

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 12, 1971

The SPEAKER (Hon. R. E. Hurst) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: MIGRATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yesterday in the House, in the course of a reply to a question asked by the member for Alexandra, I made an allegation concerning Senator Jessop. The allegation was made on the basis of information that had been given to me as a result of which I had been asked to go to Whyalla to speak on the topic on which I replied to a question. I saw, in this morning's newspaper, a complete denial from Senator Jessop of the allegation. I have always found Senator Jessop to be a completely truthful gentleman, and I immediately asked for a complete review of the information that had been given to me. As a result of that review, I am satisfied now that I was completely misinformed in the matters which were put to me and on the basis of which I made the allegation. I, therefore, unreservedly withdraw the allegation and apologize to Senator Jessop. I express my personal regrets to him and the House, moreover, in that I should have made this allegation without personally double-checking on it beforehand, because I state publicly that the allegation as it stood is inconsistent with my knowledge of Senator Jessop's character.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
UNIROYAL DISPUTE**

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I was extremely pleased and greatly relieved to learn this morning that the long and patient efforts of Commissioner Lean to mediate in the Uniroyal wage claim dispute appear to have been crowned with success. The striking press operators decided at a meeting to return to work this afternoon at 5 o'clock. They did so voluntarily, without promises, threats or conditions. After this decision had been made known to the Commissioner, he agreed that their claim could be heard almost immediately in the Industrial Commission. The history of this most unfortunate dispute illustrates, I think, one very plain lesson: that industrial disputes will not be solved satisfactorily by

precipitate action of a punitive nature. Diplomacy is the way of virtue in these matters.

The results of the efforts of the officers of our Industrial Commission have proved once again the value of a system of conciliation, followed by arbitration. Conciliation has now triumphed and we are moving on to arbitration. Before I conclude this statement I want to do one more thing: I must pay a tribute, on behalf of the Government and also on behalf of the people of South Australia, to the work of the Minister of Labour and Industry, who has carried the burden of Government action in this matter. He has been most painstaking in keeping communications open between the parties. He has kept people talking and, while they were talking and not sulking in their separate industrial tents, there was still hope.

I do not want to embarrass the Minister or over-dramatize the situation but it is fair to say that he must take a large slice of the credit for the settlement of this dispute and for the return of the men to their machines. It is not widely known how many days of negotiation the Minister put into mediating but they were many. It is also not widely known that the Minister personally spoke to some of the strikers last night to ensure that they did know why their union had advised them to return to work and submit their claims to arbitration. He wanted to be perfectly satisfied that they knew what they were doing, and he explained to them how our industrial arbitration system worked and how it was impossible for Commissioner Lean to be able to guarantee to them that he would grant them a certain sum of money. They were apparently convinced. They gave him an undertaking last evening that they would seek that the others return to work today and, in fact, they have accepted his advice and have gone back to work. That was done at a meeting where there was no sort of outside interference. It was a direct meeting between the Minister and some of those who were striking at the Uniroyal plant. I pay a tribute to them for the good sense that they have now shown in returning to work and submitting their claims to arbitration. I again pay a tribute to the Minister of Labour and Industry for his work.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
MAINTENANCE**

The Hon. L. J. KING (Minister of Social Welfare): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Arrangements have been made for maintenance moneys received in the Department of Social Welfare and

Aboriginal Affairs on behalf of wives and children to be paid out on a twice-weekly basis instead of once each week as at present. Under the new arrangements, which will operate next week, maintenance moneys received in the department up to the close of business each Monday will be paid out on the following Thursday. Moneys received up to the close of business each Wednesday will be paid out on the following Monday. In future, amounts received in the Adelaide Magistrates Court in satisfaction of maintenance warrants will be forwarded to the department immediately. These new arrangements will substantially reduce the time taken to get maintenance receipts into the hands of wives, and children in some cases. They are, of course, additional to the measure that was taken some time ago and which I announced previously, that the department was authorized to pay out maintenance received by cheque without waiting for cheques to be cleared by the bank.

QUESTIONS

REFERENDUM VOTING

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General give information additional to that which he gave me in reply to my questions on notice last Tuesday and my question without notice yesterday on the subject of prosecutions of persons who failed to vote at the referendum last September? On Tuesday, I had on notice a series of questions designed to elicit information from the Government on the number of persons who had been prosecuted for failing to vote at the referendum, and the replies were given. However, when I saw the replies they did not altogether seem to tally, and I certainly was not satisfied. I therefore asked the Attorney-General yesterday a further question without notice whether complaints had actually been laid (because, of course, only six months from the date of the offence is allowed under the Justices Act for the complaints to be laid). Subsequently, the Attorney-General, having answered that question (to the best of his ability, I presume), suggested that I should ask this question today. Finally, I make it clear that my purpose in asking this question is not because I want people to be prosecuted but because of my adherence to the principle of voluntary voting.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call on the Attorney-General.

The Hon. L. J. KING: As a result of the question asked yesterday by the member for Mitcham, I caused inquiries to be made in the Electoral Department, which had furnished me

with the information for the reply that I gave to the Question on Notice. As a result of the inquiries, I formed the opinion that the reply given to the Question on Notice did not convey all of the information that is available on the topic of the question asked by the honourable member. However, I have now asked for full information and have specified the topics on which I want information. I had hoped that the information would be available to enable me to answer the honourable member today. Unfortunately, the information has not come to hand, but I undertake to give a full reply on Tuesday next.

PSYCHIATRIST

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Minister of Social Welfare clarify the situation regarding psychiatrists in the Social Welfare Department? He has been kind enough to write to me to explain that the position regarding the appointment of a full-time psychiatrist in the department is not entirely in accordance with the reply he gave to my question earlier this week.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The position is not quite as the honourable member has put it. The question he asked me was whether a full-time psychiatrist had been appointed to the department. At the time, I replied that a psychiatrist had been appointed, but I did not use the words "full time" in my reply, and I deliberately refrained from using them because I wanted to check whether or not the person who had been appointed was available in a full-time capacity. I intended to make that check and to communicate the results to the honourable member, which I did by letter, as he has indicated. After considerable effort the services of a psychiatrist were obtained, but he is available only on a sessional basis for, I think, four hours each week. It is hoped that the services of another psychiatrist can soon be obtained on the same basis, but, as yet, it has not been possible to obtain the services of a full-time psychiatrist.

PENSIONER FARES

Mr. HARRISON: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of August 3 about pensioner fares?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The present criteria of eligibility for concessions on tram, bus and train systems is the Commonwealth means test (as distinct from the tapered means test introduced in 1969). Any person qualifying for full or part pension under the means test qualifies for concessional travel. War widows' pensions are paid without regard to the applicant's means and are as follows:

- (a) Basic pension: \$32.00 a fortnight, plus
- (b) Domestic allowance: \$16 a fortnight *if the widow is over 50 years of age or has dependent children, plus*
- (c) \$12.00 a fortnight for the first child, \$10.00 a fortnight for the second and each subsequent child.

Under this scale, a war widow with one dependent child is paid a pension of \$60 a fortnight, made up of components (a), (b) and (c). On the other hand, an age or invalid pensioner with one dependent child under the age of 16 years or a student child over this age with "assessed means" being equal to or below the specified minimum receives a pension of only \$37 a fortnight, made up as follows:

- (a) Basic pension: \$32 a fortnight; plus \$5 a fortnight for child under 16 years or student child.

A war widow, in addition to receiving a war widow's pension, may qualify for an age or invalid pension from the Social Services Department under the means test. In these circumstances, the war widows concerned would also qualify for transport concessions. Generally, therefore, pensions received by war widows are greater than those received by age and invalid pensioners. Many war widows who are not in receipt of both the war widow's pension and an age or invalid pension are able to seek full or part-time work to supplement their pension. In the circumstances, it is not proposed, at this stage, to extend the concession scheme to include this group of pensioners.

ROAD MAINTENANCE ACT

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the members of the committee inquiring into the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The committee consists of five members comprising Mr. J. C. Adams (Chairman), Collector of Road Charges; Mr. D. E. Byrne, Assistant Auditor-General, a member of the Transport Control Board and formerly the Secretary to the Royal Commission on Transport; Mr. A. R. Bishop, Solicitor, Crown Law Department; Mr. R. Chown, Secretary and Accountant of Le-Messurier Transport who was nominated for membership by the South Australian Road Transport Association; and Mr. J. A. Crawford, member of the Chamber of Automotive Industries. The committee has completed its investigations and a report is in the course of

preparation. I should add that, although the committee has provided me with that information, I have not yet received the report.

LYNORE ROAD PROPERTIES

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Education have investigated the problem of water flowing from the Ridgehaven Primary School property on to private property, with a view to having the matter rectified? The property at 9 Lynore Road has been flooded by stormwaters for some time but, since the school oval has been completed and a bank erected, the water-course has altered and the situation has worsened, clay being deposited on the property and water flowing through it. This water has caused a channel to be cut through the front driveway that the owners have had to fill with bricks so that the driveway can be used. The outlets of the two stormwater drains are situated at the side of Lynore Road, with the result that when it rains heavily water flows on to the property at 12 Lynore Road. The Tea Tree Gully council has taken an interest in the matter and is still interested in it but, as the Education Department is also involved, assistance is sought from that direction, too.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to look into the matter raised by the honourable member. I will discuss it with the Minister of Works and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

OVINGHAM RAILWAY CROSSING

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on August 4 about the Ovingham railway crossing?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The plans of the proposed over-pass at the Ovingham railway crossing on Torrens Road have been submitted by the Highways Department to the Prospect and Hindmarsh councils for comment, but no reply has yet been received. Commencement of the construction of this facility has been tentatively scheduled for the 1974-75 financial year. No statement has been released from the Highways Department on this subject, but I believe that the plan was photographed at one of the council's offices.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Mr. LANGLEY: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport arrange for the installation of "turn-right" indicator lights at the corner of Greenhill and Glen Osmond Roads where widening work will soon be completed? For

some time work has been progressing on the widening of the Greenhill Road between the Keswick Bridge and Glen Osmond Road, and at every main intersection traffic lights have been or are being installed.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will have the matter investigated with a view to providing the information for the honourable member.

RAILWAYS INFORMATION

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport take the necessary action to see that the Man in Blue at the Adelaide railway station is kept fully informed at all times of train movements and expected alterations to rail services? I believe that the Man in Blue at all times is most competent in his job. Recently, however, during the train strike I believe the Man in Blue was denuded of any information, particularly in respect of the interstate movement of trains. It was not until we contacted Western Australia that we received the information about the movement of trains after the strikers had decided to return to work. I believe that the Man in Blue as always tried to give the public excellent service but, if he is not given the information, he cannot help the public.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am at a loss to understand how the honourable member could have obtained information from Western Australia about South Australian train movements. I would not have expected Western Australia to provide information about the running of services other than perhaps between Port Pirie and Adelaide. As I understand it, however, the honourable member's question was all-embracing on train movements as a whole. One of the inevitable results of an industrial stoppage such as that which occurred last week with transport is the difficulty of getting train movements back into the necessary time slots so that normal running can be recommenced. I am certain that the Railways Commissioner and his very efficient staff, including the Man in Blue, would have done everything humanly possible to assist the public by restoring train services as quickly as possible and to provide the public with such information as was available to them. I think the honourable member should appreciate that, if the Railways Department has not the information, the department cannot pass it on, and I would strongly suggest that the lack of information that the Commissioner and his staff, including the Man in Blue, had was probably due, at any rate in part, to the fact that the Commissioner bent over backwards to ensure that the

train services were resumed as quickly as was humanly possible, and the net result is that there may have been a lack of information in one or two areas. For my part, I have nothing but the highest regard for the work which all these gentlemen have done in the past and which I know they will do in the future.

NURIOOTPA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Nuriootpa High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is intended that a two-storey standard solid building will be constructed for completion during the first part of 1974. This will incorporate eight open-space teaching areas with an associated activity area to include some art-craft and junior science, a library resource centre of Commonwealth standards, and three specialist rooms for subject areas required. In addition, a feasibility study is currently being undertaken to ascertain whether it is practicable to use a four-teacher or six-teacher unit, based on the standard primary school plan for first-year students. If this becomes a proposition, it will enable about six wooden rooms to be demolished and could be provided earlier than the solid construction buildings, possibly within 12 months.

INDUSTRIAL RESTRICTIONS

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Minister for Conservation ask the State Planning Authority to reconsider certain aspects of its model planning regulations subtitled "Zoning, metropolitan"? My concern is particularly in regard to the Rural B zoning, which includes consent use for special industry and extractive industry. As there are special zones for the special and extractive industries and as special industry is defined in these regulations as a zone intended primarily to accommodate industries which have noxious or dangerous characteristics or which require special siting consideration, it seems that, in regard to catchment areas, these regulations are not sufficiently restrictive.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: This matter has been discussed in recent weeks and I shall be pleased to keep the honourable member informed on any decision that may be made.

HILLS BUSES

Mr. McANANEY: Passenger service buses in the Hills do not have demisters fitted, and I consider that this omission is extremely dangerous. Will the Minister of Roads and Transport have this matter investigated?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I do not know whether the honourable member can tell me the bus service to which he is referring but, if he can, I shall be delighted to have the matter investigated.

SCHOOL SPORT

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Education say what action he intends to take to resolve the crisis regarding school sport on Saturdays? I understand that there has been much publicity regarding the supervision and teaching of sport on Saturdays in this State and that in New South Wales, where a similar position has occurred, the State Government has agreed to pay overtime to teachers and has provided \$3,000,000 for that purpose.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I point out to the honourable member that apparently the \$3,000,000 has been available in New South Wales because the teachers that the department expected to appoint to schools were not available. The position here is being considered and I cannot announce any decision at present.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister say whether consideration has been given to playing all school sport during normal school hours? I realize that the Minister has said that the whole aspect of school sports is being considered, but recently representations have been made to me by some parents who consider that it would be wise to conduct all school sports during normal school hours. This happens at some high schools in the State now. Another point put to me was that, because previously parents could shop on Friday night, they could help the teachers with sport on Saturday morning. That opportunity has gone now, because parents find that they must shop on Saturday morning and, therefore, cannot help the teachers to conduct the school sports. This places a greater burden on the teachers. One person who has made representations to me realizes that a loyal group of teachers give their services to the juniors on Saturday morning, but that group is a minority, and the other teachers are getting off scot free. I consider that playing school sports during the school week would be better than playing them on Saturday morning, and I understand that that is done in Victoria. Can the Minister say whether this aspect has been considered?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Yes, that has been considered. For the honourable member's information, in New South Wales inter-school sport is played on Wednesday afternoon, from 1.30 onwards, and no classes are held on that

afternoon. That position has applied for many years. In South Australia inter-school sports for girls are played mainly during the school week, and in my own area a few years ago an attempt was made within the local region to have boys' inter-school sport played on an afternoon during the school week. That did not prove very successful. One problem was that the boys were not keen at that time and the participation of parents was, of course, much less than it would be on Saturday morning, despite Saturday morning shopping.

Mr. Evans: But more teachers would be available.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As the honourable member would appreciate, unless we provided inter-school sport as a replacement for present lessons, the same problem would occur as occurs with respect to Saturday morning sport, namely, it would be regarded by some teachers as being after-hours work. I also suggest to the honourable member that one reason why the problem has become more difficult in recent years is that more women have been employed in secondary schools and, of course, they show a general lack of willingness to supervise schoolboy sport. This has made inter-school sport for boys more difficult to organize, because the proportion of teachers who would be interested in taking it, anyway, has been less than it was years ago.

I do not think that the question of Friday night shopping bears on the matter. Although it may do so in the honourable member's district, that represents only a relatively small part of the metropolitan area. The honourable member will appreciate that throughout most of the metropolitan area Friday night shopping has not applied, anyway. We believe that mid-week sport could be effective only if it took place on an afternoon from, say, 1 o'clock onwards and if, consequently, no lessons were given that afternoon. I think the honourable member will appreciate also that the reduction in lesson time involved could well cause considerable problems and disputation among educators and parents alike. The problem is not easy to solve, and a direct solution is not yet in sight.

TEACHERS' QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Minister of Education do all that he can to have the qualifications of teachers who have completed a diploma course at the Adelaide University recognized in the United Kingdom? A letter that has been sent to me states that two young

ladies attended the Adelaide University as private students of physical education and completed the diploma course, gaining the A.U.A. (Physical Education). This course is of three years: a two-year specialist section in training for physical education teaching, for which this department grants five classification units; and a one-year course in a science or arts degree, for which four classification units are granted. The whole course is considered as the equivalent of a three-year course of teacher training in South Australia. On completion of training, one young lady was appointed to Port Adelaide Girls Technical High School and the other to Gepps Cross Technical High School, where they taught as secondary assistants B for the 1970 school year. These two young ladies went to the United Kingdom but could not obtain suitable employment there, because it was suggested that they were not qualified. Can the Minister do anything regarding this matter?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I would need to get details from the honourable member about the teachers concerned and what education authorities they had approached in the United Kingdom. This problem of international recognition of qualifications is particularly vexed and the practices of countries vary greatly. I illustrate this by mentioning that teachers who come from the United Kingdom and who have completed only a two-year course of training, but are, nevertheless, qualified to teach anywhere in the United Kingdom, are regarded here as having status equivalent to that of our teachers who have completed a two-year course of training: that is, they have six classification units, or in some cases not even six. Consequently, these teachers from the United Kingdom are placed in an inferior position compared to that of those local teachers who have completed three-year or four-year courses of training, and considerable difficulties arise in adjudicating in these cases. However, if the honourable member gives me the requisite information, I will consider whether I can approach the United Kingdom authority and ask it to ease the situation.

KATARAPKO ISLAND

Mr. CURREN: Will the Minister for Conservation tell the House what action his department has taken regarding fauna and flora conservation on Katarapko Island? A part of this island, which is formed by a creek that flows from the Murray River and back again (known as Katarapko Creek), has been dedicated as a national park, and another part has been proclaimed as a game reserve. During the

course of a visit to the area several months ago by the Minister for Conservation, representatives of various organizations interested in fauna and flora conservation told the Minister what, in their view, could or should be done in this respect. Can the Minister give any information to the House on this matter?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I cannot give any information at this stage. However, as the honourable member has pointed out, I have taken an interest in this area and have, in fact, inspected it. There are some difficulties concerning the future of this island, and this matter also concerns the Minister of Works. These difficulties are associated with drainage problems experienced in the town and with the problem of effluent at present flowing from the local winery into the river. For some years, the suggestion has been made that this effluent should be pumped across to the island but, because of the difficulties that could arise and because of the possible effect on fauna and flora on the island, this matter has been closely considered by the Minister of Works and me to ensure that the island is fully protected in the future and that no action is taken that will adversely affect fauna and flora in the area. I shall be pleased to keep the honourable member informed of the result of the discussions that I am having with the Minister of Works and will provide him with any final plans that may be prepared to develop the island.

HAWKER AREA SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Hawker Area School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: In regard to the classroom and library at Hawker Area School, there has been a delay because of the need for a survey by the Public Buildings Department. However, this has now been completed, and the Director, Public Buildings Department, states that the unit will be completed before the end of 1971. Tenders for the paving work are expected to be called later this year. Acceptance of a tender for the painting of the school building is expected to be made within a few days.

RAILWAYS PROMOTION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport request the Railways Commissioner to have reviewed the system of promotion of firemen who are qualified to drive? I was recently approached by a railway worker who is a member of the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen

and who is a fireman qualified to drive. This man complained bitterly about the present system of promotion which I remember he described as a system of step-by-step promotion, which he suggested is simply used by the department to save money, but which causes injustices to the workers involved. Having made approaches in other directions but without success, he therefore approached me—

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: As a last resort!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Perhaps it is a last resort; if it is, I hope it is successful. Perhaps if he had come to me earlier, the results would have been quicker. However, I am glad to know of the support I have from the Minister for Conservation, having heard his "Hear, hear!" when I rose to ask the question. Will the Minister of Roads and Transport take up this matter in the way I have suggested?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will ask the Commissioner for information outlining the present arrangement regarding the promotion of firemen who are qualified to drive, and I will bring down a report for the honourable member. However, this will obviously be a general statement: many factors may be involved in the case to which the honourable member refers, and these factors may not be referred to in the Commissioner's statement, because of a change of areas, and so on. I suggest that if the honourable member really wants the case investigated he may be willing to give me the name of the fireman concerned, so that not only will I bring down a general statement but also the details of this case.

GREY WARD KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to the question I asked on July 15 about the Grey Ward Kindergarten and the establishment of a child-minding centre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the Administrator, Royal Adelaide Hospital, is not aware of any of its married nursing staff who have children currently attending the Grey Ward Kindergarten. It is known that some members of the hospital staff have used this facility in the past. With regard to the proposal to establish a child-minding centre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the last move in this regard was to ask the Public Buildings Department to look into the possibility of providing a building to house a child-minding

centre on some suitable site close to the hospital. This followed the receipt of information that portion of Austral House would not be available to the hospital for this purpose. When established, first priority of use would be offered to nursing staff members with any vacant positions being offered to paramedical and ancillary staff members.

FESTIVAL THEATRE

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Premier now reply to the question I asked on July 28 about the festival theatre, with special reference to the schedule of progress of the building and also to costs?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Extensions of time to the building contract have been approved as follows: wet weather, 10½ working days; as a result of strikes, 18 working days. Rises in costs due to increases in award wages and idle time of plant because of strikes have totalled \$162,750, which is approximately 2.8 per cent on the estimated cost of \$5,750,000.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General take urgent action to investigate the activities of the "Planned Financial Management Investment-Sickness Plan"? Pamphlets have been circulated in the metropolitan area, and I think that if I quote one or two sections of that pamphlet the matter will become self-apparent. The pamphlet contains such statements as these:

For people of all ages. An investment plan with a built-in sickness protection. \$500 a month extra cash when you're sick. All your money back when you complete the plan. Extra cash up to \$30,000. Extra cash for as long as 60 months. Extra cash to spend any way you want to.

The pamphlet requests people interested to send \$1, and the important part is that the special enrolment period ends at midnight on August 31, 1971. Although I do not comment on the plan itself, I consider that perhaps it should be investigated.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Having already ordered an investigation into this matter, I have instructed my officers to ascertain the identity, character, background and experience of the people who are responsible for this project and also to ascertain the basis of the project itself, what is its financial backing and what may be the assets of those responsible. As soon as this report has come to hand (I have asked for it urgently), I will give the honourable member further information.

LAND TAX

Mr. EVANS: Has the Treasurer a reply to my recent question about land tax?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Section 12c of the Land Tax Act was enacted so that property owners of primary production land, which was potentially suited to urban subdivision, situated within fringe urban areas, might obtain a concessional land tax while the land continued to be used for primary production. The honourable member has indicated in his question that many of the property owners in the water catchment area now have no potential for subdivision of their land because of the new watershed protection regulations. At the time of making the 1970 assessment, unimproved values in the catchment area did take into account, where applicable, potential subdivisional development, but in view of the changed circumstances now appertaining to those areas, because of the watershed protection regulations, the assessment to be made at June 30 will not be subject to potential subdivisional influence, but valuations will be made in accordance with the evidence of sales as at June 30 of the land as affected by the new conditions.

Regarding the second part of the question, concerning land of low productivity in wet areas of the State, the answer previously given covered the basis of assessment for unimproved values in these areas, that is, that the sale prices prudent purchasers could be expected to pay for the land would obviously reflect the lower productivity caused by the local conditions. It is suggested that if the honourable member wishes to follow up this matter further, he could do so by specifically bringing to the notice of the Chief Government Valuer full details of the actual properties concerned, either personally or by letter.

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Treasurer determine whether the area of the hundred of Mudla Wirra, which is south of the Gawler River, can come within the scope of the exemption available under section 12c of the Land Tax Act? During the last fortnight, advertisements have appeared in newspapers that the hundreds of Port Adelaide and Munno Para will come under this section and that persons owning land in those areas may apply to be considered. A small area of land in the hundred of Mudla Wirra is contiguous to the hundred of Munno Para, and the purpose for which that land is used is identical to the purpose for which land next to it in the hundred of Munno Para is used. Unless this area can be brought within

the scope of this section of the Act, people living there will be at a disadvantage compared to their neighbours.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report for the honourable member.

SECONDHAND DEALERS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about whether secondhand dealers in the South Coast area could be allowed to trade at times other than those prescribed for the metropolitan shopping area, and especially on public holidays?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Although the reply to the honourable member's question is included on my list of replies, I cannot find it at the moment. However, I will search for it and give it later.

GOVERNMENT PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. CARNIE: In the absence of the Minister of Works, who indicated yesterday that today he would have a reply to my recent question about the Government Produce Department, will the Premier give the reply?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will ask my colleague to give the reply.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INQUIRY

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Local Government a reply to my question of August 5 about local government in outlying areas?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Since the previous Government appointed the Outlying Districts Local Government Committee, certain investigations into the possibility of local government being established in outlying areas have been carried out. These have included public meetings at Penong, Yunta and Olary. However, because of the present economic situation on the land, the committee has delayed further investigations as far as pastoral lands are concerned. During the week commencing August 16, the committee will visit certain townships such as Coober Pedy and Andamooka to look into the possibility of establishing some form of local government in these towns. The visit follows inquiries from residents of Coober Pedy regarding the need for controls in the town. The committee will hold discussions with progress associations and other persons, but it will not be concerned with the question of local government in pastoral areas.

PORT AUGUSTA HOUSING

Mr. KENEALLY: Can the Premier say why there are so many Americans at Woomera? During a recent visit to Woomera, I was told

that about 600 Americans were working there under the strictest security on a complex close to Woomera. I believe that about 600 more Americans are expected at Woomera. As it has been suggested that the American families will require about 100 houses at Port Augusta, that is the reason that prompted my question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not received any information on this score. My last information on the future of Woomera was received during a series of discussions I had with members of a Select Committee of the British Parliament that was examining British involvement in the E.L.D.O. scheme at Woomera. As Housing Minister, I have not had a request from American sources or from anyone else for Housing Trust facilities to be provided at Port Augusta to house Woomera staff. However, I will inquire whether any Government service has been notified of this situation.

LANGHORNE CREEK BASIN

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier, as Minister of Development and Mines, a reply to my question of July 28 about the artesian basin in the Milang and Langhorne Creek area?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In order to provide more information on the basin, particularly the western margin, a bore was drilled to 445ft. at a site three miles north of Milang, and a second bore is now in progress four miles farther north near the Angas River. Water level measurements and sampling of observation bores to check salinity are being maintained on a regular basis. The sampling programme has not revealed any significant regional salinity increases over a three-year period. However, some contamination may be occurring through corrosion of casing in bores in those areas where shallow saline groundwater occurs.

NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about renovations to the Naracoorte High School's library?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Funds have now been approved for the renovations to the Naracorte High School's library. This work will be undertaken by Public Buildings Department personnel early in October, 1971.

STAMP DUTY

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Treasurer a reply to my question of August 3 about stamp duty?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Stamp duty is imposed on an application to register a motor vehicle or on an application to transfer the registration of a motor vehicle at the rate of \$2 for every \$200, or part, of the value of the vehicle, but exemption No. 6 provides:

Any application to register a motor vehicle or to transfer the registration of a motor vehicle to the extent that *ad valorem* stamp duty has already been paid on another instrument whereby or by virtue of which the property in the motor vehicle was legally or equitably transferred to or vested in the applicant.

This exemption would seem to meet the circumstances to which the honourable member has drawn attention.

PROSH

Mr. VENNING: Although I know that the member for Goyder has asked a question about this matter, I ask the Attorney-General whether he has seen a copy of the *Prosh* magazine that was on sale last Friday and, if he has, what is his reaction to it.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Regarding *Prosh* magazine, I have read that police officers have investigated this matter, questioning certain people with regard to it. As the honourable member will know, the role of the Attorney-General in this case is simply that a prosecution cannot be instituted without the authority of the Attorney-General, so that my part in the matter arises only if reports are submitted with complaints for me to authorize a prosecution. As I have not yet received any such submission to authorize a prosecution, I have formed no view on the matter.

Mr. VENNING: Does the Attorney-General consider the *Prosh* magazine obscene?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have already answered that question. The matter has not come to me for consideration. When it does I will decide.

Mr. Venning: Answer the question.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member asked a question and he should have given it proper thought so that he does not have to interject while the Minister is replying.

Mr. Venning: Why doesn't he answer the question?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Why don't you—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister must contain himself and set an example. The Attorney-General will continue.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I repeat the answer I gave while the member was interjecting. As I have already said more than once, this matter has not come to me for consideration. If and when it comes to me for consideration I shall be called upon to decide whether the magazine is obscene and whether I should authorize prosecution. I shall then decide.

RIVERLAND EDUCATION

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Education say whether the establishment of a technical college in the Riverland area has been or is being considered? This area concerns me, and especially the member for Chaffey, for three-quarters of the students attending high schools in this area live in the District of Chaffey. I point out that the present enrolment in this area is 2,285 students, and I understand that the estimated enrolment for 1978 is 2,349 students, so that there is a large student population in the area. On Tuesday, I was approached at Paringa by a member of the local district council concerned about the lack of technical education in the area. He asked me to see whether this matter had been considered and, if it had not, to raise it with the Minister to see whether it could be investigated.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As the honourable member will know (and the member for Chaffey will appreciate this more intimately, as he has been associated with the project), the Riverland adult education centre, which has been built at Renmark, conducts adult education classes and apprenticeship classes throughout the Riverland area. Enrolments for the area are of the order referred to by the honourable member. I think that the honourable member will appreciate that these enrolments are not centralized in one place but are scattered over several towns. Mainly, classes are conducted in the various school facilities throughout the area. It is always possible that adult education enrolments and apprenticeship enrolments in an area may reach such a magnitude and be sufficiently centralized in a certain place that a specific and separate technical college could be built. I imagine that if that occurred in the Riverland area the appropriate location of the centre would be in the Berri and Barmera vicinity. However, there is no immediate prospect of establishing such a technical college, largely because our funds are already more than fully committed. The programme that was submitted to the Commonwealth Government for the triennium July, 1971, to the end of June, 1974, was for expenditure involving

projects costing about \$12,000,000 or \$13,000,000. The approval we have had from the Commonwealth is for a programme costing a little over \$3,000,000. As the honourable member will appreciate, that considerably limits the scope of our activities in this area.

CHEST CLINIC

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my recent question about the Chest Clinic?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary has supplied the following report:

Sketch plans for the new Chest Clinic to be built on North Terrace have been prepared by the Public Buildings Department and are being submitted to the Commonwealth for approval as an undertaking was made by the Commonwealth Government that the cost of the building would be met by it provided the State Government provided the site. Meanwhile, action is being taken by the Public Buildings Department to improve conditions in Ruthven Mansions. The upper floors have been treated to control pigeons and the Public Buildings Department has been asked to remove dead birds and accumulations of bird droppings. The wall frontage on Pulteney Street and the underside of the verandah have been repainted. Some work has been done on repainting interior rooms and the Public Buildings Department has been asked to complete this work.

SUCCESSION DUTIES

Mr. RODDA: Can the Treasurer say whether the Government intends this session to examine the impact of succession duties on farm properties in the light of the present rural recession? In the *Advertiser* this week, Stewart Cockburn referred to a case on Eyre Peninsula, I think, of a young man who inherited a property worth \$100,000 at current values, and who was charged duties of \$45,000. The result was that two parts of this estate had to be sold at knock-down prices, leaving the family with a very limited holding from which to eke out a living. That case would seem to underline the dire situation with regard to succession duties that faces rural producers today.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At present the Government has no review of the incidence of succession duties. I point out, however, that the revaluation of rural properties will inevitably mean a more than proportionate reduction in the succession duty liability and will make even more effective the special concessions in relation to primary-producing property that operate under the Succession Duties Act. I believe that the honourable member will find real value arising out of the

Government's new valuation proposals. First, there is the revaluation under the Land Tax Act Amendment Bill to be introduced this session, and then the Valuation Bill will be brought in later this session to provide in South Australia for one basic valuation for all purposes.

WILPENA POUND

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Minister for Conservation say whether he can yet say what proposals he has in mind on the use of motor bicycles in Wilpena Pound? Some time ago I received from members of the Daws Road High School Bushwalking Club, a letter, part of which states:

We, the students of the Daws Road High School Bushwalking Society, recently travelled 300 miles to the Wilpena district to enjoy a week-end of peace and beauty at one of Australia's natural wonders. While there, we were frustrated, disillusioned and upset to find it being abused by thoughtless members of the public. For a whole week-end we were treated to a cacophony of noise, pollution and danger from early mornings until late at nights. We ask that the rules or regulations controlling the use of this area be either tightened or more strongly enforced to restrict the Pound as far as possible to foot traffic.

I am aware that, in answering a question from the member for Frome about the Oraparinna National Park, the Minister touched on this topic and said on July 15 that he would soon be taking action to ensure that motor cycles were either completely controlled in these areas or prohibited from entering them. As four weeks or more has passed since then, I wonder whether the Minister can say what action is being taken, especially in Wilpena Pound.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The people responsible for the administration of Wilpena Pound have now prevented the entry of motor cyclists into the area. The query that the honourable member reported from the Daws Road High School had already been directed to me by the member for Mitchell and I have written a full reply about the activities now operating at Wilpena Pound to prevent the type of damage referred to. I shall be happy to forward to the honourable member a copy of my reply.

SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand the Minister of Education has recently made a statement about financial assistance for secondary school students from country areas when they need to go to other centres for courses that are not available locally. I ask him how stringent the means test will be for

residents of Kangaroo Island, and whether it is feasible to include automatically all students from Kangaroo Island without a means test being applied. From what I know of the situation on Kangaroo Island, I believe all secondary school children in this category would be eligible for secondary school financial assistance. Can the Minister assure me that they will qualify without a means test?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I do not believe that, in the administration of the secondary scholarship scheme, we should discriminate in favour of people from Kangaroo Island any more than we might discriminate in favour of people from remote parts of Eyre Peninsula or from any outback areas of the State, all of whom would have special problems associated with the secondary education of their children. These scholarships, which are additional to the boarding allowance, apply where secondary education at a certain level is not available locally. These scholarships provide at the maximum for a sum of \$370 a year to be paid in excess of the boarding allowance, which is \$180 for the first to fourth years and \$230 for the fifth year. The boarding allowance will continue to be paid without a means test, but the additional sum will be means-tested.

The means test we will apply will be similar to that which the Commonwealth imposes with respect to living allowances for its university scholarships. For a family with one student away from home it is likely that the maximum scholarship payment of \$370 would be available so long as the adjusted family income was not in excess of between \$3,000 and \$3,300 (the final figure has not yet been determined) and that the scholarship would be reduced by \$1 for every \$10 by which the adjusted family income exceeds that base sum. If the figure of \$3,000 is taken, and the adjusted family income exceeded \$6,700 a year, there would be no scholarship payment, but the basic boarding allowance would be paid.

In assessing adjusted family income, the Commonwealth (and I propose to follow this method) deducts \$300 from the gross income for every dependent child. For a family with four children, the adjusted family income does not lie above \$3,000 until the actual income of that family exceeds \$4,200. I think the honourable member will see from that brief and perhaps rough and ready explanation that a type of means test is proposed, but it is generous and it will enable those who need

assistance to receive sufficient to cover the full cost of board for children from Kangaroo Island if they attend a Government school on the mainland. It will not cover the full cost of attending an independent school. The scholarships will be available no matter what school the student attends.

ABATTOIRS

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Premier say what consideration the Government has given to maintaining the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board at Gepps Cross and whether any projected capital expenditure over the next five years has been determined? I appreciate that this may be in the province of the Minister of Agriculture, but I direct it to the Premier because it is a financial matter.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report for the honourable member.

WORKMENS COMPENSATION

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister for Conservation say whether the workers who are employed by Government or private enterprise in hospitals, restaurants, or hotels are covered by workmen's compensation? I refer to an article in this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading "Radiation Hazard in Ovens", as follows:

Radiation leaks have been discovered in some of the microwave ovens being used in South Australia. . . . Almost all the ovens installed in this State are used in hospitals and institutions. A few are used in restaurants, hotels, and motels. The leakage of radiation, detected in eight of 43 ovens inspected by the South Australian Public Health Department, could cause burns to the eyes or other soft tissues of operators after long exposure.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: As I understand his question, the honourable member has asked whether employees are covered by workmen's compensation if there are any complications regarding the equipment to which he has referred. I understand that they would be covered, and I have no hesitation in saying that no doubt my colleague will consider the report of the Health Department on this matter to see whether there is any need to make sure the equipment is safe for use. Without doubt the employees would be covered for injury caused by the equipment they are using.

NORTHERN TERRITORY EDUCATION

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister of Education tell me what is the present position, following discussions by the previous Government, and continued by the present Minister, with the Commonwealth Government, about

the Commonwealth's eventually taking over the teaching service in the Northern Territory, which is now carried out by teachers from the South Australian service, although the buildings are provided by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I thought the honourable member knew that last year, when I became Minister, I told the Commonwealth Government that we wished to be phased out of the Northern Territory service over a five-year period. That is a firm decision that has been made. The honourable member would appreciate that, if the Commonwealth Government did not want to come to the party with us on the phasing-out process over that period, under the terms of the agreement we could simply have given the Commonwealth Government three years' notice that we were withdrawing from the Northern Territory service altogether. The Commonwealth Government has decided, consequent on the decision taken by South Australia last year, to establish a Commonwealth teaching service. The establishment of this service will require special legislation, which I understand the Commonwealth Government will put through Parliament in the coming session. At present the Commonwealth Government is already employing some teachers directly in the Northern Territory, but, as there is not yet a Commonwealth teaching service, these teachers must be employed under the Public Service Board administration, and that arrangement is not considered entirely satisfactory. Our arrangement with the Commonwealth is that the phasing out of South Australian teachers will be progressive over a five-year period, and that, at least in the initial two and a half years to three years of that period, the general administration of education in the Northern Territory will be under the control of a South Australian officer seconded to the Northern Territory for that purpose. At present, the Director of Education in the Northern Territory is Mr. John Steinle, who was until last year the Regional Officer of our Education Department at Whyalla. It is expected that, until the majority of the Commonwealth teachers in the Northern Territory are employees of the Commonwealth teaching service, a South Australian will continue to be the Director there. While that position continues, all teachers in the Northern Territory will continue to be paid by the South Australian department, which the Commonwealth Government reimburses.

Mr. Coumbe: Do you expect some South Australian teachers to transfer to the Commonwealth service?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: When the Commonwealth teaching service is established, all South Australian teachers in the Northern Territory will be given the option about what they want to do, and I have no doubt that some will wish to transfer permanently to the Commonwealth service, as a means of staying in the Northern Territory. Others, however, who do not wish to transfer to the Commonwealth teaching service will remain teachers in the South Australian Education Department and, when the five-year period ends, they will automatically come back to South Australia. No decisions have yet been made or forced on any South Australian teachers about what they intend to do, basically because the legislation to establish the Commonwealth teaching service has not been passed by the Commonwealth Parliament. The other aspect that may interest the honourable member is that all promotional positions in the Northern Territory (that is, positions as senior master and higher positions) are at present filled by South Australians.

BERRI SCHOOL RESIDENCE

Mr. CURREN: Will the Minister of Education obtain a report on the condition of the headmaster's residence at the Berri Primary School, with a view to providing a new residence? Earlier this week I received copies of correspondence from the Berri Primary School Committee to the Education Department and a reply to that correspondence. The reply indicated that, although the need for a new residence was recognized, there were no plans at present to provide it.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: This matter is being examined, and I will see that the necessary information is provided for the honourable member as soon as possible.

SCHOOL STAFF ACCOMMODATION

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Minister of Education say what is the department's policy on providing office and staff accommodation at schools that do not currently have such accommodation? Certain smaller schools that were built some years ago do not have staff facilities (for lunch, etc.), and in some cases the head teacher is required to conduct all his office undertakings in the room in which he actually teaches. Representations have been made to members that such facilities be improved, and it would be much easier for

members when making submissions to the Minister on this matter if they were aware of the general policy that the department is following in regard to any upgrading of these facilities.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the honourable member will appreciate that it is likely that such facilities will be provided only where a school is being replaced. Where a small three-teacher school, for example, has been replaced (I can think of a couple of instances where this has occurred), facilities of the kind referred to by the honourable member have been provided. Because of the huge building programme that lies ahead of the Education Department, it has been necessary to establish priorities and to tackle the most urgent problems first. As a consequence, those schools which have had reasonable accommodation, and concerning which the tendency has been for enrolments to decline, have had to make do with existing arrangements in the way of accommodation for the head teacher or a staff room for the two or three teachers on the staff.

In some of these cases a porch area has been converted into a headmaster's office, or temporary arrangements of that kind have been made. I think this is one of those areas where, as a policy, we would like to see adequate facilities provided in every small school, but the exigencies of finance and the necessity to establish priorities have meant that many schools in the category referred to by the honourable member still go without. I would suggest to the honourable member therefore that, in considering any propositions he may wish to put to the department relating to two-teacher or three-teacher schools in his district, he may care to examine the possibility of converting an existing small area (a porch area or something of that description) into an office and to make a submission on that basis.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS ISLANDS

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister for Conservation a reply to the question I recently asked about the Sir Joseph Banks Islands?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Government is aware of the value of Spilsby and Reevesby Islands and is currently considering the possibility of purchasing these islands as fauna reserves. Spilsby Island has been the subject of mineral exploration programmes both by the Mines Department and subsequently by several companies. Small quantities of minerals containing molybdenum and tungsten

have been discovered on the island, and drilling programmes and geophysical surveys have been undertaken to determine the extent of the mineralization. The island is currently under an exploration permit, and drilling is programmed. In the event that an economic deposit is located, it would be the only such deposit in this State. The minerals sought occur only on Spilsby Island, which is the largest of 20 islands in the Sir Joseph Banks group. The island has been substantially cleared for pastoral purposes and, in the event of mining activities developing, restrictions will be placed on the operations to provide adequate protection to the natural assets of the island.

KAROONDA WATER SUPPLY

Mr. NANKIVELL: In the absence of the Minister of Works, can the Premier say whether any further work has been done or investigation carried out in regard to developing a cheap desalination plant that might be used to improve the quality of the water supply for Karoonda? When the Tailem Bend to Keith main was being constructed, the Karoonda council interceded and asked that consideration be given to extending a branch of this main to provide a better quality water supply for Karoonda as, although Karoonda currently has a reticulated water scheme, the water is of a quality not normally acceptable to the department, as it contains salt to the extent of about 150 grains (2,100 p.p.m.).

This matter has been further discussed in Karoonda with reference to the quality of water required at the hospital. As members may be aware, provision is made in the Loan Estimates in regard to the building of a new hospital for Karoonda and the matter of providing a desalination plant as a cheaper alternative to an extension of the main, which involves certain construction costs, was raised in the discussions held between the department and the people concerned. Will the Premier refer this matter to the Minister of Works to see whether it is intended to examine the possibility of providing a desalination scheme for Karoonda and, if it is intended, will he ascertain what progress, if any, has been made in this regard?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

EMPIRE TIMES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General report to the House on the outcome of the prosecution of the publisher of the September issue of *Empire Times*? Towards the end of last session, I asked the honourable

gentleman whether he intended to authorize a prosecution arising out of that issue of the *Empire Times* and he replied as follows:

I have authorized a prosecution against the alleged publisher on charges of printing and publishing indecent matter. I understand there has been some difficulty in effecting service of the summons.

My information is that this editor has gone back to Melbourne to live with his parents, but that is probably known to the Attorney-General, anyway. I ask whether service was effected, whether there has been a hearing, and, if there has, what is the outcome of it.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I do not have that information. I authorized the prosecution to which the honourable member has referred; from then on, of course, the prosecution is in the hands of the police, and I have no information about the matter and cannot remember reading anything about it in the press since that time. However, I will obtain a report and let the honourable member know.

POLICE CARS

Mr. BECKER: Will the Premier have examined the way in which a tender has been called for the washing of police cars? I understand that Public Buildings Department tender 250/E71 has been called regarding the washing of motor cars at Thebarton for the South Australian Police Department. I have been told that, according to page 20 of the tender, brushes are not to be used. The tender recommends the wand type that is used by the Robo Car Wash, a subsidiary of Amoco, whose equipment is imported from America. The Australian company is located in New South Wales. I understand that a South Australian company, Rub-A-Dub Car Wash, manufactures its own equipment in South Australia. The Robo company handles 15 cars an hour and leaves the vehicle wet, whereas Rub-A-Dub handles 95 cars an hour and leaves the vehicle dry.

The SPEAKER: Order! Those remarks have nothing to do with the explanation.

Mr. BECKER: I am explaining the reason for my question. Will the Premier examine the tender?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will inquire into this matter.

NOTICE PAPER CASES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can you, Mr. Speaker, give the House any information regarding the provision of Notice Paper cases at the front of Parliament House? On July 1, you

were kind enough to send me a copy of a letter you had received from the Minister of Works which stated:

I wish to advise that I have given further consideration to the matter of the provision of display cases at the front of Parliament House for Notice Papers and have now approved of the construction of two such cases. I cannot at this stage say exactly when they will be erected.

Two months ago, I received a letter in similar terms directly from the Minister. I know that the Public Buildings Department moves slowly, but I wonder whether you can tell honourable members when it is likely that these cases will be available? I have been advocating them for a number of years, in order to increase interest in Parliament.

The SPEAKER: I will inquire and inform the honourable member.

GARDEN SUBURB

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Minister of Local Government report to the House on proposals regarding the future of the Garden Suburb? Some weeks ago I asked the honourable gentleman a question about the renovation of the Colonel Light Gardens institute, and in his reply he said:

However, further developments have taken place since then.

That is, since the Minister of Works and his officers had come into the matter of renovations. The letter continues:

As I believe they could well be in the best interests of the citizens, further action has been deferred temporarily until these matters have been clarified.

I then asked whether the Minister would tell the House what they were about, and the Minister said that had nothing to do with the House. However, he said:

If the honourable member wants further information, he had better ask another question. Therefore, I ask the question again, after a suitable lapse of time.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The second to last question to which the honourable member has referred was asked by interjection and, in deference to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I had to ignore it. The future of Colonel Light Gardens is still the subject of careful consideration by the officers of my department and by other people, and I am progressively and regularly receiving reports. This matter has not been finalized but, as soon as it has been finalized, the honourable member and the residents of Colonel Light Gardens, who are more important to me, will certainly be informed of the outcome.

Mr. Millhouse: It's been a long time!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member had a long time!

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister and the member for Mitcham will not take the law into their own hands. They will cease this crossfire of interjections.

PORNOGRAPHY

Mr. BECKER: What policy is the Attorney-General adopting to curb the increasing publication of pornographic literature in South Australia? On August 11, a constituent of mine, a minister of religion, wrote to me and said that he had written to the Attorney-General to protest against a certain publication. His letter to me states:

I trust that there will be some agitation in Parliament to take strong measures with the smut peddlers of the universities. For too long, decent citizens have had to suffer their attacks upon institutions, public and private property and now the minds and morality of young people whom they are obviously deliberately setting out to debauch and corrupt.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have explained on more than one occasion, and I have explained twice today, that the Attorney-General's role in relation to obscenity laws is simply that the law provides that a prosecution cannot be instituted without the Attorney-General's authority. This means, therefore, that, when investigations have been made and the police have decided to forward a report to the Attorney-General, he must decide whether a prosecution should take place. That is the beginning and end of the matter as far as the Attorney is concerned. What happens in practice is that, if a member of the public takes exception to an objectionable publication, he takes it to the police (or if he makes a complaint to the Attorney-General's office, as sometimes happens, I forward it to the police), and the police investigate. If the police consider that it is a case for prosecution, they forward the report, together usually with a form of complaint, to me in order to obtain my signature. The position is simply that, if a question of policy arises (and the honourable member's question is about policy), the long-standing practice remains, namely, that, if any person such as the honourable member's constituent considers that a publication is obscene or indecent, the proper course of action is to complain to the police about it, or, if he makes the complaint to my office, I refer it to the police to investigate. If there is evidence to support a prosecution, the police forward the papers to me, and it is my responsibility to decide whether a prosecution should take place.

There is no particular policy beyond that, and there is no change in the practice that has obtained in this regard traditionally for a great many years.

NARACORTE ADULT EDUCATION

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Education say when it is likely that the arts centre requested for the Naracorte Adult Education Centre is likely to be proceeded with?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall inquire for the honourable member.

NURIOOTPA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Minister of Education say what stage planning has reached for the Nuriootpa Primary School? I asked a question earlier this week about the Nuriootpa High School, but the position regarding the primary school is a little confusing. Last year, a question was asked in another place and the reply given was that the primary school was due for replacement and should be ready for occupation during the latter part of 1973. Nuriootpa is in the unfortunate position of having its primary school and high school in an unsatisfactory condition. However, in answer to a question asked last week about the Vine Vale school, the Minister said that he hoped that the Nuriootpa Primary School would be ready to be occupied midway through 1974. That is the first indication I have had that there has been some delay with regard to the Nuriootpa Primary School. I have also noticed that this school is not included in the Loan Estimates design list for 1971-72, as I would have expected it to be included if it was to be completed by 1973. Can the Minister say what is the position with regard to this school?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will check on the matter for the honourable member. Having received a letter from the school committee asking me to visit the school, I have replied that I hope to make an appropriate time for such a visit later in the year. I will inform the school committee and the honourable member what that time will be. I think I should explain that when projects are placed on the design list we do not have the complete picture of the future availability of finance. Consequently, any information about likely dates for the calling of tenders is purely tentative, as it depends very much on finance. In fact, my experience has often been that a check is not made to see whether projects on the design list are likely to be in line with or within, say, 20 per cent of the

sum of money that could conceivably be available. That is the main reason why optimistic forecasts that cannot be sustained are sometimes given. I will check with regard to the Nuriootpa Primary School. I can assure the honourable member that, with regard to the department, it is one of the schools stated for replacement, the need for replacement being recognized.

CRYSTAL BROOK SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Can the Minister of Education say when it is now expected that the playing area at the Crystal Brook Primary School will be drained and sealed? Some time ago an approach was made to the department for the playing area to be drained and sealed. Owing to the shortage of finance, the reply was that this work would be done at a later date when finance was available. Can the Minister say when it is now expected that finance will be available so that the school playing area can be drained and sealed, and also when new toilets can be provided at this school?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Part of the problem at Crystal Brook has been with regard to what form of replacement might ultimately be planned. I have sent a detailed letter to the Crystal Brook school committee about paving and drainage of the schoolyard. As I believe that the best procedure I can adopt in these circumstances is to send a copy of that letter to the honourable member, I will see that that is done as soon as possible.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Education received representations that will be considered by the Cook committee, which has been set up to study the special needs of independent schools? I refer especially to representations made to me on behalf of some category D schools (particularly some of the Catholic schools) that failed to receive grants as a result of the committee's recommendation. Has the Minister received representations along these lines, and when does he expect this committee to reconvene?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The answer to the first question is "Yes". The answer to the second question is that the committee does not have to reconvene, as it has met regularly since it was appointed. A further questionnaire has been prepared by the committee and has already been sent out to the schools. Regarding representations made to me by schools explaining what is the position with respect to aid given, the action that I adopt is to refer the

representations to the committee immediately, asking it to consider them and, if necessary, to hear further verbal argument from the people concerned.

SCHOOL SUBSIDIES

Mr. NANKIVELL: I asked a question yesterday about grants to replace subsidies. I ask the Minister of Education whether, in view of the new grants policy being adopted by the Education Department, additional assistance will be given to smaller schools to construct capital improvements, such work presently being subject to Loan subsidy. The new policy of grants on a per capita basis could mean that some of the smaller schools would actually receive less assistance now than they received under the old scheme. The Chairman of the Loxton High School council has told me that this school is rather concerned that the grants it will receive may not meet its normal requirements. The council believes that it may thus possibly be involved in having to draw on reserves it has built up as its contribution towards the construction of a subsidized amenities hall. As the reserves of these smaller schools could be used in this way to meet normal requirements that have previously been met out of the subsidy scheme, I ask the Minister what consideration will be given to such schools in respect of this change in policy.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The only schools that could be in difficulty as a consequence of the change would be those that have been receiving for some time more than their fair share of subsidy money available. I think I pointed out previously that the amount in subsidies from Budget in recent years has varied between \$500,000 and \$550,000, whereas the grants scheme in a full year will involve a total allocation of \$750,000 and I think the honourable member will appreciate that in most cases schools will get more. If any school gets less, it is not likely to be very much less and, if it is, all I can say is that that school has been having a ball in years gone by. Part of the formula that will apply in relation to any school is a sum in addition to the per capita payment, for example, a small primary school might be paid a base amount and so much for each child. This protects the smaller school which finds it a little more costly on a per capita basis to provide some of the necessary facilities that are now provided on a subsidy basis. I do not believe that, after the scheme and the way it affects individual schools has been considered, the fears that have been expressed to the honourable member will turn out to be realized.

AGENTS BILL

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Does the Attorney-General intend to reintroduce this session the Agents Bill which lapsed in 1969? On the last night of the 1969 session this House was dealing with the Agents Bill, which was to take the place of the Land Agents Act and I think some other Act. We went into Committee and progress was reported. The Bill was undoubtedly a great improvement on present legislation and much work had been done on it by the Land Agents Board at my request. I had hoped we would have heard of its reintroduction by now but nothing has been said.

The Hon. L. J. KING: It is intended to introduce a Land Agents Bill this session; I think that was referred to in His Excellency's Speech. The legislation is in a fairly advanced stage of preparation. It will not be the same Bill that was before the House previously. The Law Society, which is at present considering the matter, has informed me that it cannot make its submissions on the matter until the end of August. However, the Bill will certainly be introduced this session.

At 4 o'clock, the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1970. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The principal Act provides that an assessment of the unimproved value of land shall be made as of the first day in July in every fifth year. Such a quinquennial assessment was made in July of 1970. The Act further provides that land tax for a particular financial year shall be calculated on the basis of the assessment in force on June 30 immediately preceding that financial year. Therefore, the assessment made in July, 1970, is the assessment to be used for the 1971-72 land tax.

Since the making of the 1970 assessment, the Government has viewed with growing concern

the steady decline in the value of primary-producing land. Since that date it has also become clear that the sales on which the assessment was based did not, in fact, fully reflect the drop which had already occurred in the profitability of rural production. It has been estimated that rural land sales over the past 12 months reveal an average drop in value of about 20 per cent. The unfortunate result is that, under the Act as it now stands, the 1971 - 1972 land tax must be based on an assessment which, in effect, now grossly overvalues much of the primary-producing land. Not only land tax but also water rates would be unreasonably high in respect of the primary producer, as the Commissioner of Waterworks calculates his rates on the basis of the quinquennial land tax assessment. The Government is of the opinion that such a situation is unreasonable and places an unfair burden on the primary producer. Objections have been lodged against about 13,000 of the 48,000 land tax assessments issued in respect of rural properties on the basis of the 1970 assessment.

In order to produce a fairer situation and to by-pass the costly and lengthy process of hearing and determining so many objections (which in any case could not resolve the real difficulty) the Government seeks to amend the principal Act so as to provide for an assessment to be made of the unimproved value, as of June 30, 1971, of all land used for primary production. The 1971-1972 land tax and water rates will be based on such valuation, which will continue to be the current assessment until a further quinquennial assessment is made in 1975. The land tax revenue to be derived from rural land in 1971-1972 could as a result be expected to be \$1,000,000 or thereabouts, which was the amount expected by the Government when the 1970 assessment was undertaken and newly reduced rates set. Although the objections already lodged will lapse, the taxpayer's right to object to the new 1971 assessment will in no way be interfered with. It is expected that the Valuation Department will be able to complete the revaluation by about the end of October.

I shall now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 enacts a new section, which provides that the Commissioner shall make the 1971 assessment of primary-producing land as of June 30, 1971. As with quinquennial assessments, general notice that the assessment has been made must be given. The new assessment has effect from June 30, 1971, until a quinquennial assessment is made in 1975. Particular notice of the individual

assessment for land tax must be given to each taxpayer with respect to his primary-producing land, and that notice will explain to the taxpayer the new provisions regarding the old 1970 assessment and the objections that arose therefrom.

When the general notice of the making of the 1971 assessment is published in the *Gazette*, that part of the 1970 assessment which relates to primary-producing land, together with all objections that arose as a result of that part, shall become void and shall lapse. The Commissioner is not obliged to take any further action with respect to those objections. The 1971 assessment replaces the relevant part of the 1970 assessment. The rights of the taxpayer are fully preserved with respect to objecting to an assessment for land tax based on the 1971 assessment. Clauses 3 and 4 effect minor consequential amendments, which enable sections 21 and 23 of the principal Act to apply to the 1971 assessment.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): The speech that the Treasurer has read as his second reading explanation of amendments to this legislation indicates that the Opposition was fully justified in its attack on the Government's policy on land tax, an attack that the Government continued to ignore for many months although we pointed out to the Government that it was wrong. In his previous arguments the Treasurer introduced examples in this House to prove that he was correct, and insisted that he would collect no more than \$1,000,000 from rural land tax. Now, by this Bill he admits that he was wrong. He has taken notice of the 13,000 objections that have been lodged by rural landholders, and he must alter land tax in order to keep within the limits he stated.

This Bill is another example of the failure of this Government to assess properly the matters it is called upon to administer. I do not yet have a copy of the second reading explanation, but I will certainly study it with interest during the week-end. I assure the Treasurer that this measure is totally inadequate to assist a rural community that is causing considerable discussion because of its present depressed state. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted: debate adjourned.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ABOLITION BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to abolish capital punishment by courts in South Australia and in connection therewith

to amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1971, the Juries Act, 1927-1971, the Justices Act, 1921-1969, the Local and District Criminal Courts Act, 1926-1971, the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act, 1925-1969, and the Prisons Act, 1936-1969, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to abolish the death penalty, which may still be imposed by the courts in this State. Members will recall that a Bill was passed in this House last session providing for the abolition of capital and corporal punishment. That Bill went to another place but it had not been passed by that place when the session ended. However, because different opinions were expressed by honourable members there on the questions of corporal punishment and capital punishment, the Government has decided to introduce separate Bills. This Bill will be followed by a Bill providing for the abolition of corporal punishment. In moving the second reading today I wish to put to the House substantially the same matters as were put to it last session.

The punishment of death is probably as old as organized society itself. It is certainly as old as the oldest of known legal systems. For most of human history it has been accepted as the appropriate punishment for certain serious crimes. It has its foundation in deeply felt, although often irrational, beliefs as to retribution and vengeance. In the last 300 years, however, men have gradually come to question the validity of the arguments in support of the retention of this form of punishment. A realization has developed that traditional beliefs as to the intrinsic value of the human person have important consequences with respect to criminal punishment. These developing ideas were greatly stimulated by the rise of the Labor movement and its vivid consciousness of the human dignity of the common man. The Australian Labor movement from quite early in its history set its face against capital punishment.

The Australian Labor Party's legal and prison reform platform has for many decades been headed by a plank requiring the abolition of capital punishment. Labor Governments have consistently reprieved prisoners under sentence of death, and the death penalty has been abolished by legislation initiated by Labor Governments in New South Wales and Queensland. Capital punishment has been abolished in most of the countries of Western Europe, in

the United Kingdom, and in 14 of the States of the American Union. There has been a steady trend in democratic States towards the abolition of the death penalty.

The case against capital punishment rests primarily and basically upon the intrinsic value of the human person. It is not too much to say that the degree of civilization of a community is determined by its price of the worth of the human person. A profound reverence for human life is the mark of truly civilized societies. Carelessness of human life and disregard of its value are the marks of barbarism. When the State carries out the death penalty it deliberately and with premeditation destroys a human life.

This necessarily has the effect of depreciating the community's sense of the value of human life. When the State, as a deliberate act of policy, lays aside its power to punish by inflicting death, it demonstrates in a practical and striking way its conviction of the value of all human life. If the State refrains from inflicting death on those guilty of the gravest crimes because of its awareness of the value of human life, it contributes greatly by its example to the civilized condition of society.

A very practical if less fundamental reason for desiring to abolish the death penalty is that it is by its nature irreversible. A mistake cannot be rectified. Two examples may illustrate this point. In 1947, Frederick Lincoln McDermott was sentenced to death for a murder in the outback of New South Wales. The then Labor Government of that State commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life. In January, 1952, a Royal Commission reported that McDermott had been wrongly convicted, and he was released and compensated. Had McDermott been convicted in South Australia, it is probable that the discovery of the error would have been too late. A mistake would have been irreversible.

A very striking and tragic case is that of Timothy Evans. Evans was an illiterate, mentally backward lorry driver who was charged with the murder of his child. At the trial, Evans's counsel sought to show that a boarder in the house by the name of Christie had murdered Evans's wife and child. Evans was convicted and executed. Subsequently, Christie was arrested and charged with the murder of eight women, some of the murders having striking similarities to the murder of Mrs. Evans. Christie confessed to the murder of Mrs. Evans. Evans was

posthumously pardoned. The only compensation the State could offer was to re-bury him in consecrated ground, 17 years after his execution.

The loathsome ritual of execution affects the whole community but in particular the officials who must directly participate in it. It would be tolerable in a civilized community only if it could be shown that it was a unique deterrent to serious crime and that its abolition would result in the increased loss of innocent life.

The evidence is overwhelming that the abolition of the death penalty has no effect on the incidence of the crime of murder. In South Australia in 1970 we have the advantage of the experience of a great many jurisdictions in which the death penalty has long been abolished. Statistics from those countries show that disappearance of the death penalty has not resulted in an increase in the crime of murder. The British Royal Commission on Capital Punishment, after considering exhaustively the experience of countries where the death penalty had been discontinued, reported as follows:

The general conclusion which we have reached is that there is no clear evidence in any of the figures we have examined that the abolition of capital punishment has led to an increase in the homicide rate or that its reintroduction led to a fall.

This was also borne out by a detailed study of the incidence of murder in Great Britain published by the Home Office in 1969, just before the United Kingdom Parliament carried the Bill for the permanent abolition of capital punishment. The same conclusion has been reached by one of the world's foremost criminologists, Professor Norval Morris (formerly Bonython Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide). In a recent book he referred to studies made on the consequences of abolition. He said:

The conclusion which emerges from such studies and from all the literature and research reports on the death penalty is, to the point of monotony: the existence or non-existence of capital punishment is irrelevant to the murder, or attempted murder, rate.

The greatest single factor which has led to the progressive abolition of the death penalty in countries with a democratic tradition is the failure of those who favour retention of capital punishment to prove that it is a unique deterrent and that its abolition affects the murder rate. In the 1965 debate in the House of Lords, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Ramsay) put the matter thus:

It just is not shown that the death penalty is a uniquely powerful deterrent. . . . A sentence of life imprisonment is a terrible sentence, deterrent in effect, and capable of issuing in a wise, stem and human penology, and I believe that to abolish the death penalty in this country will set us in the way of progress . . . and rid us from the wrong of a system which punishes killing by a penalty which helps to devalue human life.

But when all arguments have been weighed and considered, we must return to the basic consideration that the death penalty, like torture, is unacceptable to a civilized community because it is an affront to the dignity of human nature. Perhaps the last word on the controversy is to be found in the words of Sir Ernest Gowers (Chairman of the British Royal Commission on Capital Punishment). He said that he started the inquiry in favour of the death penalty, though without having given much thought to it. He said:

In the end I became convinced that the abolitionists were right in their conclusions, though I could not agree with all their arguments and that so far from the sentimental approach leading one into their camp and the rational one into the supporters, it was the other way about.

The final question to be answered is whether the effort to abolish capital punishment is worth while. Few murderers are executed in South Australia. The last execution took place in 1964. There have been only 19 executions in this State in this century and only half a dozen of them since the end of the Second World War. Why bother? I think that the answer to this contention was well expressed by the leading British abolitionist, Sydney Silverman, M.P., when he spoke during the debate on the Abolition Bill in the House of Commons in 1965: He said:

I can well understand people saying that in the face of all our anxieties it may not matter whether we execute or do not execute two or three wretched murderers every year. It is impossible to argue that the execution of two people in England every year can make a very great contribution to improving a dark and menaced world. Yet we could light this small candle and see how far the tiny glimmer can penetrate the gloom.

The formal abolition of capital punishment may not save many lives. But it will be an affirmation by the Parliament of South Australia of its belief in the worth and dignity of human beings. It will be a renunciation of the power to destroy life and an emphatic assertion of the values of a humane and civilized society. In order to achieve the above purposes, the Bill contains consequential amendments to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act,

the Juries Act, the Justices Act, the Local and District Criminal Courts Act, the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act, and the Prisons Act.

I shall now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2, which is the key provision of the Bill, provides for the abolition of the sentence of death notwithstanding any provision in any other Act or law. Life imprisonment is substituted in any case which may be found not to have been specifically dealt with in the Bill. Part II deals with the consequential amendments to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1971, as follows: Clause 3 is formal. Clause 4 amends section 3 of that Act, which sets out the arrangement of the Act, by deleting a reference to execution. Clause 5 enacts a new section 10a, which provides that a person convicted of treason is liable to be imprisoned for life. This clause fills a gap left by the general abolition of capital punishment because, at common law, the only penalty applicable to treason is the death penalty.

Clause 6 amends section 11, which provides for the penalty for murder, by changing the mandatory penalty of death to that of life imprisonment. Clause 7 amends section 207 of the Act, which provides the penalty for attempted murder in the course of piracy, by changing the mandatory penalty of death to that of life imprisonment. Clause 8 amends section 238 of the Act, which provides the penalty for rescuing murderers, by deleting reference to rescuing a murderer on his way to execution. Clause 9 amends section 296 of the Act, which provides that certain convictions disqualify a public servant from office, by deleting reference to the death sentence. Clause 10 repeals sections 301 to 307 inclusive of the Act and schedules 8 and 9, all of which deal with the carrying out of a sentence of death. Clause 11 amends section 314 of the Act, which provides the penalty on successive convictions for felony, by deleting reference to the death penalty. Clause 12 amends section 357 of the Act, which provides for the time for appealing from a conviction, by deleting reference to the death penalty and by striking out the whole of subsection (2), which provides certain procedures in an appeal from a conviction involving the death penalty. Clause 13 amends section 369 of the Act, which deals with references by the Chief Secretary on petitions for mercy, by deleting reference to the death penalty.

Part III deals with the consequential amendments to the Juries Act, 1927-1971, as follows: Clause 14 is formal. Clause 15 amends sections

55a to 57 inclusive of the Act by deleting reference to capital offences and substituting therefor the description of such offences as those of murder and treason. Clause 16 repeals section 87 of the Act, which provides for a medical examination to determine the pregnancy or otherwise of a woman who has been sentenced to death.

Part IV deals with the consequential amendments to the Justices Act, 1921-1969, as follows: Clause 17 is formal. Clause 18 amends section 109 of that Act, which deals with certain procedures at trials, by changing the description of capital offence to that of murder or treason. Clause 19 amends section 134 of the Act, which deals with a defendant's plea, by changing the description of capital offence to that of murder or treason. Part V deals with the consequential amendments to the Local and District Criminal Courts Act, 1926-1969, as follows: Clause 20 is formal. Clause 21 amends section 4 of that Act, which deals with interpretation, by deleting the reference to a capital offence.

Part VI deals with the consequential amendments to the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act, 1925-1969, as follows: Clause 22 is formal. Clause 23 amends section 3 of that Act, which provides for legal aid to persons accused of indictable offences, by deleting reference to a capital offence. Part VII deals with the consequential amendments to the Prisons Act, 1936-1969, as follows: Clause 24 is formal. Clause 25 amends section 6 of that Act, which is a saving provision, by striking out subsection (3) which relates only to the sentence of death.

Mr. MILLHOUSE secured the adjournment of the debate.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ABOLITION BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to abolish corporal punishment by courts in South Australia and in connection therewith to amend the Children's Protection Act, 1936-1969, the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1971, the Kidnapping Act, 1960, and the Prisons Act, 1936-1969, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to abolish the various forms of corporal punishment that are still capable of being imposed by the courts in this State. The penalty of corporal punishment is deemed by the Government to be archaic and quite

inconsistent with modern ideas on the treatment of law breakers. By corporal punishment is meant whipping, solitary confinement, chaining in leg irons, and bread and water diets. Such punishments are relics of a past age and have rarely been used in this State for many years. There is no justification for retaining these penalties as part of our penal law when they should not be, and are not, imposed by the courts in this State. The Bill provides a general abolition of corporal punishment by courts and contains consequential amendments to the Children's Protection Act, the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, the Kidnapping Act, and the Prisons Act.

I shall now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is formal. The commencement of the Act shall be on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 2 is the key provision of the Bill and provides for the abolition of the sentences by a court of whipping, solitary confinement, and all other forms of corporal punishment, notwithstanding any provision in any other Act or law. Part II of the Bill deals with the consequential amendments to the Children's Protection Act, 1936-1969, as follows: Clause 3 is formal. Clause 4 repeals sections 15, 16, 17 and 18 of that Act, which provide for the whipping of males under 16 years of age in the case of certain offences. Part III of the Bill deals with consequential amendments to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, 1935-1971, as follows: Clause 5 is formal. Clause 6 amends 18 sections of the Act, which cover various offences, by deleting all references to whipping as an additional punishment to imprisonment.

Clause 7 repeals section 52a of the Act, which provides for the whipping of persons convicted of carnal knowledge as an additional punishment. Clause 8 amends section 70 of the Act, which provides the penalty for indecent assault on males, by deleting reference to whipping as an additional punishment. Clause 9 amends section 101 of the Act, which provides the penalty for damaging trees, by deleting reference to whipping as an additional punishment. Clause 10 repeals sections 308 and 312 of the Act. Section 308 deals with whipping generally and section 312 provides for the solitary confinement of a prisoner. Clause 11 amends section 357 of the Act, which provides for the time for appealing from a conviction, by striking out part of subsection (2), which provides certain procedures in an appeal from a conviction involving the penalty of corporal punishment.

Part IV of the Bill deals with the consequential amendments to the Kidnapping Act, 1960, as follows: Clause 12 is formal. Clause 13 amends sections 2 and 3 of that Act by deleting any reference to whipping as an additional punishment for the offences of kidnapping and demanding money with threat. Part V of the Bill deals with the consequential amendments to the Prisons Act, 1936-1969, as follows: Clause 14 is formal. Clause 15 amends section 14 of the Act which gives the Governor power to make regulations for labour prisons, by deleting paragraphs (c), (d) and (e), which provide for wearing or irons, for whipping and for solitary confinement. Clause 16 amends section 29 of the Act, which deals with the escape of prisoners, by deleting the reference to wearing irons as a punishment.

Clause 17 effects a consequential amendment to section 40 of the Act dealing with separate confinement which is deemed not to be solitary confinement. Clause 18 amends section 47 of the Act, which deals with punishment of prisoners, by striking out paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), which provide for solitary confinement and bread and water diet. Clause 19 amends section 48 of the Act which deals with repeated offences by prisoners, by deleting the reference to wearing irons, and by striking out paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (3), which provide for solitary confinement, dietary punishments, and corporal punishment. Clause 20 repeals section 51 of the Act, which deals solely with corporal punishment of prisoners. Clause 21 amends section 57 of the Act, which deals with prisoners assaulting officers, by deleting reference to corporal punishment as an additional punishment. Clause 22 amends section 58 of the Act, which deals with prisoners attempting to escape, by deleting reference to wearing irons and solitary confinement.

Mr. MILLHOUSE secured the adjournment of the debate.

DOOR TO DOOR SALES BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act relating to certain selling practices, to repeal the Book Purchasers Protection Act, 1963-1964, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is one of a series of measures intended to extend a degree of protection to the consumer.

In terms, it is intended to control and regulate the practice of certain aspects of door-to-door or "direct" selling. I would draw honourable members' attention to the report on the Law Relating to Consumer Credit and Money-lending, of the Law School of the University of Adelaide, commonly called the Rogerson report. Pages 59 to 62 of that report form a useful background to a consideration of this matter although, for reasons that will be touched on, not all the legislative solutions proposed in the report have been adopted in this Bill.

The sales that seem to give rise to most problems in this area are those which possess at least two common elements: (a) they take place in the home or place of employment; and (b) they are not initiated by the consumer. The element of place is important, since when a consumer is approached at his home or place of employment his ability to withdraw from the negotiations is somewhat impaired. True, he can shut his door in the salesman's face or appeal to his employer, but much of the salesman's not inconsiderable powers of persuasion is directed to enjoining him not to take either of those courses. The element of "non-initiation" is important, since this non-initiation imparts a degree of surprise, in that the consumer is not prepared for the salesman's approach and is hence somewhat off his guard. It is where these two elements co-exist that there seems a need for legislative intervention.

A typical situation possessing these elements arises when the housewife busy with her domestic duties, goes to her front door, to find an uninvited salesman on her doorstep. In the nature of things he is likely to be highly skilled in the arts of persuasion, and in some cases, but by no means all, he may be not above concealing his intentions to effect a sale until a comparatively late stage of the proceedings. The product the salesman is selling may range from a comparatively good and useful one to almost worthless rubbish.

The effective result of the operation is that the housewife may well find herself having contracted for something she does not really want at a price she cannot really afford. Her obligation may be substantial and, too often, insult is added to injury when she finds, too late, that she would have been able to buy the same or a similar product elsewhere at a lower price.

It follows, however, from this summary that by no means all contracts that are in whole or in part negotiated at the home or place of employment will be affected by this measure.

For instance, sales resulting from a visit to the home or place of employment by a salesman at the unsolicited request of the proposed purchaser will be untouched. Shortly, only such sales arising from unsolicited calls by a salesman will be affected.

To consider the Bill in some detail, clauses 1 to 3 are formal. Clause 4 repeals the Book Purchasers Protection Act, 1963-1964, and makes certain formal transitional arrangements. I would mention that the presence of that Act on the Statute Book has served to keep this State relatively free of the complaints relating to book sales that have been a feature in other States. This has fortified the Government in its intention to base this measure, to a considerable extent, on the principles set out in the Book Purchasers Protection Act. The situations covered in that Act will now fall within the scope of this measure.

Clause 5 sets out the definitions necessary for the purposes of this measure, and I would draw honourable members' attention to the first of the exceptions provided for. Subclause (2), when read with the definition of "goods", will allow in appropriate cases particular goods or goods of a class to be taken out of the ambit of the measure altogether.

Clause 6 provides for the application of the Act to the contracts or agreements described in subclause (1). Here I would indicate that contracts and agreements that have a consideration of or less than \$20 are excluded. Further exclusions are: (a) contracts or agreements made before the commencement of this proposed Act; (b) contracts or agreements where the negotiations have been initiated by the purchaser or proposed purchaser; (c) contracts or agreements entered into at the ordinary place of business of the vendor; (d) contracts or agreements where the purchaser is a trader in the goods the subject of the contract or agreement; and (e) contracts or agreements that are by proclamation excluded from the Act. I would draw honourable members' attention to subclause (3) of this clause, which provides in effect that mere advertising that a salesman will call if invited will not of itself be regarded as soliciting an invitation for the salesman to call.

Clause 7 at subclause (1) provides, in effect, that a contract or agreement to which the Act applies will not be enforceable against a purchaser unless in form it complies with the provisions of that subsection. One method of compliance is suggested at subclause (2). It will be noted that the notice of confirmation must be given after seven days from the day

of execution and before 16 days after execution. The first period of limitation is to give the proposed purchaser adequate time for reflection, and the second is to ensure that the vendor will not be prejudiced by being bound to a contract that was, say, affirmed some weeks or months after the negotiations.

At subclause (3) the vendor is prohibited from accepting any deposit or making any delivery of goods or providing any service until the confirmation of the contract or agreement is received by him. This concept of a "cooling-off period" can be expressed in two ways: (a) that a contract will not be binding unless it is confirmed within the cooling-off period; or (b) that a contract will be binding unless it is rescinded during the cooling-off period. Approach (b) was advocated in the Rogerson report and has been given effect to in legislation in some other States. However, following the apparent success of the Book Purchasers Protection Act in this State, the Government feels that the approach referred to in paragraph (a) should be adopted. It seems that this approach will avoid what appear to be considerable problems that will arise from, say, the delivery of goods or the supply of services under a contract that is later rescinded. Amongst these are the following: (a) loss of or damage to the goods while in the purchaser's possession whether before or after rescission; (b) depreciation of the goods whilst in the purchaser's possession; (c) compensation to the vendor for use of goods by the purchaser before rescission; (d) payment by the purchaser for services supplied by the vendor before rescission; (e) the position of a "trade-in" sold by the vendor before rescission; and it is likely that other questions of a similar nature will emerge.

By any standards, the resolution of these problems would either deprive the vendor of his legitimate rights or render the rights of the purchaser the less effective. It is considered that, if no action can be taken by either party until their rights have crystallized, by confirmation by the purchaser, both parties will be in a better position than they would be if they acted under a contract that was subject to rescission. Subclause (4) is intended to prohibit the vendor soliciting confirmation by the purchaser since it is inherent in the concept of the cooling-off period that the purchaser should be free to make up his mind. Subclause (5) is intended to prohibit the practice of persuading the purchaser to appoint the vendor his agent to confirm the contract.

If such a practice is permitted, the purchaser may effectively lose his rights under the Act.

Subclause (6) provides that a contract or agreement to which the Act applies must have the words set out in subclause (1) (c) printed in accordance with the requirements of that paragraph, and at paragraph (b) prohibits the insertion of a provision in the contract that the "law of the contract" will be the law of a place other than this State. I hasten to point out that such a provision enacted here cannot, of itself, affect the ordinary rule of private international law, which in this case may be summarized as being "that the law of a contract is the law agreed upon between the parties to the contract". However, it is hoped that such a provision will at least discourage the practice. This question of choice of law clauses is quite a complicated one in the general area of "consumer protection". No-one would deny to businessmen, dealing on all fours and properly advised, the right to select and agree upon the law for, and indeed the method of, resolving their differences. However, the position is somewhat different when the housewife buys, say, some household item at the door and, when a dispute arises in relation to a purchase, she finds to her cost that the dispute is to be determined at a place remote from this State.

Clause 8 serves to re-enforce the principle of "no delivery under the contract or agreement until the rights of the parties are crystallized by confirmation of the contract". In simple terms, if the vendor is so misguided as to attempt to effect delivery in contravention of the Act, the goods delivered may be regarded by the purchaser as a gift to him. A similar position will obtain in relation to services supplied in contravention of the Act. Clause 9 is intended to go some way towards prohibiting what appears to be a most undesirable practice—salesmen deliberately concealing the true purpose of their visit until a comparatively late stage in the proceedings. While this practice is not followed by representatives of many well-known and reputable direct selling organizations, it is sufficiently common to merit some attention by this Parliament.

Clause 10 preserves the position of the strictures contained in the Companies Act against the hawking of shares door to door. Clause 11 is intended to deal with a situation that is becoming rather too common. The threat to bring legal proceedings against a person or to impugn a person's credit often results in the person settling a matter where in fact no

liability exists. If such persons had the benefit of proper legal advice, these threats would of course be quite ineffective. The existence of a provision of this nature may cause vendors to pause for reflection before making clearly unfounded threats. Clause 12 is a fairly standard provision and imposes a liability on persons concerned in the management of bodies corporate for actions which at law are attributable to the body.

Clause 13 is intended to ensure that it will not be possible for a person to waive his rights under the Act whether by contracting out or otherwise. It is felt that, unless such a provision is included, many standard forms of contracts or agreements to which it is proposed the Act shall apply will soon contain a clause excluding the operation of all or part of the Act. Clause 14 provides for the summary disposition of offences under the Act.

Finally, at the risk of some repetition, I should like to make clear once more the kind of transaction that is proposed to be covered. In summary, this measure will regulate the rights and obligations of parties to a contract or agreement that is initiated by a vendor calling uninvited on a prospective purchaser at his home or place of employment and entering into such a contract or agreement. In such a case no rights and obligations will arise unless the purchaser within the statutory time confirms the contract or agreement; upon such a confirmation the contract or agreement will stand and be of full force and effect.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOAN ESTIMATES

In Committee.

(Continued from August 11. Page 734.)

Engineering and Water Supply, \$33,350,000.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Treasurer, representing the Minister of Works, say whether the item "Central Workshops" includes work on the foundry?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): As I am afraid that I do not have that information for the honourable member, I will inquire for him.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Under "Country Sewerage" \$50,000 is provided in respect of Lobethal; although I assume that this involves a sewerage extension, I should like details of how the money will be spent.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have a report on that matter immediately to hand, but I will inquire for the honourable member and give him details.

Mr. WARDLE: I should like to know whether, under "Country Waterworks—Extensions, services and minor works" for which \$1,562,000 is provided, the small extension at Mypolonga is included, and whether replacement of a certain section in the Jervois reticulation scheme is also included.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have that information available, but I will inquire for the honourable member.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to the item "Reconstruction of Sewers". As members know, I have in recent weeks expressed considerable interest in this subject, and I am disappointed that action is not being taken to do something about the sewerage system in Hackney, along the banks of the Torrens River. I have received a letter from the Minister of Works stating that at times there is an overflow of sewage into the Torrens River not only at the Hackney bridge but also at the Gilberton syphon near Simpson Street, at O.G. Road, Klemzig, and at Cooke Road, Windsor Gardens. He makes the point that all these overflows are connected by alarms to the radio room at the Thebarton sewerage depot; that a warning is given when the level is approaching the overflow level; and that a further warning is given when overflows actually occur.

The letter states that these overflows occur only when there is a rain storm and considerable flooding, with a small "pollutional load". I assume that is the effluent to which the Minister referred previously. Nevertheless, this represents a definite source of pollution. The main trunk sewers involved were laid in 1895 and in 1925, and were designed for much smaller areas than those they now serve. As the Torrens River is the natural drainage for a large proportion of the northern and north-eastern suburbs, the trunk sewers must, of necessity, follow close to the river, and any overflows in the sewerage system must find their way into the river. As I think it is urgent that action be taken to replace these trunk mains, will the Treasurer, representing the Minister of Works, say when it is intended to replace the main trunk sewers in this area, thus removing the possibility of pollution entering the Torrens River?

The Hon. D.A. DUNSTAN: I will endeavour to ascertain a date for the honourable member.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Under the item "River Murray Weirs, Dams, Locks, etc.", I should like to know who is responsible for maintaining the quality of water in the Murray River.

I believe that this matter relates specifically to the River Murray Waters Agreement, and there is obvious cause for concern about this problem. I am concerned, because we have no assurance in respect of Murray River control, other than that which has existed since 1915. Recently, the River Murray Commission undertook an inquiry into salinity in the river, and the report states:

The recommended measures are set out below. Those for the Mallee Zone are localized and of high priority and therefore the works and investigations are described specifically . . .

I refer, under "Mallee Zone", to "construction of works to divert groundwater inflows" in the vicinities of Chowilla (lock 6), Renmark (lock 5), Disher Creek evaporation basin, and Waikerie, and the report refers to the "initiation of an investigation of the Bulyong Island evaporation basin, and intensification of investigations into groundwater conditions in the Sunraysia irrigation areas and the South Australian irrigation areas, notably Loxton, Berri and Cobdogla, with the view of carrying out works similar to those above to reduce saline groundwater inflows".

There is no question that there is a problem here of some magnitude, a problem which may well have been managed had the Chowilla dam been constructed and which certainly could have been managed had the Dartmouth dam been constructed. However, in the meantime, no control can be exercised other than that exercised by the River Murray Commission. The commission can now consider salinity control. Some of the areas of contamination to which I have referred are specifically in South Australia, and some of the inquiries to which I have referred specifically relate to South Australia, namely, Bulyong Island and Disher Creek. The problem concerning Salt Creek at Renmark and the problem of possible salinity at Waikerie are matters concerning South Australia because they affect that part of the river in this State in the areas where there is a source of salinity contamination above the present pumping sites for the Morgan-Whyalla main, the Mannum-Adelaide main, the Taillem Bend to Keith main, and the proposed Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main.

As I believe that the State has some responsibility in this regard, I ask the Treasurer what is being done regarding further inquiries into these matters. Is the department at present involved in making detailed inquiries? If it is, what are these inquiries

and when is it expected that a statement will be made on what is intended regarding the matters raised in the Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey report on salinity? Salinity in the water supply affects everyone in the State. I suggest that the Government consider instituting studies immediately, if they are not being undertaken already. If we cannot get more water, at least we can do something about reducing salinity.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The salinity in the Murray River has concerned successive Governments. The investigation of salinity in the Murray by the consultants was agreed to by the previous Labor Government. The work to be carried out in our section of the Murray River has from time to time been undertaken by the department in South Australia, several investigations of salinity control measures having been undertaken by it. The matter has also been discussed at meetings of the Water Resources Council, and the assistance of the Commonwealth Government has been sought in our case, as it has been forthcoming in the case of Victoria, for salinity control measures. These measures will need to be undertaken regardless of what dams are built on the Murray River for, quite apart from the matter of diversion of ground water at Chowilla, to which the honourable member has referred, every one of the remaining matters in relation to South Australia would still cause salinity problems in the State, regardless of whether we have more water in additional storage facilities at Dartmouth or Chowilla or at both.

The honourable member will see from the report just how drastically our area can be affected by saline seepage and the degree to which salinity can increase as between the border and Waikerie. This matter must be undertaken by the State in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government. Unfortunately, as the honourable member has pointed out, there is no overall authority for the control of salinity. The River Murray Commission does not have, under its provisions, control of the quality of water. The River Murray Waters Agreement relates to the supply of a quantity of water, but the quality of water supplied to us under the agreement may be poor indeed and we have no legal remedy in relation to it. This matter has been debated in relation to other issues discussed in the House over a period. The question of the quality of water coming to us is wholly bound up with the kind of additional dam facilities to be provided.

However, I assure the honourable member that the matter has been pursued by the Government. The Minister is currently at the meeting of the Water Resources Council, where the matter is again under discussion. I will ask him to provide a report to the honourable member next week.

Mr. HOPGOOD: I raise the problem of the provision of sewerage facilities to people in new areas, especially in those parts of the metropolitan area which can still be regarded as new and yet were subdivided before the Planning and Development Act was introduced. When I get requests about sewerage from constituents who live in one of these areas, I curse that previous Liberal Government which was in office for so many years and which did not require developers, by Statute, to provide sewerage before subdivision. The Planning and Development Act is one of the most far-reaching and important Acts this Parliament has ever passed, if only for its provision relating to sewerage. Sewerage problems confront people who reside at the Braeside Estate, Reynella. Travelling along the South Road, one sees the brand new subdivision known as Kimberley in which few people live but which has been provided, under the Planning and Development Act, with roads, kerbing and sewerage. On the other hand, also off that road is the Braeside Estate, which is largely built up by now but which largely lacks roads, kerbing and sewerage. The reason for this contrast is simply that Kimberley has been subdivided since the Planning and Development Act was enacted, whereas Braeside Estate predated that Act.

There has been a scheme for some time to sewer portion of the area of Braeside. Subsequently, this scheme was revised to provide a continuation of the mains to serve about two-thirds of the area. Recently I forwarded to the Minister a petition from the residents of Braeside Estate for a scheme to sewer the whole area. The reason for this, quite apart from the health aspect that arises from the unsatisfactory nature of the soil, is simply that there is no incentive for the Meadows council to seal the roads in the area until the mains have been laid. We could extend this to similar areas such as the larger Braeview area immediately to the north, various parts of Reynella, and Morphett Vale to the south. I urge the Minister to take action to solve these problems that affect people living at Braeside Estate.

Mr. EVANS: Although the Government has \$15,000,000 lying idle, sewerage problems affect most developing parts of the metropolitan area. Perhaps we do not have the manpower and machinery to carry out the expansion of sewerage facilities to these areas. I know that some money is spent each year in trying to protect the purity of the water in Mount Bold and other reservoirs. Stirling, Crafers, Bridgewater and Heathfield have developed rapidly in the last few years since the introduction of reticulated water, and the position is that effluent from septic tanks now runs down the streets in some of these areas and ends up in Mount Bold reservoir. From there it goes to the mouths of the citizens in the city who drink the water.

The problem of the pollution of the catchment area is serious enough to make us consider spending more money in the developing areas to complete drainage systems at a faster rate than is being done at present. We do not know when the Stirling council area will be sewered, but if the money is available it should be used to protect our water supply. Dealing with another matter, has the Treasurer details of the proposed Clarendon reservoir and can he say whether this project will be carried out? Also, can he say whether people who wish to have property acquired immediately can have it acquired? At a public meeting at Cherry Gardens this evening people will express their views on the Government's intentions regarding the regional park and the construction of this reservoir, and on the suggestion to classify some of the area zone 1, thus restricting the activities of property holders.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member referred to \$15,000,000 supposedly lying idle, but that refers to the reservation of Loan money to be held against prospective revenue deficit, because of the rate of current wage increases and the prospective deficits that could occur next year. At this stage it is necessary to be cautious, and I assure the honourable member that, after considering the total budgetary situation, we will be close-hauled, even given additional revenue measures, to be able to maintain the services of this State at their present projected standard and at a reasonable rate of expansion. We will not have money to spare, unless the honourable member wants us to use our working accounts. When the previous Labor Government used working accounts there was considerable criticism from the Opposition that this was irresponsible financing.

Mr. Millhouse: And so it was.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: When the Liberal Party was last in office it did not have large increases in expenditure because of wage awards that the State now has to consider. It is a different rate of increase now. At times reasonable deficit financing can be managed, and it could be managed at that time, but it cannot be managed now. Opposition members know that different conditions now apply. In February of this year it was considered that for 1971-72 South Australia would face a deficit of \$25,000,000 on Revenue Account, and that all States would face a deficit of about \$180,000,000. That is a different situation from any that faced the previous Government and, therefore, I have chosen to be cautious where I can.

Mr. Millhouse: You criticized your predecessor for that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has not been listening for the last 15 minutes.

Mr. Millhouse: I have, but I am entirely unconvinced.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member is not convinced by anyone to whom he is politically opposed.

Mr. Millhouse: You know that is not true.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is necessary to maintain a reasonably steady flow of work in engineering and water supply undertakings, because it would be unwise for South Australia to build up a labour or contracting force in a particular area. The work of the E. & W.S. Department is subject to steady forward planning, so that there is the necessary flow of work and the work force is maintained without great fluctuations, otherwise we would be faced with extraordinary changes in the costs of the department and considerable social disruptions. A steady upward flow has been maintained in the work of the department, and we are proceeding at a rate that we can conceivably maintain. I appreciate that one would like to see several works accomplished tomorrow, but every Government faces that situation. I will obtain a report for the honourable member about the sewerage scheme for the Stirling District Council area and indicate to him the department's plans for this project. I point out that, when the member for Mitcham was a back-bencher on this side, year after year he asked the then Government for a sewerage system in the Blackwood area, but it took some time to complete that system.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Treasurer say what progress has been made in the negotiations for the construction of the Dartmouth dam? This project is of paramount importance to this State, but for the last 14 or 15 months Opposition members and the people of South Australia have received no indication from the Government about this project. An article in the *Financial Review* suggested taking water from the Blowering dam and diverting it into the Murray River. I hasten to add that the Opposition completely disagrees with the author's assertion. Can the Treasurer say what is happening about the disagreement, which will be the heritage of South Australia in the future? Fortunately, South Australia has had some very good seasons, including this season. Sooner or later, however, we will get a drought, and that is when the crunch will come.

The Minister of Works recently confirmed that the river is heavily over-committed in respect of the licences granted. A complete ban was placed on the issue of licences some years ago, and I upheld that policy, as did the present Minister. Unless we get more water in dry years we will be in real trouble. About three weeks ago, during the Treasurer's absence overseas, the Deputy Premier, when questioned on this point, said that letters had been received from two of the other three parties to the agreement. He said that, upon the Treasurer's return, he would show him those letters and possibly leave it to the Treasurer to make a statement on the matter. It is time that this Committee and the people of South Australia were fully informed of the future of this State's water supplies from the Murray River. Will the Treasurer make available to the Committee information on this matter and tell us the import of the letters received from the other two parties?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Letters have now been received from all three parties to the agreement; the third of the letters has come to hand since my return. The effect of the Prime Minister's lengthy letter was to refuse agreement to the proposition that we put, following the passage of the Bill earlier this year. However, the Prime Minister made some suggestions for a basis of discussion regarding a way of resolving the differences. I cannot say that the basis put forward was very satisfactory to this Government, but it leaves open the way for some discussion that may be productive. The effect of the letters from the other two States was that they went

along with the Prime Minister. Consequently, the Prime Minister's proposition is currently being examined in order that we may be able to put forward a proposition at the discussions that are clearly invited by him.

I expect that we will be able to put forward a proposition quite shortly on the basis on which we can hold discussions with the other States. I shall be seeking that immediately. At this stage of the proceedings I do not think it would be wise for me to table the letters because, while negotiations are still confidential, it is better that hard stances be not taken publicly by any parties to the matter until we see whether we can arrive at a sensible conclusion. The matter is not closed at this stage and I hope we will be able to have some useful discussions that I will be able to report on before the end of the month.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Treasurer say whether there is a financial provision in the agreement that was signed by the other States and whether, since it is likely that prices have escalated since it was signed, this in itself may be a factor of great significance in the discussions with the other States?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The view of all the States is that, before ever the matter could have been proceeded with, costs had escalated to a degree that was forecast by the then Victorian Minister of Works at the time of the signing of the original Dartmouth agreement. There is clearly an escalation of costs in relation to either proposition. Of course, the precise amount cannot be forecast at present.

Mr. Nankivell: In excess of the stated 10 per cent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Mr. HALL: Surely it is time that the Treasurer stopped acting in connection with the dam question. He knows that any alteration in connection with the agreement will be simply a play on words. The other Governments will not agree to any significant alteration, but they may very well agree to alter a few words; of course, that will mean nothing in relation to any guarantee for the so-called Chowilla proposal that the Government continues to put as the stumbling block in the way of the acceptance of the Dartmouth proposal. The Treasurer's admission that the price of Dartmouth has already escalated beyond that contained in the agreement is highly dangerous to South Australia. He alone is responsible for the situation that has arisen, because we

know that the Deputy Premier returned from a Sydney conference fully believing that Dartmouth should proceed, but he was countermanded by the Treasurer.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: That is a complete falsehood, and you know it.

Mr. HALL: The agreement may very well be nullified because of the Treasurer's obstinance. I invite him to return now to the River districts and tell the people there again that he will be able to renegotiate the agreement in the next few months because he is a Queen's Counsel. Let him see how he gets on! The feeling of South Australians is altering, even among those who previously supported the Treasurer in connection with this matter. Although this is a good season, nevertheless they are not convinced that the Treasurer is doing the right thing. On the law of averages, we must be getting nearer to a serious drought. If there is a repeat of the droughts at the end of the 1930's and the beginning of the 1940's, the River plantations will die. This is the risk the Treasurer is running—not merely some political risk for the Labor Party.

When viewed in the context of the long-term future of South Australia, the political fight means nothing. It is the River plantations that are at risk—the livelihood of all the people there. The Treasurer cannot deny that some drought years in the future will cause most plantations to perish. If that happens the River plantations can then be called, as someone has suggested, the "Stott-Dunstan National Park". That park will serve as a memorial to what used to be there in the River districts. Is that what the Treasurer wants? Why does he delay with a play on words and nothing else? Any possibility of having a guarantee inserted for the construction of the Chowilla dam is pie in the sky. It is nonsense for him to continue play acting in Parliament in connection with standing up for Chowilla. The Treasurer in his innermost heart knows that. Why does he not quickly agree to whatever it is that the other parties have suggested in their letters? Surely, if he can have a clause or two altered and get some face-saving words, this should be sufficient for him to agree to their proposals. I repeat that it is not political Parties for which we stand or fall on this Dartmouth agreement, but the people, particularly those in the River areas that are so much at risk because of the Treasurer's failure to act.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This type of fulmination from the Leader has become one of his most regular acts and we have seen it over such a long period that it palls on the viewers. His statement that the Minister of Works returned from a meeting of the Water Resources Council with a recommendation that we agree to the Bill that the Leader sought to

have passed and that I countermanded that recommendation was utterly false and a fabrication by the Leader.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.32 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 17, at 2 p.m.