

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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## Third Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament (1981)

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Parliament, which adjourned on 11 June 1981, was prorogued by proclamation dated 25 June. By proclamation dated 25 June, it was summoned to meet on Thursday 16 July, and the Third Session began on that date.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 16 July 1981

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. A. M. Whyte)** took the Chair at 12 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. It is with great sadness that I record the death, on 16 June 1981, of Sir Thomas Playford, whose outstanding contribution to the development of South Australia began when he was elected to the House of Assembly in 1933, and culminated in his twenty-seven years as Premier of the State from 1938 to 1965. Sir Thomas' able and determined administration laid a solid foundation for the prosperity of this State on which we must continue to build. The tributes

that have been paid to Sir Thomas from so many different sections of the community in the weeks since his death bear testimony to his ability to be, at one and the same time, a great statesman, and a down-to-earth farmer who always stayed completely in touch with his fellow human beings and their day-to-day problems. His sense of humour, which sometimes took a practical turn, has become somewhat of a legend and no doubt is well-remembered by many of you now present. But, most important of all, it was patently obvious from the beginning to the end that Sir Thomas was a man whose 'first avowed intent' was to work for the betterment of this State and to provide a better standard of living for all its citizens. I know that you join me in expressing sympathy to Lady Playford and her family in their great loss.

3. My Government continues to place the highest priority on developing the industrial and commercial base of the State, in order to promote permanent employment opportunities. In this respect, my Government notes that substantial investment decisions have been announced by companies already operating in South Australia and by those expanding into the State, and also that employment has grown significantly and consumer confidence is rising.

The Department of Trade and Industry has revised and improved its incentives in order to place greater emphasis on encouraging the adoption of new skills and technology, and developing markets outside the State. New incentives have been introduced, including rebates of Pay-roll Tax and Land Tax, and Export Bridging Finance.

Australia's future will be closely allied to the growth of new technology. My Government recognizes this and, as part of its plan to attract such industry to the State, it has decided to proceed with its plans to establish a Technology Park. The Park is to be located at The Levels near the Institute of Technology, and will be the first of its kind in Australia.

In recognition of the importance of the small business sector to the economy, a Small Business Advisory Council has been established, with special emphasis on the generation of employment opportunities.

4. Mineral and petroleum exploration activity is at an unprecedentedly high level. Expenditure related to mineral exploration alone in 1980 aggregated \$31 137 000 (compared with \$10 468 000 in the previous year) and commitments in relation to exploration for oil and gas, both onshore and offshore, approximate \$250 million.

Proposed amendments to the Mining Act, and finalization of administrative details under the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act, will extend the area available for petroleum and mineral search in the North-West of the State and below the opal fields. Amendments to the offshore petroleum legislation are proposed pursuant to arrangements between the Commonwealth and various State and Northern Territory Governments.

Progress is being made with regard to the development of the petroleum liquids in the Cooper Basin, of uranium mining and processing, of the Olympic Dam-Roxby Downs copper/uranium/gold project, and of future energy resources, including assessment of the potential of coal.

5. In order to ascertain the need for legislative change to meet current and likely future developments in industrial relations, my Government has initiated a comprehensive review of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and has sought submissions from all those interested in contributing. It is anticipated that a report will be made to the Government on this important matter early next year.

6. My Government's continuing efforts to restore direct cellular shipping services between the State and particular world trading areas have achieved success with the introduction of a new monthly service to and from European ports by Australia to Europe Shipping Conference container vessels. Efforts are continuing to attract similar services to other major world trading areas.

7. In line with my Government's move towards deregulation and improvements in public sector efficiency, it is proposed to repeal several obsolete Acts and to abolish the bodies established by those Acts. Legislation will also be introduced to establish a Parliamentary Committee to examine the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of Statutory Authorities.

8. Patchy and variable rains over much of the agricultural areas of the State set the season off to a late and uncertain start by the third week of May. The situation was consolidated by good general rains at the end of May and the seasonal outlook is now promising for all crops. However, very heavy follow-up rains in most districts have delayed seeding operations, and a record cereal sowing of 2.8 million hectares expected earlier may not now be achieved.

The rains generally were too late to promote good winter pastures. However, fodder reserves are adequate and with normal seasonal conditions from now on, conditions for livestock production should be satisfactory.

The forests and associated industries in the South-East of South Australia continue to be the major factor in the economic expansion of that region. New projects at Mount Gambier and Nangwarry have increased the viability of the State sawmills in the area. Intense silvicultural systems, including an extensive fertilizer programme, are enhancing the productivity of the forests year by year. A plywood factory under construction at Nangwarry will provide new

employment opportunities, and negotiations are well advanced for the establishment of a thermo-mechanical pulp plant at Snuggery, near Millicent.

9. My Government will continue to be most active in its efforts to improve the quality of water available in the State.

While progress has been made on interstate negotiations to widen the terms of reference of the River Murray Commission, full agreement on a revised River Murray Waters Agreement has not been forthcoming. My Government will continue to press for this. It will also continue legal actions in the courts of New South Wales to try to halt further irrigation development along the Darling River and its tributaries.

Work on the \$2.5 million Rufus River Groundwater Interception Scheme and the \$14 million Noora Saline Drainage Disposal Scheme will continue. It is expected that the first drainage water will flow into the new Noora Evaporation Basin late this year.

The present intensive investigations into the effects of halogenated hydrocarbons and nitrates in water supplies will continue to receive high priority.

My Government is maintaining its initiatives to improve the quality of water in Northern towns, including Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla. Following approval for design work for filtration plants on the Morgan-Whyalla and Swan Reach-Stockwell Pipelines, a consultant has been selected for design work on the Morgan Water Filtration Plant, while investigations preparatory to engaging a consultant for the second plant are under way.

Good progress has been, and will continue to be, maintained on the Metropolitan Adelaide Water Filtration Programme. The Barossa plant, the third of the six plants required to serve the city, will be completed early in 1982. Work on the fourth plant, Little Para, is continuing and major contracts will be let. Design work on the fifth and largest plant, Happy Valley, will continue.

The recent agreement in principle of the Government and the riparian Councils to the River Torrens Linear Park and Flood Mitigation Proposals is a most important milestone towards achieving this ambitious and exciting project. Formal agreements are expected to be signed shortly and legislation to give effect to the proposal will be introduced in this Session.

10. The release of the document *'Into the 80s: Our Schools and their Purposes'*, a policy statement of the Education Department, has made public the aims, priorities, expectations and policies of education in State Government schools for the next decade.

Consistent with this statement, extensive curriculum development is occurring in the major areas of study. Joint ventures with the State of Victoria with respect to language projects in Greek and Italian indicate the recognition by the South Australian Education Department of the need to foster and promote the various cultures represented in Australian society. Interaction with employers and parents continues to be encouraged, and South Australia will host a National Conference in Work Experience later in this year. My Government continues to place emphasis on school to work transition programmes.

A project worthy of special mention is the Aberfoyle Park Primary School which is due to open in February, 1982. This new school, built as a single campus, is the result of a co-operative project involving the Education Department, the Catholic Church and the Uniting Church, and must therefore be seen as a highly commendable and unique project of national significance.

11. My Government continues to place importance on Aboriginal affairs and regards with great satisfaction the near completion of administrative details under the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act leading to the handing over of title to the land to the Pitjantjatjara people. A final decision has also been taken to vest in the Aboriginal Lands Trust certain Crown land previously known as the Maralinga Prohibited Area, and a resolution to that effect will be coming before you shortly.

12. My Government believes that one of the great challenges facing health professionals in the 1980s is to create an awareness that individuals are responsible for their own health. To this end, the South Australian Health Commission will continue to pursue my Government's programme of expanding health promotion and preventive medicine. A State Plan for Health Promotion is being devised to co-ordinate and develop health promotion activities and information services.

The Health Commission has recently conducted an immunization programme against rubella, measles and tetanus. It has been highly successful in increasing the incidence of immunization in the community.

My Government shares community concern over the extent of drug abuse. New legislation providing a comprehensive legislative approach to this problem will be placed before you in due course.

New legislation governing food standards, labelling and hygiene will also be introduced.

A Bill for a new Act relating to the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science will be laid before you.

13. Tourism is recognized as an important and growing industry in the State. My Government has acknowledged this growth by implementing various new initiatives recommended by a review into the Department of Tourism.

A new Tourist Development Board has been appointed to advise the Government on all aspects of tourism.

Greater emphasis is being placed on the development of Regional Tourism. Regional Managers will be appointed to increase and improve the liaison with tourist operators within the Regions.

A successful advertising campaign commissioned last year has significantly stimulated tourist activity into and within South Australia. My Government is planning to increase further the funds for this purpose in order to attract even greater numbers of tourists to the State.

14. My Government is continuing to support the introduction of a form of Local Government to Coober Pedy. Legislation to this effect is expected to be introduced in this Session.

Legislation will also be introduced relating to the administration of public library services, thus replacing with one measure the two Acts that presently deal with public libraries, namely, the Libraries and Institutes Act and the Libraries (Subsidies) Act.

Legislation setting up the Parks Community Centre will be laid before you shortly.

15. The South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission has been established and a Chairman and seven part-time Commissioners have been appointed.

My Government will continue to support the Commission and its important work with the ethnic communities.

The Commonwealth has announced that it will legislate to make Australian Citizenship, after three years' residency, the basic requirement for all migrants (including British subjects not already on the Electoral Roll) wishing to be placed on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll or to be nom-

inated for the House of Representatives or the Senate. My Government will proceed, after such action has been taken by the Commonwealth, to legislate to make similar changes for the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council, in order to implement an agreement between all States.

16. My Government will continue to give high priority to its commitments through the Housing Trust to provide quality welfare housing, particularly on a rental basis for low and moderate income earners and pensioners. Additional support has been provided for the Emergency Housing Office and plans are underway to establish fifty dwellings that will provide minimally supervised housing for homeless young people.

17. My Government is concerned that its Bill to amend the Evidence Act was laid aside in the last Session. That Bill sought to implement my Government's election policy to abolish the right of an accused person to make an unsworn statement from the dock. The Bill contains a long overdue reform which is widely supported. The Bill also widens the powers of investigators to gain access to evidence where company fraud is suspected. The Bill will be reintroduced at the earliest opportunity, as my Government believes that any further delay would be intolerable.

Since 1 July 1981, the new Courts Department has been in operation. Its principal object is to upgrade the administration of the Courts. Legislation modifying the jurisdictions of the Courts, both on the civil side and on the criminal side, will be introduced.

My Government is anxious to continue its initiatives on matters affecting crime and punishment. Legislation will be introduced to increase and rationalize penalties in a wide range of offences, including crimes of violence and attempts to commit those crimes. Heavier penalties will be provided where the victim is under twelve years of age.

18. My Government is one of the signatories to a recent agreement between the Commonwealth and State Governments for the establishment of a national criminal intelligence facility in Canberra. The Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, as it will be called, will have as its principal objects the collation and dissemination of criminal intelligence data, and the development of a national strategy to combat crime, including drug trafficking and other drug-related offences. South Australia, as its initial contribution to the establishment of the Bureau, will provide two criminal investigation personnel to assist in establishing operating procedures.

19. There has been significant activity in the area of companies and securities legislation over the past twelve months. The 1 July 1981, saw the commencement of the Co-operative Scheme on Companies and Securities administration. The newly formed National Companies and Securities Commission will regulate Australian share markets on a national basis under the supervision of all participating Governments. The South Australian Corporate Affairs Commission will retain an active role under this Scheme as the agency through which the new National Commission acts in this State.

My Government believes that there will be considerable activity in Australian securities markets over the next twelve months as the raising of capital for the development of the nation's resources intensifies. In recognition of these trends, the Corporate Affairs Commission has been restructured to increase its capacity for investigation and regulation of the securities market.

In 1982, the Co-operative Scheme will be extended to embrace all companies legislation. Not only will this provide

a significantly improved capacity for the investigation and prosecution of corporate fraud, but it will bring other substantial benefits to the business community.

20. My Government is continuing its policy of improving public access to the Arts.

My Government is pleased that the Art Gallery Centenary celebrations and exhibitions have been very successful, and commends and congratulates all donors and trustees of the newly established Art Gallery Foundation, which to date has raised an amount in excess of \$1 500 000 for the purchase of permanent works of art for South Australia.

21. In May, 1981, two Government Departments, the Department for the Environment and the Department of Urban and Regional Affairs, were amalgamated to form the Department of Environment and Planning. The role of the new Department is to advise the Government on policies and guidelines for achieving a balance between development and environmental protection in the conservation, use and development of the State's natural resources.

In the last Session of Parliament, a new Planning Bill was introduced. This Bill, which integrates environmental and planning decision making, will lie on the table to enable public comment before being debated. The legislation, when implemented, will streamline and simplify the process for regulating development in urban and rural areas.

22. The Department for Community Welfare has continued its programme for the development of local Community Welfare Centres by the opening of the Enfield Centre in October 1980, and the Mount Gambier Centre in June 1981. Approval has been given for building a Centre at Port Pirie.

The Community Welfare Act Amendment Bill, which has been passed by the Legislative Council, will be dealt with by the House of Assembly. The Bill makes provision for a number of important innovations in the field of community welfare.

23. The Department of Lands is successfully pursuing its policy of regionalization with the recent opening of the new office complex at Berri, and is further extending the policy by stationing valuers at Kadina and Murray Bridge.

24. My Government is committed to the policy that there should be a fair balance between the interests of industry and commerce on the one hand, and consumers on the other. My Government will introduce legislation in the areas of insurance intermediaries, land and business agents, builders and secondhand motor vehicle dealers, to ensure that the relevant Acts administered by the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs reflect this policy of fair trading. Amendments to the Licensing Act are also proposed.

25. My Government proposes to introduce a Bill for a new Fisheries Act, incorporating joint State/Commonwealth agreements that provide for State management of the State's fisheries which occur in both State and Commonwealth waters. The Bill will also reflect a complete review of all matters relating to the fisheries of this State.

26. Various initiatives are being taken by my Government towards securing greater safety on the roads.

To improve the standard of roadworthiness of vehicles, particularly heavy vehicles, a new central inspection station is being set up on recently acquired land at Regency Park.

Legislation relating to mass and dimension limits for commercial motor vehicles will be introduced. These limits

will be uniform throughout Australia, and have been recommended by the National Association of the Australian State Road Authorities and endorsed by the Australian Transport Advisory Council.

The Stuart Highway is now sealed from Port Augusta to Pimba near Woomera. In the current financial year \$9.4 million will be spent on constructing the Pimba to Bon Bon Station section.

A total of eighty-eight traffic signals are scheduled to be connected to the Highways Department's Adelaide Co-ordinated Traffic Signal System in the current financial year to provide for computer-controlled, easier traffic flow.

The route alignment of the Northeast Busway has been defined and associated landscaping of the Torrens Valley has commenced. Preparations are being made to move into detailed design and eventual construction. Investigation and planning of further transport improvement has been continuing, with the southern suburbs identified as an area of special concern.

The future status of the Adelaide Airport is receiving close attention, particularly with regard to facilities required to cater for international flights. The Federal Government has already agreed that international flights should come to Adelaide by the end of 1982, and has given an assurance that there should be no increase in noise nuisance for residents living near the airport or under the flight path.

27. A number of other legislative measures will be introduced as the Session proceeds. These measures include a Bill to amalgamate the Colleges of Advanced Education and Bills to amend the Bills of Sale Act, Coroner's Act, Police Offences Act, Stamp Duties Act, Justices Act, Industrial and Provident Societies Act, Associations Incorporation Act, Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act, Lifts and Cranes Act, Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, Brands Act, Dairy Industry Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Forestry Act, Racing Act, Crown Lands Act and Irrigation Act.

28. 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.

#### DEATH OF THE HON. SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** As all honourable members will know, on Tuesday 16 June we saw the death of a great South Australian. The loss to South Australia, and Australia, is a heavy one, and, therefore, with leave of the Council, I move:

That this Council express its deep regret at the death of the late Sir Thomas Playford, G.C.M.G., former member for Murray and Gumeracha, and former Premier of South Australia, and place on record its appreciation of his public service; and that as a mark of respect the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Sir Thomas Playford was born at Norton Summit on 5 July 1896, the son of a cherry and apple grower and grandson of a former Premier of South Australia. By his own ability, his own determination and his own courage, he became one of the greatest Australians this nation has produced. His towering influence helped mould this State, and he is without doubt one of the true giants of Australian political history. His leadership brought South Australia from a

predominantly agricultural community to a significantly industrialised State. He led South Australia from the difficult war years, through the boom years of the 1950s and into a period of unprecedented development and enrichment of our State.

Sir Thomas was in every respect a self-made man. After leaving school at the age of 12, he worked in his father's cherry and apple orchard. Each week he journeyed with his father to the bustling, early morning East End Market to help him sell the family produce. Much later on he likened his early experiences in the market to his 'university' where he learnt much about the hard realities of business which served him so well in public office.

At the age of 18, Sir Thomas volunteered for active service with the 1st A.I.F. He enlisted into the original 27th battalion and served with great distinction. The Army recognised his abilities as a soldier and leader and promoted him through the ranks from private to lieutenant. He served in Egypt, Gallipoli and on the battle fields of France. In France, in 1916, a German machine gun bullet pierced his chest, and he almost died. It is a tribute to this great man's strength and determination that he was able to recover after nearly a year in hospital and return to the front.

After the war the young Tom Playford returned to the family orchard and joined the newly formed Liberal Federation. On 9 June 1932 the Liberal Federation and the Country Party merged to form the Liberal and Country League, and it was as a candidate for the Liberal and Country League that Playford was elected to Parliament a year later.

Five years after his election to Parliament Sir Thomas was promoted by the then Premier Sir Richard Butler to Cabinet as the Minister of Repatriation and Irrigation and Commissioner of Lands. Seven months later after the 1938 election he was elected Liberal and Country League Parliamentary Leader and Premier.

Much has already been said about how, as Premier, Sir Thomas was quick to develop the leadership style and personal qualities of integrity, likeability and conspicuous administrative ability that was to serve South Australia so well. Throughout the turbulent Second World War years he led this State in a relentless policy of developing the rural sector and of expanding secondary industries. This development, which was continued in the post-war reconstruction period, changed forever the predominantly rural character of this State.

Playford's achievements as Premier are many. They include the exploitation of Leigh Creek coal reserves, the network of pipelines carrying water from the Murray to Adelaide, Whyalla, Port Pirie and other centres, the establishment of Elizabeth, the mining of uranium oxide deposits at Radium Hill, the attraction of a major automobile industry, the South Australian Housing Trust, and the growth of many new secondary industries.

He established a record in the British Commonwealth of continuous political leadership for over 26 years as State Premier, far eclipsing the record of 21 years of Sir Robert Walpole, Prime Minister of England in the eighteenth century. In recognition of his outstanding service to the people of South Australia, the Queen knighted him in 1957 a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George—one of the highest honours that can be conferred.

Such were the achievements and stature of the man that it may have been expected that he would be a distant political figure, but the reality was that he remained in touch with the ordinary men and women of South Australia. Thomas Playford won the respect not only of his political supporters but also of those who never voted for his Party. To his friends he was a warm and delightful companion.

To those who served him he was always courteous and considerate, and to his family he was a constant symbol of devotion and love.

The honours conferred on Sir Thomas are a fitting tribute to his stature as a South Australian and Commonwealth statesman. As generations pass, it is easy to forget those who have gone before, but Sir Thomas Playford has left an indelible mark upon the character of this State.

He will be remembered as a leader, a statesman, an ally, and a friend. He gave to each of these roles the full measure of his being. To this one man—Thomas Playford—South Australia owes an immense debt. It is a debt that we can all honour by holding fast to the virtues he carried into his life—the virtues of sincerity, integrity, loyalty, steadfastness and courage. And we can honour him by following his example of unstinting service to this State, serving all the people and working to reinforce those fundamental values that unite us as one nation, as one people. I believe that Sir Thomas would wish to be honoured by no more than this. We extend our condolences to Lady Playford and her family on the death of this great man.

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Leader of the Opposition):** I second the motion and, in doing so, wish to add my support on behalf of members on this side of the Council to the remarks made by the Attorney-General. I wish also to convey my sympathies to Lady Playford and her family.

I will not repeat what the Attorney-General has said about Sir Thomas's life and contribution to this State. In the period following his death, the tributes quite rightly flowed in, and Sir Thomas's record of achievement was fully canvassed. The tributes flowed in as an indication of the esteem, indeed reverence, in which Sir Thomas was held by South Australians and Australians generally.

Don Dunstan in 1967 said that Sir Thomas Playford was the outstanding political figure in the history of this State since its inception. More recently, after Sir Thomas's death, Don Dunstan said that Sir Thomas had done more than any other person toward the development of South Australia. This was a fine tribute from a political opponent whose own contribution to South Australia was not inconsiderable. I am of a generation that did not have any direct contact with Sir Thomas politically. My only experience was vicarious in helping, as many people on this side of politics did, in 1965, by the production of a pamphlet on the gerrymander for use particularly in the seats of Brighton and Barossa which were won by the Labor Party and thereby ended Sir Thomas's period as Premier of this State.

Unfortunately, I only had the opportunity of meeting him socially on a few occasions after I entered Parliament. Nevertheless, it was impossible to grow up in South Australia in the 1950s and not be conscious of Sir Thomas Playford's dominant presence on the South Australian political scene. Sir Thomas sought to capture the middle ground and straddle ideological differences. He sought a consensus about the future of the State, and he generally obtained it. He recognised the importance of public enterprise in the development of South Australia, whether it be through the Housing Trust, the Electricity Trust of South Australia, Leigh Creek coal or the forestry industry. He had an attitude to price control which is currently unfashionable within his own Party.

One of the paradoxes of politics is the personal friendship which sometimes develops between people of different political persuasions in situations of conflict. The international arena contains a number of such examples—Lord Mountbatten and Prime Minister Nehru of India is one which comes to mind.

In a democratic community, where certain rules must be obeyed for the system to function, it is essential that such

friendships and the communications that flow from them do exist. In Australia Sir Thomas developed close ties with the Labor Prime Minister Chifley. Both shared a vision for Australia and had many common objectives, even if Sir Thomas's position as Premier of this State meant that his priorities were more local. L. F. Crisp, in his biography of Chifley, states:

Chifley's closest bonds—which had no regard for Party ties—were probably with Premiers like Playford and the New South Welshman, McKell, in whom he sensed a common personal dedication to the development of Australia's natural resources and industrial strength.

Sir Thomas apparently reciprocated the feeling, as he said in South Australia's House of Assembly on 2 January 1955:

In fact, I believe I can claim to have had a greater personal friendship with Mr Chifley than many members opposite.

Sir Thomas's skill in negotiating for South Australia, whether with the Commonwealth or the private sector, is well known. On a lighter note, Crisp observes:

Playford conceded nothing to Chifley as a tough horse-trader. On one occasion an adviser found Chifley chuckling to himself and remarking: 'I have just traded three boilers with Tom Playford for two judges.' Playford had sought three large boilers from a munitions establishment for a development project. Chifley had needed the temporary services of a judge for a Royal Commission and of another to re-establish the Commonwealth Security Service.

Sir Thomas shared another matter with members of this side of the House: his relationships with this Council were not always completely harmonious. In private conversation, he told of the Legislative Council Liberal members meeting in secret but also made it clear that he knew what happened within 10 minutes of the closing of the meeting. It is a pity that the Labor Party in Government did not have the same lines of communication with members opposite.

Sir Thomas's consensus non-ideological approach to politics and the future of this State meant that he found support for many of the issues that I have mentioned within the Labor Party. Nevertheless, there were considerable differences which became more and more pronounced in the areas of electoral justice, civil liberties, Aboriginal rights, matters of welfare, planning, and quality of life issues. However, I believe that all members on this side recognise the outstanding and lasting contribution Sir Thomas made to South Australia and respected his honesty and dedication to the people of South Australia and our nation. Unfortunately, in the adversary system of politics which predominates in our community it is often not until such times as these that common points between the different political persuasions and points of view can be highlighted. I am glad we can pay tribute to someone recognised by all members of this Council as a great Australian.

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** As a back-bench member it is not usual for me to speak to motions such as this. However, as one of the few members of the present Parliament who had the privilege of serving under and, later in his final years, with the late Sir Thomas Playford, I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to this great Statesman—for that is what Sir Thomas Playford was. Of course, not only was he a great statesman: he was also a great friend to those who served under him.

The late Sir Robert Menzies, who did not by any means always agree with Sir Thomas, described him as being not only the greatest Premier South Australia has ever had, but also offered the opinion that in his (Sir Robert's) experience Sir Thomas was the greatest Premier who had held that office in the whole of Australia. Many of those who served with Sir Thomas would wholeheartedly agree. Sir Thomas had a tremendous capacity to absorb knowledge and, for one who consistently claimed that he was 'only an apple grower from the hills,' he became an incredibly well-informed and wise man.

He had a remarkable intuition when it came to planning the development of South Australia, which he so successfully did over very many years. He was able to secure co-operation from all sections of the community in his efforts for this State. He was not always popular with Sir Robert Menzies (who later, as I have just said, heaped praise on Sir Thomas's head) because of Sir Thomas's great achievements in getting a better deal for this State and his ability to negotiate very successfully, often to the cost of the then Prime Minister. His capacity to deal with all sections of the community can be gauged by the rapport which he secured and the respect he obtained from the previous Prime Ministers John Curtin and Ben Chifley, and also from Premiers of this State who succeeded him and who were happy to consult with him from time to time, whilst his down-to-earth contact with the man in the street or in the field never left him, no matter how great his success.

Sir Thomas remained a great statesman to the last. He was always concerned with the development and the well-being of his beloved country and his fellow man. I humbly pay tribute to the late Sir Thomas Playford, G.C.M.G., and offer my sincere condolences to Lady Playford and her family.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS:** I support the motion and extend my condolences to Lady Playford and her family. With the Hon. Boyd Dawkins, I am one of those who served in this Parliament with Sir Thomas Playford when he was both Premier and, later, Leader of the Opposition. Sir Thomas Playford served his country with distinction and dedication, in both war time and peace time. The tributes already paid to him since his death by people from all walks of life are testimony to the standing of Sir Thomas Playford in this State.

I do not intend to repeat in the Council the information and details already given by the previous speakers regarding the life, both public and private, of Sir Thomas Playford. Those details are well enough known without further representation. However, I would say that Sir Thomas Playford possessed a deep love for his State, a deep love for the Parliament and a deep love for the people of this State. He pursued with a single-minded purpose what he believed to be in the best interests of his people.

Although a skilled negotiator, his basic philosophy was simplicity itself. His vision for the State was achieved during his life in politics—something that few of us who serve in Parliament will ever be able to boast. His economic policies were based, once again, on the simple philosophy that if this State could produce more cheaply than its competitors then South Australia would succeed in its development. I think everyone must recognise the fact that one of the great characteristics of Sir Thomas Playford was his intense simplicity in everything he did.

In politics, he was never a man to seek confrontation; rather, he sought consensus and support for the vision of a stable, industrialised and equalitarian State. These points have already been raised by the Hon. Mr Sumner. The memory of Sir Thomas Playford will remain with us in this State for many years to come, as will also the influence of this dedicated, sincere and hard-working yet fundamentally simple man.

**The PRESIDENT:** I, too, would like to add briefly my support to the remarks that have been made today about a great South Australian. I knew Sir Thomas quite well, having made several sorties with him into the outback, an area which he thoroughly enjoyed. Some of the stories he told me around the campfire have been of great value to me over the years. Sir Thomas Playford served as a soldier, and his activities involving the East End Market have also

been recognised. Sir Thomas would have claimed that having served in both those areas was of great value to him, and perhaps it contributed to his ability to assess a position and to assess a person's character, which he was able to do with great skill. However, everyone who has been a soldier and everyone who has been a market gardener is not necessarily great, but I claim that this man was born great. He undoubtedly gave South Australia some of the best service given by any Australian to any State, and I join with honourable members in paying tribute to him. I ask members to carry this motion by rising and standing in their places.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 1.10 to 2.30 p.m.]

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

#### *Pursuant to Statute—*

Administration and Probate Act, 1919-1975 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'Rules of the Supreme Court (Administration and Probate Act), 1981'.  
Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1980 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'Criminal Appeals Rules, 1981'.  
Dentists Act, 1931-1974 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—Rules of Court Repealing the Rules of Court made under the Dentists Act, 1931.  
Foreign Judgments Act, 1971 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'Rules of Court (Foreign Judgments Act), 1981'.  
Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1923-1974 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'Rules of Court (Industrial and Provident Societies), 1981'.  
Inheritance (Family Provision) Act, 1972-1975 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'Rules of Court (Inheritance)—Family'.  
Justices Act, 1921-1980—Variation of Rules.  
Legal Practitioners Act, 1936-1979—  
    'Rules of Court (Legal Practitioners Act—Trust Accounts), 1981'.  
    'Rules of Court (Law Society Act—Statutory Committee) 1981'.  
Licensing Act, 1967-1981—Licensing Court Rules, 1981.  
Local and District Criminal Courts Act, 1926-1981—  
    District Criminal Court Rules.  
    Rules of Court.  
Lottery and Gaming Act, 1936-1980—Regulations—  
    Instruments of Unlawful Gaming.  
    Trade Promotion Lotteries.  
Motor Vehicles Act, 1959-1981—Regulations—  
    Learner's Permits.  
    Licence Fees.  
Racing Act, 1976-1978—Rules of Trotting—  
    Blood Typing.  
    Driver's Licence.  
Racing Act, 1976-1980 and Fees Regulation Act, 1927—  
    Regulations—Supervisors' Fees.  
Road Traffic Act, 1961-1980—Regulations—Traffic Prohibition (Campbelltown).  
Road Traffic Act, 1961-1981—Regulations—  
    Liquefied Petroleum Gas Equipment.  
    Direction Turn Signal Lamp.  
Service and Execution of Process Act, 1901-1934—Repeals of Rules of Court.  
Service and Execution of Process Act, 1901-1979 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—Rules of Court—Various.  
Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—Rules of Court—(Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act), 1981'.  
Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'Land and Valuation (Amendment) Rules, 1981'.  
    Rules of Court amending the Supreme Court Admission Rules.  
    Rules of Court repealing Rules of Court under the Compulsory Acquisition of Land Act, 1925.  
    Rules of Court repealing Rules of Court made under the Mental Defectives Act, 1913.

Rules of Court repealing Rules of Court under the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Acts, 1922 and 1925.

'Rules of Court (Minors Contracts), 1981'.

'Rules of the Supreme Court (Criminal Injuries Compensation Act), 1981'.

Rules of Court repealing Rules of Court (Superannuation Act Appeals), 1930.

'Rules of Court (Family Relationships Act), 1981'.

'Rules of Court (Criminal Injuries Compensation Act—Injuries prior to 1 July 1978), 1981'.

'Supreme Court Rules, 1981 (No. 3)'.  
'Supreme Court Rules (Justices Act), 1981'.

'Rules of Court (Evidence Act—Reciprocal Procedures for Obtaining Evidence), 1981'.

Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981 and Companies Act, 1962-1980—'Rules of Court (Companies Act), 1981'.

The Settled Estates Act, 1880-1943 and Supreme Court Act, 1935-1981—'The Settled Estates Act Rules, 1981'.

By the Minister of Corporate Affairs (Hon. K. T. Griffin)—

#### *Pursuant to Statute—*

Companies Act, 1962-1980—Regulations—Board Member Fees.

National Companies and Securities Commission (State Provisions) Act, 1981—General Regulations.

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

#### *Pursuant to Statute—*

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

Friendly Societies Act, 1919-1975—

Amendments to General Laws—Manchester Unity, Independent Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society in South Australia; National Health Services Association of South Australia; The South Australian District No. 81 Independent Order of Rechabites Friendly Society; Australian Natives' Association; Hibernian Society.

Dog Control Act, 1979-1980—Regulations—Various.

Further Education Act, 1975-1980—Regulations—Deduction of Salary.

Harbors Act, 1936-1981—Regulations—Port Pirie Boat Haven.

Kindergarten Union—Report, 1980.

Local Government Act, 1934-1980—Regulations—Local Government Accounting.

Local Government Act, 1934-1981—Parking Regulations 1981.

Marine Act, 1936-1976—Regulations—River Murray and Inland Waters Navigation—Kingston Bridge Navigation.

Pastoral Act, 1936-1980—

Hundreds of Gillen and Copley—Resumption of Travelling Stock Reserve.

Out of Hundreds—Ooldea—Resumption of Water Reserve No. 87.

Real Property Act, 1886-1980—Regulations—Fees.

Strata Titles—Fees.

Roseworthy Agricultural College—Report, 1980,

Tertiary Education Authority of South Australia—Report, 1980.

The Flinders University of South Australia Act, 1966-1973—Amendments to By-laws—Vehicle and Pedestrian Traffic.

District Council of Kanyaka-Quorn—By-law No. 19—Parkslands.

District Council of Mannum—By-law No. 15—Caravans.

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

#### *Pursuant to Statute—*

Regional Cultural Centres Act, 1976-1980—Regulations—Riverland Regional Cultural Centre Trust.

By the Minister of Community Welfare (Hon. J. C. Burdett)—

#### *By Command—*

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions of the 110th Meeting held in Hobart, Tasmania, 9 February 1981.

#### *Pursuant to Statute—*

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, 1968-1980—Regulations—Fees.

Forestry Act, 1950-1974—Proclamation under Section 26. Part of Forest Reserve Resumed.

Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act, 1972-1978—

Regulations—  
 Logging Industry Safety.  
 Construction Safety—Fees.  
 Industrial Safety Code—Fees.  
 Lifts and Cranes Act, 1960-1978—Regulations—Fees.  
 Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, 1946-1980—Regulations—  
 Vendor Licences.  
 National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972-1981—Regula-  
 tions—Fees.  
 Hunting Regulations—Fees.  
 Wildlife Regulations—Fees.  
 Planning and Development Act, 1966-1980—Regulations—  
 Land Subdivision Fees.  
 Shop Trading Hours Act, 1977-1980—Regulations—Hard-  
 ware and Building Material Stores.  
 South Australian Health Commission Act, 1975-1980—  
 Regulations—Health Commission (Prescribed Govern-  
 ment hospital and health centre)—Incorporations.  
 West Terrace Cemetery Act, 1976—Regulations—Fees.

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

*Pursuant to Statute—*  
 Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1966-  
 1980—Regulations—Changes of Name.  
 Builders Licensing Act, 1967-1980—Regulations—Orders  
 for Rectification.  
 Fees Regulation Act, 1927—Regulations—Licensing Act  
 Fees.

## QUESTIONS

### SPLATT CASE

**The Hon. C. J. SUMNER:** Has the Attorney-General received the reports he requested on the case involving the convicted murderer Splatt? If he has, what are the results of those reports and will they be made available to the public?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I have received the reports. No decision has yet been made by the Government on these reports, and no decision has been made as to whether they should be released.

### HOSPITAL CHARGES

**The Hon. R. J. RITSON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, a question on hospital charges.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R. J. RITSON:** I was very pleased to see the introduction of certain pharmacy charges in public hospitals because I have had personal experience of seeing the abuse of such public facilities by often quite wealthy people. I recall many years ago being called out at about 4.30 a.m. to hand some ointment for a skin irritation to a man who was off on an early morning start to fishing. I am quite aware that public hospitals are used as a convenient free after-hours pharmacy where indeed other facilities could be more appropriately used in those cases. I can understand the deterrent effect of a small charge.

I am in receipt of a letter from a constituent who has a child suffering from a chronic illness—cystic fibrosis. It is a very reasonable letter from a very intelligent person and makes the point quite clearly that there will be some members of the community who do not strictly qualify under the proposed means test but who will, because of the chronicity of the illness and because of the multiple medication which may be required, suffer substantial financial penalty. Has the Minister considered, or will the Minister consider, some relief for such patients either by way of reduced charges or by increased maximum quantities dispensed for

a given charge, and will the Minister accept this letter from the constituent and consult his colleague in another place?

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

### RIVERLAND CANNERY

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question on the Riverland cannery.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** Over the last 12 months I have asked the Attorney-General a number of questions on the Riverland cannery. From information provided to me I believe that some of the answers given by the Attorney-General were not completely accurate. I will ask him a series of questions in order for him to set the record straight. At the time the Attorney-General appointed a receiver for the cannery—

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** I did not appoint a receiver—

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON:** —he said that losses on the cannery were \$7 500 000, yet he had a report that said that the losses were \$4 500 000. Why did the Attorney-General produce this higher figure and why did he try to put the performance of the cannery in the worst possible light? It is also important to note that the Attorney-General said that he did not appoint a receiver and that it was the State Bank that appointed a receiver. Again, I have information to suggest that it was the Attorney-General who suggested to the bank that a receiver be appointed at that time. Why did the Government initiate that suggestion?

My other point relates to the timing of the appointment of the receiver just two weeks before the task force appointed by the South Australian Development Corporation was to produce a report, which, I am told, would have said to the Government that the cannery could trade out of its difficulties within three years. Why did the Attorney-General appoint a receiver just two weeks before that report would have been given to the Government, and was it, in fact, to suppress that report?

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** The honourable member was absent when I made a Ministerial statement in June, within the last two weeks of the most recent session. Had he been present, the honourable member would have seen from that Ministerial statement that what he is suggesting is not accurate. If the honourable member had taken the trouble to read that statement, he would have found the answers.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** The fact is that the State Bank appointed a receiver, and the Government, in all the circumstances of the financial difficulties, was prepared to concur in that appointment. If the State Bank had been allowed to have its head at a much earlier stage, it would have taken the commercially proper decision to appoint a receiver at a much earlier time. However, the State Government, having been locked by the former Government into a very difficult financial position, felt some obligation at least to maintain some Government support to enable the cannery at least to continue operating while some further effort was made to get to the bottom of the whole problem.

It is correct that a task force was appointed by the board of the co-operative in, I think, June 1980. That task force was appointed, again with the Government's concurrence but on the recommendations of the Chairman of the South Australian Development Corporation and the members of the board of the co-operative, on the basis that some facts could be gleaned if some experts were put in.



However, as the result of those experts being put in by the task force (for which, incidentally, the Government has had to find over \$150 000 in fees), the Government received information for those very consultants which indicated that the tentative loss was likely to be something like \$7 500 000.

I said in June that it was correct that some doubt had been thrown on those figures by members of the board of the co-operative and by some members of the South Australian Development Corporation, but there was no doubt at all that the co-operative's financial situation was much worse than the Government had ever been led to believe up until September. When we received this information (to which the bank at the same time had access), the bank took the view that the only commercially proper decision that would have any prospect of rescuing the cannery was to appoint a receiver, and we concurred in that.

The Hon. Mr Chatterton has referred to a report which would state that the cannery could trade out of its difficulties. If he has that report, the honourable member had better let me have it, because the Government has not been able to get any report, not even a draft report, from the task force upon which it could make any assessment at all. In fact, the task force says that it did not have one. If the Hon. Mr Chatterton has this report (even a draft report) which gives that information, I should be pleased to have a look at it and if the receiver could also look at it, as undoubtedly, because of the money that has been spent on consultants (amounting to over \$150 000), we should be able to expect some benefit to the receivers from that work.

**The Hon. B. A. Chatterton:** That's sloppy. You appointed consultants yet you do not insist on results.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! This must not develop into a debate. Extra time has been given on this question because the Hon. Mr Chatterton may not have read the Minister's previous statement, but we do not want a debate on that.

**The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN:** The task force was appointed by the board of the co-operative. It appointed consultants on the basis that the Government would guarantee the payment for those consultants. It was not in our power to insist on anything; when we requested the report we did not get it, and we have been told that there is not one.

### PIPELINE ROUTE

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Mines and Energy, a question about the pipeline to serve Stony Point.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS:** Recently, there has been considerable discussion about the projected Moomba to Stony Point pipeline and the route that it will take. Several routes have been suggested, and options include what is known as the direct or shortest route and others, notably the Parachilna route, the Brachina route, and the western route. Others include the Quorn route and the Neuroodla route, which is the most favoured in some quarters and also by the Pipelines Authority of South Australia.

I believe that some environmentalists have expressed some concern, and there appears to be a widespread misconception that the pipeline will be constructed above ground and will be an eyesore and in some cases that it could also cause some danger. As I understand it, the pipeline is to be located underground in a safe situation. Will the Minister do all in his power to correct this impression to the contrary?

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

### HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, a question about the Hospital Corporation of America.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** The Hospital Corporation of America, through its Australian subsidiary, conducts the Central Districts Private Hospital at Elizabeth. Like all private profit hospitals it is delighted with the new health insurance arrangements which will operate from 1 September. The Hospital Corporation of America people are very anxious, now that these new arrangements have been announced, to build the second stage of their hospital and cash in on the anticipated bonanza. To further ensure their long-term viability and high profitability, they are currently lobbying very vigorously to acquire monopoly control of hospital services throughout the Northern Metropolitan Region. They are freely wining and dining anyone who they think might be able to help them with their proposition.

This is an area with a projected population of more than 250 000 people. As part of their package they propose that they should provide public as well as private beds. This is not being proposed as a philanthropic gesture. It would involve contracting public beds to the South Australian Health Commission. In the H.C.A. proposal the Health Commission would subsidise the difference between the public bed charge of \$85 per day and the Central Districts Hospital daily bed charge. In other words, the South Australian taxpayers would pick up the bill for the difference.

In the H.C.A.'s submission, the Lyell McEwin Hospital would no longer function as an acute care hospital. It would be leased for nursing home accommodation. The proposed Para Districts Hospital would not be built. These arrangements would ensure the Hospital Corporation of America of a monopoly operation with high bed occupancy rates and guaranteed profits. This is consistent with the H.C.A.'s first principle of business management—that their capital investment should return a minimum of 19 per cent per annum. The H.C.A. is notorious in the United States for its aggressive and ruthless techniques to achieve this. It is in the business of exploiting illness for profits. It may well be that the South Australian Government and the Minister of Health are not remotely interested in that proposal.

**The PRESIDENT:** Is this part of the explanation?

**The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL:** Yes, Sir. However, it is rather ominous (and this is certainly part of the explanation) that construction of the proposed Para Districts Hospital and the upgrading of substandard facilities at Lyell McEwin have been deferred by the Government. Several well informed people fear that the Government is considering pulling out of the provision of hospital services in the area in favour of the H.C.A. My questions are as follows:

1. Has the Hospital Corporation of America (through its Australian subsidiary) discussed a takeover of hospital services in the northern metropolitan region with the Health Commission and/or the Minister of Health?

2. If so, are discussions or negotiations continuing?

3. Have the Minister or the Health Commission considered contracting out public beds to the H.C.A.?

4. Will the Lyell McEwin Hospital be upgraded by the Health Commission?

5. If so, when, and at what estimated cost? If not, why not?

6. Has the use of the Lyell McEwin Hospital as a nursing home been considered?

7. Does the Government intend to proceed with the proposed Para Districts Hospital?

8. If so, when? If not, why not?

9. What actions do the Minister and the Health Commission propose to take to overcome the grave shortage of nursing home accommodation in the region?

10. Has the H.C.A. expressed interest in providing nursing home beds in the area?

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

#### COMMUNITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Community Welfare a question in regard to the Oodnadatta operations of the Community Welfare Department.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I am not sure how many members of this Council have been to Oodnadatta, although I know that several members of the Opposition have visited that town. However, it is no exaggeration to say that Oodnadatta is one of the most deprived communities in South Australia. If the Community Welfare Department has any rationale at all, it is in an area such as Oodnadatta. The Oodnadatta community when I saw it was degraded to a degree where it failed to exist as a normally functioning community. It was very distressing to witness what was occurring in that place.

Since I have been there (and certainly not because I have been there) the community has taken certain steps to ensure that it functions as a reasonably viable community. This would be extremely difficult in such a remote area where there is almost a total lack of facilities in existence. However, in Oodnadatta there was one important facility that had been provided to assist the people, that is, the office of the Community Welfare Department. The department did a most valuable job under extremely difficult circumstances in Oodnadatta. However, in the recent past, white people overall have left Oodnadatta, and mainly there are only Aboriginal people left living in that town. As soon as it became evident that there were no white people to look after, the Government abandoned Oodnadatta. Indeed, I believe that the Government is open to the charge that this was a racist decision, that because there are only black people left at Oodnadatta, the Government has decided that they did not matter and that Community Welfare Department funds should not be expended in that area. Anyone who looks at the facts can only come to that conclusion—that it was a heartless and racist decision.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I must call the honourable member back to his explanation.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** Indeed.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** It is a fact, nonetheless.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** It is the fact. The grave error and the disservice to the people of Oodnadatta have been compounded by a lack of consultation with the Aboriginal community and, by the way, to explain that particular remark, I want to quote from a recent article in the *Advertiser*, where a Mr Rathman, who is a senior Aboriginal public servant, accused this Government of tokenism. He said that the way this Government operates is on a tokenistic approach. The report states:

Mr Rathman, who is the highest-ranking Aboriginal in the Department for Community Welfare, is the co-ordinator of the State Government's Aboriginal Co-ordinating Unit. The five Aboriginal members of the unit say they fully support his comments.

In the same article, it is reported that the Hon. Mr Burdett issued a statement that the Aboriginal people had been fully consulted about proposals to improve the Department for Community Welfare services to them and others in the area.

These comments were also endorsed by the Secretary of the South Australian Office of Aboriginal Affairs (Mr L. J. Nader). He said he fully supported Mr Rathman's comments. He said his knowledge of what Aborigines need is far higher than that of anyone else in the Department for Community Welfare, yet they have ignored his advice and taken the advice of Europeans, who, I repeat, have piled out of Oodnadatta.

My questions are: given the conflicting reports of Aboriginal people saying that they had not been consulted by the Department for Community Welfare and of the Minister saying they had been, will the Minister name the Aborigines with whom he or his department had consultation prior to the closing of the Oodnadatta office? Secondly, in the interests of maintaining some credibility for his department, will the Minister reconsider the closing of the Oodnadatta office of the Department for Community Welfare?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** The member has made what I believe to be a misstatement when he has said that, in the main, it is only the Aboriginal people who are left in Oodnadatta. Oodnadatta is now a town of only about 180 people. I do not know of any other township in the State with a population of fewer than 5 000 that has a full-time Department for Community Welfare office.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** Do you know of any other town with such a need as Oodnadatta?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** Well—

**The Hon. Anne Levy:** Coober Pedy hasn't a population of 5 000.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** My understanding of the population of Coober Pedy and surrounds is that it is about 5 000, but the point is that Oodnadatta is a very small township indeed to support a full-time Department for Community Welfare office, and the statement that mainly only Aboriginal people are left is not correct. I was in Oodnadatta only Tuesday of last week and I could observe that for myself. I understand that, of the people still in Oodnadatta, the population is approximately 50-50. There is an Aboriginal community of about 90.

**The Hon. Frank Blevins:** Are you saying that there are 90 white people living within the township of Oodnadatta?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** It is my impression that the population is about 50-50. What should be said is that the Aboriginal community in Oodnadatta has been favoured in many respects. It has a full-time officer for the Aboriginal people, and I believe they number about 90. It has two half-time Aboriginal liaison officers who are virtually social workers, so it has two full-time equivalents, and, when we consider other smaller and more isolated Aboriginal communities in the State, such as Indulkana, Amata, and Ernabella, it is seen that that provision is quite good. They are not by any means neglected.

The next thing that must be said is that there is nothing new about this position. For some time the department has been deciding how to rationalise its services in the North of the State. They have been fragmented, and this matter has been difficult. The decision that the department has taken is to rationalise services in the North by strengthening the Coober Pedy office and from there trying to provide services to the North-West reserve, Coober Pedy itself, and Oodnadatta. The services to Oodnadatta will by no means be cut off. Regarding the talk of the lack of consultation, to answer the first question, there has been no lack of consultation, as the people who have made the allegation must know.

**The Hon. Frank Blevins:** What you are saying is that some senior officers of your department are telling lies.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** No, I am stating facts. I am not concerned about making allegations like that. Only members opposite make that kind of allegation. The As-

sistant Regional Director for the northern region discussed the proposal with members of the Aboriginal community at Oodnadatta on two occasions earlier this year. Then the step was taken and it was decided last week. I do not know when the Hon. Mr Blevins was last in Oodnadatta but I was there on Tuesday of last week. The meeting was advertised and I met the Aboriginal community and discussed the situation with them.

I think it fair to say that they were disappointed with what they saw on the face of it as being a lessening of the services they would receive, but it was by no means a hostile meeting. I had detailed discussions with them, as had the Assistant Regional Director of the northern region, and, as a result of the individual matters raised by the Aboriginal people, I gave directions as to how the service was to be delivered and I gave certain undertakings as to how it was to be delivered.

I believe that the Department for Community Welfare services, the community welfare services that are available to all citizens of the State whether they are Aboriginal or otherwise (because we have not any longer any specific obligations in regard to the Aboriginal people), will in many respects be strengthened in the whole of the North of the State by the steps that have been taken. That has answered the first question.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** How about getting back—

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I am getting back. The next question was what Aborigines had been consulted. The whole community was consulted. I was present at the meeting, and a considerable number of members of the community were there. The meeting had been advertised and the Assistant Regional Director, who has had a great deal of contact with Aboriginal people, had access to the whole community. As to whether the situation will be reconsidered, I suppose one always is reconsidering everything, but the most viable option at present appears to be the one that has been taken, namely, to strengthen the Coober Pedy office and offer community support to the whole of the North.

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS:** I wish to ask a supplementary question. Did the Minister have any discussion regarding the closing of the Department for Community Welfare office at Oodnadatta with Mr Rathman, who is the highest Aboriginal employee in the Minister's department and who is the co-ordinator of the State Government's Aboriginal Co-ordinating Unit? If he did not, will the Minister explain why not?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I did not personally have any discussions with Mr Rathman.

**The Hon. J. R. Cornwall:** Why not?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** I will tell you if you will shut up. Whether other persons did or did not, I do not know, and it is being investigated for the first time, but, as I have said, the responsibilities of the department are for the community welfare of all persons, for all races throughout the whole State, and this is essentially a regional matter. There have been consultations by the Assistant Regional Director of the northern country region, as I have said, with the Aboriginal people in Oodnadatta.

#### STATE THEATRE COMPANY

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Arts a question about the State Theatre Company.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** In last Saturday's paper, in the section headed 'Column', which is a regular arts commen-

tary in the Saturday *Advertiser*, reference was made to the Minister's reaction to an advertisement put in by the State Theatre Company for their coming production *Squirts*. I thought that the Editor, Shirley Despoja, had perhaps scooped the Governor's Speech in that she indicated that the Minister was considering legislation regarding the composition of the board of the State Theatre Company, because 'he thinks that it has not been able to exert sufficient influence on the company in the past 12 months'. However, in the Governor's Speech today there was no mention at all of any legislation affecting the State Theatre Company. It appears that the suggested scoop on the Government's legislative programme was not as I had thought it was. It may be that the Minister had attempted to put such legislation into the Government's programme but that such political interference had been rejected by Cabinet. It certainly reads as though the Minister is indulging in an orgy of petty spite, wishing to exert political control over an artistic body in this State instead of allowing its normal artistic and cultural independence. Does the Minister intend to interfere with the control of the State Theatre Company as a measure of political spite?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I do not get involved with orgies of any kind, let alone orgies of petty spite. If the honourable member can read spite into that article, I assure her that there was no spite on my part regarding this matter. I was contacted by the wellknown journalist who writes the column and asked to comment on that advertisement which appeared in the paper, and simply said I thought that it had a lot of rubbish in it. The person who compiled the advertisement was apparently trying to give the public some expert opinion on what percentage of right-wing people and what percentage of left-wing people attended the theatre in this State. To make statements like that in that sort of advertisement is rather silly.

Getting to the point that the honourable member was wanting to make before she let her fancy fly off at a tangent, I indicated that I was looking at the question of composition of the board of the State Theatre Company, and I repeat that I am looking at that question. I had not fashioned any proposals to a point where one can anticipate legislation in the immediate future, and that is the reason why the point was not mentioned in His Excellency's Speech today. For some time I have been concerned that the standards of the State Theatre Company as set by Mr Colin George when he was Artistic Director have slipped somewhat. I think the Minister in charge has some responsibility to see whether he can contribute—

**The Hon. Anne Levy:** Are you going to sack Jim Sharman?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I welcomed the appointment of Mr Jim Sharman as a means of achieving what I set out to achieve and to return the State Theatre Company's performances to their previous standard.

**The Hon. Anne Levy:** What has that got to do with the size of the board?

**The Hon. C. M. HILL:** I am looking at the composition of the board. Indeed, the size of the board is a factor to be considered. I believe that the board is a little too small compared to other similar boards. I said in the paper, and I repeat for the honourable member, that I am presently looking into the matter, but in general terms I can assure her that she is completely wrong in implying that there is any embittered spite on my part towards the present board, those in management, the company of players, or anyone else associated with the State Theatre Company. I remind the honourable member that the people of this State contribute almost \$1 000 000 annually to that company and, because it is a public subsidised company, the Minister in charge, whoever he or she might be, has a responsibility to

administer it correctly and to make every possible endeavour to ensure that the standard of performance is of world class.

### MOTOR REGISTRATION BRANCHES

**The Hon. G. L. BRUCE:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Transport, a question about motor vehicle registration branches.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G. L. BRUCE:** During the past few months I have had occasion to visit the motor vehicle registration branch at the North Park shopping centre to renew licences. On the first occasion I had to wait for 25 minutes and 15 minutes on the second occasion, but that was through no fault of the staff, who appeared to me to be overworked. In fact, on the first occasion there was a queue of some 18 people, and it was during the normal business time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. I accepted that situation the first time, but on the second occasion I waited at least 15 minutes, and there were about 10 or 12 other people waiting. On both occasions the staff appeared to be working hard. It appears as though the department is working on the principle that it has a captive audience, as it were, and that as these people have to pay the fees, irrespective of whether they like it or not, they have to put up with the inconvenience of waiting. Will the Minister say whether this wait is normal at the North Park branch or any other branch? Does he believe that more staff and facilities are needed to provide a faster service to the motoring public requiring this service?

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

**The Hon. R. J. RITSON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Local Government, representing the Minister of Transport, a question also involving motor vehicle registration branches.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R. J. RITSON:** About six months ago I had occasion to visit a motor vehicle registration branch and was fascinated to see on one of the typist's typewriters a certain item of false currency depicting in a rather disparaging fashion the Prime Minister as a figure of fun. I had occasion a couple of months ago to revisit the same office and the disparaging material was still on the typewriter in plain view of all citizens who might go into that office on business.

Although in a democracy we are all free to express our political opinion in this way, does the Minister consider it proper for the Public Service to display political material in public offices in this fashion?

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

### HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to ask the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, a question regarding inroads being made in South Australia by a foreign hospital corporation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I suppose one of the most vicious, rapacious, repugnant and distasteful companies that indulges in sucking its finance and false business interests from the unfortunate sick, dying, and indeed the dead, in America is the Hospital Corporation of America. It is so

repugnant to the United States Government that this organisation has been outlawed in many areas of investment in America. As a result of abusing its privileges in the greatest bastion of free enterprise, the Hospital Corporation of America has virtually been expelled by the American Government in relation to its business activities in the hospital area in the United States.

**The Hon. R. C. DeGaris:** How did they get in here?

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** As a former Minister of Health has said, they are getting in here, and it is no credit to the New South Wales Government that this corporation has got into Australia. Indeed, it is no credit to the former Government in this State if it let this corporation in.

I have been asking questions about this matter ever since I first entered this place in 1975. I commend to honourable members (I do not do this very often and, unfortunately, I see that the Hon. Mr Milne is not present in the Chamber) and members of another place questions asked by the Leader of the Australian Democrats in the Senate only a few weeks ago. He picked up questions that were asked about this matter over a number of years by a now retired Senator (Senator O'Byrne). They would show up this company as the blackest and darkest spot known on the entire American business scene. Indeed, if you, Sir, will let me continue, I can say that they have reached—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Hon. Mr Foster has been allowed a fairly good run.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I have not even started yet, Sir. However, I will be brief. They have reached an absolute low in America, as a result of which this corporation is now no longer permitted to reinvest in its own country. It is therefore seeking to send its ill-gotten gains and capital, obtained from the sick, dying, and indeed the dead, to other areas of the world.

The Minister, who now laughs at me, ought to take note of what I am saying. This corporation is now indulging in the distasteful practice of having to get money out of America, laundering it in some Western country, and then investing it in a country like Australia. The profit from this country is then laundered back into the American financial system.

Can any honourable member think of anything as abhorrent as that practice? Any honourable member who watched a recent A.B.C. television programme recently dealing with the Wills County Hospital would realise that admittance to that hospital by the black and under privileged in America takes 11 to 15 cycles; in other words, the people involved are knocked back 11 to 15 times before they can get a hospital bed. These people are asked whether they are insured or wealthy, or indeed whether they are destitute, in which case they are rejected in the whole medical area in America.

I ask my questions bluntly and boldly with no reflection at all regarding whether or not the former Government was responsible for letting this corporation in. If it was responsible, that Government ought to be damned. Unfortunately, the former Labor Government has suffered from the worst mistake that it ever made, namely, calling an election in September 1979 and letting the Liberal Government take office. I suggest that the Minister take up this matter seriously and that the hospital that takes its name from a former President of this Council is well on its way to obscurity. I therefore seriously ask the Government the following questions.

First, will the Government, through the Minister of Health, inform itself of the record of exploitation by the Hospital Corporation of America in the United States? Secondly, is the State Government aware that the United States Government has declared that this corporation is undesirable in its medical and business ethics and opera-

tions? Thirdly, is the State Government aware that the United States Government has denied the right of the Hospital Corporation of America from further investing in American hospitals because of its shocking record in hospital monopoly? Fourthly, does the State Government consider that the introduction into this State of the Hospital Corporation of America strikes at the very principle of hospital medicine and community care in this area? Finally, will the Government report all areas of activity of the present Government or any former State Government in respect of this infamous organisation?

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

### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Industrial Affairs, a question regarding employment in Government departments.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. E. DUNFORD:** In 1979, when the present Government was elected (something to which the Hon. Mr Foster has already referred) there was a lot of publicity regarding job opportunities. The Liberal Party had the slogans 'Stop the job rot' and 'Lead on Liberals', and referred to 7 000 jobs being created at Roxby Downs, and so on. I am asking my question because several trade union officials have asked me whether I have heard Liberal speakers stating that job opportunities in South Australia are increasing and that the number of job vacancies has increased since the Liberal Government came to office.

One should bear in mind newspaper reports and the Government Statistician's figures, which show that South Australia has the highest unemployment rate in the whole country. I replied that I had heard these comments. Indeed, at a recent function I heard the Minister of Industrial Affairs (Hon. D. C. Brown) speak in the same vein. He said that the number of job opportunities had increased in South Australia and that employment figures here had risen. I think that I got the same message from His Excellency the Governor when he opened this session of the Parliament today. His Excellency spoke in a similar vein, stating that job opportunities had increased in the past 12 months.

I should like to put the record straight, and state that I am concerned about employment in Government departments. I have attended demonstrations, and the concern felt by people in Government departments has been shown by their huge attendance at such demonstrations.

Will the Minister of Industrial Affairs obtain the following information: first, the number of daily-paid employees in Government departments in September 1979; secondly, the number of daily-paid employees in Government departments as at June 1981; thirdly, the number of Australian National employees in September 1979, and the number employed in June 1981; and fourthly, in making his reply, will the Minister be good enough to give separate answers for each department. By 'daily-paid employees', I mean every employee covered by an industrial agreement or an industrial award.

Finally, I may have omitted some departments, because I wrote them down off the top of my head. The departments I am referring to include Australian National employees such as fettlers and maintenance gangs, Highways Department construction and maintenance gangs, parks and gardens employees, prison staff, hospital staff, Education De-

partment employees, E. & W.S. Department employees, Woods and Forests Department employees, including those people working in timber mills, and one of the biggest employers in 1979, the Public Buildings Department.

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

### HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** I seek leave to make a short statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Premier, a further question about the Hospital Corporation of America.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. N. K. FOSTER:** From previous replies I have received on this matter from a Minister in a previous Government, I believe that the Hospital Corporation of America was allowed to come into this State on the basis that it had been approved by the Foreign Investment Review Board, although I stand to be corrected on that point. I think that if the Government used its authority and its right to allow such a scandalous organisation into this country under the cloak of that particular board, it did itself no credit. I understand that the Hospital Corporation of America is a type of motel-cum-hospital-cum-weekender for the sick and elderly and that it is owned and run by doctors in the Morphett Vale area.

The Foreign Investment Review Board is comprised of public servants and people from the business sector, some of whom are perhaps experts. This board is used as a cloak to allow all sorts of foreign investment into this country. At this point I am not able to disclose the names of the people involved, because the Parliamentary Library is short of research staff at the moment, and I have not been able to contact the Federal Parliamentary Library as yet. However, I should be interested to know whether the F.I.R.B. has conducted itself in a fair and *bona fide* manner, acquainting itself with the guidelines it should adhere to in relation to the form of investment undertaken by companies interested in investing in this country.

Surely even the most casual person, without any responsibility at all, would be aware of the terrible ramifications of the entry of such a company into the Australian hospital field over the last five or more years. Will the Minister of Health request a complete and updated report from the F.I.R.B. outlining the reasons for allowing or recommending the Hospital Corporation of America to invest in this country? What aspect of the investment guidelines were stretched to permit such a decision? What evidence in relation to the company was available to the F.I.R.B., and if no evidence was available what *bona fides* did it adopt to allow such an unscrupulous organisation to invest in the hospital area of this country?

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** The honourable member said that he was directing his question to the Premier, but a great deal of it seems to apply to the Health Commission.

**The Hon. N. K. Foster:** No, it is a State Government policy matter.

**The Hon. J. C. BURDETT:** In any event, I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister or Ministers responsible and bring down a reply.

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON COOPER PEDY (LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXTENSION) BILL, 1981

**The Hon. C. M. HILL (Minister of Local Government):** I move:

That the Select Committee on Coober Pedy (Local Government Extension) Bill, 1981, have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Tuesday 25 August 1981.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PORT PIRIE

**The Hon. C. M. HILL (Minister of Local Government):** I move:

That the Select Committee on Local Government Boundaries of the City of Port Pirie have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Tuesday 25 August 1981.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON URANIUM RESOURCES

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

That the Select Committee on Uranium Resources have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 26 August 1981.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON UNSWORN STATEMENT AND RELATED MATTERS

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

That the Select Committee on Unsworn Statement and Related Matters have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 16 September 1981.

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. C. M. Hill (Minister of Local Government) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons Frank Blevins, M. B. Cameron, R. C. DeGaris, K. T. Griffin, and C. J. Sumner be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3.37 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday 21 July at 2.15 p.m.