

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Fourth Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament (1982)

Parliament, which adjourned on 18 June 1982, was prorogued by proclamation dated 1 July. By proclamation dated 1 July, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday 20 July, and the Fourth Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday 20 July 1982

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 (Sir Donald Dunstan) 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. On addressing you for the first time as Her Majesty's representative in South Australia, I wish to express on behalf of my wife and myself our deep appreciation of the warm welcome which has been accorded us. We are very pleased to be once more in South Australia and I give you our assurance that we will do all in our power to promote the advancement of the interests of this State and its people, a task so ably fulfilled by our predecessors.
3. It is with regret that I must record the deaths of two former members of the Parliament. I refer to the passing of Sir John McLeay who represented the electorate of Unley from 1938 to 1941, served as Lord Mayor of the City of Adelaide, and represented the electorate of Boothby in the House of Representatives for some seventeen years of which he held the office of Speaker for more than ten years. I also refer to the passing of the Honourable James Edward Dun-

ford who served as a member of the Legislative Council from 1975 until his death in May of this year.

I feel sure that you will join me in recording appreciation of the services rendered by those gentlemen to the State and in expressing sympathy to their families.

4. The international and Australian economic climates remain a matter of concern.

The United States and European economic communities have now been experiencing severe economic downturn for the past two years. Australia first felt the effects of this international recession earlier this year.

The uncertainty of power supplies in New South Wales has also had an adverse impact on consumer demand for certain South Australian manufactured goods.

Despite these economic difficulties key economic indicators continue to show that the South Australian economy is faring better than other States.

While unemployment has risen nationally by 27.5 per cent over the last year the rise in South Australia has been only three per cent.

Employment in this State's manufacturing industry has increased by four times the national average during the past year.

5. The abolition of death and gift duties, the implementation of major land tax exemptions and stamp duty remissions on home purchases carried out by my Government have contributed to reducing levels of State taxation to the lowest of any State except Queensland.

Although the impact of large wage increases, and the current economic downturn are both having a detrimental impact on my Government's budgetary situation, the policy of lower taxation will be maintained.

6. Resource development has joined the agricultural and manufacturing industries as major components of the State's economy. Expansion of the resource development sector will inevitably offer further opportunities for the manufacturing and rural industries.

Work is proceeding rapidly on the Cooper Basin petroleum liquids and Roxby Downs mineral projects, following Parliament's approval of the Stony Point and Roxby Downs indenture legislation during the last session. It is expected that crude oil and condensate will begin to flow from the

Cooper Basin to the terminal facilities at Stony Point early in 1983, while at Roxby Downs the joint venturers have commenced to honour their commitment to spend a further \$50 million on feasibility studies before the end of 1984.

Both projects have already generated significant employment opportunities and in the case of Roxby Downs 1 000 people are now employed directly or indirectly on the project. It has been estimated that Roxby Downs could eventually become one of the world's largest mining operations.

My Government is also pursuing further initiatives to ensure that the State receives maximum benefit from the mining of its significant uranium resources. A feasibility study of a uranium conversion plant in the Port Pirie area is due to be completed later this year.

My Government is also continuing to press South Australia's case for the establishment of a fully integrated uranium conversion and enrichment industry.

South Australia is now experiencing the highest level of activity in the area of minerals and petroleum exploration in its history. The indications of company interest in further exploration in the State are also at their highest level. More than ninety companies are presently engaged in the search for a wide range of minerals. Commitments to off-shore exploration for petroleum now amount to more than \$200 million, which far exceeds any previous effort.

My Government continues its efforts to ensure further supplies of natural gas for South Australia and anticipates that further progress will be made in this matter in the near future.

7. Although opening rains in the latter half of April provided a good commencement to the season, follow-on rainfall has been disappointing. Many far northern areas of the State are in or are approaching drought conditions, with feed and water both being scarce. In the southern areas frosts have slowed pasture growth in many districts, but stock have generally maintained average to good condition on available feed.

The horticultural industry has experienced a reasonable year in spite of some problems in the canning fruit industry and a small surplus of wine grapes.

Unfortunately, vegetable crops were seriously damaged during the record breaking spell of cold weather in June, with tomatoes being the most affected. The full effect upon citrus is still difficult to assess.

My Government has sought Commonwealth support for forest-based industries to combat increased competition and the impact of the proposed closer economic relationship with New Zealand. This follows an increase in dumping of New Zealand sawn timber on our Australian market. My Government is equally concerned about the impact of vigorous marketing by North American timber suppliers.

8. My Government continues to encourage the expansion of South Australia's range of industrial and commercial activities. Through assistance packages available for projects ranging from small businesses to major industrial enterprises, it has helped contribute to an elevenfold increase since April 1979 in investment commitments for major manufacturing and mining projects in South Australia. Another initiative of particular significance has been the establishment through legislation of the Technology Park Adelaide Corporation, a body formed to co-ordinate the attraction and location of new high-technology industries to Adelaide.

Technology Park Adelaide will open in October and as a result, several firms are already in the final stages of feasibility studies on the establishment of operations in South Australia.

My Government continues its strong support for small business in South Australia. This includes significant financial and advisory assistance.

9. While loss of productivity through industrial disputation continues to be significantly less in South Australia than in

any other State, my Government has recently received a report recommending a comprehensive review of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Legislation to implement recommendations of the report will be introduced in the coming session to enhance South Australia's industrial relations record and to protect the rights of the individual within the work place.

As a result of my Government's major revision of industrial and commercial training, group apprenticeship training and pre-vocational training have been introduced, especially for the unemployed. A careful monitoring of technological changes and the establishment of the Manpower Forecasting Unit has heightened awareness of the need to adequately train our youth.

10. With the implementation of a number of major initiatives by my Government, the tourism industry has shown strong signs of upturn, in terms of both travel to, and within, South Australia, and investment in tourism projects.

Tourism, together with the business community, will receive a major boost later this year with the introduction of regular international flights to and from Adelaide and the opening of the International Hotel, which is being constructed in Victoria Square following the approval by this Parliament of an indenture negotiated by my Government.

To coincide with these important events a major promotional campaign will be launched in New Zealand, which is currently Australia's largest international tourist market. Promotional activities will also be undertaken in South-East Asia, the United Kingdom and Europe.

To encourage the development of key tourism projects, a series of investment portfolios will be prepared aimed at encouraging potential developers to invest in the major projects identified.

A comprehensive tourism awareness programme highlighting the economic and social benefits of tourism will also be initiated. The programme will be directed to the South Australian community at large and will emphasise the employment benefits of tourism.

11. The present and future construction programmes of the Public Buildings Department will support and stimulate the building industry in this State. Over the next 6 months, contracts worth about \$100 million will be let. My Government has used substantial funds outside of the normal Loan Council borrowings to enable major projects to proceed, and a record sum has been spent on housing.

Major projects planned to commence during the next six months include the Adelaide College of Technical and Further Education, estimated to cost \$25 million, the new Fire Brigade headquarters worth \$17 million, the first stage of the museum redevelopment at a cost of \$15 million, the new Remand Centre, Automatic Data Processing Centre, the redevelopment of several schools, and cultural centres at Whyalla and Renmark.

12. My Government intends to introduce the necessary amending legislation during this session following the securing of a new River Murray Waters Agreement. This agreement will greatly enhance the role played by the River Murray Commission in developing and maintaining water quality standards which are of critical importance to South Australia.

The metropolitan water filtration programme will continue with the commissioning of the Barossa water filtration plant later this year. This will be the third of six plants required to provide Adelaide with clean water. Construction of the fourth water filtration plant at the Little Para dam should be completed in early 1984 and construction of the fifth and largest plant, at Happy Valley, will begin this financial year.

Plans to filter the water supplies of South Australia's northern towns will cost an estimated \$34 million. Con-

struction of the first of two filtration plants is due to begin this financial year and preliminary investigations for the second plant have been completed.

In the Riverland a scheme to pump most of the saline effluent from the Renmark and Berri-Cobdogla irrigation systems out of the river valley has almost been completed. This is part of a \$60 million programme to control River Murray salinity in South Australia.

Work is continuing on the River Torrens linear park and flood mitigation scheme, which will be the centrepiece of my Government's contribution to South Australia's 150th birthday celebrations in 1986. The third and fourth stages are due to commence in the next nine months.

A Bill to clarify the responsibilities of local and State governments in flood management will be introduced this session.

13. My Government has completed a reorganisation of the South Australian Health Commission which will allow the commission to concentrate on its basic role of planning, co-ordination, evaluation and resource allocation.

The introduction of sector directors with delegated authority provides the channel for communication and decision-making which health units have been seeking.

My Government has recognised needs for improved services and has approved the purchase of a C.A.T. scanner for The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, a treatment planner and simulator, a linear accelerator and a C.A.T. scanner for the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

These equipment purchases, together with an improved replacement X-ray programme, will provide diagnostic and oncology treatment services of the highest quality.

Emphasis on illness prevention will continue with the further development of community and domiciliary services to relieve the high cost of institutional care. Additional resources provided for health promotion have resulted in the 'Healthy State Information Centre', effective programmes on immunisation, amoebic meningitis and alcohol education.

These initiatives will be continued and campaigns for early detection of breast cancer and reduction in the incidence of drink driving will be introduced this year.

Expansion of community and domiciliary programmes already undertaken by my Government will continue, especially to meet the rapidly ageing population. The needs of this particular group have been recognised by improved access to dental services, and further provision will be made for eye care.

My Government has acted to ensure the maintenance of standards of medical practice and guidelines for the appointment and delineation of clinical privilege to medical practitioners in hospitals have been developed. Amendments to the Medical Practitioners Act will be introduced to make it more effective in maintaining high professional standards.

14. My Government will continue to improve the quality of community welfare services. Support for the voluntary welfare sector has already been substantially increased, and this support will be maintained.

In the area of young offenders my Government will develop its alternatives to expensive secure care, while ensuring the community is protected from serious offenders.

The intensive personal supervision programme will be extended. The programme allowing the courts to order young offenders to carry out community service work will also be further developed.

My Government believes aged services should be improved. Research will be carried out with a view to improving local community projects for the aged throughout the State.

My Government believes the family is the basic unit of our society, and will develop family programmes to overcome

conflicts which lead to youth homelessness, truancy and other social problems.

15. My Government will maintain its high priority to education. Increased budget allocations have lifted South Australia's spending per primary school student to the best level of any State.

Pupil-teacher ratios are expected to improve still further, reinforcing South Australia's position of having the smallest average class size of all the States.

Continuing progress will be achieved through detailed assessment and implementation of the recommendations made by the Keeves Committee of Enquiry into Education. Arising from this process my Government proposes to introduce in the coming session, a Bill to establish a new Public Examinations Authority in place of the present Public Examinations Board.

The new authority will be responsible for conducting student assessments and approving courses of study for Year 12 students for a range of purposes that extends beyond selection for tertiary education.

16. My Government will continue to place great importance on the provision of welfare housing through the South Australian Housing Trust. Special funding from State sources last financial year enabled the trust to commence 1 815 dwellings, an increase of 800 over the previous year. The trust's rental stock of 45 000 is the highest of any State or Territory on a per capita basis.

My Government also regards with great satisfaction the success of a number of initiatives taken by the trust during the past year. Amongst these the trust has led the rest of Australia in the raising of funds through the issue of promissory notes; the establishment of joint ventures with local government and private enterprise to provide dwellings for the aged; the construction of welfare housing by private builders using their own designs, and the establishment of housing co-operatives funded by the private sector.

In 1982-83 my Government will maintain the highest possible level of funding support to the trust and will continue to encourage the development of further initiatives.

My Government has adopted wide-ranging measures to encourage home ownership and this momentum will continue, but it remains seriously concerned about the extent to which rising interest rates are causing hardship for home buyers.

My Government will continue to do all within its power to alleviate this situation, consistent with its responsibilities to all members of the community, including those who are not in a position to be able to finance a home. My Government's stamp duty exemptions have assisted more than 21 000 home buyers in the past two-and-a-half years with an average rebate of about \$490 each, costing more than \$10 million.

The scheme to assist home purchasers in crisis will be expanded with funds from the Commonwealth Government for home purchases and private renters in difficulty.

My Government is awaiting final details of the Commonwealth's proposals and an announcement is imminent.

17. My Government expects that work on the construction of the new Adelaide railcar depot will be completed by February, 1983, at a cost of approximately \$10.25 million. The depot will provide for major servicing of railcars, improved working conditions for maintenance personnel and a better standard of cleanliness of railcars.

To maintain the high quality of public transport in South Australia, the first of 140 M.A.N. buses on order to the State Transport Authority is expected to be delivered this month. The bodies have been manufactured in South Australia and electronic destination signs will be fitted.

Construction of a new railway overpass on Grand Junction Road at Rosewater will be completed during 1982-83 and

work will commence on the upgrading of Grand Junction Road between Port Road and Addison Road.

Construction of the Gosses to Mirikata section of the Stuart Highway will continue during 1982-83 and tenders have been called for the 113 kilometre section between Coober Pedy south and Pootnoura Creek. The contract is worth \$18 million. This year's allocation is the largest yet on the project.

Implementation of the North-east Busway project is proceeding with the construction of road bridges, busway bridges and earthworks.

The first sections of O'Bahn track will be laid between O.G. Road and Darley Road and training on this track will begin later this year using prototype buses. It is intended that the system will be in operation in 1986.

My Government's continuing efforts to restore direct cellular shipping services between South Australia and other international trading areas have achieved a positive result with the recent announcement of a permanent service by the Australia to Europe Shipping Conference. The growth of the Port of Adelaide will be enhanced by the standard gauge railway due to link into Adelaide in November.

Work will proceed on the construction of a boat launching and retrieval facility at O'Sullivan Beach for the benefit of the recreational boating public. This facility is estimated to cost \$2 million and is due for completion in October, 1983.

18. My Government has continued to pursue its policy of encouraging and maintaining fair trading in the market place and the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs has continued its review of legislation in line with this policy. My Government will legislate to remove unnecessary restrictions on legitimate business activity. Following the failure of several insurance brokers, legislation will be introduced dealing with the regulation of insurance intermediaries. This regulation will be achieved by a system of negative licensing, the first time such a system will be used in Australia.

My Government will also introduce a completely new Act dealing with secondhand motor vehicle dealers.

My Government has been extremely concerned at the plight of home buyers when their builder becomes bankrupt. Amendments to the Builders Licensing Act will be introduced to implement a compulsory building insurance scheme to indemnify consumers for losses sustained where the builder with whom they have contracted dies, disappears or becomes insolvent.

19. Through reorganisation of the Department of Environment and Planning my Government will pursue its goal of achieving balance between development and conservation in use of the State's cultural and natural resources.

Uniform administrative regulations and the consolidated Development Plan for South Australia prepared under the new Planning Act 1982 will be submitted to Parliament in the near future, to clear the way for full proclamation of the Planning Act. This will introduce, for the first time in South Australia, a balance sharing of planning responsibilities between local and State Governments and quicken the response of the planning system to urban and rural changes.

My Government's concern for the environment is also demonstrated by the proposed introduction of clean air legislation. This legislation, to be administered by the Minister of Environment and Planning, will replace the clean air regulations under the Health Act.

My Government will also introduce a Bill to rectify deficiencies in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1979. The key feature of the Bill will be amendments to more adequately protect Aboriginal sites and items, thus providing a sound basis for the protection of Aboriginal heritage in this State.

20. My Government will introduce the first of five Bills to amend and update the Local Government Act. This is

the first step towards ensuring that local government in this State has a sound and forward looking framework within which to operate, and to which it is entitled.

The draft Bill is presently the subject of extensive consultation with local government and interested parties.

Work has commenced on preparation of proposals for the second draft Bill.

21. My Government is continuing its successful policy of improving community involvement with the arts.

The first stage of the vast redevelopment programme for the South Australian Museum will commence at the beginning of September with site works and renovations to the old Mechanical Trades School off Kintore Avenue. The old school will house the new Division of Natural Sciences and the new and exciting State Centre for the Conservation of Cultural Material.

My Government intends to introduce a Bill to amend the Museum Act to reflect the more dynamic approach and role now being adopted by the museum and to increase the size of the board.

Further opportunities for people in the country to enjoy and participate in the arts will be provided when the Northern Regional Cultural Centre at Port Pirie opens later this year. It is anticipated that site work will commence on the Riverland Cultural Centre at Renmark in mid-September.

My Government will continue to support the Ethnic Affairs Commission and its important work with ethnic communities in this State. It will continue to participate fully with the Commonwealth Government in investigating the establishment of a national association for the registration of interpreters and translators and a national professional association together with problems associated with the recognition of migrants' qualifications.

22. My Government established the South Australian Sports Institute in April of this year with the function of co-ordinating the allocation of resources for the development of excellence in sporting activities. Staff and financial resources will be provided to the institute during 1982-83 to enable it to commence its work in this important area.

23. A Bill will be introduced during the coming session to amend the Sex Discrimination Act. The Bill will provide a remedy for persons who suffer sexual harassment; expand and clarify the functions of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity; give the tribunal power to conciliate; and require clubs with mixed membership to provide the same facilities and services to its male and female members.

My Government will introduce Bills to revise and rationalise the legislation providing for the structure, powers and procedures of the courts.

It is proposed that amendments will be made to the Real Property Act to re-establish the Assurance Fund to compensate persons defrauded of their real property and to simplify and clarify the duties of strata title corporations.

My Government intends to introduce Bills to give effect to a number of the reports made by the Law Reform Committee of South Australia.

24. A Bill will be introduced during the coming session to provide an independent element in the procedure for the investigation of complaints against police. Although my Government is satisfied that there is no factual basis to suggestions that investigations under the present system have been deficient, this initiative should allay doubts in the area and contribute to the maintenance of the high reputation of the Police Force of this State.

25. My Government will continue its programme of de-regulation by introducing Bills to repeal obsolete Acts and rationalise overlapping legislative controls.

For example, the Minister of Agriculture during this session, will introduce a Bill to repeal 32 Acts associated with his portfolio. Further administration procedures will be

reviewed to simplify licensing requirements for small businesses and other sections of the community.

Legislation will be introduced during the coming session for a referendum on daylight saving at the time of the next election.

26. In due course the Estimates of Expenditure will be laid before you in the usual way.

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

A number of other legislative measures will be introduced as the session proceeds. These will include measures relating to the Motor Vehicles Act, the Road Traffic Act, the Highways Act, the Lottery and Gaming Act, the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act, the Lifts and Cranes Act, the Motor Fuel Distribution Act, the Long Service Leave Act, the interstate supervision of parolees, the interstate transfer of prisoners, co-operatives, incorporated associations, the Medical Practitioners Act, human tissue transplantation, food standards, labelling and hygiene, drugs, the Crown Lands Act, the Valuation of Land Act, semi-government borrowing, the Public Finance Act, the Stamp Duties Act, the Land Tax Act and the Superannuation Act.

I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement 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 HON. SIR JOHN McLEAY

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I move:

That the Legislative Council express its deep regret at the recent death of the Hon. Sir John McLeay, K.C.M.G., M.M., former member of the House of Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives, and place on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service; and that, as a mark of respect to his memory, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

The late Hon. Sir John McLeay was a former member of the House of Assembly for the seat of Unley from 1938 to 1941, a member of the House of Representatives for the Federal seat of Boothby between 1949 and 1966, and Speaker of the House of Representatives for a record term which commenced in 1956 and ended in 1967. Born in 1893 in Port Clinton, Sir John was created a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George in 1962 and was awarded the Military Medal for action as a stretcher bearer in the First World War, when he was a member of the 13th Field Ambulance in the First Australian Imperial Forces.

Sir John died in June of this year. He was a man of many parts, serving not only at all levels of government in Australia but also in the part that he played in community life. He was not only a member of the House of Assembly, and subsequently a member of the House of Representatives, but prior to that participated in local government, becoming Lord Mayor of Adelaide. It is a rare distinction to have held office in the three levels of government in Australia.

Sir John was Past President of the South Australian Retail Furniture Association, Past Chairman of the South Australian Playgrounds Association, Past President of the South Australian Tree Planters Association, an honorary member of the Town Planning Institute of South Australia, a life member of the Hindmarsh Ambulance, and belonged to the Commercial Travellers Association and the South Australian Cricket Association. Those are but a few of the associations and clubs to which he belonged during his long life. It is a mark of the man's ability and participation in community life that he should have participated in such diverse ways in all areas of community life. We record with appreciation his distinguished public service, and extend to his family

our sympathies on his passing, assuring them that his service not only to local government but to South Australia and the nation is well remembered.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER (Leader of the Opposition): I second the motion. In so doing, I say that the Opposition wishes to join with the Government in paying a tribute to the Parliamentary service of Sir John McLeay, a notable South Australian who had service in the House of Assembly of this Parliament before moving to the House of Representatives to become one of that House's most respected Speakers. Sir John served the South Australian community in areas other than Parliamentary ones. Although he served as Lord Mayor of the city, was knighted in 1962, and thus could be said to have become part of the establishment of Adelaide, he certainly did not begin his life in any atmosphere of privilege. He came from the farming community of Yorke Peninsula, was educated locally at Unley and at Muirden College, and worked his way up in the world by his own efforts.

Sir John's success as Speaker in Canberra in the years 1956 to 1966, following that of another South Australian member, Archie Cameron, cannot be challenged. He was respected by all Parties as a genuine and fair arbiter of Parliamentary debate. Although I did not know Sir John personally, his reputation was of one who generated respect for his genuine commitment to the wider community. He was held in high regard by Labor members of the Federal Parliament, who knew him well.

When he stepped down from his Federal seat and as Speaker, he was farewelled in affectionate terms. The Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr Arthur Calwell) revealed how affectionately Sir John was regarded. 'I hope', Mr Calwell told the Parliament, 'that in your own benign way, when you are sitting at home listening to broadcasts, if you ever do, you will not be inclined to shout out "Order!", because, if you do, your voice will not be heard.' Sir John himself, responding in the House of Representatives in 1966, on his final day, said this:

I am obeying instructions that I used to receive sometimes when I was in the Army—

and the Attorney-General has mentioned Sir John's service in the armed forces—

I used to be told that there is a time when one retreats to a strategic position. That is what I am doing with respect to my own future . . .

Sadly, Sir John's wife died 11 years ago. His surviving family and very many people in Adelaide particularly will miss him. I join with the Attorney-General in extending the sympathies of Opposition members to the late Sir John McLeay's family.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I would like to be associated with the remarks of both members of this Council who have spoken, being the only person here who has served in the Federal Parliament, although not during the time of the late Sir John McLeay. Sir John McLeay, as has already been stated, was held in high esteem. I met him on a number of occasions because he was not only Speaker but also a prominent member of the Government Party in this State for a number of years. I wish to be associated with the remarks, and I extend my sympathy to the members of his family whom I have come to know personally over the years.

The PRESIDENT: I join with the speakers and extend my sympathies to the McLeay family. I ask all members to stand in their places and carry the motion in silence.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 1.13 to 2.30 p.m.]

DEATH OF Mr E. G. DAWES

The **PRESIDENT**: It is with deep regret that I refer to the lamented death on 13 July of Mr Ted Dawes, Head Messenger of the Legislative Council. Mr Dawes served this Parliament for over 26 years, commencing as a Messenger in the House of Assembly on 1 May 1956. He transferred to the Legislative Council to become Chamber Messenger on 11 March 1959, and was promoted to the position of Head Messenger on 9 February 1980. Mr Dawes served this Parliament with distinction throughout his long career, and I know that all who knew and respected him feel his loss deeply. Expressions of sympathy have been forwarded to Ted's family on behalf of all honourable members, officers and staff of the Legislative Council.

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:

- Bridgewater Sewerage Scheme,
- Mount Barker South Primary School—Stages II and III. Final Report.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

By Command—

- Women's Adviser's Office—
Report, 1979-82.
- Report on Ethnic Women Patients in S.A. Government Hospitals.

Pursuant to Statute—

- Rules of Court—Supreme Court—Administration and Probate Act, 1919-1980—Fees.
- Coroners Act, 1975-1981—Rules—Clothing of a Deceased Person.
- Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1981—Regulations—
Witnesses Fees.
- Witnesses Fees—Amendment.
- Explosives Act, 1936-1982—Regulations—Licence Fees.
- Harbors Act, 1936-1981—Regulations—North Haven Boat Ramp.
- Justices Act, 1921-1980—Rules—Witnesses Fees.
- Mining Act, 1971-1981—Regulations—Leases, Fees and Mining.
- Rules of Court—Warden's Court—Mining Act—Amendments.
- Pay-Roll Tax Act, 1971-1982—Regulations—Threshold Rate.
- Planning Act, 1982—Rules—Planning Appeal Tribunal.
- Racing Act, 1976-1982—Rules of Trotting—
Fees.
- Alcohol and Drugs.
- Second Chance and Drivers.
- Drivers Fees.
- Stamp Duties Act, 1923-1982—Regulations—Repossessed Motor Vehicles.
- Trustee Act, 1936-1982—Regulations—Insurance on Loans.

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

Pursuant to Statute—

- Companies (Application of Laws) Act, 1982—Regulations—
Co-operative Schemes.
- Change of Territory.
- Trustee Funds.

Companies (Acquisition of Shares) (Application of Laws) Act, 1981—Regulations—Commonwealth Application.

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

Pursuant to Statute—

- Building Act, 1970-1982—Regulations—Sliding Doors and Salt Damp.
- Education Act, 1972-1981—Regulations—
Boarding Allowances.
- School Councils—Election of Staff Representatives.
- Fisheries Act, 1971-1980—Regulations—
Licence Fees.
- Abalone Licence Fees.
- Friendly Societies Act, 1919-1982—Amendment of General Laws—
Australian Natives Association;
The South Australian United Ancient Order of Druids Friendly Society;
- Independent Order of Rechabites Albert District No. 83.
- Offenders Probation Act, 1913-1981—Regulations—Probation Officers Duties.
- Real Property Act, 1886-1980—Regulations—
Fees.
- Strata Titles Fees.
- Roads (Opening and Closing) Act, 1932-1978—Regulations—Fees.
- Roseworthy Agricultural College—Report, 1981.
- Sewerage Act, 1929-1981—Regulations—Fees.
- South Australian Local Government Grants Commission Act, 1976—Regulations—Coober Pedy.
- Surveyors Act, 1975—Regulations—Board Fees.
- Teachers Registration Board of South Australia—Report, 1981.
- Tertiary Education Authority of South Australia—Report, 1981.
- Waterworks Act, 1932-1981—Regulations—Fees.
- Corporation of Adelaide—By-law No. 20—River Torrens.
- Corporation of Thebarton—By-law No. 44—Child Minding Centres.
- District Council of Clinton—By-law No. 24—Cattle.
- District Council of Elliston—By-law No. 24—Grain Trucks.

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

Pursuant to Statute—

- Chiropodists Act, 1950-1973—Regulations—Fees.
- Country Fires Act, 1976-1980—
Regulations—Various Amendments.
- Country Fire Services Board—Report, 1980-81.
- Food and Drugs Act, 1908-1981—Regulations—Poisonous Substances Licence Fees.
- Health Act, 1935-1980—Regulations—Pest Controller's Licence Fees.
- Hospitals Act, 1934-1981—Regulations—Hospital Charges.
- Industrial and Commercial Training Act, 1981—Regulations—Attendance at Colleges.
- Long Service Leave (Building Industry) Act, 1975-1982—Regulations—Ordinary Pay.
- Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, 1946-1980—Regulations—
Milk Prices.
- Cream Prices.
- National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972-1981—Regulations—
Fees.
- Wildlife Fees.
- Hunting Permit Fees.
- Planning and Development Act, 1966-1981—Regulations—
Interim Development Control—Extension.
- Outer Metropolitan Planning Area Development Plan—District Council of Angaston—Mengler Hill.
- Metropolitan Development Plan—Corporation of the City of Kensington and Norwood—Zoning.
- Corporation of the City of Elizabeth—Zoning.
- South Australian Health Commission Act, 1975-1981—Regulations—
Government Health Centres.
- Incorporated Hospital Charges.
- Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1935-1975—Regulations—
Advertising.

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

Pursuant to Statute—

- Consumer Credit Act, 1972-1982—Regulations—Print Sizes.
- Consumer Transactions Act, 1972-1982—Regulations—
Monetary Limits.

Trade Measurements Act, 1971-1982—Regulations—Glass Sizes.
Trade Standards Act, 1979—Regulations—Toy Display Panel.

QUESTIONS

INTEREST RATES

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: In view of the speculation in recent weeks about the possibility of an increase in interest rates on home loans to be charged by building societies, will the Minister of Consumer Affairs, as Minister in charge of the registration of building societies, advise the Council what approaches have been made to the Government by building societies about this proposed increase in interest rates and, if approaches have been made, what have been the results of those approaches?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: An approach has been made in line with what has been suggested in the press. The position is that the consent of the Government, or of the Minister, is not needed in this matter, but there is a price control power in the Building Societies Act and a power in that Act to control the lending rate. Because of that, it has long been the practice (I believe, also, in the time of the previous Government) that when building societies wish to increase their lending rate they approach the Government so that it may exercise that power if it wishes. To my knowledge, that power has never been exercised.

A letter was written recently indicating that the building societies wish to increase their lending rate in line with speculation in the press. The Building Societies Act sets up the Building Societies Advisory Committee, which is charged with the statutory task of advising the Government on all matters pertaining to building societies. While it by no means follows that the Government would accept the advice of that advisory committee, it is deemed proper that that committee should be convened and should tender its advice before any decision is made by the Government.

The position at present is that we are in the process of setting up a meeting of the advisory committee. I inquired yesterday as to what the situation is. I am not sure, but I think the situation is that there are three Government appointees on that committee and they wanted to be sure that they were in possession of all the necessary facts before the meeting took place. The meeting will take place and the advice of that committee will be tendered to the Government. As soon as the Government is satisfied that the scene has been set and that all necessary information is in the hands of the members of that committee, and when the advice of that committee has been tendered, the Government will make up its mind what ought to be done about this matter.

LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Mines and Energy, a reply to a question I asked last month, towards the end of the previous session, about the further use of liquid petroleum gas?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: After a detailed evaluation by officers in the Department of Mines and Energy, the Government recently announced a major policy to encourage the greater use of l.p.g. as a transport fuel in South Australia. The policy was designed specifically to reduce the State's dependence on imported transport fuels, recognising that Cooper Basin l.p.g. will be available in large quantities from early 1984. A target replacement of 10 per cent of petrol consumption by l.p.g. has been set for 1990.

Other aspects of the policy include: conversion of 50 vehicles in various departments to l.p.g. in 1982-83 to evaluate their performance in the Government sector; conversion of three Ministerial vehicles to l.p.g. (work is to be carried out in the next few weeks); evaluation with industry of the best means of storing and distributing l.p.g. within the State; initiation of a major promotional campaign on l.p.g.; and exemption of l.p.g. from State franchise for at least five years.

The Government has requested the Motor Vehicle Utilisation Committee to investigate and report on which vehicles could be economically converted to l.p.g. and the possibility of extending the distance travelled before vehicles are disposed of.

The policy endorsed the existing l.p.g. bus trial being conducted by the State Transport Authority, which has now been in operation for six months. The cost of fuel per kilometre is cheaper with l.p.g. than with diesel, but is not yet sufficiently low to offset the higher capital cost of the buses. Minor equipment problems have been encountered, as would be expected in any test programme. The buses have been noise tested, and were significantly quieter than diesel buses up to 80 km/hr.

An application for funding support has been made to the Commonwealth Government for the purchase and testing of six standard S.T.A. buses with l.p.g. fuelling. If the application is successful, this programme will commence in 1983.

WATER QUALITY

The Hon. J. R. CORNWALL: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Community Welfare, representing the Minister of Health, a question about water quality.

The PRESIDENT: Is leave granted?

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: No.

The PRESIDENT: Leave is not granted.

VICTOR HARBOR COUNCIL

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I desire to direct the following questions to the Minister of Local Government about the District Council of Victor Harbor:

1. Is the Minister aware of a letter dated 16 December 1981 from the State Planning Authority to the Victor Harbor council clerk concerning interim development control on shops, businesses, etc.?
2. Will the Minister check the reasons contained in that correspondence why the S.P.A. withdrew its delegation of the previously referred to interim development control?
3. Is the Minister aware of the nature of the proposed business undertaking of a Mr R. Dawkins to the Victor Harbor council for its approval?
4. Further, is the Minister aware of the proposed business undertaking in respect of Mr I. Dunstan submitted to the Victor Harbor council?
5. If so, can the Minister explain why the S.P.A. through the appropriate Minister refused an accountant and an orthodontist permission to operate on an extremely restricted operational basis against a decision of the duly elected council?
6. Can the Minister inform this Council of the influence of the foregoing question on the Cabinet's decision to dismiss an elected council?
7. Was the Minister aware that, at the time he appointed Mr Arland to replace the council, Mr Arland had

- been or was involved in considerable buying and selling of real estate in Victor Harbor?
8. Will the Minister have inquiries made as to whether or not any of the above transactions comply with all aspects of the Local Government Act and other regulations?
 9. Will the Minister say whether or not he, as Minister, accepted his responsibility towards a newly formed council by ensuring that the District Clerk advised the council of its responsibility in respect to the authority of the Commissioner of Highways?
 10. Did the Minister record that omission as a reason to dismiss a properly elected council?
 11. Is the Minister aware that the District Clerk had failed in his responsibilities to have elected council?
 12. Will the Minister ascertain the following: is it a fact that the District Clerk was not a member of the Municipal Officers Association for the many years he had been District Clerk?
 13. Did the District Clerk become a member of the M.O.A. only when he was under scrutiny for a number of reasons and his dismissal was a probability?
 14. Will the Minister seek information for this Council from his colleague, Hon. Dean Brown, Minister of Industrial Affairs, whether a Mr Kelly (a senior official of the M.O.A.) said that Mr Adams (the District Clerk) was not going to be dismissed unless by the Industrial Court or Commission? Is the Minister aware of any injunction lodged by the M.O.A. or Mr Kelly regarding the District Clerk?
 15. Can the Minister inquire whether or not a figure of \$300 000 was mentioned by either Mr Kelly, the District Clerk, or a person from the Local Government Association?
 16. Would such actions be considered a reason to dismiss the council as the difficulties of dismissing the District Clerk were financially impossible upon the council?
 17. Is the Minister aware of the 53-page report of the inspection of accounts, etc., of the Victor Harbor council?
 18. If so, is the Minister aware that there is a supplement to that report for limited distribution and discussion? Will such supplement, if any, be widely available?
 19. Is the Minister aware that on page 4 of the report that statement of receipts and payments, cash receipts, etc., is misleading and is of little value to the elected council?
 20. Will the Minister inquire as to the reasons for certain actions in respect to finance?
 21. Finally, is it true that the report states that it is not possible to reconcile, to balance in respect to bank statements?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The honourable member has asked a lot of questions. He will appreciate that I will have to confer with at least one of my colleagues, the Minister of Environment and Planning, who administers the State Planning Office, which was responsible for the withdrawal of certain planning control from Victor Harbor some time ago. I hasten to reply to the honourable member's insinuation (as I understand it) that I or the Government had some knowledge of Mr Russell Arland's having been involved in the buying and selling of property at Victor Harbor prior to his appointment. I make perfectly clear that I had no such knowledge, that the Government also had no knowledge, and I doubt very much indeed that there is one ounce of truth in that accusation. However, I will obtain information from Mr Arland in regard to that. The second point I stress is that the Victor Harbor council was never dismissed, as mentioned by the honourable member.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Suspended.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: It was suspended, because that is the power that the Government possesses under the provisions of the Local Government Act in a situation of that kind. The council was not dismissed; it was simply suspended. The Administrator, as the honourable member probably knows, was withdrawn last week and the council is now functioning as a normal local government body. Turning to the report of the investigation, to which the honourable member has just referred, of course I knew about that report; I was instrumental in its being brought down. It was tabled in this Council and honourable members know all about it, because it is a public document. I had no knowledge of any supplementary report that the Hon. Mr Foster has mentioned relating to that formal document tabled in this place.

I will refer the matter also to the Minister of Transport, because some of the honourable member's questions involve the Commissioner of Highways. I hasten to say that the names mentioned by the honourable member, that is, Mr Dawkins and Mr Dunstan, are not known to me at Victor Harbor. I take it from the honourable member's fifth question that one of the gentlemen might be in the council and the other an orthodontist. I think it would be prudent for me to obtain a complete and detailed reply for the honourable member in relation to the questions relevant to those gentlemen and the other matters that he has raised, and I am quite happy to do that.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I desire to ask a supplementary question. Is the Minister aware of a letter dated 16 December 1981 to the District Clerk of the District Council of Victor Harbor from the State Planning Authority in which both Mr Dawkins and Mr Dunstan were mentioned as being one reason for the suspension of the council? In relation to the Minister's reply to my earlier question, how did he arrive at his decision? He has claimed in this Chamber today that he knows nothing of the two gentlemen who brought about some aspects of the council's suspension.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The withdrawal of the interim development control powers of the Victor Harbor council was not a total withdrawal of the council's planning controls at all, although it is popularly believed that it was.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: I asked whether you were aware of the letter dated 16 December 1981.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am coming to that. I am trying to overcome a misunderstanding in relation to the State Planning Authority's difficulties in 1981, before the Government suspended the council. The council got into bother with the State Planning Office. I have no knowledge whatsoever of any letter dated 16 December 1981 in relation to the gentlemen mentioned by the Hon. Mr Foster or any application that they may have been involved in. As Minister of Local Government at that time I learnt publicly, along with everyone else, that portion of the council's planning control had been withdrawn by the State Planning Authority.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: And those two people were directly involved.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I do not know that.

The Hon. N. K. Foster: You did not do your homework then.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: It was not my homework at all, because it is not my province to be concerned with planning, zoning and matters that come within another Minister's administration. In its wisdom the State Planning Authority removed some of the planning controls that had been exercised by the Victor Harbor district council. I can obtain the actual reasons for that from the State Planning Authority if the honourable member would like those details. I have no knowledge whatsoever of the letter dated 16 December 1981. I can only take up the matter as it came within my ken, that is, people living in the district of Victor Harbor told

me repeatedly that they were not being served by good local government in that area.

Naturally I also knew, by reading the newspapers and from contact with people living in the area, that there were considerable divisions within the local community and within the council. It all added up to a situation which resulted in planning controls being withdrawn, and I had to consider whether I should step in and take action under the provisions of the Local Government Act. I took action and recommended to the Government that the council at that time be suspended and that an administrator be appointed to act in its stead. That recommendation was adopted. If I obtain from the State Planning Authority the reasons why the Victor Harbor council's planning authority was withdrawn, some information in relation to the letter or application mentioned by the Hon. Mr Foster might become available.

DRIVING LICENCES FOR THE DEAF

The Hon. C. W. CREEDON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, a question about drivers licences for the deaf.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. W. CREEDON: Driving licences for the deaf seem to have a particular anomaly in relation to licence requirements. In fact, there are probably anomalies in relation to other driving licence categories; I certainly know that there have been some complaints, especially by people over 70 years of age. It is a source of wonderment to some deaf people how one deaf person can get away with a licence that bears no restrictions while another may have his or her licence stamped to indicate that an extra mirror must be fixed to the vehicle. It is not that a deaf person has any objection to the two mirrors; it is the lack of uniformity that puzzles him. I believe that all deaf people must undergo a special test before being allowed to take driving lessons. Deaf people seem to have an extra sense, an extra awareness, and are usually fully aware of what is going on around them.

I believe it is very unlikely that deaf people need the aid of an extra mirror. Anyone who has an extra mirror would know that they are never in focus because, being on the footpath side of the vehicle and at convenient arm level, they become the plaything of anyone passing by. It is very frustrating when one is wearing a seatbelt and is ready to go, only to find that the left-hand outside mirror is not in focus. I believe that the average person would not alight from his vehicle to adjust the mirror; consequently, that mirror is a useless adornment. Is there any discrimination in the case of deaf applicants for a drivers licence? Is the two-mirror requirement a recent restriction? How many deaf licence holders have the two-mirror restriction placed on their licences?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: I will refer that question to my colleague, the Minister of Transport, and bring down a reply.

STUART HIGHWAY

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I sought information regarding progress in the construction of the Stuart Highway from the Minister of Transport, through the good offices of the Attorney-General. Has the honourable gentleman some information on that matter?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: In relation to the progress of the work, I am informed that the following work has been completed: The 50-km section between Bookaloo and Mount

Gunson was completed in March 1981. The sealing of this section completed the sealed link between Port Augusta and Pimba (Woomera); the 49.5-km section between Pimba and Lake Hart was completed in May 1982, including large box culverts at Eucola Creek; 25 km of the 43-km section between Lake Hart and Baker Well was completed in December 1981; and the 51.5-km section between Glendambo and Gosses was completed in May 1982.

In relation to the work in hand, the remaining 18 km of the 43-km section between Lake Hart and Baker Well and the 19.5-km section between Baker Well and Glendambo, excluding a 3-km section at Coondambo, is under construction with anticipated completion in October 1982. A contract has recently been let for the construction of a bridge over the railway at Coondambo and 3 km of approach road construction.

Tenders have been called for the construction of 113 km of the Coober Pedy south to Pootnoura Creek section (tenders closed on 6 July 1982). Ninety-three kilometres is full construction and sealing and 20 km is to sub-base level only. An additional 4 km of sealed access roads to Coober Pedy and the construction of six bridges is included in the contract.

The following future work is proposed: it is proposed to continue the construction of the 88 km Gosses to Mirikata section during 1982-83. Some work was undertaken on this section in early 1981; preconstruction work is continuing for the remaining sections of the Stuart Highway.

With respect to funding the following is the position. By 30 June 1981, approximately \$13 800 000 had been spent on construction and sealing of unsealed sections of the Stuart Highway between Bookaloo and the Northern Territory border as follows: in 1978-79, \$1 000 000; in 1979-80, \$4 300 000; in 1980-81, \$8 500 000.

The estimated expenditure for 1981-82 is approximately \$12 200 000 and anticipated expenditure for 1982-83 is \$13 500 000. All figures include departmental general and engineering administration costs.

COUNTRY BUS SERVICES

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, a question regarding country bus services.

Leave granted.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: Some of my constituents who are pensioners have brought to my attention that they are being discriminated against when using public transport, as they are living in the country. Metropolitan public transport is provided by the Government and is financed partly by fares from people who use that transport. On metropolitan transport people holding a pensioner concession card do not have to pay a fare. However, in the country this is not the case.

Upon investigating this, I found that it is not only the pensioners who are being discriminated against in this manner by having to pay fares on country bus services which are subsidised by the Government, but local government in country areas has to put in a considerable amount of money. That is not the case in Adelaide; metropolitan councils do not put any money into the State Transport Authority. Public transport in Adelaide is completely the responsibility of the State Government.

As someone who lives in the country, I feel that country people are already at a considerable disadvantage *vis-a-vis* people living in the metropolitan area of Adelaide. To add to that geographical disadvantage, I feel that a financial disadvantage is totally unwarranted.

Does the Minister consider that the Government has the same obligation to all South Australian citizens, regardless of whether they live in the country or the city? If the answer is 'yes', will the Minister demand that the Government fund subsidised country municipal bus schemes on the same basis as public transport is funded in the metropolitan area, that is, totally financed by the Government, without any contribution whatsoever by councils?

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN: I will refer that question to the Minister of Transport and bring back a reply.

HOME OWNERSHIP

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Housing a question about lone parents and home ownership.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: A number of people have approached me regarding the difficulties in which sole parents often find themselves when making repayments on home mortgages after a marriage has broken up. As an example, a woman was left by her husband and the financial settlement between them was such that he was happy for her to keep the house, provided she took over the mortgage repayments while the children were living with her. This man was not paying any maintenance (regardless of whether he should have been or not) and this woman had to exist on a pension of \$79 a week, her mortgage repayments being \$65 a week. As members know, it is totally impossible for a family to exist on \$14 a week.

The report of the Womens Adviser's Office, which was tabled in this Chamber today, indicates that problems of this type have been encountered by other people. This report also indicated that the Emergency Housing Office had produced a report entitled 'Lone Parents and Home Ownership'. In the preparation of this latter report the Womens Adviser's Office provided co-operation and help. There is no indication in the report tabled today of what was contained in the report of the Emergency Housing Office on this question. Can the Minister say what recommendations are made in the report on lone parents and home ownership? Does the Government intend to implement these recommendations? Will the Minister provide me with a copy of the report?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am not certain which report the honourable member is referring to. There was a report tabled today.

The Hon. Anne Levy: The report tabled today was the report of the Womens Adviser's Office which, on page 42, discusses a report produced by the Emergency Housing Office on lone parents and home ownership. It is the report of the Emergency Housing Office I am seeking.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I can obtain a copy of that report for the honourable member. The situation of people in the circumstances as outlined by the honourable member is very much appreciated by the Government and it wants to do all it can to care for these people. The Government places much credence on the needs of such people who are in slightly different circumstances from those of lone parents who may apply to the Housing Trust for subsidised rental accommodation. Indeed, over 25 per cent of people applying to the Housing Trust for subsidised rents are single-parent families.

Of course, over 50 per cent of all Housing Trust tenants are in welfare or subsidised groups. In the circumstances to which the honourable member refers, I think she appreciates the great difficulties that both the State and the unfortunate woman are confronted with. In fact, I think the Hon. Miss Levy said that with that person's pension and the require-

ments under the existing mortgage it is an impossibility for her to continue, at least in the longer term.

We have, as I think the honourable member knows, a Home Purchaser in Crisis Scheme which can help a person such as this in the short term. That provides for a loan of \$1 500 interest free, which is proving very helpful because it carries people over an emergency situation which is not long term. Hopefully, circumstances may change again and that person can remain in the house.

The Hon. J. R. Cornwall: How many people have actually taken that grant? It is about 10 or a dozen.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I have that information, if the honourable member would like to dwell on that particular scheme. Returning to the question I have been asked, the only way that a person in those circumstances can survive and keep that same dwelling is through the restructuring of the mortgage.

The Hon. Anne Levy: The State Bank will not do that.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Some lending institutions will. They most certainly want to discuss these problems with the mortgagor and want to help if they can. They are working in close liaison with the Government. On the other hand, if it is obviously an impossibility in the longer term, then that person must really take some counsel and make plans in which adequate housing is available for a longer period.

The Housing Trust has allocated two of its fairly senior officers to give advice to people in these circumstances, irrespective of whether a trust home is involved or not. These officers will go to the homes of people in such need and discuss the alternatives that might be considered by a person in those circumstances in an attempt to find ways and means for them to survive as a home owner. Of course, they are very difficult circumstances when there is so little money available for payments on a house and when a pension at that rate is all the income being obtained by a woman in those circumstances. I am quite happy to get the report for the honourable member, and if she would care to give me further details of the particular case we will certainly look into it carefully to ascertain whether or not one of our schemes to help such people might apply in this instance.

SCHOOL BUSES

The Hon. M. S. FELEPPA: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister representing the Minister of Education a question about school buses.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. S. FELEPPA: I recently spent a few days at Mount Gambier where I met parents whose children attend local schools. They expressed concern about the condition of buses used for the transportation of their children. They asked me to put the following questions to the Minister.

First, are buses used by the Education Department for the transportation of children to and from school required to be examined for roadworthiness and, if so, how often, how many were examined last year, and how many failed? Secondly, are school teachers who drive school buses regularly for the transportation of students to and from school required to be examined for driving skills or physical disabilities and, if so, how often, how many were examined last year, and how many failed?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I will refer those questions to the Minister of Education and bring back a reply.

TRAVEL AGENTS

The Hon. G. L. BRUCE: Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs advise what action the Government is to take against travel agents who have gone bankrupt leaving people who have booked passages without tickets?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: If the honourable member's question relates to the past (to travel agents who have gone bankrupt and to people who have booked fares and to agents who have not been able to provide the tickets and bookings), that would depend upon the complaint made to the department in individual cases. Some complaints have been made regarding matters referred to recently in the press. I think three complaints were made, and in two of the cases, through speaking to the travel agents, officers of my department were able to fix the matter and to make sure that the people complaining did get the tickets, and so on, to which they were entitled. In regard to what happened in the past, if any complaints are made to my department, they will be dealt with. In regard to the future, the Government recognises that there is a problem area here as there was, for example, with insurance brokers. As honourable members would have heard from His Excellency's Speech earlier today, the Government proposes to introduce negative licensing legislation regarding insurance brokers. There seems to be a not dissimilar problem with travel agents. There obviously needs to be some sort of control, but just what kind of control the Government will have to decide, and is deciding at present, as a matter of urgency. Representations have been made by the Association of Federal Travel Agents (AFTA) seeking some kind of control and that is being considered both by me and the Minister of Tourism. Whether all that is required is simple legislation involving trust accounts with fines for non-compliance, or whether something else is required, is something that the Government needs to consider and is considering.

FAMILY POLICY

The Hon. BARBARA WIESE: My question is directed to the Minister of Community Welfare and concerns family policy. An article written by Penny DeBelle appeared in last night's *News* advising that the Government will, in future, require Cabinet members to provide a document titled 'Balance of Interests' when making recommendations for appointments to Government committees and boards. The idea is that the Cabinet will take into consideration the ratio between men and women on committees and boards with a view to improving female representation.

I think that everyone would agree that this is a commendable move on the part of the Government and I hope that it is serious about that move. The indications so far are that it is not, because within two weeks of announcing the establishment of a talent bank recently within the Women's Adviser's Unit from which suitable appointments would be made to such committees the Government set up the Institute of Sport with only one woman out of eight members on that committee.

The point that I want to raise relates to another part of the article, which states that the balance of interest document will replace the family impact statements which normally accompany any such Cabinet submission. This and other information I have recently received about the operation of the Family Research Unit within the Minister's department leads me to believe that the Government's commitment to the research unit and the family impact statements and, indeed, its attitude to families in South Australia in general, is diminishing. For example, I have been told that the Family Research Unit has been without permanent staff

since at least the end of 1981. During some of that time, temporary officers have been seconded from other parts of the department and employed in the research unit.

Is it true that the Family Research Unit has been without permanent officers for several months? Will the Minister say what has happened to the work of the unit, particularly the survey on community attitudes to families, which the Minister stated in 1980 would be undertaken? Have permanent officers now been appointed to carry out the work in the Family Research Unit? Finally, will the Minister confirm whether the trends away from the Government's emphasis on matters affecting families, as I have outlined, in fact reflect a shift in Government policy?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: The staff of the Family Research Unit has always been two. Recently, the unit has been without permanent staff, because one of the staff members was promoted and the other member recently left the department and took up another position in the voluntary welfare field. Officers are currently carrying out the tasks of the Family Research Unit, but it is true that at present the unit does not have permanent staff. That matter is being considered and we intend to rectify the situation.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: When?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: As soon as possible and as a matter of urgency.

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: It has taken six or seven months already.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: In regard to the second part of the question, there is no shift in the Government's policy on families. The Government continues to reiterate its strong support for the family unit as the basis of society.

SUPERMARKET CHECKOUT SCANNERS

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Consumer Affairs a question about supermarket checkout scanners.

The PRESIDENT: Is leave granted?

The Hon. N. K. Foster: No.

The PRESIDENT: Leave is not granted.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Will the Minister of Consumer Affairs respond to the questions that follow the following statement? The question of computerised price scanning checkouts in supermarkets in South Australia has been raised in this Council on previous occasions. In particular, Labor members have expressed concern at the abolition of individual price marking. The *Advertiser* on Monday contained a report—

The Hon. N. K. Foster: Is this in the form of a question?

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: —that some 400 jobs could be lost from 1985 to 1990.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member's request to provide an explanation has been denied.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I am providing a statement which forms part of my question. I appreciate your point, Mr President. I asked whether the Minister would respond to my questions in view of the following facts and I am now outlining the facts. It is clear that supermarkets are gearing up for the introduction of computer price scanning. Computer markings, as honourable members will have noticed, are now appearing on many individual items.

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I rise on a point of order. During the course of my occupancy of this place, an explanation could be aborted by leave not being granted or by the calling of 'Question'. I do not want to resort to the second stage. My understanding of the Standing Orders is that a question must be directed to the Minister and must

contain no embellishment of proposals by the participant or by any press speculation.

The PRESIDENT: I will have to take that point of order, and I ask the Hon. Mr Sumner to ask his question of the Minister directly.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: There is nothing in Standing Orders which indicates that questions must be of a particular length. I am outlining the facts.

The PRESIDENT: I will read the relevant Standing Order, which states:

In putting any question, no argument, opinion or hypothetical case shall be offered, nor inference or imputation made, nor shall any facts be stated or quotations made including quotations from *Hansard* of the debates in the other House, except by leave of the Council and so far only as may be necessary to explain such question.

I believe that leave was not granted by the Council, and, therefore, the question must be directed to the appropriate Minister.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I appreciate that. In view of the fact that the question of computer price scanning checkouts in supermarkets in South Australia has been raised in this Council on previous occasions, in view of the fact that we are concerned at the abolition of individual price marking, and in view of the fact—

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: A further point of order, Mr President. In view of the ruling that has been given—

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: In view of the fact that—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the Hon. Mr Sumner to ask his question directly of the Minister.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: That is what I am doing.

The PRESIDENT: No. The honourable member is making statements, which are not questions. Standing Orders quite clearly provide that that is not allowed.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I am asking a question. In view of the fact that it is clear that supermarkets are gearing up—

The Hon. N. K. FOSTER: I rise on a further point of order.

The PRESIDENT: If it is the same point of order, it is not necessary for the honourable member to rise again. I take the point that the Hon. Mr Sumner is in contravention of Standing Orders: he must obey the Standing Orders and ask questions as appropriate. I ask the honourable member to ask his question.

The Hon. C. J. SUMNER: I completely disagree with that interpretation of what I am doing. The questions I wish to ask are as follows. In view of the facts stated, including the fact that the Minister has provided reports in the past to the Council and has indicated that this matter is under investigation by his department and by him, and in view of the fact that supermarkets are proceeding, as I understand it, to introduce computer price scanning checkout counters in this State, my questions are: does the Government support the introduction of computer price scanning checkout counters in supermarkets and, in particular, what is the Government's attitude to the loss of individual price marking? Secondly, what action does the Government intend to take to deal with the potential loss of 500 jobs?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I will answer the second part of the question, in regard to the potential loss of 500 jobs, first. That matter has been reported in the press recently and is clearly within the area of the Minister of Industrial Affairs. In fact, a report was initiated by the Minister. I will refer that matter to the Minister and bring back a reply. Regarding the use of scanners at checkouts, from my knowledge (and this appeared in the press), there is only one such checkout in operation at present, and that is at Clare. It is intended that another such checkout will get under way.

I have reported to the Council before (and the Leader has said several times that the situation is still the same) that this matter has been taken up by the Standing Committee of Consumer Affairs Ministers and a working party has met on the matter. At present, as far as I recall (and the last time I received a report of the working party the situation was the same), a code of conduct is being worked out with the various retailers concerned, the supermarket chains and so on: they would operate under that code.

At the present time, and as presently advised, I do not think the Government has any antipathy or any objection to there not being individual prices marked on the items because that, after all, takes away most of the point of the scanner. The main thing that has been brought up (and there has been consensus at the Ministers' conference) is that an itemised list be handed to the consumer. At present, when one goes to a manually operated checkout one gets a list which is a jumble of figures. It is easily possible, by the use of electronic computer checkouts, to state that a loaf of bread is so much, and so on. That in practise is usually what is provided. One of the things on which there has been consensus at the meetings of the Standing Committee of Consumer Affairs Ministers is that this ought to be done and that an itemised list should be provided to the customer at the checkout. Certainly, at present I am not prepared to say that the South Australian Government considers that individual prices should be marked on the item itself (of course, they are marked on the shelf from which the item is taken), because that will take away the point of having an electronic scanner.

AGEING CITIZENS

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Community Welfare a question on the ageing.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: The report of the Women's Adviser's Office includes a statement that the Government has contributed to a working party on ageing which has been set up by the Minister of Community Welfare to formulate a statement of South Australian Government initiatives and responsibilities for the ageing. This has been prepared for inclusion in the report by the Federal Government to the United Nations in Vienna next month, where there is to be an international conference on the problems of the ageing. Although this report does not state that the report prepared by the working party is complete, doubtless it must be at this stage seeing that it must be incorporated in the final document by August this year. Would the Minister tell us what recommendations regarding the ageing are made by the report and what needs of the ageing in this community have been discovered by it? Will he make a copy of the report on the ageing available to me?

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I will consider the matters raised in the question by the honourable member and bring back a reply.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED (MERGER) BILL

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I move:

That the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited (Merger) Bill be restored to the Notice Paper as a lapsed Bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1982.

Motion carried.

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN brought up the report of the select committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY LIMITED (MERGER) BILL

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I move:

That the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited (Merger) Bill be restored to the Notice Paper as a lapsed Bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1982.

Motion carried.

The Hon. K. T. GRIFFIN brought up the report of the select committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

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

That the Select Committee on Local Government Boundaries of the District Councils of Balaklava and Owen have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended to Tuesday 31 August 1982.

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, M. B. Dawkins, M. S. Feleppa, 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.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) (1982)

The PRESIDENT: I draw attention to a proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* dated 1 July 1982 notifying the Royal assent to the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1982.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.45 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 21 July at 2.15 p.m.