

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 21, 1971

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

### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

### PAY-ROLL TAX BILL

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, intimated that the Governor had assented to the Bill.

### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I notice, in the Speaker's Gallery, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Okada, Mr. Okazawa and Mr. Hadano, all of whom are members of the House of Representatives in the Japanese Diet. I give them a warm welcome to the House of Assembly, South Australia, and express the hope that their stay in this State will be both congenial and beneficial to our mutual interests.

### QUESTIONS

#### EMPIRE TIMES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General say whether he has made up his own mind about instituting proceedings against the editors of the latest edition of the Flinders University paper *Empire Times* and, if he has, what decision he has reached? Last Thursday afternoon, after the House had adjourned following the lamented death of His Excellency the Governor, I was approached by a post-graduate student of Flinders University and handed a copy of *Empire Times*, which I understand was distributed free to students at Flinders University on that day. On Friday morning I communicated with the Attorney-General's office to ensure that the Attorney had seen a copy of *Empire Times*, as otherwise I intended to make available the copy I had been given so that he would have seen it by today. I noticed in the paper, I think on Friday, that he had said what he normally does say on these occasions, that if he received a complaint and a recommendation from the police concerning a prosecution he would consider the matter.

Mr. Hopgood: It was a reasonable statement from a responsible Minister.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I do not intend to debate the question at this stage, but this edition of *Empire Times* is so blatant that I hope even the Attorney-General will not find it necessary to hide behind the skirts of the Police Force—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is starting to comment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —but will, by launching a prosecution, show his extreme disapproval of what has been published.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have seen the issue to which the honourable member refers. The police are inquiring into whether there is evidence about the responsibility for publishing this issue. If the facts disclosed in the police report, after their inquiry, justify that course I will authorize a prosecution.

### COUNCIL RATES

Mr. BURDON: Will the Attorney-General obtain a ruling from the Crown Law Department about whether a council has power to strike a differential rate within a council ward? I have been approached—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot ask the Attorney-General for a legal opinion. The question is out of order.

### LAMB SALES

Mr. RODDA: Will the Minister of Works consult the Minister of Agriculture concerning the sale of lambs at the abattoirs? My question relates to a specific case, and I will give the Minister the details. It seems that a constituent of mine sold two different lots of lambs at the abattoirs within a fortnight. They were identical animals, and in the first instance the sale was quite satisfactory but in the second instance the sale was fragmented to such an extent that it seemed that the lambs had been mixed up. As I can provide the Minister with details of the firm involved and the owner, I shall be pleased if he will ask his colleague to examine this matter.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to do that for the honourable member.

### KILBURN INDUSTRIES

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to the question I recently asked about various kinds of pollution at Kilburn?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The matters of noise and dust nuisance created by factories in Kilburn have been the subject of numerous investigations by officers of the Public Health Department and the local board of health in the past. In regard to a specific complaint on noise last year, action was taken by the

firm concerned after consultation with officers of the Public Health Department to install equipment to reduce the noise level. This resulted in a reduction of noise emanating from the factory to a level that satisfied the generally accepted criterion of rating for industrial noise in mixed residential and industrial areas. No further complaints of noise have been received by the department, and inquiries from the Enfield local board of health also reveal that there is no record of any written or verbal complaints from this area since last year. No specific complaints on dust emissions have been received at either the Public Health Department or the local board office during this period. The honourable member is assured that officers of the Public Health Department are willing to investigate any specific complaints of the nature referred to if details are submitted to the department.

#### WASTE OIL

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Premier, in his capacity as Minister of Development, give all appropriate assistance to the former Managing Director of a small South Australian firm, which was collecting and re-refining waste oil but which has been forced to close its doors? Commercial Oil Refiners was, until December 8, 1970, re-refining waste oil in Edwardstown but on that date, on the order of the Fire Brigade Board, it was forced to discontinue these activities. Subsequently, the Manager of that company interviewed the Minister Assisting the Premier and, as a result of this interview, the Government agreed to make land available to this concern at Wingfield so that it could recommence its activities there. However, in the last week or so British Petroleum, through the control it had by a \$25,000 debenture in that company, forced it to cease its operations. The situation now is that, as I am aware, the major oil companies have no plan in South Australia for collecting waste oil.

A small company, because of the activities of this larger company, has been forced to go out of business, thereby retrenching employees. This company could have had a considerable employment potential in this State, as well as going a long way towards controlling a potential source of pollution of our environment, namely, waste oil. In the situation where, in the United States, oil companies are pumping waste oil down sewers, I believe that the Government should seriously examine this situation lest we be forced into the same position.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have had a report on this topic, but I do not have it here with me at present. If the honourable member asks this question again tomorrow, I will see that I have the report here for him.

#### DRUGS

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Attorney-General say whether there is any evidence to show that there is an influx into South Australia of drug users from New South Wales? Recently, two cases have been reported in the press of young people from New South Wales being charged before South Australian courts. One person was in possession of codeine phosphate and another was in possession of morphine, and the statement attributed to one of these people was, "There's a shortage of drugs in Sydney but they're easy to get in South Australia." As I am sure that this will cause some concern, I should be grateful if the Attorney-General could say whether there was any basis for this in fact.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Although I have no knowledge of the basis for any such suggestion, I will ask the Chief Secretary to ascertain from the police whether they know of anything to indicate that there is any suggestion either of an influx of people from New South Wales or that drugs are unduly easily obtained in South Australia.

#### TAYLORCRAFT

Mr. CLARK: Can the Premier obtain for me a report on proposed assistance for Taylorcraft Proprietary Limited of Elizabeth? In an article in the weekend newspaper, the Government was accused of, shall we say, letting this firm down. The article states in part:

South Australia has lost a potential multi-million dollar industry apparently because of the actions of the State Industries Assistance Corporation . . . But the Government let the company die.

As this industry is in my district, I am especially interested in the matter. If the Premier does not have this information, will he obtain it for me?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do have information on the matter. The information contained in the *Sunday Mail* article is not in any way a factual account of the discussions between Mr. Taylor of Taylorcraft and the Industries Assistance Corporation. I am astonished that the kind of irresponsible and grossly untrue statement that appeared in the *Sunday Mail* should have appeared, as it did under the byline of a certain reporter, who made no approach whatever to the Government

or to the Industries Assistance Corporation to check the veracity of the account published. Following the initial application to the corporation for assistance, the Chairman, the Secretary, an officer from the Treasury Department and a financial adviser to the board visited Taylorcraft. As the company had not prepared financial statements, the visit was confined to an inspection of the factory and preliminary discussions on finance. The corporation discussed the case of Taylorcraft at subsequent meetings and advised the company that in view of the absence of satisfactory financial information and any positive reaction at all from the market place it was not possible to proceed with the application.

Following a further approach to the corporation by the company (and I may say that I sent a notice to the corporation asking it to use its best endeavours to assist this company if in any way it could do so), the board met on five further occasions to process the application, and interviews were held with representatives of L.N.C. Industries (which provided the initial capital of \$160,000) and with the public accountant representing Taylorcraft. Evidence was given by both of these parties which agreed with the conclusions of the board that the company had not been well managed and that there was no evidence to support the company's statements that a large overseas market existed for the company's products.

If the company had been able to produce orders for its vehicles, there is no doubt that financial assistance would have been forthcoming. It is conservatively estimated that about 64 man-hours of investigation and discussion have been spent on the company's application, mostly by highly qualified senior people. In addition, the company has been helped by the Government's purchase of a hovercraft produced by the company and by the acceptance by the Housing Trust of non-payment of rental amounting to \$3,906.68 until August 25. Although the Government has gone out of its way to help this company find markets for its products, the plain fact is that there are no orders effectively to start a production line. Interest has been expressed, but that is all.

Mr. Clark: There ought to be an apology from the newspaper.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It must be realized that one vital element in assisting a company, no matter how desperate a plight it is in, is that it has some prospects of success. In most cases, this means that it is essential

to find satisfactory evidence on the marketability of its products. However, up to the present there have been no confirmed orders on a scale that would justify the establishment of a production line for this vehicle. I wish it were otherwise, because I believe that it would help South Australia if a hovercraft industry were established here. Another South Australian company is producing commercially and viably but, unfortunately, Taylorcraft has not been able to produce any effective evidence of confirmed orders for its products. Until we have that evidence we simply cannot put public moneys at risk to the extent required. The sum specified in the *Sunday Mail* article is far less than the sum that would be required to meet the immediate demands of the company's creditors.

Mr. Clark: Where did the paper get its information?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not from the Government: we were not even approached. The sum required to complete development of this product and to establish a production line would be far more than the sum mentioned in the article. In these circumstances, I could not refuse the report of the Industries Assistance Corporation nor could I have recommended to the company that it apply to the Industries Development Committee for some form of assistance from that committee, because the committee's criterion could not have been met by the company.

#### RURAL YOUTH ADVISER

Mr. CARNIE: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether further consideration has been given to the appointment of a rural youth adviser on Eyre Peninsula? On October 20, 1970, the Minister told me that, because of financial considerations, such an appointment could not be made during the financial year just ended. However, he said that Eyre Peninsula was high on the list of priorities for such an appointment. Because of this, and as almost 12 months has now elapsed, I ask my question.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will check this matter with my colleague.

#### DERNANCOURT LAND

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my question of August 26 about whether the Government had considered acquiring an area of land at Dernancourt as a reserve under the River Torrens Protection Act?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The honourable member asked whether an area of land at Dernancourt consisting of four acres and 32 perches could be acquired as a reserve. The area referred to comprises part sections 515 and 815, hundred of Yatala. Under the Act, there is no provision whereby land can be acquired as reserves. It is therefore assumed that the honourable member meant to refer to the River Torrens Acquisition Act, 1970. The purpose of the acquisition Act is not to acquire reserves adjoining the river but only to acquire the bed and banks. Section 3 (2) provides:

The boundaries of the land to be acquired shall be as close as practicable to the top of the river, bank and shall not at any point exceed a lateral distance of two hundred feet from the top of the river bank.

As the boundary along Mahogany Avenue of the land in question is in excess of 200ft. from the river bank, it is obvious that the whole of this land could not be acquired under the acquisition Act. The possibility of the land being acquired by the Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully, under the Public Parks Act, was discussed with the council, which advised that, although it might be interested in acquisition of the land for reserve purposes, no formal offer had been made by the owner to the council. Therefore, the council had made no application for subsidy under the Public Parks Act. However, the future of the land as open space has been secured to a substantial extent under the provisions of section 61 of the Planning and Development Act, 1966-1971. On May 16, 1961, part sections 515 and 815 were proclaimed as open space and thus made subject to a prohibition on subdivision. Although section 61 (5) of the Planning and Development Act provides a means whereby the land may be released from the restriction on subdivision, there is no indication that this is contemplated by the owner of the land. Nor does such action appear likely, as the land is subject to flooding and is, therefore, unsuitable for subdivision into allotments or for use as other than an open space.

### **EUDUNDA SCHOOLHOUSE**

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the painting of the schoolhouse at the Eudunda Area School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Director, Public Buildings Department, states that, despite all approaches to the painting contractor, he

has made no attempt to commence work, and the Director is currently recommending to the Minister of Works that he exercise his contractual power of absolute determination. To try to have the work undertaken immediately, a satisfactory price has just been negotiated with another contractor. This contractor has indicated that he will commence work immediately upon receipt of the letter of acceptance.

### **GLENELG TRAM LINE**

Mr. BECKER: Will the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Roads and Transport, find out when signals are to be provided at the locations where the Glenelg tram line crosses Morphett Road and Marion Road? On October 20, 1970, in reply to a similar question that I had asked, the Minister said:

The Highways Department has under consideration the establishment of signals at the recently widened crossings at Morphett Road and Marion Road.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report from my colleague.

### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY**

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether he or senior officers of his department attended a recent conference arranged by the Commonwealth Minister for Labour and National Service (Mr. Lynch) regarding occupational safety, and will he also say whether the purpose of this meeting was to co-ordinate the activities of State and Commonwealth departments and the National Safety Council, particularly through the Departments of Labour Advisory Council? Further, has the Minister any comments on the outcome of that conference?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: Over the last weekend, with officers of my department I attended a conference in Canberra, at which the guest speaker was Mr. Loftus, of Ontario, Canada. More than 300 delegates attended the conference and many opinions were expressed and suggestions made. These will be considered and discussed at a Ministerial conference with the Commonwealth Minister for Labour and National Service soon. At present Mr. Loftus is visiting South Australia to address the trade union movement and the business men of our State regarding occupational safety, and I hope that the honourable member will also be able to hear the comments of this man, who is extremely important in his profession in Canada.

**SOUTH-COAST HOSPITAL**

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Minister of Works urgently consider the proposal that the South-Coast District Hospital be included in the sewerage scheme for Victor Harbor? I have written about this matter and at a recent interview with the hospital board I was told that, because of the big expansion of the hospital, there will be a problem regarding the present effluent disposal pond. Clearly, it would be desirable to incorporate the hospital service in a proper sewerage system. The urgency arises because of a statement made to me by the architect that there will be a delay unless he knows whether the hospital is to be seweraged. The decision made will affect the design of the sewage disposal system for the hospital that is now being built. First, will the Minister make a decision on the matter, and secondly, if it is possible, will he decide to incorporate the hospital in the sewerage scheme? I also point out that at present the high school, which is not included in the sewerage scheme either, is also in an extremely difficult position. I think it would be advisable to service both these institutions when the sewerage scheme is proceeded with.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will certainly examine the proposition that the honourable member has put forward and take into account the urgency so far as the hospital is concerned. At the same time I will consider the honourable member's proposal regarding the high school.

**ABORTIONS**

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my question concerning abortion statistics?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague has supplied the following information:

(a) Number of abortions performed at individual hospitals: for the period January 8, 1971, to July 7, 1971, the following abortions were performed:

	Total	Per-centage
Metropolitan teaching:		
The Queen Elizabeth . .	92	8.98
The Queen Victoria . .	221	21.58
Royal Adelaide . . . .	95	9.27
	408	39.83
Metropolitan private . .	560	54.68
Country.....	56	5.46
	1,024	

It is considered that statistics for individual metropolitan private and country hospitals should not be released, because of the small numbers involved at many of these smaller hospitals. The availability of such individual

statistics, particularly in country areas, could lead to much local speculation, and possibly endanger the desirable anonymity of women admitted to those hospitals for abortion procedures.

(b) Number of abortions performed by individual medical practitioners: the provisions of statistics giving the names of individual practitioners must be regarded as professionally undesirable, and certainly would result in protests from the individual practitioners involved. The following information concerns abortions performed by specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology and other medical practitioners for the period January 8, 1971, to July 7, 1971:

	Number	Per-centage
Specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology . . .	660	64.45
Other medical practitioners . . . . .	364	35.54
	1,024	

**ORANGE JUICE**

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to the question I asked two weeks ago about the importation of orange juice?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that inquiries of the Customs and Excise Department reveal no record of imports of orange juice into South Australia either from Spain or elsewhere during the past 12 months.

**COOKED CHICKEN**

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Attorney-General say what redress is available to a person who is served with rabbit meat when buying what are advertised as pieces of cooked chicken? One of my constituents, a primary producer and well qualified, I suggest, to recognize rabbit bones, complained to me at the weekend that he had been served bones (with meat on them), which were clearly the shoulder bones of a rabbit. As a point of interest, he wanted me to find out what was the legal position in this case and whether he had any redress, as this incident seemed to involve false advertising or something of that nature.

The SPEAKER: Order! I did not hear the question clearly, but I understand that the member for Kavel is seeking a legal opinion from the Attorney-General.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I asked whether there was any redress available to people who had been treated in this fashion.

The SPEAKER: Does the Attorney-General desire to reply?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will try to reply to the question without trespassing on Standing Orders by giving a legal opinion. If the

honourable member furnishes me with full particulars of the case, I shall investigate it and ascertain what can be done.

### PETITION

Mr. JENNINGS: I had intended to ask my question of the Leader of the Opposition, but, as I see that he is out canvassing his petition, I will have to let it go for the time being.

### JUVENILE COURT REPORT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General give me permission to discuss with Mr. Beerworth, the magistrate of the Adelaide Juvenile Court, the report he has presented to the Attorney-General, and particularly the statistical part of that report? You may remember, Mr. Speaker, that last week the Opposition raised in the House the refusal, for the first time, by the Attorney to publish the report to him of the Adelaide Juvenile Court magistrate. Since the House rose, the Attorney has sent to me (and, I presume, to all members) a copy of what I take to be the statistical part of the report to which he referred during the discussion in this place last week. I have looked at that report but, as it stands (just the bare statistics), it is extremely difficult to understand its significance, and if it is to be of any help to members (other members may be more easily able to follow it than I) I require some explanation of it. It is for that reason I ask the question. I realize in doing so that some of the matter the Attorney is anxious to conceal may come out in my discussions with Mr. Beerworth, but, bearing that in mind, I ask that I be permitted to discuss his report with him.

The Hon. L. J. KING: If the honourable member desires any information to clarify any of the matters appearing in the statistics, and if he lets me know what information he requires, I shall be pleased to supply it to him. If I cannot do that from my knowledge I shall obtain the information and supply it to him. It seems to me that that is the proper course to follow and the reply to the question is therefore "No".

### QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Mr. SLATER: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary whether adequate medical staff are in attendance at weekends at the casualty section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? It has been brought to my attention that on a recent Saturday afternoon a youth who attended for treatment at the casualty section of the hospital, as a result of an injury sustained whilst playing sport, was required to

wait almost three hours for attention and was told that the delay was necessary because medical staff were not available at the time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain a reply for the honourable member.

### NORTH ADELAIDE SCHOOL

Mr. CUMBE: Does the Minister of Works recall that I have asked him several times for information about renovating the North Adelaide Primary School? The last time he gave me a reply he said that work would be done during this financial year but he could not give me a definite date. Is the Minister aware that the Minister of Education has said publicly that the school is to have a face-lift, and can he give me a more definite idea of when this work, which is extensive on an old school, is likely to be carried out, because parents and other people interested in the welfare of the school are most anxious that the work proceed without delay?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am not aware of the statement made by my colleague, but he would be correct in saying that the school would receive a face-lift. The honourable member has already been given that information. I think I said earlier that I would try to obtain a more specific date, and I will try to do that. I appreciate the concern of parents and children in wanting the school renovated but, if it is in the condition in which it is reported to be, the honourable member is no doubt aware that it must have taken a long time to get into that condition. However, we will do our best to get the work done as quickly as possible for the honourable member.

### WEANER WEIGHT TRIALS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture to expedite the weaner weight selection trial research programme? This programme involves a method of selecting stud sheep within probably three months or so of their birth, rather than waiting for a year or more until the adult characteristics of the sheep are evident. This programme can be carried out by the use of computers, but it requires much preparation in advance and at present it has reached only what might be called the field experimental stage. Some studs are using this method, but not many, as those involved in the programme are not able to service all properties. Unfortunately, I believe that the Agriculture Department officer who was working on this programme has left the Public Service and that no-one is working on it now. To the stud

breeder and to those in the industry generally, this is an important new feature in stud breeding, and it could be of considerable advantage to the whole industry. Will the Minister of Works urge his colleague to have this programme resumed immediately?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will certainly do that.

### REPTILES

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say what action, if any, has been taken by the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department to protect reptiles legally or to provide for the eventual establishment of a reptile fauna reserve? It was alleged in an article published in an issue of the booklet of the Natural History Society of South Australia (not the current issue) that, as South Australia develops, reptiles are becoming more scarce. It states that this situation is due to a loss of habitat and to the blind destruction of reptiles, mostly by misguided people who do not realize, for instance, that there is not even one poisonous lizard in Australia. Snakes are responsible for giving the whole group a bad name, although there is no need to kill the harmless and, indeed, useful carpet python or the defenceless blind snakes. It is further stated in the article that the legal protection of reptiles (which are unnamed) has already been provided for in some countries as well as in Western Australia and in the Northern Territory.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I shall be pleased to examine the points raised by the honourable member. I am aware that there is no protection in South Australia at present of native species of snakes or lizards, but regulations under the Act prevent any trading in sleepy lizards. Indeed, the department is considering an extension of these regulations to prohibit any trading in native reptiles. However, as the honourable member's question is broader than that, I shall be pleased to examine it and to obtain a report for her.

### LERP

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to the question I recently asked about the pest lerp?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: As the subject of lerp infestation has been referred to by both the member for Victoria and the member for Hanson, I have obtained for both of them a report on the matter from the Minister of Forests. It appears that attacks by lerp are occurring in partially cleared areas and not on forest reserves. However, the Con-

servator of Forests has made further inquiries of Dr. T. C. R. White of the Zoology Department of the Adelaide University who has been studying the lerp insect for some years, particularly in the Keith district. His conclusions are that the lerp population increases under climatic conditions which place the host eucalypt trees under stress over a period of years until feeding destroys most of the foliage. This situation has now been reached; but, as the amount of foliage is reduced, so will the insect population diminish and parasites and predators give more help. As stated previously, it is possible some trees may die, but the vast majority will recover. Chemical control of the insect is possible, but is not considered practicable or economic over large areas under present conditions. The Woods and Forests Department or the Waite Agricultural Research Institute would be pleased to advise any individual landowner on control measures.

### EAST GAMBIER SCHOOL

Mr. BURDON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Mount Gambier East Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A six-teacher open unit is scheduled for erection at Mount Gambier East Primary School. Tenders will be called in October, 1971, and the buildings should be ready for occupation in the third term, 1972. This unit is intended to replace some of the wooden classrooms at the school. It is expected that up to six wooden rooms will be available for removal after the new unit is occupied.

### BEX TABLETS

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health to request his officers to investigate an advertisement currently appearing on South Australian commercial television channels? This advertisement shows two women who have obviously been shopping, one sitting down and saying to the other, "Oh, you do look tired," and the other saying, "My legs are aching so much." Her friend then says, "Do sit down and have a cup of tea and a Bex before you go home." The propriety of advertising such preparations is in doubt at any time, but on this occasion there is no doubt that the use of Bex can reach chronically dependent proportions in our community and, in fact, it is doing so. In this case, the person concerned is having a double dose of caffeine inasmuch as the caffeine in the Bex is being added to by the caffeine in the tea. I think the advertisement could be rephrased in some way to make it less likely to

appear that it is condoning and, indeed, encouraging drug dependence.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will look into the matter and obtain a report.

### GRASSHOPPERS

Mr. HOPGOOD: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to the question I asked him on August 24 about controlling grasshoppers by the use of spray?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Director of Agriculture assures me that his department is constantly aware of the problems that can occur with pesticides, and is mindful of this in recommending insecticides for grasshopper and locust control. In fact, the most easily applied and most effective insecticide is considered unacceptable, because of its persistence and accumulation in animal tissues. I am informed that for plague locust control the insecticide to be used is lindane, applied at the rate of 3½ oz. an acre. While this is an organic chlorine compound, a group generally not preferred, it is the least persistent material of this group and does not lead to environmental problems. It is used quite extensively in the agricultural areas, and a sampling programme involving 500 to 1,000 samples of South Australian meat a year has not revealed contamination in above-tolerance levels. It is considered that the spraying of several thousand acres of locusts in an area of about 500 square miles will not adversely affect the environment. For plague grasshopper control, the insecticide to be used is maldison ("Malathion"). This will be used by ultra-low volume (that is, waterless) spraying, requiring special equipment. Ordinary maldison, applied with conventional spray equipment, is so short-lived as to be ineffective in grasshopper control. It is expected that formulations used will have a maximum insecticidal life of about five days. Maldison is an organic phosphorus compound readily and rapidly broken down by moisture and enzymes in plants and animals. It should be pointed out that, in any case, the extent of the areas to be treated will be strictly limited by the cost-benefit ratio.

### SCHOOL PLANS

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Works say why plans for schools are withdrawn from contractors when contractors have submitted their written quotes, and can he obtain for me a copy of the plans of the Mannum High School sports store? It appears as though the policy of the department is to withdraw plans (at least of school buildings, if not of all

buildings) after tenders have been received. Contractors who wish to tender and who receive ground plans are required to return the plans with their tender. The tenders for a sports store at Mannum were recently called in between high school meetings and in the absence of the Headmaster, and the local contractor received and returned his tender and his copy of the plans, which were not seen by members of the council. It would be appreciated if the plans could be made available for perusal.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Offhand, I cannot say why the plans are withdrawn. Although the reason for this escapes me at the moment, I imagine there is a good reason. I think I can arrange to have made available to the honourable member a plan for the use of the school council and Headmaster at the Mannum High School. I see no purpose in leaving plans with a tenderer if his tender is not successful. I will find out what is the department's reason for withdrawing the plans.

### SHIPPING FACILITIES

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Marine give information yet about any alterations intended to be made to shipping facilities in this State? On July 13, the first day of this session, I pointed out to the Minister that, as Mr. Sainsbury had returned from a recent overseas visit, the Minister might be able to say what alterations, if any, would be made to the containerization method of handling products, especially those from rural industries. The Minister rightly said that until he had received a report he could not discuss the matter or say whether such a report would be released to members.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have received from the Director of Marine and Harbors a fairly brief report, one of the recommendations of which concerns a containerization berth at Port Adelaide. The matter of this berth has been before Cabinet and, if the project has not already been referred to the Public Works Committee, plans are being prepared to be referred to that committee for consideration. This project is a result of Mr. Sainsbury's trip overseas and his subsequent report.

### MAGISTRATES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government has made a decision about the status of magistrates, and I refer particularly to the question of their being members of the Public Service? This



is a matter on which the magistrates have made representations to successive Attorneys-General (certainly to me and, I think, to my immediate predecessor) asking that they be taken out of the Public Service because, as they point out, they perform judicial functions and, as judicial officers, they should therefore be absolutely independent of Executive Government. There was some echo of this sentiment in some of the things the Attorney-General said last week about not dragging the magistracy into the dust of political conflict, or something like that. Last week, when considering one of the matters before this House with regard to the report of the Juvenile Court magistrate, I came across something the present Premier said in 1969 in this place when discussing this very matter. As reported at page 2878 of *Hansard* of November 11, 1969, he said:

In addition, the Government should remove magistrates from the provisions of the Public Service Act to give them independence and should improve their title, as we started to do in the case of local court judges. This can be done on a two-tier basis.

He was arguing against the intermediate courts legislation which I had introduced as Attorney-General and which the present Attorney-General has strongly supported. In view of the representations that have been made, the views of the present Premier and the statements made by the Attorney-General last week with regard to the Judiciary (the magistrates being part of the Judiciary), I ask whether a decision has been made on this matter.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have previously said on this topic (I think in answer to the member for Mitcham) that I agree in principle with the view that the magistrates, as judicial officers, should not be part of the Public Service but should enjoy an independent status analogous to that of judges. This matter has occupied my attention considerably since I have been Attorney-General. Several problems arise from it that have required much investigation and consideration. As late as last week, I received from the Chairman of the Public Service Board a report on certain aspects of the matter, and in the last two or three weeks I have discussed the topic with the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate. I have sought a further report from the Chairman of the board about some of the matters involved, and I am at present awaiting that report. I assure the honourable member that this matter is occupying my attention. It is important that all the issues and implications of a change of this kind be fully considered

before a decision is made, but a decision will be made as soon as is practicable.

#### KING WILLIAM STREET

Mr. LANGLEY: Will the Premier ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to request that the Road Traffic Board and the Adelaide City Council ask that pedestrians use only the traffic lights between North Terrace and the Flinders Street and Franklin Street intersection when crossing King William Street? The traffic lights at each intersection now give a pedestrian a clear opportunity to cross, but pedestrians coming from all directions cross King William Street between the lights. As there has been at least one fatal accident and as many people in a hurry have been injured when trying to cross, it could happen that "it is better to be late than to be dead on time".

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

#### ADELAIDE AIRPORT

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation ensure that, when the Government sets up the committee to investigate the requirements of the suburbs surrounding the Adelaide Airport, he invites organizations such as the South-Western Suburbs Environmental Association to attend the discussions? I understand that the Minister recently met the Commonwealth Minister for Civil Aviation and that a joint statement was released stating that Commonwealth Government and State Government departments would establish a new body to investigate the effects of noise and other environmental problems at West Beach Airport.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The committee to which the honourable member has referred was not set up primarily to investigate airport noise: its major function is to consider future development of South Australian airports and where they will be required, and to take into account population growth and the number of people who will be leaving and entering the State by air. The prime objective of the exercise concerns the area of land to be reserved for airport development by the Commonwealth department and for the State Planning Office to surround the area selected so that no development will take place within the area that is likely to cause problems to people who, if such steps are not taken, may decide to build but who later may find themselves with an airport nearby. However, in addition, the committee will no doubt take the opportunity to consider other impacts associated with

aircraft noise. I shall be happy to suggest to the committee that it consider discussing these matters not only with the organization referred to by the honourable member but also with anyone else interested in making submissions regarding aircraft noise at West Beach.

### **COWELL SCHOOL**

Mr. CARNIE: Can the Minister of Education say what stage the planning of the new library at the Cowell Area School has reached and when it is expected that work on the building will be commenced?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will ascertain when work is to be commenced.

### **CHERRY GARDENS LAND**

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to the question I asked in the debate on the Loan Estimates on August 11 about land at Cherry Gardens that is being acquired for a regional park?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The land being purchased by the State Planning Authority near Cherry Gardens is for the purpose of a regional park. The funds used are those voted under sections 71 to 74 of the Planning and Development Act. Under the Metropolitan Development Plan, the function of such parks is to provide the opportunity for active and passive recreation for the public beyond the limits of the built-up area and, at the same time, to preserve the natural character of the landscape and the flora and fauna. The design and layout is intended to be informal, aimed at preserving the natural beauty. A permanent water supply will be necessary and stringent bush fire precautions will be taken. Consideration is now being given to the future basis of detailed design and management of the regional parks purchased by the authority. No decisions have been made on such matters as fencing. I have already stated that it is not contemplated that a charge will be made for admission to regional parks.

### **EDUCATION POLICY**

Mr. COUMBE: In view of the statement of the Minister of Education some time ago that he expected to introduce, this session, a Bill to amend the Institute of Technology Act to alter the composition of the council, and in view of the autonomy being granted to teachers colleges, I ask the Minister what is his legislative intention this session or next session regarding the Karmel committee's report on colleges of advanced education and the tertiary education committee. Does

the Minister intend to introduce legislation on these two matters and does he believe that both these bodies could achieve a useful purpose without their functions overlapping?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the honourable member meant to refer to the board of advanced education to be established rather than to colleges of advanced education. Regarding the board, I hope the necessary legislation can be passed this session. However, I will certainly consider the establishment of the board on an interim basis if that proves not to be the case. It is intended to establish the tertiary education committee on an advisory basis without specific statutory powers; in those circumstances, I think it could be established without passing legislation. The main distinction that arises between the board and the tertiary education committee relates particularly to the board's function in accrediting the awards of its member institutions. I am sure the honourable member will appreciate that this kind of arrangement is necessary in order that we continue to qualify for Commonwealth Government grants made available under the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Colleges of Advanced Education. I suppose that the tertiary advisory committee could be said to overlap with the board of advanced education when matters of co-ordination of developments within tertiary institutions are being considered. However, I point out that there will be some cross-membership of both these committees, and I think the arrangement being adopted will work successfully in achieving the necessary objects.

### **SOFT DRINKS**

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Health a reply to my recent question about soft drinks?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the amount of caffeine in cola drinks on sale in South Australia is not known, but action has been taken by the Public Health Department to have samples analysed by the Chemistry Department. When the results are available, the honourable member will be informed.

### **SNIFE SEASON**

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about the snipe season?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that a recommendation has been made by the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation that a snipe season be proclaimed as

from 6 a.m. on October 2, 1971, to 5 p.m. on March 4, 1972. The proclamation is at present being drafted by the Crown Law Department for submission to Cabinet as soon as possible.

#### **MANNUM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Works provide further information about the calling of tenders for paving the playground of the Mannum Primary School? On November 1, 1968, the then Headmaster of the school informed the Education Department that the asphalt areas at the school were in very poor condition and that trenches needed to be filled in. Correspondence on the matter has continued over the years. In May, 1970, a letter was received saying that, in regard to the resurfacing at the school, the Director of the Public Buildings Department had stated that funds had been approved to enable repairs and extensions to the paved areas to be carried out. Correspondence is still being exchanged on the matter. Can the Minister say what is the present position?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I think the honourable member said that in May, 1970, it was stated that funds were available. The type of work referred to is let out in bulk contracts involving many schools in all parts of the State. The proposed work at the Mannum Primary School may be included in a programme currently under way. However, I will find out the exact position for the honourable member.

#### **NURSING HOMES**

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary whether he is aware of the pressures being brought to bear on some local hospitals and private nursing homes by State and Commonwealth hospital inspectors? Also, will he ask his colleague what plans the Government has for providing satisfactory alternative accommodation in the event of any of the allegedly substandard hospitals being forced to close? I am willing to provide the names of the hospitals that have been investigated, but I will not do so while I am asking this question. The managements of a number of these hospitals (both semi-district and private), which are providing accommodation for many elderly people, are worried by the requirements of the inspectors and by the subsequent pressure brought to bear by local boards of health in whose areas the hospitals are situated. The hospital managements, like all people in the community, are worried about

the ultimate fate of people currently housed under these conditions.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain a reply for the honourable member.

#### **SOUTH-EAST SCHOOLS**

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Penola and Naracoorte schools?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A six-teacher open-space unit is planned for Penola. Tenders have been called and are at present being considered. It is expected that this unit will be ready for occupation in mid-1972. Approval has been given by the Public Works Committee for a replacement school to be built at Naracoorte. Sketches have commenced, and the tender call is scheduled for May, 1972.

#### **DINGO BAITING**

Mr. EVANS: On September 14 I asked the Minister of Environment and Conservation a question about a press report regarding dingo bait. On the same day a similar question was asked in another place and a reply was given. The Minister later informed me that he had a reply to my question, but at that time I did not have the opportunity to ask for the reply. Will the Minister now give that reply?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: It must be realised that the pastoral industries, both cattle and sheep, cannot function successfully without action being taken against predators, of which the dingo is the most serious to the industry and costly to the Government. In taking steps to control the numbers of these predators, however, the Lands Department is ever mindful of the necessity of conserving natural fauna, and every precaution is taken to minimize destruction of non-target native animals. In order to achieve the desired results it is therefore incumbent on the department to be up to date with the latest control methods and to conduct trials to test their efficiency.

In the past, dingo baiting campaigns have been an annually accepted event in which hundreds of thousands of baits have been dropped from the air over the pastoral areas. The department has not been entirely happy with such regular and widespread poisonings and has sought an alternative method in the hope of reducing the frequency of the baitings and replacing the aerial baitings with a more restricted distribution of baits from the ground. The newspaper article inferred that the poisoning with 1080 was indiscriminate, but this

was certainly not the case. The exercise was an experimental poisoning restricted to portions of three properties in the far North-East of the State, and the outcome will be studied carefully before any future policy is decided. This experiment was carried out only after a careful evaluation of the technique that has been used extensively in Queensland over the past three years. It was conducted so recently that it is not yet possible for any effect on wildlife to be measured. The object of the experiment is to find a method of dingo control that will result in reduced calf losses and at the same time reduce the frequency and the amount of poison used. The alternative is to revert to regular, annual aerial droppings of baits, a practice that the department agrees is not in the interests of conservation.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry received requests from members of the gardening and nurserymen's calling, particularly from the Director of the Botanic Garden and professional nurserymen, that an addition be made to the list of proclaimed trades for which apprentices can be trained?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I have not received any such requests from any of the people referred to by the honourable member.

### MILK DISPOSAL

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Works say whether there was any evidence of deterioration in the effectiveness of the metropolitan sewerage facilities, during the recent strike of milk processors, as a direct result of large volumes of milk being committed to the sewer lines by dairy farmers who were exhibitors at the Royal Show? Many of these people, like other people, were unable to forward milk through the normal channels and were directed by officers of the Minister's department to commit milk held at the showgrounds through the sewerage lines of the men's toilet facilities. They were told that this should be done with some discretion, the quantity committed at one time being on the basis of 10, 15 or 20gall. in as many minutes, because grave concern was expressed that the disposal of large volumes of milk could cause a deterioration in the ability of the facilities to handle this type of waste satisfactorily.

The Hon. I. D. CORCORAN: During the strike I was kept informed of every measure taken involving dairy farmers being unable to deliver milk to factories, and so on. As the honourable member has said, senior officers

of the department told people with stock at the Royal Show that they were permitted to dispose of the milk into the sewerage system, and they stated what was the method of disposal. To my knowledge this has had no effect on the operation of the sewage treatment plant at Bolivar. In fact, I was assured by the officer in charge, Mr. Lewis, that there was no danger of the system being unable to handle the quantity of milk discharged into it. I will check to see whether that is correct, but I have heard no reports to the contrary and I am confident that the department would have informed me if anything had been wrong.

### EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICES

Mr. EVANS: In the temporary absence of the Premier, has the Deputy Premier a reply to my recent question about whether the Flinders University and the Bedford Park Teachers College come under the jurisdiction of the Emergency Fire Services or the South Australian Fire Brigade?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The buildings at Flinders University and Bedford Park Teachers College are within a fire brigade district, and as such would be served by the fire brigade should a fire occur.

### LUCINDALE SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently about the Lucindale Area School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: At this stage a replacement school for Lucindale is not on the current design list. Therefore, is it not possible to say when a complete replacement school will be built. A schedule of requirements, however, for the replacement of the Lucindale Area School has been drawn up. This includes a six-teacher open unit (and the proposal is that this should be built as stage 1 of a rebuilding project) incorporated as part of a whole new school. Such a unit would cater for a large proportion of the present primary enrolment of 265.

### PORT LINCOLN POLICE STATION

Mr. CARNIE: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary when it is expected that tenders will be called for the new Port Lincoln police station? This project was approved by the Public Works Standing Committee on March 9 of this year, and it is important that it proceed as soon as possible because of the cramped and unsatisfactory conditions under which members of the Police Force at Port Lincoln are forced to work.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain a reply for the honourable member.

### BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Premier have inquiries made about the activities of Inspector Dunstone, an inspector appointed under the Builders Licensing Act? I have been approached by a constituent, a licensed builder, who tells me that Inspector Dunstone has been going on to his jobs (he is building cottages) and telling tradesmen that their work is not up to standard and must be improved. The jobs concerned are in the Morphett Vale and Christies Beach area, I understand. Subsequently, Inspector Dunstone went to the builder's office and said that he wanted to see the builder on one of the jobs to discuss the matter. That discussion took place, and the builder has complained to me that Mr. Dunstone voiced his own opinion about the standard of the workmanship, and that this opinion was contrary to the views of the builder. The builder and Inspector Dunstone had an argument about the matter. The builder points out that these matters are more properly the responsibility of the council building inspector, and it seems to me that the inspector is exceeding his powers, even though I remember that section 22 of the Act allows an entry, for the purposes of the Act, on to building sites. Because of the oppressive nature of what is going on and the resentment that it is causing, at least to this builder who has approached me, I ask the Premier whether he will have the matter investigated, with a view to having such practices cease.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report on the matter, but I give no undertaking of the kind for which the honourable member asks me. I point out to him that one of the reasons for the Builders Licensing Act being passed (and passed at the request of all sections of the building industry) was that there was, in many cases, a series of complaints about inadequate building standards and practices, and when the board receives complaints it is perfectly proper for the inspector to inspect that work to see whether a report should be made to the board on the matter. Part of the board's activity is to have disputes about building standards resolved without recourse to either arbitration or court proceedings. The officer to whom the honourable member has referred is extremely well qualified in the building industry.

Mr. Millhouse: What are his qualifications?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not intend to quote them off the cuff, and I will get them in detail for the honourable member so that he will have them quite accurately from me. However, I remember looking at the applications for these posts and being extremely impressed by the experience and qualifications of the building inspectors who were appointed. They were appointed from a large number of applicants, and, of course, in the ultimate, a building inspector does not have only his own opinion to rely on. A report is made to the board and, if the matter is not cleared up satisfactorily, it comes before the board, when it is a matter of evidence. I will get a full report on this matter for the honourable member.

### WATER RATING

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister of Works say whether he has read section V, headed "Water Rating", of the report of the Legislative Council Select Committee on capital taxation? If the Minister has not read it, I ask him whether he will do so, because some interesting points are raised in this section. Whilst I do not offer any personal comment on the recommendations or on what is raised in the section, I think they are worthy of comment, and I ask the Minister whether he will read this section and the recommendation thereon and give me a report.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have not read the report. If the honourable member cares to send it to me, I may have a look at it.

### STATE FILM UNIT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Premier tell the House how the Government is getting on about honouring the promise he made in his policy speech, on behalf of his Party, to establish a State film unit? On page 16 of the transcript that I have, the speech states:

A Labor Government will establish a State film unit and will work towards the provision of film studio and processing facilities on a site that has provision for varied outdoor location shots. The facilities will be available to independent producers to produce films for export, for television and for cinema.

The speech goes on to extol South Australia's climate and states that it is peculiarly suitable for such a venture. So far as I know, despite statements that the Premier has made from time to time (some, I think, in reply to questions in this House), nothing has actually happened regarding this unit, except, as one of my colleagues unkindly said to me a short time ago, that some Ministers have appeared in television films.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Last year the Government let a contract for a feasibility study of the establishment of a State film unit and film industry in South Australia, and this feasibility study proceeded under the direction of a steering committee. From memory, the preliminary report was made in April of this year, and the final report was available towards the end of June. The final report was submitted to several people experienced in the film industry for critical comment to the Government before the final recommendations were adopted, either as recommended in the feasibility study or in some adapted form. I expect to be able to make an announcement soon about the Government's final conclusions on this matter. I assure the honourable member that the film unit will be established during the life of the present Government.

#### **SOUTH-EASTERN FREEWAY**

Mr. EVANS: Can the Premier, in the absence due to illness of the Minister of Roads and Transport, say how many motor vehicle accidents have occurred on the main south-eastern road between Snows Road, Stirling, and Arkaba Road, Aldgate, during the period from January 1, 1969, until today? Recently I sent a letter to the Minister of Roads and Transport explaining the dangerous situation that exists on this section of the main road between Aldgate and Stirling and pointing out that, with a little work, the situation could be made much better than it is at present. The Minister's reply was to the effect that, when the freeway was completed, the through traffic would not use this section of the road. However, the road would still be left in a quite dangerous state, and I believe that the matter should be investigated further.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will find out whether the information can be provided.

#### **JUVENILE COURT MAGISTRATE**

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General say whether he or the Government has made a decision about the future duties of the magistrate who is at present in the Adelaide Juvenile Court? As you may know, Sir, (and I do no more than make this passing reference to the measure) a Bill on the Notice Paper provides for the appointment of a judge of the Juvenile Court, and I assume that the Bill will pass in one form or another and that this provision is likely to be in it when it becomes law. Last week, during the debate in this place on

the report of the Juvenile Court magistrate, it was the Premier, I think (but it may have been the Attorney-General), who said that the status or position of the Juvenile Court magistrate was not affected by the legislation.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I said "not necessarily".

Mr. MILLHOUSE: "Not necessarily" affected, then; I accept the correction. That does not seem altogether to tie in with the Government's intention as set out in the Bill.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is commenting; he must ask his question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I therefore ask this question of the Attorney-General, in effect: is the present magistrate to be appointed, or what is to happen?

The Hon. L. J. KING: When the Bill passes into law, the appropriate appointment or appointments will be made, and the honourable member will then become aware of what is in it.

#### **FUEL OIL SPILLAGE**

Mr. EVANS: I direct my question to the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Roads and Transport. During the period from January 1, 1969, to this date, on how many occasions has fuel oil spillage been found to be a contributing factor to accidents that have occurred on that section of the main south-eastern road between the toll gate and the Onkaparinga River? I believe it has been found that during the winter months several accidents have been caused by fuel oil spillage on that section of the Hills road. I ask the Premier to obtain this information for me with the thought in mind that perhaps some legislation could be introduced or signs placed on the road informing transport operators that they should not over-fill or fill their tanks to capacity, particularly in wet conditions.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will see what I can do, although I doubt whether that information will be available.

#### **ROAD TAX**

Mr. WARDLE: Will the Premier, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, get a report for me on the income to the Treasury from the ton-mile road tax and on the cost to the State of collecting it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act tax is not payable to the Treasury at all: it is payable to the Highways Fund. I think the honourable member will find the information he seeks in the Auditor-General's Report. However, I will

see whether I can get him any further information beyond that.

### CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General say whether he intends to introduce a Bill this session to amend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act? Some time before the session started, I saw a report in a newspaper of the intention of the honourable gentleman to introduce an amendment because of some technical defect in the Act, although I forget now what it is. I was concerned to know that the defect was there and hoped indeed that the Attorney would introduce legislation to remedy it. I hope that at the same time the Government will feel able to raise the maximum amount of compensation payable.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is commenting again; he must ask his question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: However, since the session began, there has been no hint of this legislation. Does the Attorney intend to introduce such a Bill?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The member for Mitcham must be gravely concerned about an amendment to remedy a defect that he cannot even remember. Nevertheless, I am sure he has good reason for asking his question. The answer is that the defect to which he referred was discovered as a result of a situation that arose wherein a person had committed acts that would have constituted a criminal offence but for the fact that he was insane and therefore, in law, was not guilty, on the ground of insanity; so the provisions of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act did not apply in those circumstances. That is the defect it is proposed to remedy by legislation. Cabinet has proposed an appropriate amendment, which is with the Parliamentary Counsel, and I have every hope it will be introduced in the current session. No consideration has been given to increasing the amount of compensation, and at present I cannot express any view on that.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Mr. McANANEY

Mr. EVANS moved:

That a fortnight's leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Heysen (Mr. McAnaney) on account of his absence overseas on Commonwealth Parliamentary Association business.

Motion carried.

### SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

### THE BUDGET

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. ALLEN (Frome): I cannot let this opportunity pass without severely censuring the Government for its action in proposing to move the dockyard from Morgan to Murray Bridge. This Government will stand condemned in the eyes of the country people of this State for many years for this short-sighted action. I never thought I would live to see the day when a Government would ruthlessly disregard the welfare of a country community. The Minister made the shock announcement in this House on Wednesday of last week. I telephoned a leading resident in the Morgan district immediately we received that decision, and the reply I received from that person was, "Well, the Government has just destroyed a township"—sensational words but, unfortunately, so true.

I visited Morgan last Friday with a view to seeing just how the people in that district were reacting to this decision. It was almost like visiting a morgue. People were standing around in groups, the hotel bars were empty and, no matter whom one approached, the only thing on his mind was the removal of the dockyard. Just before the last elections, in delivering its policy speech, the present Government placed particular emphasis on decentralization. This was spoken of at most country meetings. I want now to refer this House to the words used by the present Deputy Premier when enunciating the Labor Party's rural policy at a meeting in Gawler on May 12, 1970. The report of what the Deputy Premier said on that occasion is as follows:

Mr. Corcoran said 20 years of Federal Liberal-Country Party Governments had left rural industries completely unprepared for the crisis they now faced. "For the country people of South Australia, Labor intends that the years of Liberal and Country League patching should be replaced by years of Labor planning," he said.

The crunch of the matter is contained in the following statement:

"All the powers the State possesses will be utilized in an effort to create strong, vital country communities supported by buoyant rural conditions and markets."

I should imagine that that statement and the action taken last week in making this announcement show how hollow that promise was. I am sure the country people of South Australia will remember this decision for a long time to come.

Just prior to the last elections, a union organizer visited the Morgan dockyard, spoke to all the employees there and gave them several assurances that, if the Labor Party was returned to power in South Australia, it would see to it that the dockyard was well cared for. Those promises have not evenuated today, and the dockyard employees are brownd off at present. Last Wednesday the Minister of Roads and Transport, when replying to a question from the Leader of the Opposition about this matter, said:

Let me stress that the die was cast for the eventual transfer of the Morgan dockyard facilities to Murray Bridge when, three years ago, under the Leader's Government, a decision was made to establish a substantial district office at Murray Bridge. I believe that was the start of events which left virtually no other final answer than the one I have given today.

I am sure that the Minister, when making that statement, intended to blame the decision for the removal on the previous Government but he considered he was skating on thin ice so modified his remarks and implied that the previous Government's decision indirectly caused the present decision. I admit that the previous Government decided to set up the headquarters of the Eastern Division of the Highways Department at Murray Bridge, and we are proud of this decision. However, the previous Government, in no shape or form, considered the removal of the dockyard from Morgan to Murray Bridge. The responsible Minister in the previous Government (Hon. Murray Hill) visited the Morgan dockyard during his term of office, and blueprints were drawn up for a new building and dockyard at Morgan. These blueprints provided for a dockyard that would be raised sufficiently high to be above any normal flood level, but not above the 1956 flood level, which experts recognized would be reached only once in every 100 years.

When we went out of office, there was no intention to remove the dockyard to Murray Bridge. At present the dockyard has 21 employees: 12 own their own houses in Morgan, and one or two of the houses are comparatively new. It is estimated that the real estate value of the houses is about \$70,000, and the fortnightly pay cheque for the dockyard amounts to \$2,300. One can imagine what the

effect would be of \$2,300 coming into a small town like Morgan every fortnight. If the dockyard is removed and the work force transferred, it will be a terrific blow to a town of this size. Members are aware that the closing of the Morgan railway line was the first blow suffered by Morgan as a country town. This decision was made by the previous Government, but it was made because the railway service was losing about \$70,000 a year, and this sum had to be made up by taxpayers. Therefore, there was a good reason to make that decision.

I maintain that there is no reason why the present decision should be made to remove the dockyard to Murray Bridge. Two protest meetings have been held. The first of those was in November last year and, out of a town and district population of about 270 people, 217 crowded into the Morgan District Hall for that meeting. Every seat was taken, and people stood around the hall and filled the foyer. I was invited and attended the meeting, although I was only three days out of hospital after a prostate operation. The Minister of Roads and Transport and the member for Chaffey were invited, but apologies were received from them for their non-attendance. I assure members that the reception given to their apologies was not a kind one. The Assistant Commissioner of Highways attended the second meeting and gave his views on the matter. The people of Morgan expressed their views and gave the Assistant Commissioner some facts that I believe he did not have previously. He went away a wiser man than he was when he first came to Morgan.

I agree that it would be convenient for the Highways Department to have this complex situated at Murray Bridge, but other matters have to be considered. Our country communities are losing population and are looking for industries. When visiting country towns one is asked what industries could be obtained for these towns to keep them viable. In this case the Government is taking away an industry without need, because Murray Bridge will progress without this industry. The other day the Minister, when replying to a question, said that the member for Murray would be pleased because a new industry was to be established at Murray Bridge. I think the honourable member would be pleased if it were a new industry, but I am sure he receives no pleasure in obtaining an industry from a town like Morgan, which can ill afford to lose one.

Mr. Evans: Robbing Peter to pay Paul.



Mr. ALLEN: Yes. It has taken nine years to build up the present work force at the dockyard. They are a dedicated team of men: they have never had a strike, and there has been no indication of one. They would be one of the most efficient teams of any Government complex or industry in South Australia. For example, three or four years ago the average cost an hour a man was about \$4: last year it had been reduced to \$3 with a credit balance, and now I believe the rate is about \$2.80. We should compare this cost with the present cost of motor car repairs, for which one can be charged \$4 or \$5 an hour. This dockyard is operating at present at \$2.80 an hour, but the Government is considering moving it to another town for the sake, it claims, of saving \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year.

This team of men is the only team in South Australia that does oakum caulking, a method of caulking the decks of ferries. On all the ferries on the river in South Australia the caulking adds up to more than 80 miles: there is over one mile of caulking in every ferry. The ironical part is that, despite the fact that caulking is a skilled profession, an oakum caulker receives less pay than does a handyman. Only three caulkers are employed; one is elderly and another is an apprentice, and there is some doubt whether these men would be willing to transfer to Murray Bridge. There are no other men in South Australia capable of doing this work. Another point is that Morgan has the best slipway in Australia. Members may think I am boasting, but it is a slipway made of concrete sleepers extending half-way across the river. It has been built for only a few years, and it was built by the men at the dockyard. One or two of them took diving lessons in order to lay the slipway in the water across the river. It is a new slipway that has not long been completed and is the best in Australia, but the Government has decided to shift it elsewhere.

Much modern equipment is used at the dockyard, but the main problem is the shed itself. It is of galvanized iron and it has a flat roof, and conditions are hot in summer and cold in winter. However, the men have said that they would prefer to work in the shed as it is now rather than be moved somewhere else where they would be provided with better quarters. That example illustrates the dedication of these men and the thought they have for their local town. They prefer to work in this shed rather than be transferred elsewhere. The Government recently transferred to the council some railway buildings

that were redundant because of the closure of the railway line. It has also sold cheaply to the council other buildings that the latter needs. This illustrates that the Government must have confidence in the district. Or was this action merely a softener for the final announcement that was to be made?

The number of children attending the school will drop considerably; at present the school has three teachers, but this number will probably decrease to only one or two. Also, some of the shops will be forced to close; the pre-school kindergarten will possibly have to close altogether; the police station's complement of officers will probably be reduced from two to one; and the two hotels will be affected. Indeed, everything will be affected. The football club will possibly no longer be able to field a team, and the cricket club, which is composed mainly of the dockyard work force, could go out of existence. Also, the young people will have to leave the district to gain employment elsewhere.

Some work will be obtained as a result of tourism in the district, although this will apply only during the tourist season and, of course, because they cannot exist on seasonal work only, many young people will have to leave the district to seek work elsewhere. When this happens, the Morgan council will need additional grants to enable it to improve the quality of its roads in order to attract tourists to the district, because that will be the only industry left for the town. I appeal to the Minister of Roads and Transport to give to the Morgan council better grants to enable it to build up the Burrumorgan road, work on which has already commenced. Much traffic travels on this road, which is the main link between the east and west of this nation. If the sealing of this road were speeded up, more traffic would be diverted along it, thus assisting the township of Morgan. The Morgan council would be quite in order in requesting this assistance. I therefore ask the Premier to examine Morgan from the point of view of tourism, which is the only industry left for the town.

I ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to delay the removal of this project for several years, if possible, perhaps until the bridges envisaged to cross the river farther upstream are completed, as this would greatly assist the township of Morgan. Last Wednesday, the member for Adelaide asked the Minister a question regarding the employment of the men displaced as a result of the transfer

of the Morgan dockyard, in reply to which the Minister said, in conclusion:

This would overcome many of the problems that are being dreamt up.

The Minister has, therefore, actually accused the Morgan people of dreaming up problems as an argument for retaining their dockyard. That is a shocking statement for a Minister of the Crown to make and, if the Minister returned to Morgan now, he would find that the people there are certainly not dreaming about this matter. Indeed, they know that it is a reality.

Last year, when visiting the Morgan township and dockyard, the Minister extended me the courtesy of informing me that he intended to do so. This action was different from that taken by his colleague, the Attorney-General, who last year visited my district by air without informing me. He visited the area in relation to Aboriginal reserves and missions and, because there was sufficient room on the aeroplane, he took with him a member of his own family, rather than tell me. At least the Minister of Roads and Transport informed me of his intended visit to Morgan. The district council invited me to attend, which I did, and we spent a few hours in Morgan, during which the district council entertained the Minister and his wife, two or three of the Minister's departmental officers, and his press secretary. After visiting the town and the dockyard, council representatives took us on a trip up the river in a houseboat to view some of the buildings that the Minister was contemplating transferring to the council. We were provided with a nice lunch on this boat, and during the whole of the lunch period I sat alongside and talked to the Minister's press secretary.

Mr. Jennings: What about?

Mr. ALLEN: I will tell the honourable member that directly. The following week, the press secretary in his enthusiasm sent a report of the visit to the country newspapers, the *Murray Pioneer* and the *Eudunda Courier*, giving a detailed description of the day's events. In that report, the Minister's press secretary referred to everyone that was present, including members of the Minister's official party and the chairman and clerk of the council. However, the member for Frome did not get a mention, despite my having spoken to the Minister's press secretary during the whole of the lunch hour. Not wishing to be unduly harsh on the press secretary, and thinking that the report sent to the newspapers by the Minister's press secretary might have been revised, I contacted the editors of both the

newspapers, who showed me the reports sent to them. I saw then that my name was not included therein. If that is not playing politics, I do not know what is. Unfortunately, the people in my district were unaware that I was there all day on that occasion representing them.

I believe that the decision to close the dockyard was taken as a result of a report drawn up and submitted to the Highways Department. When I asked the Minister whether he would release that report, I was told by him that, as it was a departmental docket, it would not be released. Of course, honourable members are becoming used to reports not being released. Unfortunately, this occasion was no exception. I understand that some of the matters contained in the report are not factual and that some of the details contained therein were not taken at Morgan. I refer, for instance, to wind velocity and various climatic surveys, which were taken not at Morgan but at Waikerie. There are other matters in this report which I believe, if investigated, the Morgan people could prove to be inaccurate. Once more, I appeal to the Minister to make available to the people of Morgan this report, which has damned their town.

Mr. Venning: They don't make reports available.

Mr. ALLEN: The Government should do so on this occasion. This township is being destroyed, and the local people are not being given a chance to answer the queries in the report. In fairness to the people of Morgan, the least the Government should do is make available this report to them. I therefore appeal to the Government to do so, so that these people can be given a chance to defend their town.

In conclusion, I should like to say how disappointed I am regarding the Government's decision to shift this dockyard. It is now 12 months since this matter was first raised. Everything possible has been done to illustrate to the Government the advantages of leaving the dockyard where it is, but the Government has apparently decided that it will proceed with its plans in this respect, irrespective of what the Deputy Premier said in his policy speech just prior to the last election. This Government will stand condemned in the eyes of country people for many years to come.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I, too, wish to raise a matter as the House goes into Committee. I refer to something which has come to my attention more particularly since the

House met last Thursday but which has been troubling me and I believe many other members for some time. My attention has been drawn to this matter, and I raise it today because of the edition of the *Empire Times* to which I referred during Question Time. The matter that I desire to canvass this afternoon is that of censorship. I do not intend to initiate a wide-ranging debate on this matter, but it is one of such urgency and importance and it is so topical, because of the material that I have been given, that I desire to raise it at this time.

Having had the responsibility of administering this law for over two years, I am the first to acknowledge that this is a delicate and difficult area of administration. The approach that I adopted during my time in office differed, I think, from the approach that has been adopted by the present Attorney-General. I believe that the Attorney-General has a personal responsibility in this matter to make decisions with regard to literature and plays, as well as other things. He does not; he believes that he should wait until there are complaints and reports from the police.

The consequences of the approach he adopted in contrast to the approach I adopted must be regretted now by such people as the promoters of *Oh! Calcutta!* who have spent literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to no effect, when I believe this could have been prevented by the Attorney-General's taking a stand and making a decision in the first place. However, that is by the way. I believe that, even though censorship is such a delicate and difficult matter, a line has to be drawn, and beyond that line we should not allow licence to go. I say that, little as I relish the idea of censorship at all. Where the Attorney-General stands on these matters, I do not know. I believe that the Premier (the head of the Government) does not think that any line is necessary at all but that, again, is for him to say.

Circulating at present in our community is a tremendous amount of pornography. There are those who believe that this pornographic literature is being deliberately circulated, particularly amongst the younger members of the community, with the aim of weakening the morals of the community itself and thus bringing about a change in society. Certainly, one can see from history many examples of the decay of societies in which morality has reached a low ebb. That, in my view, must be the result of the circulation of such stuff as we have all seen and as I have had shown

to me especially in the last few days. Whether or not this is being done deliberately, I cannot prove, but I certainly take seriously the allegation that it is being done deliberately.

As I said, the matter that has prompted me to raise the matter at this time is the issue of the *Empire Times* which has had some publicity since last Thursday and about which I asked a question earlier in the day. Since we have been in the House this afternoon, I have been sent the copy of a letter on this matter that has been written to the Speaker by one of his constituents. Apparently, copies have also gone to the Leader, the Attorney-General, and the Premier. I do not intend to quote the whole of the letter, but I will quote a couple of paragraphs, because I think it sums up the way many people feel on this matter. The letter, dated September 17, states:

From my own knowledge gleaned from students whom I know and from what I have read in the *Advertiser* article and in others—and the writer referred to an article of that day (that is, the report about the *Empire Times*)—

I have been nauseated by the fact that such filth can be thrust upon our young folk and our Government take no steps to stop it.

Later he goes on (and I omit a paragraph and half of another paragraph) as follows:

It is time we forced goodness on the world with the same energy—

Mr. Crimes: What a ridiculous assertion.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am only quoting something.

Mr. Mathwin: Is that a letter from the member for Ross Smith?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Mitcham.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The letter states:

It is time we forced goodness on the world with the same energy that evil is being forced on us by the permissive society, and I expect my Government to lead the way so that our children will have a world that they can inherit with pride.

I hope that the member for Spence will acknowledge that, if I had quoted only half the sentence and not the first half, it would have been an inaccurate quotation, and an inappropriate one. The letter continues:

If you and your Government can do this, I will feel that you are truly protecting my interests and those of all the God-fearing members of the community.

I do not say that I agree with that, but I quote it as a typical reaction in the community, and it is a letter that has been written to the Speaker in his capacity as the member for his district. I do not know how many members

have actually seen the issue of *Empire Times* that has caused the stir, but I have a copy here. The front page, which represents, I believe, the Viet Cong flag with some letter press, is, to me, offensive but it is, as I heard one of the television people say, the only page that can be shown publicly, because it is the only page that is not absolutely pornographic. The rest of it, of course, contains mostly illustrations that are better left not described. But the object of the editors (and I think there are 13 of them) is set out on the back page of the issue of *Empire Times*, as follows:

In a heart-warming burst of eroticism *Empire Times* has decided to fill your lives with sex. Whenever the urge grabs you, just cut along the dotted line and stick one of these happy stickers on to your books, your car, your bathroom wall, the library, a refectory table, a friendly policeman, your local supermarket window; and if you do not get an instant reaction E.T.—

I presume that stands for *Empire Times*—guarantees your money back in just one week. So remember folks, when you're smashing the State keep a smile on your lips and an E.T. erotic sticker in your palm.

What is done at the Flinders University with regard to the discipline of students and the continued permission for the circulation of stuff like this is a matter primarily, anyway, for the authorities of that university, and I do not intend to suggest that the Government (either State or Commonwealth) should directly take a hand in that, although I must say that, if this sort of thing continues even at its present level, let alone gets worse, I may well revise that opinion, because sometimes things get so bad that a course of action that one does not like becomes a preferable alternative to allowing those things to continue. That is a matter primarily for the authorities of the Flinders University, and I hope that the matter will be examined by them. I am glad to know that the Attorney-General intends to initiate prosecutions, provided he has the evidence to sheet home responsibility to those who, I should have thought, obviously were responsible, because their names appear in the publication. That is only the first of the publications to which I desire to refer now.

Last Friday morning, as a result of the publicity that the issue of *Empire Times* had received (and my name was associated with it), I had a call from a person whom I did not know previously but who lives at Tranmere, which I think is in the Attorney-General's district now but which certainly at one time was in the district represented by the Premier. He handed me a magazine (an underground

paper, I suppose I can call it) which I think is known as *Ikon*. It appears to me (I may be wrong) to be printed on the same, or certainly a similar, press to that on which *Empire Times* has been printed, although *Empire Times* is in colour and this is in black and white. The format is much the same and the size and quality of the paper are similar. This man told me that he was the father of a student at the Norwood High School and that his son had bought a copy of this paper some time ago, bringing it home. The paper does not deal entirely in obscenities but there are certainly obscenities in it and I intend to quote just a little of those. At the centre page there appears the passage to which this father referred me, because his son, who is, I think, 13 years of age, had asked what it meant. The heading is "Biological Trauma" and the article states:

Tonight at Biology I watched two mice fucking  
Across a glass partition.

Man-mouse was black, so was his heart.

Woman-mouse was white, so was her heart

She cleaned her fur; she went into

The corner and made her toilet.

Man-mouse came in from work,  
Took off his belt and dropped his fur,  
All the while cursing the glass partition  
Which kept his B.O. from Woman-mouse.

That is enough to show the sort of thing that appears in this underground paper, which is said to be the work of the U.S.S., which I think is the Union of Secondary Students. A little advertisement for membership of the U.S.S. appears in this paper. Having said what the U.S.S. will do to help school students who get into trouble with their teachers, the advertisement states:

Help sell *Ikon* in your school so that more students are reached. Write articles for *Ikon* as well. The U.S.S. will come to your assistance if you are penalized or discriminated against for activities promoting the union.

U.S.S.,  
C/o S.R.C. Office,  
Adelaide University,  
North Terrace,  
Adelaide, S.A. 5000

It appears that this publication is at least based at the Adelaide University, so I suppose I have brought both universities into this matter. I know that this matter was referred to the Headmaster of the Norwood High School (Mr. Coward) who incidentally is referred to in the paper, which criticizes him because of some of his comments at the school about earlier issues. I believe that he took steps with regard to the matter. I do not know whether this has come to the attention of the Minister of Education or whether the department or

the Minister has taken a stand in relation to it. I imagine that there are plenty of other such papers circulating. In a moment I intend to refer to another similar paper, although it is of a slightly different type.

The member for Alexandra, to whom I showed this paper a moment ago, has referred me to another ditty headed "Two Cylinders of Napalm Please", the first line of which states, "The pigs sucked silently on the garbage." If any members want to see this they can do so, but I do not intend to read it. The other publication to which I shall refer also concerns a school. I have had it in my possession for some time, but as yet I have not taken action in regard to it. In view of what has happened, I think it is appropriate that I should refer to it. I do not intend to refer to the school at which this paper was circulated, but I will give honourable members the circumstances in which it was circulated. Although this was given to me by a third party, yesterday, to make sure that the facts were right, I checked with the mother of the student at this metropolitan high school. This document was circulated among third-year high school students by the class English master. It was taken home by the lad; a complaint was made to the Headmaster of the school, who told the parent, when the complaint was made, that the publication had also been given to fourth-year students by, I presume, the same staff member. This document does not have a name, but the front page commences as follows (and apologize if I offend the susceptibilities of honourable members but it is necessary for me to read it):

O O O Orrrrr . . . gasp . . . Orgggg . . .  
gas me . . . (erg-chasm) ORGASM . . .  
mmmmmm. Extracts from *The Naked Lunch*  
by William Burroughs.

That is on the first page of this publication, which was distributed by the English master. I will read only a couple more paragraphs as follows:

The end result of complete cellular representation is cancer. Democracy is cancerous and bureaus are its cancer.

I am not sure what the bureaus are supposed to be. It continues:

A bureau takes root anywhere in the state, turns malignant like the Narcotic Bureau, and grows and grows, always reproducing more of its own kind, until it chokes the host if not controlled or excised. Bureaus cannot live without a host, being true parasitic organisms. (A co-operative on the other hand can live without the state. That is the road to follow. The building up of independent units to meet needs of the people who participate in the functioning of the unit. A bureau operates on

opposite principle of inventing needs to justify its existence.)

Bureaucracy is wrong as a cancer, a turning away from the human evolutionary direction of infinite potentials and differentiation and independent spontaneous action, to the complete parasitism of a virus. *The Naked Lunch* is banned in Australia, of course. Art is free and liberates the object to which it applies itself.

I cannot follow the rest of it; it looks to me utterly repellent. The first line of the seven or eight pages states, "The lavatory has been locked for three hours solid," and it goes on in the same vein. This is the sort of stuff which apparently is circulating in secondary schools, and I have given two examples: one is a circulation by a body outside the school, and the other, to the best of my knowledge (and I have checked this with the parent who made the original complaint), is by a staff member. I have not stated the name of the school, but I will tell the Minister of Education if he wishes me to do so. He may well know about this already. I imagine that action was taken by the Headmaster to whom the complaint was made, and I do not complain about that side of it at all. I have used this merely as an example of the sort of thing going on in the community. In my view, this stuff is so obviously over the line that we should make the greatest possible attempt to stop its circulation.

What have we got by way of legislation to deal with stuff of this nature? The immediate provision that comes to mind is section 33 of the Police Offences Act, the section which was mulled over in this place by some members who are still here. I think the member for Alexandra had a part in the framing of this section, which deals with the publication of indecent matter and which requires the written consent of an Attorney-General for a prosecution. I wonder whether, in the light of what is happening in the community, and even though I have made it clear that I do not like censorship (I wish we did not have to have it), that provision is strong enough to deal with what is happening in our community. It can well be said (and, of course, it is far easier to say than to put it into effect) that the placing before members of the community, particularly the younger members, of good, decent and wholesome literature and papers is a far better way of driving this stuff out than the merely negative way of prosecution and interdiction. Whether we can as a community do that and whether the morals of the community are good enough for it to succeed, I do not know; I hope they

are. But whether or not they are, I think we must take the negative line as well, that is, the line of trying to prevent this kind of thing happening.

I regret having had to bring such stuff to the notice of members, but I had no other way of doing it than to read out what I have read out. I hope members will take this matter seriously; I certainly do. I think our community has reached a very low ebb when this sort of stuff is being circulated, and apparently tolerated by many people, and with the approbation of some. I shall be glad to hear in due course, particularly from the Minister of Education, with regard to the two incidents that I have raised concerning schools. I hope that what I have said will lead eventually to some remedy for what I regard as one of the greatest evils in our community at present.

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): I support the remarks of the member for Mitcham. I also have been most disturbed by the current issue of the *Empire Times*. This matter was brought to my attention by a number of constituents of mine who took the trouble to telephone me or to write to me on this matter. They are most concerned that this material is being circulated within the community where it can be seen and examined by young people still at primary school. It is a fairly typical example of what I believe to be juvenile behaviour and outlook, because I believe that the whole paper smacks of immaturity. There is no doubt that it is a characteristic of the young that they should want to shock the old and they have gone about as far as they can go in trying to do just that. Perhaps it might be better if we were to ignore this, and I am sure that this has been the custom and attitude in the past.

I agree with the member for Mitcham, because I think he knows that it may no longer be possible to ignore it. I think we must start to examine why young students want to shock the community. If they want to shock the community, what is the underlying problem? What are their problems? Are they, as they so often say, major problems that affect the community, the country or the world as a whole? I believe many young people and students are concerned about problems, but are they really their own problems? Do they need psychiatric help? It is hard to draw the line and to know where we stand, but I think it is about time we tried to find out what is behind publications such as the latest issue of the *Empire Times*.

Two courses of action are open to young people nowadays: one is the juvenile shock tactic that represents their reversion to juvenile attitudes and outlooks; the other is constructive action that represents their development into mature adults; and the adolescence stage is in between. I can remember when university papers used to adopt a constructive and responsible attitude. They put points of view that were not always acceptable to the powers that be (the Establishment, if you like) and to Governments, but they were cleverly done and were satirical. They used sarcasm and wit; they were a necessary part of university life and they played a necessary part in the community. However, we do not see this forum for satirical comment any more: we find a juvenile publication that gives no-one any real insight into what the problems of these people are.

These people are obviously demonstrating. They are being juvenile by producing a demonstration, because that is what the publication is; it is a pornographic publication which is purely demonstrating against something, but it is hard to tell what that is. I doubt whether most of the students at Flinders University want the paper to be in this form, but I have no real basis for saying that. I am immensely cheered to hear that the students are beginning to take matters into their own hands, because I think this could be another and a better way out; certainly better than ignoring the publication. The whole publication is an example of delayed adolescence. I think the member for Mitcham quoted from the first page, as follows:

Whatever you say about us is totally irrelevant, both to us and to you. We are the present, we are the future. You are the past. So pay your dues and get out of the way, because we're not the way you used to be when you were very young.

I suppose that is supposed to be a profound truth, and has been for generations. However, I believe it, and I have been preaching it for a long time. That is not the way we were when we were that age, and it is a good thing we were not. This is progress. We depend on young people to give us some constructive ideas and perhaps to shock us occasionally to keep civilization and society moving, but there is a limit. This sort of thing does not do anything to promote understanding between the generations. I want to know what is the best action to take. Should we prosecute them? I have no doubt that this is exactly what they want—to provide a forum to do more shocking of people.

What is more to the point: how can we go about finding what the underlying problem is: what is the underlying trouble that is worrying this group of students to such an extent that they will attempt to draw attention to their problems in such a blatant and objectionable way? Perhaps we should be giving them psychiatric help or group therapy sessions. Perhaps prosecution is the only way by which we can bring these matters out into the open. There is nothing wrong with progressive thinking. We depend on the young to keep us up to date, but it should be done constructively and sensibly: it is unnecessary to descend to this level to persuade people to listen to the young.

I was present in the gallery of the New South Wales Parliament when a condolence motion was moved, during which a demonstration regarding abortion was held in the public gallery. It was a most ill-timed and unfortunate demonstration. The result of it was that when a motion to receive a petition was moved a little later, the motion was negatived by about 79 votes to 10, because everyone was so cross and upset by the means taken to convey a point of view to members. This is exactly what this sort of thing will do: young people are being further alienated from older people. We should be trying to communicate with young people, but the obligation to communicate is not on our side only. Young people, too, should be trying to communicate. We should be talking together and finding out what each other's problems are and we should be doing something about them. This sort of publication is a direct barrier to that communication; it will not help, and I seriously question the motives of the people who prepared it. I feel sorry for them, because they desperately need helping.

Perhaps we should ignore the whole business, but I believe we have done this too much in the past. Perhaps we should ask "Why?" I believe that the only way open to us is to launch prosecutions. That is in the Attorney-General's hands, and I do not doubt that he will give his best consideration to the matter. He has already authorized prosecutions in respect of an earlier edition of the *Empire Times*, but it is said that those prosecutions have never been proceeded with because it has been impossible to find the people involved. We must take a pretty firm line this time; something must be done. This sort of thing gets us nowhere, and we cannot let it go on. At a time when we should be improving communications between the generations and getting

help from young people and giving help to them, this is a barrier that we cannot afford. It is in the hands of the Attorney-General, every member of Parliament, and every member of the community, and it is up to the Government to set a line and an example.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Alexandra): I support the protests made by the members for Mitcham and Bragg about the sorts of papers that have been circulating in the university communities and in the schools. I shall not go over the points made by those honourable members nor will I quote from the papers. One could read passages from them; there is always some portion that is obviously repulsive. It is just meant to shock. In some cases these papers are official papers of the university students council. The *Empire Times*—

Mr. Millhouse: That is official.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have not had time to check the statistics, but I believe that about 75 per cent of the students in most universities today would be on bursaries or scholarships. Their fees are paid by the Commonwealth Government and, in addition, I think they receive an amount of \$45 for other expenses, of which about \$16 goes to the Students Representative Council. So, in effect, the papers about which we are complaining are being supported by the public purse—if not entirely, quite considerably. Consequently, the Commonwealth authorities must consider this matter. The public is obviously trying to ensure that tertiary education reaches the highest level and it wants Government funds to be used to assist as far as possible in achieving that object. However, the public does not want Government funds to be misused, as is happening in this case.

There is also an aspect within State control, for which the Attorney-General has to answer, because he administers the laws dealing with obscenity. Furthermore, the Minister of Education must consider the point that these papers are distributed in schools under his control. I confess that it is difficult to say where censorship should be applied and where it should not be applied. I have always held that there is room for some censorship in the community. It would be an idealistic situation if there was no censorship and everyone did his best to write good literature. There is another side to the situation: some people deliberately attempt to shock others. When the people on the receiving end are growing persons in secondary or tertiary institutions,

the matter must be even more carefully considered. I support the action of my colleagues in raising this matter. In addition to State intervention, the attention of the Commonwealth authorities should be drawn to these publications, because it seems to me that the Commonwealth is unwillingly subsidizing the publications.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Estimates—Grand total, \$449,218,000.

(Continued from September 14. Page 1431.)

#### THE LEGISLATURE

Legislative Council, \$56,893.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier): In supporting the first line I say without hesitation that this Budget is the most moderate Budget introduced anywhere in Australia for the financial year 1971-72. The Treasurer has admitted that revenue-raising is always an unpalatable exercise, and everyone agrees with him. However, after listening to the way the Leader of the Opposition praised the Treasurer for his handling of the State's financial affairs. I can say that it was certainly the kind of praise that we seldom hear in this place! However, one must be honest and acknowledge that one should be pleased with the Government's sound legislation, which is aimed entirely at protecting the vast majority of the people of South Australia.

A prophet is without honour in his own country, but the people of this State are realizing that the Government's legislation will assist and protect them. One measure that was placed on our Statute Book from July 1, 1971, was the new Workmen's Compensation Act. This is regarded by most people as the best compensation legislation in Australia. Unfortunately, some wives and children have found this to be so (I use the word "unfortunately" in relation to accidents). These people are suffering discomfort, loss of wages, etc. However, it is a great comfort to persons working in industry or any other occupation to know that they now have a Workmen's Compensation Act that is more in line with present-day conditions.

The Government's policy last year in maintaining expenditure on hospitals and education to the utmost of its resources has been maintained again this year at record levels in this Budget. For education there is an increase of about 25 per cent in the amount provided, from an actual payment last year of \$78,323,680 to a provision this year of \$97,676,009. Independent schools will receive \$250,000, plus

about two-thirds of \$150,000 special assistance. The provision for assistance to independent schools, including the established per capita grants, will total \$885,000.

As one who has always supported the payment of grants to independent schools, I deeply appreciate what the Government is doing, but I look forward to the time when much more money is provided for the independent school system. I refer to those independent schools that are outside the body of the large public schools operating in the city. I believe that not only the State Government but also the Commonwealth Government has a responsibility in this matter and, unless the Commonwealth Government provides the State with the money, the State has not the wherewithal to enable it to provide the necessary finance to permit these schools to operate efficiently.

We realize that an independent school must provide a type of teacher similar to the teachers in the State public school system and, while independent schools are operating, they take a considerable load off the State. It is necessary to provide the right type of teacher in the independent school system and, to do this, an adequate wage must be paid to these teachers. This is where a problem has arisen in relation to the existence of the independent schools.

Unfortunately, in some other States there is a tendency to close down some of the country independent schools. This is happening in Tasmania, and, I understand, in New South Wales. Closing down some of the very small schools that have inadequate facilities is possibly justified, but it is necessary to provide much mere money almost immediately to most of the schools in the country and to the smaller schools in the metropolitan area to prevent their going out of existence.

While there has been a considerable increase in the amount of revenue raised within South Australia, we must also consider what has been happening in other States. In New South Wales, there has been a 50 per cent increase in railway rates and fares. In all States the pay-roll tax is to be 3½ per cent, which represents an increase of 1 per cent on the rate previously charged by the Commonwealth Government. That rate is operating as a result of an agreement by the States.

Mr. Venning: Have they land tax on rural land in other States?

Mr. BURDON: Yes. They have.

Mr. Coumbe: Not in all of them.



Mr. BURDON: The recent increase in hospital fees in South Australia is minimal compared to the increase in Victoria. Further, although there has been an increase in stamp duties in South Australia, these duties have increased substantially in most other Australian States. In Tasmania a Bill to amend the Stamp Duties Act was introduced on July 7 last, and the stamp duties provided for are considerably higher than the provisions that have been introduced in South Australia.

Victoria has a 10 per cent tourist tax, and in that State all charges on conveyances, as well as the duty stamp charges, have been increased. In Tasmania, motor registration fees have been increased by 28 per cent, and driver's licence fees have been increased from \$3 to \$5, compared to an increase in South Australia from \$2 to \$3 and provision for 50 per cent of the money collected from these fees to go to the road safety campaign in this State. In Tasmania electricity charges are being increased by 17½ per cent. Whilst we have had a 3 per cent increase in tariffs, the Tasmanian charge has been increased by 5 per cent. In addition, Tasmania has imposed another 12 per cent tax on the private consumer.

The Tasmanian Budget speech refers to neglect by the Commonwealth Government in not providing adequate finance to that State, and that is why Tasmania must increase its fees considerably to improve its Budget deficit from about \$7,000,000 to about \$3,500,000. If South Australia has a deficit this year, this State will not be different from any other State. In fact, the deficit in Tasmania could be much greater than I have stated.

The Tasmanian people have had reduced from a minimum of 500 units to 300 units the number of units of electricity that they can use for hot water, and the people in that State will have an increased electricity bill overall. Not only has increased taxation been imposed in all other States to a much greater extent than in South Australia, but the Commonwealth Government recently has seen fit to impose on the Australian people certain charges, most of which will operate from October 1, 1971.

I will refer now to the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader. Unfortunately for this State, they have condemned the Treasurer and the Industrial Development Branch. Have they done that because that branch has been successful? One industry in my area might not have seen the light of day but for the work of not only the Industrial

Development Branch of the Premier's Department but also the Corporation of Mount Gambier and, more particularly, but for the assistance it received from the departments of the Minister of Environment and Conservation and the Treasurer. What has attracted the firm of Fletcher Jones & Staff Proprietary Limited to South Australia, and particularly to my district, was not only its desire to expand and to come to South Australia but also the efforts of the Government and its officers. This move was achieved against strong opposition from New South Wales and Victoria. When a company moves out of Victoria and comes to South Australia, it means something to this State that it has an organization that can achieve this.

Fletcher Jones has had a successful past; I hope its future will be just as good and that its operations in Mount Gambier will grow. It is starting with a work force of about 60 people, and I understand it expects this to increase considerably over the next few years. One of the most pleasing aspects of this industry is its employment of women in Mount Gambier, and I hope this factory will be as successful as its factory has been in the past in Victoria. I hope that a successful and profitable unit will be operating in Mount Gambier soon.

Through a considerable amount of agitation, the Government has given the green light for a new abattoir to operate in the South-East. There are certain financial commitments that the people in the South-East must meet, but it will be a viable proposition and of great assistance not only to the Naracoorte district but also to the South-East in general. Already an abattoir is operating in the Mount Gambier district: I refer to the firm of Thomas Borthwick, which employs a fairly large work force in Mount Gambier and has an outlet for its product through the port of Portland in Victoria. In relation to the establishment of industry in the South-East, one of the tragedies is that not many years ago the opportunity was there for South Australia to show a united front in the development of a deep sea port. With the establishment of a deep sea port at Portland, I imagine the possibility of getting a deep sea port in the South-East now is remote and perhaps gone for all time. The possibility was there during the term of the Playford Government, but the opportunity was missed. All that trade will now have to go through the port of Portland, for it is much cheaper to take a product to Portland than it is to drag it across the Adelaide Hills.

I know that the Industrial Development Branch is at the moment investigating one or two other possible industries for the area I represent, which I think has a bright future not only as an industrial centre but also as a regional centre encompassing the Lower South-East. There is the steady growth of the timber industry and the development of the vegetable-growing industry, in which the firm A.P.D. at the moment has over 300 vegetable-growers registered for this year's production and, with a possible staff of 120, it is expected that 30 or 40 women, too, will find full-time employment in that industry. These things are contributing materially to the development of the district of Mount Gambier and the Lower South-East in general. The firm of Fletcher Jones & Staff Proprietary Limited has already recruited a considerable amount of female labour in Mount Gambier and is sending girls and women to Warrnambool to give them some practical experience in the operation of the works shortly to be established in Mount Gambier.

I will now deal with a matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition, who asked, "Where are the industries and what has the Industrial Development Branch achieved since the present Government came to office?" I have here a small list which I think is clearly significant. It is contained in a press release that was circulated on August 25 of this year by the Industrial Development Branch. The Treasurer was opening the new \$120,000 Transpec Limited building at Wingfield. I believe that certain people have been going around the State with their eyes shut. In this press statement he said:

This month alone (August) five major industrial developments in South Australia had been notified to the Industrial Development Branch of the Premier's Department.

I have already referred to Fletcher Jones & Staff Pty. Ltd., which is setting up a \$100,000 clothing factory at Mount Gambier, providing 60 new jobs. The statement continued:

Seraphic (Australia) Pty. Ltd. had launched a \$250,000 expansion programme in ceramic glass production at Devon Park that would double the work force to 200 over two years. Sola International Pty. Ltd. had won a major Japanese order for optical precision equipment that would provide more employment at its Lonsdale factory. The B.T.M. division of Tubemakers of Australia Ltd. yesterday announced a \$2,000,000 expansion programme for its Kilburn operations.

As I mentioned earlier, Transpec Limited opened its new plant worth \$120,000 on August 25. There is another industrial develop-

ment amounting to some \$2,700,000—Australian National Industries at Dry Creek. This is an engineering firm, and I think it is significant that we find these industries coming to South Australia. The Treasurer also said:

The plain facts are that South Australia offers business men and industrialists advantages which the other manufacturing complexes in this country cannot; that my Government has embarked on a vigorous programme to assist industry and to spread the word about what we can offer, and we are getting our message across.

This is a statement of fact that no Opposition member can deny, and it is a complete reply to the impression that the Opposition has been trying to create in this State that South Australia is missing out in relation to industry. I am concerned at the attitude of the Leader, the Deputy Leader, and most Opposition members in defence of the Commonwealth Liberal Country Party Government. I cannot understand the attitude of the Liberal Opposition in this State and its complete about-face concerning a matter about which, a year or two ago, they were condemning the Commonwealth Government: that is, the lack of financial assistance to this State. The Leader was then thumping the table at Premiers' Conferences and complaining in his public utterances, but now Opposition members are going out of their way to try to buttress the present Commonwealth Government. I do not know whether they are taking orders from the State organization or the Commonwealth organization in an attempt to retain or to support the present Commonwealth Government for some time to come.

Opposition members are the only people in this State who are trying to defend the present Commonwealth Government: there is not much sympathy throughout the country for it. South Australians seem to have received their answer, in relation to the attitude of the Commonwealth Government's distribution of money for education, at the Norwood Town Hall meeting last June. The Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science failed to convince any of the 2,000 people present at that meeting. One has to be careful about how one speaks, because there have been so many changes in the Commonwealth Ministry that one does not know whether one is speaking about the past, present, or future Minister: this seems to apply also to Prime Ministers. I read today that the former Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton) had said that if he were asked to serve he would become Prime Minister again.

We would not be out of place if we referred to similar happenings in South Australia at present. One of the honourable gentlemen from Southern District seems—

Mr. BECKER: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should like to know how the honourable member can link his remarks to the matter before the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Mount Gambier realizes that we are dealing with the Estimates and that any remarks made in this debate must be related to them.

Mr. BURDON: I think my remarks can be linked in this debate to the Legislature. It is an interesting exercise to read in the newspapers what is happening in the ranks of the Opposition. One must not be unkind: there is always a family row now and again, but the present disturbance seems to have developed into more than a family row.

Mr. Hopgood: Do you think we have heard the last of it?

Mr. BURDON: It is reaching an interesting stage and is a long way from being finished.

Mr. Clark: I shall be happy to sign their petition!

Mr. BURDON: I understand that the petition is to be handed around in this Chamber, but one of my colleagues from the South-East has refused to sign it.

Mr. Clark: I would sign it: it is the biggest asset the Government has.

Mr. BURDON: Perhaps we should change the subject: there will be many more interesting developments soon, and this matter will recur not only in the Commonwealth sphere but also in the State sphere, and we will read about it for a long time. In dealing with the Commonwealth Government's contribution for education, I refer to the fairly extensive development plans for education in my district in the next two or three years. I was pleased to hear this afternoon that a six-class open-space unit would operate at the Mount Gambier East Primary School in the third term of 1972. This will mean the removal of many temporary buildings that have been erected over several years. It seems that more than \$1,000,000 may be contributed by the Commonwealth Government to extensive developments in my district, including the re-development of the technical college at Mount Gambier. From what I have seen of the proposed plan this will be one of the most extensive technical colleges in the country.

Plans are afoot for the technical high school to become a comprehensive high school, so there will be two such schools in Mount

Gambier. However, before much progress can be made with the second high school at Mount Gambier, an extensive programme of building at the technical college will have to be instituted. I hope that some of my colleagues will examine this matter soon. I assure them that it will be a pleasant day for the citizens of Mount Gambier when this is done.

I refer now to the art and craft facilities that will have to be provided at the present Mount Gambier High School. With the introduction of comprehensive high schools, there will also have to be a big expansion of existing building facilities at the Mount Gambier Technical High School. Recently, proposals have been submitted for the establishment of farm schools in certain country areas, and it has been decided to make Struan farm an in-service farm training headquarters that will become a valuable adjunct to farming in this State. I give notice that I will put forward with some vigour the suggestion that a farm school be established near Mount Gambier.

The Education Department has recently purchased about 80 acres of farming land, which, I believe, could well be an ideal site for a country farm school. As 80 acres of land has been held in the northern areas of the city for education purposes, necessary facilities could be established. Also, it would not be necessary to provide residential facilities. It must also be remembered that the Mount Gambier Technical College, which has all the necessary technical facilities, is also at hand. Plans to expand the college are now being prepared, and it seems to be a logical step into the field of tertiary education to upgrade technical colleges into colleges of advanced education. All members are painfully aware of the problems facing education and of the shortage of finance needed for the further extension of education facilities, let alone the money needed to replace many of our present buildings which have long passed their days of usefulness.

With the development of the technical colleges into colleges of advanced education, I believe the Mount Gambier area has an undeniable claim for the establishment of a farm school in the district. As the South-East is a large producer of dairy produce, sheep, lambs and cattle, and has a developing frozen food industry, I believe it has a just claim for high priority consideration in relation to the development of a farm school in the Mount Gambier area. With the development of a new technical school as a

college of advanced education, I believe the district has a ready-made set-up which the Government must seriously consider. It must consider not only that aspect but also the further development, as soon as funds become available (and this is something of which I have already spoken and about which the State is unable to do much unless it receives more assistance from the Commonwealth Government), of country education facilities to degree or diploma status. In the South-East, considerable expansion has taken place in both primary production and secondary industry, as well as in the saw-milling and pulp and paper industry.

Another development involves the Mount Gambier Hospital, which will need to cope with future demands. I do not think many people appreciate the fact that this hospital provides employment for many people in the area, over \$1,000,000 a year being provided for their salaries and wages. In fact, \$1,311,801 for that hospital is provided in the Estimates this year, \$1,020,551 being required for salaries, most of which will be circulated among people in the district.

We are seeing rapid expansion in the forestry industry in the South-East as well as in the western districts of Victoria. This expansion is being undertaken in South Australia by private companies and, in certain areas in Western Victoria, by the Victorian Forests Commission. We are now witnessing the disappearance of hardwood timber, which is a thing of the past in the South-East and in Western Victoria. This timber is being replaced by radiata pine which, with the development of pressure treatment methods using creosote and multi-salt treatments, will last, above or below ground, at least as long as would certain hardwoods. I understand that Apcel Limited, the paper manufacturing complex at Snuggery in the District of Millicent, is at present embarking on a programme involving about \$4,000,000 that will almost double the size of the undertaking. This organization has a contract with the South Australian Government involving the supply of about 120,000,000 super feet of timber to this complex over the next few years.

The saw-milling and post-rail sawn timber industry is expanding at an almost unbelievable rate. Indeed, it has reached the stage where the Woods and Forests Department will soon be installing a second treatment chamber. This development has occurred in the last few years and the radiata pine industry is the foremost timber industry in Australia.

This situation is the result of diligence and efficiency within the industry, whether it involves the processing of pulp and the manufacture of particle board or the operations in the saw mill and preservation plants. Both private and Government bodies have shown that they have the ability, resources and technical knowhow to give the people of Australia a first-class article that is not bettered in any other part of the country. Visitors from overseas and other States are continually coming to Mount Gambier to see the latest developments in the timber industry, and I congratulate those involved in either private or Government operations who have contributed to the high standards that now exist.

Many developments have taken place over the years in the saw-milling industry, and I believe that an inspection of this industry by a couple of Opposition back-benchers would benefit them greatly, enabling them to learn what is happening in the forestry industry in the Lower South-East. Not only has this industry kept pace with world developments: it was the first saw-milling industry to introduce the now famous log-hauling track. Yesterday, I was pleased to inspect a new development whereby log felling, extraction and ultimate delivery to the sawmill is completely divorced from the present operation. I believe that this method is used nowhere else and that, when fully implemented, it will greatly benefit the industry. While this development may not be the complete answer, I believe that with further improvements it could well be the answer and that it will be responsible for dramatic changes in the method of log extraction in our South-Eastern forests.

The Treasurer deserves much praise for the work undertaken by the Industrial Development Branch, whose officers also should be congratulated on their efforts. The work of these officers, together with that of officers of the Premier's Department generally and the Government Ministers involved, will help attract new industries to South Australia in future. I want to see the further development of industry in this State, especially in country areas. Also, I want to see the further development of regional areas through co-operation between the Commonwealth and State authorities. The Lower South-East, particularly Mount Gambier, would be well suited as a regional development area.

From my own observations, I can say that the South-East possesses great natural resources. Its transport needs are served by the railways, and by road and air transport.

There is an adequate water supply and building materials are available. Hospital and education facilities have been expanded greatly. In addition, the Housing Trust has co-operated in providing for developmental needs. The city of Mount Gambier is fully sewered. Therefore, I believe that what we have in the South-East goes a long way towards satisfying the needs of a regional city. The situation in Australia is that we must no longer look at things merely from the point of view of the State: we must take a national view and see that certain regional areas are developed. Having a good understanding with certain officers, I know that there is a sympathetic approach to the further development of the Mount Gambier area. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I was a little amazed at some of the comments made by the member for Mount Gambier and I do not think he can really claim to be a country member. Although he represents a country district, he lives in a city. His comments are such that he cannot claim to be a true country member. He spoke about what the Government was doing in the South-East with regard to the abattoir there. However, I remind the honourable member that all the Government gave in relation to that abattoir was its consent; it gave no financial backing at all. It was up to the people concerned to get together and provide the money to establish the abattoir in that area.

Mr. Coumbe: And take the risk.

Mr. VENNING: Yes. It was no real Government contribution. People from Gladstone in my district asked the Government to provide to the council finance so that a feasibility study could be carried out with regard to an abattoir in that area, but the Government was not even prepared to provide finance for that study. The member for Mount Gambier has said that the Government has done a wonderful job in agreeing to the establishment of an abattoir in the Mount Gambier area. I know that people in the area are pleased that the Government has said that it will agree to an abattoir being established, but that is provided the growers find the money. The Government is then prepared to give that abattoir access to the Adelaide market. Although the Government may take some legislative action, it will provide no tangible financial contribution.

South Australia is presently going through the worst period of inflation it has ever known.

Slowly but surely the Treasurer, in the Budget as in previous measures, is severely taxing the people of the State in a way not known before. The member for Mount Gambier spoke about the wonderful development in his district with regard to Government departments and so on. While he was speaking, I was reminded of what the Treasurer said in his Party's policy speech (and this is on the first page), as follows:

We'll set a standard of social advancement that the whole of Australia will envy. We believe South Australia can set the pace. It can happen here. We can do it.

Who is doing it? The taxpayers of South Australia are doing it. The Treasurer is examining every means possible of screwing finances out of the people of the State. In presenting this Budget, he tried to give the impression that it was not a bad sort of Budget after all; he even lulled the newspapers into thinking that that was the case. Those of us who know the ways of the Treasurer know that he alone conceived this Budget. It must be pleasing to the people of the State that the Opposition has had enough to do with the Treasurer and members of his Party to now be awake to their many doubtful practices and to be able to inform the people about this and protect them from this deception. Last week Opposition speakers highlighted some of the many weaknesses contained in the activities of this Government. It was most interesting to hear my colleagues quote from the remarks made by the Treasurer when he was in Opposition in 1964. The member for Kavel highlighted this, reading from *Hansard* some of the comments made by the Treasurer at that time. When we consider the situation we can see beyond doubt that the Treasurer and other members on his side are two-timers. This can be seen especially at this time, as the Government proceeds to tap every available source from which much-needed money can be drawn.

I recall recently that, before the Commonwealth Government's Budget was brought down, concern was expressed, especially by members opposite, that that Budget might contain measures detrimental to the motor industry in South Australia. However, that Budget contains no measures that would act against the well-being of the motor industry in South Australia. It is a different story what is now to happen on the home front regarding the motor industry. I am most concerned about the motor industry in this State because of the way unions are jeopardizing its activities and because of the lack of Government leadership.

I believe the Government must accept some responsibility in this regard.

Mr. Keneally: Aren't they making large enough profits to suit you?

Mr. VENNING: The honourable member, when referring to manufacturing firms, should remember that they represent the goose that lays the golden egg. Many of the honourable member's supporters are involved with these firms. If members push too far they may kill the goose that lays the golden egg. It is obvious to members on this side that members opposite have never yet had the experience of running a business. It would be a good thing if they ran a business for a period to see what was involved in doing so. They would then see how much effort it takes for a business to cover its costs. I take my hat off to everyone who tries to run a business today.

The Government must take some responsibility for preserving a most valuable industry, the motor vehicle industry. I warn the Treasurer that, if he does not soon bring pressure to bear on the authority responsible for causing trouble in that industry, he may very soon find that a Premier in another State will be only too happy to accommodate the industry on terms and conditions more favourable than those operating here now. When the member for Mount Gambier spoke about the firm of Fletcher Jones coming to this State from Victoria, it sounded a very good story, provided that one did not know the whole truth. It sounded as though the firm was leaving Victoria and becoming established in the South-East under the present Government, but actually the firm is simply expanding its activities and establishing a branch in the South-East. So, the point made by the member for Mount Gambier is not evidence of any dissatisfaction on the part of the firm with its set-up in Warrnambool, Victoria. Here we see another example of the need to sift every comment made by members opposite, so that we get the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

I am concerned that the Government has introduced revenue-raising measures connected with the motor vehicle industry, because such measures affect not only the industry itself but also country people, who rely so much on the motor vehicle for transporting themselves and their products to the city. I am surprised that the Treasurer may not be over-concerned about industries in South Australia. I was astounded last week to hear my Leader read a letter from a Mr. Goree in connection with that gentleman's negotiations with the Treasurer about establishing an industry in South

Australia. After the Treasurer had received submissions from Mr. Goree, he did precisely nothing regarding the proposal to establish a factory for concrete products in this State. So, one sometimes wonders just how conscientious and genuine the Treasurer is in his statements about promoting industries in South Australia.

One sometimes hears statements about the need to establish and retain industries here, about the unsatisfactory relationship between unions and the firms concerned, and about the lack of Government guidance. When the Labor Government was in power between 1965 and 1968, we lost many skilled building tradesmen to Western Australia and since then we have tried to get them back. However, the builders licensing regulations do nothing to encourage such tradesmen to come back here. Those regulations make their lives a hardship from beginning to end. So, one wonders what the future is for building tradesmen in this State. I hope the Treasurer will explain his neglect of the submissions made by Mr. Goree.

I should like to refer now to one of the many little Budgets for which the Treasurer has been responsible during his 16 months in office; I refer particularly to the taxation measures he has introduced between Budgets. One such measure that has severely hit country people, particularly graingrowers living far from port facilities, is the 10 per cent increase in rail freights that was imposed on April 1 this year, an increase that the Railways Commissioner would not be pleased about, because he has been trying to maintain the level of services for these people. When Sir Thomas Playford was Treasurer he did not increase rail freights to the extent that he was told to increase them, although this State was under the Grants Commission at the time. Sir Thomas Playford took that attitude because he wanted to promote decentralization and assist people living far from the capital city. He reduced rail freights by 33 1/3 per cent, thereby assisting people in outlying areas. However, when the Labor Government took office after the excellent years of the Playford Government, concessions to primary producers were cancelled and rail freights were increased by 33 1/3 per cent on long hauls.

This year we have seen a further increase of 10 per cent in rail freights. That increase was not justified, because grain movements by the Railways Department show a handsome profit. To slug the wheatgrowers of South Australia in that way is nothing but dishonest.

Why should the graingrowers of South Australia subsidize passenger services when, in fact, most of the passengers are railway employees? In a radio interview Mr. Fitch (Railways Commissioner) expressed concern about grain deliveries in South Australia. Some of the things he said were not correct; I refer to his statement that the railways could move grain at harvest time as fast as the farmers could deliver it. That has not been the case in the past and there is no reason to think the position has improved. Grain-growers' deliveries to silos are sometimes very irregular, and farmers cannot always forecast the weather accurately. However, if we got a fortnight of weather suitable for harvesting at the commencement of the harvest period, many silos would be filled to overflowing and the railways would not have a hope of emptying the silos and enabling the farmers to make further deliveries.

*[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]*

Mr. VENNING: There is a need to reduce rail freights rather than increase them, because one knows of the huge profit being made at present from grain movements. We have often heard the Treasurer say that the finances of the State were buoyant at a certain stage because of the large amount of grain movement, so this indicates clearly that there is a large profit in grain handling on our railways.

I believe this is one avenue where the Government could have given some assistance, either by reducing freights or not increasing them to the detriment particularly of those people who live in areas where long haulage is necessary to get grain to the terminal. I think of an area at Quorn, which is in the member for Frome's district, where grain movement was undertaken by road transport in order to get the grain to the terminal quickly enough for shipping. As I have said before, Quorn is 150 miles by rail from Port Pirie terminal. The movement of grain by road from the Quorn silo costs only half what it would cost by rail. The cost of transport by rail is 16.599c a bushel, whereas by road the cost is 8.25c a bushel.

If the Government was genuine in its desire to assist the rural industry, it could do something here where the issue is clear cut. The growers at Quorn have met and are emphatic that if their silo cannot be based on a comparable freight rate to that of road transport, particularly because of Quorn's geographical position and the rail and road routes, the bulk of the grain will be transported to the

Port Pirie terminal by road transport direct from the primary producers' paddocks.

I am very disappointed that the Minister of Roads and Transport has not yet given a decision on what his Government intends to do with the northern lines of the Port Pirie Division. I would have thought that some mention of this would have been made in the Budget, and that some preliminary work would have been undertaken, whether it be in connection with the northern lines or in connection with the line from Adelaide to link with the standard gauge line on the Sydney-Perth route. However, I find that nothing has been put aside on a State basis for early work in this direction.

My constituents are concerned about the cutting off of the narrow gauge line from Gladstone to Wilmington. As a result of standardization, this line is now in isolation, and the people in that area desire this line standardized also. Evidently, the Commissioner has indicated that he considers that this work could be undertaken. Of course, whether it could be agreed that it be extended from Wilmington to Quorn is perhaps another matter. However, my constituents in the area from Gladstone to Wilmington are concerned that the State Government consider standardizing this portion of the northern railway lines now isolated by standardization. As I have said, I was disappointed that no financial provision was made for preliminary work in this regard.

We are seeing some very strange things happening in South Australia, with the Australian Labor Party in power. As recently as last Tuesday my Deputy Leader moved a motion to censure this Government for not making available the report of the Juvenile Court magistrate. A few days earlier we had had some very underhand action at the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs works, and the truth of that situation has not yet been told. Although questions were asked of the Minister of Labour and Industry about what had happened there regarding payments to employees, the full story has not yet been told. However, I know that in future the truth will eventually filter through to the primary producer.

This Budget, as one would expect from a Labor Government, does practically nothing whatsoever to assist the man on the land. This statement is fairly correct, from the point of view of a State Government contribution. Had it not been for Commonwealth contributions through the Highways Department and the Education Department, this

statement would be entirely correct. One appreciates what is being done by the Minister and the contribution from the Commonwealth Government in relation to schools.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Absolute rubbish!

Mr. VENNING: I refer to the new high school at Gladstone and the new headmasters' residences that are being constructed. I am sure that the additional contribution by the Commonwealth Government is greatly assisting in this regard. Similarly, the Commonwealth Government's roads contribution is greatly assisting rural road reconstruction. Although concern has been expressed that in the next five years there will be an increase in the amount of money spent in the metropolitan area compared with expenditure in country areas, there seems to be doubt about the correctness of that statement.

I repeat that people in the rural areas appreciate what is being done to assist in education by making school buses available where small schools have been closed. In some areas, the people are not pleased about the primary schools being closed, but they are exceptional cases and, in the main, the people are satisfied with what is being done in this regard. It is true that the Government, in its election promise, said that it would take action in connection with wheat quotas, but what has it done? It has formed a committee that has traversed the State taking evidence from growers and has brought up a report about a contingency reserve to assist these primary producers.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Have many farmers in your district planted over their quotas?

Mr. VENNING: The Minister is making a comment on something about which he knows nothing, and his comment does not apply to the industry at present. The Minister would not know whether there was a carry-over of wheat in South Australia, or a wheat shortage. He also would not know what the future holds for the wheat industry.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: There will be a shortage of wheat.

Mr. VENNING: He is even prophesying the finish of this season: he knows everything!

The Hon. D. H. McKee: I am asking a simple question, whether you know of any farmer who has planted over his quota.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Burdon): Questions are out of order.

Mr. VENNING: In reply to the interjection, I point out that all growers must protect

their quotas. The Minister cannot tell me how a grower can grow his quota of wheat and protect his quota by not producing a certain amount over.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: You know there is a great demand for black market wheat: have you read the newspapers?

Mr. VENNING: Does the Minister encourage a black market of wheat in this State? That interjection clearly indicates that the Minister knows very little about the wheat industry. Also, it indicates that his colleagues know little about it. When I asked the Premier recently whether he considered that his Commonwealth colleagues' recent visit to China was detrimental to the wheat industry, his reply clearly indicated to me that he and his colleagues have little knowledge of the marketing of grain, or of anything else other than Socialism. That visit to China has ruined the possibility of the Australian Wheat Board's making sales to China. This is indicated by the fact that the board's officials have not been invited to China to negotiate sales, a practice that had been followed in previous years. Perhaps sales could have been made if they had been asked, but the actions of the Government's Commonwealth colleagues have placed the Chinese in a difficult position.

I commend the Australian Wheat Board because of its action in going outside the Peoples Republic of China to sell wheat, to the extent that, at the end of the present year, the board will finish with a record year of selling. I hope the Chinese people will forget what the Government's Commonwealth colleagues have done in recent months, and will ask our board officials to visit that country again and negotiate the sale of wheat. I had been referring to the committee formed by the Government with Mr. Travers as Chairman, and Mr. Quirke and one other member, known as the appeals committee. This committee has had to consider the quantity of grain available, but it has had nothing to do with any Government assistance to the rural industry. The committee operates by taking from Peter and giving to Paul, but the Labor Party considered that the Government had done something for the industry by its appointment. However, the industry has tried to look after itself.

Recently, legislation was introduced that altered the swine compensation contribution. As this fund had grown to about \$500,000, producers had asked that the contribution to this fund should be reduced to some degree.



The Government agreed to do this and introduced the legislation, but this in itself was not a Government contribution, because it was the industry that initiated the move. As was the case with the report by the Juvenile Court magistrate, the Chairman's report to the Minister on wheat quotas and on the amount of wheat required by, and since voted to, the contingency reserve (500,000 bushels) is not available to Parliament. That amount of grain almost astounded the Minister himself, as it did the grain section of United Farmers and Graziers. It was considered that, after last year, an allocation of 700,000 bushels should result in the ending of the committee's activities. However, one finds that the committee is to continue to operate for another 12 months, and that it has asked that 500,000 bushels of wheat be allocated to primary producers who wish to appeal against their quotas, but that is not all.

I refer to the silence on the part of the Government regarding reports made to it, a silence which seems to go hand-in-hand with the present Labor Government. I believe that pressure has been applied in order to silence comments made to the grain section of United Farmers and Graziers by Mr. Travers, who recently wrote a letter to the grain section, from which no comments have since emanated. It was indeed a sad day for this State's primary producers when Mr. T. C. Stott, who was the Secretary of United Farmers and Graziers, as well as an Independent member of this Chamber, left politics. I believe that, had such a report gone to United Farmers and Graziers when he was its Secretary, Mr. Stott would have relished the opportunity to straighten out the comments made by Mr. Travers to the grain section of that organization recently. Mr. Stott would have given that report the treatment it deserved.

In a State in which inflation is occurring and in which there are high wages and mounting costs, rural people are becoming the Cinderella folk in our community. Many of them are asking why something cannot be done to lift their incomes at least sufficiently to enable them to pay their way and have something to spare for a dry day. The story about wool aid its low selling price is known to all. The Commonwealth Government is trying on a short-term basis to give some relief, but that is not the only area of low prices.

Let us look at meat prices. I have before me an extract from the press of 20 years ago, from which it can be seen that wethers were then selling at \$10 to \$15 a head and lambs

at \$10 to \$12 a head. However, one can see from last week's market report that good lambs were being sold at the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs for \$6 to \$6.80, which is about half the figure for which they were sold 20 years ago. Is anyone else in industry today receiving half as much for his efforts as his predecessor did 20 years ago? Since 1951, the basic wage has increased by 100 per cent. I am not decrying this aspect, because the primary producer realizes that the home market is his best market, and the worker, who consumes the primary products, should receive sufficient reward for his labours. However, whether it be on a Commonwealth or State basis, the primary producer needs all the assistance he can get.

Concerning the Adelaide market, cattle prices at the abattoirs this week dropped by between \$5 and \$15 a head. If the works were capable of handling the quantities involved, the grower could rely on a regular return for his stock. After all, why should values fluctuate to the degree that they do? The person who works at a job knows what he will get each week for his labour, and that is fair enough. Why should a primary producer receive \$140 a head for his cattle this week but perhaps only \$125 next week? Stock is at present being killed, treated and exported, but the market is irregular because of the inability of the abattoirs to handle normal quantities. Growers' costs also have increased, water rates, taxes, fuel and machinery costs, etc., having increased enormously over the past three years.

Bearing in mind that the rural worker is hit also by death duties, is it any wonder that a country member should express concern about this Budget and about its lack of assistance to the people who provide over 50 per cent of our export earnings?

Mr. McRAE (Playford): I support the first line. In considering the Treasurer's Financial Statement in the time available, it seemed to me that some observations ought to be made on the general characteristics of the Budget, as well as on several specific topics. I had in mind certain specific topics but, in view of what the member for Rocky River has said about three matters, I may have to comment on them. It seemed to me that the general characteristic of the Financial Statement was one of balance and moderation. Now, as in 1970, one can only comment on the general merits of the Budget within the framework permitted to it by the standard of Commonwealth-State relationships.

Last year, I commented adversely on the attitude adopted towards the States, particularly this State, by the Commonwealth Government, especially by the then Prime Minister. This was the commencement of the 1970-75 tax reimbursement agreement. I commented that South Australia had received a lousy, rotten deal from the Commonwealth, this expression at the time being met with some derision from Opposition members. It was meant to highlight the unsatisfactory state of affairs then operating to a marked degree and still operating to a significant degree whereby the States are not accorded a fair share of the national total resource. This criticism had been raised by the Treasurer equally as, if not more, trenchantly.

The criticism was indeed proved to be correct by the events that followed. As members will recall, amid much criticism from the Opposition, the Government took the step in 1970 of applying to the Commonwealth Grants Commission for assistance. The nature of that application is set out in the 37th report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission of 1970. In dealing with the application by South Australia, the commission decided that a special grant of \$5,000,000 should be allowed, and that this should be reconsidered in the next financial year or in the succeeding financial year. What is of interest is the comment made by the commission in chapter 2 of its report under the heading "Inequalities Among the States" as follows:

The economies of the Australian States differ from one another in ways which have an important bearing on the relative capacity of the several State Governments to provide services for individuals and businesses. Among these differences are those of area, climate, topography, natural resources, size and distribution of population and productive capacity, and levels of income and expenditure. In addition, there are considerable differences among States in the average rate of economic growth, as reflected in the growth of population and output of goods and services.

These differences among the economies of the States give rise to fiscal inequalities. In general the fiscal inequalities take the form of differences in relative capacity to raise revenue from State taxes and other charges, in the relative cost of providing State Government services and meeting public debt charges, and in the budgetary impact of the operations of State business undertakings. In total they may be described as differences in fiscal capacity. These interstate differences in fiscal capacity may be partially or wholly offset by the pattern of distribution of Commonwealth financial assistance to the States, and the commission takes this into account in assessing the need for a special grant. However, in comparing the effects on State Budgets of the underly-

ing interstate economic differences it is convenient to set the Commonwealth financial assistance to the States on one side. Thus a State may be said to have below-average fiscal capacity if, in the absence of the Commonwealth financial assistance to the States, the revenue obtained from taxes and charges of average overall severity would not be sufficient to enable it to provide services of average overall scope and standard.

Interstate inequalities of fiscal capacity are not a transitory characteristic of the Australian Federation. However, the relative positions of the States are subject to change and most forms of Commonwealth financial assistance are subject to periodic review. For some years the commission has commented upon these fiscal inequalities and has reviewed the amounts of the special grants in relation both to other payments by the Commonwealth to the States and to the underlying differences in resources and economic conditions of the States themselves.

That was a preliminary comment by the commission leading to its grant to Tasmania, which was its main task, and its special grant to South Australia. That report preceded a supplementary grant of \$43,000,000 by the Commonwealth Government in about November of last year. That is to say after Opposition members had seriously contended at this time last year that I was foolish to say we had received a rotten deal, within a few months the independent commission had decided that the State's relative position, as set out in the general philosophy I have referred to, was such that it justified, without any form of special investigation, a grant of \$5,000,000.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Government itself within a few months concluded that a supplementary grant was needed of about \$40,000,000, to be shared between the States, notwithstanding everything it had said earlier. However, even with the grant and the return of this State to claimant status, the overall financial position was still very poor. South Australia had refused to adopt the policy of reducing its health, education, and social service provisions in an endeavour to balance its Budget by a degradation of community standards. The Government's policy was hotly criticized by the Opposition. I raise these matters, perhaps in odious detail to those Opposition members who have given the overall budgeting some serious consideration (there are not many such members), in the hope that someone will have the good faith to say that the Government was correct in its attitude in the 1970-71 Budget, that it was correct in taking the steps it took to return South Australia to claimant status, and that it was correct in refusing to attempt to balance

a hopeless Budget by an even worse degradation of social services in this State.

In February, 1971, still within seven months of what was to be a five-year tax reimbursement agreement between the Commonwealth and the States (an agreement, therefore, of some proposed stability), some further State revenue measures were forced upon us to enable the Government to have sufficient finance available to deal with recurring problems. In June of this year, still within 12 months of the original agreement, the Commonwealth Government at long last adopted a more reasonable approach and granted improvements in the State's share of national Governmental resources. As summarized by the Treasurer, this involved three things: first, an access to a growth tax by transference of pay-roll tax to the States; secondly, a special introduction for the year 1971-72 of \$22,000,000 to be added to the tax reimbursement base, thereby widening the base in future years; and, thirdly, a special supplementary contribution of \$40,000,000 for 1971-72 alone.

This brief summary indicates that, in the first 15 months (to be generous) of what was to be a stable five-year agreement, one grant of great magnitude was required and the whole standard of the system had to be changed after the conclusion of only the first year of the agreement. All this certainly justifies the criticism levelled against the Commonwealth last year concerning the poor share of the resources received by this State. Furthermore, question marks hover over the relatively near future in relation to the formula now arrived at. It is only within this context that the Budget can be objectively appraised.

On turning to a general appraisal, I cannot but repeat that unless the Federation functions as a Federation and a fair share of the national resources goes to National and State Governments, the problems that we face now will stay with us. Within the context that the receipt of money is largely governed by the receipt of taxation reimbursements and special grants, one must therefore ask whether the Treasurer has achieved the best value possible for the community in this State. Bearing in mind that 40 per cent of revenue has been received from the National Government, the balance of revenue is received from State taxation and public works and services. In the area of State taxation, over 25 per cent is estimated to be raised from pay-roll tax. This has been increased, but not so significantly as to cause undue hardship in industry. Stamp duty

has been increased to some degree in several areas, but the areas are those in which the impact on the lower range of salary earners will be slight.

The same comment can be made in respect of motor vehicle taxation, land tax and succession duties. In all these areas where the State does have control of taxation, the principle of graduated taxation, with the exemption or alleviation of the imposition of tax in needy areas (for example, in relation to rural land), is demonstrated as being the fairest means, and it would be a good thing if the Commonwealth could see fit to use the same system in relation to the mighty area of income tax. Where the same principle can be applied in respect of recoveries from public works and services, it has been applied; for example, it has been applied in relation to water and sewer rates.

In relation, therefore, to the question of revenue disclosed in the Treasurer's Financial Statement, the Government is to be congratulated, in the first place for having consistently maintained that the States as a whole (and this State in particular) were not receiving a fair share of national wealth and, in the second place, for having succeeded (although the Opposition thought that there was little in these declarations) in showing a lead in demanding a better and more realistic deal in Commonwealth-State relations in the 1970's. Very definitely, the Treasurer, by his persistence and courage, achieved far more in this State than would have seemed likely this time last year. In the third place, when in the crises period earlier this year all the pressures were to take the easy way out (and the Opposition urged it) and degrade our public services, the Government acted responsibly and with foresight and saved this State the troubles that others had experienced.

I will deal now with the expenditure of the revenue. I congratulate the Treasurer on a balanced expenditure, where every dollar has been made to count, and the vital services of health, education, public works, and law and order have been kept in line with modern standards in the community. Priorities have been maintained on a sensible and rational basis. All that is not to say that the Budget as a whole is everything that every member would want. However, within the content I have outlined, and with State taxation measures, the Government has achieved great things. Much more could have been achieved if more Commonwealth Government money had been available. To that degree, without

criticizing what has been achieved within the limits arbitrarily laid down, many honourable members will be disappointed and, of course, within the context that I have outlined, many of them will be disappointed that objectives that had been set for projects in their own districts are not possible to attain.

However, the lack of specific criticism by the Opposition does show that overall the Budget is realistic, sound and balanced. I thought that the Leader, who was one of the few Opposition speakers to tackle the overall position disclosed in the Budget, was wearing his argument very thin indeed in an effort to attack it. He made no symptomatic analysis of what had occurred in the area of Commonwealth-State relations in the last 15 months, he did not look at the overall revenue situation, and he made a series of unbalanced *ad hoc* criticisms in some areas without being able to pinpoint specific areas of criticism or to show that the Budget was immoderate or unbalanced. To that extent, I thought it was a poor overall criticism by the Opposition.

I now turn to some specific areas. Quite fairly, during this debate many Opposition members have specifically mentioned problems in their districts disclosed by the Budget, but I must take the member for Rocky River severely to task on three matters that he has raised. He made three comments, one of which was fair enough in the context of criticism but two of which were quite improper, and I challenge him to justify these statements. His first comment was a criticism of the Attorney-General's action in suppressing the report of the Juvenile Court magistrate. That matter has been debated at length in the Chamber and the honourable member has every right to voice his criticism, but to my astonishment I heard the honourable member say that there had been underhand activities at the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board concerning the sale of stock.

Mr. Venning: That is not right.

Mr. McRAE: That is what the honourable member said, and he ought to be responsible enough to understand that he was making a criticism of dishonesty and conspiracy by those persons involved in management at the board. I hope that, by making a personal explanation or by some other means, in the next few days he will withdraw those remarks or otherwise substantiate them. If they are true and underhand activities have been taking place at the abattoir, we all ought to know about them, but the honourable member ought not to take advantage of his position in this Cham-

ber to make such observations without justifying them.

Also to my astonishment. I heard the honourable member say that undue pressure had been placed on the grain section of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated in relation to a judicial or semi-judicial inquiry, and one could only draw the conclusion that either the Government, the members of the judicial inquiry or some member had placed unfair pressure on an organization in this State to refrain from placing facts before the public. If these facts are true. I challenge the honourable member to bring them to the light of day, because we all have the right to know about them, but, if it is a mere off-the-cuff secondhand comment. I challenge him to withdraw them by making a personal explanation or by some other means, because it is grossly unfair to the Minister and to the members involved.

Mr. Venning: Speak for yourself.

Mr. McRAE: I turn now to several specific topics that particularly interested me in this Budget. The first concerns law and order, and I congratulate the Government on its attitude towards the problem of law and order in the streets. South Australia received striking notice in the tumult of the September moratorium that it would not be some freakish exception from the problem of street demonstrations and marches that have plagued most of the free world, particularly the United States of America. Despite great criticism the Government did not panic, and, instead of declaring a state of emergency and the like, it set out to avoid repressive and useless actions and to attempt to deal with the problem objectively. It appointed Mr. Justice Bright a Royal Commissioner to inquire not only into the September moratorium but also into the general problem. In relation to the September moratorium, the Commissioner was asked why it happened and at page 86 of his report, in reply to that question, he states:

An element common to all the marchers in the moratorium demonstration was opposition to the war in Vietnam and to conscription in its present form. The demonstration was intended to be a protest against both that war and that form of conscription. The organizers of the demonstration halted the march in the interim. They appear to have lost communication with the general body of demonstrators. A confused situation arose in which the general body of demonstrators did not know either what was happening or what was intended to happen thereafter. Many of them believed that the police had stopped the march. Whether the organizers intended that the march

should continue at some point of time is uncertain. One major event, namely the dispersal, was made more likely by the complete absence of communication at the scene between the police on the one hand and Professor Medlin and Mr. Arnold on the other. The dispersal order was in part based on a belief of the police that warnings made by Superintendent Calder at the scene had been adequately communicated to the marchers. That communication was not in fact adequate. I believe that a great part of the general group of demonstrators would, if their leaders had remained in control of them and had so directed them, have continued the march after the halt at the intersection, and so have avoided a physical encounter with the police.

That convincingly dispels the great criticism of the Government at that time. I well recall the most peculiar observations being made by Opposition members that, in some way, the Government, or the Treasurer, or certain Cabinet members, or certain trade unions, or a combination of all of them, were at fault. The Commissioner, a judge of the Supreme Court, in his independent and thorough inquiry, dispels any such suggestions. It is a further example of the many wild allegations that have been made: three good examples were heard from the member for Rocky River, but he is not the only offender. It is a good example of the wild allegations made against members of the front bench and against the Government as a whole, allegations shown to be unsubstantiated by a report that is famous not only in this State but throughout the world, as I will demonstrate.

The paragraph to which I just referred dispels all the hysterical suggestions that in any way it happened because of Government action. However, it is in relation not to the September moratorium but to the general problem that the report is of the greatest importance. The report has provoked interest throughout Australia and in many parts of the world, and it is acting as a guide to police forces and people in the community in this country and overseas regarding the methods to be taken to deal with this problem. We now have a reasonable blueprint that will enable demonstrators to highlight public feeling on political issues in a democratic fashion without leading to unfair and unnecessary public inconvenience. At page 86 of his report, the Commissioner answers the fifth question, "What, if anything, can or should be done to prevent a repetition of public disorder in connection with a public demonstration", as follows:

No code of laws can ensure that there will never be public disorder in connection with a

demonstration. All that can be hoped for is that great public disorder will not often occur, and that if it does occur it will be remedied with understanding and good temper on the part both of demonstrators and police. Organizers of demonstrations ought not to lead their groups of demonstrators into situations in which police dispersal action appears almost certain. Police ought not to set in motion dispersal procedures, particularly in the case of a large group, except as a last resort.

The Commissioner devotes the whole of chapter 10 of his report to a background to that specific answer. However, two important parts of chapter 10 are of crucial significance. Regarding the status of the Commissioner of Police, the Royal Commissioner, at page 82 of his report, states:

I recommend that for the reasons stated in chapter 9 the Commissioner of Police should retain the independence of action appropriate to his high office but should be ultimately responsible, like his colleagues in many other parts of Australasia, to the Executive Government. To achieve this end, section 21 of the Police Regulation Act, 1952-1969, may be amended so as to read "Subject to this Act and to any directions in writing from the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner shall have the control and management of the Police Force" or, if he Parliament thinks fit, the more formal course of a direction by the Governor in Executive Council may be adopted, as in Victoria. If I may express a preference, it is for the less formal discussion between Minister and Commissioner, leading at times (not necessarily as the result of disagreement) to a written Ministerial direction.

Consequential provision should be made for making public at the appropriate time the fact and contents of any such direction. A convention should be established, as discussed in chapter 9, regarding the limits within which any such written direction may properly be given. The Chief Secretary and the Commissioner of Police ought to be able to reach an understanding which would form the basis of this convention.

Of course, what the Commissioner recommends there is, again, exactly what the Treasurer and Government members strove to get across to Opposition members last year. I remember the nearly hysterical scenes that occurred in this Chamber regarding the September moratorium, and time and time again the Treasurer quietly tried to demonstrate that a situation something like that suggested by the Royal Commissioner ought to apply. Indeed, the Royal Commissioner recommends that the status of the Commissioner of Police and the arrangements between the Commissioner and the Chief Secretary and the Government ought to be similar to those recommended by the Treasurer.

On page 83, the Royal Commissioner deals with the system of acquainting authorities with

an intention to march. It is all very well, of course, to deal specifically with what happened at the September moratorium and to refer to the status of the Commissioner of Police and to conventions that ought to apply between him and the Government, but all that is of no advantage unless there is some reasonable system by which there can be a balance between the Executive Government and the right of the citizen to protest, as well as a balance between Executive Government and the protesters, on the one hand, and the community as a whole, on the other. At page 83 of his report, in summarizing the system of notification, the Royal Commissioner states:

Some features of a system of notification would be:

- (1) The length of notice must be related to the degree of spontaneity of the march. In some cases a telephone call would be all that time would permit. In such a case the notice should be direct to the police.
- (2) In the case of a large well-organized well-planned march notice ought to be in writing giving all necessary particulars. To save argument as to addressee it may be directed to the Town Clerk, the Commissioner of Police, or the Chief Secretary. If no official objection is voiced to the proposal contained in the notice the marchers are not to be regarded as being in breach of traffic laws so long as they peaceably act in accordance therewith. If there is an official objection to the march as a whole, or as to time, route or any other specified feature, the objection should forthwith be notified to the giver of the notice and referred for prompt decision, in default of agreed compromise, to a judge of the Local and District Criminal Court. Examination will need to be given to methods of referral. Possibly a useful precedent may be found in the field of industrial law.
- (3) I see no need for the creation of a new offence of marching without prior notification, or in the face of a sustained objection, but persons so marching would be less likely to receive adequate police protection and more likely to be arrested for obstruction. I refer to the submissions by the Council for Civil Liberties on this topic. I think that there are already enough street offences and that any new offence created should be in lieu of and not in addition to some existing offence. Nevertheless there is merit in the view that persons who march in defiance of a court ruling and after a fair hearing ought to be liable to a greater penalty than those who merely obstruct by marching.

The Royal Commissioner sets out for the first time in the free world a reasonable system of action by which a balance is maintained between the Executive Government, the police and the community as a whole. Short-sighted people merely regard this as being a very expensive document obtained for \$60,000 and of little value. If it was only in relation to the September moratorium, it would be of little value, because all it would do would be to show that what the Treasurer said time and time again was right. However, its true value (and this makes it worth every cent of \$60,000: it is worth 10 times more) is in the principles it has laid down for guidance of future generations in this city and indeed in cities throughout Australasia, which are beginning to adopt the system. Therefore, the Royal Commissioner has taken a balanced view, being conscious of the difficulties that could arise in this most complex area of law enforcement.

I wish to refer to two interesting paragraphs on page 72 of the report so as to indicate the philosophy behind this historic finding, which will be of such supreme importance for generations of people in cities of Australasia and in other parts of this hemisphere. The Commissioner states:

There are two categories of disobedience by non-violent persons, and these should be distinguished:

- (a) The disobedience is of a law which the disobedient person regards as immoral or unjust. He may also regard it as invalid and seek an opportunity to test the validity in a prosecution. In the latter case his act is not really a disobedience but a preliminary to a legal process. This type is not uncommon. Examples are failure to pay a tax (*e.g.*, a receipts tax or a road maintenance tax) which may be unconstitutional. But an invalid law is no law at all and this type of disobedience may for present purposes be disregarded. The disobedience of which I speak in this category is disobedience of a law which is considered to be a valid exercise of law-making power but which the person disobeying it regards as requiring him to do something which conflicts with his conscientious beliefs. An example may be a law requiring him to register for military service.
- (b) The disobedience is of a law which is not in itself immoral or unjust, although it may be capable of being used unjustly. Examples are disobedience of laws or directions relating to traffic control. Disobedience in this category is not based on any allegation that the particular law is unjust. The disobedience is

intended to dramatize some demonstration and thereby to draw the attention of the previously uncommitted citizen to his need to think about the topic on which the demonstration is being made. "Stop the country to stop the war" is a slogan epitomizing an intention to do something which is probably incapable of being done if full compliance is rendered to all relevant laws.

A distinction must be drawn between disobedience of a law where the disobedience is a deliberate act, an end in itself, committed in order to dramatize a situation, and disobedience of a law which occurs as a mere incidental to some other activity. When Thoreau refused to pay a tax, on the ground that his country was engaged in immoral activities, he exemplified the former: when demonstrators ignore traffic laws in the course of their marches they usually exemplify the latter. Perhaps the events of September 18 contained an element of each. Personally, I have a great deal more sympathy with the first type of civil disobedience (type (a) above) than with the second, at least when the second is regarded as an end in itself. It is always open to a citizen to refuse to obey a law which he regards as unjust, provided he is prepared to take the consequence. I do not mean, by the last sentence, that a citizen ever has a legal right to break the law. But every citizen has a power of choice, and he may choose, if so minded, to do an act which the law requires to be done. Such a power of choice is not a matter of legal right: it is a decision to obey or not to obey the requirements of the law. Obviously there is no moral value in refusing to obey and then trying, by some legal or other quirk, to evade the consequences. But throughout history men have willingly suffered for their beliefs. Such men have won admiration not so much for the depth or rightness of their beliefs as for their willingness to suffer for them.

Once again in that paragraph the Royal Commissioner, as an independent justice of the Supreme Court, in that philosophy vindicates the Treasurer's attitude to the National Service Act as it operated in Australia last year. Indeed, the Commissioner vindicates the attitude of many other Government members. Once again, there was an uproar engendered by much mass hysteria. There, in a concise paragraph, the Royal Commissioner deals with that attitude and again vindicates the Government's position.

In summary, first, the report vindicates the Government's stand of September last year and throughout the following period; secondly, it sets out in some detail the whole of the existing law on the subject (that, in itself, is a great achievement); thirdly, it clarifies much of the woolly thinking on the subject in general (that is most necessary); and fourthly, it provides an avenue for a reasonable reform

that can effectively prevent or reduce such excesses in the future. In all these things it is a valid and vital document.

I now turn to education. Since more than 20 per cent of the Budget expenditure is devoted to education at all levels, it is obvious that some systematic analysis is important. I congratulate the Government on this year's increase of 25 per cent in expenditure on education. It indicates the Government's awareness of the crisis that this country and our State face in connection with education; it represents the absolute maximum that can be made available from Government funds; and it shows a determination to solve the problem. There is a very real problem in the provision of school accommodation and teachers in this State. Like other private members, I was disappointed that one or two projects connected with schools could not be provided for in the Budget and, in this respect, I refer particularly to the Elizabeth South Primary School. To me that is the greatest disgrace and eyesore in the city of Elizabeth, and it is most unfortunate that in this Budget the Treasurer and the Minister of Education could not see their way clear to place this school higher on the list of priorities. I suppose, in saying that, that I would be echoing a similar kind of statement from every other member, because I am sure each member has in his district at least one school that he considers to be a positive disgrace. Therefore, there must be some element of balance.

I must confess that, like the member for Mount Gambier, I am somewhat disappointed with the allocation for independent schools, which is about 1 per cent of the total provision for education. The federal conference of the Australian Labor Party at Launceston this year set out in some detail its education policy. Under the heading "Australian Schools Commission" that policy is as follows:

The Commonwealth to establish an Australian Schools Commission to examine and determine the needs of students in Government and non-government primary, secondary and technical schools and recommend grants which the Commonwealth should make to the States to assist in meeting the requirements of all school-age children on the basis of needs and priorities. In making recommendations for such grants to States, the Commission shall have regard to:

- (1) the primary obligation of Governments to provide and maintain Government school systems of the highest standard open to all children;
- (2) the numbers of children enrolled in the various schools;
- (3) the need to bring all schools up to acceptable standards; and

- (4) the need to ensure optimum use of resources in the establishment, maintenance and extension of schools.

In saying that, the Labor Party at its highest level has obviously set forth a policy which indicates that it will support independent schools to the maximum of its resource, and this is a policy that adheres to the right of all parents to determine the education of their own children, whether it be at a Government or a non-government school. Therefore, it is most unfortunate that so little is provided. I hope that the grant to independent schools will be doubled soon. I believe that this is in line with federal policy, and I believe it would be a step towards the British system under which all non-government schools are provided with the same rights and the same capital and income grants as are Government schools.

I believe in a pluralistic society and I believe that, as the federal policy says, obviously the first devotion of Government money must be to Government schools but that inside that philosophy there also resides the philosophy that non-government schools must be looked after as well. I well know the situation in my own district and I have already quoted the disgraceful situation that obtains at the Elizabeth South Primary School. I also know of the tremendous sacrifices that have been made, one example being the small Catholic primary school in the same immediate area in Elizabeth Grove. Therefore, it is disappointing that the allocation of funds to independent schools has been so small on this occasion. I hope that it will improve in the future.

Turning to the question of hospitals, I would do my district little justice if I did not confess to some disappointment that the Lyell McEwin Hospital still stays with the present system of administration. I do not intend to deal with this subject in any prolonged way, because members will already have heard me ask at least 15 questions in this House on the ultimate future of this hospital. Although I do not seem to have made much progress so far, that will not stop me from going on trying. My much more experienced colleague, the member for Elizabeth, has also tried over the years to get the priority for this hospital that we think it deserves. I truly believe that, even if nothing can be done immediately, planning ought to be under way to give this hospital priority to be the next major Government hospital in South Australia.

It cannot be forgotten that what was originally planned and laid out as a village or town

hospital centre will soon have to serve an enormous population. The population explosion in the central districts is enormous, and it is obvious to anyone who has driven anywhere in the Salisbury-Elizabeth-Gawler region. I realize the competing demands of the southern fringe areas that are perhaps in a similar position. I suggest that the Modbury Hospital will do little more than alleviate the needs of the central districts and will not in the end solve anything more than the problems of the north-east and lower north-east suburban districts. I can only hope that in its wisdom the Government, if it cannot give the Lyell McEwin Hospital next priority, will at least announce that it has second priority in terms of major development.

In relation to the Chief Secretary's line, I could also not refrain from voicing disappointment at the expenditure of Government money in relation to abortion. I am opposed to the abortion legislation that was introduced in 1969. I believe that it has been abused systematically to an enormous extent and that the time has come for an urgent review of this legislation. I think, on the figures available, that we are far from having reached a plateau situation. As a result of some border traffic, I suppose, and also as a result of a very loose psychiatric provision, systematic abortions are going on at a horrifying rate in our Government hospitals and other private hospitals.

Therefore, I note with regret that Government money is being spent on the systematic elimination of unborn children under a reckless and ill-guided piece of legislation, and I trust that something will be done soon to bring this issue to a systematic debate. I also, on this issue, as on the issue of private schools, adopt the attitude of the pluralist society and I am not opposed to the principle of abortion within the limits of the Act, except in so far as the psychiatric provision applies. I do not consider that it is for me or for anyone else to impose rigorous standards on the whole community, but I believe that it is time for complaint when a provision in legislation which was never properly considered or understood but which was merely modelled on English legislation that was never properly understood or debated has been so used that we now have abortion on demand, something that was never intended.

I know well from discussions with people in the community at large and at the university, and with psychiatrists and social workers, that psychiatrists are being put in the position where they are rubber stamps and some of



them are being rubber-stamped out of their profession of psychiatry, because they are becoming professional abortion approvers. Some of them, indeed, now refuse to accept such cases, because they will not have their profession so downgraded. It has led to the situation where we have an appalling rate of abortions. Whether members believe it or not, if they care to check the figures they will find the astonishing position that our rate of abortion in this State on a population basis is worse than the position in Sweden or, believe it or not, in Czechoslovakia, where a person does not have to give any reason for wanting an abortion. It is straightout abortion on demand. Therefore, I confess my disappointment at the expenditure of Government money in this area.

Finally, I refer to the line for the Minister of Labour and Industry, and I congratulate the Minister on the work he has done since he has been in office. This has been a period of tremendous industrial difficulty in this State. It is often suggested that the cause of these industrial difficulties is to be found in the trade unions or with the Minister: it is rarely suggested that the cause is sometimes to be found with the employers.

Mr. Venning: Do you—

Mr. McRAE: I suggest that the honourable member for Rocky River, who is interjecting and who earlier referred to the industrial crisis in this State, would be well advised to look at *Hansard* for February to April last. I refer to the matter of General Motors-Holden's. In the session between February and April, much concern was expressed among engineering unions about possible retrenchments in the drafting and tooling sections of the G.M.H. and Chrysler Australia Limited plants. This I well know, because employment for about one-third of the male population of my district is provided by G.M.H. and its subsidiaries at Elizabeth South. At that time systematic and categorical denials were given by the company as to any such intentions, and the question was laughed at. About four months later, having released the latest model, the company reversed that policy and proceeded with a rigorous system of retrenchments—an unfair and unjust system.

The member for Rocky River would be well advised to stay with the wheat stabilization scheme and similar things, and not to embark into the industrial arena, where angels fear to tread, without having done at least some preparatory work. In this period of technological change and increasing automation, the result has been that this State has suffered

several industrial and economic crises in the motor vehicle, steel tube piping, and allied industries. In some cases these have been the fault of the employers, but, in other cases, the crisis has been mainly the fault of lack of communication between employers and employees. This is a matter which over and over again in this House I have tried to advance, and is something contained both in the federal and the State platforms of my Party, with the ultimate objective of our industrial relations being an attempt to get communication between the parties. Obviously, if this cannot be done we will be stalemated.

I congratulate the Minister on the steady hand he has used in the numerous disputes with which he has to deal and in relation to which he has sometimes been unfairly blamed. I refer to the rubber dispute, the motor vehicle dispute, the milk dispute, and the British Tube Mill dispute. I am pleased to find that, at long last, consideration is being given to the new Bill on industrial relations.

I now refer to workmen's compensation. It is long overdue that, this State having shown the lead in the Act passed in April, 1971, we now go a step further and provide for full pay for all workers whilst on workmen's compensation. I am not saying that the maximum set for physical incapacity, death, or the like should be increased at this stage: I am saying that the weekly payment should be increased to the full weekly earnings. I believe that I will have the support not only of the trade union movement and members on this side but also of much of commerce and industry in this State.

In New South Wales, as a result of a continuous series of industrial disturbances, the situation was reached where the difference between the State workmen's compensation rate and the full weekly earnings was met by employers pursuant to an award. That meant that two insurance schemes had to be entered into. Once a start is made in an industrial area the principle spreads to other parts of the industrial scene and, indeed, this has happened in that State. Within two months of this situation being reached in the building industry in New South Wales it had moved to the waterfront. Now, the Waterside Workers Federation has an agreement with the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority by which the weekly earnings of its employees are guaranteed. I believe that my suggestion would have the support of commerce and industry, trying as it does try to grant what is

obviously just and, at the same time avoiding needless duplication of expense.

As in the case of the Bill passed earlier this year we were reasonable in suggesting a commencing date and in giving due warning, the same could be done in relation to this Bill. I am well aware of the many discussions that are taking place within the community at present, some people thinking that too short a time has elapsed after the original Bill to take a step such as this. Although to some extent I share that view, I think we ought to establish and debate the principle, as I do not believe it is too hard a principle to establish. Indeed, the veriest child would accept it as being moral and just. However, the period of commencement should be delayed for a reasonable time, I suggest until July 1 next. In that way, premium adjustment and other matters could proceed without excessive delay.

I congratulate the Government on a moderate, well balanced Budget and on its wise expenditure of money. I confess disappointment, as other members have expressed theirs, that certain things for which we hoped have not been achieved. However, as has been shown by the weak efforts of Opposition speakers, the Government has made a remarkable effort in difficult circumstances, and the Budget is in every economic area a complete vindication of what the Treasurer and the Government have tried to do in the last 12 months.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): Members have just heard a reasonable sort of speech made by the member for Playford. It was the sort of speech he must make to justify his endorsement and, indeed, his position of assistant Minister of Labour and Industry.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Personal references are out of order.

Mr. BECKER: The member for Playford said that the contribution made by Opposition members had been weak. It is interesting to note that he believes we should now plunge ourselves a further \$7,346,000 into debt. I remind the honourable member and his colleagues that things are not all that rosy and are not going as well as we would like them to be going in South Australia, as at June 30 last year the public debt and other interest-bearing debts increased by \$45,848,449 to an all-time high of \$1,256,336,991. The total of the State's public debt and other interest-bearing debts is the remarkable figure of \$1,556,504,074, an increase of \$74,429,020 over the previous 12 months. That is not a good

set of financial figures for South Australia, the ridiculous point being that we have had to approve the allocation of \$82,554,000 for interest on bonds, bills, and stock, and exchange on such demands made overseas pursuant to the Public Finance Act, and the contribution to the National Debt Sinking Fund pursuant to the Financial Agreement Act and the Public Finance Act. That represents over 18 per cent of South Australia's total expenditure. We are now going to justify a deficit of \$7,346,000. Of course, we have to rely on being a claimant State, because the only way that the State will get out of the red is by the Commonwealth Government's doing the right thing.

Mr. Keneally: Do you think the Commonwealth Government should do the right thing?

Mr. BECKER: The Commonwealth Government has been generous to South Australia over the past 12 months; it has helped the State balance its Budget and checked its irrational spending. We were told that South Australia had balanced its Budget last year, with a surplus of \$21,000. However, there is no statement anywhere in the Budget of the amount of work in hand, contracts commenced, part payment made or sums owing under contracts. Indeed, I know of about \$100,000 to which the Government committed itself in April and which it had not paid as at the end of June, so in my opinion the State did not have a surplus. When one prepares a Budget or presents figures and accounts such as those now before us, one can turn and twist figures and make them do what one wants them to do. It is high time that we considered legislation to prevent a State Government from presenting a deficit Budget. Each State Government should balance its Budget.

Mr. Crimes: Why?

Mr. BECKER: The man in the street has to balance his budget, as does the housewife, so surely Governments can balance their Budgets.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: If a man in the street, by borrowing, spends more than he earns one year, does he balance his budget?

Mr. Crimes: You're way out of date.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You're about five generations behind the times.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Hanson.

Mr. BECKER: The other day someone deposited a letter in my letter box. Although it does not have a date on it, I will read the letter because it is appropriate to my remarks, and I think that, in considering this deficit,

the people of South Australia ought to know its contents. The letter states:

Dear Friend, I'm writing at private expense to explain why the Government has been forced into imposing new revenue measures. When we came to power, the State's services (particularly education, health and hospitals) were at breaking point. We therefore moved immediately to provide service pay to daily and weekly-paid Government employees (costing some \$6,500,000), a 15 per cent increase in education expenditure, and a 20 per cent increase in spending on health and hospitals. By these means the crisis in services, hospitals and education was avoided. To do this, taxes were imposed on those people best able to pay. Because we need business confidence in South Australia to raise employment and get development we couldn't touch the main business concessions the L.C.L. gave at least one major company. We looked elsewhere for funds. We made reductions in death duties for widows and workers, but increased them on the richer estates. We taxed insurance companies and increased wharfage rates and a number of fees and charges which did not directly affect the family man. This gave us a Budget in which all the Government funds in South Australia would work out at a balance for the year, even with normal wage increases.

But since then, there have been a whole series of large and unusual wage increases. They've hit the Government very hard. In the three years prior to 1969-70, the average increase in the State Government's wages bill was between \$5,000,000 and \$7,000,000. In 1969-70, under the L.C.L. Government, the increase was \$10,250,000. But this year the decisions of the Commonwealth wage-fixing tribunals have given us an increased wages bill of \$18,500,000—far more than expected and more than the Budget could bear. When unusual (or even usual) wage increases happened in the past, the Commonwealth Government paid the States extra to help them out. This year it didn't. It has taken all the extra income tax coming from the wage rises, paid its own extra wage costs, paid a small amount to the State under the existing wage increase formula (less than one-third of the States' extra cost) and then put millions of dollars profit into the Commonwealth Treasury. It refused to help the States further. As a result every State in Australia is now suffering. In South Australia, we're better off than any other mainland State, because we've controlled our spending. Western Australia originally budgeted for a balance, but now faces a deficit of \$8,700,000. Queensland budgeted for a deficit of \$2,800,000, and now has one of \$16,000,000. New South Wales budgeted for a \$18,000,000 deficit and now has one approaching \$50,000,000. Victoria's deficit was \$17,000,000, and now it's \$41,000,000. What John Gorton has asked the States to do is reduce spending on schools, health and hospitals. Victoria therefore announced that despite increased school enrolments it will reduce its present temporary teaching staff and it won't appoint any more teachers or nurses. Queensland also has announced cuts in spend-

ing on education and health and hospitals. And that's the way they're all knuckling under!

We don't believe anyone wants us to do that in South Australia. The Labor Government's responsibility is to see that children are taught and the sick are tended. We believe the people insist that we do that. We've had to turn to the only areas of additional taxation now left after having taxed the tall poppies already this year. This means increased taxes and charges which affect the family man. We see no way out. The Labor Government will not cut essential services its people demand and which John Gorton couldn't care less about. We therefore ask for the support of every trade unionist in this policy. A Labor Government has to maintain education, health and hospital services the way working people of the State want them maintained.

Yours fraternally,

Don Dunstan

What a great statement that is! The Treasurer says in this letter that he has already taxed the tall poppies and is now turning to the unionist, the man in the street, and everyone else. We copped that belt on February 23 when he announced seven increases, which I will highlight later. That was cunningly and shrewdly presented to the people to try to balance the Budget this year. I said earlier that we should consider taxation in South Australia. The people of the State should demand that no Government budget for a deficit.

Mr. Crimes: Why?

Mr. BECKER: If industries can present a satisfactory balance sheet, surely the Government can do the same. Labor Governments have never believed that they should balance the Budget: they cannot do so, and they are taking people to breaking point.

Mr. Crimes: What is an overdraft?

Mr. BECKER: We must consider the total sum that we provide each year, and that sum is increasing to cover the public debt of the State. Interest payments on the public debt last year were \$70,923,193; the sinking fund contribution was \$11,673,878; repayments on principal were \$1,492,409; a total of \$84,089,480. We can reasonably assume that at least that sum, and possibly nearly \$90,000,000, will be required again this year. If we do not stop this type of spending and this waste of public money, we will reach the stage where a large percentage of our Budget must be allocated to the interest bill. We must remember that we cannot borrow our way out of debt and that we are placing future generations under a mortgage. Our Socialist friends can scream as loudly as they like, but we know that their economic policy provides for the nationalization of everything.

Mr. Crimes: Have a look at our policy.

Mr. BECKER: The people should be fully informed about the amount of interest owed by the State and its indebtedness. It is all very well for members opposite to make great play of the fact that South Australia can once again ask for handouts under the Commonwealth Grants Commission. If we obtain money from the Grants Commission—

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Do you know that the Commonwealth Government opposed our application?

Mr. BECKER: —we will be faced with a need to increase our taxes to a level comparable with that in New South Wales and Victoria. The Government is putting the State in an awkward position, because some forms of taxation may have to be increased. If that happens, particularly in connection with gambling, this State will have to be very careful. I would not like to see poker machines introduced in South Australia, nor would most people like to see it. If South Australia, as a claimant State, has to look for new taxation measures, I sincerely hope that the Government will not consider introducing poker machines. I would not have a bar of them. Because Surfers Paradise is facing competition from resorts on the northern coast of New South Wales, suggestions have been made that poker machines be introduced in Surfers Paradise. Eventually a casino will be established in Tasmania. However, we do not want those sorts of revenue-raising measure in South Australia.

We are working to build up our tourist industry, but already the Government has hinted that it may impose taxes on it. We should allow the industry to grow. If the Government is so generous as to provide \$1,000,000 worth of land in Victoria Square so that overseas investors can build what I would call an Asian flophouse, surely it should make provision for the Tower Motel at Glenelg to be finished, because that would be a far greater asset to South Australia. I can see no point in the Government's giving away public assets, such as the land at Victoria Square. This Budget affects the people, the family, and family life more than any other Budget has done. The Treasurer has said that that is not so, but I cannot see how he can justify the statement about an increase of 3c a week when we consider the various taxes that were imposed in February this year. If we check the water and sewerage rates, we will find that it will cost 3c every time we pull the chain.

Last year we had the statement that the Government would do great things in providing many additional houses. The Treasurer said that the trust was expected to start work on 2,349 houses or flats in 1970-71, including 979 in the country. However, the Auditor-General's Report shows that the number of houses and flats completed in 1970-71 was 2,213. The completions did not make the Budget figure. Admittedly, the number completed was 501 more than in 1969-70, an increase of 29 per cent. The number under construction at June 30 was 1,769, a small decrease of 27 compared to the previous year.

The total number of houses and flats completed by the trust at June 30, 1971, was 67,757. Of these, 33,422 were for rental purposes, 34,180 were sold, 150 were unsold and, believe it or not, 5 were destroyed by fire after completion. That is an interesting statement, and that is the only mention that it gets in the Auditor-General's Report. I should like to know more than that; I should like to know how five houses could be destroyed by fire as soon as they were completed. However, the vital part is that we have not had any emergency housing in South Australia for a considerable time. Many families in this State are seeking this housing, but the State cannot provide it.

This is where the Government must be condemned. I know of three families who are living in one house. They have had their names down for two and a half years for a Housing Trust rental house but they have been told that they will probably have to wait another 12 months to 18 months. That is not good enough, and it is about time the Government put its words into actions. We know the Government would rather spend money on appointing committees to give jobs to repatriated members of Parliament. In this Chamber on February 23, 1971, we were told that, generally, valuations regarding water and sewerage rates were some 7 per cent to 10 per cent below full current values. The Treasurer also said:

At the same time the standard 35c charge a 1,000gall. for rebate water will be increased to 40c, so that the increase in rate revenue is not automatically absorbed simply by reducing the amount of excess water paid for or by using more water.

The Treasurer did not say that this would yield about \$3,000,000 and did not tell me or Parliament or my constituents that their water and sewerage rates would increase by 30 per cent to 40 per cent, which is much more than 7 per cent to 10 per cent. He did not tell

people living in my district, particularly those in home units, where five people each pay almost as much in water and sewerage rates as was paid by the person who formerly lived in a house on that block. The increase in water and sewerage rates in my district is murderous. Although the Socialist Government is ready to criticize former Liberal Governments for the lack of Housing Trust houses, water rates for trust houses in my district have been increased by 20 per cent to 30 per cent, although we were told that the increase would be 7 per cent to 10 per cent.

In the home unit area in Glenelg East it can be shown that this is the amount that has to be paid for water and sewerage rates, and yet these people have only a few square feet of garden. They pay as much in rates as I pay for an ordinary household block. How can that system be justified? That is the encouragement we get from an enterprising Socialist Government! The Government keeps telling people to save for their retirement or for a rainy day, but, obviously, it does not encourage people to own a house. It is time that this Government woke up and that the little puppets from the trade union movement realized that they also represent human beings. Human beings have started to feel the pinch since this Government came into power.

Mr. Crimes: Balance the Budget and tax them more: that is what it amounts to.

Mr. BECKER: People who bought home units will either have to let water, sewerage, and council rates accrue, or sell up and reduce not only their standard of living but also the standard of their accommodation. However, this is what the Socialist Government wants, so this should make the Government happy. This situation hits the middle class, which supported members opposite and put them in office. Eventually, this class will throw the Government out. If the Government believes that it represents people and believes in the protection of those who have retired, it should seriously consider introducing a system to reduce water and sewerage rates that have to be paid by people on fixed incomes, such as pensioners and retired persons.

Perhaps the State could not cover the full cost, but it should provide some system of rebates similar to the system used by the Commonwealth Government for pensioners' telephones and television receivers. The Government has not published the Sangster report, because it will try to make capital out of that report in future and use it as a gimmick. The member for Chaffey, who is interjecting,

need not worry about water rates, because he will not have any water from Chowilla about which to worry. When I hear criticisms of the Commonwealth Government, I remind Government members that last year the State Government received an extra \$35,403,488 in grants and special payments from the Commonwealth Government. In 1969-70, the then Government received an increase of only \$11,278,235, so this Government has no reason to complain about the assistance it has received from the Commonwealth Government. However, the Government, particularly the Treasurer when he gallivants overseas and interstate, which trips cost \$27,000 so far, insults the Commonwealth Government in this respect.

Mr. Langley: It deserves it.

Mr. BECKER: I assure the member for Unley that this State is not going to pay for the Labor Party's campaign expenses. As the Treasurer has warned us, increases, particularly in stamp duties, are to occur. The Treasurer must be naive if he thinks that increases such as this will not affect most people, particularly the younger members of the community. Stamp duties on the registration of motor vehicles are to be increased. We have already seen an increase in the stamp duty on the sales of house properties involving \$12,000 or more. This means that it will cost an extra \$60 to bug a house worth just over that sum. One would not be able to purchase a house in my district, which is not an expensive one in which to live, at less than that price. As a result, nearly every property sale in my district will attract that extra stamp duty, and that \$60 could mean the difference between one's being able to buy a house and sow a lawn this year, or having to wait six months to do so. It is evident, therefore, that this Government is doing nothing to encourage young people to save for a house of their own.

The stamp duty on cheques is also to be increased from 5c to 6c. I have no doubt that our Socialist friends, who support the Commonwealth Bank, realize that they will have to pay 16c or more to write a cheque, 6c stamp duty going to the State Labor Government, 7c being spent on postal charges, and about 3c being involved in bank charges. Although the housewife must balance her budget, the Government apparently thinks it is in order continually to have a deficit. There will be increased charges on mortgages over \$10,000 and, from the way property values have increased, there will be a general charge on young married couples.

As it is, people often have difficulty in saving for a deposit on a house, and the poor old householder is getting it thick and fast. He could also be faced with increased electricity charges, because of the 3 per cent surcharge. Bearing in mind the Electricity Trust's balance last year, I believe it will be a struggle to meet the situation.

Water and sewerage rates have certainly increased by more than 7 per cent or 10 per cent; they have been increased by about 30 per cent. Increased motor vehicle registration was announced last year. The income from land tax this year is estimated at \$10,000,000, an increase of about 24½ per cent. Generally, people in the metropolitan area accept land tax as a small levy to be paid to the Government, but we have not had this impost of \$2 to provide for parks and gardens, etc. People in my district did not know that a council could also use land tax values. However, they now know it, and there will be appeals against assessments in future.

The council rates in my district have risen by 50 per cent and by as much as 125 per cent in some areas. People who have saved sufficient money to buy a home unit have had their council rates increased by 125 per cent on the previous rates, and they may have been in the property concerned for only 12 months. The increased charges levied by councils are necessary, because they have to pay, for instance, extra costs in connection with the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, a \$3,000,000 project that is now estimated to cost \$11,000,000.

Mr. Jennings: Playford introduced it.

Mr. BECKER: Are you making a speech on your feet?

Mr. Jennings: I usually do.

Mr. BECKER: This little scheme has carved up many of the suburbs, bringing pollution and rubbish down to my area, yet people have to pay rate increases of between 50 per cent and 125 per cent. It is nice to have someone in the Hills dump his cat in one's backyard. This is one of those things that has got out of hand, and the scheme is having a tremendous effect on local councils in whose areas it is situated. This Budget is not one that will, as we are led to believe, cost the family 3c a week; that is ridiculous. I say that it will make it extremely difficult for the working man to make ends meet. We heard the Treasurer this afternoon say that the Industrial Development Branch does not receive the credit that it should receive. I can remember when a South Australian

manufactured automatic machine received little assistance from the State Government. The Commonwealth Department of Trade helped the person involved to obtain markets and contacts overseas. I cannot see that the expense of a State Industries Development Branch is warranted when we have a most efficient Commonwealth Department of Trade. I cannot see why we should have to duplicate the service.

No reference is made in the Budget to consumer protection; I see nothing about great agencies to be set up to protect housewives. Although we hear yapping about this from members opposite, nothing is provided for it. Perhaps this will be the subject of an electoral promise. We heard the great statement yesterday of an estimated expenditure by tourists in South Australia of \$40,000,000 to \$60,000,000 a year. I believe that is an educated guess. If there are 800,000 tourists, that would mean that each would have to spend \$50 to \$75 a year. It is certainly pleasing to see that the State Government will do something to try to improve tourist facilities. I am interested in the \$100,000 provided in the Budget for youth organizations. I was surprised to read the following report of a statement by the Minister of Social Welfare that appeared in the daily newspaper under the heading "Plans for Youth":

The \$100,000 grant for youth organizations announced in the State Budget will be spent on new buildings, including special facilities such as "drop-in" centres, youth camps and equipment and clubs for handicapped and troubled youths. The Minister of Social Welfare (Mr. King) said yesterday that a six-member committee would be set up to advise the Government on where the money should go. It was hoped payments could be made by March to the organizations involved.

I think that is a credit-worthy move by the Government. The article continues:

In some cases grants would take the form of a subsidy plan related to fund-raising projects. Priority would be given to facilities catering for the 12-18 age group. Mr. King said the committee would also advise the Government on the distribution of the \$50,000 grant for youth leader training previously dispersed through the National Fitness Council.

It is interesting to read what the Minister intends to do in relation to the National Fitness Council. I believe this body is capable of handling contributions made by the State in this respect. It is interesting to note the following comments in the 1970 annual report of the National Fitness Council in relation to the gross national product:

Figures quoted on page 39 of the 1966 Annual Report compared the Commonwealth's grant for National Fitness with Australia's Gross National Product. In 1939-40 the share for national fitness was 0.0000200. It rose to 0.0000270 in 1949-50, but in 1959-60 had dropped to 0.0000104. These are based on Australian National Accounts and annual reports of the Commonwealth Council for National Fitness. Dr. Peter Rudman at the International Congress of Park Administration stated that "in countries with advanced industrial and technological development, all classes of society are finding that leisure is replacing work as the basic integrating factor of life. People will spend an increasing portion of their leisure in parks and recreation areas." (Report of proceedings, Oct. 1970). Yet the organization established by the federal Parliament itself, to encourage people to become interested in their own healthy recreation, is receiving a decreasing share of the country's wealth.

The following figures relate to State Government assistance per capita for youth recreation:

State	1966 c	1970 c
New South Wales . . .	31	33.7
<u>Victoria.....</u>	<u>15.5</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Queensland.....</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>26.9</u>
Western Australia . . .	20	34.9
<u>Tasmania.....</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>33.4</u>
<u>South Australia.....</u>	<u>11.5</u>	<u>15.1</u>

So, South Australia received the second lowest amount per capita of State Government assistance for youth recreation in 1966 and by far the lowest amount in 1970. The following figures relate to the Commonwealth Government assistance per capita for youth recreation:

State	1966 c	1970 c
New South Wales.....	0.8	1.8
<u>Victoria.....</u>	<u>1.9</u>	<u>2.2</u>
<u>Queensland.....</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>3.4</u>
<u>Western Australia.....</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>6.3</u>
<u>Tasmania.....</u>	<u>7.5</u>	<u>14.5</u>
<u>South Australia.....</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>5.7</u>

So, South Australia received the third-highest contribution from the Commonwealth Government; in other words, the Commonwealth Government has given a relatively large amount to South Australia. Consequently, we should not be too hard on the Commonwealth Government in this connection. Overall, South Australia lags badly behind in connection with State Government assistance for youth recreation and something must be done at the State level in this connection. Twelve months ago I suggested that a Ministry of Sport and Culture be established. On October 27, 1970, the South Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Association wrote the following letter to me:

The South Australian Women's Amateur Athletic Association Council, at its meeting on Thursday, October 15, 1970, considered the

question of a Minister of Sport and what this association felt was required from such a person. The council considered that finance and publicity are two very important factors with amateur sporting associations. Financially a body could function in their own State, but found it difficult in financing a team to go overseas. Training centres are also required, particularly for younger school-children, who could be spotted at an earlier age if they have any potential and encouraged to stay in that sport. It was suggested that the Physical Education Branch of the Education Department could help promote athletics in this way. Publicity in schools in South Australia for athletics is lacking and this was evident in the reaction to the Schoolgirls Championships held on Saturday, October 24. Information concerning these had not been passed on to interested girls by the heads of some schools, and in future it might be necessary to personally visit all schools, advertising the championships.

Of course, now we have the big crisis. The crisis in education ceased on May 30 last year! However, now we have the crisis in school sport in South Australia. It comes back to the question that I asked the Minister some time ago when he said that the matter was being considered, but we have had no action from him at all. Here we have an area in which there is great danger of schoolchildren in this State not receiving the sport training and encouragement to participate in sport. New South Wales has appointed a Minister for Sport, and this is one area in which that Minister can assist and benefit his State. Of course, one of the main objectives of that Minister in New South Wales is to promote Sydney for the Olympic Games in 1988, and it would be very nice if we could do something similar in South Australia and promote this State for the Commonwealth Games in the future.

However, here we have a Government that cannot even control sport in schools. It cannot even assist parents to have sport in the schools. The Minister is sitting on the matter, because it is too hard to handle. Also, we have the statement by the Minister of Social Welfare that the committee would advise the Government on distribution of the \$50,000 grant for youth leader training that previously had been disbursed by the National Fitness Council. In the metropolitan area we are fortunate to have several youth centres. One near and dear to my heart is Western Youth Centre Incorporated, which was opened in 1958 to provide recreation facilities for the youth of the Western Torrens area.

On two occasions since then, the building has been extended, thus allowing the intake

of more members in a wider field of activities. Membership is open to any person over six years of age and our present programme offers members the opportunity to take part in basketball, cricket, football, gymnastics, judo, karate, netball, marching girls, table tennis, tennis and various social activities. At last census, the centre had more than 1,000 members and 42 teams registered with various sporting organizations. Whilst originally catering for the youth of its own area, now people from all areas of Adelaide journey to the centre to avail themselves of the facilities.

I pay a tribute to the Western Youth Centre Incorporated and all those who have been associated with it over the years since its inception in 1958, because they have received little assistance from the Government and at this stage they will not receive anything from the Socialist Government that is ripping everything from us and not doing anything for the future generations. This Government says it will look at how it will spend \$50,000 that normally went to the National Fitness Council. It is also interesting to note that in the last financial year the management committee of Western Youth Centre Incorporated handled \$10,526. Of that amount, \$3,364 came from direct subscriptions, and the balance was raised from other means, mainly a spring carnival, major quiz, and a fortnightly teenage dance. This means that an immense amount of work has been done by the committee, by the leaders, and by teams and groups within that centre. This centre caters not only for the West Torrens council area but also for virtually most of the metropolitan area, as children come from all over the city to compete in various sporting and other activities arranged by this centre. As we will have more leisure available in future, something must be done to provide facilities for people to enjoy that leisure.

In Great Britain a Sports Council was established to help promote sport within the community. The problems are greater in some overseas countries with densely populated urban areas. Although we do not have that problem yet, it will come and it is time that we had a co-ordinated plan under the control of, say, a Minister of Sport, in order to assist sporting clubs, whether amateur or semi-professional. I am concerned about a young chap in South Australia who has been fortunate enough to be selected to represent his State in a ten-pin bowling team for the Australian championships to be held in Tasmania in a few weeks, but his employer, a semi-government instrumen-

tality, will not give him time off to play in this event. It is not the first time that this has happened to a South Australian working in a Government or semi-government department or in private enterprise, and I consider it is time the State Government took a stand and encouraged industry to assist people who have been selected to represent the State in competitive sport. Ten-pin bowling is one of the largest sports not only in the United States but also in many European countries.

We have heard the announcements by the Treasurer concerning the festival theatre and other activities. I think it was during the last Budget debate or the supplementary Budget debate that I referred to a theatre in the city that had operated for 12 months. It had accepted the Government's invitation for assistance or advice but, as far as I know, no-one from the Premier's Department had visited this theatre. The play *Dinkum Bambino* may have affected someone in that department, but I do not know. In the *Advertiser* this morning it was reported that Mr. Dunstan presented the Lee's Theatre Club awards for 1971. Norma Knight received the best actress of the year award, and *There's a Girl in My Soup*, produced for Theatre 62 by Chris Winzar, was voted best production. I was particularly pleased to see that someone I have come to know and respect in the theatre, Don Quin, was nominated the best actor for his performance in *Dinkum Bambino* at the Q Theatre.

The Q Theatre, which is an intimate theatre in Halifax Street, has shown outstanding productions with much success. As an amateur theatre, it deserves all the support and encouragement it can get. There are plenty of other amateur theatrical groups, choirs, and choral societies in the metropolitan area that deserve encouragement and help from the Government, and it is high time the Government did something about them.

One must ultimately return to the main aspect of the Budget: the impact that it will have on the family man, on the retired and semi-retired people and those preparing for retirement. Industrially, things have been slack today, there having been no strike. However, one never knows what will happen, as there is still a portion of the day left. It is about time more common sense was introduced into the industrial relations field.

This is not a good Budget, as South Australia could have done without many of the extra taxes that have been imposed. It is about time the Government learned to live within its available means. I should like to



see a more specific statement of accounts presented to Parliament and the people of South Australia, although the member for Stuart would probably not understand it anyway. However, he will know when he has to pay for what is happening.

Mr. Keneally: What about—

Mr. BECKER: If the member for Stuart wants to have a go at me, let him come outside and do so. The Budget will only cripple the worker, annihilate the white collar worker and create a Socialist State at all costs.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): My colleague, who dealt with many aspects of the Government's accounts, made a timely observation when he said that the Budget should be presented in more specific detail. However, I do not know whether I agree with what he said about the member for Stuart. When introducing the Budget, the Treasurer set out on what could only be described as a pathway of gloom, saying that he was aiming at a deficit of \$7,340,000, from an aggregated payment of \$453,968,000, with aggregate receipts amounting to a little more than \$446,000,000. One well remembers the Budget that the Treasurer introduced last year when, anticipating all sorts of horrors for the State, and not knowing what wage increases he would have to meet, he forecast a deficit of \$4,800,000 for the year. However, the State finished up with a nominal surplus of \$21,000. The Treasurer went to great lengths to explain the State's improved financial position but, as these explanations have been dealt with adequately by my colleagues, there is little point in my reiterating them, especially at this late hour.

The spectacle that we have witnessed since this Government assumed office has been one of a continual tirade of abuse and castigation of the Commonwealth Government because of its alleged tardiness in making handouts from the Commonwealth coffers. Government members have continually criticized the Commonwealth Treasurer but, having seen this Budget, one wonders how much reliance can be placed on the Treasurer's statements. Nevertheless, the Australian Labor Party has the commission of Government to run this State and it has the responsibility to bring down a Budget. It is the duty of the Opposition in this State to examine this document and to query each line, which we will do when this main debate has concluded. Government members need not have any fears about the unity of members on this side: despite what they may wishfully think, I assure

them that we are closely enmeshed. On February 23, the Treasurer introduced what could be described as a horror budget and, concluding the speech he made at the time, he said, referring to the Government:

Where necessary it will continue to expand education, health, and other social services, both by authorizing proper additional works provisions and with appropriate further recruitment. It will, so far as practicable, meet the recurrent costs involved by positive revenue-raising measures, which I have already announced. The Government has already taken measures to ensure firm control of expenditures both on works and services that are not immediately necessary, and it will continue to pursue those measures, but it will not be stamped into a programme of slashing provisions irrespective of their necessity and public importance.

The measures introduced at the time were extremely inflationary. The member for Hanson referred to the 3 per cent additional levy in respect of Electricity Trust revenues, and he expressed the fear that this increase might not realize as much as the Government expected that it would. Last February the Treasurer forecast increased motor vehicle registration, combined with a parallel requirement that the Highways Department undertake financial responsibility for certain police services in controlling road traffic, and the increase covered also the eventual responsibility for the Kangaroo Island ferry service. The Opposition does not deny that these things are necessary but an across-the-board increase of this nature has an inflationary effect.

In addition, there would be an increase in bookmakers' turnover tax from 1.8 per cent to 2 per cent, and an entertainment tax, which the Government has now dropped. We know that that was a hot potato and that it had some nasty overtones for the Government. There was an increase in bus and tram fares, as recommended by the Tramways Trust. The family man was in dire circumstances. It seemed to me that buses looked terribly empty at certain times in the evening in the city. There was to be an increase in rail fares and freight rates as recommended by the Railways Commissioner, and increases in water and sewer rating. Those matters have been dealt with extensively by members on this side. The two paragraphs to which I have been referring embody what was contained in the Government's horror budget, and it had some nasty effects on people.

The 20 per cent increase in registration fees has created anomalies, especially when we remember that the 20 per cent figure is an average. A higher impost went on to motor

cycles and on to commercial vehicles. In my district, superphosphate spreading contractors have set out to absorb these costs. I do not blame the Government entirely for these increases, as we live in inflationary times. Cost inflation has made large inroads into the finances of the people to whom I have referred and who are trying to absorb costs. I know of a superphosphate spreading contractor who operates two large 10-ton tip-trucks, which are fitted out specifically with attachments to handle bulk superphosphate and which are used only for that purpose. The new registration fee for these vehicles is \$178. They travel only 2,000 miles a year and are used for only seven months of the year. With the fall-off in business as a result of the down-turn in the rural industry, my constituent is having much trouble in trying to absorb these costs. People who use these trucks in other businesses may travel between 75,000 miles and 100,000 miles a year. This highlights the anomaly in the case of this vehicle, as the tax affects an important segment of industry in rural areas.

I bring this to the Treasurer's attention as a glaring example of what some business people must face. This superphosphate-spreading contractor makes a worthwhile contribution to the progress of the State. If something is not done administratively about these specific instances there will be drop-outs, and we will not have the spectacle of a Treasurer budgeting for a \$7,000,000 deficit and winding up with a modest surplus of \$21,000. Cost inflation is bad enough but, when inflationary taxes have specific impact in these areas, it is time for the Government to watch the matter very closely. On February 23 the Treasurer uttered some noble sentiments, but he should look closely at this issue. We have heard much about the effect of compulsory unionism.

Mr. Crimes: Whose policy is that?

Mr. RODDA: I would have thought that the honourable member would be the last person to ask that question. It has been reported to me that unions are insisting that country hotel employees work eight hours in a 10-hour period. Such a requirement creates great difficulties for country hotelkeepers. The introduction of 10 p.m. closing has resulted in staggered hours for employees in country hotels, and additional staff has had to be employed.

In connection with the down-turn in the economic position of rural industries, we all know what trying times the wool industry is passing through. Big inroads are being made into the sheep-raising industry. Vegetable-growing projects are under way in the South-East. The American Agricultural Attache in Australia (Mr. Lege) states that there are in his country 115,000,000 head of cattle, of which 18,000,000 are dairy cattle. In America 113 lb. of beef a person is consumed each year. The Americans also consume 3 lb. of veal a person, 65 lb. of pork, and a ridiculously low 3.4 lb. of lamb and mutton. Mr. Lege points out that it is expected that by 1980 consumption will have increased to 130 lb. of beef a person and that there will also be increases in the other components.

I hope that the lamb and mutton figures increase somewhat. These figures tend to underline the need to extend our beef industry. There is a note of warning in his remarks about the care and great stress that the Americans lay on hygiene in killingworks, and that is something about which Governments, members of Parliament and producers must do more than pay lip service. The American attache's forecast on beef underlines that all is not lost.

The Treasurer started his Financial Statement on a note of gloom, and there are real problems in the community. I have referred to two instances in which anomalies are arising from the Government's taxes and I have touched briefly on the problems of the rural industry. It behoves us to look at markets. Obviously, the American market can be developed by providing the best quality products, and we must look abroad to other areas.

I hope, for the State's sake, that we do not have a deficit of over \$7,000,000 at the end of the year. I also hope that the Commonwealth Government, in view of its generosity to the State this year, will not be castigated. In fact, members on this side applaud the Commonwealth's generosity. I have pleasure in supporting the first line.

First line (Legislative Council, \$56,893)—passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 10.21 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 22, at 2 p.m.