

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

Third Session of the Fortieth Parliament (1972)

Parliament, which adjourned on April 6, 1972, was prorogued by proclamation dated April 27. By proclamation dated June 8, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, July 18, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 18, 1972

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

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Mark Oliphant) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

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

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

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. On addressing you, in Parliament assembled, for the first time as Her Majesty's

Representative in South Australia, I wish to express, on behalf of my wife and myself, our deep appreciation of the warm welcome that has been accorded us. We are very pleased to be once more in South Australia and I give you our assurance that we will do all in our power to promote the advancement of the interests of this State and its people.

3. The only sorrow attached to my appointment was that it arose from the untimely death of my predecessor in office, Sir James Harrison, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E. Sir James, who, with his air of quiet dignity, showed such a genuine and industrious concern in the affairs of South Australia, will long be remembered by the whole community with warmth and respect. I know that I speak for everyone in saying that Lady Harrison and her family have our deepest sympathy.

4. It is with much regret that I have to recall the deaths, since you were last called together, of Lindsay Gordon Riches, C.M.G., a former Speaker of the House of Assembly and member of that House for some 35 years, of Percival Hillam Quirke, a member of the House of Assembly for 27 years and a former Minister of the Crown, of the Honourable

William Walsh Robinson, a member of the Legislative Council for 18 years, and of George Baron Bockelberg, who represented the electorate of Eyre in the House of Assembly for some 12 years. In recording our appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to this State I feel sure that you will join me in expressing our sympathy to their families.

5. In furtherance of my Government's aim that certain aspects of development be co-ordinated, action was taken to abolish the former Premier's Department and the Immigration, Publicity and Tourist Bureau Department and to establish a new Department of the Premier and of Development with effect from January 1, 1972. This action has ensured that development in the various areas of secondary industry, tourism and housing is planned and executed in a manner which will use the resources of my Government efficiently and in the best interests of the State.

6. The lack of opening rains this season has caused a great deal of concern. Although some parts of the State have recently had encouraging falls, the outlook still gives cause for apprehension and more rain is needed if an average cereal harvest and satisfactory lamb season are to eventuate. My Government has already initiated action to provide subsidies on the movement of stock and fodder in areas adversely affected by the seasonal conditions and further help under the provisions of the Primary Producers' Emergency Assistance Act will be afforded as, and if, this is found to be necessary. It is unfortunate that this season started adversely, as there are signs that the rural industry is responding vigorously to changed marketing and other circumstances and it is to be hoped that these developments will not be jeopardized by widespread drought. Spectacular increases in beef cattle numbers have occurred in most agricultural areas as producers seek to take advantage of the increasing world demands for beef. The research and advisory programme of the Department of Agriculture has been intensified to meet the increasing demands from producers for information and advice to assist them in playing their part in this rapidly expanding industry. The presence of the diseases tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle in this State constitutes a threat to the acceptability of its beef in some markets. The recent announcements of changes of policy by the United States of America relating to the disposition of tubercular cattle will require even more intensive efforts to ensure the eradication of this disease as quickly as possible.

7. In early April of this year my Government joined with the Governments of the Commonwealth and the other States to review the workings of the scheme of assistance given effect to by the Rural Industry Assistance (Special Provisions) Act of this State. A number of important modifications of the scheme were proposed and accepted by the Governments concerned. My Government continues to play its part in the administration of other schemes intended to afford some measure of relief to those persons engaged in rural industry who find themselves in economic difficulty. These schemes include the rural unemployment grants scheme and the arrangements given effect to in the Marginal Dairy Farmers (Agreement) Act.

8. A plan for the conversion of Public Service operations to the metric system has been drawn up by the Metric Measurements Advisory Committee in conjunction with Government departments. My Government approved of the plan and conversion programmes have commenced in all departments and should be completed by the end of 1976. The legislative programme of metric conversion amendments is extensive and my Government has instructed departments that, wherever possible, all new and amending legislation introduced into Parliament should be expressed in metric terms. My Government's policy in this matter is simply that the obligations, in law, placed on the public as a result of conversion should not be more extensive than they were before conversion.

9. Continued attention has been given by my Government to the many aspects of environmental protection and even greater importance will be placed on this matter now that the report of the Committee on Environment has been presented to it. This report contains a significant number of recommendations on all aspects of potential pollution problems in the State and steps to implement the committee's recommendations will be taken as a matter of urgency. It is expected that in this session an Environmental Protection Bill to establish an Environmental Protection Authority will be placed before you. My Government has announced that a new town of some considerable size will be established in the vicinity of Murray Bridge and a further measure relating to this new town will be placed before you this session. During this session amendments will be proposed to the Planning and Development Act to provide for a scheme of interim control over the development of the area comprised in the city of Adelaide and its immediate environs.

10. During the past financial year the first five-year programme under the Commonwealth Forestry Agreement Act was completed. Funds were provided for an additional 8,400 acres to be planted over the five-year period. A new agreement is being negotiated that will allow the planting programme of approximately 4,500 acres annually to be continued over the next five years.

11. The recent passage of the Juvenile Courts and Community Welfare Acts has provided a firm framework within which the newly constituted Department for Community Welfare can meet the needs of all citizens in each local community.

12. South Australian Railways officers, together with a group of consulting engineers, are preparing a master plan for the new standard gauge railway to link Adelaide and its major industries with the existing Australia-wide standard gauge network. Estimates for the project are expected to be completed by August this year. The Road Traffic Board continued its efforts to ensure greater safety on the roads, both from the aspects of improved vehicle standards and the reduction of road hazards. My Government has already announced its intention to proceed with the sealing of the Eyre Highway to the State border.

13. Early this year my Government established a research group to make a detailed examination of the unfulfilled training needs in industry, commerce and Government departments in this State. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain the training arrangements that are at present in operation and what industry, commerce and Government departments believe their training needs to be. It is hoped that a report will be made towards the end of this year. A Bill will be introduced to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Assembly on Occupational Safety and Welfare in Industry. A Bill for an Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to replace the industrial relations provisions of the Industrial Code will also be introduced. A further Bill to amend the Industrial Code to provide for late shopping on Friday nights in the metropolitan area and to regulate certain ancillary matters will be introduced early in this session. Amendments to the Long Service Leave Act will also be proposed to provide that employees will be entitled to three months long service leave after 10 years continuous service with one employer instead of after the present stipulation of 15 years service.

14. Despite the lull in exploration activity elsewhere, the search for minerals in this State is continuing at a steady rate with more than 60 companies spending in excess of \$5,000,000 annually. At present, more than 110 special mining leases are held, covering approximately 39,000 square miles. Features of the past year have been the increased efforts made by major companies to gather and assess basic geological data and the spread of interest to more remote areas of the State.

15. My Government expects that the Modbury Hospital will open early next year. It will have an initial capacity of 220 beds together with outpatient and casualty services. It is expected that facilities will be opened gradually as staff is recruited. Planning for the proposed integrated 710-bed hospital and medical school to be known as the Flinders Medical Centre has progressed rapidly during the past year. The Public Works Standing Committee has approved the whole scheme in principle and has authorized detailed planning of the first three phases, to provide 550 hospital beds and the medical school, at an estimated cost of \$33,000,000, based on prices prevailing in July, 1971. A Committee of Inquiry into Health Services in the State was established in September, 1970. My Government expects to receive its report before the end of this year.

16. During the last financial year, 1971-72, the school building programme was expanded above the original Loan Estimate approval of \$19,300,000 to a record \$20,600,000. Because of the extraordinary spell of dry weather, this figure has, in fact, been exceeded by a significant amount. A further increase in expenditure from the Loan works programme will be proposed for this financial year. Proposals for the enactment of a new Education Act are under consideration by my Government. The rural scholarship scheme will be extended this year so that students from out-back areas will receive allowances as a matter of right. In addition, provision will be made for out-back children to qualify for allowances in the later years of their primary education. A secondary school book loan scheme was introduced this year in an endeavour to reduce the financial demands on parents. In most schools the scheme was confined to fourth and fifth year students. Next year it will be expanded to cover all years of secondary schooling.

My Government will submit legislation in this session to provide for the autonomy of teachers colleges including the new Torrens College of Advanced Education. A separate

Department of Further Education was established and legislation relating to that department will be submitted to you this session. New technical colleges have recently been established at Elizabeth and O'Halloran Hill and further new colleges are planned for Kilburn, Gilles Plains and Lonsdale together with major additions to the existing establishments at Whyalla, Mount Gambier and Panorama.

17. Work is proceeding on the Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main. The trunk main and major pumping stations on the Tailem Bend to Keith main have been completed and the remainder of the branch mains will be completed before the end of this year. In addition, work is proceeding on a number of other water supply and reticulation projects. Acquisition of land at Chain of Ponds and other areas for the protection of metropolitan reservoirs, including land for the proposed Clarendon and Little Para reservoirs, is proceeding. Work on installations for a survey relating to the occurrence of certain kinds of pollution on the Mount Bold watershed is nearing completion. Special attention is being given to an assessment of water resources in the South-East of the State where a programme of recording levels and water quality in a grid network of 600 bores is in operation. Fourteen gauging stations on various drains in the area were completed during the year to assist with this programme.

18. Work on the provision of a new passenger terminal at Outer Harbour, at a total cost of \$2,000,000, should be completed during this financial year. Work will continue on the widening of the dredged channel of the Port River to a minimum width of 500ft. at a total estimated cost of \$10,000,000. The construction of new berths at Port Lincoln to accommodate large bulk carriers in the grain and phosphate trades will also continue. The total estimated cost of this work is \$7,000,000.

19. The capital expenditure on completed projects and works still in progress for hospital buildings will amount to approximately \$13,300,000 and during this financial year work will proceed on major projects already in progress. The capital expenditure on other Government buildings will amount to approximately \$8,450,000 which includes Commonwealth Government grants under the Technical Training and Advanced Education Acts for Roseworthy Agricultural College.

20. In this financial year there will be an increase in the rate of construction of major

developmental projects of the Electricity Trust of South Australia. It is expected that almost \$30,000,000 will be spent on additional power plant and on additional transmission and distribution works—this will be an increase of about one-third on the amount expended last financial year.

21. The South Australian Housing Trust programme has now settled at about 2,100 to 2,200 houses and flats each year and it is its intention to maintain the programme at this level. The demand for rental accommodation is still at a very high level, with almost 10,000 rental applications being received by the trust in the past year, and in this period the trust has been able to offer rental housing to more than 4,500 families. The trust's factory programme is proceeding at a fast rate and my Government intends to provide further funds to enable the trust to increase its assistance to industry in this way.

22. During this session my Government expects to bring before Parliament a Bill for a revised Building Societies Act to further regulate the rapidly expanding operations of building societies. It is hoped also to bring forward a Bill to regulate the activities of credit unions. My Government is undertaking a review of all aspects of the South Australian Superannuation Fund and legislation giving effect to the results of this review will, in due course, be introduced.

Members of the House of Assembly:

The Estimates of Expenditure will be laid before you in the usual way.

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

23. In addition to the measures already referred to, my Government intends to lay before you, in this session, Bills to provide for full adult franchise in elections for the Legislative Council, the appointment of an ombudsman, the establishment of rights of privacy, the regulation of consumer credit, and the licensing of land agents. There will also be laid before you Bills relating to abattoirs, bush fires prevention, local government, massage parlours, marketing of eggs, museums, road traffic, stock diseases, secondhand and marine store dealers, and a considerable number of other matters.

24. In its Budget Estimates presented in August and September, 1971, my Government expected for the financial year 1971-72 a possible deficit on the Revenue Account of \$7,346,000 after allowing for likely increases in wage rates, and on Loan Works Account,

of \$1,540,000 making \$8,886,000 estimated in all. Fortunately, as a result mainly of increased financial assistance from the Commonwealth (arising directly from a greater increase in the "average wages" factor in the statutory formula), a fairly consistent series of modest increases in the flow of State revenues and some significant savings in requirements for water pumping, the Revenue Account improved so far as to show a deficit of only \$1,066,000. On the other hand, as a consequence of my Government's efforts to provide as great a stimulus as possible to local employment and because of the very fine construction weather during autumn and early winter, the Loan Works Account was overspent by \$4,429,000, which was much more than expected. Thus, on the combined accounts, my Government's finances still showed an overall deficit of \$5,495,000; the deficit therefore has been contained to within two-thirds of the amount expected when the Estimates were submitted.

During February of this year, the Commonwealth, at a Premiers' Conference and Australian Loan Council meeting, agreed that additional finance should be found for the States during 1971-72, primarily to ease unemployment. Of the amounts provided, South Australia received a further \$1,617,000 for current purposes, \$4,390,000 for works purposes, \$517,000 of borrowing authority for use by statutory authorities and an increase from \$945,000 to \$1,620,000 for special rural employment purposes. However, these additional funds in no way contributed to the improved financial result the State has secured for 1971-72 since my Government ensured that not only these amounts but even greater sums were disbursed during the following months to stimulate employment. At the Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meeting during June of this year, it was arranged that the financial assistance provision to South Australia for 1972-73 would involve an estimated \$17,500,000 increase beyond the \$164,420,000 including supplements for 1971-72, and that the works allocation of funds would be increased by \$12,338,000 to \$134,628,000. Whilst these increases were greater than those which may have arisen from the application of the customary formulae, my Government anticipates great difficulty in avoiding a substantial deficit in its combined revenue and works budgets in the forthcoming year, if it is to provide even the slightest improvement in standards of social services and all

other services for which my Government believes itself to be responsible.

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

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

The PRESIDENT again took the Chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS

The PRESIDENT: It is with profound regret that I draw the attention of honourable members to the lamented deaths, during the recess, of the Hon. William Walsh Robinson, a former member of this Council, and Mr. Lindsay Gordon Riches, C.M.G., a former Speaker of the House of Assembly.

The Hon. Mr. Robinson represented the Northern District in this Council from 1947 to 1965, a period of 18 years. He was a member of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation for 10 years and a member of the Public Works Standing Committee for nearly six years. He served in local government as Chairman of the Crystal Brook District Council for 13 years and as a Vice-President of the Northern District Councils Association for five years. He was President of the Northern Areas Fire Fighting Association for six years before his appointment as a member of the State Bush Fires Advisory Committee in 1945. He was elected a Director of the South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union and of the Farmers Executor Trustee Company Limited in 1949 and served for 20 years. He was a Director of the Co-operative Insurance Company from 1961 to 1969. Affectionately known as "Robby", he will be remembered as a gentleman of great understanding and integrity by his Parliamentary colleagues.

Mr. Lindsay Gordon Riches, C.M.G., first entered the House of Assembly on April 8, 1933, as the member for Newcastle, which he served until 1938, when he was elected member for Stuart. He represented that district from 1938 until his retirement in 1970. He had been a member of the House of Assembly for 37 years. He was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly in 1965 and he served in that high office with distinction for three years. His monumental service in local government covered a period of some 41 years, 34 of which he served for a record term as Mayor of Port Augusta. In recognition of this unique record of service, the late Mr. Riches was accorded the "freedom of the City of

Port Augusta" on July 29, 1970. He had also held the offices of executive member of the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, Chairman of the Port Augusta Ambulance Committee and member of the Port Augusta Hospital Board. In 1967, Her Majesty The Queen conferred upon Mr. Riches the honour of Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and in 1970 he was made a Commander of the Order of St. John. Mr. Riches was well known as a lay preacher in the Methodist Church. He was held in the very highest esteem by all sections of the community and his passing was mourned by all who had been privileged to know him.

It is appropriate that we place on record the Council's appreciation of the outstanding public service rendered by each of these deceased gentlemen and extend to their relatives the sincere sympathy of honourable members. I ask honourable members to stand in silence in their places as a mark of respect to their memory.

As a mark of respect, members stood in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 12.52 to 2.30 p.m.]

PETITION: DAYLIGHT SAVING

The Hon. L. R. HART presented a petition signed by 206 persons in the Midland District alleging that country children travelling to school by bus are exposed to excessively long days, that harvesting operations cannot take full advantage of daylight hours because of closure of grain silos while many hours of warm daylight remain, that dairymen are not able to milk their herds in the cooler hours of the day, because of the timing of milk pick-ups, and that daylight saving offers practically no benefits to those people engaged in rural industries. The petitioners therefore prayed that the Council would prevent the re-introduction of daylight saving.

Petition received and read.

QUESTIONS

COURT COSTS

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Can the Chief Secretary state the date on which Cabinet decided to pay the costs of Mr. Dunford in the civil action taken against him by Mr. Woolley, and can the Chief Secretary say what financial authority was used and what was to be the method of payment?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I have got to be quite frank about this matter. I cannot answer

the question because I was not at the relevant Cabinet meeting.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: But you will find out?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I thank the Chief Secretary for the elucidation he has given on this matter. Will he obtain replies to the questions I have asked?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Yes; I am quite willing to do that.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: With reference to the matter of the costs of Mr. Dunford, which the Government has apparently agreed to pay out of public funds, the news media have discussed this matter at some length and have mentioned figures from \$7,000 to \$11,000; also, I think in the *News* last week the Deputy Premier was quoted as saying that, if Mr. Woolley had had to pay the costs, the Government would probably have met his costs, too. Can the Chief Secretary say whether he is prepared to provide this Council with the actual amount of payment of costs for Mr. Dunford, whether it is \$7,000, \$11,000, or whatever it happens to be? Also, can he ascertain whether Mr. Corcoran actually said that the Government would have been prepared to pay the costs if Mr. Woolley had been the one liable to pay them?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: The answer to the first part of the question is that the amount is \$9,985 and a few cents. As to the second part of the question, I will try to elicit that information from my colleague.

CITRUS

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I ask leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: In a newspaper circulating in the Riverland district I noticed a headline stating that it was likely that a petition would be presented to the Minister of Agriculture asking for a poll of growers in connection with the question of cessation of the Citrus Organization Committee. Has the Minister received such a petition, or has he any knowledge that a petition is being circulated?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The answer to both questions is "No". I have not received any information.

ABATTOIRS

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: The Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board recently informed the Minister that it was faced with interim award payments of \$251,000. In a press statement the Minister said that this grant had been provided by the Government on his recommendation, and that a further \$49,000 was being made available to improve sheep yards and extend cattle-selling facilities in the selling yards. We know that the Government has been very generous lately in paying some unionists' fines, but I cannot believe it would be so generous as to make available \$300,000 by way of grant to the Abattoirs Board. Can the Minister say whether that sum is a grant or a loan? One must assume that it is a loan; in that case, can the Minister say what are the terms and conditions of the loan and what the total repayments will be over the period of the loan? Does the Minister believe that the board is in a position to repay the loan, even over a long period, without increasing its killing charges?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I think I ought to answer the honourable member's question in the following way, since he has covered many subjects. The current situation regarding the saleyards and additional beef slaughtering facilities at Gepps Cross, so far as it relates to requests for Government financial assistance, is that the board sought financial help for a beef hall project estimated to cost \$200,000. I submitted this matter to Cabinet and, in response to my strong recommendations, approval was given in March of this year for an advance to the board of that amount for extension of beef slaughtering facilities. Subsequently, advice from the board indicated that the cost of the new slaughter floor would be approximately \$500,000. In view of this development, Cabinet approval for the \$200,000 was deferred pending a careful re-examination of the project by the board and the submission of detailed revised estimates, which have only recently been received and are now being studied. The board employed a consultant to look at this matter; that is why the project has been delayed, but I am very hopeful that the consultant will come down with a satisfactory solution to the problems.

Following the granting of a new award to abattoirs employees by the Industrial Court involving retrospective wage increases totalling \$251,000 and bearing in mind the urgent need for extensions to the cattleyards, Cabinet approved a further loan of \$300,000, sufficient to meet the additional wages bill and the cost of necessary repairs to the sheep saleyards. The honourable member mentioned that matter last session in this Council. I think the sum of \$40,000 was referred to in connection with the sheepyards; the honourable member claimed that they were breaking up. Furthermore, a sum of \$9,000 has been approved by Cabinet toward the cost of cattleyard extensions. I believe that someone employed by the Stock Salesmen's Association put sheep on wet cement, and I believe that a case is pending on that matter. As the board has, I believe, already spent approximately \$6,000 on the sheep saleyards, an amount of \$15,000 should be available out of the \$300,000 for extensions to cattleyards. This Government has thus provided funds by way of advances totalling \$600,000 to the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board over the past 12 months. By contrast, the previous Liberal and Country League Government did not grant any financial assistance to the board, so far as I have been able to ascertain, during its term of office.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I was interested in the reply just given by the Minister, especially where he said that the previous L.C.L. Government did not give any assistance to the board. The previous Government gave an extreme amount of assistance to the board. It appointed an expert from Victoria who was at that time well received by the industry generally (including the unions). The abattoirs was then in deficit to its bank to the tune of about \$240,000.

The PRESIDENT: Is the honourable member leading up to asking a question or is he debating something contained in the Minister's reply in answer to an earlier question? The honourable member seems to be opening up a debate, but is he leading up to asking a question?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes. The board accepted the investigator's report and, within 12 months, the board's efficiency improved to such an extent that it was able to pay its own way; consequently, there was no need for the Government to advance any money. Will the

Minister study fully and implement the recommendations of the McCall report, because I believe that there was no need for the Government to extend the sum of money as it has done. Can the Minister say what plans the Government has for further development of abattoirs facilities in this State in order to cope with the increased beef cattle numbers and the situation that has recently developed as a result of statements by the U.S.A. authorities that they will take practically all the beef we can produce?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I made it clear in my reply that no financial assistance was given to the abattoirs during the term of the previous L.C.L. Government. If the honourable member claims that that Government assisted by way of appointing Mr. McCall to carry out certain feasibility studies, I do not see how that would help the board's finances in the stages leading up to the report's recommendations being implemented. The honourable member also asked me why I did not implement the report's recommendations, but it is a wonder that he did not implement them while he was in office.

The Hon. C. R. Story: But I did.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: You did not, otherwise there would be no need to do it now. I assure the honourable member that this matter will be taken care of in due course. The Governor's Opening Speech states that legislation dealing with abattoirs in South Australia will be introduced this session. I hope that when such legislation comes before the Council it will gain the full support of all honourable members.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We will have a look at it.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: This is a serious matter. If we are to establish abattoirs on a correct basis, we must look at it in its true perspective. That is what I intend to do, and I hope that honourable members will also take that view. Regarding creating more abattoirs to match the increased production of livestock in the State, what we must consider is the question of beef. Lamb and mutton are reasonably well catered for, but there will be glut seasons. No matter how many abattoirs we have, they will not run efficiently and economically throughout the year; consequently, they may become uneconomic propositions, and I ask the honourable member to view this matter in that light. Regarding beef, I believe that serious overtures are being made to run two shifts for beef killing. I believe this is one answer to the

problem. When I was in Queensland recently, the meat authorities there were thinking along these lines. That could be a sensible answer to the problem, because much capital is invested in these plants in much the same way as in other secondary and heavy industries in Australia, such as the cement companies, the smelting works at Port Pirie and other places that operate around the clock.

The Hon. C. R. Story: What about the unions?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: When we study this matter, I believe the whole meat industry throughout the State should be looked at in its true perspective. Regarding the statements being made by United States of America officials, it is all right to say that the Americans will take all our beef now but, if President Nixon is re-elected, quotas may be reimposed. There seems to be strong feeling that this is only a political matter that has been introduced by the President, but whether or not that is true, only time will tell. One of the problems is that we will have a difficult task, as far as the beef producers are concerned, to meet all the markets looming on the horizon; so we must increase production tremendously in years to come if we are to cope with those markets.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: In the previous session it was indicated that a Mr. Gray, a public accountant, was preparing a report or a series of recommendations for the Government in relation to abattoirs and their various killing facilities. Can the Minister say whether Mr. Gray is preparing such a report and whether his recommendations, if any, will be introduced *in toto* or only in stages, and whether part of the report (if any has been made to the Minister) is a recommendation that country butchers be required to have their stock slaughtered at abattoirs rather than in their own facilities in various country centres?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: There never was any such indication. I think I have explained to the honourable member and to other honourable members previously that there would not be a written report by Mr. Gray to me. This is purely and simply a matter of Mr. Gray's verbal reports to me and my discussions with him on the meat industry generally throughout South Australia. True, Mr. Gray

has been mainly concerned with the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board as at present constituted. At the same time, I asked Mr. Gray also to examine, in consultation with the Agriculture Department, the meat industry generally in this State, as I believe (and I am sure honourable members would agree with me) that the health standard of many small killing facilities throughout South Australia would not in any circumstances be tolerated by the community if the people knew exactly how they were conducted. We have a duty to the people of this State to ensure that the health standards of our killing facilities are upgraded. One knows, for example, that once meat enters the butcher's shop that shop must meet stringent regulations regarding the meat, the way it is handled, and the manner in which it is stored. However, no real regulations or standards have been set down regarding how animals are to be slaughtered at the small country slaughterhouses.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Local government does that.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Yes, local government does control them, but health officers in local government have such diversified opinions in this respect that the matter needs to be examined. This is an overall plan at present; I have nothing concrete to offer at this juncture. This is a matter that must be examined in depth in the future.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: In March the Minister was basking in the plaudits he was receiving from all sections of the rural community for having induced the Government to provide \$200,000 to the board for the purpose of extending the present beef hall or building a new one. In reply to a question I asked on March 21, the Minister said:

Though the honourable member, who is an expert on abattoirs, may realize that a hall is already there, the fact remains that the machinery and overhead gear must be installed. That is the purpose of the \$200,000 that has been made available by the Government to the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board, so that it can bring this new beef chain into operation.

Honourable members are now informed that the \$200,000 is not sufficient and that the cost of the new facilities could well be \$500,000. Also, the Minister has said that the Government has already provided \$600,000 to the

board. It would appear that it will in due course provide another \$500,000, which will mean that loans totalling \$1,100,000 will eventually have been provided by this Government to the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board. I believe that the loan of \$200,000 that has now been withdrawn was subject to a 6½ per cent rate of interest or thereabouts. Will the Minister tell the Council how the board intends to service the present loan of \$600,000 which the Minister has said has been provided to it, as well as the additional loan of \$500,000 that will be provided for the extensions to the beef killing facilities?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The honourable member never ceases to amaze me by the way in which he can concoct questions such as this. I thought I made myself clear when answering the honourable member's first question this afternoon. If he will read the answer I gave him in *Hansard* tomorrow, he will see that the \$200,000 for the board's new beef chain is still available; it is not included in the overall \$600,000. I hope that, when the consultant's report is studied by the board, it will be seen that the chain will not cost more than \$200,000. I believe the board's revised figure of \$500,000 was too high, because I think it had in mind a chain which was unnecessary when considering the requirements of the United States Agriculture Department. Regarding how the board will repay the loan, I suggest that the honourable member contact the board itself, which is responsible for the management of the abattoirs. Indeed, it is an autonomous body, and I am sure that if he wrote to the Chairman of the board the honourable member would receive all the information he required.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: As a result of the Minister's reply to the Hon. Mr. Cameron's question, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture, first, is he admitting that he has retained an expert (and I refer in this respect to Mr. Gray) to advise him and his department but that he does not receive any written reports from Mr. Gray, and is he satisfied with such a position? My second point refers to the reflections the Minister has made in his reply upon the standards of local boards' of health and local government generally. Will the Minister say what he finds wrong with local government, which is comprised of persons who give voluntary service in the interests of the community?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am pleased that the honourable member has entered into an agricultural matter at last. I have been

expecting this to happen for some time. I assure him that the consultant, Mr. Gray, in whom I have complete faith, does not necessarily have to supply me with a written report. The matter that has been discussed is so important that it has involved a three-pronged consultation between Mr. Gray, the Agriculture Department and me in the interests of the South Australian meat industry generally, and I hope that we will achieve a result that will satisfy all concerned. I did not mention local government; nor did I suggest that the standards of local government were being subjected to some type of ridicule. I merely said that the standards in some of the slaughterhouses in country districts vary to such an extent that they should be examined closely. I do not think anyone who lives in a country district and who has seen some of the facilities for killing stock would hesitate to say that they should be upgraded. I have lived in the country probably for as long as any honourable member in this Chamber and, indeed, I have been present on hundreds of occasions when stock have been slaughtered in some slaughterhouses, and I am sure that these establishments would not measure up to the standards that people require today. That is all I said.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: But they are inspected by local government.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: That is right, and they should be inspected by local government.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: They are.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am merely saying that some of these standards ought to be upgraded. I am not saying that local government is at fault in this matter.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Who is at fault?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: The honourable member does not live in a country district, so he would not know. He is talking about a matter of which he knows nothing. I am talking to honourable members from country districts who, I am sure, will bear me out. If they do not, I can take them to some of the slaughterhouses in the country to which I have referred. Certain standards are laid down by other countries, particularly the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan—the major countries to which we export. I am sure the Hon. Mr. Springett will bear me out in this. He asked on one occasion whether the people of Australia should be expected to eat meat which was not up to the standard required by other countries. I said at that time that I did not

agree that the people should be expected to do this, and that is all I am saying now.

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Following the reply of the Minister, may I ask whether, in the event of there being a need for upgrading, he would agree that there must be some fault somewhere? If he does agree, then may I ask whose fault it is?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I do not handle local government, so I would not know where the fault lies, but I think we must—

The Hon. C. M. Hill: So there is a fault?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Let me answer the question, and I will answer your question next time.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Health officers come under the jurisdiction of local government, but the systems and standards applied vary between health officers. We must be quite specific and set down certain standards. In my own personal opinion (and I have discussed this on several occasions with the Director of Agriculture) the Agriculture Department should be responsible for setting standards, and inspections should be made by departmental officers.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Socialism!

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: That is not Socialism. I point out for the benefit of the honourable member, who apparently knows nothing about inspections made at abattoirs, particularly at export abattoirs, that before any meat can be sold on the export market it must be inspected by Department of Primary Industry inspectors. If the meat is not passed, then it is not exported. That is under the Commonwealth Government. Where do you get Socialism in that?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is a socialistic matter.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: What a lot of rubbish! What I have said is as I see it from my own point of view. This is not a small matter. It will take some time to come to fruition.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Probably every honourable member in this Chamber would be somewhat perturbed by the implication of the Minister of Agriculture that certain matters regarding health standards in country slaughterhouses need very close examination. Will the Minister of Health take urgent action through the Department of Public Health

to inspect all country slaughterhouses in South Australia, to ascertain whether there is any lack of health regulations in country slaughterhouses in this State?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I could give a short answer and say "Yes", but that does not apply. The honourable member should know that the Department of Public Health has no control nor any direct communication with local government. Let me say also (and I make no apology) that there is a great variation in the standards required by various inspectors of public health through local government bodies. I have been worried about this for a number of years.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: I am asking the Public Health Department to make a report on it.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: Public Health can only ask for a report from a certain local government body.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: It could ask for it.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: We cannot direct, neither can we instruct.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: I realize that.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: All the Minister of Agriculture said in the first part of his reply was that a great variation exists in the standards applied by various inspectors of health. I agree with that, and it is not the first time I have said so in this place. However, to return to the honourable member's question, I will ask the Director of Public Health whether he is able to get a report as requested.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: If, as the Minister of Agriculture says, he retains an expert, namely, Mr. Gray, from whom he does not seek written reports, but merely verbal reports, on what financial basis is Mr. Gray retained?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I say he is a consultant. I do not think I ever referred to him as an expert. That is a word the honourable member has concocted. He may be an expert in his own field, but I did not claim Mr. Gray is an expert in this matter. He was appointed as a consultant.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: What is his qualification?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: He will be paid consultation fees, which is the normal rate of payment for consultants.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: Producers have received many assurances lately that facilities for the slaughtering of beef cattle in this State are adequate. However, some concern is felt, particularly now that the American market has been opened up without restriction, that perhaps the quantity of beef cattle available for slaughter will increase. Can the Minister say whether beef slaughtering facilities are adequate for the potential demand on them; if the reply is in the affirmative, will he guarantee producers in South Australia that facilities will be adequate? This is a matter of great concern to producers. It is of little use having markets available for a product and not having facilities in which to prepare the product.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I do not know how the honourable member expects me to reply to a hypothetical question of that nature.

The Hon. M. B. Cameron: Hypothetical?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Of course it is. If the question dealt specifically with the matter of whether beef production rises to a certain point, it would be different, but the honourable member did not even stipulate what this is likely to be. He asked whether, in the event of beef production rising, the Government would guarantee that the killing facilities were available to cope with increased production. No one could give that undertaking. If the honourable member is so apt with his feasibility studies (and no doubt he has made one) why does he not go to private enterprise and say that there is a lucrative business available in South Australia by opening an export abattoirs? The honourable member knows that at Naracoorte, in the South-East, an export abattoir is under construction.

The Hon. M. B. Cameron: After a long struggle.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: It is under construction. You never got one previously, and you have been trying for years.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am very hopeful that, when the new beef chain comes into operation at Gepps Cross, if (and I use that word because I do not know if it will come to fruition) shiftwork comes into operation, it will cope very well indeed. I do not think anyone could give a guarantee in reply to a question such as that asked by the honourable member. I think it is too much to ask me, on such a basis, whether the Government is willing to give a guarantee.

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

Several honourable members: Aye.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: No.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Ayes have it.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I am amazed by the Minister's reply, indicating that perhaps my thoughts regarding beef production had given rise to a hypothetical question. Can the Minister say whether there is any study within the terms of reference carried out by Mr. Gray in relation to the necessity for an increase in certain types of slaughtering facilities, such as beef chains, to cope with any possible increase in production, and is the Minister's department in any way studying the trends within the State on production increase to know just whether or not there will be a need in the future for such facilities? I would imagine that, if we start worrying about abattoirs, the first thing we would do would be to examine whether or not there will be an increase or decrease in a particular type of production. I would suggest that, as an adjunct to the present verbal discussions taking place between Mr. Gray and the Minister, this would have been the important feature.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The purpose of asking questions is to obtain information; I am afraid both questions and replies are verging on the point of becoming debate. That must cease. The Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I thank you, Mr. President, for that ruling; I think it is very wise. If the honourable member likes to read the terms of reference, I am afraid he will find that the potential of beef production in South Australia does not come within them. I point out that, if private enterprise (which, of course, is very much aware of the situation regarding beef production) thought that the situation was such that beef production was going to rise to the heights indicated by the honourable member, private enterprise would have jumped right into this matter and built abattoirs to cope with the position. I am afraid the honourable member has gone completely off the rails with some of the questions he has asked.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I may be confused in regard to this matter and I therefore ask the Minister a question again about Mr. Gray

who, on the admission of the Minister today, is a consultant to him and is an expert.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: Not an expert, a consultant.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I took the Minister to say that he is an expert.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: No.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Well, he is a consultant—I will rephrase it: Mr. Gray, on the admission of the Minister, is a consultant. Is the Minister or is he not receiving written reports from Mr. Gray?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: No.

OATS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: During the final stages of the last session of this Parliament we passed what was known as the Oats Marketing Bill. Efforts were made by honourable members of this Chamber to induce the Minister to conduct a poll of oatgrowers to ascertain whether or not they wished to have an Oats Marketing Act. If my memory serves me correctly, I think we had a conference with another place on this matter. One of the reasons why the Minister did not want a poll of growers was that he wished the Act to come into operation for the coming harvest, so there was a degree of urgency. He has now publicly stated that the Act will not come into operation this year but that it is hoped to bring it into operation next year. Now that the matter of urgency no longer exists, will the Minister consider conducting a poll of growers to find out whether or not they desire the Oats Marketing Act?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Let me correct the honourable member first by saying that there was no meeting between both Houses on this matter during the course of last session. Amendments were made but no conference was held between the two Houses. I am sure the honourable member will not mind my correcting him on that score. Secondly, we had hoped to bring this Act into operation this year, but two factors prevented us from doing that. One was the lateness of the season. The Chairman of the Oat Board, Sir Allan Callaghan (who has indicated to me that he will be available to take the post of Chairman) at present is carrying out an investigation on behalf of the Commonwealth Government into the wheat industry. He will not be available

for any work in South Australia before the end of the year at the earliest because he is going overseas towards the end of this year. Because of that, it would be rather ridiculous to set up the board and proclaim the Act at this stage as the oat harvest may not be as great as it was last year. I have had not one letter of displeasure about the passing of the Act from the growers of this State to say that they want a poll. It has also been indicated to me by the United Farmers and Graziers that at all their meetings (I discussed this during the course of the Bill) the growers were quite happy.

SCHOOL BOOKS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I have been told by several headmasters that they appreciate the free school books that are allocated to the various schools, but there are occasions upon which the books supplied are not those that are recommended to or used by a school, with the result that there is quite a stock of books sitting at the school which are not used or required by the teachers concerned. In view of the autonomy granted to headmasters, will the Minister of Education consider extending that autonomy so that headmasters can use this money that is normally spent on purchasing books to purchase books that are required at the school for the courses being conducted by the teachers?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I will refer that question to my colleague and bring back a reply as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Environment and Conservation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I was very pleased indeed to hear His Excellency say in his Speech that the report of the Committee on Environment is now in the Government's hands. Last session I asked a question about this report, because I was very interested in it. I know that many people have been looking forward to the report from the committee which, incidentally, was set up by the previous Government. Can the Minister say whether the Government will make the report

public, table it, or supply honourable members with copies of it?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I shall be pleased to direct the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring back a reply as soon as it is available.

RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: In the previous session the Minister of Lands was asked a question about the money provided by the Commonwealth Government to alleviate rural unemployment; I believe that the amount available for that purpose has been increased. The Minister was requested to state the basis on which the money had been allocated. Has the Minister replied to that question, and is it intended to vary the basis of allocation in the next six months and, if it is, what will be the variation?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I assume that the honourable member is referring to money to alleviate rural unemployment. Money for that purpose is allocated on the basis of the amount of unemployment in the various areas. The previous allocation was for six months. It was announced last December that a sum would be made available for South Australia but, by the time the letters had been sent to the various councils through my department and the Tourist Bureau requesting that employment schemes be submitted, a month or so had elapsed. Consequently, the amount made available for what was to be a six-month period was, in fact, spent over a shorter period. So, to spend the money in the various areas a greater number of people was employed than could have been employed if the sum had been spent over six months, as had been intended. When the six months expired, the Commonwealth Government agreed to make money available for the following six months, because the scheme was to run for 18 months. Of course, that money had to be spread over six months; so, on a monthly basis, the amount available in this six-month period is less than the amount available in the previous term. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the number of people employed month by month. In the last month my department has been assessing the claims of the various districts and approving sums for those districts on the basis of the amount of unemployment there. As I have said before, one of the provisions laid down by the Commonwealth Government is that people must be registered

for employment before they can be employed under this scheme. I believe this provision has caused an increase in the number of people registered for employment in the country. For example, Aborigines, sons of farmers, and even wives of country people, all of whom do not normally register for employment, are being registered. That is fair enough.

The Hon. M. B. Cameron: Does your Government take the initiative in informing councils of their allocation?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Each council is requested to suggest a scheme for employment in its district; it must state what the money will be spent on—for example, water tables and kerbing. Furthermore, the council must say how many people will be employed on the project. Some councils have suggested schemes that are far beyond the amount of finance to which they are entitled on the basis of unemployment in their areas. Consequently, councils have been asked to suggest several schemes and state their priorities. After my department has discussed these matters with council officers, the council is informed of the amount it can expect as a result of unemployment in its district.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: Is it a requirement that the unemployed people be permanent residents in the area, or have there been instances where unemployed people have been shifted to an area to justify an allocation?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I cannot altogether answer that question, because matters related to the enrolment of people are in the hands of the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service. Although there is close liaison between that department and my department, the matter of checking the credentials of people registered in an area is a Commonwealth concern.

OBJECTIONS TO EXPLANATIONS

The PRESIDENT: I wish to report to the Council that the Hon. Mr. Banfield raised a point with me earlier this afternoon in connection with leave being granted to explain a question. I draw attention to Standing Orders relating to questions and answers. Honourable members know that after an objection is raised to an explanation being given the honourable member concerned then has to ask his question. Earlier this afternoon I did not take the lone voice as being serious, but the honourable member is quite correct that he, having raised his voice objecting to an explana-

tion being given, was right, and my allowing the explanation of the question was wrong.

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:

American River, Kangaroo Island, Water Supply,
Braeview Sewerage Scheme,
Campbelltown Infant School (Replacement),
Clare Primary School (Replacement),
Flinders Medical Centre,
Glenside Hospital Additions (Psychogeriatric Admission Unit),
Goodwood Primary School (Replacement),
Hospital for Criminal Mental Defectives, Yatala,
Mitcham Demonstration School (Replacement of Infant Accommodation),
Mitchell Park Primary School Additions,
New Mount Gambier Courthouse,
Reorganization of North-Eastern and Eastern Suburbs Sewerage System,
Salisbury North Primary School (Replacement),
Snowtown Area School (Replacement),
Yorketown High School.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

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

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

Printing: The Hons. R. A. Geddes, L. R. Hart, A. F. Kneebone, A. J. Shard, and V. G. Springett.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. A. J. SHARD (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. T. M. Casey, R. C. DeGaris, A. F. Kneebone, A. J. Shard, and C. R. Story be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.42 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 19, at 2.15 p.m.