

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 22, 1977

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

## QUESTIONS

## RAPE SEED

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture about rape seed.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** A considerable area is now being sown to rape seed in South Australia, particularly in the South-East. This is one of the major oil seed crops grown in Australia. The total production this year will be about 22 000 tonnes, South Australia being the largest producer. However, concern has been expressed in some circles about cross-pollination in connection with plants of the same family growing near a rape seed crop. Can the Minister inform me whether the Agriculture Department intends taking action to ensure that cross-pollination of similar families does not take place, and that the rape seed industry will receive protection from cross-pollination in connection with plants of the same family growing near rape seed crops?

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** There is nothing we can do to prevent cross-pollination, but we are concerned about the effects on the purity of seed for future plantings of rape seed crops. There have been discussions within the department about certification of seed, so that sources of pure seed are available for planting in future years. Of course, we have seed registration and certification for most cereal varieties, but this is a comparatively new crop in South Australia. I know that discussions are under way as to what would be a suitable form of certification for rape seed.

## MINISTERIAL ADVISER

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister of Health, representing the Attorney-General, about the activities of Mr. G. D. Woods, a Ministerial adviser to the Attorney-General.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** A letter written by Mr. G. D. Woods to the Editor of the *Advertiser* and published in last Thursday's *Advertiser* sets out at some length the activities of Mr. Woods in preparing an opinion relating to legal proceedings connected with uranium mining in the Northern Territory. Of course, this matter had been reported to some extent in the media prior to that. In his letter Mr. Woods states:

I am a senior lecturer in law at the University of Sydney on leave for one year as a Ministerial adviser to the Attorney-General (Mr. Duncan). The task which I have contracted to perform here is to prepare a report on crime statistics. I have worked and continue to work diligently at this. Anything I write on environmental law is a matter of my own initiative, and of course I have been pleased to discuss these matters with the Attorney-General whose concern over environmental issues is well-known.

"The lady doth protest too much, methinks." Has Mr.

Woods been more concerned about environmental law, which was not the task for which he was employed, than about his task as a criminologist? The letter states that he is preparing a report to the Attorney-General on crime statistics. When was Mr. Woods appointed? When is it expected that his report will be brought in?

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** On a point of order, the honourable member's explanation had nothing to do with those questions. That was a gross misuse of Question Time. My point of order is that you, Mr. President, should not allow the honourable member to continue in that vein, the point being that he carried on this diatribe against Mr. Woods and the environmental activities that Mr. Woods was carrying out in his private capacity. This explanation was totally irrelevant to that or anything else, the question being about when Mr. Woods was appointed and when a report on crime statistics would be available. In other words, the honourable member was using Question Time to get a statement in, using the ruse of asking a question to make a statement that he wanted to make and get some publicity.

**The PRESIDENT:** It is a favourite trick of all members.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I beg your pardon, Mr. President; I take umbrage at that.

**The PRESIDENT:** The honourable member will resume his seat.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Don't be so damned insulting!

**The PRESIDENT:** I'm not.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** To hell with that. I don't get up to any tricks like that; I'm not a member of the lousy Liberal Party.

**The PRESIDENT:** If the honourable member does not cease speaking in that manner I will name him without any further hesitation. On the matter raised by the Hon. Mr. Sumner, it is quite impossible for me, sitting in this Chair and listening to an explanation, to know what the question will be. I cannot get inside an honourable member's mind.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** The Hon. Mr. Burdett should be reprimanded.

**The PRESIDENT:** I cannot remember everything that was said.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** Then you weren't listening.

**The PRESIDENT:** When an honourable member is making an explanation, it must be relevant to the question he is going to ask. Some people have funny ideas about relevancy. We shall not take it any further now.

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

## LENSWORTH FINANCE COMPANY

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to make an explanation before asking a question of the Leader of the Council about land deals and the Lensworth Finance Company.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Members are no doubt aware that the Lensworth Finance Company in Adelaide, owned by people of this community (or, rather, the Establishment members of the community), has been mentioned in the current land deals inquiry in the State of Victoria. During the course of my making a statement, I will also ask why Mr. Hill is looking anxious at the moment.

**The Hon. C. M. Hill:** I am not anxious; I am merely laughing at you making a fool of yourself.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Is it a fact that the Lensworth

Finance Company has been the subject of some form of investigation in the current land deals inquiry in the State of Victoria? Is it also a fact that Lensworth Finance Company in that area made a profit of some \$1 800 000 in a matter of three days in that State? Can the Minister tell the Council whether or not there are any other associated companies or companies in South Australia that have benefited from the profit of urban land sales in Victoria—companies that have been the subject of inquiry in that State, any offshoots or business associates in Adelaide land sales—or is there any member of Parliament, either Federal or State, associated with those companies involved in the inquiry in Victoria or with any companies in any form in South Australia?

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD:** I will get answers for the honourable member.

### PREFABRICATED SCHOOLS

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Education, a question regarding prefabricated schools.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** I am seeking some improvement in the outward presentation of the Demac schools that are at present being erected by the Education Department. It seems that the early Samcon schools were not impressive outside, although I think all honourable members would agree that the schoolrooms inside were well equipped. However, there were great improvements in the outer design of the later and larger Samcon schools, such as Yorketown and Karcultaby Area Schools, which improvements made the schools impressive and an asset to the districts concerned. Likewise, the Demac schools are unimpressive outside. The small Demac units, although very effective inside, sometimes look the least impressive of a group of school buildings, and they do nothing to add to the appearance of a school. Will the Minister of Agriculture ask his colleague whether improvements can be made to the outer design of Demac schools along the lines of those effected to the large Samcon schools to which I have referred?

**The Hon. T. M. CASEY:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Education and bring down a reply.

### RURAL COSTS

**The Hon. R. A. GEDDES:** I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister of Agriculture a question regarding rural costs.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R. A. GEDDES:** On November 16, when the Hon. Miss Levy asked the Minister a question about rural costs in South Australia and referred to figures released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Minister said that he was aware of the figures and gave a considered reply to the Hon. Miss Levy. In trying to interpret the figures that the Minister gave to the Council, I have had great difficulty in trying to reconcile them. Will the Minister give another considered and more explicit reply regarding the relationship between rural costs in South Australia and those in other States?

**The PRESIDENT:** Would the honourable member refer to anything explicit that he wants answered? It would be helpful if the honourable member indicated what he wanted.

**The Hon. R. A. GEDDES:** I thought the question was, "Could the Minister be more explicit regarding the costs that he gave to the Hon. Miss Levy?"

**The PRESIDENT:** I wondered whether the honourable member wanted to help the Minister.

**The Hon. R. A. Geddes:** Unfortunately, the Minister has not helped me. That is the problem.

**The PRESIDENT:** I will see what the Minister has to say.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** The figures that I quoted were released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

**The Hon. R. A. Geddes:** For which month?

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** Those figures contained an index figure, which was based on the situation obtaining in June, 1963, which is the base period of 100 points, and they have been fixed since then. I quoted the latest figures available to me, that is, for the March, 1977, quarter. The figures I quoted related, first, to the ratio of prices received to prices paid. We are all well aware of the cost-price squeeze that has occurred and the decline in that ratio since 1963. I made the point that, although the cost-price squeeze has been operating in relation to all farmers in Australia, the ratio for South Australian farmers was better than the national average and, indeed, on the figures provided to me at the time, was better than that obtaining in any other State.

The same thing applied regarding the other items that I quoted from the detailed series of farm costs, which was the index of rates and taxes for farmers in Australia. Again, the increase has been considerable. It was based on the June, 1963, figure, when it was 100 points. However, in relation to the 12-month period to March, 1977, I quoted the fact that Queensland and South Australia had a slight drop, whilst other States had an increase in the index points in this item of costs.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* five tables dealing with the matter that the Minister has just covered. The five tables are tables of prices paid by farmers in 1975-76 and 1976-77, prices received by farmers, prices received by farmers divided by price paid by farmers, and prices received by farmers divided by prices paid by farmers in order of relative cost advantage.

**The PRESIDENT:** I think the honourable member can seek leave to have these incorporated in *Hansard* only if he intends to ask a question.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** Yes. The question is: will the Minister agree to these figures, quoted from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics? I think that is the easiest way to solve the problem.

**The PRESIDENT:** First, I will put the question that the honourable member have leave to incorporate those figures.

**The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield:** We want to know what figures they are. Are they official figures?

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** I rise on a point of order. On several occasions the Hon. Mr. DeGaris has sought permission of the Council to incorporate material in *Hansard* without having shown it to members on this side or at least to the Minister in charge of the Council, yet, in the reverse situation, we have to go to the Hon. Mr. DeGaris about anything we want to have incorporated in *Hansard*. We first have to clear it with members opposite. If there are any rules on these things, should they not be laid down now so that they will apply to both sides, not to only one side?

**The PRESIDENT:** Yes, I take the honourable member's point. I ask the Minister whether he is familiar with the tables.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** No, I am not, and I certainly would like to look at them, because previously there has been selective quoting from figures and I think that, if the figures from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are to be quoted, they should be as complete as possible, not just some of the figures. I would like to see what these figures are.

**The PRESIDENT:** I point out that the Hon. Mr. DeGaris has asked for leave. I think that probably it would be better if he showed the figures to the Minister and said that he would ask a question about the matter tomorrow.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** I rise on a point of order. Surely the incorporation of matters in *Hansard* is something that ought to apply during the normal course of Parliamentary debate. Obviously, the reason is that something may be in tabular form and, therefore, more easily incorporated rather than being read out. It seems to me that to use Question Time as a time when matter can be incorporated in *Hansard* willy-nilly is an abuse of the procedures of Question Time, and I ask you to rule that the incorporation of matter in *Hansard* ought to occur during the course of debate, not during Question Time.

**The PRESIDENT:** I point out, first, that only statistical information, figures and tables, or something like that, can be incorporated in *Hansard* with leave of the Council. Normally, material that involves a statement has to be read, and it is only in very exceptional circumstances that the Council would give leave for that to be incorporated, because, after all, this is a Parliament and the word "Parliament" indicates that there has to be a statement, not an incorporation in *Hansard* as a back door method of giving information. I may be wrong, but I assume from what the Hon. Mr. DeGaris has said on this occasion that it is statistical material, and only statistical material. There are two ways that statistical matter can be handled and, whether it arises in debate or by leave granted to the honourable member to make a statement, I do not think there is much difference between the two.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I understand the unwillingness of members of the Labor Party to have these figures inserted—

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD:** On a point of order, Mr. President, I seek a withdrawal. That is not true.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I think the honourable member is wrong; he has no right to assume that.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I am willing to withdraw my request to have this information incorporated in *Hansard*. However, I will put a Question on Notice and include this material in the question.

#### PARLIAMENTARY TITLES

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** I wish to direct a question to you, Mr. President. On Thursday last you gave a reply to a question I asked you concerning the use in this Council and outside it of the title "Honourable member". I appreciate your reply, which was full and good. However, one important aspect was missed, perhaps because of the way in which I put the question. You said that members, if they wish, can refuse to use the title themselves and can advise their constituents and friends outside this Council that they do not wish to be referred to in this way. Therefore, I indicate that all back-bench members on this side have already done that, and have done everything we can to ensure that the title is not used.

However the problem arises regarding the printing of *Hansard*. In *Hansard* we are always referred to, for example, as the Hon. F. T. Blevins or the Hon. N. K. Foster, whereas in another place the Leader of the

Opposition is referred to as "Mr. Tonkin". He seems to find it sufficient to be referred to as "Mr. Tonkin". All members other than Ministers find that sufficient. However, I am not in a position to order *Hansard* not to use that title: only you can do that. The same position applies to the Notice Paper, where members are always listed as "The Hon.". I have no control over what is printed on the Notice Paper: you are in charge of that, Mr. President. Again, on the list of members at the entrance of the Legislative Council we are also referred to as "Hon". Again, I cannot have that struck out; only you can do that. Therefore, in the areas to which I referred, as well as in any others of which you are in charge, will you see that the title "Hon." is not used in any of these areas as a result of the specific request of Government back-bench members?

**The PRESIDENT:** I do not know that I shall be able to do that, but I will look into the question again. I point out to the honourable member that on the first page of *Hansard* all Ministers in another place are referred to by the title "Hon." The member referred to Mr. Tonkin, but I do not believe he is entitled to the prefix "Hon." I shall look at the question, although there may be some difficulties.

#### SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I ask leave to make a short statement prior to directing a question to the Minister of Health about the Government's Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** Early last month the Government announced the opening of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. According to the Minister's press release, it was to be an all-round-the-clock emergency medical service for victims of sexual attacks. The Minister said that the staff included a panel of 30 doctors, 27 of whom were women. He also said that the centre was a private project, and he expressed the hope that it would encourage victims to report immediately without fear of embarrassment. Can the Minister give a preliminary report stating whether or not victims of such attacks are reporting to the centre, in order to warrant its establishment?

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD:** I will obtain a report.

#### UNSWORN STATEMENTS

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation, prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health, representing the Attorney-General, about unsworn statements from the dock.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** The Mitchell committee report on court procedure recommended that the practice of accused persons making unsworn statements from the dock be discontinued. The principal reason for this was that in such cases the accused person was not then subjected to cross examination. I understood from debate in this Council last year on the Evidence Act Amendment Bill relating to rape in marriage that it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill to remove the practice of accused persons making unsworn statements from the dock. Does the Government intend to introduce such a Bill in this Parliamentary session?

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

### URANIUM MINING

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** I seek leave to make a short statement, prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Mines and Energy, on uranium mining.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** Some information was given to me, the accuracy or veracity of which I cannot vouch for, which relates to the delivery of a load of petrol from Golden Fleece to the Plumbago Station, in a northern area of the State on the Broken Hill line. The worker who delivered the fuel had been told by the Golden Fleece company that it was for an airstrip. Upon arrival at Plumbago Station, he was told that an airstrip had existed for a number of years and that the fuel was for a mining site 10 miles further on. When he arrived at the mining site, the worker was surprised to find a high content of managerial staff there and virtually no workers. Questioning one of the workers, he found out that companies were said to be drilling for uranium. One worker even showed the union member delivering the fuel some of the uranium retrieved from the ground. The companies involved were said to be Rockdrill, Thompson, Esso and Nietzsche. As I said, I have no way of finding out the accuracy of that report, but would the Minister investigate it and let me know if uranium exploration by these or any other companies is taking place on Plumbago Station, or north of that station, on the Broken Hill line?

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

### WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

**The Hon. M. B. CAMERON:** Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of October 26 about accounting procedures in the Woods and Forests Department?

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** During the debate on the Public Purposes Loan Bill the honourable member attacked the Woods and Forests Department for delays in implementing a new accounting and budgeting control system. The obvious implication of his remarks was that the present system is inadequate and there could be misappropriation of public funds. This is not the case. The changes to the accounting system will be fundamental, and it is not surprising that they have taken three years to investigate, plan and implement. The current system was introduced in 1926 when the department was expanding its area of plantation forestry very rapidly and had little income.

The cost of establishment, maintenance, and so on was paid from Loan funds, with an account being created for each plantation. When income was eventually obtained from these plantations the loans were repaid. In all, about 660 plantation accounts have been established. The situation has now changed completely, and the growth in plantation area is under 1 per cent of the total.

With the current projections for a relatively stable population and the growing shortage of available farm land for plantation planting, it is unlikely that plantation forests will again expand at a rapid rate. This new situation has led to the development of a "sustained yield" accounting system.

This has been developed after considerable investigation of systems used elsewhere in the world, since no other forestry enterprises in Australia have yet reached the stage

of the South Australian operation. The accounting system, which has been developed as an amalgam of these overseas systems and our own planning, will be implemented progressively and is expected to have its first major impact during 1978-79.

The major change in the new system is the payment of all plantation costs from revenue instead of Loan funds. This will give a true picture of the financial returns from forestry, since the gross revenue will have to offset the cost of replacing the resource. Both will be at present prices; hence the distortions caused by the inflation of costs will be removed.

### HOSPITAL LEVIES

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Has the Minister of Health a reply to my recent question about hospital levies?

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD:** One hundred and twenty-six councils are members of the Local Government Association of South Australia Inc. Three councils, the Cities of Marion, Mitcham and Port Adelaide, are not members. Information in respect to the second part of the question is not readily available. It would require a detailed analysis of the membership of local authorities in country areas.

### SECONDHAND DEALERS

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** Has the Minister of Health a reply from the Minister of Local Government to my question of August 2, over three months ago, about secondhand dealers?

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD:** As I indicated earlier to the honourable member, I am doing him a kindness in giving this reply today. He knows very well that, after Parliament is prorogued, questions normally have to be asked again. I am doing the honourable member a very good service.

**The Hon. C. M. Hill:** The need to repeat questions in these circumstances has never occurred before in my time as a member of this Council.

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD:** In reply to the honourable member's question, I point out that amendments to the secondhand dealers legislation are currently under consideration, and it is hoped that provision can be made to overcome the type of problem to which the honourable member referred.

### RACING INDUSTRY

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport about greyhound racing. Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** I have been a punter on greyhounds and racehorses, and I have enjoyed my small gambles. I have also owned greyhounds. Unlike many people, I believe that the racing industry is a great industry for people who enjoy a small wager. It is very exciting, especially if one backs a winner. The most important people in the racing industry are the owners, trainers, and the punters, the most important of all, like the workers in industry. The punter, who does not know what will happen, must observe carefully and take a big risk. Consequently, he ought to be protected in the best possible way. We should therefore ensure that gambling transactions are of the highest possible standard.

Last evening, my dog raced at Gawler, and he ran third. I wish to refer to an allegation that was made by a respectable person in the racing industry. It is maintained that my dog opened at 12 to 1 with the straight-out bookmakers and at 8 to 1 with the concession bookmakers. I rushed over to get 8 to 1, but a bloke ran in front of me; I do not know how much he put on. The bookmaker then reduced the price to 6 to 1. Another bloke then rushed in front of me, and the bookmaker then reduced the price to 3 to 1. I said, "The price is still 6 to 1," but the bookmaker said, "Will you take 3 to 1?" I said a few words! The price at one stage was 12 to 1 around the ring but, because everyone was backing the dog, the price finished at 25 to 10. Clearly, someone found out about this dog—someone in the know. The allegation is that the bloke in the know is in the T.A.B. My advice is that, before the betting starts at Gawler, the wagers are computed on the course. Perhaps someone in Adelaide had wagered \$100. The T.A.B. employee saw the big plunge and perhaps rushed in front of everyone and got 8 to 1.

The punter who does not know misses out. If this allegation is true (and I believe it is true), will the Minister investigate whether employees leave their duties in the T.A.B. to bet with bookmakers at Gawler? Secondly, on what scale is this punting, if any, going on; for example, what is the number of employees punting, and in what amounts? Thirdly, will the Minister investigate the possibility of having the wagering computed at head office, not at the greyhound meetings?

**The Hon. T. M. CASEY:** I will comply with the honourable member's wishes.

#### PUBLIC AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Health, representing the Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs, about the Auditor-General's Report on the Public and Consumer Affairs Department.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** At page 249 of his report for the year ended June 30, 1977, the Auditor-General, referring to the increase of \$964 000 in the administrative costs of the department, states:

During the year the Public Service Board appointed management consultants to undertake a review of the accounting and budgetary control procedures of the department. As yet the review has not been completed.

Has that review been completed and, if it has, will the Minister table it in the Council?

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

#### FITNESS CAMPAIGN

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport about the promotion known as "Life. Be in it".

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I understand that tomorrow the "Life. Be in it" campaign will be opened by the Premier. The Minister is arranging for certain members of Parliament to ride bicycles from the Parliament House steps down to the bank of the Torrens as part of the ceremony. I read also in this morning's press the Minister's statement that the purpose of the official opening was to

encourage people to be a little more active in the interests of national health. I think the whole promotion, if I may express a quick opinion, is splendid.

I also read in the press that Federal funds were committed for this activity, and I wondered whether the Minister could tell me what amount of Federal and State (if any) funds are to be involved here in South Australia; alternatively, if he has not details of the exact amounts of money at hand or readily in mind, could he give me any idea of the proportion between the Federal and State Government contributions to this overall programme in South Australia?

**The Hon. T. M. CASEY:** I am pleased the honourable member has asked this question, because he has been invited to participate in the bike ride down to the Torrens bank tomorrow. The honourable member will be aware that this "Life. Be in it" programme first came into operation in the State of Victoria and proved quite a success there. As a result, all States at the Sports and Recreation Ministers Council meeting decided to participate in it on a national scale, and we invited the Commonwealth to take part. The Commonwealth agreed and is contributing quite a large sum of money over three years. The Commonwealth Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development is contributing \$1 800 000 over three years, and is co-ordinating the national aspects of the programme. The States are putting in a considerable amount of money; I forget exactly how much we are putting in over a similar period of time, but I assure the honourable member that it would probably match the Commonwealth's contribution, although I will check on that matter. I hope that everybody who takes part in this will benefit from it and realise its significance for the whole community. I hope it gets off to a good start and is a resounding success in the years to come.

#### PRAWN FISHING

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** I seek leave to make an explanation before directing a question to the Minister of Fisheries about the report of the Raptis organisation leaving South Australia.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** In today's edition of the *News*, at page 3, there is a report headed "Raptis decides: prawn fleet to quit South Australia". During the course of the article, Mr. Raptis says, "We have been let down badly by the State Government." Can the Minister of Fisheries say whether there is any substance in that statement?

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** No, there is not. The major reason for the Raptis organisation's setting up a processing plant in Queensland is the decisions that have been made about the management of the northern prawn fishery. The Commonwealth and the States concerned in the handling of the northern prawn fishery decided that people who were catching prawns in that area should also process them in the neighbouring States. South Australia made representations to the Fisheries Council that there should be at least a decent transition period for the people involved in the northern fishery to arrange their affairs in order for that to be implemented. That was accepted, so we succeeded in getting for the Raptis organisation at least an extension of time to be able to meet those new requirements. That is the real reason why that organisation will start processing in Queensland. It has been involved in the northern prawn fishery for a considerable time, but the States in question have demanded that prawns caught in those areas should be

processed there. The South Australian Government certainly has not let down the Raptis organisation in any way. We have in fact supported it and given it that extension of time to be able to operate in the northern prawn fishery.

The other question that has been raised a number of times is that of licences in South Australia for a fishery. The point often missed in these sorts of argument is that the Raptis organisation's activities would not increase the number of prawns actually caught. The organisation was seeking to buy out fishermen so that it could have control over the catches from their boats. That would not increase the prawn catch in South Australia, and the total amount of work for people processing fish in South Australia would remain the same, whether it was being carried out by one organisation or by several.

#### MR. E. CONNELLY

**The Hon. M. B. CAMERON** (on notice): Is the former member for Pirie in the House of Assembly, Mr. E. Connelly, at present employed by the Government, and if so (a) in what position; (b) at what salary; (c) what are the terms of his employment and for what period; and (d) was the position advertised through the Public Service Board?

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD**: Mr. E. Connelly is employed in the Department of Transport (Local Government Office). The replies to the other questions are as follows:

- (a) Temporary Research Assistant.
- (b) Salary is at the rate of \$13 998 per annum.
- (c) Temporary employment under section 108 of the Public Service Act for the period 24/10/77 to 31/5/78.
- (d) No.

#### PRIVATE BUSINESS

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT** (on notice): Will the Government allow private members' time in the House of Assembly during this current session of Parliament?

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD**: As I indicated to the honourable member last week, when the Address in Reply debate has finished private members' time will be allowed; so the answer to the honourable member's question is "Yes".

#### SHOP TRADING HOURS BILL

The House of Assembly intimated that it had agreed to the Legislative Council's amendment No. 15 but had disagreed to amendments Nos. 1 to 14 and 16.

Consideration in Committee.

**The CHAIRMAN**: The House of Assembly has agreed only to the amendment moved by the Minister in this Chamber, and has disagreed to all the others.

**The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD** (Minister of Health): I move:

That the Council do not insist on its amendments Nos. 1 to 14 and 16.

I move this motion for the reasons outlined in another place. Mr. Chairman, you gave your casting vote previously to enable the amendments to be considered in another place, which having considered them has not accepted the amendments moved in this place, with the exception of one amendment. There is no point in going

over the ground again, as most matters were dealt with fully in Committee. One amendment, however, should be given particular attention. It is amendment No. 4 on the schedule of amendments made by the Legislative Council. It was understood that the purpose of this amendment was to increase the permissible size of convenience stores. That was the reason given in support of it and the amendment was argued on that basis. However, it is clear that this amendment goes far wider than dealing with convenience stores: it would, in effect, permit any food shop that did not exceed 4 500 square feet in floor area to have unrestricted trading hours, and I do not think that that is what members opposite intended.

The result of such a provision would be that food retailers could establish chains of supermarkets that would have unrestricted trading hours. This would nullify the intention of the legislation and of the recommendations of the Royal Commission that small food shops should have unrestricted trading hours but that supermarkets should have to observe the normal trading times. It would react against small shopkeepers and put many of them out of business. The Mixed Business Association has made strong representations to the Government that this amendment should not remain in the Bill.

I point out that if the other amendments about convenience stores (Nos. 1, 5 and 10) are retained in the Bill the Act will provide the necessary machinery by which existing convenience stores can continue to operate, provided they continue in substantially the same manner as at present. There is no need for this amendment No. 4 to permit convenience stores to continue to operate.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS** (Leader of the Opposition): I think we should be grateful that the House of Assembly has seen fit to accept one amendment out of the 16 moved. It shows the amount of co-operation we get from the House of Assembly sometimes! The amendments have been debated fully in this Chamber, and there is no need for me to continue the debate, except to point out that all the amendments moved in this Chamber have been designed to do justice to all concerned with this issue. That point cannot be disputed by the Government. First, we have had stores operating for some time that have become known as convenience stores, and they have operated with Government approval. I believe that the Bill seriously affects the operation of those convenience stores, irrespective of what the Minister said in relation to amendment No. 4.

The intention of amendment No. 4 was to make some contribution to allow existing convenience stores to operate by increasing the floor area provision. If the amendment does not do that, the matter can be examined at a later stage. However, the main point is that this Chamber saw that an injustice was being done to one section of the retail trading group which had operated and invested money in a number of convenience stores in the metropolitan area.

Secondly, the Bill discriminates in respect of one commodity, namely, red meat. There is no justification for such discrimination in a late trading Bill. We are saying that one staple commodity is to be excluded from late night trading, and that is a discrimination this Council has rightly removed from the Bill. There is also the question of the Government's determining how a business will be owned. I do not think that the Government has any reason to determine this matter, whether it be a person wishing to be an operator, or a group of people wishing to operate as a partnership, a limited liability company or a public company. That should not make any difference to the question of the hours and what people do in regard to that business.

The other substantive amendment deals with the two-thirds majority on a council. I pointed out that a simple majority in this place can change the State Constitution, yet a two-thirds majority is required in a local council body to make an application to the Minister. Such a provision should not be tolerated. I am sorry that more of these amendments were not accepted by the House of Assembly, and I ask that the Chamber insist on its amendments.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (9)—The Hons. D. H. L. Banfield (teller), F. T. Blevins, T. M. Casey, B. A. Chatterton, C. W. Creedon, J. E. Dunford, N. K. Foster, Anne Levy, and C. J. Sumner.

Noes (10)—The Hons. J. C. Burdett, M. B. Cameron, J. A. Carnie, Jessie Cooper, M. B. Dawkins, R. C. DeGaris (teller), R. A. Geddes, C. M. Hill, D. H. Laidlaw, and A. M. Whyte.

Majority of 1 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

*Later:*

The House of Assembly requested a conference, at which it would be represented by five managers, on the Legislative Council's amendments to which it had disagreed.

The Legislative Council agreed to a conference to be held in the Legislative Council conference room on Wednesday, November 23, at 9.15 a.m., at which it would be represented by the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, J. A. Carnie, R. C. DeGaris, C. J. Sumner, and A. M. Whyte.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 4.43 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, November 23, at 2.15 p.m.