

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Forty-Third Parliament (1979)

Parliament, which adjourned on 1 March 1979, was prorogued by proclamation dated 29 March. By proclamation dated 17 May, it was summoned to meet on Thursday 24 May, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 24 May 1979

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. A. M. Whyte)** took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Acting Clerk (Mr. C. H. Mertin) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor's Deputy (Sir Walter Russell Crocker) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read 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 assembled the State has suffered a sad loss with the deaths of distinguished former members of the Parliament. I refer to the late Sir Baden Pattinson, John Leo Travers, Lesley Charles Harding and George Stanley Hawker. Sir Baden Pattinson represented the electorate of Yorke Peninsula from 1930 to 1938 and the electorate of Glenelg from 1947 to 1965. He was Minister of Education from 1953 to 1965. John Leo Travers represented the electorate of Torrens from 1953 to 1956. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1953 and was a puisne

judge of the Supreme Court from 1962 to 1969. Lesley Charles Harding represented the electorate of Victoria from 1956 to 1965. George Stanley Hawker represented the electorate of Burra from 1947 to 1956. He was a member of the Land Settlement Committee from 1952 to 1956. I feel sure that you will join me in recording appreciation of the services rendered to the State by these gentlemen, and in expressing sympathy to their families.

3. My Government has advised me to call you together today, earlier than had previously been expected, because of its concern over the Cooper Basin natural gas deposits. The fact that control of Santos Limited has fallen substantially into the hands of a single entrepreneur from another State is, in my Government's opinion, cause for considerable anxiety. My Government believes that it would be failing in its public duty if it allowed the Cooper Basin natural gas deposits, which are so vital to the future of this State, to become a pawn in a situation in which the interests of all South Australians could be subordinated to narrow commercial considerations. My Government also believes it has a responsibility, in the national interest, to consider the necessity for stable gas prices. Accordingly, it proposes to place before you a Bill which will prevent any single shareholder or group of associated shareholders of Santos Limited from holding more than 15 per cent of the issued shares of that company.

4. My Government is continuing to exercise the maximum possible restraint in all areas of expenditure, and some revenues are showing a slight improvement on earlier Budget forecasts. If these trends continue, there should be a small surplus on the combined Revenue and Loan Account operations at the end of the present financial year. With regard to the 1979-80 financial year, preliminary forecasts indicate that the Government will once again need to exercise very tight control over all expenditures if it is to avoid a substantial deficit.

5. While the prime responsibility for employment rests with the Commonwealth Government, my Government

attaches the greatest importance to the task of achieving, as far as is possible for a State Government, a substantial improvement in the economy of the State and a consequential reduction in levels of unemployment. The Department of Economic Development will continue and intensify its efforts to attract new industry to the State and to consolidate and strengthen the State's existing industries. Particular attention is being given to the problems of diversifying industry. One of the objectives of a Bill to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, which will be introduced, is to give greater security of employment to workers, consistent with the economic well-being of the State.

6. Tourism forms an important part of the State's industrial base. A separate Department of Tourism for which the Deputy Premier is responsible has recently been established and this department will work in close contact with the Department of Economic Development. My Government will continue to encourage the development by local governing bodies of facilities for the use of tourists. Assistance will be provided for worthwhile projects. A vigorous advertising programme designed to attract tourists to this State will continue.

7. The Public Service Board has carried out considerable research with a view to introducing a new Public Service Act. It is felt that a new Act is now needed to provide the framework for a more vigorous, effective and economical public administration. The new Bill is expected to be ready for introduction during the current session.

8. Mineral exploration has continued at an unprecedented level throughout a wide area of the State. This activity results from a recognition of the potential for discovery of a wide range of minerals including copper, coal and diamonds. Following the discovery of the Olympic Dam prospect at Roxby Downs, the Stuart Shelf has been a prime exploration target. Iron and steel production was greatly increased towards the end of last year as a result of new contracts secured by B.H.P., and copper production has also expanded as a result of the return to full production of Mount Gunson Mines Ltd. Petroleum exploration continues to produce encouraging results. The Strzelecki No. 3 well produced oil at the rate of 2 400 barrels per day: this is Australia's largest recorded on-shore oil flow. Extensions are being made to the Moomba gas treatment plant to increase capacity from 11 400 000 cubic metres to 15 000 000 cubic metres per day. An extended programme to assess the Leigh Creek coalfield has recently been completed.

9. Despite rather patchy opening rains, extensive sowing of cereal crops is expected again this year as farmers work to overcome the effect of the drought years. My Government will introduce complementary legislation to continue the national wheat stabilisation scheme as soon as details have been finalised. Special attention has been given to the problems of the fruit-growing industry and it is hoped that in the present session it will be possible to introduce legislation which will form part of a complementary nation-wide scheme and will rationalise the marketing of deciduous fruit. My Government will also press ahead with legislation to assist the dairy industry.

Following the establishment of a successful demonstration farm in Libya, a similar project will commence in Algeria later this year. This new project reflects the keen interest shown by many Governments in our dry land farming techniques.

The extensive programme to modernise and re-equip the Mount Gambier sawmill is now well under way. When the present work is completed, the Mount Gambier mill

will be the largest in Australia and will incorporate the very latest technology. The South Australian Timber Corporation has now been established and arrangements to export softwood chips from the South-East have reached an advanced stage. This project will provide new employment opportunities and additional export earnings for the State.

10. My Government is continuing to promote a vigorous programme to protect the environmental and cultural heritage of the State. The new Aboriginal Heritage Act will be brought into operation soon and this will confer increased powers to protect our Aboriginal heritage against despoliation. A new Bill providing for the preparation and assessment of environmental impact statements in relation to major projects will be introduced during the current session of Parliament. An inter-departmental committee has been established to study the problems of land clearance. Three trusts have been formed to administer parks established under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. These provide great potential for development of national parks and reserves, particularly those that are major tourist and recreational resorts.

11. Following the Inquiry into the Control of Private Development, my Government is planning to introduce comprehensive development control legislation to replace the current multiplicity of controls and procedures. The legislation will provide a simplified single development control system in which local government will have a significant role. The Department of Housing, Urban and Regional Affairs continues to play a vital part, in co-operation with local government, in planning and implementing development policies for key areas of the State. The department has also undertaken experiments with a view to achieving energy conservation in new housing developments. An experiment with a "low-energy" house is being conducted by the department jointly with the South Australian Housing Trust.

Despite a reduction of \$6 605 000 in low-interest funds, the Housing Trust has been able to assist 5 000 tenants and 1 100 home owners with their housing needs during the 1978 to 1979 financial year. Approximately 1 900 new dwellings will be completed by private builders for the trust. The trust continues to give high priority to providing housing for disadvantaged persons. Because of the reduction in Commonwealth funding the trust has entered into various joint ventures. Amongst these are the construction of cottage homes for the aged at Henley Beach and Port Augusta and the Noarlunga Regional Centre project.

12. The Land Ownership and Tenure System, a computer system being developed as the first phase of a comprehensive land information system, will come into operation in the Lands Titles Registration Office during the next financial year. Amendments to the Crown Lands Act are proposed to overcome procedural problems in processing land transactions and to provide penalties against environmental degradation of Crown lands. Preparations are well under way to utilise data relevant to earth science from the Australian Landsat Satellite Receiving Station at Alice Springs when it becomes operational in 1980.

13. In consequence of my Government's decision to proceed with the North-East Transit Project, a division has been established within the Department of Transport to undertake preliminary work. It is expected that early in 1980 detailed contracts will be let with a view to the project being completed by the middle of the next decade. The opening of the Callington to White Hill section of the South-Eastern Freeway and the Swanport bridge and deviation on 30 May will mark the completion of two

major projects in this State. Work on the reconstruction of the Lower North-East Road, the railway over-pass at Cavan, the Lonsdale road, and the reconstruction of part of the Main North Road will continue into the next financial year. Construction of the Regency Road over-pass is expected to commence in July. In the country areas of the State work will proceed on the Duke's Highway, the Hawker to Marree road, the Stuart Highway, the North-Western approach to Port Lincoln, the Virginia to Two Wells by-pass, and the Port Pirie to Port Augusta road. The Highways Department also has plans to upgrade its ferry services and to continue with its programme of constructing and installing traffic lights and pedestrian crossings. A contract for \$17 000 000 has been let to Comeng Aresco of Dry Creek to construct 12 diesel-powered railcars and 18 trailer cars. The first of these units will be ready for delivery by about the end of August in the present year. The State Transport Authority proposes to use eight depots for the purpose of its bus and tram services in the metropolitan area with a central workshop at Regency Park. It has recently put 155 new Volvo buses and 65 of the new A.E.C. Swift buses into service.

14. The Engineering and Water Supply Department currently has several major projects under way. The major metropolitan scheme relates to the completion of ancillary works and services in relation to the Little Para reservoir. In the country, the new spillway and channel at the Baroota reservoir was completed last year, improvements to the distribution system in the Paskeville, Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta areas are virtually complete, and the Uley-Wanilla scheme has been completed. A new sewage treatment works is being constructed at Heathfield, 12 waste disposal stations have been constructed along the Murray to receive waste from river craft, and a proposal for the construction of a large sea outfall for the disposal of sewage from Port Lincoln has been approved. A comprehensive water filtration system to improve the quality of Adelaide's water is under construction, but progress during the next financial year will depend on the extent of Commonwealth funding. Proposals for salinity control in the Murray River will shortly be presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

15. The Public Buildings Department is continuing with a vigorous programme of public building works. Apart from extensive hospital and school building projects, the department has recently completed the Country Fire Services headquarters at Keswick, dental clinics at 14 schools, the Forensic Science building and the Marine and Harbors building at Port Adelaide. Work on the Constitutional Museum, the Parks Community Centre, and the Wakefield Street office block will be completed during the next financial year. Work on the new A.D.P. centre, the Thebarton Community Centre, and Stage II of the Yatala Labour Prison (Industries Complex) is expected to commence soon.

16. Detailed discussions in relation to the Community Welfare Act have been carried on with various interested groups by the Department of Community Welfare. As a result of these discussions it is proposed that substantial revision of the provisions of that Act will be made during the present session of Parliament. Preparations for bringing the Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act into operation are well advanced and that Act will come into operation on 1 July 1979.

17. My Government proposes to introduce new legislation dealing with correctional services during the current session of Parliament. The Police Regulation Act will be revised in order to improve administration of the Police Force. A new Bill to provide for the registration and control of building designers will be introduced. The

law relating to the collection and sale of secondhand goods will be consolidated and brought up to date. Amendments to the Electoral Act providing for optional preference voting and authorising the preparation of ballot-papers showing the political party to which a candidate belongs will be introduced. Amendments will be made to the Imprint Act.

18. Consideration is presently being given to the consolidation of certain of the consumer protection laws with a view to achieving greater consistency. The operation of the Residential Tenancies Act is currently under review to ensure that it is working as Parliament intended. Necessary preparatory work is presently being undertaken with a view to bringing the Debts Repayment Act and associated legislation into operation. My Government proposes to introduce during the current session legislation to implement further recommendations of the Mitchell Committee relating to reform of the criminal law and penal methods. The Bill relating to the disclosure of pecuniary interests by members of Parliament will be re-introduced. Amendments to the Second-hand Motor Vehicles Act and to the Consumer Credit Act and Consumer Transactions Act will be submitted to Parliament.

19. The Education Department is expanding the range of Asian languages offered for study at high schools. A course in Mandarin Chinese was recently commenced at Adelaide High School and initial moves to introduce a course in Vietnamese at Woodville High School have been made. My Government has decided to dispense with the zoning of secondary schools. This will mean a wider range of choice for parents when deciding to which school they should send their children. Recent amendments to the Education Act enabling school councils to borrow up to 90 per cent of the capital cost of major works are expected to contribute significantly to the provision of facilities at a number of schools. The increased community involvement in the planning of schools has been a very encouraging recent development.

The Department of Further Education has been giving high priority to the problems of the young unemployed and has introduced a number of courses designed to equip them with the skills and qualifications necessary for employment. A tender will soon be called for the construction of a major new college of further education in the Noarlunga Regional Centre.

Substantial progress has been achieved in providing universal pre-school education for children between four and five years of age. Over the past two years expansion of pre-school services has continued at a reasonable level despite a severe reduction in Commonwealth support for pre-school education. My Government continues to pursue wider objectives in the provision of services for young children and their families through the Childhood Services Council.

The recent formation of the Adelaide College of the Arts and Education and the Hartley College of Advanced Education has resulted in a significant rationalisation in tertiary education in this State. While it is perhaps as yet a little too early to assess the results of this move and the establishment of the new Tertiary Education Authority, the prospects of consolidation and development in this area appear most encouraging.

20. The Ministry of Community Development, which was recently formed to provide a broad range of services to the South Australian community, has been recently expanded by the inclusion of responsibilities for local government and recreation and sport. The administration of the State Library and other public library services is also committed to this Ministry. In the coming year my

Government will review the legislative, financial and administrative framework within which the Ministry operates in order to ensure the most effective utilisation of public resources in these important areas. It is envisaged that the Libraries and Institutes Act will be amended to give effect to the recommendations of the Library Services Planning Committee. Amendments to improve the effectiveness of local government will also be submitted to Parliament.

21. My Government is committed to a non-discriminatory approach to all new settlers irrespective of their country of origin and to the encouragement of the different languages and cultures that are now a part of the South Australian community. Legislation to give all migrants the same voting rights at State elections will be introduced.

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

The Governor retired from the Chamber, and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the chair and read prayers.

[Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 2.15 p.m.]

NEW MINISTERS

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to make a short statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: On behalf of members on this side of the Council, I offer congratulations to the two new Ministers, the Hon. Chris Sumner and the Hon. John Cornwall, upon their elevation to the front bench. Both have enjoyed relatively rapid promotion since being elected to this Council in 1975. Since then, both have shown by their Parliamentary service that they are capable of assuming further responsibilities. Therefore, we congratulate them and, for as long as they hold such high positions, we trust that they will find their roles satisfying and rewarding. We particularly commend the Hon. Mr. Sumner for achieving the further honour of being appointed Leader of the Government in this Council. Few have been able to achieve such high office, but all who have been so chosen by their respective Parties over the years have been conscientious and trustworthy and have brought great credit upon themselves and this Council. I believe that the Hon. Mr. Sumner will maintain the same high standard. We on this side of the Council will continue to review, and endeavour to improve, all legislation that comes before this second Chamber. However, we offer our co-operation to the new Leader and his Ministers, so that by collective effort the most effective procedures within this Council can be adopted and the general working of the Chamber can be maintained with efficiency and expedition.

The PRESIDENT: I, too, should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Mr. Sumner and the Hon. Mr. Cornwall, two gentlemen who have certainly gained recognition in this Council to the point where their own Party has recognised their ability and appointed them to high positions as Ministers of the Crown. We, as a State, recognise both gentlemen, and we wish them well. I speak on behalf of many people when I say that we are very interested in their progress and we wish them well during this period when they will act as very important people in our lives.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Attorney-General): I seek leave to make a brief statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I should like to thank you, Mr. President, and the Hon. Mr. Hill for the remarks of congratulation to the Hon. Mr. Cornwall and me. Following my appointment, I received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition congratulating me. In my reply to him, I said that I hoped that the co-operation that existed in the past, in terms of managing Parliamentary business in this Council, could continue with me as Government Leader in this Council. I will certainly be doing my best to ensure that that co-operation continues in the smooth running of the Chamber. I hope that I can live up to the sentiments that the Hon. Mr. Hill has expressed and to the traditions established by my predecessors in this position.

Having said that, I naturally expect all members in this Council to put their own point of view with all the force and vigour that they have at their command. No doubt there will be plenty of political disputation as the year progresses, but the important point in terms of running this Council is that there can be co-operation; there should be co-operation; in fact, it is absolutely essential for the functioning of Parliament as an institution that there be communication and co-operation in running the Council.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity, as it is the first opportunity I have had, to thank my predecessor in this office, the Hon. Mr. Banfield, and also the Hon. Mr. Casey, for the work that they have done in Parliament and for the Government. They have been a great help to us in the past, and I am sure that they will continue to be of great help in the future, even though they are not now on the front bench. On behalf of the Hon. Mr. Cornwall and myself, I thank the Hon. Mr. Hill and you, Mr. President, for your expressions of congratulation, which are much appreciated.

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:

Adelaide High School Redevelopment,
Happy Valley Trunk Sewer Scheme,
Moana Holding Primary School,
St. Agnes West Primary School,
Salisbury Heights Holding Primary School,
Salisbury West Holding Primary School,
Yetto East Holding Primary School.

QUESTIONS

FESTIVAL OF ARTS

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I seek leave to ask a question of the Leader of the Government in this place in connection with the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: At the end of the last session of this Parliament I brought to the Government's notice concern that had been expressed to me relating to the plans for the 1980 Festival of Arts. I sought the Government's reassurance that all was well, that the public had nothing to fear and that the arrangements between Mr. Christopher Hunt, the Adelaide Festival authorities and the Government were such that next year's festival would be highly successful. Not only did the

Government, through its Minister, guarantee that relationships between the parties were cordial and that nothing was wrong, but also the Minister went further and criticised me for damaging the festival's prospects of success by even daring to raise the matter. The main reason for my raising the matter at that stage was that if anything was wrong, especially in regard to the lack of subscriptions or funds, the Government would have had the time to act and remedy the position.

A report in this morning's *Advertiser*, headed "I'm no longer head of festival: Hunt", states:

Mr. Christopher Hunt said last night he no longer was head of the Adelaide festival.

Then the report deals with a meeting that apparently took place between some trustees of the Festival Centre Trust, Mr. Kevin Earle, and Mr. Hunt. The report states:

The meeting followed months of conflict between the festival and the trust and particularly a letter from Mr. Hunt to the Chairman of the festival board, Mr. E. H. Burgess, stating that the present situation between the festival and the trust was unworkable.

Later the report refers to the results of the new arrangement, which apparently is that there is now to be divided control of the festival between Mr. Hunt and Mr. Earle, the General Manager of the Festival Centre Trust. That part of the report states:

Mr. Hunt said the result of having no single person "at the top" would make it extremely difficult to find someone to act as future festival director "if he or she fully understands all the interests involved."

Another paragraph, referring to Mr. Hunt, states:

He thought this was perilous for the future of the festival.

A comment towards the end of the report, again referring to Mr. Hunt, is as follows:

But he had decided not to resign because he believed it was vital that the festival should go ahead as he had planned it.

He said that if he had had full board support, the trust's proposal would not have been accepted.

I must say that the admission made by Mr. Hunt in that report of mistakes he has made portrays to me an honesty and, indeed, an integrity for which I think he should be highly commended. However, despite the fact that it may now be too late to repair damage that has been done—

The PRESIDENT: This is a very long explanation.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: We have been patient.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In the past the Hon. Mr. Foster has caused other members to be patient.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In answer to your comment, Sir, I will come immediately to the question. Can the Government give assurances to Parliament and the people of South Australia that it will investigate the problems which have now surfaced and which have obviously beset, and still beset, the festival and solve them so that any damage done to the festival will be repaired and the citizens of this State will be able to enjoy a highly successful 1980 Festival of Arts?

The Hon. C. J. Sumner: I do not think any Government investigation of the matters that the Hon. Mr. Hill has raised would assist the situation and, therefore, my reply to that specific question is that no investigation will be carried out.

True, some problems did arise about what should be the relationship between the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and the Director of the festival. Government officers were involved in certain discussions between representatives of the festival and the Festival Centre Trust and, as a result, a statement has been prepared indicating, I believe, that any problems have now been solved.

I can tell the honourable member that planning for the

festival is well under way, that Mr. Hunt is still the Director of the festival, and that the Board of Governors of the festival has expressed confidence in Mr. Hunt. The only change is that the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and the people who work for it will take a more active role in the actual execution of the festival.

I think the matter could best be explained and the record put straight if I read to the Council the press statement which Mr. Hunt released to the *Advertiser* yesterday, which has been available today for general distribution, and which I hope explains the position to the Hon. Mr. Hill's satisfaction. This statement had the support of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and of the Board of Governors of the Festival of Arts. The press release is dated today, but the statement was made yesterday. It is as follows:

The Director of the Adelaide Festival of Arts, Mr. Christopher Hunt, made yesterday what he called a "progress statement".

"The programme for the 1980 festival is now completed in all important aspects," he said. "Fund raising is proceeding even better than we hoped and, although there's still a gap between expenditure and income, we have reached the stage where the programme can be finalised. It is a great relief," added Mr. Hunt.

"Now that the festival's planning is no longer behind schedule," Mr. Hunt said, "we can get back to a normal organisational system."

The staff of the Festival Centre Trust who until now acted only as consultants to the Festival would now be fully integrated into the day-to-day business of presenting what both Mr. Hunt and the trust's General Manager, Kevin Earle, think will be the best Festival Adelaide has yet had.

"It seems appropriate," said Mr. Hunt, "that we should reach this stage almost exactly a year to the day since I arrived here. It hasn't been an easy year," he said, "but I look forward to the next one with great hopes."

CLARE SPORTS COMPLEX

The Hon. N. K. Foster: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Minister of Lands, possibly representing the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community Development.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: I have now been informed that my question should perhaps be addressed to the Leader of the Government in this Council. My question relates to the situation that has existed, and possibly still exists, with regard to the Clare sports oval complex. I understand that last year the playing of football and cricket was restricted there, following restrictions imposed by the Health Department because those injured during sporting activities were likely to find that their injuries would turn septic because of certain germs existing on the oval. Sporting bodies were forced to transfer activities to nearby facilities in other towns. I also understand that there have been discussions between local councils, local sporting bodies, and the Community Development Department about establishing a community complex similar to, but smaller than, those at Port Lincoln and Whyalla. Will the Minister ascertain from his colleague what restrictions are still imposed on the use of the oval? What stage has planning for a community development complex reached with respect to the local council and community groups? What financial commitment has the Government made, and what sum needs to be raised by the local council and local sporting organisations?

The Hon. C. J. Sumner: I do not have any detailed

knowledge of the matters to which the honourable member referred. However, I will refer them to the Minister of Health and Minister of Community Development, and I will bring down a reply.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I congratulate the Minister of Lands on his appointment, and I wish him well. My question relates to a press statement about the allocation of a sum for continuing research into the environment, I take it, in the pastoral areas in the North of the State, with the idea of headquarters being set up in the Middleback Ranges near Whyalla. Will this study deal with the pastoral country and the environment associated with it, or is it to be extended into the agricultural zones of Upper Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: I thank the honourable member for his congratulations. The matter to which he refers is a research project that has been set up near Whyalla. The Government has initially allocated \$75 000 for this purpose. The primary purpose of the exercise is to study the effect of grazing on plant species in the area. Other matters will also be studied during the investigation.

ABORTION

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: In the eighth annual report, for 1977, of the committee appointed to examine reports of abortions notified in South Australia, reference is made to the collection of data on the forms on which abortions are notified to the Government. The report states:

The compiled data is at present the subject of analysis by members of the committee. As the number of items recorded is substantial, it may be expected that the resulting analysis will be a report of significance in respect of social and medical aspects of abortion. It is hoped to complete the analysis in the next few months.

That report is dated April 1978—13 months ago. Will the Minister ascertain when this report and the analysis of the data will be available? If it is not to be available to interested people shortly, will procedures be undertaken to hasten the analysis of the data, which was promised 13 months ago?

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I will attempt to obtain the information for the honourable member.

RACING INDUSTRY

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Leader of the Government in this Council.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Prior to the reshuffle of Cabinet, the racing industry came within the portfolio of the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport, but I understand that the industry is now within the portfolio of the Minister of Mines and Energy, who is also Minister of Tourism. Will the Leader obtain from the Premier a report on whether the racing industry comes within the portfolio of the Minister of Mines and Energy, or whether it

remains with the Minister of Recreation and Sport?

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

PLANNING REGULATIONS

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Planning.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: The Planning and Development Department has issued draft regulations for the Flinders Range both within and without council areas for a landscape development proposal, which has met with much criticism from inhabitants of the respective areas, and many complaints have been, or are planned to be, lodged on the problem of future landscaping of the Flinders Range. What action will the Minister take following the adverse reports that he will be receiving from the various towns and communities concerning these development plans for the Flinders Range? Will another set of regulations be drawn up and given wide publicity and circulation so that they can be commented on, or will the whole scheme be forgotten for the time being?

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: I will refer the question to my colleague and obtain a reply.

ABORTION

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I seek to make a brief statement before asking another question of the Minister representing the Minister of Health in another place.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: In October 1977 the committee appointed to examine the report on abortions notified in South Australia organised a workshop on the social aspects of abortion that was attended by many people, particularly those working in this area. The summary of the workshop states:

The committee should consider production of a public information pamphlet briefly covering all aspects of termination of pregnancy, including legal requirements, available facilities and access to them, abortion procedures, and medical risks.

Much discussion was undertaken at the workshop on the lack of information about the legal situation on abortion in this State and the various facilities available, including the general lack of information throughout the community. I understand that members of the committee, who organised the workshop and who were present at it, undertook to examine the feasibility of producing such a pamphlet for wide circulation to general practitioners, gynaecologists and obstetricians, and other relevant agencies and organisations throughout the State.

I have not heard of the production of such a pamphlet, and I am sure that its need is as evident now as when it was recommended in 1977. Therefore, will the Minister ascertain whether the production of such a pamphlet is being contemplated by the committee and, if it is, when it will be available? Also, if the committee does not intend to produce such a pamphlet, will the Health Commission consider, in the interests of public health in this State, producing such a pamphlet?

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I wonder whether or not the honourable member thinks that my predecessor, the Hon. Mr. Banfield, is still in this position. I do not have that information available, but I will try to obtain a reply for the honourable member.

ABSENT MINISTER

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I refer to the Leader of the Council the fact that the Government, when it gave notice of this unexpected and early session, made public the fact that all Ministers who were then overseas would be recalled for the purposes of being in Parliament during this session. We note that the Hon. Mr. Chatterton is absent from this Council today, and there is a rumour in the corridors that the Government has been unable to find him.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Where's your Leader?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: He is in London on a Parliamentary study tour. Can the Leader of the Council say whether there is any truth in the rumour and whether or not the Hon. Mr. Chatterton will be present in this Council in the relatively near future?

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I realise that the Hon. Mr. Hill would rather not have the Hon. Mr. Chatterton back in view of the debates and votes that may have to be taken within the next week, but I have to tell him that the Minister has not disappeared: we have been in contact with him, and he will be returning, I believe, on Sunday, after what undoubtedly has been a most successful tour by him. The honourable member will recall that the Minister of Agriculture has already publicised the fact that in India he has had successful negotiations concerning the establishment of a wood-chip agreement by the Forestry Division. He has also been involved in other work in the Middle East as a follow-up to the dry-lands farming assistance that has been given to that area by the South Australian Government. Therefore, I can assure the Council, and especially the Hon. Mr. Hill, that the Hon. Mr. Chatterton will be back in this Council and that he has had a most successful trip.

MOTOR BODY REPAIRS INDUSTRY BILL

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I move:

That the Select Committee on the Bill have power to sit during the present session, and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Tuesday 7 August.

Motion carried.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSERVATION AND USE OF FUELS AND ENERGY RESOURCES BILL

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I move:

That the Select Committee have power to sit during the present session, and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 8 August.

I move this motion in the absence of the Hon. Mr. Chatterton, who is overseas, as I am the Acting Chairman of the committee.

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President and the Hons. D. H. L. Banfield, J. C. Burdett, R. C. DeGaris, and C. J. Sumner.

Library: The President and the Hons. F. T. Blevins, Jessie Cooper, and Anne Levy.

Printing: The Hons. F. T. Blevins, M. B. Cameron, J. E. Dunford, R. A. Geddes, and Anne Levy.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Attorney-General): I seek leave to move a motion without notice regarding the appointment of one member to fill a vacancy on the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I move:

That the Hon. J. A. W. Levy be appointed one of the representatives of the Council on the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation in place of The Hon. C. J. Sumner, resigned.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I do not oppose this motion but I wish to speak to it. I draw to the attention of the Council that this is, in effect, a casual vacancy and it is caused by the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Sumner to his present office. The Council is now appointing the Hon. Miss Levy in his stead. The Labor Party in this Council has two representatives on this committee and the Liberal Party has one. That was the position before the change was necessary. I also draw to the attention of honourable members that in the other place, where three members are elected to this committee, the Labor Party will select two members and the Liberal Party will select one. This means that in a committee of six there are four members of the Labor Party and two members of the Liberal Party. It is possible, because of the numbers as they exist in this Council between the two Parties, for members on this side to elect members to committees as they wish.

I understand that there has been an arrangement that has resulted in the present situation. As the committee is one basically of review, it brings its recommendations back to the two Houses to endorse: that is, the importance of the Government of the day having a majority on this committee is not as great as it might be on other committees where matters of policy and final decisions are made. On this occasion we are not disputing that an arrangement existed, and I stress that we are honouring that arrangement. However, it seems that some unfairness exists in this situation and it ought to be an arrangement that, with the numbers in both Houses as they now exist between the Parties, the Party with a majority in one House selects two members and the other Party selects one. In this Council where the Liberal Party has a majority it should select two members and the Government should select one member.

I understand that the Government previously made the statement disclosing the position that it insisted on a majority on this committee. Looking at all these facts, and trying to be quite fair in my assessment, I believe that consideration ought to be given to increasing the number of members of this committee to seven, which would mean that one House would elect four members and the other House would elect three. In other words, the committee would be increased by one member from six to seven persons. Indeed, on the question of which House ought to elect four as compared to the House that elects three, this House, which has as its basic function that of review irrespective of whether it is formal legislation or subordinate legislation, should be considered.

The Hon. T. M. Casey: This is not a House of Review. One minute you say you are a member of the Liberal Party and next you say you are in a House of Review.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am saying both. The matter should be examined further, as a similar situation may arise in future, whether it be during the period of this Parliament or during a period of other Governments in this Parliament. I respectfully suggest that the Standing Orders Committee of this Council examine this question further to ascertain whether a more satisfactory solution

than that which exists at present might be obtained.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: The Hon. Mr. Hill has spelt out the constitution of that committee and cried some crocodile tears about the present position as he sees it from the narrow viewpoint of where he sits in the Liberal Party (sitting as they do on the opposite side of the House), but he realises that the voice of the people is about to be made clear as to what the numbers on this side of the Council will be. Mr. Hill now seeks to perpetuate what has happened in this Chamber for more than 100 years: that is, those who have not been accorded the right from the people want to wield the most influence. Mr. Hill was almost false in his claim before the Council because he neglected to say that, in most of the matters, if not all of them, that come before the committee, the members of the committee have before them a docket stating what the attitude is of the Assembly member in any area of the State on any matter.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: What has that got to do with it?

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Do not come here and say that you are restricted as a Party in the viewpoint that is put forward, when each and every Assembly member has the right to say "Yea" or "Nay" to a proposal. Much weight is given to the attitude of the local member.

The Hon. R. A. Geddes: That is irrelevant.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: No, it is not irrelevant. You have sat here in a state of irrelevance for 20 years. It is not irrelevant, because it is constitutionally binding on the committee to seek and make sure that there is a docket signed by the local member as to his attitude on any matter concerning his district. It may well be that this may influence a decision. Further, Mr. Hill says that a power of disallowance lies in both Houses, and the committee only steers a report to the Assembly or to this Chamber.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is what I said.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: What is there to beef about? I never heard members opposite in 1965 on this subject.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: You weren't here then.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I know, and thank God for that. The fact is that the Government had to accept (because of the Constitution) the fact that some important committees in this Parliament were chaired by members of the Liberal Party.

The late Mr. Shannon is an example. Members opposite should not go off the deep end. I have said that that happened because the Constitution provided for it, but things have changed. You are not going to say today that—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I do not wish to stifle debate on this matter, which is a simple one to endorse the appointment of the Hon. Anne Levy. I interpose to say that the matter of a seven-member committee, which would put a bias of four to three instead of a bias of four to two, will be discussed by the Standing Orders Committee. I say that so that we will not spend the afternoon on this debate.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I just wanted to point out that what has been suggested is no good. You sat on that committee, Mr. President, for many years and I do not think that you were ever frustrated. I do not think that you felt that the membership of the committee would have to be larger in order for you to be confident about the committee's job, its deliberations, and, more importantly, the protection of the rights of individuals and organisations, or to be confident that the committee was not found wanting because it comprised six members instead of seven.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I support the nomination made by the Leader of the Council and, incidentally, I congratulate him and the Hon. Mr. Cornwall, but I also

wish to support the comments that have been made by the Hon. Mr. Hill. For several years the Subordinate Legislation Committee comprised six members, three from each Party, and the Party that was in Government provided the Chairman. That committee worked quite successfully.

However, I believe it would be better if, like other Parliamentary committees, it comprised an uneven number of members, whereby the Government would have four members and the Opposition three, instead of the present situation whereby the Government has four members and the Opposition has only two. I consider that the other Parliamentary committees have worked successfully under the formula whereby the Government has a majority and the committee has an uneven number of members. Consideration should be given to that, and I am pleased that you, Mr. President, have said it will be examined.

Regarding the matter of a committee having been presided over in one or two instances by an Opposition member, that has occurred on a committee of which I am a member at present. It occurred because the committee was appointed for four years and, as the Hon. Mr. Foster has said, Mr. Shannon continued as Chairman for the remainder of his term, which was during the period of office of a Labor Government. The Hon. Mr. Foster also knows that Mr. Jack Clark, a respected member of the Labor Party, remained Chairman of the Public Works Committee while a Liberal Government was in office. My experience over several years of membership of Parliamentary committees is that the members work fairly well together on a basis that is not Party-political, as I believe they should.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Do you want—

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: You have had your say, so be quiet and listen to me. I consider that the position would be improved if this committee comprised seven members, an uneven number, like other committees.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: There is no dispute about the motion: all honourable members seem to support it. The other matter that the Hon. Mr. Hill has raised may be one for debate at another time, although I would need to hear arguments that were more cogent than those that I have heard before I acceded to the honourable member's proposition. However, that matter is not really relevant to the motion, and we will deal with it when it comes up in a more specific form.

Motion carried.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA COUNCIL

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Attorney-General): I move:

That the Council do now proceed to elect by ballot one member to be a member of the Council of the Flinders University of South Australia in place of the Hon. C. J. Sumner, who has resigned.

The PRESIDENT: I explain that the necessity for a ballot is prescribed in the Flinders University Act. I do not know whether there really is a contest, but that is why we have a ballot instead of a straightout nomination.

Motion carried.

A ballot having been held:

The PRESIDENT: My instruction was that, in the event of there being a tie, I should decide the matter by lot. I ask the Hon. Mr. Casey whether he has his double-headed penny with him; if not, I declare him the winner.

The Hon. C. J. Sumner: What are the details of the voting?

The PRESIDENT: The result of the ballot is as follows: the Hon. Mr. Casey, 13 votes; the Hon. Mr. Banfield, 3 votes; and the Hon. Mr. Foster, 2 votes.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. C. J. Sumner (Attorney-General) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. J. C. Burdett, J. E. Dunford, C. M. Hill, Anne Levy, and C. J. Sumner be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.
Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.22 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday 29 May at 2.15 p.m.