

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Second Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament (1980)

Parliament, which adjourned on 12 June 1980, was prorogued by proclamation dated 10 July. By proclamation dated 10 July, it was summoned to meet on Thursday 31 July, and the Second Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 31 July 1980

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

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk (Mr. C. H. Mertin) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Mr. K. D. Seaman) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read 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. I must record, with regret, the death of a former member of the House of Assembly, Maurice William Parish, who represented the electorate of Murray from 1915 to 1918. I feel sure that you will join me in recording appreciation of the services rendered by that gentleman to the State and in expressing sympathy to his family.

3. My Government continues to attach very great importance to careful planning and control of the State's finances, and in 1979-80 the Revenue and Loan Accounts showed an aggregate surplus of \$37 200 000. That surplus has added to the capacity of the State to fund capital works in the present financial year and thus to provide a secure

basis for future industrial expansion and to provide housing and amenities that are so essential for the welfare of the citizens of the State. On the recurrent side of the Budget, the present financial year will be the first in which the full impact of my Government's taxation reductions will be felt. My Government is determined to maintain its low taxation policy, initiated with the abolition of succession and gift duties, pay-roll tax and stamp duty concessions, and most recently the abolition of land tax on the principal place of residence. Rigorous restraint is essential if that object is to be achieved.

In accordance with my Government's election promise, sections of the Budget will be presented to Parliament in programme form for the first time, thereby providing greater information about proposed expenditures than conventional line budgeting. It is also hoped that Estimates Committees will be established in the House of Assembly to facilitate closer Parliamentary scrutiny of Government spending.

Although my Ministers regard these innovations as essential to the efficient operation of responsible government, the actual forms and procedures to be adopted in this first year will be reviewed in the light of experience. My Government will consider Parliament's judgment on both the format of this year's programme Budget papers, and the effectiveness of this year's Estimates Committees, before final decisions are made or alterations to Standing Orders are recommended.

As part of the programme of presenting more detailed information both to Parliament and the public, my Government proposes to introduce amendments to the Public Finance Act to formalise the practice developed over recent years of considering the Revenue and Loan Budgets together.

Amendments to the Pay-roll Tax Act will be introduced to increase further the taxation concessions available to South Australian business enterprises.

4. Since you were last called together, my Government has devoted a great deal of time and energy to the task of

creating a favourable industrial climate in this State. There are now many signs not only that this policy has already borne fruit but also that it is likely to achieve very significant success in the future. Significant announcements have been made by General Motors-Holden's Limited, Simpson Limited, John Shearer and Sons Limited, B. Seppelt and Sons Limited, Omark Proprietary Limited, and Grundfos, a Danish company which is in the process of establishing its first Australian manufacturing operation in South Australia.

My Government is concerned to ensure that the State will derive maximum benefit from technological change and to guard against adverse social consequences resulting therefrom. It has decided to establish a Council on Technological Change with the object of ensuring that industry will adapt to, and adopt, such changes as are appropriate.

My Government is anxious to ensure that the State will not lack people with the very specialized skills that are so necessary for the purposes of modern society. It intends to introduce an Industrial and Commercial Training Act to ensure that adequate attention is given to increasing the number of skilled tradesmen either through the apprenticeship system or through appropriate alternative methods of training. Thus the importance of vocational training will receive a very significant emphasis.

It is pleasing to observe that there has been a 22 per cent increase in apprentice intake for the first six months of this year in comparison with the same period last year.

5. Legislation will be introduced to grant to the Pitjantjatjara people inalienable freehold title to land in the Far North-West as agreed by negotiation between my Government and the Pitjantjatjara people. The legislation will include conditions for access, exploration and mining and provisions for arbitration of disputes.

My Government is confident that the proposed legislation will properly balance the rights and interests of all groups within the community.

6. South Australia is now on the threshold of mineral developments which will undoubtedly have a major impact on the economy, employment and development of the State. These developments include recovery of petroleum liquids from the Cooper Basin, a possible petro-chemical complex at Redcliff based upon ethane production from the Cooper Basin and salt from Lake Torrens, uranium mining in the Lake Frome area and mining of copper, uranium and gold at Roxby Downs. Mineral exploration is continuing at an unprecedented level throughout the State. Resurgence of interest in exploration results from marked improvements in metal prices, increasing demands for energy resources, recognition of the potential for discovery of a wide range of minerals in this State, and a deliberate policy on the part of my Government to foster exploration for, and development of, the State's mineral resources. \$18 700 000 has been committed to mineral exploration in the present year compared with \$6 100 000 in 1978. In relation to off-shore exploration, B.P. Australia Limited and Hematite are committed to spending \$35 000 000 over a six year period and Australian Occidental is committed to \$15 000 000 in exploration expenditure over the next 18 months. Recent significant discoveries of oil in the Cooper Basin have stimulated interest in the construction of a pipeline to carry hydrocarbon liquids to the coast.

7. Opening rains in the latter half of April following an extremely dry period have provided the best commencement to the season for many years. Consolidating rains in June and July have contributed to the estimated record sowings of 2 700 000 hectares of cereal crops in South Australia. The early rains have resulted in good pasture

growth with a high legume content thus ensuring favourable conditions for livestock production. The general prospect for agricultural production in the present financial year appears to be very good.

8. Inter-governmental approval has recently been obtained for the drafting of legislation to amend the River Murray Waters Agreement to enable the River Murray Commission to take water quality into account in its planning. My Government gives a very high priority to the management of the River Murray, which is in effect South Australia's lifeline, and will be seeking an early agreement to enable the legislation to be brought before Parliament. The very important salinity control programme is continuing. Major aspects of this programme include the \$40 000 000 Noora scheme to divert saline drainage water from the Renmark, Berri and Cobdogla irrigation areas; the Rufus River Groundwater Interception Scheme (estimated to cost \$2 500 000), which will be commenced this year by the River Murray Commission; and a major programme of research and monitoring of River Murray salinity and its effect on irrigated agricultural lands.

Work on the Barossa water filtration plant will continue and sewerage projects at Port Noarlunga and Stirling will receive high priority.

9. My Government will introduce legislation to give effect progressively to a national companies and securities scheme, a co-operative venture in which all the States and the Commonwealth are partners. The legislation will confer recognition under South Australian law of the National Companies and Securities Commission and provide a legislative framework within which that Commission will operate in this State. It is hoped that a body of law will thus be brought into existence which will provide for a co-ordinated national approach to regulation of companies and the securities market. These reforms will produce a more equitable business environment for companies, their investors and creditors. The confusing proliferation of laws and regulations throughout Australia will be eliminated.

10. My Government is pledged to maintain the high priority of education within its total programme. A Committee of Enquiry into Education in South Australia has been established, and will investigate the development of school curricula for modern needs and the most effective use of available resources.

It is pleasing to note that pupil-teacher ratios have already improved, grants to ethnic groups teaching languages have been doubled, and school equipment grants have been partly restored. Free book allowances have been substantially increased and living away from home allowances for students from remote areas of the State have been significantly lifted to \$500.

11. Major public consultations have been held by the Department of Community Welfare in relation to the nature of community welfare services that should be provided by the department, and the manner in which they should be made available to the community. These consultations have been followed by an inquiry and report by an advisory committee chaired by Professor Mann, of Flinders University.

My Government believes that valuable contributions have been made in relation to the formulation of new provisions relating to community welfare and accordingly a Bill will be introduced into Parliament to give effect to the new proposals.

12. The Department of Public and Consumer Affairs has undertaken a review of many of the Statutes administered by that department with a view to ensuring that the legislative provisions accord with my Government's policy of achieving a fair balance between the

interests of commerce and industry, and the interests of consumers. It is envisaged that various legislative reforms will flow from that review.

13. My Government will continue to pursue its programme of expanding community health services. A greater proportion of the total Health Commission budget will be allocated to health promotion and preventive medicine in the present financial year. Child and family health services are to be rationalized and improved. As a first step, a merger will take place between the family and child health services of the South Australian Health Commission and the Mothers and Babies' Health Association.

My Government is anxious to ensure that drug abuse in the community is minimized. In accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Non-medical Use of Drugs, a Drug Education Liaison Committee has been established to co-ordinate and extend the activities of Government and voluntary agencies in drug education and counselling. Programmes conducted by the committee will be monitored and evaluated and should provide a sound guide on which to base future action against drug abuse. In addition, legislation to give effect to certain other recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Non-medical Use of Drugs will be introduced during the current session.

New legislation governing food standards will be introduced. A recent conference of Health Ministers has accepted a model draft in principle after some five years of discussions on the subject. The new Act will provide for a uniform approach to regulating the composition of foods, labelling, hygiene and other matters.

14. Tourism is now acknowledged as one of the fastest growing industries in the world and it is important that this State should take advantage of present trends. My Government has called for a review of the Department of Tourism. The committee of review will consider ways and means by which the effectiveness of the department in promoting and encouraging tourism can be enhanced, and the great potential of this State, as a centre of tourist activity, can be realized.

15. My Government will introduce substantial amendments to the Planning and Development Act which will streamline decision-making processes and provide a flexible, uniform and simple method of regulating development in both urban and rural areas. Local government will have greater responsibility for regulating planning at the local level. An environmental impact assessment system will be incorporated in the revised Act.

My Government will legislate to replace the South Australian Land Commission with an Urban Land Trust with revised functions and reduced powers more appropriate, in my Government's opinion, to such a body.

16. Legislation will be introduced by my Government to give effect to its policy of extending freehold tenure to the State's marginal lands currently held under perpetual lease. It is also proposed that present unnecessary restrictions and controls which apply to lands held under perpetual lease will be eliminated. Provisions will also be introduced to enable horticultural lands within controlled irrigation areas to be held by freehold. Measures will be taken to provide for more adequate control and management of land within the arid zone.

With the recent implementation by the Department of Lands of the computerized land ownership and tenure system, this State has consolidated its position as the Australian leader in the field of integrated land information systems.

17. My Government has accepted an interim report by Mr. R. Edwards, Director of the Aboriginal Arts Board,

relating to redevelopment of the South Australian Museum. It hopes to have the final report in its hands by September.

The Art Gallery will celebrate its centenary during 1981 and the board, with the full support of my Government, plans a number of special exhibitions and events to involve the public in the work of the gallery and to ensure continued development of the collections.

My Government will introduce legislation to establish an Ethnic Affairs Commission in South Australia in accordance with its election commitments. The commission will have an important role in enriching the life of the community by fostering and encouraging ethnic culture.

18. My Government continues to place emphasis on the development of multi-purpose recreation centres throughout metropolitan Adelaide and in major country towns. These centres are designed to provide for as many recreational activities as possible. My Government's programme of establishing a community physical fitness network is progressing most satisfactorily. A pilot scheme in respect of five metropolitan councils and two country councils is well under way. It is proposed that ultimately the programme will extend to other local government areas in the State if the programme continues to receive enthusiastic community acceptance.

Legislation will be placed before you to provide for a system of soccer pools. Under the proposed scheme, moneys will be paid into a special fund, from which payments will be made to further the development of recreation and sport programmes in South Australia.

My Government has collaborated with private enterprise in establishing Australia's first sports scholarship scheme under which talented juniors from country areas are brought to Adelaide to take advantage of the training expertise and experience available in the city.

19. My Government has pursued its policy that Adelaide be linked directly to the standard gauge railway systems of Australia. An agreement has been reached with the Commonwealth Government to build a standard gauge railway from Adelaide to Crystal Brook, including freight terminals at Mile End, Port Adelaide and Islington, with provision for a future link to Outer Harbor.

My Government sees this railway as an element in the development of the State's mineral resources and its primary and secondary industries. The standard gauge railway will effectively bring Adelaide closer to the major markets of the Eastern States, and reinforce South Australia's advantageous position between these markets and the developments taking place in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Legislation to ratify the agreement will be placed before both State and Commonwealth Parliaments in the near future. An early start to construction is anticipated and it is hoped that the project will be completed by the latter half of 1982.

20. The 1980-81 programme of roadworks is based upon receipt of \$51 600 000 from the Commonwealth Government for the construction and maintenance of roads, which is an increase of 11 per cent over the allocation for the previous financial year.

Allocations have been made as follows: \$25 000 000 is to be allocated to national and developmental roads; \$8 900 000 for rural arterial roads; \$6 300 000 for urban arterial roads; and \$11 400 000 for local roads.

In order to meet the demands of present-day traffic, the Highways Department will continue its programme of widening and upgrading principal roads in the metropolitan area. Work is presently proposed or in progress in relation to the Lower North-East Road, the Regency Road overpass, the Lonsdale Road, and the Main North Road. In rural areas, the reconstruction and upgrading of

the Dukes Highway between Swanport and the Victorian border has commenced. My Government will, in accordance with its policy, spend \$9 100 000 this year on upgrading the Stuart Highway (compared with \$3 500 000 last year) in order to improve transport links between South Australia and the Northern Territory. My Government believes that this project, so vital for the future of the State's development, should proceed with all possible speed.

21. My Government is continuing its efforts to restore direct shipping services between the State and various overseas markets. A new impetus to these efforts has been given by the formation of a Shipping Users Group comprising representatives of leading South Australian companies engaged in exporting and importing.

22. My Government has substantial proposals for restructuring the South Australian Fire Brigades Board and for improving the administration and effectiveness of the fire brigades. Legislation for this purpose will be placed before you in due course.

In the matter of bush fire control, the experiences of "Ash Wednesday" revealed certain legal deficiencies in the present chain of command at serious fires. My Government proposes to introduce amendments to the Country Fires Act conferring on the Director of Country Fire Services the right to assume tactical control at the scene of any bush fire that is beginning to assume major proportions.

23. My Government is concerned at the continued long waiting list for individuals and families requiring public housing. It has allocated substantial funds from its own resources to add to those provided by the Commonwealth for rental housing and concessional home purchase.

24. Good progress is being made on the complete revision of the Local Government Act. Meanwhile, a number of necessary amendments to the present legislation will be introduced, including an alteration changing the date for local government elections from July to October in each year.

25. A substantial programme of legislative reform is proposed by my Government. Amongst the measures to be introduced into the Parliament will be an amendment to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act providing for appeals by the Crown against sentence and enabling the Crown to refer a question of law to the Full Court where the question arose in proceedings leading to the acquittal of an accused person. The right of an accused person to make an unsworn statement in his defence will be abolished. Amendments will be made to the Electoral Act to overcome certain inadequacies which have appeared following the recent proceedings in the Court of Disputed Returns. Amendments will be made to the Second-hand Motor Vehicles Act, the Residential Tenancies Act, the Builders Licensing Act, the Trading Stamp Act, the Land and Business Agents Act, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, the Vertebrate Pests Act, the Pest Plants Act, the Registration of Deeds Act, and the Adoption of Children Act.

Provision will be made to amend the South Australian Heritage Act to provide for voluntary agreements to encourage protection of significant vegetation on private land and other items of State heritage. Comprehensive legislation dealing with correctional services and offenders' probation will be introduced. Amendments will be proposed to the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Act.

26. A number of other legislative measures will be introduced as the session proceeds.

27. I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the

advancement of the welfare of the people of this State.

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

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

[Sitting suspended from 12.53 to 3.30 p.m.]

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Flagstaff Hill Primary School Extensions,
Mount Gambier North West Primary School (Stage I),
Murray Bridge Sewerage Scheme—Adelaide Road Area.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Attorney-General (Hon. K. T. Griffin)—

Pursuant to Statute—

Audit Act, 1921-1975—Regulations—Various Amendments.

Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act, 1979-1980—Various Amendments.

Highways Act, 1926-1979—Approvals to lease Highways Department properties, 1979-1980.

Justices Act, 1921-1979—Rules—Fees.

Land Tax Act, 1936-1979—Regulations—Exemption Criteria.

Lottery and Gaming Act, 1936-1978—Regulations—Amendment.

Road Traffic Act, 1961-1980—Regulations—Australian Design Rules.

Traffic Prohibition (Noarlunga).

Supreme Court Act, 1935-1975—"Supreme Court Rules, 1980 (No. 4)".

Industries Development Act, 1941-1978—Regulations—Bread Pricing, 1980.

By the Minister of Local Government (Hon. C. M. Hill)—

Pursuant to Statute—

Commissioner of Police—Report, 1978-1979.

Alsatian Dogs Act, 1934-1980—Regulations—Exemption from Prohibition.

Crown Lands Act, 1929-1980—Section 5 (f)—Statement of Land Resumed.

Dog Control Act, 1979—Regulations—Prescribed Private Pound (2).

Fisheries Act, 1971-1976—Regulations—Licence Fees.

Harbors Act, 1936-1978—Regulations—Various Charges.

Kindergarten Union Act, 1974-1975—Kindergarten Union of South Australia—Report, 1979.

Libraries and Institutes Act, 1939-1979—Regulations—Parking of Motor Vehicles.

Waterworks Act, 1932-1978—Regulations—Watershed Boundary.

South Australian Waste Management Commission Act, 1979—General Regulations, 1980.

Teachers Registration Board of South Australia—Report, 1979.

Tertiary Education Authority Act, 1979—Tertiary Education Authority of South Australia—Report for period 1 July to 31 December 1979.

West Lakes Development Act, 1969-1970, Plan No. 3. District Council of Kadina—By-law No. 29—In control of Motor Vehicles Hire.

District Council of Kapunda—By-law No. 28—Keeping of Poultry and Burning Offensive Substances.

District Council of Meadows—By-law No. 39 —Penalties.

District Council of Meningie—By-law No. 27—Repeal of By-laws.

District Council of Murray Bridge—By-law No. 22—Control of Reserves and other Public Places.

District Council of Strathalbyn—By-law No. 18—Street Traders.

By the Minister of Local Government (Hon. C. M. Hill)—

By Command—

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions of the 108th meeting held on 4 February 1980.

Pursuant to Statute—

Chiropodists Act, 1950-1973—Regulations—Various Fees.

City of Adelaide Development Control Act, 1976-1978—Regulations—Prohibition.

Motor Fuel Distribution Act, 1973-1974—Report of the Motor Fuel Licensing Board, 1979.

National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972-1978—Regulations—

Protected Animals.

Park Fees.

Permit Fees.

National Trust of South Australia Act, 1955-1975—Regulations, By-laws and Rules.

South Australian Health Commission—Report, 1978-79.

Workers Compensation Act, 1971-1979—Workers' Compensation Rules, 1980.

Planning and Development Act, 1966-1980—

Metropolitan Development Plan City of Tea Tree Gully Planning Regulations—Zoning.

Metropolitan Development Plan District Council of Meadows Planning Regulations—Zoning.

Metropolitan Development Plan District Council of Stirling Special Land Subdivision Control Planning Regulations.

Interim Development Control—Regulations—

District Council of Angaston

District Council of Balaklava

District Council of Barmera

District Council of Barossa

District Council of Beachport

District Council of Berri

District Council of Burra Burra

District Council of Bute

District Council of Clare

District Council of Cleve

District Council of Clinton

District Council of Coonalpyn Downs

District Council of Crystal Brook

District Council of East Torrens

District Council of Dudley

District Council of Elliston

District Council of Eudunda

Eyre Highway—Out of Districts

Out of Councils—Yalata

Northern Flinders Ranges

Corporation of Gawler

District Council of Gladstone

District Council of Gumeracha

District Council of Jamestown

Corporation of Jamestown

District Council of Kadina

District Council of Kanyaka-Quorn

District Council of Kapunda

District Council of Karoonda East Murray

District Council of Kimba

District Council of Kingscote

District Council of Lacepede

District Council of Lameroo

District Council of Laura

District Council of Le Hunte

District Council of Light

District Council of Lincoln

District Council of Loxton

District Council of Lucindale

District Council of Mallala

County of Manchester—Flinders Ranges Planning Area

District Council of Mannum

District Council of Meadows

District Council of Meningie

District Council of Millicent

District Council of Minlaton

Corporation of Moonta

District Council of Morgan

District Council of Mount Barker

District Council of Mount Gambier

District Council of Mount Pleasant

District Council of Mount Remarkable

District Council of Murat Bay

District Council of Murray Bridge

District Council of Naracoorte

Corporation of Naracoorte

County of Newcastle—Flinders Ranges Planning Area

District Council of Onkaparinga

District Council of Owen

District Council of Paringa

District Council of Peake

District Council of Penola

District Council of Pinnaroo

District Council of Pirie

Corporation of Port Augusta

District Council of Port Broughton

District Council of Port Elliot and Goolwa

Corporation of Port Lincoln

District Council of Port MacDonnell

District Council of Port Wakefield

Corporation of Renmark

District Council of Ridley

River Murray—Out of Councils

District Council of Riverton

District Council of Robe

District Council of Saddleworth and Auburn

Corporation of Salisbury

District Council of Snowtown

District Council of Strathalbyn

District Council of Streaky Bay

District Council of Tanunda

District Council of Tatiara

District Council of Truro

District Council of Tumby Bay

District Council of Victor Harbor

District Council of Waikerie

Corporation of Wallaroo

District Council of Warooka

Corporation of Whyalla

Corporation of Woodville
 District Council of Yankalilla
 District Council of Yorketown
 District Council of Willunga
 District Council of Central Yorke Peninsula

By the Minister of Consumer Affairs (Hon. J. C. Burdett)—

Pursuant to Statute—
 Licensing Act, 1967-1977—Regulations—Various Amendments.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: PETROL

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Shortly after the State Government came to office last year, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister urging the Federal Government to introduce the Fife package to overcome problems in the petrol retail marketing industry. Early this year I repeated the State Government's support for this package and pointed out that the marketing of petroleum was a national issue that could only be fully overcome at a national level.

Throughout the following months, we continued to support this view, and back the South Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce and petrol resellers in their campaign to urge the Federal Government to act. However, both the Premier and I said that if action to introduce the Fife package was not forthcoming, the State Government would introduce legislation which would give effect to the spirit of the Fife package on a State level. We recognised that that was not the ideal way to overcome the problems within the industry because petrol is a commodity of national significance and is transported across State borders. But our intention to support independent resellers and ensure there is a situation of fair play in the market led to the Premier stating in July that he would instruct Parliamentary Counsel to draft legislation to implement a State version of the package.

Shortly after that, the Federal Minister of Business and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Garland) announced his Government's intention to introduce legislation in the Budget session for the purposes of substantially reducing the number of oil company controlled sites; enacting the previously announced franchise Bill with some amendments; and limiting price discrimination.

In addition, the Prices Justification Tribunal will conduct an inquiry into the retail element included in the wholesale price of petrol. Reports of the Federal Government's proposed measures have been welcomed by reseller organisations throughout Australia.

The measures reflect what the Government has said all along—that the best way to overcome problems within the industry is to tackle them at a national level. The State Government will continue to take an active interest in the problems of this industry here in South Australia, but it would appear that any State legislation at this stage might be harmful to the initiatives of the Federal Government. It is, of course, too early to assess the outcome of the Federal Government's proposals.

However, I must stress that the State Government will not hesitate to introduce State legislation if it appears that such measures are necessary. The Government continues to believe implementation of elements contained in the so-called Fife package would be in the best interests of the industry. We believe in the free enterprise system but, in the interests of the community as a whole, there must be a market of fair trading and protection for small businesses.

QUESTIONS

BREAD INDUSTRY

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Consumer Affairs a question regarding the bread industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: Honourable members will recall that, following extensive bread discounting by supermarkets in February this year, a so-called truce was called amongst the various parties at the instigation of, I believe, this Government. The truce was originally to have been for a period of eight weeks to enable the Government to sort out the matter. However, four months later, on 22 July, the Government apparently finally managed to sort out something, if one can call it that.

Honourable members will also recall that, following the extensive discounting, some industrial action was taken by the bread carters in view of the grave threat to their employment by the discount war. On Tuesday 22 July, four months after the Government announced that it needed eight weeks to sort out the problem (this is fairly typical of the approach of this Government, which seems to require a long time to sort out problems and to get its legislative programme together), the Government announced its solution to the problem, which was to limit bread discounting to 5c. The Government then said, "We will do nothing about it at this stage, but you must all be good boys. The Government wants you to adhere to the agreement. We expect you to do what you are told by us." There was at that stage no provision to enforce this so-called agreement. It should be pointed out that everyone in the industry except the supermarkets was completely dissatisfied with the Government's proposal. I said at the time that it had pleased absolutely no-one, and that it was certainly no solution to the problem. In addition to saying that it hoped that the people would adhere to the agreement, the Government said that it would take legislative action to ensure fair and equitable trading practices if the voluntary agreement failed.

As I pointed out, it was not an agreement but a statement from the Government that it would be carried out. There was no question of any agreement. Since then, the breadcarters have called a 24-hour strike to protest against the decision to continue discounting. They felt compelled to take that action because of the direct threat to their employment. It seems odd that the Government does not take action to save jobs, particularly bearing in mind not only its promise at the last election to increase employment but also the 7 000 jobs for which we are still waiting.

Secondly, there is evidence of continued discounting of more than 5c, the figure suggested by the Government. In some cases, the amount of discounting is 14c. As the Hon. Mr. Burdett knows, once one group breaks a so-called voluntary agreement that the Government hopes will be entered into, the matter escalates, and we then have a full-scale discount war on our hands.

What is the legislative action referred to in the Government's proposal announced on 22 July? Also, what action does the Government intend to take in view of the industrial action and the continuation of discounting at levels not in accordance with the Government's proposal?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: The discounting in February referred to by the Leader was not, as he said, extensive. In fact, one supermarket chain specialised bread by advertisement, and two other chains matched it for a short period.

Discounting is not the main problem in the bread industry. Restructuring is occurring in various ways in this industry, which has had problems for some time, and discounting is not the only or the main cause of it.

The Hon. C. J. Sumner: What are those problems?

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Sumner has asked his question. He can ask a supplementary question at the appropriate time, if he wishes.

The Hon. N. K. Foster interjecting:

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

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Yes, I am in order, Sir. I shut up.

The Hon. L. H. Davis interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Mr. Davis is not assisting in any way. This is a very poor start so early in the session. I ask honourable members to listen to the Minister's reply and then, if they desire to ask a supplementary question, they may do so.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: When the Government announced that it did not propose presently to take legislative action, while it did indicate that it would take some action if there was chaos in the industry and if there was massive across-the-board discounting to the extent of more than 5c, we said at the same time that we would not disclose what action we would take, because that would be pre-empting the issue, as it was hypothetical and that it was a situation that had not occurred.

I do not intend to disclose the action at this time. As to what has occurred since the Government made that announcement, there has not been chaos in the industry and there has not been massive discounting of bread above the extent indicated by the Government. What has happened is that a few small outlets have discounted bread above the extent indicated by the Government. Almost all of them had been doing so for some months beforehand, and during the whole period when negotiations were going on.

The Hon. C. J. Sumner: They did not adhere to their agreement.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: They were not involved in one. Many of those involved were retail bakeries which bake their own bread and discount for a short period at the end of the day, selling bread that would otherwise be wasted. There has not been chaos in the industry. There has not been massive discounting. What the Government intends to do, as it said before, is monitor the situation and act if the stipulations it laid down are not adhered to.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Can the Minister tell this Council whether or not a member of Cabinet has a direct family interest in a wellknown South Australian bread-baking firm that has been the subject of rationalisation by the Weston Baking Group? Is there any member of Cabinet whose spouse is a member of a traditional South Australian company that has a monopoly interested in the flour and bread-making industry in South Australia?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: They are not matters that are within my knowledge as Minister or otherwise.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I ask a supplementary question. As I believe the person to whom I refer has a direct interest in such a company and can influence a Cabinet decision on this matter, I ask you, Mr. President, to rule that the question is relevant to this matter.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: The question may be relevant but, as I have indicated, it is not a matter within my Ministerial or personal knowledge.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I therefore ask the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, to ascertain whether or not Cabinet is under the influence of a Minister who has a family connection or business interest in this matter.

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: I will not ascertain that. I can tell the Council that no member of Cabinet, nor Cabinet as a whole, is under any such influence in this or any other area.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Is any member of Cabinet associated with a wellknown baking firm in the southern suburbs?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: I have no idea.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I seek leave to ask the Minister of Community Welfare a question about the Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act recently amended.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Since the Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act Amendment Act 1980 came into operation on 3 July 1980, how many young offenders have agreed to undertake work programmes instead of being retained in the secure centre for non-payment of monetary penalties?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Officers of the Department for Community Welfare are currently dealing with the backlog of mandates received from the Children's Court. So far, arrangements have been made with 39 juveniles in relation to 47 outstanding mandates. Of these mandates it is expected that 10 will be satisfied by the juveniles undertaking work programmes, 33 by payment of the amount owing and four by detention in a secure centre. Some initial contact has been made in a further 15 cases, and it is expected that arrangements to satisfy the 18 mandates involved will be finalised shortly.

VINDANA PROPRIETARY LIMITED

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about Vindana Proprietary Limited.

Leave granted.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: Most honourable members will be aware that the operations of Vindana in the Riverland have been of great concern to grapegrowers for a considerable time. The growers have been supplying Vindana with grapes because of the surplus situation in the Riverland, and they would not be able to dispose of them in any other way. They are also aware that the company has a very bad record for payment and also a bad record for discounting wine in competition with the co-operatives, which would be the normal outlet for the growers.

It now looks as though the company is on the brink of bankruptcy. I understand that there will be a meeting next week at which some of the creditors of the company who want to keep the operation going will be present. To keep it going, I believe the term that is being used is that the creditors will be kept on a drip feed (whatever that might mean) and, also, the proprietor of the company, Mr. Morgan, will have to provide further equity.

Some very substantial creditors are involved in this but the largest group comprises the grapegrowers. I believe that they are owed \$1 089 954, and they have been told that, if the company were to be wound up, they would get only 30c in the dollar. This places them in a great dilemma, with the reputation of the company for not paying for the grapes, and yet, if the company is wound up, the grapegrowers will receive only 30c in the dollar.

The growers are very concerned that another company has also been formed, namely Vindana 1980 Limited, and they are concerned that the assets of the original company will be disbursed elsewhere and the vicious cycle of non-payment for grapes and discounting will start again under another name.

First, will the Attorney-General provide legal assistance to the growers, who, while they are individually only very small creditors, as a group are the largest creditor of the company? Will he ensure that this legal assistance is provided so that their interests are not overlooked in any scheme of arrangement that may be established for Vindana? Secondly, will he investigate the affairs of Vindana and the related companies to ensure that an asset shuffle is prevented and the fears of the growers are placated in that direction? Thirdly, will he consult the Minister of Consumer Affairs on ways in which in future the growers' interests may be protected from this accumulation of non-payment for their grapes?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: If a company is to continue operating notwithstanding financial difficulties, it may do so upon several bases. One that is most popularly used is a scheme of arrangement under the Companies Act that requires a certain majority in number and in value of creditors to approve a scheme of arrangement that has previously been circulated to them before they are asked to indicate whether or not they support that scheme.

If there is, in the case of this company, a scheme of arrangement to ensure that the company continues in operation, the responsibilities of the Corporate Affairs Commission are set out clearly in the Companies Act and those responsibilities include a close scrutiny of the scheme of arrangement and an opportunity to appear before the Supreme Court, which must sanction such a scheme of arrangement if it is to be valid and binding on creditors and company alike.

With respect to this particular company, I am aware of the difficulties that it appears to be suffering. I will not comment at this stage on the detail, because I need to obtain advice from the Corporate Affairs Commission, but I will obtain that advice as a matter of urgency. I personally cannot provide legal assistance to the growers. If the growers are in financial difficulties, the opportunity for legal advice and assistance is available through the Legal Services Commission, and I would advise them to approach that commission and to have their application for legal assistance processed.

So far as the growers are concerned, they are one of a number of creditors, according to the honourable member, and, in that event, they would have the same protection as applied to other creditors under the Companies Act and would have those protections that are available through the activities of the Corporate Affairs Commission in investigating any complaints that may be made.

With respect to the second question, I have already answered that, but I will seek a report from the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs regarding the affairs of the company. I am not prepared at this stage to indicate whether I would be willing to formally appoint an inspector under the Companies Act. That is an option that is open, but it is not one that I exercise without proper advice and proper information about the affairs of a company.

Concerning the third question, I am happy to consult with the Minister of Consumer Affairs with respect to the protections available to growers. I would have thought that that was a matter affecting the provisions of the Companies Act, but I have no objection to consulting with my colleague and pursuing the matter further.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: I wish to ask a supplementary question. In relation to legal assistance for growers, I understood that they were looking for assistance as a group. As a group, are they able to apply for legal aid through the Legal Services Commission? I understood that the branch of the Wine-grape Growers Council in the area was looking for some legal assistance in an effort to provide the growers as a whole with some advice, rather than each individual grower applying to the commission for legal aid.

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: There are precedents for groups seeking legal assistance through the Legal Services Commission, but I am not prepared to announce the details of those precedents. They have that opportunity, provided they can satisfy the criteria by which the Legal Services Commission determines whether or not assistance should be granted.

SOLE-SUPPORTING PARENTS

The Hon. L. H. DAVIS: My question is directed to the Minister of Community Welfare. Recently, publicity has been given to South Australia's withdrawal from the arrangements under the State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Have there been any problems in relation to the new system for payment of financial assistance to sole-supporting parents?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Since the new system was introduced on 1 July 1980 my department has not received any complaints regarding delays in payment. Sole-supporting parents now apply to the Commonwealth Department of Social Security for a special benefit. If the application is approved, payments are made fortnightly in arrears. If the applicants agree, the Department of Social Security sends a copy of the application to my department, which arranges for payment of a children's allowance equal to the difference between the special benefit and the sole-supporting parent benefit rates. Payments of the children's allowance are made in advance on a four weekly basis.

In any case where a sole-supporting parent applies for special benefits and is without sufficient funds pending the arrival of the first Commonwealth cheque, she is referred to my department, which is able to provide immediate emergency assistance to cover the waiting period of up to two weeks. This emergency assistance can be as high as the special benefit rate.

BALCANOONA STATION

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Environment, a question about Balcanoona Station.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: One of the most constructive and satisfying things that I was able to achieve during my brief period as Minister of Environment was the purchase of Balcanoona Station from the McLachlan family. A great deal of that property is astonishingly beautiful and it is arguably the best area in the entire Flinders and Gammon Ranges. It has the potential to be the most outstanding wilderness area in South Australia and should be dedicated as a national park as soon as practicable.

Therefore, I have been extremely distressed to hear of the gross mismanagement of the area and the continuing destruction of its fragile ecology since it was acquired by

the Department for the Environment 10 months ago. At the time of financial settlement the vendors were given permission by the Minister of Environment to hold a clearing sale. During the sale acts of vandalism were perpetrated on the homestead. Fixtures and fittings, which should never have been removed, were torn away from the walls. The historic shearing shed was gutted and part of the rear wall of a very old shepherd's hut, with outstanding historical interest and heritage value, was knocked out to remove a generator.

Since then, an assessment has been made of the feral goat population, and the results of that assessment are quite staggering. Departmental officers estimate the goat population on Balcanoona at between 50 000 and 100 000 head. You, Mr. President, certainly would know that, even if one takes the lower figure, this amounts to almost three times the stocking limit for sheep set for the area when it was a pastoral property. When one thinks about the figures, one realises that they are mind boggling.

Plans had been well advanced during my term in office as Minister to put a team of professional shooters into the rugged range area at least to control the goat population in the short term. However, the Minister and his Cabinet colleagues are so obsessed with the illusion of a Budget surplus that this has been either deferred or cancelled.

I had the opportunity personally to inspect the gross damage being done to the native flora by the goats on Balcanoona 12 months ago. My officers warned me at that time that for some species the damage might be irreparable, even if action was taken before the end of 1979. In the circumstances, deferral of an eradication programme is scandalous.

Recently, members of the General Reserves Trust, which provided the money to purchase the property, visited the area. The Chairman of the trust, Mr. Bill Isbell, was horrified by the evidence of incompetence and negligence that he saw. On his return to Adelaide, Mr. Isbell angrily confronted the Minister to complain bitterly about what was or was not happening. Despite this, it seems that no practical action has been taken.

I therefore ask the Minister why the vendors were allowed to vandalise the homestead, gut the shearing shed and partly destroy the shepherd's hut during the clearing sale. Also, does the Minister agree that his continued lack of action constitutes incompetence on a scale bordering on criminal negligence and, if not, why not? What action is planned to control and eventually eradicate the feral goat population? Also, will the Minister make adequate funds and staff available as a matter of urgency to control the goat population and stop the further desecration of this outstanding area? Finally, will the Minister say when the area will be dedicated as a national park and conserved as a wilderness area?

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

REGENCY ROAD OVER-PASS

The Hon. C. W. CREEDON: I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, a question regarding the Regency Road over-pass.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. W. CREEDON: Over the past three or four years successful efforts have been made by the construction of over-passes to break the traffic bottlenecks on Grand Junction Road and Port Wakefield Road. About 12 months ago, the construction of an over-pass was commenced on Regency Road. Good progress was

made on the earthworks in the early months, although I doubt whether any work has been done on the over-pass for at least three months. This is a particularly bad bottleneck, especially at peak periods.

I noted that His Excellency in his Opening Speech indicated that the Government was anxious to proceed with work on this over-pass. When will we see some renewed activity on the construction of this over-pass, and on what date does the Minister envisage that the over-pass will be open to the public?

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

VOLUNTEERS

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Community Welfare a question about the use of volunteers in his department.

Leave granted.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: It is fair to say that it has been a feature of this Government since it came into office last year that it has sought to use volunteers in various areas, which I do not intend to detail now but something will be said later in the session about this matter. It seems to be the object of the Government to sidestep professionals in various areas, and apparently this is the case in the Department for Community Welfare. I say this because of an advertisement by the South Australian Government in this week's Messenger Press under the heavy headline of "Volunteers". The advertisement states:

Volunteers are needed to work with the staff of Services to Young Offenders. The focus of the work is aimed at helping the emotional, social and psychological development of young people who have been in trouble with the law.

All honourable members would agree that this is a sensitive area in dealing or assisting with the psychological development and emotional and social problems of young offenders. This is a task that should be allocated only to the highest trained professionals. The advertisement continues:

People who feel that they can offer help in the areas of interpersonal relationships, practical and leisure skills and can contribute at least half a day per week can help us.

It then gives a contact address. The Government is asking for well-meaning amateurs. I am not sure whether this is an area where well-meaning amateurs have any place. Will the Minister tell the Council how he sees the proposed system working? Does the Minister have any more schemes in mind using volunteers rather than trained professionals in this sensitive area?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: That system of using volunteers in community welfare work generally was introduced by the previous Government and has been in force for some time. There are registered community aides—

The Hon. Frank Blevins: For this scheme?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: The honourable member started by talking about the scheme generally, by talking about volunteers. First, I propose to take up what the honourable member said. Volunteers were used by the previous Government as registered community aides; many volunteers were used who were not formally registered but who did in fact co-operate with the department in carrying out community welfare work.

The co-operation between volunteers and professionals has been long and good in the department. True, since we

have been in Government we have fostered the use of volunteers. The number of registered community aides has been substantially increased, because we believe—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: We believe that the community has a place in welfare work, that it has the right and the duty to take some part in looking after the welfare of the community. There is no question of sidestepping, and there is no question of competing with or substituting for professionals. The volunteers or amateurs, as the Hon. Mr. Blevins has called them, have a different part to play. A scheme implemented by the previous Government that I will refer to has been most successful, that is, the Intensive Neighbourhood Care scheme. It used many amateurs and not professionals. The previous Government, as we continue to do, advertised for people to do this work.

It is important to say that these schemes, both that scheme and the present scheme, were devised by professionals. The amateurs, if one likes to call them that, the people who supply the care, are trained and supported by the professionals all the time. The INC scheme is a scheme whereby some young offenders, instead of being sent into secure care, are placed with families, amateurs, if one likes to call them that, who are paid for their services—not professionally trained social workers. The families are trained and supervised by professionals. That has been a most successful scheme and one that was introduced by the previous Government. The present scheme of mentors is a similar scheme devised by professionals. The people participating will be trained, supervised and supported by professionals at all times.

The Hon. Frank Blevins: Is this what the advertisement refers to?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: It is a scheme whereby some suitable young offenders will be placed on bonds and under the care of someone in the community whom they select as being someone to whom they can relate.

It will be somebody approved by the court for the purpose. All of the schemes referred to are schemes devised and supported by professionals. People in the community who are asked to assist are trained by professionals. It has been proved for some time that some things can be done better by amateurs than by professionals. Some questions can be asked and some things said by amateurs that are accepted by people being counselled for psychological and other problems, but those things would not be accepted if said by professionals. Therefore, I certainly do not apologise for using people from the community for these schemes.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I refer to the second part of my question: will the Minister inform the Council whether he has further schemes of this nature in mind to use volunteers rather than professionals within his department?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: Not at the present time.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Is the Minister of Community Welfare aware of the so-called voluntary worker engaged by the Munno Para District Council? I will refrain from using the woman's name. However, she has rung me and said, "Oh! So you are the person who has written to the Minister of Community Welfare in regard to a matter." She has also been to the constituent who wrote to me and has breached the confidence of this constituent. She is totally inadequate and untrained. One of the officers from the Department of Social Security has just fallen short of telling me that directly.

Will the Minister, as a matter of urgency, ensure that the do-gooders of the Liberal Party acting as volunteers in

community welfare are disengaged as voluntary workers in the interests of the more unfortunate people in the community and that drastic action is taken forthwith? I can give the Minister the woman's name.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: The original question was "Am I aware—" and the answer is "No".

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: Will the Minister investigate the affairs of the Munno Para District Council—

The Hon. L. H. Davis: There is no need to shout.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I have every reason to shout.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr. Foster will ask whether it is in order to ask the question.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I seek leave to ask the question, and I do not want to be advised by the most junior member of the debating team as to whether I can shout in this place.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I am referring to the loss suffered by a woman whose husband has had a heart attack and who has received no assistance whatever as a result of a so-called voluntary worker in the area. The Minister's department should accept direct and absolute responsibility. It is quite wrong for a Minister to stand up in this place with a blasé attitude towards a question asked by the Hon. Mr. Blevins. Will the Minister investigate the activities of a voluntary worker in the Munno Para District Council who is going about her duties and so-called responsibilities in a way that deprives people living in a community of their just rights under both State and Federal departments?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I have not any jurisdiction whatever over counsellors employed by the Munno Para District Council. It is not my department.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I seek leave to ask a supplementary question, and I apologise to the Hon. Mr. Bruce, who, I understand, had a question to ask. I have not given this woman's name and I do not intend to move at this stage—

The PRESIDENT: Does the honourable member want leave to make a statement?

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I want leave, and I thought I had it.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I apologise to the Hon. Mr. Bruce, because he had a question to ask and he graciously consented to miss his position so that I could direct a question further to that asked by the Hon. Mr. Blevins. I am still disturbed about the attitude of a Minister of the Crown, on a salary of about \$50 000 a year, when he states in this Council that he is not prepared to accept the responsibility that his portfolio directs him to accept.

He says that he is not responsible. It has been on the word of his department regarding certain constituents of mine and of other members of the Council. My constituent was visited by this woman, and the Federal department involved has been advised by this woman. If the Minister cannot give a proper reply this afternoon or on the next day of sitting, he ought to tender his resignation and get off the backs of the people whom he is representing.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I will give the answer now. It is that, if the person referred to by the honourable member is a counsellor of the Munno Para council—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: It has not been stated whether she is a voluntary aide employed by my department. District councils employ social workers of various kinds, and I had thought that that was the matter to which the honourable member was referring. If the woman has anything to do with my department as a community aide and if he will tell me who she is and what

are the circumstances, I can inquire. However, if she is simply a person who, as many do, telephones the department from time to time, there is nothing that I can do about the matter. No details have been given to me. If they are given, I will reply.

TIME BOOKS

The Hon. G. L. BRUCE: I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Industrial Affairs about routine checking of time books, and I should like to make a short explanation before asking the question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. L. BRUCE: Last session I asked a question about whether there had been a cut-back in the Department of Industrial Affairs and Employment staff checking time books and under-payment of wages. The annual report stated that a number of people felt that they were not receiving the correct wages but were not prepared to make an approach about the matter, because of the fear of having their jobs made redundant. I received from the Minister a reply that the staff had not been cut back. Without having the letter in front of me, I think that he said that during 1978-79 some \$300 000 in under-payment of wages had been recovered through the checking of time books. I thank the Minister for that information but, following receipt of it, a serious matter arose. How was the money obtained? Was it from specific complaints by people going to the department, or was it from routine checking? How much money was obtained by specific complaints by people going to the department and having their time books checked, and how much was obtained by routine inspections by inspectors of the department doing their routine work?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring down a reply.

HOUSING

The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD: I seek leave to make a short statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Premier, a question about houses for squatters and the homeless.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD: It was with a great deal of concern that I read last night's edition of the *News*, particularly the second-page article headed "Law change urged to oust squatters". In part, the article reads as follows:

Landowners are pressing the State Government to make urgent changes to the Residential Tenancies Act so they can evict "squatters".

I am asking this question because I do not doubt that will be one of this Government's priorities. Further, it is astounding to note, according to the article, that there are 700 squatters in the Adelaide area living on council properties and other properties. An independent landlord, Mrs. Else Ritchie, has described the situation as very disturbing. She is quoted in the article as saying:

It seems to be a new social problem brought about by the fact that unemployment has been rising for the past five years.

All members would be aware that unemployment has increased dramatically since members opposite came to Government. The article continues:

The squatters, however, see themselves as people caught in a trap—that even if they could afford normal rentals, very few landlords are willing to let a place to someone on a

pension or the dole.

I believe that the average rental charge for a flat is about \$40 or \$50 and many landlords say that the rent charged should be at least 30 per cent more, because the rents charged in Adelaide are 30 per cent lower than other States. That is the trap these unfortunate people are caught in.

The article referred to one family in particular, named John, Polly and Pepper, who appears to be a two-year-old baby. The article did not supply the family's surname. A photograph accompanying the article showed the family sitting in a lounge room with one chair and a mattress on the floor. I believe that situation is an indictment on our society. In his Speech today, the Governor said:

My Government is concerned at the continued long waiting list for individuals and families requiring public housing. It has allocated substantial funds from its own resources to add to those provided by the Commonwealth for rental housing and concessional home purchase.

That sounds all very well but, as has been stated in the article I have referred to, this is an urgent affair. John and Polly were interviewed by the city council, which owns the house in Charlotte Street that they were squatting in. The council told them to leave the premises because in three months time the council would be renovating those premises. John and Polly asked whether they could remain in the premises and pay rent for that three-month period, but the council refused. I am pleased to see that the police took no action about this matter, because they said that it was a civil matter.

All members should be concerned about this matter, because it is people like ourselves who have the responsibility to do something, particularly members opposite, because they are in Government. We have all enjoyed the opening day, and we had a lovely lunch. The salaries we receive are high, so we are insulated from the problems that these people face. I want to express myself as strongly as possible in an attempt to influence the Attorney-General, and in turn the Premier. I know that members are concerned about unemployment. Mrs. Ritchie, the independent landlord referred to in the article, described the matter as very disturbing and said that it was caused by unemployment. Once funds are injected into the building industry a whole range of employment opportunities is created.

Hallett's brickyard at Golden Grove recently closed down, putting 80 employees out of work. Sand quarries are being closed down, and other industries associated with the building industry are closing down. If the Government used some of the money it has not spent over the last 12 months, it could alleviate this problem. The community has a responsibility to look after these people. The Government could inject new life into the building industry and create employment in the cement manufacturing industry, in iron and steel works and in the furniture industry. There could be more work for labourers, carpenters and joiners, builder's labourers, electricians, plumbers, and so on.

Will the Attorney-General ask the Premier to use a large portion of the \$37 000 000 surplus in Loan and Revenue Accounts to inject finance into the South Australian Housing Trust and private enterprise to alleviate the housing shortage for homeless people and squatters, and in the meantime make available to squatters, homeless couples and their children Government houses that are uninhabited? Also, will the Attorney ask the Premier to instruct the Minister of Local Government to make representations to councils for them to do likewise?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: Substantial funds are already

available for low-cost housing. Although the Minister of Housing would be in a better position than I to answer this question, I understand that the sums available in this respect have been substantially increased by this Government. I will refer that part of the honourable member's question, without endorsing it, to the Premier and bring back a reply. I cannot see that it is within our province to deal with the question of local government houses being made available for this purpose.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON URANIUM RESOURCES

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT (Minister of Community Welfare): I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended to Wednesday 29 October.

Motion carried.

NATURAL DEATH BILL

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I move:

That the Select Committee on the Bill have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended to Wednesday 24 September.

Motion carried.

ASSESSMENT OF RANDOM BREATH TESTS SELECT COMMITTEE

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended to Wednesday 29 October.

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President and the Hons. Frank Blevins, M. B. Dawkins, K. T. Griffin, and C. J. Sumner.

Library: The President and the Hons. Frank Blevins, J. A. Carnie, and Anne Levy.

Printing: The Hons. G. L. Bruce, M. B. Cameron, L. H. Davis, R. J. Ritson, and Barbara Wiese.

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. J. A. Carnie, K. T. Griffin, D. H. Laidlaw, C. J. Sumner, and Barbara Wiese 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 4.30 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday 5 August at 2.15 p.m.