

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

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### First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament (1979)

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The Forty-third Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until 2 October 1979, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on 22 August, general elections were held on 15 September. By proclamation dated 4 October the new Parliament was summoned to meet on 11 October, and the First Session began on that date.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 11 October 1979

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. The Clerk (Mr. J. W. Hull) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Mr. K. D. Seaman) summoning the first session of the Forty-fourth Parliament.

#### GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable L. J. King (Chief Justice) and the Honourable Roma Mitchell (a Judge of the Supreme Court), were announced by Black Rod (Mr. C. H. Mertin) and conducted to chairs on the dais.

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

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

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

#### SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

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

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

The Commissioner retired.

#### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I remind the Council that the time has arrived for the election of its President. I move:

That the Hon. R. C. DeGaris be President of the Council.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL (Minister of Local Government):** I second the motion.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I humbly submit myself to the will of the Council.

**The CLERK:** Are there any other nominations?

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Leader of the Opposition):** I move:

That the Hon. A. M. Whyte be President of the Council.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** I second the motion.

**The Hon. A. M. WHYTE:** I humbly submit myself to the will of the Council.

**The CLERK:** Two honourable members having been proposed and seconded for the office of President, ballot slips will be distributed in accordance with Standing Order 18. Honourable members will please write on the slip the

name of the honourable member whom they consider most fit and proper to be President of the Council. I ask the Attorney-General and the Leader of the Opposition to come to the table to act as scrutineers.

*A ballot having been held:*

**The CLERK:** There are 10 votes for the Hon. Mr. DeGaris and 12 votes for the Hon. Mr. Whyte. The Hon. Mr. Whyte having obtained the greater number of votes, I declare him duly elected as President of the Council.

The Hon. A. M. Whyte then took the Chair as President.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** Mr. President, you have been elected by a majority of the members of this Council to the high office of President, and we submit to that decision. It is a high and important office, and requires from all members complete support for the person holding that office in the discharge of his duties, so that the status of the office will be maintained and the proceedings of the Council will be conducted expeditiously and with dignity and decorum. We will give you that support, Mr. President, in the discharge of those important duties.

Of course, I am disappointed that the Government's nomination of the Hon. Mr. DeGaris has not been accepted by the Council. He has given long and loyal support to the people of South Australia, not only through his membership of this Council but also through his extensive community service, and I hope that he will be with us for many years to continue that service. Mr. President, I give you my congratulations.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. President, I join with the Attorney-General in congratulating you on your re-election to the Presidency. On the last occasion, I believe you were elected unanimously after members on this side of the Council indicated that they were willing to support you. On this occasion, it is no secret that members on this side of the Council supported you again. Our position was that we could see no valid reason to change the Presidency. You, Mr. President, occupied the position in the last Parliament when the Labor Party was in Government, and there seemed to us to be no valid reason to change the Presidency, given that it was the Liberal Party that had to provide the Presidency on this occasion, as it did in the previous Parliament.

Mr. President, as a member of the Liberal Party you have performed your duties with distinction, not only in this Chamber but also in your personal relationships outside it. Now that the Labor Party is in Opposition, I am sure that you will discharge your duties impartially and will ensure that the rights of all members of this Chamber are respected. We have no reason to suspect that the impartiality you have shown in your position to date will not continue. I support the remarks made by the Attorney-General when he indicated that you will have the support of honourable members in your efforts to run the Council in the manner that you have done previously.

However, I think I should comment on the circumstances that led to the challenge to the Presidency and the ballot that has been held. It is common knowledge that certain elements within the Liberal Party did not want you to be a member of this Parliament at all, but they did not succeed in that attempt. A move was made to remove you from the Presidency, and I believe these circumstances reflect badly on the Liberal Party. This shabby exercise came about merely because the Hon. Mr. DeGaris was not

given a position in the Cabinet that was appointed after the election.

I would like to extend my sympathy to the Hon. Mr. DeGaris for this occurrence, because for the past 10 years he has led the Opposition in this Chamber, and he has led the questioning of the Government and the major debates. The major burden of criticism of the Government and review of legislation fell to him. However, when the moment of victory arrived, the Premier apparently found him to be unsuitable. That was a decision for the Premier, but for the Liberal Party then to attempt to buy the Hon. Mr. DeGaris off by nominating him for the Presidency against an incumbent President reflects no credit on that Party.

Mr. President, you have staved off two attacks on your political career in the past few weeks, and that is indeed a tribute to your political acumen. However, I feel sure that you would rather be known for your genuineness and the reputation you have as an honest and forthright worker for the people you represent, even if your forthrightness is now to be tempered by the judicial discretion that you must exercise as President of this Chamber. Mr. President, members on this side hold you in high personal regard, although our political positions differ from time to time, and we believe that you will continue to earn that high regard in the exercise of your duties. We extend to you our congratulations.

**The PRESIDENT (Hon. A. M. Whyte):** I thank honourable members for the honour they have bestowed upon me today by electing me (or should I say re-electing me) to the President's Chair. While we have had today the unusual procedure of a ballot to elect the President, I now ask everyone of us to concentrate our endeavours on serving the people of this State in a manner befitting the true role of this Council.

I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome our new members.

Much has been written about the qualities believed necessary to make a good Presiding Officer, and I believe they were most adequately summarised by Viscount Ullswater, who had served as a Speaker himself, when he said:

The Office of Speaker does not demand rare qualities. It demands common qualities in a rare degree.

It is implied throughout the various volumes on how to be a good Speaker in three easy lessons that the Presiding Officer is not the master of the House but its servant. Within the provisions of Standing Orders, I intend to be just that and will protect members' rights collectively and individually. In return, I seek the assistance and wholehearted support of members to maintain the prestige and dignity of this Chamber.

At 11.37 a.m., attended by a deputation of members, the President proceeded to Government House.

*On resuming at 12.7 p.m.:*

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

I congratulate you on your election to the office of President of the Legislative Council, and the honourable members on the choice they have made. I readily assure you of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the Legislative Council, and I assure you that

the proceedings of the Council will always receive my most favourable consideration.

*[Sitting suspended from 12.8 to 2.15 p.m.]*

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. My Government has already initiated moves to stimulate industrial expansion and will continue to promote industrial development in the belief that a soundly based and vigorous economy is an essential foundation for the well-being of the people of this State. But my Government recognises that the prosperity and happiness of our community cannot rest wholly, or even mainly, upon Government initiatives of a legislative or administrative nature. To achieve this, all sections of our community must arrive at a larger vision of the true welfare and purpose of our society with its delicately balanced social, economic and legal structures. Only when we have achieved a general recognition, a general consensus, that we are all bound together by an essential commonality of interest and that, conversely, the forces that divide our community are based largely upon irrational prejudice, will the peace, harmony and prosperity of this State be firmly established upon a secure foundation. My Government is pledged to bend all its efforts towards achieving this kind of consensus—a consensus that is so vital if the great challenges of the future are to be met.

3. My Government will proceed early in the present session with budgetary measures and with legislation to give relief from taxation in accordance with its election promises. Such measures and legislation are essential parts of my Government's plans to restore confidence among South Australians in this State and to provide incentives leading to more jobs, particularly for young people presently unemployed. Accordingly, Bills will be introduced to abolish succession duty on the estates of persons dying on or after 1 January 1980, and to abolish gift duty on gifts made on or after that date. Legislation to provide for remissions of pay-roll tax and for reduced stamp duty on the purchase of a first home or housing allotment will also be placed before you. A Bill to abolish land tax on the taxpayer's principal place of residence will be introduced. In addition, my Government intends to abolish drainage rates under the South-Eastern Drainage Act and to phase out hospital levies over a three-year period.

My Government will proceed, at a later stage in the present session, with a more general legislative programme. It is impossible at this stage to give more than a brief outline of what will be comprised in that legislative programme because many possible legislative initiatives are still under consideration by my Government. Amongst these are important constitutional issues. Appropriate recognition will be accorded to local government under the Constitution of the State, and the legislative form that such recognition should take is presently being studied. My Government will examine the possibility of preventing premature termination of the life of a Parliament for

reasons of political opportunism. It will recognise the principles of freedom of association laid down in the United Nations Charter on Human Rights, and accordingly will seek to ensure that where legislative provisions and administrative instructions in substance or effect impose compulsory union membership, they are repealed or revoked. Action will be taken to ensure that the Crown exercises a more active role in the making of submissions relating to the sentencing of persons convicted of serious offences.

Moreover, legislation will be introduced to enable the Crown to appeal against all sentences imposed by criminal courts if those sentences appear to be inadequate. My Government will participate in the joint scheme between the Commonwealth and the States for regulating companies and the securities industry, and when in due course legislation to give effect to this scheme has been agreed with the other States and the Commonwealth it will be laid before you. A proposal to modify the role and structure of the Land Commission will be submitted for your consideration. As part of my Government's concern for road safety it is considering legislation covering probationary drivers' licences, breathalyzer-testing of drivers and the wearing of seat restraints by children while travelling in the front seat of a motor vehicle. In the area of health, the emphasis of my Government will be on the concept of total health care, and on the positive aspects of health—on prevention rather than cure. On the one hand, it will support fitness and nutrition programmes and programmes aimed at improving our lifestyle and avoiding the need for hospital and other institutional care. On the other hand, it recognises the importance of hospitals and of locally accessible community-based health services in the overall pattern of health care.

Legislation to form part of a new wheat stabilisation scheme has recently been approved by my Government. A somewhat similar scheme to rationalise the marketing of canned fruit, resulting from agreement between the States and the Commonwealth, will also be introduced. A Bill to increase the level of compensation payable under the Cattle Compensation Act will be laid before you, and in due course consideration will be given to the introduction of substantially modified measures designed to improve standards of meat hygiene. A series of measures to improve our environmental law is presently under consideration and appropriate legislation will be placed before you in due course. Amendments to enable the Pyap Irrigation Trust to apply Government moneys, received by way of loan or grant, for the improvement of the drainage system in the area of the Pyap settlement will be submitted to the Parliament. Amendments will be introduced to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to give effect to my Government's policies on industrial relations. Amendments to improve the administration and effectiveness of the Harbors Act and the Boating Act will also be submitted to the Parliament.

An Appropriation Bill for the expenditure of \$1 099 700 000 from the Revenue Account for the financial year 1979-80 will be laid before you shortly. Pending Parliament's consideration of that Appropriation Bill, my Government will seek authority under a further Supply Bill for an expenditure of \$60 000 000 to continue the normal operations of the State.

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.

### COMMISSION FOR SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

**The PRESIDENT:** I have to inform the Council that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a commission authorising me to administer the oath or affirmation to members of the Legislative Council.

### MEMBERS' SERVICE

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** With the Council's leave, I should like to place on record the thanks and appreciation of this Council for the excellent service rendered to the State and to this Parliament by former members Dick Geddes, Don Banfield and Tom Casey.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** How hypocritical can you be. You sacked Geddes.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** It was the privilege of all of the members of the last Parliament and previous Parliaments to have worked with those former honourable members. On behalf of us all, I express our appreciation and record our thanks for their long service to the Parliament and to the people of South Australia. We wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

I also extend a sincere welcome to our new members, the Hons. Bob Ritson, Gordon Bruce, Lance Milne, and Barbara Wiese, and welcome the return of those honourable members who were re-elected. I wish all honourable members well in their service to the State as members of this Parliament.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to support the Attorney-General's remarks regarding retiring members. Before doing so, however, I should state that it has no doubt not escaped your notice, Mr. President, or that of anyone else present today, that the seating arrangements in the Chamber have been changed somewhat since last we met. In fact, it seems to me that we are all facing the wrong way. Of course, this indicates that there has been a change of Government since we last met and, although I will certainly comment in future on the conduct of the election campaign that led to the change of Government, I should like very much today to congratulate the new Government and the new Ministers who have been appointed to it, particularly the three appointed from the Council.

The Hon. Mr. Griffin's rise has been nearly as meteoric as some have suggested mine was. However, I can attest to him that, for every meteoric rise, there is a meteoric fall, and it could well be that my fortunes have taken a dip at the moment. The Hon. Mr. Burdett and the Hon. Mr. Hill are old stagers. Certainly the Hon. Mr. Hill has been in the game for a long time.

I look forward to sparring with him and the Hon. Mr. Burdett across the floor of this Council, as was the case when the roles were reversed. The only thing I warn them against is the knockout blow. Also it is true that I will be maintaining contact with these Ministers as I have been appointed Labor spokesman on at least some aspects of each of their portfolios. Certainly, I give my congratulations to them on behalf of members on this side of the Council.

In talking about retiring members, especially the Hon. Mr. Banfield and the Hon. Mr. Casey, I have a sense of *deja vu*, because I seem to recall that we have done it all before. However, that is no reflection on the sincerity with which I should like to thank them for their contributions to the Parliament, with respect to their Party and to the Government of South Australia. Both of those former

members retired from the Ministry in May this year, but we knew in March that they were retiring. On both of those occasions Mr. Banfield and Mr. Casey were thanked for their contribution to Parliament and to the conduct of Government in this State. They both had long and notable careers in politics, as Labor members and as Cabinet members, and I would like to wish both of them every good fortune in their retirement.

The other honourable member who has retired is the Hon. Mr. Geddes. He did not fall foul of the electors, nor did he retire voluntarily as did Mr. Banfield and Mr. Casey: unfortunately, he fell foul of preselection within his Party. Mr. Geddes was well known and liked by all members of this Council. I used the word "genuineness" this morning when referring to you, Mr. President, but I think it applies equally to Mr. Geddes. In fact, I believe he was in the same mould as you, Sir; he was a country member and was well regarded by members on this side of the Council, and his genuineness and commitment to his ideals were obvious to all.

Members on this side believe that in his long career Mr. Geddes served his electorate and Party well. Unfortunately, there is a slightly sour note to his retirement from this Chamber, and it revolves around the events that took place about three or four months ago when a Bill relating to Santos was introduced in this Council. Three members of the then Opposition voted with the Government on that Bill. The Hon. Mr. Laidlaw is still with us, the Hon. Mrs. Cooper retired shortly afterwards, and I believe that the Hon. Mr. Geddes was forced into retirement because of the stand that he took on that legislation.

It is ironic that this should be the case because, first, Liberal members have always asserted the right to be independent of Party discipline and have always asserted the right in this Chamber to say that they are not bound by Party discipline yet, particularly in the case of Mr. Geddes, when he bucked the Party line, the consequences were drastic for him indeed. The second irony is that the Santos legislation will not be repealed.

The Premier has said that that legislation will not be repealed. Despite the fact that Mr. Geddes lost preselection because of the stand he took on that Bill, he has now been proved right, because the present Government will not amend that legislation. Mr. Geddes' stand on this legislation indicated his commitment to his State—a commitment to a principle in the face of considerable criticism from within his own Party. He preferred that commitment to any short-term political advantage that might accrue, even though he probably knew that he was risking his political life. His legacy to Parliament will be that, when people talk of Dick Geddes in the future, he will be remembered for the great commitment he made on this matter in the interests of the people of South Australia. I wish Mr. Geddes the very best in his retirement.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I would also like to add my comments to those of previous speakers. First, may I remind the Leader of the Opposition that Mr. Geddes did not buck the Party line, but voted with the Government on the amendments that were moved in this Chamber.

**The Hon. F. T. Blevins:** You squibbed and stayed overseas. You weren't game to return.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** When the Santos Bill came back from a conference, Mr. Geddes decided that that Bill was better than no Bill at all. At no time did he buck the Party line as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

I am very pleased to be able to support the comments made by the Leader and the Attorney-General concerning

the Hon. Mr. Banfield and the Hon. Mr. Casey. Over a very long period, as Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber, I worked with Mr. Banfield as Leader of the Government, and my relationship with him was of the highest order. He was a person who could be trusted and with whom I worked very closely, and I am certain he trusted me also.

I am more than sorry that Mr. Geddes is not still a member of this Parliament. Of all the members I have worked with, on either side of the Council, Mr. Geddes was a man of personal integrity and honesty and a man of his word. Every member of this Council would regret that he is no longer a member of Parliament. Mr. Geddes served his district and his State well. Mr. Casey was a Minister in this Council for a long time also, and we should also express our gratitude for his work in this place. Mr. Casey had a long Parliamentary career and knew the North of this State extremely well.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** Your crowd has forgotten it.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I do not think so. Many other people have forgotten far more things than the Hon. Mr. Foster may recall. I wish to support the remarks of the Leader and the Attorney-General on these matters.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Mr. President, may I first of all congratulate you on your retention of the Presidency of this Council. I wish also to pay some recognition to two previous members who were regarded by the Australian Labor Party to be pioneers in this Chamber: for a long time, when the numbers in this Chamber were gerrymandered, both Mr. Banfield and Mr. Casey, with two other colleagues, were a lone four Labor members against 16 Liberal members in this place.

In fact, 16 people represented the vested, landed, pastoral interests of this State as against those four who represented the interests and the problems of the smaller people in the community. If the Speech we heard this afternoon is any indication of the Government's attitude, we can assume that this Government will turn its back on those smaller people. Having served as a trade union officer with Mr. Banfield on the Trades and Labor Council Executive for many years, I knew of his worth in the representations made on behalf of the Australian Labor Party before we attained Government in South Australia.

I respected very much the views expressed in this place by the Hon. Mr. Geddes. I sat on a committee, which was aborted recently, but which was set up by the Liberal Party in this State.

**The Hon. C. M. Hill:** Who aborted it?

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** That is a good question. The Hon. Mr. Hill had better not start crowing too early, because I shall be asking some questions this afternoon about his carryings on as Minister which have not been very exemplary. I suggest that he shut his mouth.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I thank you for your warning, Mr. President. I will refrain from baiting the Opposition in this vein.

**The Hon. M. B. Dawkins:** You are in Opposition now.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I mean the Government. A slip of the tongue may give members opposite a reason for ridiculing those who sit on this side of the Council, but I thank the honourable member for the correction, anyway. Sir, the circumstances surrounding your election as President in this place today are something we could laugh at, but I hope that the dignity of the Council is upheld and, unlike members opposite, I will not make any cheap gibes. I also draw the Hon. Mr. Cameron's attention to Dr. Eastick's elevation to the Speakership in the House of

Assembly, contrary to the wishes of those in the Liberal Party who consider that they have such a vast unchallenged majority.

Mr. Geddes was, for some months, along with Mr. DeGaris, Mr. Carnie and me, a member of the Select Committee on Conservation and Use of Fuels and Energy Resources, before he was forcefully retired from his place. I found his contributions worth while and very exacting. On one occasion, before the axe fell on Mr. Geddes, I telephoned and congratulated him on an address he had given on the radio that morning regarding the fuel and energy resources in this State and their possible future implications. I thought his work here was very valuable, and I am distressed that he was kicked out of the Party and the Parliament in such a way.

The Liberal Party has deserted the North, and to this end I am pleased, Mr. President, that you have retained the Chair. The Government did not endorse Mr. Gunn's entry into the Ministry even though it made so much play when in Opposition about wanting to get more transport facilities and more office staff and accommodation to look after this area. However, when they won Government they turned their backs on Mr. Gunn and did not give the huge areas of the North any Ministerial representation at all.

The Government in this Chamber has nothing to crow about regarding its treatment of its members. However, the Government would find it hard to take any action against the Hon. Mr. Laidlaw, because he is on the boards of directors of almost 50 companies.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Well, 37. That was the number he told me he had arrived at on a quick count when he awoke one morning at about 3.30. He must have missed some. He is an untouchable, because he is on the boards of so many companies.

**The PRESIDENT:** Briefly, I endorse the kind things that have been said about former members and I ignore some of the other matters. I did speak of the Hon. Mr. Casey, the Hon. Mr. Banfield and the Hon. Jessie Cooper when Parliament adjourned earlier. Those honourable members played a splendid role in this Council. I, like other members, was disappointed that the Hon. Dick Geddes, who I consider was one of the most honest and honourable members that I have had the pleasure to be associated with, was not here today to join his colleagues after the attainment of a goal for which he had worked so hard, namely, taking Government in this State. I am sure he would have recognised that without pomp or any boast. He was that type of gentleman and was above taking a mean advantage of other people. I endorse all the good things that have been said about all four members who have retired.

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

**The PRESIDENT** laid on the table the Auditor-General's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 1979.

#### 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:

Elizabeth South Primary School, Junior School and Special School—Redevelopment,

Little Para Dam (Water Filtration Plant),  
Mitcham Primary and Junior Primary Schools.

### QUESTIONS

**The PRESIDENT:** Before calling for questions, I ask members to make their explanations brief and relevant to their questions. We must not get to a stage where we have interjections during explanations, or drawn-out explanations that are almost debates.

### ELECTORAL ADVERTISEMENTS

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** My question is directed to the Attorney-General as follows: in view of the comment made yesterday by the Hon. Mr. Milne, the Australian Democrats representative in this Council, at the declaration of the poll, that the Liberal Party's advertisements during the campaign misrepresented the position generally and particularly misrepresented the Electoral Act, will the Attorney, as the officer responsible for upholding the law in South Australia, investigate the allegation and, in particular, find out whether any breach of the law has occurred? Further, if it has, will the Liberal Party be prosecuted?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** The advertisements to which the Hon. Mr. Milne referred at the declaration of the poll yesterday have been scrutinised already. They are not contrary to the Electoral Act. There is nothing misleading in the advertisements: they are perfectly true.

### ROAD GRANTS

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** Just before prorogation I asked the then Minister representing the Minister of Transport a question about the Munno Para District Council and the Heaslip and Angle Vale Roads. I believe that the question would have been referred to the Highways Department for comment, and I ask the Minister representing the Minister of Transport whether he will obtain a reply.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I will refer that matter to my colleague and bring back a reply.

### CAN LEGISLATION

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** I seek leave to make a short explanation regarding the soft drink can legislation, before asking a question of the Minister of Local Government.  
Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** In the relatively short period of about four years that I have been in the Council, I have listened with interest to Mr. Murray Hill, who is the new Minister of Local Government, and I consider that he attacked the then Government for its lack of concern for local government and the lack of power given to local government. He was extremely outspoken. He gave me the impression, even though I did not believe everything he said, that he was concerned that local government should have more power and should receive more consideration from the Government. Believing that some of the impressions I gained were true, I draw his attention to a report in the *News* of yesterday headed "Councils fight for can deposits" and stating:

Councils in South Australia will fight to retain deposits on drink tins. And they will continue a campaign for deposits on

all drink bottles. Council leaders throughout the State reacted angrily to last week's call for abolition of the 5c deposit on cans. Local Government Association secretary, Mr. Jim Hullick, said the deposit had helped reduce unwanted rubbish in public places. "There is no doubt deposits have acted as a stimulant to reduce rubbish and so reduce danger to people," Mr. Hullick said.

The South Australian Brewing Company last week called for abolition of drink can deposits in favour of a litter tax on can and bottle makers.

We debated at length the proposition that was lobbied by the brewing companies. It was suggested that, by way of an amendment, a litter tax should be imposed. I also watched the programme *Nationwide*.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member did say that he wanted to make a short explanation.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** That is so, Sir. However, I want to refer to this matter so that it is brought to the notice of honourable members and the public. The Chairman of the Parliamentary Liberal Party is the Hon. Mr. Cameron, whom I watched on *Nationwide* and who debated this matter strongly. He attacked the Federal Government vigorously, stating that deposits should apply. I therefore bring this matter to the Hon. Mr. Hill's notice so that he can watch his Chairman in relation to this type of legislation.

Will the Hon. Mr. Hill, as the responsible Minister, confer with local government before introducing amending legislation relating to can deposits? Also, will he consider further placing deposits on bottles that contain alcoholic beverages?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The honourable member is under a misapprehension. This legislation comes within the responsibility of the Minister of Environment. However, I can understand the honourable member's mentioning my name, as he said that in yesterday's press the Local Government Association and possibly the Minister of Local Government were referred to. I shall be pleased to refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Environment so that he and the Government can consider the matter, and report back to the Council.

I am sure that after the Minister of Environment and the Government have considered the matter, which will in due course be referred to the Local Government Association as part of our general deliberations, I, as Minister of Local Government, will support it wholeheartedly.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I rise on a point of order and to seek an explanation.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** Mr. President—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr. Foster has the call.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek your advice and guidance, Sir. Members can be excused for not knowing which Ministers in this place represent portfolios held by Ministers in another place.

**The Hon. M. B. CAMERON:** The question was asked of the Hon. Mr. Hill.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** The Hon. Mr. Cameron is not running this place.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I understand what the Hon. Mr. Foster is trying to say. Like honourable members, I am not yet conversant with every portfolio represented by Ministers, although perhaps in a few days I will be conversant with them.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** The Hon. Mr. Dunford's question related to the environment and, when the question was put to the Hon. Mr. Hill, he should, in a responsible manner, have referred the matter to his colleague.

**The PRESIDENT:** I am sure that the Hon. Mr. Hill will

pass on that part of the Hon. Mr. Dunford's question that relates to the portfolio represented by the Hon. Mr. Burdett.

### INTAKES AND STORAGES

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking a question of the Minister in charge of what was formerly the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** I direct my question to the Minister in charge of what was the Engineering and Water Supply Department because I am not certain at this stage whether my question relates to the portfolio held by the Minister of Public Works or to that held by the Minister of Water Resources. However, no doubt that aspect can be sorted out. I am interested to know the situation regarding the water storage position in South Australia. We have had bountiful rains in the past couple of months, and I assume that most city reservoirs are full to overflowing. I believe that several country reservoirs, notably South Para Reservoir, are not yet full, and I should be pleased if the Minister would obtain a report on the matter and make it available to the Council.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The Minister of Water Resources administers what was formerly the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and the Minister of Public Works administers the Public Buildings Department. As I represent the Minister of Water Resources in the Council, I will forward the honourable member's question to him and obtain the required statistics and report.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking a question of the Minister of Local Government, who is also the Minister of Housing.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** Yesterday's *Advertiser* contained a pen portrait of the Hon. Mr. Hill (indeed, we have been treated to such portraits of several Ministers recently), in which report the following was stated:

Studying textbooks on land brokerage during his war service led him to become manager and governing director of the real estate firm, Murray Hill and Company Ltd., and to interests in 12 subsidiary real estate companies. One of his four sons, Mr. Greg Hill, has since bought the major real estate firm while retaining its name.

I have been approached by a large number of constituents since the Hon. Mr. Hill was appointed Minister of Local Government and Minister of Housing. These people have pointed out to me the recent abominable land scandals in Victoria involving the former Housing Minister, Vance Dickie. They have, of course, referred also to the current scandals involving Queensland's Local Government Minister, Mr. Russell Hinze. Many people are appalled that, in view of the Hon. Mr. Hill's long and active association with the real estate industry, these sensitive portfolios have been given to him.

**The Hon. M. B. Cameron:** Here we go.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** We will continue in the same vein until we get to the bottom of the matter, too. People are particularly distressed that housing was specifically transferred from housing, urban and regional affairs to the Hon. Mr. Hill. Can the Minister inform the Council (and I will ask my questions slowly so that the Minister can understand every word I say) whether he still

holds a real estate agent's licence? If so, is it still used in the firm of Murray Hill and Company Proprietary Limited or any of the other Hill companies? What emoluments is he paid for the use of his licence? What are the shareholdings of the Minister and members of his family in the family businesses? What income-sharing arrangements exist for various members of the Hill family for accounting and taxation purposes? How many members of the Hill family are actively involved in real estate, and how many are simply involved in profit sharing without playing any active part? Because of his long and active involvement in real estate, does the Minister realise that his taking the portfolios of local government and housing is a gross breach of the Westminster tradition? The Hon. Mr. Dawkins is looking very smug, but this is a serious matter.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Mr. Cornwall to order.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** Well, you, Sir, should keep that fellow in order.

**The PRESIDENT:** Will the honourable member please proceed with his question.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** Certainly, Sir, although I wish you would restrain the Hon. Mr. Dawkins. Will the Hon. Mr. Hill ask the Premier to change his portfolios forthwith so that no hint of possible corruption or advantage can persist in the public mind? Alternatively, will he take the other honourable course available to him and resign from the Cabinet immediately?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I started to remember the early questions, and most of the answers to those were "No" or "Nil", but then the questions went on and on. In general terms I will try to satisfy the honourable member.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** Don't be flippant; this is very serious.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I have been trying to satisfy the honourable member for a long time.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** If the honourable member has any facts on this matter that he would like to produce, I ask him to produce them and bring them forward.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** I am asking you to make a clean breast of the thing.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Minister of Local Government is trying to answer the question.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** He is not; he is filibustering.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** In general terms—

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** They are specific questions; I did not ask them in general terms.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** In general terms let me inform the honourable member that I have no financial interest whatsoever in a land agent's licence nor in a company that holds a land agent's licence. The land agent's company which I founded and which I recall with much pride, because of the service that it gave over many years, is Murray Hill and Company Proprietary Limited. That is a licensed agent and, as was said, the shares in that company have been sold to my son—

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** Is that the one going into the Senate?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** No, it is not the one going into the Senate; it is another son of mine who has been in that business for many years. He is the sole proprietor of that business.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** We know that. Are you a licensed real estate agent?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I am not a real estate agent.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** Do you hold a licence?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I do not hold a licence.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** When did you surrender it?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I have never surrendered it. I

sold the shares in the company which held it. As I was explaining, I think that was in 1977. Therefore, that is a business activity with which I have not any financial connection at all at the present time. That I have private family companies, and there are 11 of them which have been and still are in some respects associated with real estate in that they in turn own properties from which they receive rents, I do not deny in any shape or form. Flats and shops are owned by these companies, and I am willing to bring down the addresses of those properties if honourable members wish.

That has nothing to do with the general business of land agency work to which the honourable member made reference. Referring to the benefit from my experience in the housing industry over many years in carrying out the task of Minister of Housing, I hope that the experience I gained will hold me in good stead. I was pleased —

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** On a point of order, Mr. President, that was not one of the questions asked.

**The PRESIDENT:** That is not a point of order. I remind the Hon. Mr. Cornwall that, if he wants to ask a subsequent question when the Minister has made his reply, he is entitled to do so.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** In his question the honourable member made a clear reference to the fact that such experience and knowledge of housing ought not to be held by a Minister holding the housing portfolio. That was quite clear. I am saying in reply that I was quite happy that the Labor Party had a northern pastoralist as Minister of Agriculture. His Party and this Council benefited by that experience.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** He did not—

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I am happy when there is an Attorney-General learned in the law; I was quite happy that the former Minister of Labour and Industry in another place was a former leading union secretary in this State. One can apply one's knowledge that one has gained to one's work in these portfolios—

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** But not to financial advantage; that is the difference.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The honourable member referred to "financial advantage". Produce your facts on that, or withdraw it.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** Why does he have to withdraw it?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** If you are not willing to produce the facts or withdraw it—

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** You have hidden the facts, and you know it. You are guilty.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** You are down in the gutter and that is where you belong.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I believe that the Minister is straying from his answer.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek a withdrawal.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr. Foster will be seated. The Minister of Local Government.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Mr. President, I rise again—

**The PRESIDENT:** On what are you rising? Is there a point of order?

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek a withdrawal. Whilst you were on your feet and speaking, the Minister said that I was in the gutter and belonged there. I have never sought a withdrawal in this Chamber in regard to lighthearted or serious banter, but I will not cop that from an unqualified profiteer. He should not refer to me as being in the gutter. Actually the gutter is higher than where the Minister is.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr. Foster has asked for a withdrawal.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I do not withdraw. He said I was guilty.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** Anyone making such a claim without producing the facts—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! If the Minister did refer to the honourable member in such terms, which I did not hear, making some remark about being in the gutter, then I ask the Minister to withdraw that statement.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** In view of your perseverance, I abide by your ruling and withdraw it, Mr. President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Having done that, I ask the Hon. Mr. Foster also to make a withdrawal, because his expression was equally unparliamentary.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** What expression?

**The Hon. C. M. Hill:** That I was guilty.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** No. What is unparliamentary about "hidden facts" and "guilty"?

**The PRESIDENT:** You also referred to the Minister as being in the gutter.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** In no way did I do that, and I will go through the door if I have to, because I did not say that. I said that I regarded the gutter as something higher than what he represented.

**The PRESIDENT:** Thank you for that explanation. I ask you to withdraw the remarks made.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I withdraw my statement that the gutter is somewhat higher than he is.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** If the terms of my reply do not satisfy the honourable member, I ask him to put all his questions on notice so that a more detailed answer can be provided for him.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** I wish to ask a supplementary question. The Hon. Mr. Hill said that if his reply was unsatisfactory I could put my questions on notice, which I intend to do. The Minister said that he sold his interest in Murray Hill and Company Proprietary Limited in 1977, but some of us have long memories and remember that when he was Minister of Local Government between 1968 and 1970 this matter was raised consistently, and the Hon. Mr. Hill just as consistently prevaricated and dodged the issue, just as he is doing now. He did not admit then that he had a financial interest in Murray Hill and Company Proprietary Limited, but now he says that he did not sell that interest until 1977. Is it not a fact that the Minister consistently denied a financial interest in Murray Hill and Company Proprietary Limited and associated—

**The PRESIDENT:** What is the relevance in that?

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** I am asking that question of the Minister. Is it a fact that he consistently denied his involvement in Murray Hill and Company Proprietary Limited between 1968 and 1970, and therefore misled the Parliament?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The explanation sought by the honourable member is that the shares were not held directly by me or a member of my family in that real estate company. The shares were held by a holding company in which I and another member of my family, and perhaps one or two others, held shares. Therefore, there was an indirect interest; nevertheless, it could be classed as a financial interest.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** It still is.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** No, it is not. The transaction in 1977 was a sale of those holding company shares to my son and his wife. My son acquired most of them in his name and one in his wife's name because, as honourable members know, there must be two shareholders in a



company. Perhaps that indirect interest prior to 1977 is causing the confusion in the minds of members opposite.

### ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** My question is directed to the Premier as Minister of Ethnic Affairs. Will the Ethnic Affairs Commission, when established as promised by the Liberal Party during the election campaign, have responsibility for the following functions: (a) interpreting and translating; (b) the provision of information services; and (c) policy advice? These functions were previously carried out by the Ethnic Affairs Division of the Consumer Affairs Department. Will the Ethnic Affairs Commission have any additional functions and, if not, what will be the role of the new Ethnic Affairs Commission?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The exact details of the Ethnic Affairs Commission and its role and functions have not been finally determined. I therefore ask the Leader to treat my remarks as a general reply. The Government's commitment to establish the commission stands, and the Government intends to establish an Ethnic Affairs Commission. The overall role of that commission will be to administer ethnic affairs in this State. The commission will carry on the administration that was undertaken in the term of the previous Government by the Ethnic Affairs Branch. I hope that all the work which has been done and which is now being carried out by the Ethnic Affairs Branch, including the interpreting, translation, and the supply of information to people of ethnic origin, will come within the umbrella of the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

### BEER PRICES

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Did the increase in the price of beer that was announced recently differ in any way from recommendations made by the Prices Commissioner to the Government prior to the election of 15 September? If so, how did that recommendation differ? If the increase since the election is greater than the amount recommended by the Prices Commissioner prior to 15 September: (a) Why was the initial recommendation of the Prices Commissioner rejected? (b) Was it rejected after representations from any person or company either to the Minister, to the Premier or to any other member of the Government? (c) If such representations were received, who made them?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** The Leader has asked a number of detailed questions, and I ask him to put them on notice.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** On Tuesday 23 October I will ask the Minister of Consumer Affairs the questions I have just indicated.

### URANIUM

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, a question relating to uranium mining and its treatment.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** During the election campaign and particularly after it there was a great deal of concern in the community about uranium mining. Some Liberals have said that, because of the election result, the Liberal Party now has a mandate from the people to mine uranium.

**The Hon. M. B. Cameron:** Some A.W.U. fellows are saying that, also.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** Some A.W.U. fellows will not be mining uranium, either, if you listen to the secretary. However, that is not my question. The editorial in this morning's *Advertiser* referred to an amber light. I am not sure of the significance of that, because an amber light is a "go-slow" light. On the other hand, the Australian Democrats polled very well in the election, and their policy on uranium mining is as clear as that of the Labor Party, which is that there should be no mining of uranium unless there are international safeguards, health measures, and so on. If the questions that I am asking are not answered, there will be demonstrations and divisions in the community that will be equal to or bigger than the big Vietnam demonstrations. I willingly participated in those demonstrations, and they were not healthy places.

I refer to the 1976-77 House of Assembly *Digest* at page 53 where a motion was put forward which was subsequently amended in another place. That motion reads as follows:

On 30 March, Standing Orders were suspended to enable the Premier to move the following motion without notice—

That this House believes that it has not yet been demonstrated to its satisfaction that it is safe to provide uranium to a customer country and, until it is so demonstrated, no mining or treatment of uranium should occur in South Australia.

In the subsequent debate, in which 10 members took part, Mr. Tonkin moved to amend the motion by adding the words:

and further believes that the South Australian Government should give the greatest possible financial support to research into the use of solar energy and other alternative energy sources as a matter of extreme urgency.

The present Premier has said that he is now going to seek to extend finance so that the Government can look into solar energy, and so on. Will the Premier inform this House why the Liberal Party has changed its attitude to uranium after it voted unanimously with the Labor Party at that time (because there were no dissenting voices) so that we, as members representing the whole of South Australia, can inform the people we represent?

Will he look into the health and environmental aspects of mining and the safeguards required, as referred to in a resolution he supported, as well as any other information available to this Council, so that we can tell the public why the Liberal Party changed its mind about the mining and treatment of uranium?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier and bring down a reply.

### NUCLEAR ENERGY

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to direct a question on nuclear energy to the Attorney-General, representing the Premier.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I wish to canvass a question that is of international concern. The potentially catastrophic events at the Three Mile Island plant earlier this year have been well documented, and United States authorities have revealed that the evacuation of 1 000 000 people in the vicinity of Three Mile Island was seriously contemplated. I am sure the Attorney-General will have read reports that came out at that time in most of the media.

An incident in 1975 at the Browns Ferry reactor in

Alabama brought the potential enormity of human error in the fission process to the attention of the American public. A fire broke out amongst cables feeding the reactor's elaborate safety mechanisms. For seven hours the reactor's five emergency core cooling systems were inoperable and there were grave fears of a meltdown and the disastrous consequences this would have entailed for thousands of people.

Fortunately, before the reactor had reached its critical stage technicians were able to cool it manually. The Browns Ferry power station, the largest in the world, at the time had—like the *Titanic*—been lauded for its safety features. Yet, the fire which nearly caused its destruction was caused by the flame of a candle being used by a technician to test for draughts.

A great many international authorities and leaders, including President Carter, now concede that international safeguards arrangements are nowhere at the level that could reasonably be considered satisfactory. Before the 1977 Federal elections, the Fraser Government told the people that commercial considerations could not override the necessity of getting adequate safeguards. The following year, however, the Fraser Government's position changed and mining companies were told to go ahead and make sales and the Federal Government would "fix up" the safeguards later. There have been a number of examples overseas demonstrating that, when problems over safeguards prove difficult, then commercial considerations will come first. This is of considerable concern to people wanting adequate and enforceable safeguards.

The Premier has an acknowledged interest in the international safeguards issue. In March 1977, when he was Leader of the Opposition, he voted with the Government in support of the resolution, and I quote:

That this House believes that it has not yet been demonstrated to its satisfaction that it is safe to provide uranium to a customer country and, unless and until it is so demonstrated, no mining or treatment should occur in South Australia.

The then Leader of the Opposition said, in this House, "It is difficult to find fault with this motion," and went on to say that he supposed the motion was "an endorsement of the Federal Government's policy on uranium". Indeed, the then Leader of the Opposition said, "The motion could, on the surface, represent a rejection of the contrary view, the left wing view, an absolute ban . . ."

I therefore ask, first: does the incident at a nuclear reactor on Three Mile Island, and the accident at the Browns Ferry power station in 1976, affect in any way the Premier's faith in the safety of nuclear power plants? Secondly, is the Premier satisfied with the international safeguards policy and guidelines laid down by the Federal Government in relation to the export of uranium and, if not, what representations will the South Australian Government make to the Federal Government to attempt to strengthen safeguards agreements?

Thirdly, will the Premier explain whether the vitrification processes that were reported to have impressed him as to the adequacy of waste disposal techniques, when he visited the Marcoule plant in France this year, can commercially vitrify waste from the main stream of light water reactors or only waste from older gas cooled reactors with graphite moderators that are being phased out? Fourthly, is the Premier satisfied with the adequacy of the bilateral safeguard agreements of the kind concluded by Australia with Finland, the Philippines, South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom?

Further, I ask the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, whether he agrees with the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Anthony, when he said this

week in Japan that the objection to nuclear power and uranium mining in Australia was a dead issue in light of the fact that Australia could look forward to demonstrations pro rata to those which had taken place in the United States in the last two weeks?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier and bring down a reply.

#### PECUNIARY INTERESTS

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Attorney-General a question on pecuniary interests.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** Considering the continuing stink of corruption in the Australian Parliament, the Queensland Parliament and possibly other Parliaments, will the Government reconsider its previous attitude to the pecuniary interests legislation?

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member knows that he does not have leave to reflect on any Parliament. I ask him to continue with his question.

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** I will rephrase that and refer to the continuing scandals emanating from various other Parliaments in Australia. Will the Liberal Party, now in Government, reconsider its previous evasive attitude to having the pecuniary interests of all members of this Parliament stated quite clearly in the form that the Labor Government tried to introduce in the last session during which it was in office?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** All the Bills that were in the pipeline under the previous Government are currently under review. When decisions have been made, they will be indicated at the appropriate time. There is already provision in Standing Orders for members who have pecuniary interests to declare those interests, and I have no doubt from past practice that that will continue in an honourable way.

#### REPLY TO CORRESPONDENCE

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Local Government a question about answers to correspondence.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I feel rather embarrassed at having to ask this question. The Minister was appointed to the Ministry on 18 September this year and on 19 September I wrote to him, offering my resignation from a committee to which I had been appointed as a Ministerial representative, even though my term of office would not expire until August 1980. Since I wrote, which was more than three weeks ago, that committee has been meeting. Because of a suggested resignation, I have felt unable to attend meetings, but also the committee has not been able to have any other member appointed, as I have not formally tendered my resignation, and no-one has been appointed to take my place. Now, more than three weeks since I offered my resignation, I ask the Minister when I can expect a reply to my letter, or even an acknowledgement of it.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I received the letter from the honourable member. It went on to the docket and came formally before me. I thought that perhaps the honourable member might like to stay on this committee for the balance of her term and that the best way to find that out would be to have a word with her when the Council met and tell her that, if she is particularly interested in the

work and would like to see her term out, I could see no objection to that. That is why I certainly want to say that the officers of my department have not been at fault: I merely put the matter to one side. Perhaps before we leave today I will be able to speak to the Hon. Miss Levy about the matter if she wishes to pursue her apparent desire either to resign or to stir the matter up. I have intended to speak to her to find out whether a satisfactory solution can be found.

#### GOVERNMENT RETRENCHMENTS

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** Can the Attorney-General, as Leader of the Government in the Council, say whether the statement reported recently in the newspaper regarding the Government's policy of no retrenchment of Government employees applies to employees of statutory authorities?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I will need to refer that matter to the appropriate Minister in the House of Assembly. I will do that and bring back a reply.

#### WATER RESOURCES

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to make an explanation prior to directing a question to the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Water Resources, on the matter of increased dilution flows in the Murray River and its tributaries generally.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** This morning much publicity was given by the new Minister of Water Resources (Mr. Arnold) to his new portfolio. Members will realise that I have consistently raised the matter of water resources ever since I have been in the Chamber, and members on this side whose memories are more retentive than those of members on the Government side will recall that I dealt with a scheme put forward by engineers to alter the directional flow of waters in the Darling system.

**The Hon. L. H. Davis:** You flow pretty well, too.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I thank the member for the compliment. Whatever I say is better than his stuttry historical exercise in his maiden speech. He should not take me so lightly: still waters run deep. Before I was rudely and crudely interrupted, I was referring to a matter of concern to the State, not making cheap gibes like those of the newly elected member of the Parliament. I draw the Minister's attention to the matter of possible benefit of increased dilution flows in the Murray, which have been examined by the consultants, Messrs. Maunsell and Partners, who were retained by the New South Wales, Victorian and Commonwealth Governments and the former South Australian Government and who are developing a co-ordinated plan of action dealing with Murray Valley salinity and drainage. I will not carry on with cheap politicking as members opposite would like me to do.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member should ask the question.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** The new member is very juvenile. However, I take note of your concern, Mr. President, about the flow of business before the Council. Therefore, I ask the Minister whether he will find out from his colleague whether the new Government will co-operate with the Governments I have mentioned and seek the report of Messrs. Maunsell and Partners to ensure that the exploratory work undertaken by those consultants is of any benefit to South Australia, and will the Minister bring

down a detailed report to the Council?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I will refer the question to the Minister and bring back a reply.

#### PECUNIARY INTERESTS

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** I seek leave to make a short statement prior to directing a question to the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Environment, regarding pecuniary interests.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** All members of this Parliament are aware that Mr. Bernie Leverington, Managing Director of Quarry Industries, is also State Treasurer of the Liberal Party and that the Hon. Mr. Laidlaw, M.L.C., is a member of the board of directors of that company. Members are also aware that Quarry Industries is responsible for about 90 per cent of the quarrying that takes place in the hills face zone. I have no objection to the activities of those gentlemen: they are successful and prosperous businessmen, and good luck to them. The matter was of no concern to me while we were in Government and the Hon. Mr. Laidlaw was on the Opposition benches. However, I know from experience that Mr. Leverington is a political lobbyist of considerable skill and persuasion and I think that, to avoid any conflict of interest or hint of corruption or advantage that might arise from sensitive decisions on quarrying in the hills face zone now or at any future time, the Government should make its position clear. Will the Minister ask his colleague to legislate to appoint an independent quarrying committee broadly representative of the community and without Public Service representation, and will he have that committee report direct to Parliament, not to the Executive?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will refer the question to my colleague and bring back a reply.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare a question about the possible denial of unemployment benefits to teenagers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** One of the most disgusting statements that has angered me more than anything else in recent months relates to the Federal Government's seeing fit to take unfair advantage of unemployed people at a conference relating to the unemployed that was held in Canberra in the past two or three weeks. The Commonwealth Government stealthily and cynically used that conference to exploit our unfortunate unemployed. If honourable members opposite want to read the national press over the weekend, they will see that, without a shadow of a doubt, for every job vacancy that is now available 27 or 29 people are hammering at the door trying to get a job. So, my figures would certainly stand up to scrutiny even if all unfilled jobs were filled. Yet, despite the Federal Government's published report submitted to various departments, the figures, even after they have been doctored, show a capacity to absorb only 20 per cent of the work force. That is, to say the least, deplorable. Before the conference last week, Mr. Fraser blamed the education system through which some of these people have passed during the past 10 or 15 years.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Is this relevant to the question?

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** It is, Sir, as you will soon see. Mr. Fraser blamed the education system, but for part of that time he was Minister of Education in a Federal Government. That plan is an infliction on anyone in the community who is not fortunate enough to be employed. What, therefore, will be inflicted on those parents who are unemployed and, indeed, who have unemployed children? As has been the previous practice of the State Labor Government in South Australia where there has been a harsh, unreasonable denial of social security benefits, will the Minister and the Government of which he is a member continue to fill the needs gap brought about by the inhumane policies of the Fraser Government? Will he bring down in the Council a report showing the number of teenagers in South Australia who will be so affected if ever such an infamous plan is put into effect?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** The alarming unemployment situation was caused largely by the Whitlam Government's disastrous financial policies.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** That's a lot of rubbish.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I rise on a point of order. The Minister in his reply has blamed an Administration that is no longer in office, and unemployment has more than doubled since Mr. Fraser assumed office.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! That is not a point of order.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** I know it isn't, but I got it in.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** My department will continue the policy that it had previously regarding community welfare and community welfare payments. Where unemployed persons have claims on my department under the existing guidelines, those claims will be met.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I ask the Minister a supplementary question. Will he, when bringing down the report, also say what he considers are the guidelines regarding the Federal Government's implementing such an infamous policy?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** It is not within my jurisdiction to tell the Federal Government what to do or to suggest how it can overcome the matter.

## KAMPUCHEA

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, a question.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. F. T. BLEVINS:** All honourable members will be aware of the tragic situation obtaining at present in Kampuchea, where hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people are dying of starvation. This certainly is not the time to get into the politics of how that civil war arose. However, I remind the Minister that the political Party to which he belongs supported the war in Vietnam, from which the civil war in Kampuchea flowed when they were invaded by the Americans. I am aware that the Australian Government has given some aid, but in my opinion it is certainly not sufficient. Such is the urgency and desperate need in this area that I ask the Premier whether the South Australian Government will give immediate and substantial financial and material aid to Kampuchea.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier and bring back a reply.

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## ADDRESS IN REPLY

**The PRESIDENT** having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. K. T. Griffin (Attorney-General) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. G. L. Bruce, L. H. Davis, K. T. Griffin, R. J. Ritson, 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 4.13 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday 16 October at 2.15 p.m.