

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

First Session of the Forty-Second Parliament (1975)

The Forty-first Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until August 12, 1975, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on June 20, general elections were held on July 12. By proclamation dated July 24 the new Parliament was summoned to meet on August 5, and the First Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 5, 1975

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Mark Oliphant) summoning the first session of the Forty-second Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable John Jefferson Bray (Chief Justice) and the Honourable David Stirling Hogarth (a Judge of the Supreme Court) were announced by Black Rod (Mr. A. D. Drummond) and conducted to chairs on the dais.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that House to attend to hear the Governor's Commission for the opening of Parliament. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the Commission.

The Senior Commissioner (the Honourable Mr. Justice Bray) announced that His Excellency the Governor would, in person, declare the reasons for his calling the Parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the two Houses had notified that they had elected respectively their President and Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and His Honour Mr. Justice Hogarth withdrew.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

His Honour Mr. Justice Bray produced a Commission from the Governor authorising him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly elected members the Oath of Allegiance or receive an Affirmation in lieu thereof, also writs and returns for the election of 11 members.

The Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll.

The Commissioner retired.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health): I remind the Council that the time has arrived for the election of its President, and I move that the Hon. F. J. Potter be elected.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I humbly submit myself to the will of the Council.

There being no other nomination, the Hon. F. J. Potter was elected and was escorted to the President's Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Mr. President, I congratulate you. You have served this Council with distinction over a long period of years and you are well qualified to hold the very high office to which you have been unanimously elected. I am sure you have the qualities of impartiality, fairness, courtesy and tolerance that have been shown by your illustrious predecessors in this great office, and I know that your efforts as President will succeed.

While I am on my feet, I take this opportunity of formally extending the thanks of the Council to your distinguished predecessor, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, who served this Council with distinction for a period of over 40 years as a member, as a Minister, as Leader of the Opposition and, for the past eight years, as President. He brought great credit to the Council and to the office of President and I know honourable members would like me to record our gratitude for his services, and in particular

for the way in which he conducted himself in the high office of President.

Mr. President, we are sure you will carry on these high traditions and that the Presidency of the Council will continue to stand above politics and the difficulties that arise in this place. On behalf of all honourable members, may I say I am happy to see you as President of the Council.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Mr. President, I support the views expressed by the Chief Secretary in congratulating you on your elevation to the Presidency of this Council. I think we all recognise that this is the crowning glory of a career in politics extending over 17 years. In this Council, we have had a limited number of Presidents in well over 100 years of our history—possibly about 10—which, I think, is a remarkable performance. I do not know that you, Mr. President, will maintain the average length of occupancy of the office. Nevertheless, we wish you well in your office as President of this Council.

I support the remarks of the Chief Secretary in relation to the previous President, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, who has been in this Parliament for almost one-third of the history of South Australia. He is a man who not only has served as President of the Council but also was Chief Secretary for about 27 years. He was a Cabinet Minister during a period of this State's development in which everyone must take considerable pride. We all appreciate that, in the era of the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, we saw this State grow from a situation of being reliant almost entirely upon rural industry for its wealth and development. In that period, from 1938 to 1950, we saw a remarkable development of industry in South Australia, for which Sir Lyell must take much personal credit.

For the last few years, he has been President of this Council and I think every honourable member has appreciated the wisdom and justice he has shown in his office as President. I have the utmost pleasure in supporting the Chief Secretary's remarks about Sir Lyell. Once again, Mr. President, we congratulate you on your elevation to this office and know you will carry out your duties in the best traditions of this Council.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: On behalf of the group I lead in this Council I, too, extend to you, Mr. President, our congratulations on your elevation. You have in the past been a colleague of mine in the Party and, even when you have not been, I have found you to be very fair and impartial, and I am sure you will take those qualities to the Presidency. I also wish to support the Chief Secretary's remarks relating to the previous President, whom I found to be very fair and impartial. I have no hesitation in supporting the expressions of gratitude to him.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. F. J. Potter): I thank all honourable members for the honour that they have bestowed upon me today by electing me to the President's Chair. In particular, I thank the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Hon. Mr. Cameron for the kind remarks that they have made. In political life there are, and always will be, ups and downs in the fortunes of Parties and individuals—times when they sense achievement and times when they have somewhat of a depression. I have personally experienced these, as have all other honourable members. Consequently, I have come to know how true the saying is that some achieve greatness while some have greatness thrust upon them by the force of circumstances. Any feeling of satisfaction I have today must, therefore, be tempered with real humility.

There have been some very distinguished Presidents in the past 125 years, and I will do my best to maintain the very high standards that they set. In particular, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, who was the tenth President of this Council. I associate myself with the remarks made today about Sir Lyell by honourable members. I do not intend to be an innovator, but I will go about things in my own way from time to time. I do not think a review of the Standing Orders of this Council will result in any marked changes, but it is my hope that the Standing Orders Committee will meet and at least examine the Standing Orders for possible changes.

The Hon. Mrs. Cooper and I are now the two senior members of this Council, and over the 16 years or more that we have been here we have seen many changes. However, standing here today, I cannot but feel that this is a historic point of time in this Council's history. As I look out upon the Council as it is now constituted, all I can say is that a very profound change has occurred. I believe that the task of any President from this time forward will be different and no doubt more difficult than the task faced by my predecessors. I hope I will have the goodwill and assistance of all honourable members in carrying out my duties and in guarding their rights and the privileges of the Council. In the past we have had a reputation for getting things done with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of co-operation consistent with Party commitments. I hope this practice will continue.

I take this opportunity to welcome all the newly elected members of this Council. There are eight new faces here, and I wish the new members well during their stay. I shall be very happy to do anything within my power to assist them in the discharge of their duties. I again thank all honourable members for the confidence they have expressed in me by electing me to this office, and I will try at all times to maintain their goodwill.

At 11.30 a.m., attended by a deputation of members, the President proceeded to Government House.

On resuming at 12.12 p.m.:

The PRESIDENT: I have to report that, accompanied by honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented myself as President to His Excellency the Governor, and claimed for the Council the right of free access to and communication with His Excellency, and that the most favourable construction might be placed on all its proceedings. His Excellency was pleased to reply:

I congratulate the honourable members of the Legislative Council on their choice of a President. I readily assure you of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges enjoyed by the Council over which you preside. The proceedings of the Council will always receive my most favourable consideration.

[Sitting suspended from 12.15 to 2.15 p.m.]

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. Since you were last called together the State has suffered a sad loss as a consequence of the deaths of two distinguished former members of the Legislative Council.

I refer to the passing of Norman Lane Jude, Knight Bachelor, a member of that House for some 27 years and a Minister of the crown for over 11 years, and of Leslie Harold Densley, a member for 23 years and President of the Legislative Council from April, 1962, until March, 1967. I feel sure that you will join me in recording our appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to the State and in expressing our sympathy to their families.

3. Since you were last called together a general election has been held. In my Government's view the electorate has now endorsed the proposed transfer to the Australian Government of responsibility for the operation of the non-metropolitan railways of this State. Accordingly, there is now a pressing need for Parliament to reconsider the Bill that failed to pass in the previous session. The Bill will therefore be reintroduced into Parliament. Since, in my advisers' view, the resolution of this matter is essential to the well-being of the State, it will take precedence of the remainder of the legislative programme. In furtherance of my Government's undertaking, you will also be invited to consider once again the question of the abolition of licences under the Business Franchise (Petroleum) Act, 1974.

4. My Government will, in furtherance of its policy of eliminating electoral inequalities and establishing the principle of one vote one value, introduce measures to alter the Constitution to provide for electorates for the House of Assembly of equal numerical size. Legislation will also be introduced providing that elections for the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council should coincide. A Bill amending the Electoral Act and including provision for optional preferential voting for the House of Assembly will again be laid before you. A Bill providing for an additional Minister will also be placed before you.

5. My Government will press on with its plans to improve the quality of the State's livestock by proceeding with the campaign for the eradication of the cattle diseases, bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. Plans have been prepared for a rapid expansion of the programme should further funds be made available by the Australian Government following its consideration of the report and recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission on this subject. Appropriate legislation will be laid before you in due course to facilitate the conduct of this campaign. New meat industry legislation will also be laid before you this session. An important object of this legislation will be to ensure that the slaughtering of livestock for human consumption will take place only in the most hygienic conditions.

6. Environmental protection under powers conferred by the Planning and Development Act has been extended to many areas of the State, in particular, the Murray River Valley and the Flinders Ranges. My Government's policy of protecting and enhancing the environment will be furthered by legislation which will be placed before you in this session providing for environmental impact statements. The Beverage Container Bill, which failed to become law during the last session of Parliament, will again be placed before you. Legislation to amend the Planning and Development Act will be placed before you in the forthcoming session. An intensive study of the developing northern and southern metropolitan growth regions will be undertaken during the next 12 months. It is planned to produce intermediate stage concept plans to co-ordinate the growth of these areas until the year 2001, thus giving direction to public and private developers in the fringe areas. When completed, the studies and resulting concept plans will form the basis for a comprehensive review of the

Metropolitan Development Plan, which will then be undertaken. My Government will pursue its policy of preserving as far as possible the character and amenity of rural areas.

7. My Government has commenced an evaluation of the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into the Public Service under the Chairmanship of Professor D. C. Corbett of Flinders University. When that evaluation is complete appropriate legislation will be laid before you.

8. My Government considers it essential that the purchasing power of wages should be maintained and not eroded by increases in prices, but in order to combat inflation wage increases should be temporarily confined to quarterly adjustments, apart from dealing with anomalies. Accordingly, it is taking appropriate action. You will be asked to consider again a measure intended to ensure that the sex of a worker will not be a consideration in fixing wage rates for a job. My Government will introduce a measure to revise the Workmen's Compensation Act to eliminate anomalies and difficulties that appear to have arisen from its operation. A Bill will be laid before you to grant long service leave to building workers based on the aggregation of their service to the industry and subsequently to extend such leave to casual workers in other industries. My Government will continue to act to improve the working conditions of persons wherever they are employed in the State. The Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act is being progressively applied to persons employed in various industries to ensure that all reasonable precautions are being taken in respect of the safety and welfare of workers while at work. My Government is proceeding to its ultimate object of having that Act apply to all employed persons in the State.

9. Following recommendations made to my Government by the Committee of Inquiry into the Racing Industry, a Bill for a new Racing Act to cover all aspects of horse-racing, trotting and dog-racing activities in the State will be placed before you.

10. Following the publication of the Committee of Inquiry into Health Services in South Australia under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Bright and the acceptance by my Government of its general principles and philosophy, my Government is taking steps to implement some of its proposals, and appropriate legislation to this end will be laid before you. A Bill dealing with the Flinders Medical Centre will also be placed before you.

11. Through a Murray River working party, which reports to a steering committee of State and Australian Government Ministers, my Government is currently advancing its views to the New South Wales, Victorian and Australian Governments on the matter of joint legislative and organisational arrangements which will ameliorate the problems of salinity and the other problems of water quality and quantity management relating to the Murray River. The working party's Water Quality Committee has recommended a number of practical solutions to the problems arising in this area. My Government has proposed that the River Murray Waters Agreement should be renegotiated to include amendments giving the River Murray Commission additional responsibilities related to water quality control and enabling it to perform its functions more effectively.

12. Legislation will be placed before you during the forthcoming session to ensure that the quality and quantity of all the State's water resources will be conserved and enhanced. This legislation will provide for a State Water Resources Council charged with duties

of the preservation of underground and surface water, of controlling water pollution and of generally husbanding the State's scanty water resources.

13. During this session of Parliament, legislation will be laid before you to give further effect to my Government's plans for a more efficient public transport system. Already, the State Transport Authority exercises policy control over the activities of our two major transport operators, the Municipal Tramways Trust and the South Australian Railways Commissioner. In this session it will be proposed that these organisations come under the operational control of that authority. This step was foreshadowed during the debate on the legislation setting up the State Transport Authority.

14. My Government is engaged in continuing discussions with numbers of local government councils with a view to securing their agreement to changes in boundaries in the interests of efficiency in administration.

Members of the House of Assembly:

15. 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:

16. In addition to the measures already referred to, my Government intends to lay before you a substantial legislative programme. Amongst the measures to be included in that programme are measures to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex or marital status; to revise the scale of succession duty; to make certain concessions in the field of gift and stamp duty; to bring up to date legislation relating to architects and surveyors; to deal with Aboriginal and historic relics; to impose financial liabilities on builders for defective housing work; to give effect to recommendations of the Mitchell committee in the field of penal reform; to provide for the establishment and regulation of credit unions; to control the advertising of cigarettes; to regulate the sale of firearms; to create a Further Education Department; to provide for the preservation of historic buildings; to replace the present Legal Practitioners Act; to extend the franchise for local government elections; and to regulate the letting of residential premises.

17. The year 1974-75 opened with a deficit on Consolidated Revenue Account of \$536 000, but with the expected receipt of a completion grant in respect of the year 1972-73 it may be said that the Budget for 1974-75 was introduced against the background of a surplus in Consolidated Revenue Account of almost \$8 000 000. The Budget presented in August, 1974, forecast a deficit of \$12 000 000 after making allowance for the provision of a round sum of \$30 000 000 to meet possible new salary and wage awards and in the expectation that the State would receive a special grant of \$6 000 000 from the Australian Government. On Loan Account, the programme submitted to Parliament provided for spending all of the new funds available but not for running down the balance in Loan Account, which was budgeted to remain at \$4 500 000 so as to provide for an approximate balance on Revenue Account and Loan Account combined as at June 30, 1975. In the event, this \$6 000 000 grant was not received and my Government was obliged to seek new revenues from sales of petroleum and tobacco. There were a number of variations in both receipts and payments on Revenue Account but, as a result of financial arrangements arising from the Government's agreement to transfer the non-metropolitan railway system to the Australian Government, the State received special grants which enabled it to

complete the year with a surplus in the Revenue Account of \$8 400 000, whilst a further amount of \$6 400 000 was credited to Consolidated Revenue Account in respect of an adjustment to past years' special grants which had been withheld in accordance with Grants Commission procedures. The overall position on Consolidated Revenue Account at June 30, 1975, therefore, was that the account was in surplus to the extent of \$22 800 000.

On Loan Account the balance was run down by \$2 600 000 to a balance of \$1 900 000 so that on Revenue Account and Loan Account combined my Government enters the year 1975-76 with \$24 700 000 in hand. It should be understood that, in consideration of the transfer of non-metropolitan railways, the Australian Government will take over the debt in respect of assets transferred and in addition will increase our base financial assistance grant by \$25 000 000. At the same time, the State, upon having its financial assistance grant increased by a further \$25 000 000, will cease to be a claimant State before the Grants Commission. The effect of building both of these amounts into the financial assistance grant base which will then escalate in accordance with movements in population and in the level of average wages will mean that the Government will be able to remove the petroleum licensing fees and still present a reasonable and responsible Budget later this month. At the same time, since it will not be necessary to hold back Loan funds at this juncture to cover prospective revenue deficits, the Government will be able to appropriate all of its current capital funds in accordance with its proper priorities.

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

MEMBERS' SERVICE

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health): With the leave of the Council, I should like to place on record the thanks and appreciation of the Council of the excellent service of former members. I refer to the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill, the Hon. Frank Kneebone, the Hon. Bert Shard, the Hon. Dr. Springett, the Hon. Ross Story, and the Hon. Gordon Gilfillan. It was regrettable that the last session of Parliament finished in the way it did. Normally, these words would have been said on prorogation night, but that was not to be. I believe, therefore, that it is appropriate at this stage to express our thanks to those gentlemen who served this Council so well over many years.

I referred to the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin this morning when I congratulated you, Sir, on becoming President. I repeat that Sir Lyell did a magnificent job over many years as member, Leader, Cabinet Minister, and President. Sir Arthur Rymill served the Council with distinction for many years. Frank Kneebone and Bert Shard were good friends of mine over a long period even before I became a member of this Council. I express my appreciation to the Hon. Bert Shard, who will claim that he guided me along the right road; I do not dispute that. He did a good job as Leader, and when I came here in 1965 as the only back-bencher he helped me considerably. Frank Kneebone is a man for whom everyone has great respect. He did a good job in his term as a Minister and he, too, was a very good Leader. I express my appreciation of the work he did and the assistance he gave me during the time we were together in this Chamber.

The Hon. Dr. Springett was always a gentleman. More often than not he agreed with what I said, so obviously we got along very well. He was one gentleman in this Chamber who did not play politics in relation to the subjects on which he spoke. I came to know Ross Story and Gordon Gilfillan when they were members of the Public Works Committee. I treated them as friends in the same way as I treated other members of this Council, but we had a closer relationship over the years because we were on that committee together. Gordon Gilfillan worked well as secretary of his Party and assisted greatly in the running of this Council. In saying that I regret that Gordon Gilfillan and Ross Story are no longer in this Council, I must say that I regret it not politically but personally; it is one of those things. Although we set out to defeat these people when elections are fought, it is when the elections are over that we have a certain amount of regret and sorrow that they are not re-elected. We do not say that on election night, but we say it later on.

I extend a warm welcome to the newly elected members of this Council: the Hons. Norm Foster, Jim Dunford, Anne Levy, Frank Blevins, John Cornwall, Chris Sumner, John Carnie, and Don Laidlaw. I welcome, too, the return of the Hon. Martin Cameron, the Hon. Murray Hill, and the Hon. Boyd Dawkins. In relation to the new members on the Government side of the Chamber, it is a great honour to lead people of their calibre, and they will help me considerably during the next few sessions of the Parliament. The place has changed considerably since I came here. At that time I was the only back-bencher on the Government side, and it is certainly nice to have the support I have today.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: But you are on the front bench now.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am on the front bench, but the others will be on the front bench, too, before they have finished their term of office. Each honourable member on the back bench is of Ministerial material, and there is no doubt that each honourable member, in turn, will finish up on the front bench. The Hon. Mr. Dawkins does not seem to agree with me, but he was lucky to get back. Indeed, he was perturbed about whether he would get back. My colleagues have been returned, and I have already expressed a welcome to other honourable members. To the Hon. D. H. Laidlaw, I express a warm welcome to this Council. There is no doubt that the honourable member will contribute to debates in this place, and we look forward to that, at least until the next election. With those few words I wish the best to all new honourable members and all re-elected honourable members for their new term of office.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I support the remarks of the Chief Secretary. We have already referred to the outstanding work done by the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, who spent 40 years in this Council. Reference has already been made to Sir Lyell's great contribution to the welfare of South Australia, and that contribution is well known. I should also like to pay my respects to other honourable members who were members of this Council for a long time, especially the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill, the Hon. Frank Kneebone, the Hon. Bert Shard, the Hon. Dr. Springett, the Hon. Ross Story and the Hon. Gordon Gilfillan.

I believe that the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill was one of the outstanding South Australians. He did more for the development of South Australia than most people realise. Certainly, if the Hon. Frank Walsh were still alive, he

would be the first person to endorse what I am saying, especially in relation to the part played by Sir Arthur in providing both industrial and domestic gas to South Australia. Sir Arthur's involvement in this important matter was well known to the Hon. Frank Walsh and, without the intervention of Sir Arthur and his support for the Government at the time, that Government might have been unable to raise the required finance in Australia to provide this important amenity for South Australia. Sir Arthur held the respect of all members of this Council, irrespective of their Party.

I have referred on several occasions to the work undertaken in this Council by the Hon. Frank Kneebone and the Hon. Bert Shard. The co-operation I received from both those gentlemen was of a high order, and at no time did I think we had any real disagreement on a specific point: we might have disagreed regarding a principle, but generally, in this House of Review, we worked extremely well together and I pay a full tribute to both those honourable gentlemen.

The Hon. Gordon Gilfillan is a remarkable character. I believe he has been the only Parliamentarian in Australia to act as Whip to both sides as he did in this Council. In the period in which he acted as Whip for all honourable members he gained the admiration not only of members of the Liberal Party but also of members opposite, as the Chief Secretary will agree. The Hon. Ross Story had a long career in this Council, starting as a young man. He is a most knowledgeable person, especially in relation to irrigation and the Murray area, and his absence represents a sad loss to this Chamber.

In extending a warm welcome to all newly-elected members, I will not refer to them individually, as this has already been done by the Chief Secretary, but I wish them all well in their term of office. I should now like to make some general comments, because this Council is now entering a new phase so far as its operations are concerned. My comments will be necessarily short, but I hope honourable members will understand what I am getting at.

Since Federation there has been a steady decline in the power of the States, and a consequent increase in centralised bureaucratic power in Canberra. This migration of power has not been in accordance with the wishes of the Australian people, who have often expressed their views at referendums as opposing such a movement of power. Together with this power change in the past few years, there has also been a rapid migration of economic cares from the private sector to the public sector. Both these movements of power have brought inevitable pressures upon our existing Parliamentary institutions, which I believe are already showing signs that they are somewhat incapable of handling an ever-expanding bureaucracy. Speaking on similar matters in Great Britain in a recent article in the *Times*, Lord Hailsham stated:

The Commons are increasingly incapable of keeping up with the burden of necessary work imposed on them, partly by the succession of crises, international and economic through which we are passing, and partly through the controversial character of much of the legislation which is constantly being passed, which militates against rational discussion and constructive criticism.

Whilst the reasons given by Lord Hailsham are not totally applicable to this Parliament, or to the Australian Parliament, nevertheless, pressures of legislative work are throwing an ever-increasing burden upon Houses of

Parliament and upon this Council to ensure that legislation is discussed rationally and fully before it becomes law.

The consequence of the shift in power to which I referred, together with the decline in esteem in the public mind of the institution of Parliament, has been the increasing power of the Executive; and a movement away from the democratic concept towards almost monarchical or presidential power. One of my fears is that Parliaments themselves (not only Upper Houses) are tending to become merely rubber stamps for outside organisations; if not outside organisations, then a rubber stamp for the thinking of the Executive. I hope that Parliament is not reduced to this concept—reduced to the concept of a mere rubber stamp of an outside minority body or an Executive itself.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Are you talking about the Adelaide Club?

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: You know that I am not talking about the Adelaide Club. The end result in the movement to which I have referred is to produce a system more akin to Marxist models than to traditional Parliamentary democracy, which we have known since Federation. I just draw these brief thoughts to the attention of this Council, as this is a new Parliament in concept so far as this Council is concerned. I sound the warning that, unless we are willing to work to preserve our democratic Parliamentary system and to preserve the concepts of a Federation, and demand from all honourable members a clear attitude, then the aggregation of power into fewer and fewer hands will continue unabated in Australia. This, of course, throws a tremendous responsibility on to the shoulders of all honourable members, new and old, of this Chamber. The nature of the Council has changed but I think, in retrospect, no-one could look at the history or the decisions of this Council without feeling some pride in the way it has handled itself over the 125 years of its existence.

However, the Council runs the risk of being only a rubber stamp, a Council of political deals and not political ideals. Its role now remains to be determined: I only trust it will be the role of a responsible House of Review, of rational discussion, with full investigation of legislation for the betterment of the people of South Australia. With those few words I welcome all new members and trust that everyone in this Chamber can work in the same spirit as that in which we have worked over the years. I have worked now with the Chief Secretary for some time and know (I am sure the honourable members he will lead feel similarly) that we can achieve good results in this Chamber.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I, too, add my welcome to the new members of the Council. In my time in this Chamber, I have received the utmost courtesy from those honourable members who have now left us, including those on this side of the Chamber, and in particular the Hon. Gordon Gilfillan, who also acted as Whip for me in my lone role (not an easy role). He was always courteous and helpful.

On behalf of my colleague the Hon. Mr. Carnie, let me say it is a pleasure to enter this Council as a member democratically elected on a full franchise. The previous system of election was a somewhat disturbing feature of this Council, and it is a pleasure to enter Parliament as a member of a group elected on a full franchise. I look forward to working on that basis, knowing that many people in the community agree with our views; but we are here to repre-

sent not merely those people who support us but the whole community. The Liberal Movement in this Chamber will attempt to carry out its duties to improve the image of the Council in the eyes of the public. With these few words, I again welcome the new members and say "Thank you" to those who have left.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: First, I wish to compliment you, Mr. President, on your appointment to the high office of President of this Council. Secondly, I compliment the Government on winning the election. Thirdly, I welcome all new members on the Government side of the Chamber. As the Hon. Mr. Banfield has said, when he came into this Chamber in 1965 he was the only Labor back-bencher. One well remembers those days and so can understand the feeling he must have now when he realises that he has a team with him. I welcome, too, the Hon. Mr. Carnie, who joins the Hon. Mr. Cameron on the Liberal Movement side of the Chamber, and the Hon. Mr. Laidlaw, on our side of the Chamber.

I rise particularly to refer to the memory of all those honourable members who have left us either through necessity or through retirement—the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill, the Hon. Mr. Kneebone, the Hon. Mr. Shard, the Hon. Mr. Story, the Hon. Mr. Gilfillan, and the Hon. Dr. Springett. The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin was a father of the Parliament in many ways to all of us here when he was with us, a man who represented Northern District since 1934 and was respected throughout the State for his work as a Minister (as was said earlier today), as Leader of the Opposition, and as President of the Council. As the Hon. Mr. DeGaris pointed out in his tribute to the Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill, he is a man whom this Council will miss for his ability in so many ways—his appreciation of Standing Orders and of legislation, and his ready wit. I refer next to Bert Shard and Frank Kneebone, two very great friends of the Council, two very great friends of mine, who have retired and will be missed, because their contributions to Parliament and this Council were made to the best of their ability.

Lastly, I refer to Ross Story, Gordon Gilfillan and Dr. Springett, great friends of mine and great men who gave their services to Parliament and the community willingly and freely and who deservedly are on the honour roll of the Legislative Council. These men have guided this Council through many years. We who came into Parliament and learned from them have now to accept that advice and responsibility ourselves. We who have been elected before today must endeavour to set an example, to show our new colleagues and friends that this is not a frivolous Council, and that the responsibilities of the Council that we have inherited or have won are responsibilities that we should maintain and try at all times to respect.

The PRESIDENT: Earlier today, I welcomed the new members to this Chamber, and I do so again. I am sure that on this their first day they are wondering what exactly lies before them in the weeks and months ahead but I am confident that all other honourable members remaining in this Council will do their best to help them in every way in connection with the procedures of the Council. I am sure it will not be long before the new members settle down to the procedures, which may at first seem a little strange to them.

Also, earlier today, I referred to the sterling work of our former President, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin. He has set for me a very high standard in this Chair. We are sorry to see go those honourable members who have retired by effluxion of time or through the vicissitudes of the election.

At this point, I have nothing more to add to what has been said by those honourable members who have already spoken. They have referred to the excellent services that those members have given. We knew them well. We who remain are aware of the excellent contributions they made to the work of this Chamber. We shall miss them and perhaps for a while we should like to have them back amongst us because they had tremendous experience and great wisdom on some matters.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the Council has changed markedly. I referred to this earlier today. We stand at a historical point in time and only the months and years that lie ahead will show whether or not this Chamber can function properly as a House of Review, which is its true function. I am sure every honourable member will do his or her best to enhance that role of the Council.

QUESTIONS

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I ask leave to make a brief statement before asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

The PRESIDENT: I desire to inform honourable members that in future, when honourable members ask leave to make a statement, I will merely put the question to the Council that leave be granted. If I hear no dissentient voice I will assume that the Council grants leave. The honourable member seeking leave may remain on his feet and then proceed with his question after leave is granted. Is leave granted for the Hon. Mr. DeGaris to make a brief statement? There being no dissentient voice, leave is granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: When the Government introduced the new voting system for the Legislative Council, following a television debate I had with the Premier on this matter he promised the people of South Australia that there would be one vote one value for the Legislative Council. Then, the Bill came before us, and in that Bill there was nothing like one vote one value. Indeed, it was a massive gerrymander in favour of one group. The Legislative Council amended the Bill, but only the Liberal Party members in this Council voted for the amendment to provide one vote one value: every other member voted against. It then went back to the House of Assembly, which once again disagreed to the Legislative Council's amendment. Once again, only the Liberal Party members of the House of Assembly voted for the concept of one vote one value. When it came to a conference obviously, with the Premier's performance on the steps of Parliament House in which he made all sorts of demands on this Council, we had to find a compromise. I drew attention some time ago to the fact that the present system is a mathematical gerrymander. No-one took very much notice of me at that time. We have twice tried to change the mathematical gerrymander to one vote one value, but on both occasions the Government has refused the amendment. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government is serious in its claim to introduce electoral reform to produce one vote one value? If the Government is serious, does it intend to correct the mathematical gerrymander existing in its own legislation in connection with voting for this Council?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am very pleased at the Leader's concern for one vote one value and at the fact that he no longer wants any gerrymander. He was in a Government for a number of years, and his predecessors who adhered to the Liberal philosophy were in Government

and in power in both Houses for many years, but at no time did they attempt to put one vote one value into operation, nor did they attempt in any way to get rid of the vicious gerrymander that existed in this State at the time. So, I am pleased to see the great change in the Leader in connection with the gerrymander. The Leader's question will be referred to the Premier, who will be in charge of the introduction of the Bill, which will be along the lines indicated in the Governor's Speech this afternoon.

NARACOORTE ABATTOIR

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: My question refers to the closing of the Naracoorte works of South-Eastern Meat Proprietary Limited. The closure must cause concern to honourable members and to the Minister. Can the Minister indicate any steps that the Government may take to shorten the period of the closure of the works? Further, can he indicate that the closure is only temporary, and will the Government do all in its power to enable the works to reopen as soon as possible, thereby providing work for many people? Finally, is the Government, in the interests of decentralisation, willing to increase the quota of meat that may come into Adelaide, thereby enabling a desirable solution of the problem?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: Like all other members, I am deeply concerned about the closure of the Naracoorte abattoir, the subsequent unemployment in the area, and the adverse effects of that unemployment on the Naracoorte community, which has a limited employment base, anyway. I think the honourable member would be well aware of the position that arose when the Naracoorte abattoir was established. It was established as an export abattoir, and it was based completely on an export kill. The only reason it was given a metropolitan quota was that it was virtually impossible to export all the meat, and there were some cuts of meat and some carcasses that could not be exported. For that reason it was given a permit to send a quantity of meat into the Adelaide area. With the collapse of the export market, it has not been possible for the Naracoorte abattoir to fulfil the conditions of the permit over a period. The Government has taken the view that the abattoir should be given the opportunity to establish itself, since it was started only 2½ years ago. We have been very lenient in the enforcement of the permit and conditions, of which the abattoir management was very well aware when the abattoir was established at Naracoorte. The management has asked us to waive the conditions altogether, but we have found it impossible to do so because of the effect that that would have on the slaughtering and marketing of meat throughout South Australia. It is unfortunate that I cannot tell the honourable member when the abattoir will be reopened; that will be a commercial decision of William Angliss and Fosters, just as it was a commercial decision of theirs to close the abattoir. It will depend on an up-turn in the export market and on whether they obtain export orders that they can put through the Naracoorte abattoir or whether they can divert export orders to Naracoorte that would otherwise be processed in other States. I hope the closure will not last very long. The Government has given

the Naracoorte abattoir as much assistance as it possibly can, and I do not think we can do anything further.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. I understand that the South-East meat company operating at Naracoorte borrowed, or had a Government guarantee for, a considerable sum of money. Even though the works have been closed down, I should like the Minister to say whether the company is able to service the loan that it obtained.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: The honourable member is correct in stating that the South Australian Government had an investment in the abattoir amounting to \$300 000. I believe that the Australian Government also had an investment in the abattoir of about double that sum. There have been negotiations between the Government and the companies operating in the Naracoorte abattoir. Although I do not know the outcome of those negotiations, I imagine that there will be a holiday on interest payments.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: But you will let us know?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: Yes.

MEAT EXPORTS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: During the election campaign it was announced that the Samcor organisation had achieved a 40 000-carass oversea contract. Can the Minister tell the Council whether the contract will be subject to the normal requirement that, for every tonne of beef sent to America, two tonnes have to be sent to some other market, as I understand it does? If so, has Samcor now achieved the necessary orders to fulfil the requirement of providing meat to other areas beside the American market? Will the Minister reconsider his attitude to country abattoirs, whereby they must have a restricted entry to this market, in view of the fact that Samcor is now entering the traditional markets of the export abattoirs?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that Samcor is only offering service-kill facilities for this export order, which was won by Fat City.

The Hon. M. B. Cameron: That is not the way it was announced.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: Samcor has a contract with this company for it to do the killing and boning out. The contract was won by this concern. Diversification and fulfilling the Meat Board's requirements are the concern of Fat City, not Samcor. Regarding the question of bringing meat into the Adelaide area, I said earlier that an alteration of the existing system would disrupt the market.

The Hon. M. B. Cameron: Prices might go down!

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I do not think prices would be altered. There would be disruption in the abattoirs and an unsatisfactory situation.

MEDIBANK AGREEMENT

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: On June 17, I asked the Minister a question regarding the position that then appeared to obtain, in which the Medibank agreement that was

arranged between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments included a clause to the effect that it was subject to ratification by the Tasmanian Government, whereas the agreement arrived at between this State's Minister and the Commonwealth Government did not contain such a condition and, therefore, did not have to be referred to this Parliament for ratification. At that time the Minister said (and this is reported in *Hansard*) that he was not aware of the particular condition that applied, as I claimed it did apply, in Tasmania, but he kindly agreed to investigate the matter. He has since written me a letter about it, for which I wish to thank him but, so that the answer can be made available for public reading, I now ask whether the Minister will explain the matter further.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: First, I congratulate the Hon. Mr. Hill on his appointment as shadow Minister of Health and Chief Secretary. However, I regret the order of precedence in which he finds himself (namely, No. 9 on the list), especially as criticisms were made in the Council when it was found that the office of Chief Secretary in the Government had been dropped to No. 4 on the list.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No order of precedence has been given.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am just telling the honourable member about the order that appeared in the press. Although I regret that this has happened, I congratulate the honourable member on his appointment as shadow Chief Secretary, and I shall be interested to see what happens to the Hon. Mr. DeGaris if and when the Opposition ever becomes a Government. Also, I congratulate the Hon. Mr. Burdett on his appointment to a seat on the front bench. In reply to the question, I refer honourable members to the question which the Hon. Mr. Hill asked on June 17, 1975. In my letter to him on July 18, I said:

During negotiations for the South Australian agreement, copies of the draft agreement with Tasmania were provided. Although there were a number of variations in these drafts, at no time did they indicate that the agreement would need to be ratified by the Tasmanian Parliament. A copy of the agreement as actually signed has not been received. However, a copy of a Bill for an Act ("Commonwealth and State Hospital Services Agreement Act, 1975") has been received from Tasmania. The Bill has only four clauses and comprises principally (as a schedule thereto) a copy of the agreement. The agreement as listed shows under clause 1.1 the following:

This agreement shall have no force or effect until it is approved by an Act of the Tasmanian Parliament. Thus, while there had been no previous indication that this would be the case, it is now clear that the Medibank agreement signed between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments does include a condition that the agreement is to be ratified by the Tasmanian Parliament.

INTERVIEWING ROOM

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I direct my question to you, Mr. President. The interviewing room, which is the only one available on this floor to honourable members, contains pictures of great antiquity and furniture that is almost as old as those pictures. I ask whether you, Sir, are familiar with the problems associated with this room and, if you are, whether you will undertake to try to have the room a little more suitably furnished to enable members to interview members of the public when they so desire.

The PRESIDENT: I think I can recall this matter. I assure the honourable member that the pictures will receive my immediate attention, although anything to be done regarding the furniture may take a little longer.

SPORTS STADIUM

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Will the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport say whether the Government has started a feasibility study into the planning and location of a major indoor sports stadium in metropolitan Adelaide, and, if it has not done so, whether it will consider starting such a project soon?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am hesitant to answer this question either in the affirmative or in the negative at this stage. However, I will obtain a reply for the honourable member and bring it down when it is available.

PORT LINCOLN ABATTOIR

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In regard to his offer to pay 75c a head for drought-stricken and surplus sheep at the Port Lincoln abattoir, can the Minister of Agriculture say, first, about how many sheep have been offered to the abattoir on that basis? Secondly, in view of press reports, is the Minister willing further to consider increasing his offer where freight costs from the farm to the abattoir exceed 75c a head? Thirdly, as it has been stated that these sheep are to be rendered down for meat meal and tallow (I understand basically meat meal), is there any truth in the press reports that, after the sale of such meat meal by the abattoir, that abattoir will be making a profit on the deal after having paid 75c a head?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: To date, about 4 500 sheep have been booked into the Port Lincoln abattoir to be killed under this scheme. There have been some delays with deliveries, as farmers are generally shearing these sheep before delivering them in preference to experiencing the problems associated with selling the skins afterwards, as is their right. As every honourable member knows, there has been considerable rain over the past few weeks, and this has delayed the shearing of these sheep. The point is that the scheme was to be undertaken on a cost basis, and the Government does not intend to make a profit over the costs associated with killing and rendering down the animals. With the animals that have been killed to date we think this has worked fairly well on a break-even basis. Some of the meat and some of the offal will be suitable for selling for human consumption, but the honourable member is quite correct in saying that the bulk will be boiled down for meat meal and tallow. I understand that some sheep are coming from as far away as Streaky Bay and that the freight cost is about 55c a head. I think it will depend largely on the attitude of the farmers and whether they can co-operate with one another to make sure that transports are filled completely as to whether the cost of freight to Port Lincoln can be kept down and whether it is possible to work within the figure of 75c a head.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to directing a question to you, Mr. President. Leave granted.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: During the election campaign when I was door-knocking in the District of Coles, I met a young lady who made what I thought was a good suggestion. She was lamenting that no official list of Parliamentary business appeared in the daily press, and suggested that something along these lines should appear in the same way as a list of business appears in relation to the law courts. Would you, Sir, after consulting with the Speaker in another place and with the Government, consider arranging the insertion in

the daily press of a list of Parliamentary business for each day's sittings similar to the list now existing in relation to the business of the law courts?

The PRESIDENT: I thank the honourable member for his suggestion, and I shall take up the matter with the Speaker in another place to see whether something can be done. At some stages the list of business is extremely long, especially towards the end of the session, and we could have trouble in being able to include such a lengthy agenda in the daily newspapers.

HOPE VALLEY ROOF

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to directing a question to the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: A water treatment plant is being established at the Hope Valley reservoir, extending over a considerable area of ground, the extent of which I should not like to try to estimate in terms of fractions of a hectare. The plant is being roofed at present with aluminium or galvanised iron; I am not sure which material is being used. During one of the recent spells of sunlight, while driving down the Anstey Hill Road I was temporarily blinded by the reflection from the roof of the water treatment plant. That may sound silly, but it is not. It was most disturbing and continued to be so, even after I had seen it, and I had to make some deliberate attempt to avert my eyes, to use the sun visor on the car, and so on. Does the Government intend to paint this roof; if so, when? I ask the question as a matter of some urgency because, as it is not long to summer, this will be a hazard if not attended to. It seems common nowadays to refer to anything we do not like as pollution, and I think this could be called "light pollution". Does the Minister of Works intend to do something about the problem?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I shall refer the question to my colleague in another place and bring down a reply.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. D. H. L. Banfield (Minister of Health) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, J. R. Cornwall, R. C. DeGaris, C. M. Hill, and Anne Levy 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.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health) moved:

That a Standing Orders Committee be appointed consisting of the President and the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, and C. J. Sumner.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): In accordance with Standing Order 415, I demand a ballot.

The PRESIDENT: Ring the bells.

While the bells were ringing:

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of all honourable members to the fact that there are to be five members of the Standing Orders Committee. The President is *ex officio* a member of the committee, so that honourable members will be required to vote for only four additional members. It is the practice in this Parliament (and I

explain this for the sake of new honourable members) to strike out the names of the honourable members for whom you wish to vote. This might seem an odd practice, but that is the way we do it. I ask honourable members to strike out the names of four honourable members, but not to strike out my name as President, because I am *ex officio* a member of the committee. I also draw the attention of honourable members to the fact that any name struck out in addition to four names struck out will result in the voting paper being regarded as invalid.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Mr. President, I call for another ballot-paper.

The PRESIDENT: Has the honourable member spoilt his ballot-paper?

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I have.

The PRESIDENT: I ask the honourable member to present the spoilt paper to the Clerk. I appoint the Hon. C. W. Creedon and the Hon. R. A. Geddes as scrutineers.

A ballot having been held, the President and the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, and C. J. Sumner were declared elected.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD moved:

That a Library Committee be appointed consisting of the President and the Hons. J. A. Carnie, Jessie Cooper, and Anne Levy.

Motion carried.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD moved:

That a Printing Committee be appointed consisting of the Hons. F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, J. E. Dunford, N. K. Foster, and R. A. Geddes.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of Opposition): I call for a ballot under Standing Order 415.

The PRESIDENT: Ring the bells. On this occasion, honourable members are to vote for five members for this committee, so I ask them to strike out the names of the five members for whom they wish to vote. Any greater or lesser number will render the ballot-paper invalid. I appoint the Hon. Mr. Geddes and the Hon. Mr. Creedon scrutineers. The Hons. F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, J. E. Dunford, N. K. Foster, and R. A. Geddes, were declared elected.

COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health) moved:

That it be an order of this Council that the appointment of members of the Court of Disputed Returns pursuant to Standing Orders 11 and 420 be not made, in view of the reconstitution of the court under section 43 of the Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1969.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.13 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 6, at 2.15 p.m.