

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 17, 1976

The **PRESIDENT** (Hon. F. J. Potter) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

DEATH OF Mr. H. H. SHANNON

The **PRESIDENT**: It is with profound regret that I have to draw honourable members' attention to the lamented death of Mr. Howard Huntley Shannon, C.M.G., a former member of the House of Assembly from 1933 to 1968, and a member of the Public Works Standing Committee from 1941 to 1968. He was the Chairman of that committee from 1954 to 1968, and represented this Parliament at the fifth conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in New Delhi, India, in 1957. As President of the Council, I express the deepest sympathy of the Council to his children and their families in their sad bereavement. I ask all honourable members to stand in silence as a tribute to his memory and his sterling public services.

Members stood in their places in silence.

PETITIONS: SEXUAL OFFENCES

The Hon. R. A. Geddes, for the Hon. R. C. DeGARIS, presented a petition signed by 150 electors of South Australia stating that the crime of incest and the crime of unlawful carnal knowledge of young girls are detrimental to society and praying that the Legislative Council would reject or amend any legislation to abolish the crime of incest or to lower the age of consent in respect of sexual offences.

Petition received and read.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT presented a similar petition signed by 58 electors of South Australia.

Petition received.

QUESTIONS**RADIOGRAPHERS**

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Does the Minister of Health intend to take any action to register radiographers in this State?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Requests have been made to me from time to time to register radiographers, but at this stage I am not taking any steps to do so. We are still investigating the matter.

PENOLA INDUSTRIES

The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question about Penola industries?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: In regard to the Penola butter factory, I am informed that Southern Farmers has no plans at present to close the factory. However, diminishing cream production in the area undoubtedly has implications for the long-term viability of this factory, and the company is keeping its operations under constant review. The sawmill at Penola was taken over by Softwood Holdings Limited in 1973 from the previous owner, A. W.

Donnelly Industries Proprietary Limited. Softwood Holdings has stated that it is finding it difficult to operate the mill efficiently and profitably, owing to changes in the market for its products, and recently I approved the company's request to amalgamate the operations at the Penola mill with its large established undertaking at Kalangadoo. Softwood Holdings has given an assurance that full employment without loss of status will be offered to all employees at the Penola mill who wish to transfer.

CATTLE TAGS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: For some time the tail tagging of cattle has been compulsory in South Australia. Several complaints have been brought to my notice regarding the unsatisfactory nature of one type of tail tag, the stick-on tag. There are two types of tag: the ratchet type and the stick-on type. It has also been brought to my attention that a number of cattle are arriving at the various abattoirs and saleyards without tags. Because some of these stick-on tags fall off, the practice is growing whereby people involved in transport and other sections of the industry pick these tags out of the yards and stick them on the first available cow in the transport. If cattle arrive without a tag, someone may pick up someone else's tag and put it on an animal. The implications of this practice are very serious, because it could lead to people being charged with putting through the slaughter chain and identification process, cattle with tuberculosis or some other disease, whereas their own tags were not applied to the right cattle. Will the Minister consider dropping the use of the stick-on tag and changing entirely to the more satisfactory ratchet-type tag in the future?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: As the honourable member says, if these practices are taking place they have serious implications for the whole scheme for eradicating tuberculosis and brucellosis. I will certainly take up the matter with officers of the animal health branch. After the matter has been investigated, I will bring down a report.

WILLS

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: On behalf of the Hon. Mr. DeGaris, I ask the Chief Secretary whether he has a reply to the Leader's question about the making of wills.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Public Trustee's free will-making service is in fact available to people seeking to avail themselves of the service, regardless of whether the Public Trustee is made the executor of the estate or not. The only exception to this policy is where the will concerned is of such a complicated nature that the matter could be more properly dealt with by a solicitor, and in these cases people are advised to seek the services of a private solicitor. The fact that the Public Trustee's free will-making services are available regardless of whether or not the Public Trustee is made the executor of the estate is not advertised widely, as this of course would popularise the service amongst people who would normally be expected to engage a solicitor to draft their wills. The Public Trustee's will-making service is now available throughout the State periodically and is well patronised by people throughout the State, indicating the great need for such a service.

QUARRY SPRAYING

The Hon. D. H. LAIDLAW: I seek leave to make a short statement before addressing a question to the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister for Planning.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. H. LAIDLAW: Last week an announcement was made that exposed faces of Stonyfell quarry would be camouflaged by being sprayed with bituminous emulsion. I understand that this process has been developed over some years of experimenting by Quarry Industries and the Mines Department as to the best means of camouflaging. Apparently this system is inexpensive, and I am wondering whether, because many other unsightly disused quarry and mine faces are scattered throughout the State, the Mines Department or the Environment Department intend to spray and so camouflage other areas.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister and bring down a reply.

URANIUM PLANT

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I seek leave to make a short statement before addressing a question to the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Mines and Energy.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I join with the Government in expressing my concern about the possible slowing down of shipbuilding at the Whyalla shipyards. It is stated in this morning's press that the Premier, or his department, is looking for alternative means of employment in that area. Has consideration been given to establishing a uranium enrichment plant at Whyalla? If it has, is it a feasible proposition for such a plant to be located there?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Mines and Energy.

NATIONAL ROUTE No. 1

The Hon. J. A. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked concerning National Route No. 1?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: The question of relocating National Route No. 1 via Port Lincoln was raised by the Commissioner of Highways at the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities meeting. However, it is contrary to N.A.A.S.R.A. policy to relocate National Route No. 1 through Port Lincoln. It is considered that no useful purpose is seen in again raising the matter with N.A.A.S.R.A. at the present time. In accordance with N.A.A.S.R.A. policy, the route through Port Lincoln does not qualify to be signed as alternative National Route No. 1.

OAT MARKETING

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: I seek leave to make a statement prior to directing a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: Earlier this year the Agriculture and Fisheries Department published a Green Paper on oat marketing systems in South Australia. There

still seems to be some agitation to get a change in the present system of oat marketing. I understand that United Farmers and Graziers is pressing the Minister for quick implementation of its proposals for change. On the other hand, I have been told that millers and merchants are not happy about any changes to the present system. They are confused about what, if any, procedures to follow now that the Green Paper has been published. The attitude of the Barley Board to any oat marketing system that would involve it remains somewhat obscure. Can the Minister say what the purpose of the Green Paper was if it was not to recommend change, and what the situation is now regarding a reconsideration of the oat marketing system in South Australia?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: The Green Paper on Oat Marketing was published as a review of the oat marketing system in South Australia. It was never intended to be a statement of Government policy. The paper sets out details of the present system of oat marketing in South Australia and poses questions that could arise if alternative systems were adopted. When I met with industry to discuss the paper, I made clear that, before any change in the present system was contemplated, satisfactory answers would have to be given to the questions raised in the paper. For instance, the South Australian growers benefit considerably from the competition among buyers of South Australian oats under the present system. Another advantage for them is that there is no paper work or form-filling involved in inter-farm or off-farm sales. We have to answer the question of the effect of competition on the oat market if, for example, the Barley Board was given the power to market all South Australian oats.

The question of the value of a first advance was raised in the paper. Indications are that the Barley Board would not be able to pay a first advance that could compete with the first advance presently being offered by commercial firms. While the paper showed that the Australian Barley Board could market oats, in most seasons, more cheaply than is done at present, the cost savings by the board would be only marginal and would have to be offset by a lower first advance to growers. There is also the question of what would happen to the price advantage to those growers whose export oats were used to top up Victorian cargoes of export oats. At present, these oats are upgraded for export purposes, and this is a clear price advantage to South Australian oat growers.

For these reasons, it seems to me that further investigation of possible advantages to South Australian oat growers is necessary before any change to the present system can take place. What advantages have been spelled out so far appear from the paper to be only small and could be undermined by interstate trade and a complicated administration. The Barley Board has indicated to me that it will become involved in oat marketing only if the Act is changed so that inter-farm trading does not have to be policed by the board. As the majority of oats grown in South Australia is sold inter-farm, this would leave a relatively small amount to be handled by the board.

Because the United Farmers and Graziers and the Stock-owners Association are still interested in coming up with an alternative system of oat marketing, I have agreed to the formation of a joint committee of these two organisations, assisted by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and the Barley Board, to present their further views on this matter. I make clear that this does not inhibit other interested parties from making submissions to me. Indeed, those sections of industry that have approached me about this matter have been told to prepare submissions on their

own behalf and that those submissions will be considered side by side with any submission that may come from the joint United Farmers and Graziers and Stockowners Association Committee.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: The Minister referred to the Green Paper on the subject prepared by his department but, when I last inquired, there were no copies of that paper available. Has there been a reprint, and are copies available at present?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: A reprint is being carried out. I am not sure whether copies of the Green Paper are again available; if they are not yet available, they will be available soon.

WHYALLA SHIPYARD

The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS: I seek leave to make a short statement before directing a question to the Minister representing the Minister of Labour and Industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS: As all honourable members know, over the last few days there has been much disquiet in Whyalla about the recent decision of the Federal Government virtually to abandon the shipbuilding industry in Australia. Some comments have been made on this matter, particularly by Mr. Nixon and some of the other Liberal and Country Party members, and also by an ex-Premier of this State, Sir Thomas Playford, who said that many disputes in the Whyalla shipyard had created the problem. I do not want to debate the question; you, Mr. President, would not allow me to point out—

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Is that the only reason why you don't want to?

The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS: No. Even if these workers worked for 24 hours a day seven days a week, for no pay, they could not compete with the situation involving workers in Korean shipyards at the moment. However, if what I have mentioned is the kind of accusation being made against the workers in Whyalla, perhaps we ought to have some figures and examine the real position. I ask the Minister to supply me with the following figures:

How many man-hours have been lost owing to industrial disputes at Whyalla shipyard in the past five years?

What percentage does the total loss of man-hours caused by industrial disputes bear to the total number of man-hours worked?

What time has been lost owing to accidents and sickness?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I will refer the question to my colleague and bring down a report.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I seek leave of the Council to make an explanation prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I am directing the question because of the publicity that has been given in the past 24 hours to the fact that the Australian Shippers Council, which claims to represent about 20 000 graziers as distinct from farmers, welcomes the attitude of the Federal Government in relation to the shipbuilding industry, because the council claims that shipping freight will be cheaper. If I may, during the course of my leave to explain the question, I will refer briefly to the fact that, I think in 1967 (it may have been 1968), a Russian shipping interest, which was State-owned, as honourable gentlemen opposite know, was prepared to ship a large percentage of Australia's wool clip

to the United Kingdom and continental markets for about 15 per cent less than the freight rates then prevailing. There was a strike by Conference Line ship owners against the action of the Russian line. The matter culminated in the fact that the then Federal Minister responsible for shipping (and he had other portfolios also) went to London, and the Russian line became a member of the British and continental conference, with the result that the freight rate then applying was the same as that enjoyed by the conference members. However, the point is that the British and continental ship-owners said to the grazier organisations, "If you ship with the Russian line at 15 per cent less, we will impose a 30 per cent surcharge on that amount of wool that the other line cannot ship." I say that as a prelude to my question, to illustrate what happened in a closed-shop agreement relating to this country's primary producers. Because of the allegations that have been made and the assertion that Australian-built ships will no longer be a high-cost freight factor, will the Minister of Agriculture tell the Council what percentage of Australia's total rural exports, be it wool or any other commodity, is shipped by Australian-built ships, compared to the percentage that is shipped by other Conference Line interests, including those involved in agreements between Australia and any other country?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: No, I do not know what the relevant percentages are.

DROUGHT

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: My question relates to the drought. Several licensed diverttees of water along the Murray River are licensed to divert the water for the purpose of growing vegetables and, in some cases, fruits, but they are not licensed to grow fodder crops. Because of the severe lack of feed at present due to the drought, it would be helpful if the neighbouring farmers, some of whom are dry-land farmers, were able to raise fodder crops on the irrigable land. I understand that many licensed diverttees, where a sprinkler system is available for the purpose of growing vegetables, and so on, would be willing to allow the dry-land farmers to use the system to grow fodder crops. I also understand that there is a period of comparatively high river at present and that the gates at Goolwa and most of the locks are open. Further, if permission could be given in individual cases (I am not suggesting a blanket approval) for dry-land farmers to grow crops under irrigation with the sprinkler system already set up (using the sprinkler system set up by diverttees for other purposes), it would be possible to produce crops of barley and oats, provided that permission could be given in the next two or three weeks. Will the Minister of Agriculture ask his colleague to consider giving permission for the diversion of water in proper individual cases along the Murray River, in the present emergency situation, for the purposes of growing fodder crops?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Works and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I understand that there is at present a fairly free flow at the Murray River mouth and that there is not much restriction at the barrages. There are, in the lower parts of the river from Cowirra to Jervois and below, a number of Government flood-irrigated swamps. Because of the drought conditions prevailing throughout the whole of Australia, and the possibility that there may be only a little water flowing down from the various watersheds into the Murray River later in the year, some of the irrigators of these flood-irrigated swamps doubt whether the river level will be sufficiently high, later this year or perhaps early next year, to irrigate their properties. Can the Minister give any kind of prediction whether it will continue to be possible later this year or early next year to flood-irrigate the swamps, and say whether the interests of the flood-irrigators are being considered in the management of the locks and barrages?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Works and bring down a reply.

SAMCOR

The Hon. C. M. HILL: As there has been some criticism of the Minister as a result of his choice of consultants engaged to carry out the statutory investigation into the South Australian Meat Corporation, will the Minister of Agriculture say what methods he adopted to choose the consultants to carry out the investigation and make the report?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: Yes, and, in doing so, I should like to explain a little of the background to this matter. The statutory inquiry conducted into Samcor was similar to the inquiries carried out in the past into the old Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board by the Public Service Board. Those inquiries were carried out within the Government organisation. Of course, that could not be done on this occasion, as the Chairman of the Public Service Board is a member of the Samcor board. I thought it would be most appropriate to have an independent consultant outside the Government organisation to carry out this statutory investigation into Samcor. The method I adopted was to invite a number of management consultants in Adelaide virtually to tender for the job. I think, from memory, that, besides P.A. Management Consultants Pty. Ltd., which was finally selected for the job, W. D. Scott and Company Pty. Ltd., Price Waterhouse and Company, and John P. Young and Associates were asked to present to me a programme for this inquiry, as well as a list of the persons who would carry out the investigation, together with their qualifications and a price for which they would carry out the investigation. I made a selection from those presentations, and this selection was made in relation to the factors to which I have referred, that is, the programme involved, the personnel that would conduct it, and the price for which it would be done. At no time was the Chairman of the Samcor board, Mr. Ian Gray, consulted about the choice of consultants. That choice was made on the basis of the presentation—

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: Was the cost of the consulting service paid for by Samcor or by your department?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: As laid down under the Act, the cost of the investigation was paid for by Samcor.

PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Mines and Energy. Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Yesterday's *Advertiser* contained a letter to the Editor indicating that some oceanographic research was still being conducted in the Spencer Gulf area, trying to assess what effect a petro-chemical complex might have on the gulf waters. The letter states that these research people have found powerful tidal currents in the area. As I doubt the validity of this letter, I ask whether research is still being conducted in Spencer Gulf, and whether any strong tidal currents have been found in the waters adjacent to the area of the proposed Redcliff petro-chemical complex.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring down a reply.

PETROL

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister of Agriculture a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: On the front page of today's *Advertiser* a report headed "High petrol price tipped" contains a statement attributed to the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Hudson). I congratulate the Minister for having assessed the position so clearly. The report states:

He—

that is, Mr. Hudson—

forecast that high petrol prices . . . seemed inevitable from overseas experience.

It is evident from this report that the Minister has done some homework on how metropolitan area citizens and the community generally will be affected by such an increase. Has the Minister of Agriculture, representing primary industry, considered what such an increase in fuel prices would mean to rural industries and, if he has not done so, will he do so? Will he then make a statement corresponding to that made by the Minister of Mines and Energy, who referred to the metropolitan area?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: Yes. Increases in fuel costs have a serious effect on all rural industries, particularly those in remote areas, where transport costs are a high proportion of total costs. I have not had an opportunity to study the background of the statement of the Minister of Mines and Energy, but I will investigate the matter.

FLOWERS

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Has the Chief Secretary a reply from the Attorney-General to my recent question about *Flowers*?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: My colleague has received a number of letters and petitions complaining about the staging of the production *Flowers*, including correspondence from some church leaders. The Government's policy is that adults should have the liberty to see, hear, and read what they wish, whilst recognising that the law protects juveniles and prohibits the committing

of criminal offences. Each case of this type is considered on its merits. The general body of criminal law relating to indecency and blasphemy provides basic protections against abuses in these areas and can be invoked either by individuals or by the Crown. However, in this instance the Crown did not deem it necessary to exercise this authority.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking a question of the Chief Secretary, representing the Attorney-General.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: The reply did not deal with all the questions I asked on July 27. Will the Chief Secretary obtain from the Attorney-General a detailed reply to all the questions I asked on July 27?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Possibly there may have been an oversight by the Attorney-General. If there was, I will ask him to consider the matter further.

MIGRANT EDUCATION

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Will the Minister of Agriculture ascertain from the Minister of Education whether the Education Department, the Further Education Department, or any other State Government agency holds special classes to teach migrants the English language and, if such classes are held, what are the details of such arrangements?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring down a reply.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: What did the Liberals do?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

CEREAL CROPS

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of August 3 about cereal crops?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: My department is already planning a scheme to approve wheat crops for seed for next season. This plan will be co-ordinated across the State by district agronomists and supplemented by supplies from normal registered seed growers and departmental experimental farms. Moreover, it is the policy of the Wheat Board to allocate, at bulk handling facilities, special cells of seed if the need arises; following the last drought, supplies of the variety Halberd were made available in this way. Officers of my department also predict that, despite the serious conditions, crops in some favoured areas are now sufficiently advanced to ensure that seed will be available in the required quantities. In relation to the current season, it is not anticipated that there will be a heavy demand for seed wheat because of the lateness of the season, while farmers in vulnerable areas normally reserve additional supplies to cope with reseedings which could now be confined to blown out areas.

STUDENT TEACHERS

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply from the Minister of Education to my question of July 29, about student teachers?

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: My colleague states that it has never been the policy of the Education Department to pay exit students a salary for six months if they are

not offered employment. The Education Department's and the Government's policy is to offer employment to all bonded students who have satisfactorily completed their courses of teacher education. In rare cases, however, the Education Department has been informed by the teacher education institution concerned that a particular student should not be offered employment for academic and/or professional reasons. These reasons most frequently include reports of very unsatisfactory supervised teaching practice sessions. In these cases, after a careful and thorough departmental review, the student is either employed on probation or informed in writing that, because of his academic and/or professional record, he will not be offered a teaching appointment in Government schools in South Australia and that after the expiration of six months his agreement or bond will lapse. It is emphasised that the very great majority of bonded students are assured of employment.

THEATRE SALE

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to make a short statement before directing a question to the Chief Secretary, representing the Premier.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: With today's announcement that the J. C. Williamson company intends selling its Australian theatres, can some definite action now be taken to acquire Her Majesty's Theatre in Grote Street, so that the theatre can be retained and used for the cultural life of Adelaide, and especially so that the State Opera of South Australia can be considered as the principal user of that theatre?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS: MEMBERS' REMARKS

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I seek your guidance, Mr. President. The other day, when I was absent from this Chamber for a portion of the proceedings (not for all of the proceedings) two or three honourable members on the other side grossly misrepresented me; the term "direct lies" would be a more appropriate, if less formal, way of putting it.

The PRESIDENT: Is the honourable member seeking leave to make a personal explanation?

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: The Hon. Mr. Hill got up in his place and told straight-out lies. He said that he intended to ask me a question last Wednesday. It was just a smart way of drawing attention to my absence from the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I think that the honourable member must confine himself to his personal explanation.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: That was part of it; the Hon. Mr. Hill's statement was very personal indeed. He said that he had personally informed me that he would direct a question to me in this place about 24 hours after he allegedly spoke to me. I had no such communication from the honourable gentleman. Apparently he objected to a term that I had accused him of using in this Council earlier this session, and he denied using it. I can clear

up the matter by quoting from *Hansard*. Honourable members have the right to alter *Hansard* slightly, and this is what happened in regard to the Hon. Mr. Hill's allegation that people were dole bludgers. It was not printed in *Hansard*. I refer to the following extract from *Hansard* (February 17, 1976, at page 2379), where the Hon. Mr. Hill is reported as saying:

Amongst the people at large, there is much concern that some people who should and could be working are obtaining benefits.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: Can you name them?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No; I do not intend to name anyone.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: Then you can't make statements like that.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, I can. It does not mean anything to you; you belong to a Party that hands out money hand over fist.

At that stage honourable members could not hear themselves speaking because of the interjections. The Hon. Mr. Hill knows darned well that the spontaneous interjections were not as a result of what is printed in *Hansard*, because he ended by saying that people were dole bludgers.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Who said that?

The Hon. N. K. Foster: The honourable member said it.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: At what page of *Hansard*?

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Page 2379.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Is the term "dole bludger" there?

The Hon. N. K. Foster: No.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: You're just making the whole thing up.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C. M. Hill: He hasn't got a claim.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Foster has sought leave of this Council to make a personal explanation, and it must be limited to an explanation of the matter he has raised. There should not be this quick-fire exchange across the Chamber.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: The Hon. Mr. Hill could do it the other day. I cannot do it today, yet last Wednesday it was all right.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member must not reflect upon the proceedings of this Council. I do not think the honourable member was here last Wednesday.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: I was here for part of the time.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: About five minutes!

The Hon. N. K. Foster: That is not true.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N. K. Foster: When the Hon. Mr. Burdett runs away to look after his business interests I will get up and say that he is absent—it cuts both ways.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N. K. Foster: I draw the Hon. Mr. Hill's attention to his over-reaction to a question I asked.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Question!

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member has obtained leave to make a personal explanation. He will please continue.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Another misrepresentation was made by an honourable member who is not currently present in this Chamber.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: Mr. President, I called "Question".

The PRESIDENT: This is a personal explanation; the honourable member is not asking a question. He sought leave to make a personal explanation concerning a matter that allegedly arose last week.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: I am sorry, Sir.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: The honourable Leader ought to be sorry. I was about to say that the other misrepresentation of which I complain involves an honourable member who is not present in the Council today. I understand that he is absent on Parliamentary business elsewhere and, as I accord him the right to do that, I will not raise the matter further today, although it will come up at another time.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The honourable Mr. Foster has accused me of telling lies in this Chamber.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: So you did. You told me you would give me 24 hours notice, and that's a lie, because you didn't.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The honourable member claims that I told a lie because I did not give him 24 hours notice of my intention to ask him a question: the matter is as simple as that. I draw the honourable member's attention, and that of the Council, to page 484 of *Hansard* of August 10. I refer to the *Hansard* report, at which stage the honourable Mr. Foster is speaking, as follows:

For example, he has never condemned the Hon. Mr. Hill, who introduced into this Chamber the frightful term "dole bludger".

The Hon. N. K. Foster: So you did.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The report continues:

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I did not.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: The honourable member did.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I did not. Last week you said that I had said that, but I did not use that expression. You concocted that. Just because you have used the expression as an everyday expression, you have imagined that I said it.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: You said it. You used the expression.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I did not—

and these are the pertinent words—

I will ask the honourable member a question on that tomorrow.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: If the honourable member asks a question, he should ask it of the front bench.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will ask you, which is my right. Can anything be plainer than that?

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member cannot ask a question.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I am giving a personal explanation, and I will ask the Hon. Mr. Foster—

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member must limit his explanation to a personal explanation.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: My personal explanation consists of my quoting *Hansard* of August 10, which rebuts without doubt the claim by the Hon. Mr. Foster that I did not give him 24 hours notice. I gave him 24 hours notice and I asked my question 24 hours later, as I said I would. That course was proper, and the implication that I was a liar in any respect at all is entirely incorrect. It offends me; I object to it; and I call on the Hon. Mr. Foster to withdraw his allegation.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Withdraw what allegation?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That I told lies.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: So you did.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N. K. Foster: You need not grin about it; it's not a laughing matter.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr. Hill has called on the Hon. Mr. Foster to withdraw the allegation made by him earlier that the Hon. Mr. Hill told lies about this matter. I point out that Standing Orders require such an objection to be made almost forthwith. However, there is some discretion in the Chair in this matter, and I ask the Hon. Mr. Hill whether he requires that this allegation be withdrawn by the Hon. Mr. Foster.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yes, I require that, Mr. President. I do not want it implied that I told lies when I did not.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr. Hill has called on the Hon. Mr. Foster to withdraw the allegation that the Hon. Mr. Hill told lies about this matter. This seems a most unfortunate incident when honourable members are saying, "Yes, you did"; "No, I didn't"; "Yes, you did"; "No, I didn't"; it is almost childish. I call on the honourable Mr. Foster to withdraw the allegation objected to by the Hon. Mr. Hill.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: What does he wish me to withdraw?

The PRESIDENT: He wishes you to withdraw your allegation.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I withdraw. The man is most ambiguous in what he says. Now I ask you, Mr. President, whether I can continue with an explanation I had started. I was not referring to the 24 hours when I said that the honourable member misled this Council. I was talking about his use of the term "dole bludger". It is not in *Hansard*, but I said something the other day that is not in the book, either.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: If it is not in the book, you cannot claim I said it.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: You said it.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I think we might leave the matter at this point.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2)

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 11. Page 558.)

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): This is the usual Supply Bill that comes before this Council at this time of the year to allow the Government to carry on and to provide for the payment of the Public Service until such time as the Budget is approved by both Houses of Parliament. I do not wish to make any long statement, except to point out that \$160 000 000 is required this year as opposed to the \$100 000 000 last

year. This is a 60 per cent increase in the sum required for Supply at this time. One explanation for the increased amount is the rate of inflation, but a better explanation is that the Budget will be introduced to Parliament much later this year than is normally the case. Last year, the amount required was \$100 000 000, and the Budget was introduced on August 29. It appears that the Budget will not be introduced this year until the middle or towards the end of September.

Can the Chief Secretary say why it is that this year the introduction of the Budget is being delayed for such a long time? One would think that the Budget could be introduced into Parliament at the end of this week, which would allow the Opposition a chance to examine it over the following fortnight before coming back to debate it after the Royal Show. Perhaps the Chief Secretary can say why the Budget was delayed, to account for the Supply Bill this year totalling \$160 000 000 as opposed to \$100 000 000 last year. I support the Bill.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health): The reason why the Budget is not being introduced this week is that we are awaiting the outcome of tonight's Federal Budget. The State Government intends, when it introduces the Budget after the fortnight's recess, to allow it to lie on the table for a week before any debate on it takes place. After it has been dealt with in another place—

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: That means that it will be towards the end of October before the Budget gets to us in the Legislative Council?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I do not know how long it will take members of another place to debate it. Honourable members will still have time to examine the Budget before speaking to it. I am sure they will be satisfied with the Budget when it is introduced.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Read a third time and passed.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)

Read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.19 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 18, at 2.15 p.m.