

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

Third Session of the Forty-Second Parliament (1977)

Parliament, which adjourned on April 28, 1977, was prorogued by proclamation dated May 26. By proclamation dated June 23, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, July 19, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 19, 1977

The PRESIDENT (Hon. F. J. Potter) took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk (Mr. A. D. Drummond) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Mr. W. R. Crocker) summoning Parliament.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Lieutenant-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 the 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 the sad loss of four former members of the House of Assembly. I refer to the passing of Glen Gardner Pearson, Knight Bachelor, who represented the electorate of Flinders in that House for almost 19 years and who held office in successive Ministries for some 13 years, to the passing of Tom Cleave Stott, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, a member of the

House of Assembly for 37 years and twice Speaker of that House, to the passing of Geoffrey Thomas Clarke, who represented the interests of the electorate of Burnside for some 13 years, and to the passing of Howard Huntley Shannon, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George who represented, successively, the electorates of Murray and Onkaparinga for 35 years. I feel sure that you will join me in recording our appreciation of the services of these gentlemen to the State and expressing our sympathy to their families.

3. As a result of a very dry summer which followed a poor season, stock numbers in the State have been reduced by some 12 per cent. The opening season in the cereal growing areas of the State has not been accompanied by sufficient rains to provide an appropriate degree of subsoil moisture but notwithstanding this, a record barley acreage has been seeded and areas sown to wheat are about the average sown over the past 10 years. My Government has commenced a programme to control the alfalfa aphid which is a potential threat to lucerne and annual medic pastures in the State. Concomitant with this programme my Government is encouraging the planting of varieties of pasture that are resistant to this pest. My Government is taking steps to make its agricultural advisory service more responsive to the needs of primary producers in the various regions of the State by, amongst other things, the appointment of a Chief Regional Officer of the Department of Agriculture for the South-Eastern Region.

4. An Ethnic Affairs Branch has been established within the Premier's Department. The interpreting and translating services at present provided by the Government will form part of this branch. It is intended that the branch will monitor and oversee the services at present being provided by the Government to ethnic communities with

a view to ensuring the effectiveness and responsiveness of those services to the needs of those communities. My Government will make available concessions in statutory charges and other forms of financial assistance to a wider range of disadvantaged people. The concessions will include remission of water and sewerage rates, land tax and local government council rates, concessional bus, train and tram fares and reduced motor vehicle registration charges. A statistical survey of women in the labour force in the State has been commenced to provide a sound basis for my Government's future actions to improve the position of women in the community generally.

5. Through its newly established Department of Economic Development my Government is intensifying its efforts to assist local industry to develop and expand through, amongst other initiatives, the promotion of the sale of local products. Already its activities in the field of overseas trade, particularly in Malaysia, Algeria and Libya, have been of concrete benefit to local enterprises. The Government is proposing a detailed economic study of the South-Eastern regions of the State in order to assist this area in realising its full potential. In addition to the foregoing, its policy of assistance to industry has many other facets ranging from the advice it tenders to small businesses to the incentives it provides for industrial decentralisation in appropriate cases.

6. My Government is through its Engineering and Water Supply Department taking appropriate steps in two areas to deal with the problem of the increasing salinity in the Murray River. First, it is actively seeking solutions applicable within the State to the problem with a view to giving effect to a comprehensive Murray River salinity control programme and, secondly, it is giving active support to the broadening of the powers of the River Murray Commission, so that the commission will have power to take into account questions of water quality as well as water quantity. Following the enactment of the Water Resources Act by this Parliament, steps are being taken to ensure that all water resources administration is properly co-ordinated. In the field of metropolitan water storage, the Little Para dam project is over 80 per cent completed and water storage should commence in the latter part of this year. Storage balancing tanks are being constructed to service the Morphett and Yatala Vale areas and trunk feeder mains to serve these tanks will be laid in the forthcoming financial year. In the area of country water supplies expenditure of the order of \$21 000 000 is contemplated. The rate at which my Government's comprehensive water treatment programme to enhance the quality of the Adelaide water supply proceeds will, to a large extent, depend upon the future levels of Federal Government assistance. However, the works at Hope Valley are nearing completion and as a consequence a filtered water supply will be available from late October to 60 000 households in the metropolitan area of Adelaide. A further 50 000 households will receive such a supply in early 1979 when the Anstey Hill works are commissioned. In all, seven works are contemplated.

7. Port Adelaide's first container berth and terminal were completed at Outer Harbor at a cost of \$8 800 000. This facility is of world standard and capable of accommodating the largest container ships and has been in regular use since its opening on March 17 this year.

8. My Government will continue to pursue an active building and construction programme. However, in this as in many other areas, its activities will be to some extent conditioned by the availability of Federal funds.

9. My Government's intention to bring together all aspects of housing and urban planning has manifested itself in the creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. This new administrative structure will permit a proper evaluation of present housing and planning policies and encourage the formulation of future policies in these areas that will enhance efficiency and minimise social inequity. Through its Land Commission and Urban Land Price Control Unit, the Government's policy of containing urban land prices with a view to their ultimate stabilisation is being carried out. As evidence of its concern over the rising costs of housing my Government will co-operate fully in the Federal Government's inquiry into housing costs. In addition, a separate study is at present under way to isolate the major determinants of housing cost increases in this State. Unquestionably, the lack of any clear indication as to the future of the arrangements between this State and the Federal Government reflected in the present Commonwealth State Housing Agreement which expires at the end of this financial year is causing concern. The Government will take all appropriate steps to secure some clarification of this matter. Through the South Australian Housing Trust my Government will continue with a programme to provide accommodation for socially disadvantaged groups, including one-parent families. The Government has established an inquiry into the objectives and methods of controlling private development in the State with a view to implementing desirable changes in the planning controls generally.

10. An important copper and uranium discovery by the Western Mining Corporation in an area 25 kilometres west of Andamooka and 80 kilometres north of Woomera has encouraged a resurgence of exploration activity in that region. However, much more work will be necessary to determine whether or not mining activity in this area would be an economic proposition. The Government has embarked on a major assessment programme to evaluate known coal deposits in the Eucla, Poldia and Inkerman-Balaklava Basins. There are heartening signs that the tempo of exploration in the Cooper Basin has quickened. My Government's proposed allocation of funds totalling \$40 000 000 to accelerate exploration over the next eight years is an earnest of its interest in this area.

11. The first stage of the rebuilding of the Northfield wards will be completed in August of this year. This stage consists of eight new 25-bed wards together with a central energy complex which will serve the Northfield and Morris installations. This year will also see the commencement of the final phase of the Flinders Medical Centre and the redevelopment of Whyalla Hospital. My Government will, in co-operation with a private development group, play a major role in the establishment of a new 200-bed hospital at Christies Beach. Work is expected to begin on the first stage of this project by February of next year, which encompasses the construction of a 60-bed facility costing approximately \$4 000 000. The Government's participation is in the form of financial guarantees, provision of the site and a commitment of up to \$250 000 to establish a full maternity delivery section. This joint development will give the local community improved hospital facilities with supporting facilities being provided from the Flinders Medical Centre.

12. The effect of my Government's policy of expanding the electoral base of local government will become apparent in the ensuing year and my Government will continue to further its policy of encouraging local government to be responsive to and representative of its whole community.

13. Further progress will be made this year on the Swanport deviation of the South-Eastern Main Road to allow through traffic to by-pass the town of Murray Bridge. The project includes what will be the longest road bridge in the State. This bridge will cross the Murray River approximately five kilometres down-stream from the present ageing structure at the town of Murray Bridge.

14. My Government through its Department of Lands and in co-operation with the local government authority is proceeding with the construction of 66 fully serviced residential allotments at Berri. The services provided are sealed roads, concrete kerbs and gutters, effluent and stormwater drains and water and underground electricity services. Work is also proceeding on a small industrial subdivision of 13 serviced allotments in that town and plans are afoot for residential subdivisions at Barmera and Waikerie.

15. With its establishment of a Tourism Advisory Council my Government has demonstrated its direct and continuing interest in the promotion of tourism in this State. In furtherance of this interest, it is providing financial assistance to local government authorities for the enlargement and improvement of council controlled caravan parks. In the sporting and recreation field its policies have manifested themselves in the provision of additional financial support for the conduct of international, national, State and local sporting events, and in the significant contributions made towards the provision of a number of indoor recreation centres in both country and metropolitan areas.

16. My Government, through its Education Department, is in the process of establishing community centre projects at Thebarton and Angle Park and in fact construction has already commenced at Angle Park.

17. At the present time over 100 000 adult South Australians are enrolled in vocational academic and personal enrichment programmes conducted by my Government's Department of Further Education and this number is placing considerable pressure on that department's resources. The Government will continue in its efforts to make facilities in this field as widely available as possible. In the metropolitan area special attention will be given to those areas north-east and south of Adelaide. In the country, steps are being taken to encourage community participation in and involvement with the performing arts. The range of courses available from the Whyalla College of Further Education will be increased following physical extensions to the college. The need is also recognised for the provision of programmes for Eyre Peninsula farmers who wish to keep abreast of present developments in agricultural technology.

18. My Government is, within the limits of its resources, endeavouring to ensure that so far as is possible programmes under the Federally funded Australian Assistance Plan, which came to an end at the conclusion of the last financial year, will continue, although on a somewhat reduced scale. Through the Department of Community Welfare, employment for one year has been offered to six community development officers formerly employed under the plan. In addition, a further 16 community development officers will be offered employment to work with community councils for social development. However, while it is acknowledged that these steps represent the most my Government can do in the short term, steps are being taken through a newly appointed Committee on Community Development and Assistance to develop proposals in this

area and to provide the best long-term solutions to the problems involved in community development and assistance.

19. My Government, through its Department for the Environment, will continue its programme of environmental protection by implementing measures already enacted by Parliament to control noise and to require deposits on beverage containers. In furtherance of its interest in environmental matters legislation will be laid before you to control off-road vehicles and to expand its programme of environmental impact statement assessment. In recognition of the importance of enabling the public to enjoy the State's natural attractions, a new botanic garden at Mount Lofty will be opened in November this year and the development of the Blackhill native flora park will commence. My Government's programmes to protect the quality of the State's natural environment will be advanced by, amongst other things, the extension of our coast protection activities, the completion of the first coastal management plans, and the consolidation and improvement of facilities within our national parks, particularly at Wilpena in the Flinders Ranges, Naracoorte and Mount Lofty.

Members of the House of Assembly:

20. In due course 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:

21. My Government intends to lay before you a substantial legislative programme. Included in this programme will be measures dealing with the Savings Bank of South Australia, medical practitioners, local government, Crown lands, the University of Adelaide, barley marketing, adoption of children, residential tenancies, off-road vehicles, the Public Service, education and further education, dental technicians, road traffic, the several colleges of advanced education, agricultural seeds, liquid fuel rationing, community welfare, packages, environmental impact statements, highways, the dairy industry, juvenile courts, local and district criminal courts, prices, contracts, the botanic gardens and national parks, food and drugs, public finance, explosives, second-hand goods, motor vehicles, long service leave, wheat varieties, classification of films and publications, the South Australian Theatre Company, major disasters, door-to-door sales, occupiers liability, suitors funds, trade descriptions, consumer affairs, legal practitioners and the Art Gallery.

22. The occasion for me to discharge my duties this day arises from the premature vacation of the office of Governor of this State by Sir Douglas Nicholls, K.C.V.O., O.B.E. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all the people of this State when I express our regret that his stay amongst us was foreshortened. I am confident that you will join me in expressing to Sir Douglas and Lady Nicholls our best wishes for his long and happy retirement.

23. 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 Lieutenant-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.

[Sitting suspended from 12.40 to 2.15 p.m.]

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Barossa Water Treatment Works,
Kingscote Area School Redevelopment,
North Haven Primary School,
Reynella East Primary School,
West Lakes Shore Primary School,
Whyalla Community Welfare Centre.

QUESTIONS

PARLIAMENT BELLS

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I address a question to you, Sir, as President of the Council and as the officer responsible for good order and conduct within the perimeters of the Parliament. The bells that called members of Parliament together this afternoon seemed to be a mixture of noises associated with television and of what one might describe as noises from outer space, as well as a noise that could be described by some people as sounding rather vulgar. Will you, Sir, say whether this is an experiment, or whether these are the noises to be heard in future? Also, can any guarantee be given that the loudspeakers, which I understand are in every honourable member's office as well as in the Party rooms, can in no way be converted into a type of microphone, which conversion is a fairly simple process in the electronics field?

The PRESIDENT: Honourable members will have noticed, of course, the change in the sound system for calling the Houses together. We now have what I suppose may be described as an artificial sound rather than a natural sound. We have an electronic bell and an electronic buzzer, and we have a co-ordination of these two when both are activated simultaneously. I think it can be said that the noise from them is louder than the noise from the old system. In fact, already I have had complaints that the bell system is too shattering on the nervous system of some honourable members, but for a few days we are going to experiment and find out whether some of the individual exits for this sound must be changed. Fortunately, both sounds can be modulated. I think I can assure the honourable member and all other honourable members that there is no hidden bugging system in this new apparatus.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE CONDITIONS

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Health, and seek leave to explain that question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: A few weeks ago I heard on the radio an alleged accusation by Mr. Tonkin, the union representative on the Samcor Board, that he had seen a country slaughterhouse (he did not name the slaughterhouse and it was not otherwise named in the programme) in which the flies were so thick that it was difficult to see the slaughtermen and there were 20 pig tongues lying on pig excreta. I was concerned, as all South Australians should be, that these conditions prevailed. I know that there is provision in the Health Act

to have this matter examined and rectified, but I have not seen in the press or heard from other media that any action has been taken by the Health Department in this case. Because of these allegations, which concern us all, I ask the Minister whether action has been taken against this particular slaughterhouse.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I was not aware of the allegations that were made, but I will investigate the matter raised by the honourable member concerning Mr. Tonkin's allegation, and follow it up.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: As I understand the Health Act, it is under this Act that appropriate action can be taken regarding the slaughtering facilities described by Mr. Tonkin, the union representative on the Samcor board. As far as I know, neither the Minister of Agriculture nor any Minister he represents in this Chamber has any power to investigate this matter. Therefore, any action taken against the proprietors of this slaughterhouse must be taken under the Health Act, and I was surprised when the question was referred to the Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I do not know why the honourable member is surprised, because inspectors in the Agriculture Department have these powers vested in them. Don't shake your head Arthur, old boy.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The honourable member is shaking his head.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable Minister is not to address an honourable member in this Chamber as "Arthur, old boy".

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: If you are referring to the use of the term "old", Sir, I apologise.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Honourable members are to be referred to as "honourable members".

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Yes, but when I look at the Hon. Mr. Whyte I see that he is getting older. In fact, he is looking distinguished today. These powers are vested in inspectors attached to the Agriculture Department.

CLASSIFICATION ADVERTISEMENTS

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make an explanation prior to addressing a question to the Minister of Health, representing the Premier.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: At present section 17 of the Classification of Publications Act requires the insertion of the list of classified material in a newspaper circulating throughout the State, as well as in the *Government Gazette*. In fact, this notice advertises restricted publications and imposes much expense on the public. I have been told that three recent advertisements in the *Advertiser* cost a total of \$1200. However, anyone wishing to know the classification of any publication could refer to the *Government Gazette*. First, what was the total expenditure on advertisements under the Classification of Publications Act in newspapers other than the *Government Gazette* in the year ended June 30, 1977; and, secondly, will the Premier consider introducing an amendment to the Act to remove the requirement of advertising other than in the *Government Gazette*?

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

SUCCESSION DUTIES

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to directing a question to the Minister representing the Treasurer.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Recently, legislation was passed by this Parliament changing the rebate applicable to brothers and sisters living together in what might otherwise be a matrimonial home situation. Can the Minister tell me how many estates of this nature have been processed since the Act was passed earlier this year? Further, can he indicate the value of those estates, indicating also how many have qualified for the new concession and how much revenue the Government has lost as a result of the concession?

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

CHRISTIES BEACH HOSPITAL

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: A preliminary announcement has been made regarding a hospital for the Christies Beach area. As I understand this to be a joint venture between the Government and private enterprise, and as I am confused about the exact arrangements made, can the Minister elaborate on them?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: About six or eight months ago the Government was approached by private developers regarding the feasibility of a hospital at Christies Beach.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: It was two years ago.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: It may have been that long since the first approach was made, but they approached me about six or eight months ago.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable Minister will give his answer in his own way. If honourable members want to ask a supplementary question they can do so.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: True, the question of a hospital in the Christies Beach area has been under consideration for some time, but about six or eight months ago we got down to serious discussion.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Who—

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The honourable member is raving on because he was going to put up a community hospital at Christies Beach and impose a charge of \$1 000 000. He is snitchy because a developer is going to build a hospital down there in co-operation with the Government. The Hon. Mr. Hill is not happy about it because it upsets his little plan. He wanted to take \$1 000 000 off young people who had just gone into the area; this is why the Hon. Mr. Hill is not anxious for me to reply to the Hon. Mr. Cornwall, who is genuinely interested in the provision of health services in the area. Indeed, the Hon. Mr. Cornwall has shown much more interest in this matter over a long period than has the Opposition. Discussions have been taking place for between six months and eight months in relation to the establishment of a hospital in the Christies Beach area. Finally, agreement has been reached that a hospital will be built south of Beach Road, Christie Downs. The site is east of the intersection of Morton Road and Beach Road. The

site will be of about two hectares to three hectares, but this will depend on survey, final planning, and architectural needs. The Housing Trust will keep land nearby in the event that expansion becomes necessary. The services to be provided will include general medicine, surgical, obstetric and gynaecological services. Initially the hospital's bed capacity will be 60 beds, but the planning will enable the hospital to be expanded to a 200-bed hospital if and when the need arises. The developer did not want to provide maternity facilities, but the Government asked whether the developer would incorporate a delivery suite in the project, and the developer agreed to this request. This unit is estimated to cost about \$250 000, and the State Government will subsidise that cost.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Generous!

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: It is much more generous than the honourable member opposite was going to be. He was going to rip \$1 000 000 off the people in the area. That is how generous he was going to be! The operating cost will be subsidised by the State Government in relation to maternity facilities either by direct support payments or by supplementary staffing from other institutions such as Flinders Medical Centre. The final cost has not been worked out, but the building will go ahead.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: What about—

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: Does the honourable member not want improved health services in this area? Let us see how genuine the honourable member is. The first phase of hospital provision in the Noarlunga area will enable local doctors and those specialists called into consultation to give the forms of emergency service traditionally given in community-type hospitals such as Blackwood, Glenelg, Western, and LeFevre hospitals. The availability at the hospital of operating room and support facilities including anaesthetic equipment, suction and oxygen supplies will provide a useful supplement to the emergency services provided traditionally at community health centres and doctors' surgeries for illnesses and injuries such as burns, lacerations, stings and simple fractures.

Those emergencies requiring complicated life support facilities such as continuous monitoring, repeated rapid laboratory investigations or the assistance of highly specialised teams (for example, severe burns or severe head injuries) will still need to be directed to the large teaching hospitals. For those who need to be evacuated, the provision of suitable mobile emergency services is currently under examination by a special Hospitals Department task force under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. Nicholson, Medical Co-ordinator, Hospitals Department. Matters under discussion include the provision of specialised ambulance equipment, the establishment of retrieval teams, the relocation of existing ambulance facilities in the area, and the possible supply of radio equipment to local practitioners. I am satisfied that the arrangements proposed by the Government for hospital services in this area will be adequate for the needs of the current and projected population.

The arrangements will provide an essential link with the region's major teaching hospital, Flinders Medical Centre. I want to say that we saw an announcement by the Opposition as to what it was going to do. We had a look at this matter long before the announcement of what the Opposition intended to do, and we found it just was not feasible. The Opposition said it would do something; however, it had made no feasibility study of the project; it had just plucked it out of the air, but it was not a goer.

We have come up with this scheme that a hospital will be provided in the Christies Beach area at no charge to the individual ratepayers there. We think the services there

will be adequate. Arrangements will be made, if and when the hospital needs to be expanded, for it to be expanded to a 200-bed hospital. If the developers wish to get out of the hospital scheme at that stage, the Government will have first right to take over the hospital. It has been a pleasure to be acquainted—

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Dorothy Dix belongs in the *Woman's Day*.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. F. T. Blevins: We are starting a new Parliamentary session and already the Hon. Mr. Hill has disrupted the proceedings.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Hon. Mr. Hill made no feasibility study; he knew nothing about the development of the Christies Beach Hospital. No doubt, he is now the most disappointed man in this Chamber. I say that it was a pleasure to hold discussions with the developers, O'Connor & Gilligan Proprietary Limited. They are people who have already established hospitals in other States. We know they will observe the same high standards as they have done in other States and we look forward to giving these services to the people in the Christies Beach area. Had it been left to the Opposition's idea of a community hospital, it would have meant that the area would have to raise about \$1 000 000.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: My question is directed to the Hon. Mr. Hill and I have not given him any notice of it.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: When did the Hon. Mr. Hill announce the policy relating to the Christies Beach hospital and, briefly, what were the details of that announcement?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In answer to this unexpected question, let me say that on June 13 of this year my Party announced that it intended to build a hospital at Christies Beach.

The Hon. J. E. Dunford: When?

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: How would it be financed?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: We were going to finance it first by the \$1 300 000 which the Minister did not spend last year but should have spent and which he had over at the end of the year.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Yes, \$1 300 000.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: That was to be the start and then, by a reallocation of priorities, we were going to find the balance of the money. Members in my Party want a fair and just allocation of funds to hospitals and they were most concerned the other day to read a report of \$19 000 000 to be spent on Whyalla Hospital. To serve the 50 000 people who live in the Mawson and Baudin areas of metropolitan Adelaide, they read that they would receive only \$250 000 for the maternity wing of the proposed hospital about which the Minister has said so much. That is what the Government was going to put into this. I am sure the 9 600 people who signed the petition do not begrudge the people of Whyalla those facilities but there is a great difference between \$19 000 000, on the one hand, and \$250 000, on the other hand, which is all that the Government was prepared to give to the people in the south.

Even more interesting than that was that, since the Liberal Party stated its policy regarding this hospital, and as a result of the great upsurge in demand by the residents there and the petition which was presented to the Minister last year and which was signed by 9 600 people wanting a hospital, more than 10 000 people in addition have since signed a further petition demanding the construction of a hospital and the provision of facilities in the area.

We were indeed pleased that, spurred on by the Liberal Party's announcement of June 13, four years after the Labor Government made its election promise that it would build a hospital at Christies Beach, the Government, only one week after the Liberal Party's announcement, leaked to the press the information that an announcement might well be made by Dr. Shea. It was stated in the press on June 22 that a private hospital was expected to be built at Christies Beach. Only a matter of days after that—

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I rise on a point of order.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In all their glory—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Sumner is raising a point of order. I think I know what he is going to say.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: Then I will not bother to go on. However, I expect you, Sir, to uphold the Standing Orders of the Council.

The PRESIDENT: I have been considering the question.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: My point of order is that, every time an honourable member on this side of the Chamber asks a question of members opposite, you inevitably rule it out of order as not being something to do with the business of the Council or as not being in accordance with Standing Order 107. However, on this occasion, you, Sir, have allowed the Hon. Mr. Hill to give a Liberal Party policy speech during Question Time. My point of order is that in previous rulings you have disallowed such a course of action. If you intend to allow it on this occasion, I shall be pleased. However, it will mean, if you do so, that you will not be following your previous rulings.

The PRESIDENT: First of all, I am satisfied that a question was specifically asked of the Hon. Mr. Hill, and that it is well within that honourable member's competence to answer that question, because he is the Minister—

The Hon. N. K. Foster: He's the "shadow Minister".

The PRESIDENT: I will not use that term. However, he is the person designated in this Council as the Opposition spokesman on these matters. I am rather concerned that the honourable member is proceeding, in his reply, to debate certain questions, and that is completely out of order. I must therefore ask the honourable member, if he has not already finished, rapidly to conclude his reply.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: In view of the statement—

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Are you taking a point of order?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I am. The shadow Minister of Health said that on June 13 the Liberal Party made an announcement and that, following that announcement, the Government suddenly did something. Will he please tie up that statement with the statement made by the Hon. Mr. DeGaris that these discussions have been going on for about two years? If that is so, how is it that the honourable member has just heard about it?

The PRESIDENT: That is really a supplementary question, which the Hon. Mr. Hill may be able to answer. I ask the honourable member to confine himself to answering the question and not debate the political issues. After all, it is still Question Time.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: In order to satisfy the Chief Secretary, I shall deal with the supplementary question first, and try to tie up the statement referred to with that made by the Hon. Mr. DeGaris. The Chief Secretary will know that an honourable member from this side of the Chamber introduced these developers to the Government a couple of years ago, and asked the Government whether it would look into the matter.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: But you implied that after June 13 the Government suddenly did something about it. How do you tie that up with the fact that you knew that discussions had been continuing for some time?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I know that the Chief Secretary does not want me to return to the point. The Liberal Party introduced the developers to the Government, which did nothing about the matter. However, because of the pressure exerted by honourable members on this side of the Council and by residents of the area, the Government came back to us within the two-year period and said, "Who are these people? Do you think it might be possible for us ultimately to achieve something for the people down there who are so upset with us?" If the Minister wants us to pursue the point regarding the two-year programme, I make the point, which I hope he will accept, that the developers were introduced to the Government by the Liberal Party and that, because of that introduction, the Government has been able to do something.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: You said that we had done nothing before June 13.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: You hadn't.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Yes, we had.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I do not want to raise many matters that have been raised in this place in the last four years. However, time and time again the Government has said, "We can do nothing for the people in the Mawson area." It was only after June 13, when the Liberals said, "We will build a hospital", that the Government leaked its information on June 22, and on July 6 the Minister said, "We will see to it that a hospital of sorts is built down there." When Mr. Tonkin, the Leader of the Opposition, said, "We will build a 60-bed hospital", the Minister said precisely the same thing. Both parties then said, "When time demands, we will increase it to 200 beds." Talk about shadows: one was the shadow of the other. The initiative in this matter lies purely and simply with honourable members on this side of the Chamber.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I rise on a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Hill, in answering the question, is going too far.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: This is Question Time, and it's your duty, Sir, to stop him.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I will wind up briefly.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member will wind up forthwith.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The people of this area and Opposition members are concerned that the Government's plans do not include the provision of an accident and casualty section. As that important section has been demanded by the people—

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I again rise on a point of order.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: You, Sir, are duty bound to make the Hon. Mr. Hill resume his seat.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I hope that the Government will eventually come to the completion of its plans and include that important casualty section in its proposals.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Why don't you acquaint him with the rules of this place?

The Hon. T. M. Casey: I think you ought to name the Hon. Mr. Hill.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: I hope, after that disgraceful exhibition, that the Hon. Mr. Hill never says anything to Government members about their speaking in defiance of the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call on the Hon. Mr. Blevins.

The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS: I should like to direct a question to the Hon. Mr. Hill, and to make a short statement before doing so.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS: I was indeed concerned at the tirade which emanated from the Hon. Mr. Hill and which detailed a fair bit of Liberal Party policy. At one stage, the honourable member said that he was going to finance the Opposition's scheme by finding over \$1 000 000 that was left over somewhere from the Health Department allocation. He also said that he would be reallocating resources. As the honourable member said that, the people of South Australia are entitled to know where the Hon. Mr. Hill has raised that money and where that reallocation will occur. To reallocate means to take from one place and give to another.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: He is going to take it from Whyalla.

The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS: This is what concerns me, and as regards building a hospital at Christies Beach I should like to know what section of the Health Department will be deprived of funds, apparently, in the unlikely event of the Hon. Mr. Hill's becoming more than a shadow. My question to the Hon. Mr. Hill is: what will a Liberal Government give up in this reallocation of funds to enable it to build the Christies Beach Hospital?

The PRESIDENT: I think it is a fair question to be asked of the Hon. Mr. Hill, as the Opposition spokesman on this matter, but I must point out to him that the question is fairly succinct and I want a succinct reply. I also point out that the honourable member is not obliged to reply, anyway.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I will reply, with pleasure.

The Hon. J. E. Dunford: Truthfully?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Yes, I am always truthful.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: No, sometimes you may err unwittingly.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: As this kind of action has gone on for half an hour—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Hill has been asked a question. He either wishes to reply to it or does not. I understand he wishes to reply.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I have mentioned earlier that the allocation of capital funds for hospitals for the last financial year for which we have records (year ended June 30, 1976) included \$1 300 000 that was not spent, and when one looks at the Minister's record in regard to hospital finance one sees a credit balance. In the initial stage of planning a hospital adequate for the people in the southern part of metropolitan Adelaide, \$1 300 000 as a start can go a long way when one has a \$3 000 000 or \$4 000 000 plan for completion. Everyone likes to see forward planning in our major hospitals, but priorities are such that some projects and interests must wait longer than one would like.

The Hon. F. T. Blevins: Can you detail them?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I do not want to speak for too long but, to name one, in the case of the Modbury Hospital I think the forward plan for the medical library involved expenditure that could be deferred for a further 12 months.

The Hon. F. T. Blevins: How much would that save?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Never mind about that. That may be applied to saving the lives of accident victims at Christies Beach. The honourable member who has asked the question and the Chief Secretary, who is joining in the fray, may put a higher priority on the medical library at Modbury Hospital than they would put on casualty and emergency treatment at Christies Beach, but I most certainly would not. I believe that expenditure of that kind, because of the difficulties in finance generally, may have to be deferred for another few years while our priorities are adjusted. This is only a matter of the Minister and his departmental officers sitting around a table and, as I have said but apparently did not get the message through, readjusting priorities so that these things can be done. If the Minister cannot do that, I assure him that members on this side would be willing and able to do it.

MOTOR REGISTRATION BUILDING

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I ask the question because of the ire expressed by the Liberal Party Opposition in this place (in fact, in South Australia) about the provision in this city of a building that was opened yesterday by the Minister of Transport.

The Hon. M. B. Cameron: A public scandal!

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: It is a general improvement in the working conditions for employees.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Foster is asking a question.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Can the Minister tell the Council, in reasonable terms, not dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's", what amount of property in this city, privately owned, is paid for by the taxpayer as rent for occupation by State Government departments? Can the Minister also make a comparison with the position under the last Liberal Government in this State (1968-70, or further back) to give a glaring example? I ask that because of the ire and the fear expressed today by the Opposition, on behalf of the Australian Mutual Provident Society and other big investors—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member has asked his question.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: —that the Government is paying the rent for those premises. That is all that the Opposition is going crook about.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I think there were two reasons for the questions asked today about the fine facilities that have been provided for the people in the Motor Registration Division. One is the conditions that have existed for public servants for many years under Liberal Governments. Those conditions were atrocious.

The PRESIDENT: I point out to the Minister that he was not asked a question today about that matter. Notice of a question was given for the next day of sitting.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Hon. Mr. Foster has asked me a question.

The PRESIDENT: I thought the Minister might be referring to a question of which the Hon. Mr. Carnie gave notice.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: No. I was referring to the discomfort of people opposite because they have seen that this Government has gone out of its way to provide better conditions for the working people than were provided by the Liberal Government. Members opposite

should hang their head in shame when they see some of the conditions. I agree with the Hon. Mr. Foster that perhaps Opposition members were concerned that the Government would build its own offices instead of paying for buildings provided by people outside. Our providing buildings does not suit the policy of the Liberal Party. Many buildings, such as the A.M.P., *Advertiser* and Bank of New South Wales buildings, have been used only because a State Government was not prepared to provide suitable working conditions for its employees.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Can the Minister also tell the Council how many regional and decentralised services of the Motor Registration Division have been provided under the present Government in order to give proper service to the public?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: To give a better service to the public generally, which is always the concern of this Government and something that we are taking action on, I think about—

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Let me help you. There are 12.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The Hon. Mr. Hill is showing keen interest in this, but previously his Party has never shown any interest in giving good service to the public. It hurts the Hon. Mr. Hill to think that the present Government has provided for the public essential services that his Government neglected to provide.

DROUGHT RELIEF

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I ask the Minister of Lands in what way did he or his department fail so as to necessitate the drought relief programmes in this State being transferred from his department to the Agriculture Department.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: There was no hindrance whatever regarding the transfer of these matters to the Agriculture Department. Many of these matters will go to that department eventually, but it will take some time for the administration to be transferred from one department to the other. This was a matter recommended by Professor Corbett, and it is proceeding along those lines.

S.G.I.C.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Can the Chief Secretary ascertain for me the methods by which superannuation is provided for State Government Insurance Commission employees?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I will seek that information for the Leader.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Can the Minister of Health, as Leader of the Government in this Chamber, say whether the State Government Insurance Commission has any plans to establish its own building society in South Australia and, if so, what are the details of such plans?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: As this matter does not come under my portfolio, I will seek the information for the honourable member.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I ask leave to make a brief statement prior to asking a question of the Hon. Mr. Cornwall.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: This is the first time that I have ever addressed a question to a back-bencher, but I am sure the honourable member will be willing to reply.

Yesterday, at the United Farmers and Graziers conference the Chairman introduced the Hon. Mr. Cornwall, and we were pleased to see him there. Apart from deputising for the Premier, the honourable member announced that he was Chairman of an agriculture committee which had been established apparently by the Government. First, I want to assure the honourable member of the utmost co-operation on my behalf, and I congratulate him on his appointment as Chairman of the committee. However, I am curious to know who comprises the committee and what are its functions.

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: There is nothing new or terribly innovative about the Australian Labor Party Rural Policy Sub-committee. This arrangement has existed for many years. We have sub-committees in various policy areas. My colleague the Hon. Mr. Sumner is the convener of the A.L.P. Health Policy Sub-committee, and altogether 10 sub-committees report to the policy committee, which then prepares reports for the State A.L.P. conference. I happen to be convener of the A.L.P. Rural Policy Sub-committee—

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Is the Hon. Mr. Blevins a member?

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: Yes; the membership is diverse and includes professional fishermen, people involved in forestry and pastoral industries, people from the Riverland and people from the dairying industry—in fact, people from all agricultural pursuits. Naturally, the Minister is an *ex officio* member. It is an extremely efficient and good committee, and I am sure that the honourable member will be impressed with the policies we will produce in the next month or two.

MILK POWDER

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I heard on the news last evening (and I read about it with great concern in the newspaper this morning) a warning by the Federal Government about four brands of milk powder that could be causing salmonella bowel infections in babies. I also read that the Federal Government has warned that these products should not be used until more is known about this problem. The announcement on television last night caused great concern to the South Australian public, and during the news programme so many telephone calls flooded the station that the news reader had to repeat that news item at the end of the programme. Can the Minister of Health, who is most concerned about the health of South Australians, as we all are, give the Council any further information on this alarming development?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: First, the Australian Minister for Health found out about this matter only as a result of investigations made by the South Australian Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. The institute,

having received several reports of gastro-enteritis amongst infants in South Australia, was trying to track down the cause of the disease. Late yesterday afternoon the institute isolated the cause and, as a result, I made a statement late yesterday afternoon. The Australian Minister for Health was told of the findings. It was found that similar infections had occurred in Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria, and the institute was able to trace this to a product which was on the market under the name of Enfamil infants' powdered formula. We immediately authorised statements to warn people. Health Departments in all States are recalling cans of this product and are keeping an eye on other similar products to ensure that there is no repetition of an outbreak of this disease.

FORESTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition) brought up the report of the Select Committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President and the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, and C. J. Sumner.

Library: The President and the Hons. J. A. Carnie, Jessie Cooper, and Anne Levy.

Printing: The Hons. F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, J. E. Dunford, N. K. Foster, and R. A. Geddes.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

That a committee consisting of the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, R. C. DeGaris, N. K. Foster, C. M. Hill, and C. J. Sumner be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.20 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 20, at 2.15 p.m.