

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 7, 1973

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

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT: I remind the Council that His Excellency the Governor has appointed 2.30 p.m. as the time for receiving honourable members with the Address in Reply, and I invite the mover (Hon. C. W. Creedon) and the seconder (Hon. B. A. Chatterton) and other honourable members to accompany me to Government House.

[Sitting suspended from 2.17 to 2.37 p.m.]

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform the Council that, accompanied by the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Opening Speech, and by other honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address adopted by the Council on Wednesday, August 1, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened the second session of the Forty-first Parliament. I am confident that you will give your best attention to all matters placed before you. I pray for God's blessing upon your deliberations.

QUESTIONS**MINISTER'S OVERSEA VISITS**

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Has the Minister of Health a reply to my recent question about the overseas trips of the Minister of Transport?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: My colleague, the Minister of Transport, informs me that he has made only one overseas visit since coming into office. He travelled overseas from April 17, 1971, to June 7, 1971, and the total cost of that visit was \$3,905. My colleague left on August 3, 1973, on a trip overseas to gain first-hand knowledge of developing transportation technologies and to view, where possible, transportation systems in operation. The approximate cost of the Minister's current trip will be \$4,000.

COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: Eighteen South Australian country newspapers have formed a company that produces a common magazine section called *Venture*. The only shareholders in this company are the 18 country newspapers. The Postmaster-General claims that this magazine section is a supplementary section and he will not allow certain of these newspapers to have *Venture* inserted, when this section exceeds the size of the original paper, when it is being mailed. The papers claim that this discriminates against both the people living outside country towns and the country towns where the paper is smaller because of the smaller size of the local population. Will the State Government make representations to the Commonwealth Government about this matter and persuade the Commonwealth Government to ensure that the publication *Venture* is allowed as a magazine section in country

newspapers and that the insertion of *Venture* will not affect the normal concession available to newspapers?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will have the matter investigated and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to a question I asked at the end of last month about the progress of the new Government Printing Office?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: The honourable member's question was in regard to when the present Government Printing Office would be demolished. A decision as to when the existing Government Printing Office will be demolished is to be made at a later date, when associated factors such as the programme for the development of the southern plaza, adjacent to the festival theatre complex, have been more clearly determined. It would, of course, be undesirable for demolition work to be in progress during the 1974 Festival of Arts.

KANGAROO ISLAND

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: On at least two occasions, to my personal knowledge, in the last few months air facilities at Kangaroo Island have been rendered inoperable by the flooding of the airport. Bearing in mind that Kangaroo Island is one of our chief holiday resorts and is a primary-producing area, the matter is serious. Can the Chief Secretary say what steps the State Government is taking to ensure that the landing facilities at Kangaroo Island are updated or upgraded?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I do not know whether this is a matter for the Department of Civil Aviation or whether the State Government has any jurisdiction here at all. Anyway, I will have the matter investigated and bring down a reply for the honourable member as soon as possible.

LAND TAX FORMS

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Has the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of July 25 about the Valuation Department and form 9?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: My colleague the Treasurer reports as follows:

Whenever general valuations for rating and taxing are issued, primary producers complain that productivity should be taken into account by valuers in the making of the valuations. The Secretary, United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated, laid great stress on this factor in an address he gave to a valuers' seminar in July, 1972. Provision for productivity to be taken into account in valuations made by the Valuer-General was included in the valuing legislation by Parliament when it made provision in the Valuation of Land Act for the Valuer-General to seek this information from landholders in terms of section 28.

The purpose of the returns is to enable the Valuer-General to obtain as much detailed information as possible concerning each property to make the valuation properly. The Valuer-General is currently responsible for making some 550,000 valuations at least once in every five years and in the use of these returns he is seeking co-operation from the landowners in his mammoth task. Return of the information to the Valuer-General will obviously benefit the landholders since it will reflect in a better comparability of land values between their properties, resulting in a more equitable tax-sharing by all the landowners in the area under review. It also gives the valuer more time for each property inspection and greater consideration to the making of his valuation.

In terms of the Act, the only lawful purpose to which this information can be put is the making of valuations

under the Act. It is therefore personal to the owner and will not be divulged by the Valuer-General or his officers to any other persons or authorities. The use of land-owners' returns is not new in valuation. They have been in use in New South Wales for over 50 years as well as being used in other Australian States. Their purpose is simply to simplify the detailed preparatory work needed in making fair and comparable values where a large volume of valuations is required to be made for rating and taxing purposes.

KINGSTON SCHOOL

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: On March 27, 1972, the Kingston Area School Committee wrote to the Minister of Education as follows:

I have been instructed by the members of the Kingston Area School Committee to write to you and inquire for a progress report on the proposed establishment of a 210 open-space teaching unit at the school. When you visited our school last year, you gave us to believe that it was possible that something could be done in this matter in the very near future. . .

On June 28, 1972, the Minister indicated that the tenders would be called when additional Commonwealth Government funds were made available. On March 7, 1973, the Minister wrote to the committee again as follows:

The present position is that a six-teacher open-space unit is the subject of a feasibility study by the Public Buildings Department. This project will be placed on a programme for tender call as circumstances permit. If additional moneys become available from the Commonwealth as a result of the recommendations of the recently established Interim Schools Committee by the Federal Government, we would hope to provide the unit at an earlier date than at present appears possible.

Further information has been passed on and, despite additional money being made available by the Commonwealth, this project is to be further delayed. Will the Minister obtain for me a report indicating when this 210 open-space unit will be established at the school?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I will obtain a reply from my colleague as soon as possible.

SPEED LIMITS

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Minister of Health, representing the Minister of Transport, a reply to my question of July 31 concerning vehicle speed limits?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: My colleague expects to introduce appropriate legislation during this session.

CHEST CLINIC

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Can the Minister of Health say whether the construction of the new chest clinic on North Terrace is proceeding on schedule and, if it is not, what is the reason for any delay? Can the Minister also say when the new chest clinic is expected to open?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I understand that the work is proceeding according to schedule, and the opening is expected to take place some time in October.

DOCTORS' FEES

The Hon. C. W. CREEDON: I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. W. CREEDON: An article in the most recent *Sunday Mail* deals with the readiness of certain doctors, in certain circumstances, to go to prison and at

great length with the exploits of Dr. John Whiting and with his ability to write books. However, the article gives no reason or justification for charging the fees recommended by the Australian Medical Association throughout Australia. The article also states that Dr. Lenman had earned \$30,000 in the previous year but that all he had left after taxation was \$6,000. As doctors' fees have caused a great furore throughout the community, can the Minister of Health say what the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs stated when he recommended that the profession be permitted to increase fees, and what he found was the average annual income of doctors?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The question should have been asked of the Chief Secretary, representing the Premier, who is in charge of the Prices Branch. The Commissioner said that the average net income of doctors was \$19,000 a year.

CAVES VALLEY DRAINS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: Some time ago a deputation from the Naracoorte corporation waited on the Minister of Lands and, in the presence of members of the South-Eastern Drainage Board, held a discussion concerning the future of the Caves Valley drains. The corporation made several requests to the Government for a subsidy to assist with the maintenance and reconstruction of certain bridges and for the clearance of soil banks. Certain information on costs was requested from the corporation and, as I understand that this information has been passed on, I ask whether the Minister has had an opportunity to study it. If he has studied it, can he indicate to the corporation the Government's attitude to its requests?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I believe that the facts are as the honourable member has put them. I understand that the council has forwarded the required information, which is being studied. However, I will obtain a report on the exact situation. I am not quite sure whether the council has been written to, but I will obtain a reply as soon as possible.

WEEDS

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: About a week ago I asked the Minister of Health, representing the Minister of Transport, a question about weeds on the South-Eastern Freeway. Since then, I have noticed a considerable improvement in this matter. I do not know whether the improvement was the result of my question, but I understand that the Minister has a reply for me.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: My colleague informs me that, at present, the Highways Department has no legal responsibility in the control of noxious weeds on any road reserves, including freeways. Notwithstanding this, the department has been and is now carrying out control of noxious weeds on the South-Eastern Freeway. Amendments to the Weeds Act are presently being considered and, included in recent submissions made by the department, is the suggestion that the Commissioner of Highways be made legally responsible for the control of noxious weeds on freeways.

CHELTENHAM HOSTEL

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: During the last 10 days considerable press publicity in the local area and in the State press has taken place concerning a protest by Cheltenham residents at a proposal to erect a rehabilitation centre in a residential part of that area. One press report states that residents have raised about \$700 to fight the establishment of a psychiatric hostel at Cheltenham. There have been many comments from the people who are concerned about the matter. Has the problem been considered by the Minister of Health and, if so, has he any solution to offer to those residents in Cheltenham?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am surprised at the outburst by the people about this proposed psychiatric hostel in the Woodville area. At present there are 21 psychiatric hostels—18 in the metropolitan area and three in the country. They have been operating for several years and there has not been one complaint by anyone in the community about the boarders at those hostels. I assure the honourable member and the people who will be neighbours of the boarders that the boarders are under strict supervision. True, they have previously been in psychiatric hospitals but they are practically fully recovered from their complaints, and they must live somewhere. While they are boarding at these psychiatric hostels, they are under fairly strict supervision and, if there is the slightest sign of a recurrence of their previous problem, they are taken back to an institution. I assure the people of Cheltenham that we have not received one complaint from anyone about the boarders in the existing 21 psychiatric hostels.

CARPENTER ROCKS

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: 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. M. B. CAMERON: At a small township in the South-East called Carpenter Rocks there is what has become a bus terminal for schoolchildren catching buses. At present no shelter is available for those children, and anyone who has been to that area knows that it is very exposed. Will the Minister consider having a bus shelter constructed for the children, either children waiting for a bus or children awaiting the arrival of people to take them home?

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

DIAL-A-BUS

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: Has the Minister of Health a reply from the Minister of Transport to my question about the release of the dial-a-bus report by Professor Potts to the Government?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: My colleague advises me that Professor R. B. Potts was a member of a committee appointed some time ago by my colleague, the Minister of Transport; to consider the application of a dial-a-bus system to the Adelaide scene. The function of the committee was to advise the Government. It was not asked to prepare a report for general publication.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is introduced in order to amend the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1958. Section 68 of that Act makes it an offence to tamper with any fire alarm or to give a false alarm of fire. Last amended in 1942, this section prescribes as alternatives to imprisonment ranges of fines that are by present standards quite inadequate. For a first offence, a fine of not less than \$4 or more than \$20 may be imposed; for a subsequent offence, the range of fines is between \$20 and \$200. Both to the Fire Brigade and to the general public, the making of false alarms of fire is a common nuisance. From June, 1971, till July, 1972, for example, the brigade received 553 false alarms. Although the apprehension of offenders is difficult, some prosecutions are made, and it is hoped that the imposition of increased fines will have a real effect as a deterrent. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 increases the minimum and maximum fines for both first and subsequent offences. The range for a first offence is from \$20 to \$500; for a subsequent offence, it is from \$100 to \$1,000.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS secured the adjournment of the debate.

POLICE REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This short Bill gives effect to an agreement between the Commissioner of Police and the Police Association of South Australia relating to the reorganization of the machinery for dealing with disciplinary inquiries within the force. One of the bodies, the Police Inquiry Committee, proposed to be the subject of a reorganization, is constituted by regulations under the Police Regulation Act and it would be inappropriate to discuss its reorganization in detail in this context. Suffice it to say that the changes proposed there will be effected by regulations which will, in the ordinary course of events, be subject to the scrutiny of this Council.

However, since it is proposed that in future the Chairman of the Police Inquiry Committee shall be a special magistrate it seems appropriate that the body to which appeals from this committee lie should be chaired by a local court judge in lieu of a special magistrate, as is the case at present. This then is the effect of this Bill. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 38 of the principal Act by substituting a local court judge as the Chairman of the Police Appeal Board in the place of a special magistrate. Clause 4 is a consequential amendment.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.7 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, August 14, at 2.15 p.m.