sketch plans have been drawn based upon a basic design that has been agreed on now for small country high schools. The basic design provides essential education requirements and at the same time ensures a more economical use of teaching space. The Yorketown plans are now being examined by Education Department officers, and will shortly be returned to the architects for preparation of final sketch plans incorporating some modifications. At this stage, it appears that the projected date for calling tenders of August, 1972, can be adhered to, unless difficulty is experienced in allocating funds for the project. If tenders are called in August, 1972, the new school buildings will be ready for occupation at the end of 1973.

SOUTH-EAST WATER SUPPLIES

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister of Mines and I seek permission to make a statement before asking it.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: A statement has been made recently that the hydrologist allotted to the study of water supplies in the South-East has been withdrawn. Also, it has recently been necessary to lower considerably (by some 20ft. or more) the intake of the pumping scheme in the Blue Lake. This represents a tremendous reduction in the large reserves of water that the Blue Lake presents, but much more seriously it represents also a fall in the water table of the whole area, which has a tremendous volume of water, we believe, although we cannot actually assess it. The great development projected for the South-East rests on these water reserves, which have been estimated as almost inexhaustible, but this retreat of the water table indicates that we are already overdrawing.

This is an important matter for the State because, if there is any failure in the water supplies in the South-East, the great industries being built there will fail. We know that in the Millicent area the water is now pumped down to below 200ft. where previously it was running at the surface. This in itself is serious enough. It is vitally important that the hydro-

logical studies of this area not be carried on as routine but be made an important matter. In the last few days, we have seen from the press that a large area of new planting to vine is projected. This is in a very much more precarious area than the Lower South-East and the Mount Gambier area. Is it a fact that this hydrologist has been withdrawn and, if so, will the Government urgently consider the long-term interests of the State, making sure that the water position in that area is closely examined?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am unable to answer the honourable member's question but shall be pleased to refer it to my colleague, the Minister of Mines, and bring back a report.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I seek leave to make a short explanation before directing a question to the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: It was drawn to my attention that the Minister of Works, the member for Millicent, had made a press statement in which he indicated that water flowing from the drains in that area had a very high salt content—in fact, up to 1,000 grains. Frankly, I do not believe that figure. I am not saying that the Minister has not given true information, but were the tests to establish this salt content taken over a full year period or were they taken in the dry summer period when evaporation naturally causes a rise in the salt content of the water in those drains?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague in another place and, when he sends back a report, I will let the honourable member have it.

RED SCALE

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to a question I asked last week about the sale of citrus fruits in other States?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I took up with the Director of Agriculture the alleged sale in Western Australia of Western Australian oranges heavily infested with red scale. He informed me that in March, 1968, Western Australia gazetted grading regulations for citrus which specified that citrus fruit marketed in Western Australia must be free from any insect, which included red scale. This is in line with grading regulations for citrus gazetted in other states, including South Australia, and applies to fruit from anywhere. The Director has been advised by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture that there is no discrimination between local citrus and citrus from other States.

FRUIT EXPORTS

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Has the Minister of Agriculture an answer to a question I asked on July 20 about the 25 per cent increase in freight rates to Britain?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: As promised, I took up with the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry the question of increased freight rates on refrigerated fruit exported to Europe. I have received the following reply from the Commonwealth Minister:

Recognize serious impact these freight increases will have on all Australian reefer cargoes and in your State on the citrus, apple and pear exports to which you refer. I have forwarded your telegram on to Mr. W. H. Wilcock, Chairman of the Australian Apple and Pear Board, and to Mr. R. A. Lloyd, Chairman of the Overseas Shipowners Representatives Association, and asked that they consider your request.

PENSIONERS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: In the "Letters to the Editor" column in this morning's *Advertiser* there was one letter headed "Pensioners hit in transfer of patients to nursing homes". It states:

I draw attention to a non-publicized aspect of our State Government's cruel financial policy. Inmates of Glenside Hospital, until recently, have been maintained at State Government expense. These people are now being transferred to small private nursing homes, put on a Commonwealth social service pension, claiming Commonwealth intensive nursing care benefits, so forcing the Federal Government to meet the State Government's financial responsibility. There is one serious flaw in that these payments do not fully cover the nursing home fee. Medical benefits funds are not applicable. There are now many cases of pensioners having to meet the additional cost out of their own pensions, of up to \$9.25 a week, to support an unfortunate relative.

The letter concludes:

Does the State Government's penny-pinching have to penalize the poor old pensioner again? Is it a fact that some pensioners are being involved in increased financial liabilities by the transfer of patients from the Glenside Hospital to nursing homes?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: This is a very sad story. I have not read the letter referred to but I know the circumstances of the case. I should like to take time to give a considered opinion on this, for I truthfully have not read this letter. There is an emotional side to this matter, and I do not want to say very much now off the cuff, but over the years many

patients at the Glenside Hospital have recovered to such an extent that they no longer need to remain there. I should imagine that any family would love to see a relative come out of Glenside, if possible. It is true that the Commonwealth daily payment does not compensate the nursing home to which the patient goes. I do not want continually to kick the Commonwealth. However, I believe that when the Commonwealth Government takes over the keeping of pensioners by granting pensions, and so on, it is its responsibility to maintain them. I think, too, that pensioners should be willing to pay something from their pension towards their keep in a hostel, and I hope that the Commonwealth Government's contribution to this type of patient will soon be increased. This, together with any assistance received from the pensioner himself, will help make up the total amount involved in keeping a pensioner in a hostel. I do not know whether that reply satisfies the honourable member. If it does not, I am willing to examine the matter again and to let him have a considered reply.

ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on July 22 about whether the additional appointments of lecturers at Roseworthy Agricultural College are replacement positions or new positions brought about by the extensions to the college?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The Chairman of the Public Service Board has informed me that, arising out of recommendations contained in the Sweeney report on salaries for academic staff of colleges of advanced education, academic staff in the major agricultural colleges in other States have been granted C.A.E. salaries where engaged in teaching tertiary level courses. Staff must meet appropriate criteria to qualify for the new level of salaries (which for lecturer and senior lecturer equate university salaries). The Public Service Board, after investigation, acceded to proposals that this salary level was justified for lecturers and senior lecturers at the Roseworthy Agricultural College, and it has established a new academic staff structure based on the Sweeney criteria. All appointments in the new structure are to be made following the calling of applications. Existing staff may, of course, apply for appointment. It is not expected that the number of appointments in the new structure will exceed the present established positions.

ABATTOIRS

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on July 21 regarding the indebtedness of, and the total of loans made to, the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The total indebtedness of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board as at July 27, 1971, is \$1,594,608.43. This includes the amount of \$150,000 advanced on July 9, 1971. The total of loans made available to the board by other lending institutions, exclusive of normal overdraft arrangements, is \$400,000, of which \$327,544.67 is still outstanding.

HIGHWAYS REPORTS

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In July, 1968, and in July, 1969, all members of Parliament were given a copy of the Highways and Local Government Department's schedule of proposed works for the years 1968-69 and 1969-70 respectively, the release of which was a change in policy from previous practice, as prior to 1968-69 very little budgetary information about the Highways Fund was made public. Members of local councils, in consultation with their local member of Parliament, found the schedules most informative, as their own allocations and proposed grants to neighbouring councils and alternative Highways Department district allocations throughout the State were available for perusal if contact was made with one's local member of Parliament.

On August 12, 1970, I asked in Parliament whether the new Government intended to continue releasing these annual documents to members, and I was told that it did not intend to continue the practice commenced by the previous Government. During 1970-71, when several members of councils contacted me for information on council grants and proposed allocations, the only information I could give was that the total annual allocation to all district councils throughout the State was \$10,104,000, which compared with the 1969-70 expenditure of \$10,841,777. Those sums were given to me in reply to the question I asked on November 11, 1970.

During the last weekend a councillor from a district council told me that his council had been informed of its allocation, and he

wondered what annual fluctuations had occurred in other council areas. So that members of Parliament and all concerned in local government throughout the State can be better informed on this matter, will the Government reconsider the decision it made last year and provide members with the Highways Department's annual works programme schedules for 1971-72?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will refer the honourable member's request to my colleague for consideration and bring back a reply as soon as it is available.

FLASHING LIGHTS

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Roads and Transport what, in regard to the South Australian Railways Department's programme for the installation of flashing lights at road-rail level crossings, was the actual expenditure on such railway crossing protection in the year 1970-71, and how many crossings were involved in such expenditure?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I shall refer the questions to my colleague and obtain a reply as soon as possible.

FRUIT MARKETING

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: In the regulations under the Fruit and Vegetables (Grading) Act which have been tabled in this Council, passing reference is made to the repeal of the open package grade which has been a feature of fruit and vegetable marketing in this State for many years. This open package grade allowed for the ready sale to the general public at the cheapest possible rate in periods of over-supply. The repeal of this open package grade is apparently not a very important thing, but actually it will force on to the formal presentation of fruit for marketing just about the same standards as are demanded when the fruit is prepared for export overseas. This is a very heavy cost indeed. With apples and pears, with which I am most familiar, the minimum charge that has to be put is \$1.25. I think in the case of citrus fruit, which has to be carried from the river, the charge is considerably higher than that. This will be an on-cost for every piece of fruit sold during the harvest period at a time of ready supply, when food materials should be passing at the cheapest possible rate. This

is a very grave thing. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether these matters were considered before the Government made this move? It will certainly greatly increase the cost of foodstuffs to the householder.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I will closely examine the honourable member's explanation and bring back a considered reply.

SEAT BELTS

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether the Road Safety Council and the Road Traffic Board have adopted policies regarding the compulsory wearing of seat belts in passenger cars and, if they have, what those policies are?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I shall convey the question to my colleague and bring back a reply as soon as possible.

SOUTH-EASTERN HIGHWAY

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Has the Minister of Lands received from his colleague a reply to my recent question concerning the Callington Hill section of the South-Eastern Highway?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: My colleague states that the construction of a climbing lane on Callington Hill on the South-Eastern Main Road No. 1 presents problems because of the geological conditions at the location and the necessity for work to be planned so that it can be carried out without undue disruption to traffic movements. Fairly extensive investigations are necessary before designs can be completed and work commenced. At this stage, investigations are actively proceeding and it is expected that construction work will commence towards the end of this calendar year. Because of the confined working conditions, the period involved in construction is likely to be about six months.

HOSPITAL SUBSIDIES

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Has the Chief Secretary a further reply to a question I asked recently in relation to subsidized hospitals and community hospitals and to a Commonwealth subsidy for the erection of geriatric wards attached thereto?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The previous Government decided in April, 1970, that where a combined hospital and nursing home complex was being developed, with the nursing home section being eligible for a capital subsidy from the Commonwealth, the State Government

would meet the total cost of approved additional service facilities connected with the nursing home section. The present Government will continue this policy.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Extensions to Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science Laboratories at Mount Gambier Hospital,
Road Safety Instruction Centre, Marion.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 22. Page 278.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I affirm my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the way he presented the Opening Speech to Parliament. I express gratification at His Excellency's recovery to good health. I am sure that every honourable member is pleased that His Excellency is now much improved, and I trust that he will be with us for a considerable time to come as Her Majesty's representative. In common with other honourable members I extend my condolences to the relatives of those members who passed away during the last 12 months.

It was not my privilege to know well the Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore and Mr. John Cowan. I had met both of those gentlemen and I had had discussions with them in this place, but they had left the Parliament as active members about 12 years ago—before I became a member. However, I appreciate what they did. The contribution of Sir Collier Cudmore in particular was notable in connection with the work of this Council, which functioned as an independent House and a House of Review during the long period for which he was the Leader of his majority group in this place. The late Hon. Colin Rowe, who passed away almost 12 months ago, was known to me very well and served this Parliament with distinction for many years. As honourable members have previously indicated, we all regret his untimely passing and we appreciate the very valuable work he did for South Australia.

Mr. Sam Lawn, who was affectionately known to honourable members as "Sammy", was an identity in this place for 20 years. Of course, he was on the opposite side of the political fence from me, but I clearly remember the first time I came to know Mr. Lawn fairly well. It was at the time of the by-election at which the Hon. Mr. DeGaris was elected. The Hon. Mr. Gilfillan and I went to Mount Gambier in the train. Mr. Gilfillan was sharing a compartment with a gentleman who was about 100 years old, and I was sharing a compartment with Mr. Lawn. The upshot was that Mr. Lawn, Mr. Gilfillan and I shared a seat in the carriage for a considerable time. I think that Mr. Lawn found that Mr. Gilfillan and I were not half as bad as he thought we were.

As a result of that first contact, I developed a friendship with Mr. Lawn over the years. From time to time I violently disagreed with him on political matters but I, in common with other honourable members, sincerely regret his passing. I extend my condolences to the relatives of the deceased gentlemen I have mentioned, all of whom made a contribution to the life of the South Australian Parliament. I also extend my appreciation and very best wishes to the Hon. Sir Norman Jude, who was a member of this Parliament for 26 years. He was Minister of Roads from 1953 to 1965—almost 12 years. It was during his period of office as Minister that our programme for constructing main roads was revolutionized. Honourable members will recall the condition of main roads in South Australia in the early 1950's; I can clearly remember the condition of the Duke's Highway.

Many of our main roads in those days consisted of a single seal over a very inadequate base. When we had one or two wet seasons in the early 1950's, some of those roads broke up very badly. Following that period and during Sir Norman Jude's period as Minister, road construction was revolutionized. I believe that now we may have gone to the other extreme, because we now put down a very adequate base when a road is constructed. Honourable members who travel in other States know that in some States the bitumen roads are much narrower than our roads are and they have a poorer base.

Some States have many more miles of sealed roads but they certainly do not have roads that are constructed better than our roads. This improvement in the standard of construction of our roads occurred during Sir Norman

Jude's period as Minister. I extend my appreciation to him and I am sure that every honourable member wishes Sir Norman and Lady Jude a very happy and long retirement. I would not wish to overlook the fact that, as a result of Sir Norman's resignation and the untimely death of Mr. Lawn, we have two new members—one in each House. I join with my colleagues in extending a cordial welcome to both of those gentlemen. Paragraph 5 of His Excellency's Speech states:

The Government is actively pursuing its policy to promote development of industry within the State.

I commend the Government for that policy but I should like to know what it is willing to do about industrial unrest and about keeping existing industries here. It is a sorry state of affairs when we see a certain amount of industrial unrest and the tendency for some industries to move out of the State. In some cases only a portion of an industry may move out of the State. Other firms are considering making a similar move. This is a very disturbing situation.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: It is applicable not only to South Australia: it is happening in Victoria, too.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: That could be correct. They have got to move somewhere. This is a disturbing situation and we must pay attention to keeping the industries that we now have. If we can get new industries in South Australia while holding the industries that we now have, that is well and good; but what is the use of promoting new industries if we cannot keep ones that are already here and if we cannot create stable industrial relationships? I do not wish to be unfair. The Government has problems, and any Government from time to time will have problems of this sort, but we must strive to keep a stable industrial situation to save our industries and to keep down our cost structure so that we can continue to be successful as an industrial as well as a primary-producing State as we have been over the past two decades.

In the latter part of paragraph 5 His Excellency made this comment:

My Ministers recognize the importance of the tourist industry to South Australia.

I appreciate that successive Governments are (and I believe to an increasing degree) realizing the importance to South Australia of tourism. I am very glad that, according to the Speech, this Government realizes just how important it is. As a member for the

Midland District I direct the attention of the Government to two of South Australia's best tourist areas, the Barossa Valley and Yorke Peninsula. I am sure the Minister has been there and he will know their tourist potential. The Barossa Valley has been developed to some considerable degree, but there is still room for further improvement. Yorke Peninsula also has been developed, but there is even more room for further development of tourist potential in that part of South Australia, which will eventually become, without doubt, a very important earner for the Government of this State.

I have noticed what I regard as an unfortunate trend, and there is the possibility that any Government may be tempted to indulge in this. I refer to the recent announcement that there is to be a new Government Tourist Bureau building—as if this were a new achievement, something that was just going to happen which had not been thought of previously. The announcement of the construction of a new Government Tourist Bureau building was made by the then Minister of Tourism, the Hon. David Brookman, in 1969. At that time my colleague the then Minister of Agriculture was a little envious that tourism was to get a new building (and I do not blame him because I think agriculture is even more important than tourism) before the Department of Agriculture secured its building. I suggest the Government should stay with the fact, which is that this new building was announced by the then Minister of Tourism during the term of office of the previous Government.

I notice, too, that the Government is to call tenders for the erection of a new Government Printing Office at Netley. I know that you, Sir, had a considerable interest in the replacement of the present building, which is inadequate, unsuitable, and not even safe under present conditions for use as a printing office. I am pleased to know that the new building is at last to go ahead. Whether Netley is the best place for it can be argued, but that is the chosen place and there may be some advantage to be gained from close proximity to another large printing office. The facility is much needed, and the space occupied by the existing building will be needed shortly. It is a good thing to see these plans coming to fruition.

I note the comments in paragraph 8 of His Excellency's Speech regarding minerals, petroleum and natural gas sales. This is a good thing. If the truth were known, prob-

ably the previous Government and the one before that could claim some credit, but there is no need to make it a matter of politics by saying it was done by this Government or that. It is another instance of the advancement of South Australia.

I refer also to paragraph 9, the rail agreement. I am sorry it has taken such a long time to reach an agreement, as it has been a completely vital matter for Adelaide to be connected to the standard gauge, and also for the fast growing industrial city of Whyalla to be connected to it. It is gratifying (whether we believe in the final details as they have been worked out or whether we think some other amendment of the scheme would have been more desirable) to know that agreement has been reached on the standardization of the rail system so that Adelaide will be connected by standard gauge to Perth and Sydney.

In paragraph 11 His Excellency says:

It is planned to introduce legislation later in this session to provide for the Weights and Measures Branch of the Department of Lands to assume responsibility for the administration for the whole of the Weights and Measures Act.

I view this announcement with mixed feelings. It may or may not be a good thing in the long run, but it is one more function being taken away from local government. I am and always have been a great believer in local government and I have my doubts about the necessity for this step. I believe it is not a good thing, generally speaking, to take away local government powers and centralize them. Much lip service over many years has been given to decentralization, probably on all sides, but in centralizing power we also tend to centralize many other things and I believe the weakening of country centres and the building up of cities could create a greater imbalance than exists at the present time.

I refer also to paragraph 13 of the Speech, in which there is mention of the Industrial Code. I want to comment about my friend the Hon. Mr. Banfield. I am sorry to have to bring his name forward, because I know he has been dying to interject for some time.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: The champion of democracy!

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I will take up the Minister of Agriculture on this. The Hon. Mr. Banfield said:

I am not personally against any legislation that would make unionism compulsory. I know this goes further than our policy goes, but I cannot see what is wrong with compulsory unionism.

If that is the champion of democracy, then I have never heard of one; that is the champion of regimentation and force. The Hon. Mr. Banfield is a member of the Australian Labor Party and always has been. I give him credit for that; I like a man to stick to what he starts with. However, I draw his attention to article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states:

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No-one may be compelled to belong to an association.

To the best of my knowledge, the Australian Labor Party professes to support that entirely, but I cannot see how the Hon. Mr. Banfield supports his Party if, on the one hand, he says he is in favour of compulsory unionism and, on the other hand, his Party says that no-one may be compelled to belong to an association. I say that with regret, because I have known Mr. Banfield now for six or seven years; we have got on extremely well, except in this Chamber from time to time, so I am a little disappointed that he apparently believes in regimentation and in people being compelled to join a union.

Only yesterday, I came down in the train from Gawler and sat alongside a man I had never seen before; I do not suppose I shall ever see him again. He indicated to me that he came from Renmark and for some time had been up north working with his brother-in-law as a labourer. He said, "Do you work in town?" I replied, "For some of the time, but I also work elsewhere." He hadn't a clue who I was. He had been a labourer all his life but had not taken out a union ticket, and he did not intend to take one out; and he would not have a bar of compulsory unionism. I say to the Hon. Mr. Banfield and his Party that there are people who are labourers and proud to be labourers (there is nothing wrong with being a labourer) who will not have a bar of the sort of thing suggested by the honourable member.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Don't they accept their annual leave, sick pay and holiday pay?

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Yes, but this man does not believe in being forced.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: He does not believe in paying for it.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: He does not believe in being forced to pay money to the A.L.P. I have heard people say that they do not mind belonging to a union provided they

do not have to pay a considerable amount of money to the A.L.P.

I turn now to paragraph 15 of the Governor's Speech, which states:

The Government is conscious of the problems affecting the rural section of the community

and he continued for another three lines on that subject. On this occasion, as far as I can see, those three lines seem to be practically all there is in the Speech about primary producers. This reminds me of 1965, when the Walsh Labor Government came to power. On that occasion, it was criticized for having only five lines in the Governor's Speech about the plight of the primary producer. I am sorry that on this occasion it seems to have got down to three lines. I hope that, as the Labor Party stays in power for a little longer, it will learn to appreciate a little more the present difficulties of primary production and the value of the primary producer and what he does for this country because, if it does not, it will be sadly lacking in appreciation of the value of the primary-producing sector as well as the secondary sector in the economy of this great country of ours.

Paragraph 19 of the Speech refers to water supplies. I draw the Chief Secretary's attention to the fact that last year I dealt with the water situation at Virginia. After discussing the problem of Virginia and pointing out its excellence in every other regard as a vegetable-producing area and the terrific cost it would be to any Government to shift that industry and make it viable in another location, I said the following:

A detailed case for the use of reclaimed water has been placed before the Minister of Works by the Chairman of the Munno Para District Council (Mr. R. K. Baker). I am aware that some problems still have to be solved, but I do ask the Chief Secretary, representing the Government, to see that the Government seriously considers the matter.

The Chief Secretary made the following comment:

You can rest assured that the Government is giving every attention to the problem and is trying its best to seek a solution.

I replied:

I am pleased to hear that, because this matter is beyond the realm of Party politics. That was over a year ago and we are still in trouble in that area and we still have no solution. Only the other day the Minister of Agriculture told me that there were still to be some fairly protracted soil tests that would take some considerable time. In the meantime, the underground water basin is fast running out and the residents of that

area who are market gardeners will almost certainly have to take another severe cut in their supplies from underground water before they finally (as I hope they will) get some supply of reclaimed water to augment their underground supplies.

That is a very serious situation. As I have said, Virginia is a suitable area, from the point of view of climate and its proximity to the city, for the growing of vegetables. I had that assurance, I am sure, in good faith from the Chief Secretary over 12 months ago, because the speech I have just quoted from was made on July 23, 1970; it is now July 27, 1971, and unfortunately we do not seem to have got very much further. Time is fast running out.

I reiterate the urgency of this matter to make sure that there is a good supply of vegetables close to the city, which will keep down costs to the city dwellers, and so that the producers of these vegetables will know that they can continue to grow them without ruin staring them in the face. Earlier in my speech, I said something about my esteemed friend the late Hon. Colin Rowe. I want to refer to water supplies for South Australia from the point of view of not merely irrigation but also the welfare of the whole State. I want to quote some words used by the late Mr. Rowe, who also spoke in the debate on the Address in Reply on July 23, 1970. Amongst other things he said:

The situation at present is that the new Government is in on the promise and undertaking to the people that it will renegotiate the Chowilla agreement. I am waiting for this renegotiation to happen.

The Chief Secretary interjected:

You won't have to wait long.

As I have said earlier and as I have said to the Chief Secretary privately, I have a great affection for him. I disagree with him from time to time politically but I get on well with him otherwise, as I do with the Hon. Mr. Banfield. The Chief Secretary may not like me very much if I ask for his definition of "long". It is now one year and four days since he said "You won't have to wait long"; 12 months or 15 months ago, we had a dam in sight. All we had to get was one more vote for a dam that would supply us with 30 per cent more water than the other dam would. We knew perfectly well that we could not get Chowilla, at that stage at all events, unless we first took the Dartmouth dam. The situation now is that we do not have either dam. We are having a wet year, and no-one in Adelaide is worrying

very much about a dam, just as they did not worry about it last year. If our population increases considerably, the fact that we have no dam and, indeed, not even one in sight after 12 months, which, according to my honourable friend does not seem long, will be only too plainly evident to the people of South Australia.

We are waiting for the renegotiation, which my late honourable friend was not able to see, to occur. I remind the Chief Secretary that this is not just a matter of a backbencher having a shot at the Government, but is one that is of vital necessity to the people of this State. What happened was, of course, that the former member for Ridley in another place (Hon. T. C. Stott) moved that two dams be constructed, a motion which the Labor Party supported. That is why there was a change of Government. The fact that we have no dam will sooner or later come home in no uncertain manner to the people of South Australia, and not only this Government but also the Hon. Mr. Stott will be to blame for it. Before I refer to another aspect of His Excellency's Speech, I mention that I was pleased to note that there is some likelihood of extra water being provided to southern Yorke Peninsula, which so vitally needs further supplies.

I was pleased some time ago to attend with a deputation to the Minister of Works and to put to him the necessity for a duplicate main. We were told then that in the interim some increased use would probably be made of the relatively limited underground supplies in the southern Yorke Peninsula area. The need exists for extra water in this area, both in the southern part of the peninsula and, to some extent, in the more northern portion thereof, which has very little underground water. I am pleased that the Government is at least considering this matter, and I hope to see some positive action taken soon.

Paragraph 29 of His Excellency's Speech refers to amendments to the Harbors Act. All members are waiting to hear about the report that is expected on an additional port in this State. I do not think I need underline to the Chief Secretary or to any other Government member the necessity for us to upgrade our ports. We in this State are unfortunate in having a succession of small ports instead of two or three deep sea ports at which our shipping could be concentrated. This is a problem that we must work upon, as our harbour facilities must be constantly upgraded. This is necessary because of the increasing size of oversea ships using our ports and, when the

report on our next super port is brought down, I shall be pleased to see the Government taking positive action on the matter.

In paragraph 31 of his Speech, His Excellency said that the Government is also considering the introduction of legislation based on the report of the Royal Commission on the Moratorium demonstration that took place in September, 1970. If that means (and I say this with the greatest respect for the Chief Secretary, as I do not criticize him personally; when something like this happens I refer not to a Minister personally but to the persons who may in future hold that portfolio) that there is to be any control by a Minister over the Police Commissioner's activities, I will be totally opposed to it. Parliament itself is the final authority in these cases, and I am completely opposed to any political direction of the Police Commissioner, the Auditor-General, the Judiciary or the Electoral Department. One situation that is entirely wrong at present is that the last-named is under the direct control of the Attorney-General (and once again I am referring not to the present Attorney but to whoever happens to hold that office): the Electoral Office is under the control of the Attorney-General and is, therefore, subject to the temptation of political control or pressure, compared to the previous situation when it was under the control of the Local Court Judge, who was the Chief Electoral Officer.

I am opposed to any form of political interference with these officers. However, the sentence in His Excellency's Speech to which I have referred leads me to believe that there will be some attempt at political control of the Police Commissioner. I believe in law and order, as do so many other Australian people, and if anyone needs to be reminded of that he should examine yesterday's paper and see the results of last Saturday's by-election in Queensland.

In paragraph 32 of the Speech the Government has listed many of the things it has done regarding education, its expenditure on school buildings, and the advances it hopes to make in the future. I commend the Government for its continuing policy in this regard because, after all is said and done, education expenditure has increased steadily through the Playford, Walsh, Dunstan, Hall and, again, Dunstan Governments. I said last year that some of the comments made by representatives of the South Australian Institute of Teachers made me wonder whether they thought we were in heaven or on earth, because they seem to want everything that opens and shuts and then more.

However, we are making steady improvements in our education system and, if one is willing to take the long view and look back over the years to see what position obtained then, one would see this. We can do with much less belly-aching, if one can use that term in the advanced halls of Parliament, about the Commonwealth Government's not providing sufficient money to the States for education, because it has done a fairly good job in supplying extra money therefor.

I am also pleased that the new Western Teachers College seems at long last to be getting off the ground. Although that college is not in my district, my constituents have made use of its facilities, such as they are, over the years. People at the college have had to travel daily from one place to another for lectures, and in some cases have had to attend lectures in antiquated conditions. The need for improved accommodation has existed for some time, and I am pleased to know that the new college, although well overdue, is finally to eventuate. Whether the incorporation of the School of Art with the new college at Underdale is a good thing, I cannot say. I understand that the former is located in a modern set-up at North Adelaide as present. Be that as it may, the fact that the college is finally to get off the ground is something for which we should all be pleased. His Excellency said:

My Government considers it to be of the greatest importance that every effort is made to ensure that standards of education in our schools are improved as quickly as the available resources permit.

I would agree with that, and I believe that every other honourable member would agree with it, having some recognition of the fact that we are still on earth and that we cannot expect to get everything we would like and a bit more overnight. However, I believe that the progress that has been made, if it is not completely satisfactory, is to be commended.

From time to time I have had complaints about the politically biased comments and some brain-washing by teachers of secondary students on some occasions, and sometimes in their relatively immature stage of first or second year. I am not so foolish as to think that this is the order of the day, but there are sufficient instances of it and it is sufficiently widespread to cause considerable concern. Objectivity and clear presentation of both angles of any civic or political comment should be the aim of the department, and indeed I am reassured to be told by a very senior

official that it is the aim of those people who are highly placed in the department; but unfortunately these instances still occur, and to my mind this is a very bad state of affairs.

If we get to the stage where our own people are to be taught one side of politics and one side only, we could finally reach the stage where we had a one-Party system with a Government that was essentially one-Party, such as have some of these new countries that have their newly-found independence within the British Commonwealth. Some of those countries have a Government that is prepared to have political prisoners. We have heard that we might even have somebody of that ilk coming here before very long. If that is the case, I for one would not be in favour of it. We do not want to get to that stage, and anything of a one-sided nature (whether it is towards my side or towards the other side) in the way of instruction on political and civic matters in schools is to be deplored and got rid of whenever it is brought to light.

In paragraph 34 of His Excellency's Speech we have some reference to the economy and well-being of the State, and the situation does not look very good from a financial point of view. This paragraph states:

The Government will feel bound to submit to Parliament some further measures for the securing of additional revenues.

That does not cheer anyone up. Possibly it is necessary, but it may not be so necessary if certain economies are made. It is something that I am sorry to see. I was sorry to see the announcement by the Government this morning about daylight saving. It is, I presume, linked to some extent to the economy and to the fact that the time lag will be difficult to overcome. For those relatively few people who go to Sydney in the morning, I take it that it is a matter of great moment that they can be there at 9 o'clock in the morning instead of 10 o'clock. But this situation with regard to daylight saving is a real problem to many more people in the country, and it is a problem, as the Chief Secretary has said, to people who are aged and also to the very young who have to go to school at a very early hour.

We were told that the 1½ hours time difference that would occur would be intolerable. That may be so, but how has Western Australia got along? At the moment that State is 1½ hours behind us and two hours behind the Eastern States. Apparently it has been intolerable for all those years in Western Australia, yet that State has been getting on very well indeed over the past 10 or 12 years

and over the last six of those years, at all events, it has been growing at a much faster rate than has South Australia. Many Western Australians, who are somewhat one-eyed about their own State, say that they are fast catching up to this State in population and resources.

I must put in some protest on behalf of primary producers about the fact that daylight saving has been judged by the Government to be necessary. I would further say that any move to Eastern Standard Time would be extremely unfair to those people who have to get up at 5.30 a.m. or 6.30 a.m. even now. When people here in the city go to work at 9 a.m. it is 9.30 a.m. in the Eastern States. As a country member, I have never been able to see why such people could not start work at 8.30 a.m. and finish at 4.30 p.m. and adjust their lunch hour to coincide with the lunch break in the Eastern States. Why should that change be thought so dreadful? I believe that daylight saving may be necessary from a business point of view, but certainly it is very disadvantageous, to say the least, from a primary production point of view.

As I said earlier today, Central Standard Time is now based really in western Victoria, and we are pretty well half-an-hour ahead now; and certainly the West Coast is between half-an-hour and one hour ahead at present. It is most unfortunate that daylight saving has to occur, and it will certainly be very much more unfortunate if Eastern Standard Time is introduced in South Australia. The Government might even be able to convince the other States, as the Deputy Premier said last night, that a return to actual central time, which runs up through the western part of the Eastern States anyhow, would be the solution to the time situation. During my speech I have directed certain things to the attention of the Chief Secretary and his colleagues which I hope they will note. I support the motion.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON (Southern): I support the motion. In doing so, I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, on the presentation of his Speech and on his recovery from his recent illness. Along with other members, I also extend my condolences to the relatives and friends of those members who have passed away.

I have entered this Council and taken the place of a member for the Southern District, the Hon. Sir Norman Jude. I believe that Sir Norman's participation in this Council has been adequately covered by the remarks of the

Hon. Mr. Dawkins. There is no doubt that in the area in which I reside and the area which I now represent all people are fully aware of the contribution Sir Norman made while he was the Minister of Roads. That area is very well served by roads, as are all other areas of the State, and much of the quality of this road system extends from the time the honourable member was Minister of Roads.

On entering this Council, one of the things I have asked myself is why originally I became actively involved in the political world and why as a member on this side of the House. The Minister of Transport of the 1965 to 1968 Labor Government will no doubt be fully aware of the factors that led to my active involvement in politics. It led from the attitude of the member for Millicent, which was brought on by his membership of a Party to the transport industry. At that time I believed in members of Parliament being basically responsible to the people of their districts, and I believed that that had not been the case in this matter. For that reason I became active in politics. No doubt the member for Millicent in another place will remember that activity very well for years to come. It would be very difficult for him to forget it.

I believe in the right of an individual to have freedom to decide whether he will belong to any organization. I do not believe in compulsory voting, because I believe the individual should have the right to decide whether he wishes to participate in an election. I believe that all members of Parliament should be directly responsible to the people in their districts. If a Government believes that it must move to curb a basic freedom because that freedom is affecting the freedom or activities of other people, such curbing must be kept to a minimum.

Before I became actively involved in politics I studied at great length the aims of the major Party opposing the one of which I am now a Parliamentary member, and it did not take very much reading for me to decide that that Party was not for me. The first principle, the principle of nationalization (or democratic socialization) of the means of production, distribution and exchange, must lead to the complete subjugation of the people in the hands of a Government. This doctrine must inevitably lead to mediocrity in a society in which the standard of the average man is the norm to which every man must conform; anyone rising above that standard is automatically

penalized. If that principle is adhered to, we will become a faceless society of meaningless individuals, in which anyone who tries to better himself is brought back to the field.

The circumstances of my entry to this Council have tended to obscure some important beliefs. I have been painted by some people and an organization as an abolitionist of this Council, but that is completely untrue. Those people and that organization can follow their beliefs, but I will follow my own beliefs. I firmly believe in an independent House of Review. The practices of the people and the organization I have referred to have made it clear to me that membership of the organization is completely incompatible with membership of the Party to which I belong.

I am a strong believer in this Council and I am particularly interested in assisting to develop further the committee system—a system that is operating in the Senate to the advantage of the people of this country. It would be advantageous to both this House and the Government to have various community problems thoroughly researched by committees at not much extra cost to the community. As a result, both the Government (in presenting legislation in this Council) and the Council (in reviewing such legislation) would have much more material available.

Because I have come into this Council as a country member, of necessity the remainder of my remarks in this debate will be confined largely to the problems of the rural people. In my area the one industry that will be affected very soon by Government action is the wool industry. I do not believe that the full implications of the situation facing this industry are yet fully understood by the community. For many years I have closely followed the trends in the industry. During a survey of 40 farms that has been carried out in our area, it has been discovered that the average cost of running a dry sheep unit is \$3 a head and the average interest bill is \$1 a head, resulting in a total running cost of \$4 a head. Since the average return last season was \$3.50, obviously this industry is in serious trouble.

The reduction in stock values over the last 12 months has averaged 50 per cent; of course, because lending institutions base their lending on the value of the stock on hand, individuals have been requested to reduce their total overdrafts. However, these farmers are incapable of meeting such requests, because the wool-growers' position is going backwards. What can be done about it? I, like most wool-growers in my area (and, I am sure, in many

other areas), have become rather disillusioned over the years by the fact that we have been given optimistic forecasts almost continually by industry leaders. The old Australian saying "She'll be right, mate; don't worry about the future" has been the policy adopted in many cases by our industry leaders.

It seems to me that information should have been available to the leaders of our industry to give us some idea of the trends that were occurring, because many people have stayed in the industry on the basis that things would not get much worse. This kind of statement has been given year after year. I realize that the woolgrowers at one stage rejected a proposal for a reserve price scheme, but I do not think that, even if that scheme had been adopted, it would have led to the problem being solved. It might have led to a slight price increase, but that is not the answer: the real problem is the competition from synthetic fibres. Of course, that industry must become more and more efficient and decrease its costs; as a result, prices will be reduced.

In the *Wool News Digest* of March, 1970, one of the industry leaders said that he was convinced that the next 12 months would see the beginnings of better times for the industry. They are still coming! He also said that the industry was overdue for such an experience. It is well overdue now because we are overdue for some sort of experience. Sir William Gunn, the greatest optimist of them all, said in April, 1971, that he did not support those who believed that woolgrowing would not be a viable industry in the future.

It will not be long before there will not be many of us left in the industry to take advantage of what happens in the future. The only thing in my area that is keeping people in the industry is the lack of available capital to enable them to change to another industry. Many people are desperate to change to the cattle industry. Of course, the obvious result will be that, as many more people go into that industry, the same situation of over-production will occur there. The cattle industry is subject to the day-to-day problem of potential exotic diseases coming into this country—for example, foot and mouth disease. Frankly, because there is this lack of confidence in the leadership of the industry (rightly or wrongly: I will not make a final judgment on that because I have not got all the information), the Commonwealth Government must look very closely at a possible change in industry leadership.

Wool promotion is a matter that has been mentioned during Question Time. The value of blends should have been taken into account long ago. In fact, it should have been occurring over the past 15 years, because it is much easier to sell a product that is a blend than to sell pure wool. Much money has been wasted on the promotion of the pure fibre. The big problem, of course, is that often the pure fibre is beyond the reach of many people. Costs involved in bringing it to the public are very high.

What the industry is asking for (and I doubt that it will get it) is not as great as the 40 per cent average support the community as a whole gives to secondary industries. The average person in the community forgets, when talking about primary industry, that there are many supporting factors for secondary industry.

So much for the Commonwealth Government; I believe the State Government also has some responsibilities, and paragraph 15 of the Governor's Speech mentions that the Government will continue to take steps to find solutions to the problems. Rural reconstruction must be reviewed most urgently. This is not a matter that can await the sort of situation the Minister has mentioned, in answers to questions from members, where a certain number of applications must come in. I do not believe the applications will be forthcoming. This capital is required urgently by the people who are now attempting to transfer from the industry or to change inside of it. The words "Get bigger or get out" are now very dirty words indeed. It would not be in the interests of the average farmer with 75 per cent capital in his farm to purchase the farm next door. I would not want to go down to a 33 per cent equity in the present climate of the rural industry. It is time the State Government approached the Commonwealth Government with the thought of transferring some of the money provided for rural reconstruction to purchase more land or for the farmer to purchase the land next door to debt reconstruction. This point perhaps could be put urgently to the Commonwealth Government.

The requirement that a farmer must have been refused finance from all normal trading sources is too stringent. When a person reaches that stage it is obvious that he has a very difficult task to make his farm again a viable unit. Honourable members have mentioned to me cases in their own areas where people have tried to get this letter or whatever is required to say they have been refused finance, and they have then been granted

further finance. This is not solving the problem. The Government, together with the Commonwealth Government, should look at this matter to see whether this requirement can be made a little less stringent.

Every time a farmer leaves a farm he takes with him whatever capital he has, and inevitably the person taking over adds to the overall indebtedness of the rural industry. This does not solve the problem; it transfers capital out of the industry. This is a problem that will come up regarding rural reconstruction. I would expect the money would be added to the total indebtedness of the land. The real problem is the build-up of total indebtedness that is taking place.

I am pleased to see that the Government is taking notice of the many requests for further land valuations to be made on more realistic values and that will take into account sales since the last valuation. However, in doing this the Government should look at the system of valuation. The unimproved value system is now outdated. It is difficult to find sufficient unimproved land on which to base an unimproved valuation. The present system (and this situation is very real in the rural areas at the moment) takes into account only the land actually sold. This is only the cream of the land market. It does not take into account land offered for sale which has not yet been sold and probably will not be sold for a very long time. Any further valuation that takes place (and I imagine this would be on a five-year term) will be outmoded within the next 12 months. The Government should try to find some system to take account of falling values from year to year until the value of rural land finally settles down.

The present system does not allow for the situation that has occurred in Padthaway and Keppoch, where land has been purchased for a special purpose: grape production. The words in the Act are, I believe, "a willing buyer and a willing seller". To use the figure at which this land has been sold, which in many cases has been \$600 an acre, the Government should prove that there is a willing buyer. No doubt there are plenty of willing sellers at that price, but I do not think there are willing buyers, and I think it is unfair to use this figure as a guide to the value of land in the area.

I do not believe scrub land has any value from the point of view of unimproved value. No person on the land today is looking to clear scrub land to bring it into production, because it would cost more than the land is

worth to do that. This should be taken into account. The only way to bring many areas into production is to grow crops, and under the quota system this has no value because the land cannot gain a quota. The value of land can vary from farm to farm, because so many farms have a wheat quota. If one farm has a large quota and the next a small one, obviously the value of the farm with the larger quota will be higher. I should be interested to know whether this will be taken into account in the valuations.

We have the prospect now within the next five years of Britain joining the Common Market, which could have a drastic effect on the value of fruit blocks. This will not be considered in the new valuation. We should have a system of taking account of the productive value. I know this is difficult and it has been looked at before, but the Government should look at it again.

The problem of succession duties has arisen in this Chamber from time to time. It seems to me that it is a very sick society (and I am relating my remarks again to rural land) that waits for a coffin to be lowered into the grave and then sets about destroying the viable farm unit that was originally there by insisting on an unrealistic share of the capital structure of the farm. In many families there is more than one child on a farm property, and when the person controlling the property dies certain of the children must be paid out their share. In these days the capital requirement of the person taking over the farm is sufficient without the added burden of succession duties. The time has come for the community to accept a new system of succession duties on the land held by the successor. Unless it does, in a very few years there will be plenty of land available for national parks, because the Government will be the largest landholder in the State.

I draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the forestry industry in Southern and to the suggestion I will make. The Victorian Forests Commission offers a loan, to a maximum of \$5,000, to landholders for the purpose of establishing softwood plantations. On information I have received, the principal is repayable over a maximum of 25 years, the first payment to commence 12½ years from the date of the first advance. No interest is payable for the first 12 years, and after that interest of only 5 per cent is payable. It is sufficient to plant 100 acres of softwood forest. This would be an excellent way in which the Government could assist not only by providing more softwood in the area (and the Minister

has already replied to a question that no further timber is available for expansion) but also by not requiring immediate repayment of capital; it could provide these people with additional income over a number of years.

The figures I have been given show that in 14 years the average return is \$90 an acre; in 21 years the average return is \$75 an acre; in 28 years it is \$110 an acre; in 35 years it is \$170 an acre; and in 40 years (when the final felling takes place) it is \$1,075 an acre. Under good growing conditions, first thinnings may be taken at 12 years. It seems to me an excellent system to be adopted by the South Australian Government. It could follow the lead set by the Victorian Government in this regard.

I turn now to education. My interest in education has been greatly accentuated for the last 10 years because I have a young family, and also because the situation in the rural industry is making it more essential that young people have the opportunity for higher education. This is so because many young people are forced to leave the land as the average farming unit can be left to only one person if it is to remain viable. The Government has already taken some steps in this matter. It is essential that they be extended so that no person in country areas will suffer from lack of higher education because of his geographical situation.

I also draw the attention of the Minister of Education to the possibility of a project that was forecast by a former Labor Minister of Education—a teachers college in Mount Gambier. I understand that at the time one stumbling block was that a university was required nearby. That stumbling block has been removed. Many country areas, particularly in Southern District, are losing competent professional people because of lack of facilities for their children to continue to a higher standard of education; they are losing doctors, lawyers and other professional people at some stage because they move to the city to give their children the opportunity of furthering their education. The Government could greatly assist by reconsidering this idea. The Lower South-East has a large potential for growth. The people there would support such a facility. We have already been told that we have a potential water supply capable of supporting 250,000 people. I hope the Government will encourage growth in that area by taking up such a matter.

The meat industry, and particularly an idea for an abattoir at Naracoorte, has been

receiving attention in Southern for some time now. I congratulate the Government on its move to provide a licence for that facility. I trust that the efforts of the members of the local community to get this idea brought to fruition will be successful. Also, the Government should seriously consider assisting primary industry by reducing or removing the $\frac{1}{2}$ a lb. levy required to be paid, on all country-killed meat, to the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board, because this is paid directly by the producer in country areas and not by the consumer. In that way the already depressed price of our stock is reduced.

Another problem in that area is receiving what some people may call unfortunate publicity, but what I think is fortunate publicity—the zone 5 soldier settlers. I hope the Minister was not referring to me when he said that some honourable member was seeking to make political capital out of the situation. I, like the Minister, had not been associated with this problem in the political field. I had always felt, however, that the settlers had a proper case to put. The settlers have always had my support, and I believe the time has come for the problem to be solved. It is time for Parliament as a whole to support any action taken by the Minister to resolve this problem. It is an urgent matter because these people have been there for a long time now and they have seen no progress except that they have established, through the courts, a case that they are entitled to a reduction in their rent.

Will the Minister also consider two other factors—(1) that a number of these blocks have been sold to other people, and (2) that they have the problem of high rents? Will the Minister, in establishing a lower rental, also take into account those people who have gone on to those blocks either through the death of a settler (in which case the property may have been sold) or because a settler through old age (and there are several of those settlers now) has left the industry? I also ask the Minister to consider an overall reduction in soldier settler rents. This will probably necessitate some sort of co-operation from the Commonwealth, but I would support the Minister in any such move to have soldier settler rentals reviewed in the light of the existing situation for the man on the land.

South-East drainage is a problem of many years' standing. It has interested me greatly because I have opposed it from the time I was first associated with the land. I think

we put the cart before the horse in that matter, which was started long before my time on the land and my activity in politics. Much more consideration should have been given to the area of land that could be developed without drainage. However, the problem is with us, in many cases, and we cannot reverse it very easily. It still makes me angry to see vast quantities of excellent quality water pouring out to sea each winter, when it should not. The time this scheme was established was a time of prosperity on the land, and a considerable amount of money was spent. Perhaps in retrospect it was unwisely spent and more thought should have been given to whether or not it should be spent. We have a very big scheme now requiring a large maintenance bill but, because of my opposition to this project from the beginning, I contend that the Government should accept responsibility for a large proportion even of the actual maintenance cost necessary to keep the system free of weeds or whatever else it is necessary to be free of. The scheme was not necessary for many properties, but it was put in whether or not the landowner required

it. Let me assure the Minister that I do not blame him for this problem; it has been with us and with successive Governments for many years.

I thank honourable members for the welcome they have given me, and I assure them that I will try to contribute positively to the debates that will take place in his Chamber. I look forward to a long career here, should I be fortunate enough to be returned. Honourable members will find that I am positive in my views. Indeed, it has always been my policy to be so. I hope all honourable members will accept that I honestly hold the views which I put forward on behalf of the people of my district.

The Hon. E. K. RUSSACK secured the adjournment of the debate.

CARRICK HILL VESTING BILL

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.33 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 28, at 2.15 p.m.