

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 25 October 1979

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. A. M. Whyte)** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

## SUPPLY BILL (No. 3)

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

## QUESTIONS

## LAW REFORM

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** My question is directed to the Attorney-General, as follows:

1. When is it expected that the South Australian Law Reform Committee will be replaced by a permanent law reform commission as promised during the election campaign?

2. If this will occur only "when finances allow", as was stated by the Attorney-General in an interview with M. Jacobs (*Advertiser* of 27 September 1979), why was this not made clear at the time when the policy was announced?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** If the Leader of the Opposition had taken the trouble to read the published policy for the Attorney-General prior to the recent election, he would have seen that the words "when finances permit" were clear and expressly contained in that policy. In reply to the other questions, I have indicated that, when finances permit, we will change the Law Reform Committee to a full-time commission, but I have also indicated that that will be done only in consultation with the committee, particularly its Chairman.

## JAM FACTORY

**The Hon. L. H. DAVIS:** I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister of Arts a question about the Jam Factory.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. L. H. DAVIS:** In the *News* of Wednesday 24 October, Mr. Eddie Andrews, proprietor of the Paris Creek workshops, was reported as having stated that the Jam Factory was selling glass pieces at below production costs. He stated that, as a production workshop, the Jam Factory was in direct competition with local craftsmen, who were unable to compete. In fact, it has been alleged that the glass workshop would be well in the running for the title of the most costly glass workshop in the world. The Auditor-General's Report for the year ended 30 June 1979, at page 247, sets out the results of trading operations. Although the craft shop virtually breaks even, the four workshops and the gallery showed losses in excess of \$300 000 for the past financial year.

Will the Minister answer the following questions in respect of the operations of the Jam Factory? First, will the Government investigate the allegations made by Mr. Andrews about the glass workshop specifically as part of a wider investigation into the total operation of the Jam Factory? Secondly, will the Minister investigate (a) whether a person was retained for the glass workshop at a cost of \$8 000 a year for two days a week and whether

a large part of that person's time was spent in providing glass for private sale; and (b) whether that same person has been given or promised a significant golden handshake on the completion of his contract? Thirdly, will the Minister investigate allegations that goods produced in the workshops were sold from the backdoor instead of from the front door?

Fourthly, will the Minister investigate allegations of (a) gross waste in the installation of equipment in the workshops; (b) the selling off of adequate equipment at a fraction of its cost; and (c) the disappearance of equipment from workshops amounting to thousands of dollars? Finally, in view of the foregoing and the clearly stated policy of the Liberal Party to provide incentives for local craftsmen without the wasteful expenditure permitted by the Labor Government, will the Minister give urgent consideration to revising the present administrative structure and operations of the Jam Factory through involving such well established and responsible bodies as the Craft Council of South Australia and the Workers Educational Association?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The complaint by Mr. Andrews has been brought to my notice and I have already written to the Chairman of the Jam Factory Board this morning asking him for his version in regard to that matter. When I receive that reply I will take the matter further. Regarding the general inquiry into the operations of the Jam Factory, I point out that the Government committed itself at the election to carry out an investigation into the Jam Factory to prevent the waste and extravagance that had been occurring during the term of the previous Government, and that an inquiry would be put in train to determine the best possible means by which crafts people in South Australia would be helped within their particular activity. That inquiry is in train at the moment, and I shall be pleased to discuss with my officers who are carrying out that inquiry the points made by the honourable member in regard to the W.E.A.

In regard to bringing the Craft Council of South Australia into the matter, one of the promises is that we would liaise closely with the Craft Council of South Australia with regard to improving the operation at St. Peters. I have already had discussions with the President of the Craft Council of South Australia on this matter, and he is also involved with our inquiries for improvement. Regarding the specific matter and the complaint concerning a glass designer and, I think, the activities in the glass workshop at the Jam Factory, which has only just been raised by the honourable member, I will look further into that issue and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

## RESEARCH CENTRES

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Fisheries, a question about research centres.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** The Minister of Fisheries recently announced the expansion of research being carried out by the new Department of Fisheries. He promised this in his election policy, and has already expanded on it since he has been a Minister, so the Attorney-General's excuse about funds permitting is not appropriate to this question. The Minister announced the establishment of three research centres in South Australia, one central research centre and two regional centres. Will the Minister provide more details of these new research establishments, including information on the estimated

cost and size of each centre? Will he indicate what will be the number of existing staff and additional staff appointed to adequately service and carry out the functions of the new research centres, and when the building of the new centres will commence?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I will refer those questions to my colleague and bring down a reply.

### STAFF TRANSFERS

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** My question is directed to the Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs and relates to the transfer of staff. Was the question of the transfer of five officers from the Ethnic Affairs Division discussed with the Premier prior to a decision being taken to transfer those officers, or was that a matter entirely for the Minister's decision? Secondly, was the Premier in any way involved in the decision to transfer those five officers from the Ethnic Affairs Division and, if so, in what way? Thirdly, did the Premier approve of the action taken in respect of these five officers, given that the Premier is also the Minister of Ethnic Affairs?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** General discussion took place between several Ministers, and my recollection is that the Premier might have been present.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** Was he present or not? You should know.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I cannot say with any certainty at this moment.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs a question about the transfer of officers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** First, I want to briefly mention the Hon. Mr. Hill and his attitude in this Chamber over the last few days—

**The PRESIDENT:** That is quite out of order. You make an explanation prior to asking a question.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Let me finish, for God's sake, before you start bellowing about whether I will be in order or out of order, although that is immaterial to me really. The fact is that the attitude adopted by the Hon. Mr. Hill to certain questions in this Chamber about his portfolio and the frightful admission he made to the Council yesterday that employees of his department had been pushed sideways—

**The Hon. M. B. Dawkins:** Question!

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! "Question" has been called.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Who called question?

**The PRESIDENT:** "Question" has been called.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Dawkins had better not rise in this Chamber and seek leave during the next 3½ years while I am in this place. I serve notice on him for that. I ask whether the Minister has demoted or transferred certain officers since taking over his portfolio. Did the Minister not admit to this Council that such action was taken because he was excluded from a function in Campbelltown when the previous Government was in office?

Was the reason why he was not asked to that function made known to the Minister? Why did he cause action to be taken against people in his department in a fit of pique because he was not invited to some secondary function? Will the Minister tell the Chamber, during the course of next week's sittings, how many functions he attended as an invited guest of the previous Government? Further, can the Minister tell the Chamber what functions, involving which area of Government, were held to which he was not invited? Will he seek retribution against the previous

Government by either the dismissal or removal of employees in his department. Finally, is he going to require other Ministers who were not so invited to functions to take similar action against members of their staff?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** There is no question of retribution in this matter. Secondly, officers who have been transferred have been transferred, as I understand it, on the same classification as they previously held.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** That has nothing to do with it.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** It has. In regard to the number of public functions to which I have been invited, I am not sure whether the honourable member has in mind all functions attended in my 14 years of office as a Parliamentarian.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** You've had a lot of free feeds, you bludger; you've been freeloading.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I ask for a withdrawal.

**The PRESIDENT:** The honourable member has been asked to withdraw.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I withdraw, because I forced him to withdraw a remark referring to dole bludgers.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** Certain points appear in this morning's *Advertiser* which I think are relevant to the honourable member's question, and I take this opportunity to refer to them in my answer to the honourable member, in an endeavour to make some corrections to demonstrate the Government's strong support to ethnic people and to remove some allegations that might affect individual public servants as a result of yesterday's questions and answers and the report on the front page of today's *Advertiser*.

On 20 September Executive Council created the Department of Local Government. At that time, the Ethnic Affairs Branch of the former Department of Prices and Consumer Affairs was transferred to the new department. The official designation of the branch was not changed. Mr. Giannopolous has been appointed Acting Manager, a title created under the former Administration. Mr. Gardini continues as Ethnic Affairs Adviser, a position created by the previous Administration and totally unchanged in the new department. Mr. Gardini is responsible for providing me with advice on ethnic matters, particularly in regard to interstate and Commonwealth policies and interdepartmental negotiations. The total budget figure for the Ethnic Affairs Branch is exactly that provided by the previous Government. Although the increase is 35 per cent, it in fact covers the full year's costs of a staff expansion of eight that occurred in the middle of the last financial year.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** Given that the Premier is the Minister of Ethnic Affairs, can the Minister say whether the Premier was in any way involved in the decision to transfer the five officers from the Ethnic Affairs Division, or was it a decision entirely for the Minister himself?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I indicated a moment ago that certain discussion took place amongst the Ministers. I am not certain whether the Premier was involved in that discussion. I think that he was, but I am not indicating that that was so as I would have to reflect upon the meeting at which this discussion took place. The officers were transferred, as I said a moment ago, from the Department of Prices and Consumer Affairs to the Department of Local Government. The same arrangement existed with the new Government as with the old. The arrangement in the old Government was that the Premier of the day was Minister of Ethnic Affairs, and the Hon. Mr. Sumner was Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs. As the staff came within my administration, it was my prerogative

to make changes if, after general consultations with my colleagues, I thought that that was wise.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** Is the Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs receiving medical attention for loss of short-term memory and, if not, why not?

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Mr. Milne has a question.

### FOOTBALL PARK LIGHTING

**The Hon. K. L. MILNE:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister representing the Minister of Marine a question about the floodlighting of Football Park.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K. L. MILNE:** Before the election, the Liberal candidate for Albert Park and the Liberal Party itself came out against the lighting scheme for Football Park. So did the Australian Democrats and our candidate Ros Lawson. Having canvassed the three candidates, the West Lakes Action Committee put out a circular headed "What the Parties have to say about floodlighting Football Park". It began:

The short answer is: Liberals and Democrats, "No lights!"; Labor, "Yes, lights up, up, up."

Referring to the Labor candidate, it stated:

He would lobby within his Party against the present proposals; however, he would be bound to vote with his Party (whatever they decide) when legislation was introduced into the Parliament. Mr. Virgo has stated that the Labor Party would implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission to erect the giant lights and to exempt Football Park (and only Football Park) from the usual procedure requiring West Lakes Limited approval for changes in regulations concerning the area.

It then went on to quote the Liberal candidate, Hans Ehmann, as saying:

Scale down the lights to suit the law, not the law to suit the league. If Labor will sell out your rights under the West Lakes Indenture on request of the Football League, how safe is your investment? Vote to protect your rights under the West Lakes Indenture! Vote to save your lifestyle!

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** Is that a Liberal advertisement?

**The Hon. K. L. MILNE:** Yes, that is what the Liberals said. It appears that the Liberal Party, now in Government, is about to change its mind. I am reliably informed that all parties in the dispute are very upset indeed.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** That's an understatement.

**The Hon. K. L. MILNE:** Yes; I had lunch with them yesterday, and they are furious and disappointed.

The parties involved are West Lakes Limited, the West Lakes Residents Action Committee, and the Woodville council (which apparently has been by-passed). The minutes of a meeting of the Woodville council held on Monday 22 October state that the following letter was received from the Minister of Marine.

For your information the following recommendation was adopted by the Liberal Party and released as a policy statement during the recent election campaign:

The Liberal Party—

- (a) expresses concern that the proposal to erect floodlights at Football Park would entail legislation which affects land rights of residents in the West Lakes area;
- (b) expresses concern that the four towers proposed are 230 feet high and contain floodlights which would be as bright as any installation in sporting arenas in the world and nearly twice as bright as those of V.F.L. Park at Waverley; and

(c) resolves that before a Liberal Government introduced such legislation it would investigate whether the towers could be lowered, the lights dimmed in intensity, and what methods of screening could be introduced to lessen the inconvenience to nearby residents.

Your correspondence is receiving consideration and I shall write again to arrange a meeting with a committee of council to discuss the matter in the very near future.

That having been said, the next thing the council was told was that legislation would be introduced rapidly, and they are extremely upset about that. Now, the Premier and the Woodville council have met, and the Premier says that he will receive submissions. Will the Minister give these assurances: that the West Lakes Development Act will not be amended, or, if the Government is determined to amend it, any decision made will be made according to the wishes of the residents and West Lakes Limited, and that the Government will honour its election promise, varied only with the approval of West Lakes Limited and the Residents Action Committee? It seems to me that a very grave injustice is about to be perpetrated, and I believe that this Council should prevent that.

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

### SMOKING

**The Hon. BARBARA WIESE:** My question is addressed to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, regarding smoking on public transport, and I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the question.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. BARBARA WIESE:** A report in today's *News* states that the Local Government Association is likely to recommend to the State Government that smoking restrictions on some public transport be lifted. In view of the known health risks for non-smokers who are forced to breathe contaminated air, will the Minister assure Parliament that the current ban on cigarette smoking on public transport will be retained?

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

### INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION

**The Hon. G. L. BRUCE:** I seek leave to make an explanation prior to asking a question of the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Industrial Affairs, regarding industrial legislation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G. L. BRUCE:** A report in today's *Advertiser*, headed "Dismissal legislation frail, says judge," states:

South Australian industrial legislation covering harsh, unjust or unreasonable dismissals of employees was criticised yesterday by the President of the South Australian Industrial Court, Mr. Justice Olsson.

Later, the report states:

Mr. Justice Olsson said that by far the vast majority of claims prosecuted under section 15 (1) (e)—commonly referred to as the wrongful dismissal and reinstatement provisions of the Act—were settled by agreement between the parties without actually coming on trial.

It was true to say a large number of the claims resulted in some appropriate payment being made to a dismissed employee who could demonstrate an element of harshness, injustice or unreasonableness in what was done.

No provision is made in the Act for financial settlement, and the judge has expressed dissatisfaction. In view of the criticism by the President of the South Australian Industrial Court regarding section 15 (1) (e) of the Act, relating to harsh, unjust or unreasonable dismissals, will the Minister review this provision with a view to having the Act amended to make provision for appropriate payment to the claimant should it be considered more practical and expedient than reinstatement if the case be proven to be one of harsh, unjust or unreasonable dismissal?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will consult my colleague and bring back a reply.

#### ABORTION

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before directing a question to the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, regarding abortion.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** In the eighth annual report (that for 1977) of the committee appointed to examine reports of abortions notified in South Australia (the so-called Mallen Committee Report), reference is made to the collection of data on the form on which abortions are notified to the Health Commission. 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 statement was made 18 months ago. I understand that the committee has completed the analysis of the reports, following receipt of a SURS grant for someone to complete the computer work associated with the analysis, but the report has not yet been released and no-one knows what has become of it. I ask the Minister when this extremely interesting and valuable report will be available for public release and whether anything can be done to speed up its release.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will consult my colleague and bring back a reply.

#### STAFF TRANSFERS

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I ask the Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs how the transfer from the Ethnic Affairs Branch of the office assistant who was receiving \$7 174 per annum assisted the more efficient operation of the branch. I also ask why her services could not have been retained, at least until the Ethnic Affairs Commission is established.

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** This particular officer was simply considered along with other members of the staff in the branch and, as I explained yesterday, it was decided that the staff at that time could be reduced by five and that the branch would work with greater efficiency with a reduced staff. That simply was the decision made.

#### HOSPITAL LEVY

**The Hon. C. W. CREEDON:** I desire to ask a question of the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, and I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to asking the question.

**The PRESIDENT:** What is the subject?

**The Hon. C. W. CREEDON:** The abolition of a council levy on hospitals.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. W. CREEDON:** The Hon. Mr. Hill has said that he intends to abolish the levy paid by local councils to hospitals, yet the Minister of Health has said that she intends to cut back on the hospital spending by about \$5 000 000. If the Government adopts both those policies, it is obvious that hospitals will be disadvantaged. Can the Minister tell the Council whether the actions of the Government are likely to deprive financially hard-pressed communities of amenities and improvements for their small hospitals? How would smaller community hospitals receive sufficient funds to keep operating for the benefit of the areas in which they are situated? Is this one way that the Government will cause the cessation of activities of small hospitals, thereby centralising activities, to the detriment of such small communities?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will consult with my colleague and bring down a reply.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** My question is directed to the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Agriculture. In September of this year the Labor Government approved a programme of encouraging farmers to carry out soil conservation measures by making low-interest loans available. The sum of \$500 000 was allocated to the scheme. This money came from drought loans repaid by farmers before their full term and as such it is available for recycling before it is necessary to pay it back to the original lender, the Commonwealth Government. Does the Minister of Agriculture intend to continue with this scheme, which has received favourable responses from farmers throughout the State and from local government, or will he let this scheme lapse and allow the funds to be used to pay for other electoral promises, such as the separate Fisheries Department, which were made by the Liberal Party during the election campaign?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will consult with the Minister and bring down a reply.

#### STAFF TRANSFERS

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** Given that one of the reasons for the transfers from the Ethnic Affairs Branch referred to yesterday was that the transfers were in accordance with the present Government policy to reduce Government spending, can the Minister assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs confirm to the Council that when the Ethnic Affairs Commission is established no additional positions beyond those now currently being occupied in the Ethnic Affairs Branch will be created?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I can give no commitment at all as to staff requirements for the new commission. We have not got to that planning stage yet, nor will we until we have our plans for the commission far more advanced than they are at the moment.

#### FOOTBALL PARK CATERING

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Recreation and Sport, a question about catering at Football Park.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** This matter has been raised before, but I understand that the present Government is acquainted with the reasons for the Royal Commission investigation and the reason for the former Government's attitude to the West Lakes scheme and the floodlighting of Football Park. Those reasons involve a financial commitment or guarantee, because of the loan. I direct my questions to the Attorney in the hope that he will answer them this afternoon or will refer them to the appropriate Minister. What arrangements are made for catering at Football Park? Can the Minister ascertain whether or not caterers of both food and drink are either the owners or the licensees of an Adelaide Hills hotel? Can he ascertain whether or not the huge profits from such activity is paid back into the league for the benefit of the sport? Are the profits ploughed back to the league to reduce its outstanding debt on Football Park?

**The PRESIDENT:** Are you sure that you are asking the right Minister about catering?

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** It is a sport and recreation matter. You might be right, Mr. President. Finally, are the people concerned with catering executive officers of the league?

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

#### FISHERIES TRIBUNAL

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** My question is directed to the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Fisheries. The Minister of Fisheries announced during an interview on ABC television on 24 September the formation of a fisheries licensing tribunal consisting of three members. Can the Minister tell the Council whether the new tribunal will replace the Fisheries Licensing Branch of the Fisheries Department? Will the tribunal be concerned with decisions concerning who will be allocated licences in a managed fishery? Will the tribunal take over the appeals function previously undertaken by the independent competent person under the Fisheries Act? Will the tribunal take over the role of the Director in deciding when licences should be issued, as presently required by the Act? Will an appeal be allowed against the decision of the tribunal, who will that appeal be made to, and at what cost to the individual fisherman?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I will refer those questions to my colleague and bring down a reply.

#### STAFF TRANSFERS

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** Although the Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs is not completely sure whether the Premier, who is also Minister of Ethnic Affairs, was involved in discussions leading to the transfer of the five officers referred to, but believes that he was, can the Minister say whether the Premier approved of the Minister's action in transferring the officers?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** Yes, I believe that the Premier has approved of the action.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** Can the Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs say where the discussions regarding the transfer of staff from the Ethnic Affairs Branch took place; when did discussions take place; and who were the Ministers specifically involved in the discussions?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** The discussions took place in

several places. Most of them were in the Cabinet room, where the honourable member who asked the question knows full well that all discussions are completely confidential.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** Has the Minister of Community Welfare a reply to my question of 16 October about unemployment benefits?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** The State does not have any regular income support scheme for persons awaiting unemployment benefits. However, persons in severe financial hardship pending unemployment benefit payments can apply to the Department for Community Welfare for emergency assistance, specifically provided to alleviate such hardship. The department's Standard Procedure No. 13 which deals with this matter provides as follows:

Cases which are generally considered in this category are those where an applicant has been unemployed or sick for a lengthy period, or has been involved in a strike, and because of necessitous circumstances, requires financial assistance for his family until receipt of his first wage. Financial assistance is not paid to persons because they are on strike. It may be paid to persons who are experiencing severe financial hardship because of such a strike and who meet the department's normal eligibility criteria. This is in line with the normal principle of need as followed by the department in determining eligibility for financial assistance.

The Standard Procedure was approved by the previous Government, and it has not been altered.

#### DISQUALIFIED DRIVERS

**The Hon. G. L. BRUCE:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, a question about driving motor vehicles while disqualified.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G. L. BRUCE:** In the *Advertiser* of 22 October 1979 an article appeared as follows:

A Melbourne County Court judge yesterday suggested cars driven by disqualified drivers should be seized and sold by the State.

The article then went on to discuss why the judge said that. The article then continued:

Mr. C. D. Robinson, of the Swinburne Technical College's psychology department, told the seminar that a recent survey had shown that 36.4 per cent of disqualified drivers interviewed had admitted driving while banned.

Further studies had found a 27.8 per cent violation rate for convicted drink-driving offenders.

Does the Minister see any merit in the seizing and selling of cars owned by those persons detected driving while under disqualification? If not, does he consider that the present penalties are adequate, when it appears from the survey I have quoted that 36.4 per cent of banned drivers ignore the ban on their driving a motor vehicle?

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

#### VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Consumer Affairs

a question on financial assistance for voluntary organisations.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** In the financial year 1978-79, \$25 000 was jointly granted to the Consumers Association and the Tenants Association by the Labor Government. These two organisations were funded because they were not considered to be representative of strictly sectional interests, but were broadly based consumer organisations. The Liberal Party's consumer affairs policy enunciated before the election stated:

We will give every encouragement to voluntary consumer organisations.

I understand that the estimate for 1979-80 includes only \$20 000 for the two organisations I have mentioned. Why has there been a cut of \$5 000 in regard to these organisations? How does this square up with the Liberal Party's consumer affairs policy of giving every encouragement to voluntary organisations such as these? Who vets these groups to determine those that will be assisted and at what level? Will the Government consider increasing the financial assistance given to voluntary consumer organisations?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** It is true that the previous Government made a grant of \$25 000 to these two organisations. That grant was given on an understanding conveyed to the Consumer Affairs Association of South Australia by the previous Government that that association was expected to become self-sufficient. That first-up grant was to provide for the services of a full-time executive officer and office accommodation, on the basis that the organisation would do something about funding itself. An arrangement was made between the association and the previous Government that it would conduct a substantial membership drive to obtain significantly more members, because its membership was quite small. At present, the membership fee is \$5. Since this Government came to power I have had a meeting with representatives of CASA and I explained to them that the grant made to them by the Government was made having regard to the arrangement they had made with the previous Government that the association would become self-sufficient. Members of the association said they were satisfied with those arrangements. I also asked them about the success of their membership drive, and they informed me that it was proceeding very well and they expected to become self-sufficient. It was also made clear that it did not necessarily follow that their association would always be funded, which is in line with the arrangement made by the previous Government.

#### EXTENSION MATERIAL

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a question about extension material.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** During the election campaign the Minister of Agriculture took great pains to promise at a meeting arranged by the rural media to make extension material from the Department of Agriculture available to farmers free of charge. This included, according to the Minister, fact sheets, pamphlets, bulletins and reports. Will this election promise by the Minister on behalf of the Liberal Government be kept? If so, when may farmers expect to be able to collect this material without any cost to themselves except through their taxes? Further, if farmers are to receive free extension material,

will members of the general public who use the Home Gardens Advisory Service be expected to pay for the extension material they receive from that service?

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

#### HEAVILY LADEN TRUCKS

**The Hon. C. W. CREEDON:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister representing the Minister of Transport a question about heavily laden trucks.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. C. W. CREEDON:** It worries me when I see heavily laden trucks on the road not adopting what I consider to be normal safety attitudes. I have noticed trucks with no tail gates, heavily laden with mallee roots and landscaping display boulders or rocks. I have also seen trailers and trucks laden with animal and bird manure, trucks laden with dry sand and loam, and trucks laden with baled hay. I believe all of these things to be extremely dangerous for motorists travelling behind these vehicles, and I have yet to see one of these vehicles not moving at a fairly fast speed. The sudden application of a vehicle's breaks on meeting with any kind of road obstruction could be hazardous to the vehicles travelling behind. Vehicles carrying loose dry material are more dangerous on windy summer days when cars following behind these vehicles have their windows down and the material is blown into those cars. I have seen some very precariously balanced loads of fodder that I have not been game to pass.

What action can be taken to ensure that drivers of these vehicles adopt proper safety measures at all times?

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

#### NORMANVILLE SAND DUNES

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I address my question to the Attorney-General and point out that it may also involve the Minister of Planning. I tried to deal with this matter the other day, but was aborted by the clock. I hope that that does not happen again today. Will the Minister ascertain from the Minister of Mines and Energy to what extent and for how great an area a mining lease exists for the mining of sand dunes at Normanville? Will he also ascertain whether or not any plan exists for the development of the sand dune area immediately to the landward side of the dune range?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Minister of Planning and will bring back a reply.

#### ABORTION

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I seek leave to make an explanation prior to asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, a question on the topic of abortion.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** In November 1977, the Mallen committee, appointed to examine and 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 the 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 will it 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. J. C. BURDETT:** I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring back a reply.

#### BRICKS

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs ascertain the price of bricks, for the purpose of home building, per thousand in Victoria compared to the cost in South Australia?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will consult with my officers and bring back a reply for the honourable member.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.  
(Continued from October 24. Page 336.)

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** In supporting the motion and in closing the debate on the motion, I affirm my loyalty to Her Majesty and thank His Excellency the Governor for his address on the opening of this session of the new Parliament. That address demonstrates that the new Government intends to honour its election promises and is prepared to move quickly on matters requiring urgent attention.

I have already at the commencement of this session congratulated the new members who have become members of Parliament as a result of the election. I offer them my best wishes in their Parliamentary careers.

I have, too, extended my best wishes to the members of the past Parliament who have retired and have thanked them for their very great contribution to the South Australian community. The Hon. Richard Geddes, the Hon. Jessie Cooper, the Hon. Don Banfield and the Hon. Tom Casey have all served the Parliament and the people of South Australia for long periods of time.

Much has been said by the Opposition on why it lost the election, but very little has been said on why the Liberal Party achieved Government.

First, I want to look at the positive aspect of why the election was won by the Liberals. The Liberal Party was able to win Government because of the policies that it presented to the people of South Australia, because it was able to demonstrate that it was united, that it had the

capacity to be a viable, alternative Government, because it was able to demonstrate that it had the style and the policies which the majority of South Australians want in a State Government for the 1980's and because the then Labor Government had demonstrated that it did not have that capacity.

The people of South Australia indicated that they wanted smaller Government. The Hon. Bob Ritson has already made some reference to this in a very appropriate maiden speech in the Council for which I commend him. The people of South Australia do not want to be over-regulated and over-governed and they do not want to see their taxes being spent on propping up Government and its instrumentalities and activities when other more effective and more economic alternatives are available.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGaris:** Do you like the idea of a Ministry of de-regulation?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** That proposition is certainly worthy of consideration. The people of South Australia were conscious that each time an additional public servant was engaged they were paying for it through their taxes. They wanted value for the dollars which they were contributing through high taxation to State Government. And they wanted some relief from those taxes. They also wanted to be governed by a Government which was dedicated to an optimistic view of people rather than a pessimistic view, and one which believed that the best way for people to grow was to free them from unnecessary burdens of Government regulation. Coupled with this was the concern that there should be a Government elected which would genuinely be concerned for underprivileged and disadvantaged individuals and groups in our community.

The Liberal Party at the election was able to demonstrate to the people of South Australia that it did have these ideals and objectives, that it did have the capacity to govern, and that it did have the capacity to achieve these objectives for the wellbeing of the whole community.

The Labor Government, on the other hand, whilst calling a premature election some 18 months before it was due, believing that the Liberal Party was totally unprepared and was unacceptable to the people, found itself in a position where it had not addressed itself to the perception which electors had of the then Government. It misjudged the mood of the community with respect to early elections and a variety of other matters and had underestimated the preparedness of the Liberal Party for an election, whenever it was to be held.

The Labor Government had become complacent; it had grown stale and had lost touch with the people it purported to represent. It governed in the interests of sections of the community, rather than in the interests of all the people. It had allowed the bureaucracy to grow. It had sought to impose its will on the people of South Australia, almost believing that human nature was inherently bad. It was not prepared to give people credit for thinking about issues or being able to discern and determine the life-style which they wanted for themselves and the community.

It was as though the Labor Government had a pessimistic view of the nature of people. Notwithstanding the very large majority which elected the Liberal Government, the Labor Party has blamed everyone but itself for its loss, although the Labor Socialist Committee does acknowledge the faults in the Labor Party.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** Didn't you listen to what I said? I blamed the early election.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** That was one thing amongst a number of other things. I have a publication which has

been circulated in the name of the committee under the authorisation of Mr. Peter O'Brien, previously a Ministerial adviser of Mr. Peter Duncan. It is important to refer to that publication for two reasons: first, it indicates another view of why the Labor Party lost the election, and, secondly, it demonstrates why the people of South Australia were concerned about left-wing activities in the then Government. The article is headed "Why we lost", and states:

The central and most important factor that caused Labor's defeat at the recent election was that we were not organised properly as a Party to fight the conservative onslaught that was mounted against us. It is no use blaming the press or the bus drivers; the fault lay in the Party which was organised and run on an elitist basis by the machine faction who instead of promoting our policies preferred to play the personality game. Instead of standing up and defending the connection with the trade union movement the machine faction played it down for fear of alienating middle-class support. Instead of defending left-wing and socialist candidates like Peter Duncan and George Apap the machine faction virtually consigned them to the outer as if they were non-persons.

Over the past five years the Party has grown arrogant and complacent in office. Rank and file participation in the life of the Party was discouraged and the affairs of the Party were determined by a few people. Much has been made of the consensus in the South Australian branch—the consensus was in fact a method by which the machine faction determined the policies and direction of the Party in accord with their own line.

The South Australian Party has proved woefully inadequate to meet the new attacks on the working class and the trade unions which have been mounted by the forces of big business. Australian capitalism is in crisis, and the Labor Party will not meet new challenges by employing advertising agencies to fight our election battles in the same manner as the marketing of soap powder.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** Are you going to read it all?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** No.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** Will you table it?

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** The other aspect is that it indicates some of the activities which are likely to be brought to bear within the Labor Party, which could have some bearing. The people will perceive them in the Labor Party in the future, as they perceived them in the past. The article continues:

Only by defending the institutions of the working class, the trade unions and by taking a principled stand on issues can the Labor Party offer a real alternative to the Australian people.

This is the important part:

We do not see the Labor Party as an alternative manager of the capitalist system but the leading agency in building a socialist and democratic Australia. We oppose the hegemony of one faction control and call for a reform of the Party that maximises rank and file participation and free discussion of policies within the Party. We do not believe in the false unity of one faction domination which suffocates debate and frustrates the possibility of the A.L.P. becoming a mass Party.

I refer to that publication because it not only indicates another view as to why the Labor Government lost the election but also expresses a matter of general concern to which the people of South Australia reacted at the last election. The Labor Party, through the Leader of the Opposition, has made several matters the principal bases which it argues were the reasons for its loss at the election. It has blamed the media—

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** I did not. I said that the early

election was the reason for the loss and I was critical of two other factors. I did not blame those factors. Don't misrepresent what I said.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** The Leader indicated that they were reasons. I suggest that he read what he said in *Hansard*. The Labor Party has blamed the media but, whilst many people read the two daily newspapers, there is by far a much greater proportion that watches and is influenced by television. That is a medium which communicates more than any other the nature of people who appear on it or who make statements. It enables everybody in the comfort of their own living rooms to perceive the nature of the persons who seek to be members of Parliament or to be the Government of the day. There can be no suggestion that there was any undue bias by the television or radio media. There has been a suggestion that the daily newspapers were biased but I think that that assertion begs the question. Whilst the newspapers do play an important part in informing the public, they are by no means as influential in moulding public opinion as the Labor Party asserts. In any event they generally reflect community opinion because it is that upon which they rely to sell their newspapers. Some comment has also been made about the nature of advertising in the newspapers, but again I believe that the emphasis which the Labor Party has put on that advertising is to give it weight which it does not have.

To suggest that there ought to be some restriction on the press (other than the laws relating to defamation), which I presume is to extend to television and radio, on the material which they are able to publish, is the first step towards a form of political censorship of a free press which would cause me some very grave concern.

The Leader of the Opposition then suggested that there was a double standard operating in the community. He pleaded that people judged Labor more harshly. That is a proposition with which I cannot agree. The electorate is quite capable of distinguishing between the general thrust of particular Parties at election time and is quite capable of making responsible choices. The people are not incompetent. They have a reasonable level of intelligence. They are able to make a choice on the way in which they think South Australia and their own future ought to be directed.

In the past the people have made some harsh judgments about a divided Liberal Party. It has now made similar judgments against a Labor Party which had lost touch and was allowing the power which it held in Government to be used other than for the best interests of all of the people of South Australia. The A.L.P. ought to accept that judgment.

The Liberal Government is conscious of the heavy responsibility placed upon it by the electors of South Australia who entrusted to it the power of State Government. That is a power which will be exercised by the Liberal Government in the interests of the whole of South Australia, not in the interests of sections. It will constantly remind itself that the source of that power is the people of South Australia, who can easily withdraw their support for the Liberal Government if it does not exercise that power responsibly. That power is conferred as a trust which the Government will not betray.

The Liberal Government came into office on a positive programme which included promises to cut taxation. In the Budget papers and in Bills which are to come to the House, we will be demonstrating our commitment to that course and a readiness to move promptly in honouring those promises. I refer to the abolition of succession duty and gift duty from 1 January 1980, pay-roll tax concessions, stamp duty on first home purchase, and land



tax on the principal home. By giving those tax cuts, and by providing incentives to create jobs and to encourage people to work hard and to benefit themselves as well as their fellow man, we believe as a Government that South Australians as a whole will prosper.

Far from the Government's credibility being under threat in the next few months, as alleged by the Opposition, the credibility of the new Liberal Government will be enhanced by its commitment to honouring these promises. Already there is an upsurge in interest in South Australia, and an air of confidence which has been absent from South Australia for so long. In the area of youth employment there have been many inquiries resulting from our policies. The Premier's personal staff have received at least 50 inquiries regarding special youth employment initiatives.

One of those relates to a company that is seeking to employ a further 50 young people solely as a result of the concessions announced. Another is from a medium to large size company that has indicated it will now employ an additional 24 young people. Most inquiries were from small businesses which intimated a desire to employ an extra one or two young people as a result of the Government's initiatives.

The officers of the Commissioner of Taxation, who administers the Pay-roll Tax Act, have to date received approximately 700 calls and of those approximately 75 per cent have been from employers who indicated a genuine willingness to employ more juniors. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other employer groups have likewise received numerous calls with respect to these incentives.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** I'd like to see the details.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I have told the Leader what is happening. Expansion and development are vital to South Australia's future and we will, as promised, place emphasis on it. There will be a substantial number of new jobs resulting from our initiatives and the change in direction of South Australia.

The question of the Public Service has been raised. The Liberal Government has a positive commitment to maintaining the status of the Civil Service in its tradition of serving the Government of the day, regardless of the Government's political colour. I and my colleagues have affirmed that this is our view of the responsibility of the Public Service. It is the right of every Government of the day to expect that the Civil Service, in serving the people of South Australia should be loyal to the Government of the day, and that in all matters the confidences of the Government and its departments are strictly maintained. The Liberal Government has a high regard for the Civil Service of South Australia.

The subject of early elections has already been referred to. The Liberal Party prior to the election gave a commitment to ensuring that elections were not called before the due date. When voting, electors believe they are voting for a Government that will govern for three years. They do not expect that for purely political reasons they will have to exercise their vote for a State Government 12 to 18 months before its term expires.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** What about redistributions?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** That is another matter, but it is not for purely political reasons in those instances. The view I have stated is to be contrasted with the cynical practice of the Labor Party, which held early elections in 1975, 1977 and 1979, all for purely political reasons, one too many if one is to expect that the Government will run its full three years. But the electors were not fools; they had had enough of early elections in this State. The A.L.P. lost the gamble for government and control of this House.

Electoral reform, particularly with respect to this House, is a matter to which a number of members have referred in the Address in Reply debate, and on many occasions previously. The particular emphasis has been on the provision that, where a group gains more than half a quota, the preferences of that part quota are not distributed. That provision is clearly inequitable and ought not to be allowed to continue. Related to that is the complaint made by both the Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Lance Milne with respect to an advertisement appearing in the name of the Liberal Party and dealing with the weight of a vote cast for a minority Party. Obviously, there is a difference of opinion between the Government, the Labor Party and the Australian Democrats with respect to the correctness of that advertisement. I have already indicated a view on it. I maintain that view that that advertisement is correct and is not in breach of any Act.

**The Hon. C. J. Sumner:** You did not get it checked.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** Irrespective of where I got the advice, I have given it in this Council. One is to hope, however, that, if something is done about the anomalies in the Act with respect to the preferences of the group gaining more than half a quota, this sort of dispute will not arise again.

There are many areas to which honourable members have referred in the debate and which time will not allow me to answer. Suffice to say that, if any honourable member has a matter which is of particular concern and which requires a more specific reference, then he or she is at liberty to raise that matter, either through questions or by reference to me, when the Government will endeavour to arrange replies.

I look ahead to the future with confidence in the firm view that the policies of the new Liberal Government will work in the best interests of all South Australians who will find security and satisfaction in their lives in this State and will have the opportunity to live the sort of lives which they seek to live without unnecessary Government interference. The Liberal Government has been elected to serve all the people. It is my firm view that it will do so.

Motion carried.

**The PRESIDENT:** I advise honourable members that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the President and honourable members at 4 p.m. this afternoon for the presentation of the Address in Reply. I therefore ask all honourable members to accompany me to Government House.

*[Sitting suspended from 3.40 to 4.25 p.m.]*

**The PRESIDENT:** I have to inform the Council that, accompanied by the mover, seconder and other honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech adopted by this Council, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened the first session of the Forty-Fourth Parliament. I am confident that you will give your best attention to all matters placed before you. I pray for God's blessing upon your deliberations.

#### BUDGET PAPERS

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. K. T. Griffin:

That the Council take note of the papers relating to the Estimates of Expenditure, 1979-80, and the Loan Estimates, 1979-80.

(Continued from 24 October. Page 339.)

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** I support the motion to table the papers relating to the Budget. During the election campaign (and this was also mentioned in the Minister's explanation of the Budget papers) the Liberal Government made great play of the need for efficiency in the Public Service and for the need to cut waste. I believe it has been a great surprise to all of us that the first action which the Liberal Government should take to improve efficiency in the service was to produce a hit list of public servants who would be placed in limbo for their dedication and very hard work during the previous Labor Administration. It is quite an extraordinary action that has been taken against these people who, to my knowledge, have no obvious political affiliation, but who have been working diligently to carry out the policies of their political masters (which, after all, is the duty of public servants), and that they should be penalised in this way and have their careers in the service blighted, for some time anyway.

There has been little satisfactory explanation by the Liberal Government regarding why it produced this hit list and why it should penalise the people who were dedicated and diligent in their activities. Yesterday, the Minister of Local Government made what was, I think, the first attempt to explain the changes that had taken place in one of the areas of his responsibility. He said, "They were indulging in politics." He went on to explain what he meant by that remark and gave an example of what I think would be worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan, if it were not that people's livelihoods were going to be affected. He gave, as his example of indulging in politics, the fact that he had not been invited to the opening of an Ethnic Affairs Branch office.

It seems to me extraordinary that the Minister had carefully prepared the answer (he was not trying to find an example off the cuff). He obviously anticipated the question, because he had a list of the guests who were invited to that opening. He had his evidence ready to answer the anticipated question. That is the example he used, and he claimed that it showed that they were indulging in politics. If that is the level at which these people are being victimised, it seems extraordinary that the Liberal Government is able to carry on in this manner. Far from improving the efficiency of the Public Service, it has meant that the morale of the service is at an all-time low and that people who will no doubt take up the positions that have been vacated will be carefully watching over their shoulders so that they do not become implicated too heavily in the policies of the Liberal Government.

They will be hesitant in their actions, and this will do nothing to improve the efficiency of the Government service. It will politicise it in a way in which it has not been politicised previously. It will mean that people will be looking carefully when they apply for a job, particularly for a sensitive policy job, wondering whether it will be permanent or whether they will be placed on someone else's hit list in the future. The changes that have been made will have a permanent effect on the Public Service and on its attitudes and its selection of people on the basis of merit.

Another action taken by the Liberal Government quickly was its decision to introduce a new Department of Fisheries. Again, this decision will do nothing to improve the efficiency of the Public Service or to cut down on waste. The reason for the creation of this new department was the Liberal Party's election promise made some time ago, based on a lack of knowledge of how public administration worked. The promise was misguided in the

way in which it tried to show the fishermen that, by having a separate Department of Fisheries, they would receive more attention. Some people in the industry believed that, by having a separate department, they would have a separate Minister of Fisheries.

However, the Liberal Party did not do anything to tell this group of fishermen that, within a Cabinet of 13, it would be impossible to allocate to one Minister just a Department of Fisheries, which, I think, is the second smallest department in the Public Service at present. The fishing industry was not sure what the promise meant. So, the creation of this new department will not provide the industry with greater attention than has been paid it in the past. The Minister of Fisheries now has the tasks of Minister of Marine and Chief Secretary. So, he has just as heavy a load as I had when I was responsible for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and for the Woods and Forests Department. The fishermen will not receive any more Ministerial attention by having a separate department.

The previous Department of Agriculture and Fisheries was not a large department that needed cutting down to a more manageable size. The creation of what is now the second smallest department is reducing a unit of Government administration that is already too small. The servicing of that department must be more costly and more inefficient in a number of ways. All departments must have a certain amount of back-up of administration in the form of personnel officers, property officers, and people to look after car pools, etc. Obviously, this administration was carried out in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by the Administration Branch, which covered both staffs. Now, that department has been split into two, so that either the Fisheries Department must employ additional staff, such as a personnel officer, a property officer, or someone to look after the transport arrangements, or it must share such duties with some other department. All these arrangements are more costly than they were previously. If they employ additional staff, it will go against the Liberal Government's promise to reduce the numbers in the Public Service. If they share these duties with other departments, far from the department receiving service it will be on the tail end of any request or requirements from other departments.

It is no secret that much of the Budget, in terms of the detailed expenditure, is very similar to the Budget that would have been introduced by a Labor Government. It is surprising that it is so similar in a number of ways, because the Liberal Party made a number of specific proposals which really cannot be put off. The Premier has said that he is surprised that we want the Liberal Party to implement its proposals in five weeks. I have just mentioned two that have been implemented with no great success but there are a number of others which cannot be just put off until some time in the future. I will mention why some of them cannot be put off, because of the repercussions.

The Minister of Agriculture, at a meeting arranged by the rural media, made a specific promise regarding free publications from the Department of Agriculture, that is, fact sheets, bulletins and pamphlets, etc. The situation facing the Extension Branch in the Department of Agriculture is something of a crisis, because the Commonwealth has cut back very severely the amount of money available for extension purposes throughout Australia and, in fact, it has cut the amount to the South Australian Government by over 50 per cent. A lot of this money goes to the Extension Branch to produce publications and other extension material. My policy was that we would have to increase some of the charges for

extension material to be able to keep up the production and get the research information out to farmers in the way that was needed.

So, there is a crisis in terms of the funding of that branch, and now the Minister has promised that publications will be free. That is why I say that a promise like that cannot be put into limbo—either he has to make up his mind to increase the prices of the extension publications and keep their production going, or he has to find additional funds from somewhere to honour that promise to make them free. In other words, it is impossible for him to go in both directions at once, although he may try to do so.

Another specific promise made during the election campaign, and one, I suggest, which cannot be delayed if it is to have any effect, was the promise made by the Minister to give assistance to farmers to have additional fuel storage. If that promise is to have any effect, it has to be implemented quickly, because the crisis for farmers involving the liquid fuel shortage is now—it is not some years in the future. We have a number of reports of farmers in Northern Queensland and other parts of Australia who do not have enough fuel and are unlikely to get enough fuel to harvest their crops on time. If assistance is to be provided for farmers to build additional storage tanks and to stockpile fuel, that promise needs to be implemented quickly. If it is not, it will not be of any assistance to the farming community.

**The Hon. M. B. Cameron:** That is like the new museum you were going to build in 1975.

**The Hon. L. H. Davis:** And all those wonderful overseas schemes that never came to fruition.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** A number of them did. The Liberal Party's rural policy contains a number of other specific policy promises.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Honourable members have had a fair go.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** I have picked out the two promises that have a degree of urgency. I cannot claim that a number of other promises made by the Liberal Party in their election campaign would have to be implemented immediately to be effective. However, it will be interesting to see how the Minister implements his promise to promote a better understanding between country and city dwellers. It is a statement that has been made frequently in the past, and I shall be interested to see the proposals that the Minister develops to implement this policy. Regarding the question of fisheries policy put forward by the Liberal

Government, a number of specific promises were made during the election campaign and have since been repeated a number of times.

**The Hon. M. B. Cameron:** Is this yours in 1973 or ours?

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** No, it was the policy put forward by the member for Victoria. As he has repeated these promises a number of times since the election, I do not think that the catch phrase "when funds are available" can apply to these promises. He never mentioned it, and on no occasion did he say that something would be postponed until funds were available.

I refer specifically to the research centres and regional research centres that the Minister of Fisheries mentioned both on television and at the annual general meeting of AFIC. The increased research into squids, leather jackets and pilchards which he said would be implemented will I hope occur, and I also hope the Minister meant what he said: that it would be increasing research and not taking research away from some other important area of fisheries that is currently being undertaken by the department.

In his policy speech the Minister said that the B-class fishing licences would be phased out by a process of attrition. This needs a great deal more explanation, and many fishermen have asked me what it means. I have not been able to explain what this process of attrition will be. Presently, B-class fishing licences and other licences are not renewed if there is insufficient fishing effort. The process of not renewing B-class fishing licences will take a long time to phase out; in fact, it will take many decades.

If Liberal policy is truly to phase out B-class fishing licences, the Government should explain what process of attrition it intends to implement. Those are some of the more important promises that the Liberal Party has made in the area of agriculture and fisheries. Some of the promises need to be implemented with urgency if they are to have any effect, and some other promises certainly need to be thought out in much more detail before they can go ahead. I support the motion.

**The Hon. M. B. CAMERON** secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 4.46 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday 30 October at 2.15 p.m.