

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday 9 August 1983

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

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Attorney-General (Hon. C.J. Sumner):

Pursuant to Statute—
Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act, 1983—Returns.
Superannuation Act, 1974-1981—Regulations—Part-time Employees.

By the Minister of Health (Hon. J.R. Cornwall):

Pursuant to Statute—
Crown Lands Act, 1929-1983—Section 5 (f)—Statement of Land Resumed.
Geographical Names Board of S.A.—Report, 1982-83.
Planning Act, 1982—
Crown Development Report by South Australian Planning Commission on Proposed Acquisition and Transfer of land by Commissioner of Highways.
Regulations—Watershed Councils.
Psychological Practices Act, 1973—Regulations—Fees.
Racing Act, 1976-1983—Regulations—Betting Tickets.
Greyhound Racing Rules—Fighting and Failing to Pursue.
Real Property Act, 1886—Regulations—Caveats.

By the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Frank Blevins):

Pursuant to Statute—
Road Traffic Act, 1961-1981—Regulations—Declared Hospital for Blood Analysis (Booloroo Centre).

QUESTIONS

POLLS

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: I seek leave to give a brief explanation prior to asking the Minister of Health a question on the subject of polls.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: In the *News* on 20 June 1983 it was reported that:

Dr Cornwall said he would canvass public opinion on the issue by commissioning a poll on a range of drug issues, including marihuana. 'I want to find out where people's fears and concerns are about a number of drug-related issues,' he said.

My questions are:

1. Has the Minister commissioned this opinion poll?
2. If so, what are the questions that are being asked?
3. Who is paying for the poll, in view of the fact that the Minister has indicated his intent to use the opinion poll results to introduce a private member's Bill?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: No, I have not commissioned the poll yet. I have made it very clear in a number of public statements over the past month that I believe that we need a lot more comprehensive information concerning community attitudes on a range of very important issues, particularly alcohol.

It is my intention later this year that we will conduct a major campaign on the pattern of alcohol consumption and drink driving in 16 to 24-year-olds. I am pleased to be able to tell the Leader of the Opposition that already I have obtained \$100 000 worth of sponsorship from the State Government Insurance Commission for that purpose. Other moneys are also being put together, and I expect that the actual media campaign will involve about \$250 000. We regard that as being extremely important, but that is just

one of several major campaigns that will be devised by the Health Promotion Services Unit of the South Australian Health Commission.

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: Will that money be used for the poll?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: That money will not be used for the poll. If the Leader will be a bit patient I will explain from where the money will come for the poll. I have not yet commissioned the survey, but it is important that it is commissioned so that all that information is in before we start to devise a range of major programmes in regard to alcohol and drugs. As to what questions will be asked, I am unable to say at this moment. Already, I have asked Mr Rod Cameron of ANOP—

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: By telephone?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: No.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I have asked Mr Rod Cameron to structure something for my consideration. It will be wide-ranging—

The Hon. K.T. Griffin: Did you call for tenders?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: No. I looked at the previous poll which was conducted by the Liberal Government and paid for by public funds—

The Hon. R.I. Lucas: On marihuana?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: No. It was the McNair Anderson survey conducted on attitudes to smoking. A wide range of questions were asked.

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: For the purpose of private members' Bills?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I am coming to that in a moment. That comment is quite stupid and untrue. I will explain it in a moment if the Leader lets me just get on with the serious business of answering the question. The poll is to be structured in such a way that information will be used specifically to redesign the programmes with regard to alcohol abuse, sensible patterns of alcohol consumption, alcohol and driving, the menace of drink drivers, particularly the problems that we have with 16 to 24-year-olds. I point out that 50 per cent of all road accidents involve people in that group: seven out of eight drivers in that group are males and many suffer brain damage. The long-term rehabilitation of brain-injured patients is an enormous problem.

In the past, we have tended to run these education campaigns as a knee-jerk reaction: we have conducted them in the way that we thought was best. We went into schools and told 16-year-olds that they should not smoke for a variety of reasons, but they had already been smoking for four years or more. We told them that they should not smoke because it causes lung cancer at the age of 65 or a first coronary at the age of 58. Strong evidence shows that such campaigns have been misdirected; in fact, they have largely been a waste of public money. We want to redirect them in the light of the best poll information that is available. It is my view that the best polling organisation in this country now is ANOP, and for that reason I have asked Mr Rod Cameron—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: Frankly, your McNair Anderson survey did not stand up at all—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister is answering the question and honourable members on the other side of the Council are to cease interjecting.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: Thank you very much, Mr President. We have got off to a much better start. You are protecting me very well.

I specifically asked Mr Cameron, the principal of A.N.O.P., to devise a programme for my consideration. At this stage

it has not hit my desk, although it will later this week. I will then consider it. I believe that Mr Cameron runs the best polling organisation available. I want to be assured when we start to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars of public money on these campaigns that they are the most effective ones that can be devised.

I am unable to say what questions will be asked, because the proposal and its costing have not yet come to my desk. However, I expect their arrival at some time later this week. Of course, Health Commission funds will be used to pay for the poll as they were used to pay for the McNair Anderson survey conducted for the previous Government. I submit that this is a completely legitimate use of public funds across the spectrum of alcohol and drug abuse. The matters that will be addressed include the following: public attitudes to marihuana, through a range of areas, whether it be personal possession, decriminalisation, partial prohibition, moral attitudes, what sorts of penalties ought to apply to organised crime that might be involved at the other end of the spectrum, attitudes to heroin and hard drugs, attitudes to alcohol, how we can get into schools, when we should start doing it, and so forth. As I have said before, when we get into the expensive business of running campaigns in these various areas we want to be assured that they are structured in the most effective way possible.

This is not a question of running a poll so that at some stage I might introduce a private member's Bill regarding the decriminalisation of marihuana. I have made it clear in the past couple of months, but say again because the Leader of the Opposition is not a terribly quick thinker, that it is not my intention at this stage to introduce legislation to decriminalise marihuana for personal use because I am not in the business of hitting my head against brick walls.

The Hon. M.B. Cameron: Because you got rolled in Cabinet.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I rarely get rolled in Cabinet, and certainly did not get rolled on this issue. It is not my intention to introduce a private member's Bill relating to this matter at this time. I have said this in public many times and have been reported many times as saying so. If and when the climate is right—

The Hon. M.B. Cameron: I thought that you were using the money for education.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: The Leader thinks very slowly. I am not using the money for that purpose. I will speak slowly now so that the Leader of the Opposition in this place might be able to comprehend what I say—when the climate is possibly right then I will consider introducing a private member's Bill in relation to this matter. I am not going to be seen as some sort of one-issue campaigner—the Minister for Marihuana, or anything else. I have a lot of things on my plate. There are reforms needed in the health system that we inherited from the previous Government. I might say that that system was left in a hell of a mess by the previous Administration and I am extremely busy in literally dozens of areas because of that, so I am not going to be cast as a one-issue Minister or one issue-politician in this matter or in any other matter.

QUESTIONS

The PRESIDENT: I will explain that it has always been, as long as I can remember, the custom to take questions from members on the front bench first. I intend to keep to the rule of the front bench having the first question.

MIGRANT EDUCATION

The Hon. C.M. HILL: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Ethnic Affairs a question about the teaching of English to migrants.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C.M. HILL: I can best explain my question by reading from an article in this morning's *Advertiser* headed 'Teachers of migrants call strike', as follows:

More than 600 migrants will miss English lessons tomorrow when 130 adult migrant education teachers throughout South Australia go on strike.

The strike, the first since the adult migrant education service was formed in 1947, follows what the teachers say is the Federal Government's refusal to honour an election promise to strengthen the service.

The article then refers to the President of the Teachers of English to Adult Migrants, Robyn Mitchell, as follows:

... the strike was being held in conjunction with similar action in other States. Classes for more than 6 000 students would be disrupted nationally.

'The current programme is grossly inadequate to meet the current demand from migrants for English lessons,' she said. 'The waiting list in Adelaide is at present 900, and this will grow to 1 200 by the end of September. And the waiting time for those on the waiting list is now seven months.'

She said most people on the waiting list had a very low level of English and had little hope of learning the language any other way.

Naturally, she then discussed the psychological damage, damage to migrants' self-esteem and the social tensions which exist when migrants are unable to speak or understand English. Robyn Mitchell then criticised the Federal Labor Government and claimed that it made an election promise prior to the last Federal election (which it had not honoured) to provide permanent teachers for migrants who required English teaching.

Prior to the last election I attended the opening of premises in the Renaissance building in Rundle Mall for the teaching of English to migrants. Mr Mick Young was also present, speaking for what was then the Federal Opposition; he spoke with considerable emphasis and said that, if his Party was successful in the then forthcoming Federal election, permanent teachers would be provided for this service. Apparently, that promise has been broken.

The Hon. C.J. Sumner: Rubbish! What evidence do you have of that?

The Hon. C.M. HILL: I am quoting the woman in charge of the whole operation.

The Hon. C.J. Sumner: You'd better wait and see, hadn't you?

The Hon. C.M. HILL: I place a lot of credence on Robyn Mitchell's statements because, even though the Minister may not agree, I believe that she is a very responsible person. In view of this very unfortunate dispute, which was made public through the media this morning, has the Minister of Ethnic Affairs taken any action at all in an endeavour to contribute towards some resolution of the problem on behalf of the ethnic community in this State? If the Minister has not yet made any move in that direction, will he give an undertaking that, at the earliest opportunity, he will do all that he can on behalf of the ethnic people of South Australia to achieve some resolution of the situation so that migrants can satisfactorily obtain the service that they deserve in this area?

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER: It is somewhat surprising that the honourable member is raising this matter, in view of the fact that the current situation exists as a result of policies followed by the former Federal Government, which was constituted by the Party of which he is a member. It now appears that since March the honourable member has decided to crusade on this issue. I was not reflecting on Miss Mitchell

or her remarks. I was merely querying whether or not a promise had been broken by the Federal Government in relation to this issue.

The fact is that the Federal election was in March, well through a financial year. I understand that the Federal Government is operating substantially on the basis of a Budget that was introduced by the Fraser Government and allocations of funds made for this financial year by that Government. That is why I query whether or not at this point in time a promise has been broken. The fact is that the Federal Budget for the current financial year has not yet been handed down and I would suspect that, after it has been handed down and after the honourable member has perused it, he may be on stronger grounds in making some complaints about the Federal Government.

A commitment was made by the Federal Government in opposition in regard to the unsatisfactory nature of the contract arrangements for teaching English to migrants and in relation to permanent employment. I intend to take up the matter with the Federal Minister, and I will do so as a matter of urgency. I will put the view of the Ethnic Affairs Commission and the South Australian Government that there is a case for upgrading the service and for the conversion of these teaching positions to permanent positions. That action will be taken as a matter of urgency.

CAMPERVAN HIRE

The Hon. J.C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Consumer Affairs a question about overseas campervan hire.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.C. BURDETT: The shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs in Victoria, Mr John Richardson, has warned Victorians intending to travel overseas against hiring campervans from an English firm, Cornwall Motor Caravan Hire, which advertises extensively in Australia. Mr Richardson said:

I've had recent personal experience of this company, having booked a six-berth Ford campervan through the Victorian Tourism Authority. The vehicle was defective from the start. We had to be towed off the ferry at Calais only two days after taking delivery, and the battery, battery connections, and alternator had to be replaced. The changeover alternator left us stranded in a remote area of France while another replacement was fitted at my expense, for which the company refused to reimburse.

My family and I lost time out of our tour and money out of our budget, because Cornwall Motor Caravan Hire refused to accept responsibility for the unreliable state of the vehicle and necessary repairs. Australian travellers are totally at the mercy of such companies which demand money in advance and then leave the customers to repair the defects of the vehicles with their own money and in their own time. I met many Australian tourists who told of similar experiences.

Mr Richardson called on the Victorian Tourism Authority to cease arranging charters through Cornwall Motor Caravan Hire and asked the Government to arrange for the Ministries of Tourism and Consumer Affairs to gather information from returning Victorian tourists about campervan hirers and to make it available to other people planning overseas trips.

Does the South Australian travel service deal with Cornwall Motor Caravan Hire? Secondly, has the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs received complaints of this kind, not necessarily only in regard to the Cornwall service but also across the board, involving campervans being hired in advance in Australia, paid for in advance, and the service being found to be totally unsatisfactory?

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER: The simple answer is that I do not know, but I will endeavour to obtain the information for the honourable member.

GRAPE SURPLUS

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Agriculture a question about the grape surplus.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: A month or two ago the Minister was reported as saying that in the light of surpluses in the grape industry a possible solution might be for the Government to refuse to renew irrigation licences where they are used for the growing of wine grapes. That is a remarkable and novel course to suggest and, if implemented, would have a dramatic impact on licensees who have developed their properties on the tacitly accepted and underlying principle that the Government will not seek to manipulate long established licences as a means of influencing economic circumstances and policy. In the light of the report, I ask the Minister:

1. Does he hold the view that irrigation licences ought not to be renewed where the properties to which the licences relate produce grapes?

2. If he does, what would be the basis on which the policy would be applied?

3. If he does not, will the Minister give an unqualified commitment that the Government will not interfere in the renewal of irrigation licences and that licensees will be guaranteed security of tenure of their licences?

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I am not quite sure where the Hon. Mr Griffin got this report from.

The Hon. K.T. Griffin: From the newspaper.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: So as not to waste the time of the Council with this question, I will make available to the Hon. Mr Griffin a copy of the speech that I made. If the honourable member still wants to ask me any questions after reading what I actually said (and not what the newspaper said)—

The Hon. K.T. Griffin: You can answer it now.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: Just a minute. If the honourable member still wants to ask me any questions then I will be delighted to answer them on another day.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD POLLUTION

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Health a question on environmental lead pollution at Port Pirie.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I have had drawn to my attention a report which was published in the Port Pirie *Recorder* last Friday, according to which the Government has deferred all Housing Trust construction in Port Pirie West and Solomontown while awaiting the report of the task force which was set up to investigate lead pollution problems in Port Pirie. This decision will reportedly affect plans for 79 new houses and units, including the Gallagher Village and six attached houses in Solomontown. Will the Minister please explain the reasons for the deferral, particularly in the light of reported remarks by the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly, who has condemned Cabinet's decision and claimed that the Housing Trust work should be allowed to proceed?

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: It is quite true that Cabinet has decided that school and residential development in the general vicinity of Port Pirie West and Solomontown should be deferred until the task force has produced its report and Dr Phil Landrigan from the United States has concluded his investigations and made his report and recommendations to me as Minister of Health. This decision to defer (and I stress the word 'defer', not 'cancel') was made on the basis

of advice from the Chairman of the Central Board of Health, Dr Keith Wilson, and after consideration of a comprehensive report prepared by Dr Wilson on the available information concerning environmental lead pollution at Port Pirie.

Dr Wilson's report included the results of a comparative study of blood lead reading results obtained at the Port Pirie West Primary School and the Thebarton Primary School. That study was undertaken by the South Australian Health Commission at the specific request of the Port Pirie Local Board of Health. The Secretary of the Local Board of Health wrote to ask me for 'data that shows a comparison of blood lead reading results obtained at the Port Pirie West Primary School and the Thebarton Primary School'.

On 18 July 1983 the Adelaide News published a report that the Port Pirie Board of Health wanted the Thebarton blood lead survey results to be published so that informed debate over lead risks could take place. The report said that many believed that the Thebarton survey would prove that Port Pirie children face no higher risk than children living in polluted inner city areas. The News also quoted the Deputy Mayor of Port Pirie as saying that some local people were suffering excessive fear over possible lead poisoning to children and that air lead pollution levels in Port Pirie 'are safer than people supposed'.

The report by Dr Wilson, who is also the Principal Health Commission Officer of the Public Health Service, was based on survey material and scientific results. It shows that six of the 323 children surveyed at Thebarton Primary School had venous blood lead levels greater than the level of concern set by the National Health and Medical Research Council of 30 µg/100 ml of blood. This compared with 12 children out of 195 at Port Pirie West Primary School who had blood lead levels above 30 µg/100 ml. In other words, the Pirie West blood lead levels above the level of concern are more than three times greater than at Thebarton. I seek leave to have inserted in Hansard without my reading them the comparative figures produced by the Health Commission.

Leave granted.

Comparative Figures:

Blood Lead Interval µg/100 ml	Thebarton Primary School	
	Blood Lead Interval	Number of Children
0-5		0
6-10		50
11-15		155
16-20		89
21-25		16
26-30		5
31-35		2
35		4

Number tested 321

Blood Lead Interval µg/100 ml	Port Pirie West Primary School	
	Number of Children	Recalled for Venous No. 30
0-5	0	
6-10	11	
11-15	56	
16-20	63	
21-25	40	
26-30	13	1*
31-35	6	5*
35	6	6

Number tested 195

*Three children with levels of 30 µg/100 ml by capillary test were found to have levels less than 30 µg/100 ml by venous test. One child with a level of 34 µg/100 ml was tested by the local doctor and the result is not known.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: Thebarton Primary, of course, is situated near one of Adelaide's busiest traffic intersections. Dr Wilson has pointed out that five of the six Thebarton Primary schoolchildren with elevated blood lead

levels came from two families. In one of the families—with three of the children—both parents had similarly elevated blood lead levels. This suggests a source other than the school. In any event, no child required treatment or showed any impairment of health.

No-one should be surprised at the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, which are reported very prominently in the Port Pirie Recorder of last Friday. The Leader of the Opposition is by now quite notorious for his knee-jerk reactions and politics. In this matter, in which he says that the Minister of Health has not presented any compelling evidence to justify delay in the housing projects, quite frankly, Mr Olsen's attitude is disgraceful and irresponsible.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: Mr Olsen has issued a public statement claiming that I have not presented any compelling evidence to justify a delay in the projects. He has rushed into print to condemn the Government without knowing the facts and without regard to the health and welfare of the people of Port Pirie, particularly the women and children who are the victims of environmental lead pollution. Mr Olsen's action, I believe, was not only irresponsible but also shameful.

The truth is that there are compelling reasons for the decision by Cabinet, and I have set out those reasons in a letter to the Port Pirie Local Board of Health dated 2 August 1983. I will mention some of the salient points for the information of the Council. An analysis of soil samples taken from house gardens during a case-control study of behaviour and environmental factors in Port Pirie indicates problems with contamination, especially in the general area of Pirie West and Solomontown. According to Dr Wilson, the normal natural lead concentration in soils is between nil and 25 mg of lead per kilo of soil. The case-control study produced a mean of approximately 700 mg of lead per kilo of soil for the cases and a mean of 475 mg for the controls.

There is also cause for concern about lead levels in Port Pirie rainwater tanks. Although it had been thought that lead levels in rainwater tanks were tending to decrease, a Health Commission analysis of survey results shows that the trend has not been consistent. Dr Wilson, in his report to me, stated:

It may be concluded from the results that this survey confirms the presence of problem areas at Solomontown and Pirie West.

Results of another study conducted by the Health Commission's Epidemiology Branch indicate significant differences in blood lead levels of Port Pirie children depending on which primary school or kindergartens they attend. Capillary lead levels tended to be higher for the Ellendale kindergarten, Solomontown kindergarten and the Pirie West play group than for the Halliday or Hannon Street kindergartens. Both Solomontown and the Pirie West Primary Schools presented relatively high mean values. Health Commission officers are now attempting to identify possible reasons for the variations that have been detected. In my letter to the local board of health, I set out in detail the available information. I also quoted the specific advice tendered by Dr Wilson (and here I am referring directly to Dr Wilson's report to me as Minister of Health) that:

It would be preferable for school and residential—

The Hon. M.B CAMERON: I rise on a point of order, Mr President. A great difficulty can arise in Question Time if questions that are clearly prepared by the Government before the session are used as a means of avoiding the need to give Ministerial statements, in which case we do not have an invasion into Question Time. I ask whether the Leader of the Government will consider providing an extension of

time in this case; otherwise, it really becomes impossible for the Opposition.

The PRESIDENT: I cannot take that as a point of order. The Minister can deal with it as a request and perhaps give it some courteous attention.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I treat the request not courteously but more with contempt. I can understand the Opposition's being upset because its gallant Leader in another place has shot from the lip, as usual, and has got himself into great difficulties.

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: On a point of order, Mr President, the Opposition has no problem with the Minister's making a statement on the subject. He does not need to abuse the Opposition on that basis at all. It is time that he grew up a little.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: If the Opposition has finished, Mr President, perhaps I can proceed with my answer.

The PRESIDENT: Once again, I cannot accept that as a point of order; it is a request.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: When I was quite inappropriately interrupted, I was quoting from a specific report prepared for me by Dr Wilson, who is in charge of our Public Health Division in the Health Commission. In his words—and these are not the words of a politician, either first rate or second rate—Dr Wilson stated:

It would be preferable for school and residential development in the general vicinity of Pirie West and Solomontown to be deferred for the time being.

The Council should contrast that statement with the words of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Olsen, in another place who, in the Port Pirie *Recorder*, is quoted as stating:

The project should be allowed to proceed because there is a need for this type of accommodation. The Minister of Health has not presented any compelling evidence to justify a delay in the projects.

The Hon. J.C. Burdett interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: You are even more stupid than I thought.

The PRESIDENT: Order! We went through all this before. I ask the Minister to reply to the question.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: Thank you, Mr President. Clearly, in the light of this new information and the recommendation made by Dr Wilson, Cabinet had no option but to defer (and I emphasise 'defer') school and residential development in the general vicinity of the Port Pirie West and Solomontown areas. The Government has arranged for Dr Landrigan, a world authority on heavy metal toxicity, to visit South Australia to review the findings of the task force. Dr Landrigan, who is Director of the Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations and Field Studies at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati, Ohio, will arrive here early in September. His work will provide the Government with an independent, expert and impartial assessment of the situation.

It is important that people appreciate that Cabinet has acted only to defer development, as I said previously: we have not scrapped any projects, and we have not pre-empted the findings of the task force or the recommendations of Dr Landrigan. This is not the time for anybody to make cheap political capital out of the circumstances.

The situation requires rational debate and a sensible consideration of the issues before us. I hope that everybody concerned with the future of Port Pirie and the health and welfare of its citizens will acknowledge that need—even members of the Opposition.

DIVING STANDARDS

The Hon. R.J. RITSON: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Attorney-General, representing

the Minister of Labour, a question about diving safety regulations.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.J. RITSON: The Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act provides for the making of regulations for safety in a wide variety of industries, and one of the industries regulated by that Act is the diving industry. In particular, regulations made under the Act prescribe certain codes of safety based on the publication of the Standards Association of Australia. The regulations list two publications, CA12—1970, and one publication that I have not been able to obtain, namely, CZ18.

Essentially, these are codes which detail decompression times as divers surface, conditions of medical health examination by doctors, and provisions for stand-by divers and attendants. In 1979 these standards were superseded by a publication, *Australian Standard 2299—1979*. Those standards are adopted by the defence authorities and the same publication has a defence title of 'Underwater Air Breathing Operations . . . NSC 4220'.

The problem that has arisen is that the old regulations were enshrined in law, and diving contractors who wished to tender for work could cost their work on the basis of the old standard and still comply with the law. Diving contractors who are prudent and who wish to adopt current standards of safety are penalised if they operate in accordance with Australian Standard 2299, thus losing jobs to contractors who are prepared to work to the lower safety standard. Will the Minister give urgent attention to amending the regulations so that the latest Australian Standard 2299 becomes the standard required by regulation?

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

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

The Hon. L.H. DAVIS: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Education, a question about independent school funding.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.H. DAVIS: If one examines the published statistics on enrolments in both State schools and independent schools in South Australia, one sees that it is obvious that there has been a dramatic shift away from State schools to independent schools. In examining the calendar years 1977 to 1982, one sees that enrolments in State schools declined from 233 210 to 207 944, which was a 10.8 per cent decline in the period 1977 to 1982 inclusive.

In the calendar year 1982 there was a fall of 5 089 or 2.4 per cent in the number of students enrolled in public schools. This has been an accelerating trend in the past two years. In independent schools, on the other hand, there has been a 16.5 per cent increase in enrolments—

The Hon. Anne Levy: That is counting Catholic schools—that is not just independent schools.

The Hon. L.H. DAVIS: If one wants to quibble about the semantics involved one can call them non-government schools, but I think to most people the term 'independent schools' generally includes Catholic schools. To make myself quite plain to the Hon. Miss Levy (because I am sure that I have already made myself quite plain to other members) I am including Catholic schools in what I am saying. There has been an increase of 16.5 per cent in the student level at independent schools over the period 1977 to 1982. This has resulted in the number of enrolments increasing from 39 446 in 1977 to 45 972 in 1982—in the past two years especially there has been an acceleration. In the 1982 calendar year the number of students enrolled in independent schools

increased by 2 660, or 6.1 per cent, to a total of 45 972. In the period 1977 to 1982 student enrolments in independent schools increased from 14.5 per cent to 18.1 per cent of the student population in South Australia. Notwithstanding that, the figure is well below the Australian average of 23 per cent of students being enrolled in private schools.

Honourable members will no doubt be aware that, although 23 per cent of school students in Australia are enrolled in private schools, they receive only 12 per cent of total Government spending on education. There have been recently announced cuts by the Federal Government which will affect 41 private schools in Australia, including two in South Australia. There have been indications in recent days that the Victorian Government is considering cuts or readjustments to funding to independent schools.

My questions to the Minister are as follows: first, can the Minister explain why there has been a movement away from State schools to independent schools, most notably in the past two years in South Australia, given that this period has been one of severe economic downturn? Secondly, will the Government undertake not to redirect any State funds away from independent schools to State schools in the forthcoming Budget, given the continuing significant increase in private school enrolments, the continuing decrease in State school enrolments and the fact that the withdrawal of Government funds from private schools will ultimately penalise parents of children attending those schools because of their having to pay higher school fees for their children?

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I thank the honourable member for his extensive speech. I thought that, rather than having picked up his question, he had picked up his Address in Reply speech and had decided to give it now. It ill behoves members of the Opposition to complain about the length of answers given when they ask questions of such length and complexity during Question Time, questions which could be dealt with by letter. Having said that, I will certainly refer the honourable member's question to my colleague in the other place and bring back a reply.

PROPERTY RENTS

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Education, a question about rents for Education Department properties.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about this matter on 11 May. Because Parliament was prorogued the subsequent reply I received by letter cannot be printed in *Hansard* unless I ask my question again. I do not wish to take up a lot of time in doing this but, briefly, the question concerned the letting of surplus Education Department properties for non-government school use. I instanced, in particular, in my question the letting of the old Verdun Primary School to the Hills Christian Community School Incorporated. I asked the Minister whether it was Education Department policy when leasing such surplus property to charge full market rent to obtain the maximum possible advantage for taxpayers. I also asked whether market rates were being charged in the case of the particular school I mentioned and, if so, what was the rate being charged.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: The answer supplied by the Minister of Education was that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, the charges are those determined by the Valuer-General at current market rates. In the case of the Hills Christian Community School Incorporated leasing the old Verdun Primary School property, the annual fee is

\$3 800 payable in advance. All rates, services and energy charges are met by that body.

MARKET RESEARCH

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about market research.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I was quite surprised to hear the Hon. Mr Cornwall let slip this afternoon that a major survey had been commissioned by him, or the Health Commission without putting it out to tender—

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I rise on a point of order. I have just been misrepresented by the honourable member saying that I 'let slip' something this afternoon. I have stated publicly on several occasions, and have announced, that the Government intends to commission a survey. I have been reported on this widely, so it is not a question of 'let slip'. I have made considered comment this afternoon on this matter, as I have done on several occasions.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: The Minister has either misinterpreted, misunderstood or misheard what I have just said. I did not say that he had commissioned a survey but that he had commissioned a survey without putting the contract for that survey out to tender. That is not a matter on which he has made public statements. The Minister indicated that the contract for this survey had gone to Mr Rod Cameron's company, A.N.O.P. It is interesting to note that Mr Rod Cameron (and anyone who reads the papers or listens to television or radio would know this) and his company are intimately involved with the Australian Labor Party in South Australia and nationally and have conducted that Party's market research over many years.

I make the point that I make no specific criticism of Mr Cameron or his company in respect of its ability to conduct market research programmes. Whether I would go as far as the Hon. Mr Cornwall and say that it is the best company conducting market research, I do not know. I believe that the Government should ensure, through the tender system, that pressures in the market place are brought to bear on the expenditure of public moneys so that they are not wasted, because, as the Minister is well aware, market research programmes can cost many thousands of dollars.

The Hon. J.R. Cornwall: And the results can be quite bodgy if one hires a crook company; the honourable member ought to know that because he has worked for the Liberal Party as a professional.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I certainly would not criticise or reflect upon the work of a reputable national company such as McNair Anderson, as the Minister did in this Chamber this afternoon. Where the Minister thinks he gets his ability to judge market research when he has recently had a ping-pong survey conducted through the Health Commission at Noarlunga, I would not know.

The Hon. J.R. Cornwall: That is a stupid lie. The honourable member is being corrupted.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister will come to order.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I am sure that McNair Anderson would find the Minister's statements most offensive, too.

The Hon. J.R. Cornwall interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister of Health will come to order and I ask the Hon. Mr Lucas not to argue with the Minister.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Where public—

The Hon. J.R. Cornwall interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! In view of the hassle we had on the last day of sitting, if the Minister does not come to order I will have to take other action.

The Hon. J.R. Cornwall: I was just debating—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am asking the Minister to come to order.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I repeat, where public moneys—

The Hon. J.R. Cornwall: You really are an idiot. You are the prime idiot—

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: Mr President, I rise on a point of order. The Minister of Health has just referred to a member of the Opposition as a 'prime idiot'. For how long is this Council going to continue to put up with this type of ranting from the Minister of Health? I ask the Minister of Health to withdraw and apologise.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I take it that the Leader is objecting to the words 'prime idiot'.

The PRESIDENT: I think those are the words.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: I did not mean to qualify it, Sir, so I withdraw it.

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON: Mr President, that is not satisfactory. The Minister of Health must learn to behave in this Chamber and I ask that he withdraw in an unqualified way and not in a qualified way.

The PRESIDENT: Before calling on the Minister, I point out that to a large extent the conduct of this Council is in the hands of its members. I hope that the example set by the front bench on both sides has some influence on the conduct of proceedings in this Chamber. Bearing that in mind, I ask the Minister to withdraw his statement to the satisfaction of the Opposition so that the Council's business can proceed.

The Hon. J.R. CORNWALL: Yes, Mr President, I withdraw, as I always do.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: As I have said, three or four times, where public money is involved the Government should ensure that there is no possibility of that money being wasted and of one company being favoured to the disadvantage of other companies that may be able to do the research just as effectively and perhaps at a lower cost to the Government and the taxpayers of South Australia. My questions are:

1. Has the State Government made any decision that Mr Rod Cameron's market research consultancy, A.N.O.P., is to be used for market research conducted by Government departments or agencies?

2. Will the State Government insist that all market research be put out to tender prior to any consultancy being appointed and, if not, why not?

3. What contracts for market research for State Government departments and agencies has Mr Rod Cameron's company, A.N.O.P., completed or been asked to complete for State Government departments and agencies, and what is the estimated cost of each contract?

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER: The answer to the honourable member's first question is 'No'; the answer to the honourable member's second question is 'No'; and the answer to the honourable member's third question is 'I do not know, but I will obtain that information'. The honourable member's proposition verges on the absurd. The honourable member could have ascertained from his colleagues, who were in Government for three years, how many of their consultancies were let out to tender. The former Government seemed to employ consultants every day of the week for various aspects of Government business. My recollection of the situation is that the former Government did not tender one of those contracts out to the public.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas: Does that make it right?

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER: There are some things that are appropriate for public tender, as the honourable member

would realise, and there are other things that are not necessarily appropriate for public tender, such as market research and consultancies.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas: Why not?

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER: First, because there are large variations in the quality of work performed, and that has to be assessed; secondly, different companies have different skills, both in the pure consultancy area and in relation to market research. I do not believe that the Government is obliged to insist on public tender for market research or for other consultancies. That approach was adopted by the former Government and it is being adopted by the present Government. In any event, up until now, the Minister of Health has simply asked that a proposal be prepared for his consideration. As yet, no-one has been engaged in relation to this matter.

STANDING ORDERS

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER (Attorney-General): I move:

That, for this session, Standing Order No. 14 be suspended.

Standing Order No. 14 requires that the Address in Reply debate be completed before any other business is entertained. In recent times, it has been the tradition to suspend that Standing Order to enable the introduction of not only Government business but also private members' business while the Address in Reply debate proceeds. I believe that the Address in Reply debate should be given priority and I trust that all honourable members agree with that proposition. Nevertheless, it is convenient to be able to introduce other items of business prior to the Address in Reply debate being completed.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. C.J. SUMNER (Attorney-General) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:

1. We, the members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open Parliament.

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

The Hon. G.L. BRUCE: I move:

That the Address in Reply as read be adopted.

In moving for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I, too, join with the Governor in extending my sympathy to the family of the late Hon. John Coumbe, who served this Parliament and the people of South Australia for 21 years, which is a long period to serve in a State Parliament. Full recognition of the service that he gave was given on 15 March this year.

Parliament has already placed on record its concern and sympathy for all those people who suffered loss during the recent bushfires. I fully concur with the Governor's remarks in relation to the bushfires and their victims. It is to be hoped that the studies being made and the lessons learnt in the wake of those fires lead to a greater awareness and the adoption of fire reducing practices in those areas most prone to bushfires.

It was heartening to see an article in last week's *Advertiser* which stated that a family, whose home was saved from

disastrous fires at Yarrabee Road (where four people died and 16 homes were destroyed) has installed a sprinkler system to defend the house against the ravages of Australian bushfires. The system that was installed was designed by South Australian irrigation engineers and is considered by the C.F.S. to be one of the best systems of its kind available. With forethought such as this, and taking regard of lessons learned in the past, it is to be hoped that the personal disasters of lost homes and lives will be reduced if in the future fires such as we have witnessed occur.

For the past three years I have been very critical of the role that this Council has played in the Parliamentary system of this State and, while other members of this Council have expressed somewhat similar views, it appeared that the *status quo* would remain and that the hope of changes was slim. However, I must congratulate this Government on the steps it has taken to make the role of Parliament more relevant by setting up a joint select committee to consider and report upon proposals to reform the law, practices and procedures of Parliament. While I realise that decisions for change may be a long way down the track, I feel that we are on the right track and, given goodwill and co-operation by all political Parties that are represented on the select committee, I believe that useful and worthwhile recommendations will be forthcoming. I must commend the Government for this initiative, which I believe was long overdue.

Paragraph 16 of the Governor's Speech referred to the potential for tourism in this State. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending a seminar arranged by the Tourism Development Board in conjunction with the South Australian Association of Regional Tourist Organisations (SAARTO). The objectives of the conference were as follows:

1. To enable operators to develop their ideas on how they can improve their profitability.
2. To inform the industry of recent developments in regional tourism.
3. To provide an opportunity for local government authorities and regional tourist associations to develop their ideas on how they can encourage tourism within their areas.
4. To review progress towards achieving the objectives of the tourism development plan and update the plan where necessary.
5. To identify ways of increasing awareness within the community of the importance of tourism.

This conference was the second one of its kind to be held in South Australia, the first being held last year. From the support that the conference received from the industry, it would appear that it will become an annual feature. I found it most heartening to see that at long last the industry, with which I have had a long and close association, is coming of age and is recognising that it is indeed an industry, albeit one of the most fascinating and diverse industries one could find, but nevertheless an industry. I believe that the previous Government and the previous Minister are to be congratulated on the recognition that they gave to helping co-ordinate and promote an awareness of the importance of this industry.

I also believe that the present Government is to be congratulated on further developing the industry by its recognition of the importance of the industry to this State and by setting up close links with Japan. I understand that a Japanese national will be trained in South Australia to eventually take up service in Japan with the sole purpose of promoting South Australian tourism. Promotion of South Australia as a place 'to enjoy' has been undertaken in our neighbouring States of Victoria and New South Wales, and Western Australia is also receiving attention in regard to the development of South Australia's tourist industry. When one realises that it has been estimated that some 25 000 jobs in South Australia are dependent on tourism in one form or another and further that some \$100 000 000 a year enters the State coffers through tourism, one can start to

see the importance of the industry to this State and its employment potential.

It is my belief that tourism is one of the few growth and labour-intensive industries left for development in our State, and it is worthy of the interest and recognition of the Government of the day. One of the key speakers at the tourism seminar I attended earlier this year was Ms Matel Matschulat from New York; she is one of the leading personnel in the promotion scheme undertaken for New York State and City under the catchy slogan 'I love New York'. The facts and figures presented by her left no doubt as to the importance of tourism to New York and the spin-off and job opportunities for which it was responsible. It was an eye-opener and I have no doubt that the example of New York can be successfully compared to and implemented on a varying scale in almost any worthwhile tourist promotion scheme undertaken in South Australia.

I trust that the momentum that is evident in the South Australian tourist industry is maintained and recognised by all as being vital to the well being of South Australians and deserving of support and proper development to help achieve its potential.

Unemployment is still a major problem not only in South Australia but also throughout Australia. I hope that the initiative taken by the Federal Government and the money made available to the States for job-promotion schemes will help to set the pattern to alleviate this soul destroying and destructive element in our society. A full-page advertisement in today's *Advertiser* refers to the Federal Government, working together with State and Territory Governments, local council and community groups, in a community employment programme, which is worthy and deserving of support by all sections of the community.

I believe that, without the potential for employment and the dignity of earning and spending money, we have a cancer in our midst that has all the seeds of destruction for our society. If one could account for and add up the total costs to our society of unemployment, I have no doubt that we would all be staggered. Apart from the welfare costs, there is vandalism, crime, drugs, and associated problems, which must be taking a terrible toll on our society. If we are reaching a stage where full employment is no more than a pipe dream (and I believe that this could be so), it is time that we as a society fronted up to this problem and decided where we are going. It seems incredible that the luck of the draw between school leavers who all start off on an equal footing results in one finding a job and having a wage, and another consigned to the unemployment queue, with his chances of gainful and full employment becoming less and less each year until eventually he gives up all hope of finding a worthwhile and rewarding job.

Society has not yet come to grips with this problem. Where we go is a question that can be answered only by people sitting down and genuinely discussing the problem. The days of making political mileage from unemployment are past. I believe that any one group does not have the answer, be it a Government, union—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The members who are having audible conversations must sit down.

The Hon. G.L. BRUCE:—industry, a religious group, and so on, because one group in isolation has no hope of having its views accepted and determining what solving the problem should entail. Therefore, it is essential that we as a society start thinking about where we are going and what we intend to do about employment, or the lack of it. Japan, a country that is always held up as an example for the rest of the world in regard to employment and productivity, has set us on a path where computers, robots, and the like have taken the menial and drudgery jobs out of the work force. Japan's exports have shattered the internal industries of

many countries to a point where to compete with imports is virtually impossible. This has occurred for a variety of reasons, not all of which are related to the workers of the country that is affected.

We are told that we should be more like the Japanese in our industrial relations and so on: most of our problems would then disappear. I doubt this, and I was fascinated by a recent article in *Time* magazine of 1 August 1983. To help put things in perspective as to how I see employment shaping up in the future, I will quote the following:

Everywhere in Japan, one senses an intricate serenity that comes to a people who know precisely what to expect from each other. But one also senses—occasionally, distantly—a disconcerted, vaguely frantic emotional vibration, a feeling of dislocation and alienation and incipient loss. The Japanese are almost obsessively aware of their problems; it is possible that they exaggerate them in order to execute a subtle kind of psychological evasion—the domestic concerns relieving them, implicitly, of larger international responsibilities.

Yet the difficulties are real enough. It is a myth much advertised in the West, for example, that the vast majority of Japanese workers enjoy lifetime employment, a fondly cooperative relationship with management and a mutual delight in the company song. True, there is less than 3 per cent unemployment. But, in fact, Japan has a schizophrenic business system, a dual economy. The myth applies to 30 per cent of it, in the high-tech and highly productive companies. But the other 70 per cent of Japanese workers labor in smaller, considerably less efficient industries. There, they receive low wages and few financial benefits, if any. Such workers bounce from job to job within the traditional economy; last year there were 17 000 bankruptcies in Japan.

The Japanese, in their pursuit of commercial success, have neglected a thousand social and civic details. They need the parks and playgrounds and sidewalks that they never got around to building. Their lives are often almost unbearably constricted. They commute two, three or four hours a day to work from claustrophobia-inducing apartments out in suburban regions that look like an interminable Bridgeport smudging into the outskirts of Albuquerque. Some 75 per cent of the population lives in the narrow Pacific corridor from Tokyo to Hiroshima. Land prices are impossibly high (more than \$100 per square foot in suburban Tokyo). Newly married couples despair of ever owning a house (a typical two-room Tokyo apartment measuring 400 square feet costs more than \$83 000). The clutter of Japanese life is not only difficult, it is sometimes noxious. Lakes and swamps are polluted. For a people with an exquisite and even rhapsodic appreciation of nature, the Japanese are capable of casually littering and ravaging it.

This, then, is the price paid for 3 per cent unemployment. I would suggest that as a society we would not be prepared to pay this price. Another interesting aspect as to where the future lies in relation to Japan and the rest of the world's future is indicated in an extract from a book *The Other 100 Years War: Japan's bid for Supremacy 1941-2041* by Russell Braddon. I will quote the following paragraphs to indicate what he sees as a developing trend relating to computers:

Already, as Professor Edward Feigenbaum of Stanford University, California, warned a London conference on computers in July 1982, they have bred a new and privileged generation of computer programmers dubbed 'knowledge engineers'.

Already they have announced to the world that their government has set aside £200 000 000, and that Japanese industry will contribute £600 000 000, to expedite the construction by these knowledge engineers of a fifth generation of computers that will be more intelligent than people—that will be able to see, hear, talk and think. Such a fifth generation, which the Japanese promise will be on the market within fifteen years will sweep much of the West's high technology into oblivion. It will result, Professor Feigenbaum said, in 'an electronic Pearl Harbour'; and the loss of face that would ensue from a failure to fulfil their promise means that the Japanese are confident of their ability—indeed are obliged—to launch just such an electronic onslaught upon their rivals before the end of the twentieth century.

Meantime their latest five year economic plan commenced in 1983, and Japanese economists predict that Japan's real Gross National Product will grow at an average rate of 4 per cent per annum for the rest of this century.

In 1981-82, it grew at only 2.7 per cent. For 1982-83 growth was predictably not much more—but than that of any of her rivals. The juggernaut's progress may have been impeded by world recession, but its thrust is as relentless as ever. By the year 2000 Japan (with less than half the population of the United States)

expects her share of the world's Gross National Product to rise from 10.1 per cent today to 11.9 per cent, while America's will fall from 22.4 per cent to 19.8 per cent, West Germany's from 6.7 per cent to 5.9 per cent, and Britain's from 3.3 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

'Rapid industrial growth,' a report commissioned by Premier Suzuki warned in 1982, 'causes friction, so sufficient time must be allowed for other countries to adjust. Japan must take account of this.' But a fifth generation of seeing, hearing, talking, thinking computers within fifteen years allows other countries no time to adjust to anything; and one of Japan's greatest weaknesses has always been her inability 'to take account' of the protests of her rivals. More frighteningly still, she has never yet practised the virtue of magnanimity in victory.

It is to be hoped that America's magnanimity to her in 1945 has convinced her that such a virtue exists. It is also to be feared that America's inability to compete with the beneficiary of her post-war magnanimity will have convinced the Japanese that it is a virtue that yields no dividends.

'We will be able to use our own computer-ware to change the world,' promised Mr Ibuka of Sony. And added, 'Once our techniques are completed, we will transfer them to less developed countries.'

Among those less developed countries, Mr Matsushita foretold, will be America and all the nations of Western Europe—between whom they will be able to pick and choose.

This paints a frightening scenario as to what the future holds for our job creating potential in Australia and the rest of the world. Therefore, I see it as vital that we come to grips with the unemployment problem that now exists in our society. We ignore it at our own peril. The Governor's Speech has set an optimistic view of what the future holds for us in South Australia. I trust that all the points that he has raised will come to fruition. If they do, it will be a step in the right direction for some of the ailments from which we are suffering. It would be expecting too much to have some of the more controversial subjects on which we as Parliamentarians are asked to legislate looked at in a more objective manner so that the best results for all concerned are obtained and so that playing politics is not the overriding factor. I refer to subjects such as our penal system and Yatala, welfare rip-offs that are occurring in the society, possibly the fishing licences that were discussed last week in the Parliament, the State taxation perimeters, and long-term development projects in tourism and agriculture, to name just a few.

In referring to State taxation, it never ceases to amaze me that no matter how vehemently a taxation measure is attacked, a change of Government very rarely sees any relaxation of such a policy. I am convinced that, until there is more credibility with Governments and a proper recognition of what they are about we cannot hope to have the respect of the society at large. Government is a prerequisite for an orderly and democratic society. Good government is essential to obtain the best results for that society and from the Parliament for the benefit of all. I hope that we can deliver good government.

The Hon. M.S. FELEPPA: It is a great honour for me to take this opportunity to support the motion moved by my colleague.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon. H.P.K. Dunn): Order! Will the member second the motion?

The Hon. M.S. FELEPPA: I second it. I was coming to it in a couple of words. It gives me great pleasure to second the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech. In doing so, I do not wish to go over the same points which I have discussed already in my maiden speech and in my last speech on a similar occasion. Rather, this time I would like to point to certain areas of great concern to a number of citizens of our State. I am referring, of course, to the impression that the public has of politicians. I would like to pause in order to look around myself. We have heard this and read it before in newspapers. I must stress, however, that I am not trying to cast any stones or distress anyone in this

chamber, nor to cast doubts on any individual here this afternoon. All I wish to do is to bring to our own attention this opinion which the public has and, perhaps by doing so, it can spur all of us to greater effort and dispel the doubts and dissatisfaction which many of our citizens have expressed. I will come back to these remarks at the end of my speech.

First, I would like to emphasise some of the points made by the Hon. Mr Bruce in his speech. Unemployment is perhaps the greatest single problem facing our nation at this time. I shall not bore the Council yet again with statistics because they are available to all of us. However, I would like to elaborate on certain complaints that I have received from many employers expressing concern that far too many young job seekers do not present themselves well enough and have serious basic 'mathematical shortcomings', even after 10 to 12 years of schooling.

They say that these applicants are unable to multiply or subtract; indeed, many employers have told me that these young people do not even understand percentages. Therefore, in my opinion, this situation alone puts us into a double bind. On the one hand, we have employers who are disenchanted with young job applicants and, on the other hand, we have young job applicants who cannot get employment. More importantly, the situation is getting worse every day because of so-called 'advanced technology'. As we all know, technology holds the potential for—and it can certainly eliminate the life of—many industries and, at the same time, it can increase productivity and provide better goods and services.

The rosy picture painted by technological and computer suppliers tends to persuade us that computers—described as 'free managers'—enable companies to concentrate on more interesting work and on giving closer personal attention to their customers. On the other hand, we see labour-saving devices eliminate labour and, as a consequence, the dole queue escalates every day. This is the bleak picture painted by the trade unions, whose members are eventually directly affected by it. However, what seems clear to me is the fact that computers, as well as any other technological device, will take over much of the work which until now has been performed by human beings, and whether we believe that this revolutionary change will lead to a golden age of leisure for all or to an era of mass unemployment and poverty for the majority, depends strictly on our society's attitude to the importance of work done by people and on its attitude to the massive unemployment of the future.

It is predicted that during the 80s technology will displace thousands of jobs in our industries. This is a consequence for which our society, our community, must be blamed and finally share great responsibility for our young children and future generations. However, at the same time, there are other forces whose only interest is to make huge profit and to privatise power.

Their aims are to use technological devices only to reduce skills, to reduce employment and to carry out cheap production, irrespective of its effect on the environment, and to 'build in' deliberate debasement, deliberate tragedy in many cases. Even where technology can be of an advantage, its application most certainly produces anti-social and disastrous consequences. By itself, technology cannot solve our social problems. It requires the intervention of a socially-conscious force, that is, the people who have to live in the world that they have inherited.

Some technology is a direct social menace, and it also requires greater cost to make it safe for humanity than what it appears to save, by its introduction; for example, nuclear power. Therefore, the choices involved now that current history is putting high technology before us lie between allowing the big corporations to create a society where fewer

and fewer people are able to work and earn an income, whilst paying more and more taxes to keep more and more people permanently unemployed.

This situation could lead us all to a severe crisis, greater even than the proportions of the 1930s and, possibly, to an inevitable war which could destroy for hundreds of years many countries on the earth. Alternatively, we, the people, the workers and the entire community, can intervene with opposition to the big corporations and assert the right of all to equitably participate in 'socially necessary labour' and thus have an adequate means of sharing the social product.

In my view, we cannot, and simply should not, stand aside to this situation and wait for something to turn up. Instead, we must intervene directly in order to protect the social values of the individual and guarantee him or her the basic right to earn a living. To this extent, it is my belief that the short working week proposition, about which I must say far too many people are still unconvinced, is basically an option which we, as a whole community, should fundamentally consider if we are seriously concerned with protecting as many jobs as possible. The current broad social intervention of a short working week campaign can only offer an opportunity for the community to intervene, and to discuss what technology means, with its severe social implications.

However, in conclusion, I point out that this issue must be pursued in such a manner that it deepens in the course of its unfolding—without meeting unnecessary resistance by those who, as yet, are not totally persuaded by this inevitable alternative. In the meantime, I wish to applaud the various alternatives open to young people without work, such as the Education Programme for Unemployed Youth (E.P.U.Y.), but I wish to bring to the Council's notice that these courses and other courses are open only to those who wish to participate voluntarily.

Therefore, it is very difficult for a young job seeker to make a decision to remove himself or herself from the job market for the duration of such a course, which could be for up to six months. This really means that we are asking our young job seekers to take a step which will possibly destroy their chances of obtaining a job during the six months, but giving greater hope of gaining employment at the completion of the course. The Council should consider the immaturity of many young people and the enormous pressure put upon their young shoulders by social values. It is just not fair to add additional stress on them. Another problem in this area relates to the schooling system itself, which is enforceable by law.

I must say that not all students desire to follow, or are capable of following, an academic career. Therefore, provision should be made within the system for this group to be adequately educated in the skills of reading, writing and mathematics to a standard which will improve their employment opportunities. Again, I want to stress that this is in no way meant to be a negative criticism, but rather a positive suggestion which may be explored further by persons of appropriate expertise. The public must see us doing things and taking positive steps to resolve our social problems.

As a migrant whose native language is not English, I observe that all our social problems are magnified in the ethnic groups. Unemployment is more vicious and small deficiencies in our various systems are much more prominent in the ethnic area. Therefore, the role of the Ethnic Affairs Commission in this State is of extreme significance. It is for this reason that I have expressed concern in the past about the powers and activities of this statutory body. Once again, I do not wish to be critical of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, but I sincerely hope, together with many other members of our community, that the recommendations of the present inquiry will revitalise the commission and give

to it more independence and the necessary powers of decision-making.

The development of Technology Park is to be applauded by all, but surely our own education system must be upgraded to ensure the growth of this development. Some solutions require only an expenditure of money, whilst others require the redeployment and recognition of talent. Usually (and I suspect that this is so in this case) it will require a mixture of both these ingredients. I also strongly suspect that the mixture of both these ingredients will be required to resolve nearly all of our problems.

The people to whom I speak keep talking of such a solution, but I keep asking myself 'who will select the selectors?' Therefore, the solution is needed now in order to redress the neglect and wrong-doing of the immediate past.

The saying 'Rome was not built in a day' is true, but it is also true that it only took a few days to burn down. The more I look at our problems the more I seem to return to our education system. It is very nice to say that education should be realistic and relevant, and that the type of education offered in schools should help to ensure that senior students are better prepared for employment in a changing society. However, should we leave this in the hands of those very people who have brought us to this? How far can this society trust the judgment of those who created our problems to now resolve them? The task is worthy of Hercules and our reputation as representatives elected by the citizens to this Parliament and entrusted with the resolution of the very problems outlined briefly will be tarnished regardless of our political persuasion because we are seen as a body 'the politician'.

We must collectively reclaim our status as politicians and give it meaning. We must create a climate where our citizens can look up at Parliament House with pride and trust. We must generate goodwill amongst ourselves, and collectively we must start to resolve our State's problems, because the ship of our State is, at the moment, in serious trouble.

I am convinced that we have the capacity and we have the means: men and women of goodwill can solve any problem which presents itself, no matter how complex. I repeat, we have the capability, we have the capacity, and, most importantly, we have the trust and the support of our good citizens. Let us not let them down, because if we do we do so at our own peril, and not as a Government but as the Parliament. Our reputation here is at stake, and the citizens will judge us by our performance and our sincerity. Finally, history will record our meetings and our success, or failure, in due time.

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

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The House of Assembly notified its appointment of sessional committees.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.58 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 10 August at 2.15 p.m.