

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, September 22, 1971

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

PETITION: GOVERNMENT FEES

Mr. EVANS presented a petition signed by 31 constituents stating that they desired to be able to pay their Engineering and Water Supply Department, Electricity Trust, and State Government insurance office payments at their local post office, because of the convenience and longer hours of counter service that would be available compared to the present facilities. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would fully examine the proposal in order to implement it as soon as possible.

Petition received and read.

QUESTIONS

MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY

Mr. HALL: Because of the statement made by the Minister of Labour and Industry to the House on Tuesday of last week that, with the Premier, he was to conduct a conference with representatives of the two major motor vehicle manufacturing companies in South Australia and employees, and because of the Minister's statement that nothing could be reported to the House concerning alterations in staffing at the motor vehicle companies, I now ask the Minister whether he will report on the result of his conference.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: True, the Premier and I met the Managers of General Motors-Holden's and Chrysler Australia Limited and discussed several matters. Points suggested by the unions to the companies were discussed but, as these questions are still being discussed, I cannot make a public statement about them.

SPEECH DISTRIBUTION

Mr. KENEALLY: Did the member for Mitcham realize, when he made his conscious and premeditated decision yesterday, during the debate on the motion to go into Committee of Supply, to read extracts from various publications circulating in our schools, that copies of *Hansard* were available and were read in most school libraries in this State? If he did not realize this, why did he not realize it? If he did realize this, why did he read the extracts and what did he hope to achieve by reading them? Yesterday in this House the honourable member spoke on the subject of censorship and was most concerned about the type of

literature that fell into the hands of the young; yet by his own actions he himself has now contributed to the very thing of which he complains. His motives, then, must be suspect. All members are well aware that while *Hansard* is widely used for various school subjects the language used by the honourable member would encourage children to read *Hansard* probably for the wrong reasons.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I do not know how many copies of *Hansard* are circulated; we flatter ourselves if we think it is many. However, that does not matter much. I did make a conscious decision to read out the extracts that I read, and I assure the honourable member that I could have read out much worse if I had wanted to. I did it not with the prime purpose of shocking or of allowing others in the community to read *Hansard* to see this but because I believed it was necessary to do it, because of the amount of this stuff that is being circulated. I have often said that I believe that Parliament is the place where matters of controversy and importance should be thrashed out and, if Parliament is to fulfil a real function and not be a sham, we have to be prepared to grasp issues, even if they are unpleasant, and even if such results as the honourable member is complaining of follow. I make no apology—

Mr. Keneally: I wasn't challenging—

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I make no apology for reading out what I did read out. I offered to any member the opportunity to see the pamphlets from which I quoted, two of which, anyway, are circulating (or were circulated) at schools.

Mr. Clark: There's a great demand for them today.

Mr. Jennings: You only wanted Cameron off the front page.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: With regard to the *Empire Times*, the quotation was as to the aim of the editors in publishing that issue, and I did not try to elaborate (as one could not do, anyway) on the illustrations contained therein. I am sorry if in some way some few people who read *Hansard* will be shocked by what they see there. I really think that the honourable member is magnifying that result. Whether it is to try to minimize the effect of what I have said, or whether it is to try to get some political advantage I do not know, but I hope that this House will not ignore the issue that I have raised, whether

or not it is unpleasant to members, because I believe it is indeed an important issue in the community. In fact, I was disappointed that not one Minister took the opportunity to reply to what I said after I, the member for Bragg, and the member for Alexandra had spoken.

The SPEAKER: I think the honourable member is going beyond the scope of replying to the question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: As I understand it you allow latitude in answers to questions. You persistently allow that to Ministers.

The SPEAKER: To Ministers of the Crown.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I see. If members of the Opposition are not to be in the same position, it is not quite as it should be. However, I make the point that I was disappointed that not one Minister deigned to reply to what I said.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: With the rubbish you had to say, no wonder.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is tending to debate the question rather than reply to it. The honourable member for Flinders.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Sir, I am being provoked.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I had not finished my reply.

The SPEAKER: I said the honourable member was out of order. He is trying to canvass a debate rather than answer the question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On a point of order, Sir, I ask you whether you will enforce the same rule in future against the Minister as you are now enforcing against me, or whether you are prepared to allow to members on the Government side latitude that you do not now allow to Opposition members.

The SPEAKER: In allowing greater latitude to Ministers in answering questions, I am following the time-honoured practice of this House.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Sir, will you allow me to make one other point in reply? I do not intend to follow up the point on which I was elaborating and to which you objected. I will then conclude my reply.

The SPEAKER: Is the comment to be in reply to the question, or is it debating the matter?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It is in reply to the honourable member's question.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: It's a heap of trash.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I regard it as important. I will refer to one other matter which directly concerns the question asked of me by the member for Stuart. When I avoided naming the school in which one of the pamphlets was circulated, I made an offer to the Minister of Education, who was not in the Chamber at the time, that if he wanted the information (if he did not already know about this) all he had to do was ask me for it. That offer still stands; he has not asked me yet, though.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I presume the member for Mitcham is aware that I have said that, if he considers the matter to be sufficiently important as to require investigation by me, as Minister of Education, and if he cares to submit the material to the department or to me, I will see that the matter is investigated, but it is up to the honourable member to exercise his initiative in the matter and his judgment whether or not he considers that the matter should be investigated.

Mr. Millhouse: If you want it you can have it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I should add that it seems to me rather strange that one school was named and received considerable unfavourable publicity and that another school apparently was not named. For some reason known only to the honourable member, the name of that other school must remain secret. I consider that it would have been more appropriate if both schools had been left unnamed.

FESTIVAL HALL

Mr. CARNIE: Will the Premier see whether a model of the festival hall could be placed, for the information and interest of the public, on the construction site? During the many years of the construction of the Sydney opera house a constant attraction has been a detailed model, with, I understand, progress details, which has been on view to the public. I suggest that a model of the Adelaide festival hall would be of great interest to people of South Australia and that a suitable position for the model would be the south-east corner of the site, where some suitable display case could be erected. Will the Premier have the matter investigated with a view to having the suggestion implemented?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will see what can be done.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister of Education say whether special teaching facilities can be provided in the Tea Tree Gully District, perhaps at one of the new schools, to assist children who have specific learning difficulties? A medical practitioner who has a practice in the area has informed me that he has under his care, both at the Adelaide Children's Hospital and in his practice, children who are difficult to handle or whose learning ability is reduced or impaired for various reasons. Apparently, these children are being taught in normal classes, and are falling behind in all aspects of their schoolwork. I point out that undoubtedly the number of children involved would increase if inquiries were made of other district medical practitioners and of headmasters and infants school mistresses of the primary schools involved. Moreover, the problem will become worse because of the continued population increase.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to examine the matter raised by the honourable member. I think it would assist any investigation that the department may carry out if the honourable member, perhaps with the agreement of the medical practitioner concerned, could provide the necessary details concerning the students involved. I may point out that the question of specific learning disabilities should correctly be applied to those situations in which a student has a level of intelligence the potential of which is not currently being achieved because of a specific difficulty from which the student suffers. If the specific difficulty is removed, the level of performance of the student can then improve in the normal way.

This is to be distinguished from a case in which a student may suffer general problems of mental retardation. The general philosophy in our approach within the Education Department is that a student who suffers from a specific learning difficulty should be coped with within the normal school environment, and in an ideal situation we would have the necessary specialist staff to be able to service each school with the necessary specialists to help solve the specific problems. The reason for this kind of approach is fairly simple, namely, that once the student gets over this difficulty, or can be helped to get over it, he or she is capable of normal achievement levels. Consequently, there is no case for taking that child out of the school and putting him or her into a special school.

Even in regard to students who suffer from some form of mental retardation, it is our general policy, if possible, to keep those children within the normal school environment and in a special class, or an opportunity class as it is more commonly described. Only in the most serious cases do we provide accommodation in special schools, such as the one at Strathmont, that are exclusively for such children. We believe that, as far as possible, we should look after children who suffer from some kind of handicap, whether physical or mental, within the normal school environment, and that only in the most extreme circumstances they should be taken out of that environment.

May I conclude by pointing out that the department has a great shortage of the necessary specialist people. For example, we have a great need for speech therapists, as have all other Australian States and many other countries. Consequently, at present only one speech therapist is employed in the Education Department. We are willing to employ another three or even more, but we simply cannot get qualified people. We are taking special measures to try to correct this position by offering cadetships to train additional speech therapists and then bonding them to serve in our schools for three years, but even that kind of step will not solve the immediate problem. In dealing with this matter, although we are doing the best we can with our limited resources, even when we have finance available to employ additional specialist personnel we find it extremely difficult to get their services.

MINERAL LABORATORIES

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Premier say when it is intended to make available property on the eastern side of Conyngham Street for industries connected with mining and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, as planned in connection with the expansion of the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories complex site in the Glenside Hospital grounds opposite?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I cannot give an accurate reply, I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Education say where and when it is intended to obtain suitable land to replace the Adelaide Technical High School oval, on the eastern side of Conyngham Street, Glenunga, when that site is acquired for development in relation to the mining complex in the area? The oval,

which is some distance along Conyngham Street from the school, is nevertheless greatly valued by the school. It is not as convenient as it might be, but it is fulfilling a useful function not only in respect of activities at this school but also in respect of activities of other schools and of other sporting bodies. It is particularly appreciated because of the initial difficulty experienced in acquiring it. It seems that when the new development occurs (as it will) on the eastern side of Conyngham Street, the site of the oval will be acquired for that development. There is some disquiet, particularly among parents who worked for the establishment of the oval, and they desire to know just whether land will be acquired and where the new oval will be situated.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am not familiar with the matter that the honourable member has raised but I shall be pleased to have it investigated and to bring down a reply as soon as possible.

GREENHILL ROAD

Mr. LANGLEY: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether trees and lawn will be planted along the median strip in Greenhill Road between the Keswick bridge and Glen Osmond Road? As work on this dual highway and on the traffic lights along it is now almost completed and as the highway is near the park lands, I am sure that trees and lawn would enhance the appearance of the thoroughfare and blend in with the surrounding district.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes.

BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of September 14 about the Bridgewater Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The position is somewhat improved compared to the situation as I explained it to the honourable member yesterday, so I do not think he need worry to the extent that he seemed to be worried yesterday. A contract for repairs and painting at the Bridgewater school and residence was let on June 19, 1970. Difficulty was experienced in getting the contractor to commence work, and it was not until February 4 that he started work on the site. The contractor ceased working on the site in early March and, despite repeated verbal and written instructions to proceed with this work, it has not been possible to get him to fulfil his obligation. It is therefore necessary to determine the contract. In the meantime, arrangements have been made

for the outstanding work to be carried out by Public Buildings Department labour. Work is currently proceeding on the site and will continue until all work is completed.

INFANTS SCHOOLS

Mr. PAYNE: Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government is considering implementing the section of the Karmel report which recommends that infants schools should be integrated with the primary schools with which they are associated? I think it is evident to all members that, since the publication of the report, considerable public interest has been expressed on this matter, and I think that a statement from the Minister would be of value.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Director-General has circulated a notice to infant schools and mothers clubs that sets out the position in the Education Department in relation to this aspect of the report. If one reads the report carefully, one will appreciate that the context in which this recommendation was made, that is, the disestablishment of all infants schools, requires a situation in which the department's staffing arrangements are more adequate than they are at present. There is no suggestion in the report that there should be fewer senior people within a school where the infants department is disestablished, but it is suggested that this should occur only where more senior teachers are provided. Secondly, the report contemplates that a fully integrated primary school should consist of about 600 students. However, at present our primary schools vary in numbers from seven, I think, which is the lowest, up to 1,550 students at Para Hills. Certainly, many of our primary schools have more than 600 students, and it could therefore be held that the committee's recommendation that infants schools be disestablished would be inappropriate in many cases. It will be a long time before all our primary schools in South Australia are of a reasonable size. Admittedly, several schools are too large for effective administration, and it is recognized that this situation is the result of building problems that have existed for many years. It is also recognized that it will be many years before the situation can be fully rectified, because much money will have to be spent for that to happen. No decision has been made as a result of the Karmel committee recommendation, and no decision can or will be made for at least another four or five years. In the meantime the regular policy that has been followed for many years by the department will be continued: that is, where

the number of students in the infants classes of a school is sufficiently high to warrant the establishment of a separate infants school, a separate infants school will continue to be established, and where the number of students in an infants school declines to such an extent that the provision of an infants mistress who is not engaged in teaching is no longer warranted, that infants school will be disestablished. That policy has been followed for many years, and it will be continued.

MORGAN DOCKYARD

Mr. ALLEN: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport release to residents of Morgan the report that was submitted to the Highways Department concerning the removal of the dockyard from Morgan to Murray Bridge? I spoke about this matter in the House yesterday but, as the Minister was absent, he may not have had the chance to read my speech. The residents of Morgan have asked me to make this request of the Minister, as they consider that some statements in the report are not factual.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have not yet had the chance to read the statement made in the House yesterday by the honourable member. I apologize for my absence but, unfortunately, sickness takes its toll of everyone now and then. However, I have read the report of the honourable member's remarks in the press this morning and I have been astounded to read, and to hear the honourable member virtually repeating, that, in the first instance, both he and the residents of Morgan have not seen the report, although they claim that it contains inaccuracies. I am at a loss to understand how they could come to such a conclusion. The situation is that there is no report in the sense of a report that could be made available, although the honourable member has suggested that a report has been submitted. A large document, or what is commonly called in Government circles a docket, is available, but it is almost so high that one could not jump over it. Extensive investigations have been made and every aspect of this question has been considered. Various reports having been submitted by officers at several levels, all the reports have been fully considered and the result of these deliberations is contained in the statement I made in the House last Wednesday. I should also point out that an Assistant Commissioner of Highways again visited Morgan last Tuesday and discussed matters with the district council. He asked the council whether there

were any points which had not been previously raised and which it desired to have considered before the final decision was made. The council raised many matters, but it did not raise any point that had not previously been placed before the Highways Department or me. These matters having been considered thoroughly, the only possible decision that could be made has been made after considering the interests of all concerned. Although this action may be regrettable for Morgan and for the employees directly concerned with the dockyard, these matters have been considered in the interests of the people of the State. I believe that the only proper decision has been made, because the Morgan dockyard (as the honourable member will know) is in an advanced state of disrepair. It could have been upgraded (this matter was thoroughly investigated), but Morgan is no longer the centre of activity for the ferries. Perhaps Morgan is suffering as a result of the building of bridges at Kingston and Blanchetown and of the intended erection of a new bridge at Berri. When it was decided about three years ago to establish a major district office of the Highways Department in Murray Bridge, I believe that the die was cast to bring into one area the major activities of the department. It is not a question of just another branch depot similar to that already existing at Morgan. Murray Bridge is to be a district office, and this fact had a profound bearing on the decision. Although I sincerely regret any inconvenience that will be caused to the people of Morgan and to the town, I think I made it plain last week that, as a Government, we will do all that is humanly possible to help these people in the transfer that we consider is inevitable in the interests of the whole State.

NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. WRIGHT: Does the Minister of Environment and Conservation know of any alteration to the method used to reserve tennis courts and other sporting facilities at Belair National Park? If there has been a change, will the Minister say why the previous policy has been changed?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: A change was made a month or two ago. Previously, bookings for ovals or tennis courts at the Belair National Park were made by telephoning the office at Belair. In the past, however, this led to some problems for people who made a booking and who wanted to make a payment to be assured of a reservation. Further, as this created considerable difficulties for the

staff at Belair, a method of improving the position was considered, and I understand that John Martin's now takes bookings for ovals and tennis courts at Belair. As a result, members of the public can make a booking, pay the hiring fee, and receive a receipt in the city. I understand that it was difficult to administer the previous arrangements from a point as far away as Belair. That bookings can now be made in Adelaide is certainly in the public interest but, as other reasons may be behind this move, I will examine the question and see whether I can provide additional information for the honourable member.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say whether his department has instituted any preliminary action for fire prevention or control in national parks and on other lands held by the department for conservation purposes? The Minister will be aware that weather conditions this season have resulted in heavy growth of natural grass and vegetation, and in such circumstances past history has indicated that a serious fire danger could exist. Several organizations, particularly councils, have indicated in the past that they have been worried by the build-up of growth in this situation without apparent adequate control methods being available. One could defend the matter by saying that if these areas were burnt out they would immediately lose their value for the purpose for which they were developed: that is, to enable people to enjoy their leisure hours.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The National Parks Commission is always anxious to take whatever precautions are necessary to prevent fires in national parks. Considering the large area of national parks, I believe that the record of fire protection and control is satisfactory. Nevertheless, any fire that interferes with a national park is something about which we all have to be concerned. I am sure that sufficient action is being taken to ensure that what protection can be given is given. The honourable member has referred to the fact that this year's weather conditions are likely to cause unusual risks, because of the growth of natural vegetation. I will discuss this matter with the Director of National Parks to ensure that the heavy growth this year has been considered and that satisfactory arrangements have been made.

CAR TRIALS

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question

about car trials? In seeking this reply I point out that, having received from the Minister a copy of the reply forwarded to the member for Kavel concerning the more specific problem confronting the Sedan council, I am aware that the reply he now has may have a wide application.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There is no legislation empowering councils to grant or refuse permission for a car club to conduct a trial. This matter has been considered on several other occasions, and to grant this request would have the effect of prohibiting the use of public roads by all members of the public. This, of course, would be impracticable. I think one could also say that it would be illegal. Perhaps the Attorney-General can relate the details of a case in which people were to have an unfettered right to the King's highway. Because of the position I have outlined, an agreement was reached with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport some years ago that individual car clubs would advise the councils concerned of the roads to be used and also supply an appropriate map of the trial routes. This arrangement enables a council to be aware of the roads to be used and, if certain roads are unsuitable, to negotiate with the club for an amended route. I agree that damage can and does result from these kinds of sporting event, but it would be difficult to prove specific damage without knowing the condition of the road before the trial took place.

SCHOOL BOOKS

Mr. BURDON: Can the Minister of Education say what will be the position in State schools in 1972 regarding the availability of school textbooks? In the *South Australian Teachers Journal* of August 11, under the heading "October Strike May Delay Textbooks", the following article appears:

Holt, Rinehart and Winston (Aust.) advise that it is now virtually certain that American ports will be immobilized by a longshoremen's strike, expected to start in October. Indications are, they say, that it will be a long strike so textbook stocks required for 1972 will have to be shipped before the shut-down takes place. As it takes Australian branches time to collate the requirements of all States before placing orders with New York, a deadline was set at July 30 for all 1972 adoption reports to be filed. Efforts would be made, however, to obtain titles ordered after that date and headmasters and bookroom managers were advised to place their orders with booksellers as soon as possible.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: To my knowledge, this matter was drawn to the attention of schools at the appropriate time and, so far as I

am aware, most schools placed their orders before July 30, so that any books required from the United States could be shipped before October. Inevitably, there are some "ifs" about the situation: the strike may not take place or there may still be delays, with the result that, if the strike takes place, some books that have been ordered even on time may not arrive, so that we may run into hold-ups and difficulties as a consequence. At this stage, however, it is not possible to say what is likely to happen and to what extent, if any, schools will have difficulty as a result of a strike on the American waterfront. The situation will be watched and, if it becomes necessary to take action, the various alternatives open to us will be investigated.

LOCK 5 ROAD

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on August 24 about the lock 5 road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The roads leading from the main road between Renmark and Paringa to the Goat Island Reserve consist of a number of unsealed tracks within a low-lying area, subject to inundation by the Murray River. The condition of the road surface is such that a reasonable driver would proceed with caution. As the roads do not form part of any major road network but provide only access to the koala bear reserve and the lock, traffic conditions are normally light. Unless it were possible to provide adequate policing of a speed limit, it is considered that the erection of speed limit signs would not be a deterrent to irresponsible motorists using the area. Speed restrictions which are compatible with the environment and traffic movements and based on careful engineering assessment are to a large extent self-enforcing, with the majority of motorists understanding the need for the restriction and willingly obeying it.

NORTH-EAST ROAD

Mr. SLATER: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the hazardous section of North-East Road near the Windsor Hotel?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The section of North-East Road near the Windsor Hotel referred to by the honourable member is a hazardous site, not only for pedestrians but also for motorists. This is caused mainly by the intrusion into the roadway of the hotel building which results in a constriction of the carriageway and consequent friction and turbulence in the traffic stream. The complete

length of North-East Road is currently under investigation to determine what action is necessary to minimize existing hazards in the vicinity of the hotel and at various other locations which attract pedestrian traffic. When this investigation has been completed, I will inform the honourable member.

HILLS BUSES

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on August 12 about fitting demisters to buses used on services in Hills areas?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am pleased to give that reply, and to welcome back the honourable member and the honourable member for Mallee.

There is presently no statutory obligation for demisters to be fitted to passenger coaches, although the introduction of such a requirement is to be studied by a committee appointed by me to look into the whole question of passenger bus testing and control. The Transport Control Board, aware of the problem to which the honourable member refers, recently informed the bus proprietors, through their association, that it intended to make the fitting of demisters a condition of licence for all buses on route services.

SCHOOL GRANTS

Mr. CLARK: Can the Minister of Education say whether or not a supplementary allocation is to be made to schools, following the new school grants scheme? Some time ago the Minister informed members and schools of a new school grants scheme. It was indicated then that a supplementary grant could be made this year if a departmental allocation to cover subsidy arrears proved to be excessive.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is still a little too early to make a final determination in this matter. School committees have been asked to submit to the department by the end of September all claims for the payment of subsidy arrears. After that date no claim with regard to the previous subsidy scheme (other than on capital items) will be met. We are a little in the dark at this stage. So far this financial year we have paid out for subsidy arrears (that is, money allocated on subsidy in previous financial years but not paid) about \$140,000. We do not think that a large sum remains to be paid, so it appears highly likely that the sum that will have been paid out in subsidy arrears will be less than the sum that the department allocated in its

Budget estimates. If this turns out to be the case, an additional allocation can be made to all schools.

Mr. Clark: How do you work it out then?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: We will have to work it out this way: The allocation of grant money is made on the basis of a formula that applies to each type of school. It seems to me that every school, whether or not it has received subsidy arrears, is entitled to a share in the additional allocation, and that allocation will therefore have to be made to all schools on a pro rata basis. For example, if the additional money available turns out to be equal to one-sixth of the grant payment that will be made at the end of the year, we can increase the grant allocation at that stage by one-sixth for each school and use the money in that way. As soon as I can make a firm announcement on the matter, I will inform the honourable member about it.

A.N.Z. BANK

Mr. HALL: In view of the unofficial report made to me that the cost of acquiring the A.N.Z. Bank building in King William Street will greatly escalate above the original publicly stated price, can the Treasurer say what is the latest estimate of the total cost of acquiring that building?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At this stage, no. The estimate of the cost of acquiring the building by the Land Board is about \$650,000. A claim far in excess of that figure has been received from the solicitors of Mainline Corporation. I must say that the contents of that submission appear to me to be remarkably ambitious, but the Government has been invited to deal with the corporation on the basis of some suggestions by which we might arrive at a mutually acceptable figure. That is the state of affairs at present.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Mr. JENNINGS: May I take this opportunity of saying how glad we are to see the Minister of Roads and Transport restored to his pristine vigour and fruitfulness. My question relates somewhat but not very much to the question asked by the member from Frome with regard to the Morgan dockyard—

The SPEAKER: Order! What is the honourable member's question?

Mr. JENNINGS: I am just getting to that point. The question refers to railway employ-

ees who are now being accommodated in railway cottages in my district. I am particularly concerned that some who have been transferred from places such as Terowie, where they had private homes—

The SPEAKER: What is the honourable member's question?

Mr. JENNINGS: I am asking it now.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must ask his question.

Mr. JENNINGS: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider the problems of railway employees who have been transferred from country districts throughout the State, who live in railway houses in the metropolitan area and who now face eviction because they have been accommodated in these houses for the period that was promised to them when they were transferred here? I particularly ask the Minister to consider those employees who owned their own houses in places such as Terowie and Peterborough. I have written to the Minister with regard to one of these places, and about similar cases I have written to the Commissioner of Highways. As I have discussed this matter before with the Minister, I hope he now has at least an interim reply for me.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Inevitably, from time to time there will be some shift of manpower from area to area in accordance with the specific demand at any given point of time. The honourable member has referred specifically to the closing of a transfer station at Terowie, and that is a typical case, as also is the transfer of the dockyard from Morgan to Murray Bridge. Although two separate departments are involved in those two instances, I believe that the principle being adopted by the Highways Department is commendable. I shall certainly be happy, on behalf of the honourable member, to see whether that principle can be applied in the case of people transferring from redundant railway areas. The principle is that those employees who are currently engaged at the Morgan dockyard will be offered, in Murray Bridge, the tenancy of Highways Department houses for as long as they remain in the department. As I believe that an investigation should be made whether that principle could also apply in the case of transfers from other areas, such as Terowie, where employment becomes redundant, I shall certainly be pleased to take up the matter, which I am glad the honourable member has raised. As soon as I can, I will give him a reply, which I hope will be favourable.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION COSTS

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport ascertain both the estimated cost and the actual cost of standardizing the railway line from Port Pirie to either Broken Hill or the point at which South Australia's responsibility ceases?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have not that information with me, but I will obtain it for the honourable member.

WASTE OIL

Mr. HOPGOOD: Has the Premier, in his capacity of Minister of Development and Mines, a reply to the question I asked yesterday regarding assistance to a company collecting and re-refining waste oil?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Industrial Development Branch of my department has had continuous contact with Mr. McDonough, of Commercial Oil Refiners, since April, 1970. During this period Mr. McDonough has been given considerable assistance, culminating in an offer of four acres of land, through the intercession of the Minister of Environment and Conservation, at a nominal rental in an area chosen by Mr. McDonough. It was explained to Mr. McDonough that the South Australian Housing Trust could not build a new factory for him at the Wingfield site, because it was located within the old metropolitan area. Mr. McDonough did not express undue concern at that time regarding the inability of the trust to provide premises. Subsequently, his solicitor, Mr. Nield, sought financial assistance for the company and he was referred to the Under Treasurer for Government guarantee provisions. The application made to the Under Treasurer was for the guarantee of a Commonwealth Development Bank loan, and the Under Treasurer pointed out to the company that it was unusual for the Commonwealth Development Bank to make an offer of loan money subject to Government guarantee. The company was told that, if the Commonwealth Development Bank declined assistance, the company should seek from another source funds that could be guaranteed by the South Australian Government.

An unsatisfactory feature of the company's proposal at this time was that it was intended to restructure the company and allow the old company to fail, with adverse effect upon creditors. The last action in the matter is that the Assistant Under Treasurer informed Mr. Nield in July that if the company found a lender or that if in fact the Commonwealth

Development Bank did request a Government guarantee, the Industries Development Committee would examine the case. Mr. Nield has not seen fit to reply to the letter or to take any further action. In these circumstances, it is difficult to see what more can be done for Mr. McDonough. With reference to the disposal of waste oil, Mr. McDonough's claim that waste oil would be poured down the sewers if his company could not continue operations are unfounded and inquiries reveal that the Shell company collects waste oil from its service stations and that B.P. will continue to pick up oil from B.P. stations if the company fails to re-establish itself. The Engineering and Water Supply Department maintains a regular inspection of sewer outlets and no disposal of waste oil through the sewerage system is in evidence.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Premier say whether the Government took into account, in its negotiations and decisions concerning the company, the fact that Commercial Oil Refiners was operating profitably until it was closed, I think, on December 8, 1970, by order of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board? I was most interested in the Premier's replies to the questions both yesterday and today from the member for Mawson concerning the company, which had been operating until its closure by the board in the District of Mitchell or in the District of Ascot Park. My information is that this company was operating profitably (its assets exceeded \$80,000) at the premises in Edwardstown until it was closed by order of the board in December, 1970, and that it was that action which has caused the great problems that have arisen for the company and for Mr. McDonough, whom the Premier named in his reply. Because these problems have arisen as a result of the action of the board, which is a semi-government instrumentality, I should have thought that the company would be entitled to, and would receive, more sympathetic consideration than would otherwise have been the case. As the Premier did not refer to this vital fact in his reply, I ask him whether this was taken into account by the Government in its negotiations and decisions.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am afraid that I fail to follow the honourable member. The Government has done nothing to refuse this company's requests. The Government offered to provide the company with an area of land for the development of its premises. We were not requested to pursue the matter of having the Housing Trust build premises

for the company. The application originally made to the Industries Development Committee resulted in the outline to the company of the conditions under which it could apply properly. No application has ever been refused; indeed, no effective application has ever been received by the committee. The company was invited to apply, but it did not do so. I do not know what more the Government is supposed to do. We cannot run the company's business for it. The company has been told what is available by way of Government assistance, but it has not taken advantage of that assistance.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Mr. CRIMES: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport seriously consider giving firm support to the appeal by the South Australian Branch of the National Safety Council that flashing light pedestrian crossings, in lieu of the push-button type, be made uniform in South Australia? The council understands that this matter is the sole responsibility of local government bodies. A press report states that in 1968 the Road Traffic Board told all local government bodies and the National Safety Council that the injury rate at push-button traffic lights was 40 times greater than at crossings where flashing lights were installed. I also refer to the Brompton Primary School in relation to this matter. That school has classrooms on each side of Torrens Road and younger children, when crossing the road outside the limited operating times for the lights, tend to believe that they nevertheless have some safeguard when crossing near the lights.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The State Government gives its unqualified support to the Road Safety Council of South Australia and has given that council a greater degree of moral and financial support than it has ever been given by any previous Government. We are extremely proud of the work that the council has done. We do not subscribe to the National Safety Council, to which the honourable member has referred, and I would even go so far as to say that, if Mr. Daddow confined himself to things that he knew a little about, he would do much more for road safety than he can achieve by going into print in the way he does. In fact, on this occasion, and on previous occasions when he has rushed into print, I consider that he has done the cause of road safety a great disservice.

The question of pedestrian crossings is a vexed one but about two weeks ago I had a discussion in my office with representatives of

the Road Traffic Board, the Police Force, the Road Safety Council, the Education Department, and members of the Government Party. We had a fairly long and frank discussion on this matter. To say that the children believe that they can cross the road in safety at a school crossing when the lights are not flashing is, I think, to make a rather loose statement, because I have often been assured, as has the Road Safety Council, that the teachers place great emphasis on the safety of children and the protection that the flashing lights afford, and that the children are repeatedly instructed that, when the lights are not flashing, they have no protection whatever. At present, signs are being erected on the posts that hold the flashing lights, notifying the children that they have no protection when the lights are not flashing. In fact, representatives of a student-teacher organization, the name of which I cannot recall at present, saw me a few weeks ago on this matter, asking whether the wording could be changed because one of the words used in the sign was "priority" and they suggested that young children would not understand what that word meant. Therefore, I consider that adequate education is being given in this field.

Two aspects must be considered in providing pedestrian or school crossings: first, to ensure that people crossing the road have adequate safety; secondly, to provide for a reasonable flow of traffic. If a motorist is continually required to slow down at certain crossings when pedestrians are not using them it is feared that there might be a tendency for motorists to ignore them (and I think that is a fairly reasonable assumption). The whole matter is under constant review and we hope we will see some major changes soon. Perhaps one of the most important aspects of which everyone, including Mr. Daddow, seems to have lost sight is that the Government recently decided (and I have publicly announced it) that, as soon as legislation can be introduced, the Highways Department will assume two-thirds of the cost not only of installation of the crossings but also of the maintenance and operation where the crossings are on roads controlled by that department.

ABORTIONS

Mr. KENEALLY: In view of the statistics that have been released regarding abortions in South Australia, will the Attorney-General request the Minister of Health to ask the Government to consider setting up family-planning clinics or, alternatively, to give greater

assistance and encouragement to family-planning clinics already in existence so that they may be available to all persons who require their assistance? It is reported in the latest copy of the *Medical Journal of Australia* that a study compiled by the Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Adelaide University (Dr. Aileen Connon) shows that last year one in 10 of the abortions performed were carried out on schoolgirls and that only 14 per cent of the women aborted had been using some form of contraceptive. Because it was not intended that abortion should be used as a contraceptive, because so many young people are seeking abortions, and because many are forced into marriage or have illegitimate babies, it is urgent that correct family-planning advice be available to everyone capable of becoming a parent, as prevention is better than cure. The Government's assurance that this is being done would be widely welcomed.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer the question to my colleague.

BAROSSA TRAIN SERVICE

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether it is intended to re-open the railway passenger service to the Barossa Valley? A constituent of mine has told me that this is to happen.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Railway services to the Barossa Valley, to Kapunda and Eudunda, and to Wallaroo and Moonta were discontinued by the Hall Government. These closures did the people in those areas one of the greatest disservices of all time. This Government is still examining certain proposals but, unfortunately, it appears that the former Government's action has not left as much latitude as I would like to have in reversing these decisions. We find that long-term assurances have been given to providers of the existing services and, if we re-opened these lines, the Government might be called on to pay huge sums merely to rectify the stupidity of the Hall Government.

ADDITIVES

Mr. SLATER: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health to ascertain whether public health is adequately protected from the use of artificial additives in the manufacture of certain foods and soft drinks? It is considered that some of these additives may cause damage to vital organs and, in some cases, activate nervous disorders. An additive called cyclamate is suspected of having deleterious effects on health. It seems that the chemical additives

used by food and drink companies are without control as long as they do not cause immediate illness.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer the question to my colleague.

COURT PROCEDURE

Mr. PAYNE: Can the Attorney-General explain the purpose of the procedure used in magistrates' courts that requires adjournments of defended cases? I quote from what I think is a Police Department document (form PD98) which is addressed to a defendant and which states:

Please take note that only in the event of a plea of guilty can this matter be heard on the day mentioned in the summons, because of the large number of other cases set down for hearing. Should you intend to plead not guilty, the matter will be adjourned to another day suitable to both parties. If you intend to plead not guilty, you are asked to attend or have your solicitor attend to fix a suitable day for hearing.

I consider that the procedure suggested in the last paragraph would seem to inconvenience a defendant who wished to defend an action and might tend to influence him to plead guilty.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Doubtless some inconvenience is involved in the procedure, but I assure the honourable member that unless some such procedure were conducted there would be much more inconvenience, because, if a suburban magistrate's court, which may have 20 to 40 cases listed before it on a certain day, proceeded to deal with the cases as they were called on, many people who wished to plead guilty and have their case disposed of would be obliged to wait, not only on that day but on a succession of days, whilst the court disposed of the contested cases. In practice, the defendant is summoned to attend on a certain day. There may be a list of 20 to 40 cases, but most of them are short and are disposed of quickly. In some cases the defendant pleads guilty or, for one reason or another, the case is adjourned. Amongst them will be a case in which the defendant pleads not guilty, and this may occupy a considerable time. It is a convenience to all parties, when a case involving a plea of not guilty is reached, to fix a day when that can be dealt with, so that sufficient time can be set aside to dispose of the case. This is not only convenient to the defendant, who is not put to the expense of having counsel waiting around for a long time but it is also of great convenience to the prosecution and defence witnesses, who know the day on which they will be required to

attend in order to give evidence. Also, it is a great convenience to the many other people involved (the other defendants and police officers) who then can have the pleas of guilty disposed of on that day.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do you acknowledge that some people would be tempted to plead guilty because of this fear of delay?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I should not have thought so, but I suppose one never knows what influences might operate on people's minds. However, I am aware of no other way in which court lists can be arranged that would not involve great inconvenience. If a defendant who pleaded not guilty were allowed to have his case dealt with on the day he was summoned to attend, many other cases would have to be postponed, including the cases of people who wanted to plead not guilty. If there was any tendency for people to change their plea to avoid delay, that factor would be intensified in the case of these other people. Whatever is done in arranging court lists involves inconvenience to some people, and the object of any arrangement is to minimize inconvenience. It seems to me that the only way in which court lists can be arranged to minimize inconvenience to people is to take the list on the day for which people are summoned, go through it, deal with the pleas of guilty and, in the case of not guilty pleas, fix a date that will allow sufficient time for the case to be disposed of. This has been the attitude taken by experienced magistrates for many years, and I think it is the correct attitude.

ORANGES

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Premier say what progress has been made in investigating and developing a policy that will satisfy the Japanese Government to allow oranges to be imported into Japan? In explaining the question, I should like to thank the Government for the chance it gave me to visit certain Asian countries and speak to trade commissioners and agents for South Australia. I understand that the Japanese Government requires certain conditions to be met before it will allow the oranges in, and I understand that a market exists there particularly for frozen oranges, which can be sold in small packets on ferries and such services. Will the Premier explain what investigations have been carried out into satisfying these requirements?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The note verbal given to the Australian Trade Com-

missioner in 1968 laid down the previous conditions and the conditions which it was agreed would be altered in respect of us when I was in Japan earlier this year. Up to that time, Japan had said it would treat Australia as a whole, and it would not treat any part of Australia as free of fruit fly. It has now agreed that it will treat us as being free of fruit fly, provided we can give it the necessary assurances here about our control measures. In fact, there was on the first two days of this week a committee of the Diet here, headed by the Chairman of the relevant Diet committee (Mr. Watanabe), which came to the House yesterday and which was investigating this matter, having had discussions on it at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute.

We have to establish a quarantine process which will meet Japan's requirements and which will meet the same tests as it has laid down in respect of the importations from the United States and from South Africa. It is difficult for Australia to run exactly the same process in the tests as the South African process, because it has appeared that our fruit does not stand up to the same chilling processes as does the South African fruit, there being a difference in skin thickness and quality. Tests are being carried out (and they are required to be carried out for both sorts of fruit fly infesting parts of Australia) now mainly at Gosford but also in Western Australia. It is not possible for us to carry out the tests in South Australia, because the requirements of the tests are such that we would have to have some hundreds of thousands of fruit fly available for the process of the test, and we certainly do not want to import them.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: We're contributing to the costs of those tests.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. The tests are well advanced, and we expect that we will have a report soon and be able to make a submission to Japan, on the basis of these tests, for the export to that country of our citrus.

CHRISTIES BEACH ROAD

Mr. HOPGOOD: In asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport, I assure him that a small constituency matter that he had to delegate yesterday as a result of his sickness was effectively dispatched. Will the Minister ask the Road Traffic Board again to consider the possibility of proclaiming a 20 m.p.h. speed limit on weekends on the Esplanade at Christies Beach adjacent to the boat ramp? The Christies Beach Boat and

Trailer Club has taken up this matter with the Road Traffic Board on previous occasions. It is an area of the Esplanade that encourages speed, because of the recent widening of the Esplanade, but it is an area that is heavily used on weekends, especially in the summer months, because it is adjacent to the caravan park and close to both the boat and trailer club and the surf life saving club.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will refer the question to the board and ask it to consider the matter.

STURT PEA

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about Sturt pea in the Flinders Ranges?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: As far as I am aware, there have been no recent prosecutions under the Native Plants Protection Act of persons detected picking the Sturt pea. One reason for this, no doubt, is that this plant grows most profusely in thinly populated areas and the chances of detecting persons actually picking the flowers are small. Incidentally, the Sturt pea is an annual, and regeneration is by seed. It is deplorable that, despite the publicity given to the protection of this beautiful plant under the provisions of the Native Plants Protection Act, visitors to the areas where it flourishes apparently cannot resist picking it in large quantities. I find it difficult to believe that the public generally is unaware that it is an offence to gather Sturt pea. Tourist interests at Hawker, Wilpena Pound and Arkaroola (including motels and garages) are all assisting by informing tourists of the legal protection afforded the Sturt pea. The Tourist Bureau has also informed news media in the hope that they, too, will give publicity to the need to protect not only Sturt pea but also other species of wildflowers. As I will be in this area soon, I will consider whether any further action can be taken to improve the position.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: MRS. STEELE

Mr. EVANS moved:

That a further month's leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Davenport (Mrs. Steele) on account of absence overseas.

Motion carried.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL (RURAL)

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1970. Read a first time.

Mr. HALL: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains six clauses, the first of which is formal, defining the Act to be amended. The measure follows the Bill introduced earlier this session by the Treasurer to amend the Land Tax Act to provide for a revaluation of primary-producing land in South Australia. At that time, I should have liked to move an amendment so as to exempt rural lands from land tax altogether but, of course, Standing Orders and the practices of the House prevented me from doing so. I do not quarrel about that, but it has necessitated my introducing a separate Bill.

The arguments supporting this measure have, in essence, been previously advanced by members when debating Government land tax Bills, as well as a censure motion moved by this side last session. In speaking to those previous Bills and to the censure motion, the Opposition clearly outlined the reasons why rural land in South Australia should be exempt from land tax. In the first instance last year, I believe we had to do some work to convince the people of the State of the necessity for this move. However, today that is no longer necessary, as nearly everyone in the State, along with the rest of the citizens of Australia, understands that the once-held image of a prosperous rural community is no longer valid and that country people are today fighting not just to maintain a profit but to maintain their livelihood on the land. Many of them are fighting against handicaps that could cause them to have to leave rural areas.

The reaction in Australia has been to give some relief. Because they lack jurisdiction, State Governments cannot give the substantial relief that can mean life instead of death for the rural community, but they can give meaningful relief and encouragement in two ways: one way is in the field of succession duties (and this matter has been discussed previously) and the other way is by removing land tax. Other States in Australia, especially New South Wales and Victoria, have shown the way by gradually removing land tax from rural areas to such a stage that it now no longer exists. Therefore, the move in South Australia is so much more urgent, because rural prospects

have declined since land tax was removed in the other States.

Since this subject was first raised in the House, there has been in the *Advertiser* a responsible series of articles dealing in depth with the problem as it relates to individuals in the rural community. We are not now dealing with a heap of statistics on an impersonal basis: we are dealing with a Government policy to impose tax on the rural sector to yield \$1,000,000 a year. The money will be raised indiscriminately because the tax will not be related to profitability. This has always been a source of objection by Opposition members to a fixed land tax. Far from being related to profitability, in many cases in rural areas the cost of land tax will be added to a yearly loss, and therefore it will be a factor that could drive people from their rural properties.

Mr. Venning: Another straw.

Mr. HALL: Yes, one more factor. The Government's involvement in land tax has been a sorry spectacle. When the Treasurer first introduced his Bill last year to provide for the so-called relief of land tax in South Australia, he said that the Government was looking for a yield of \$1,000,000. At that time, he refused to listen to warnings from the Opposition (after we had advocated the removal of the tax) that the rate he was striking was not correct and that it would yield far more than \$1,000,000, and that proved to be the case.

Dr. Eastick: Only 25 per cent more!

Mr. HALL: Yes. The Treasurer's advisers obviously told him subsequently that he was wrong because, earlier in the session, he introduced a Bill to enable the value of properties to be re-assessed. He did this soon after he had defended his previous action, and little had occurred in relation to values in that time to justify his new approach. He was incorrect in his first assessment of the needs of rural landholders.

Mr. Venning: What did he tell the farmers' march?

Mr. HALL: That is something which he now interprets differently but, as we have said before, the farmers came away from the march believing that the Treasurer would help them. They do not appreciate his continued insistence that he will take from them \$1,900,000 by continuing to apply this tax in the face of the urgent necessity for relief and in the knowledge that his tax in many cases is adding to annual losses rather than being deducted from profits. The record of

collapsing land values is open for everyone to see, as sales all over the State indicate. The member for Eyre, who cannot be in the House today, can tell of startling cases of collapses in land values on Eyre Peninsula. Similar cases are seen in the far north and in many other parts of the State. This can no longer be ignored, as it is not only an indication of the collapse in land values but also shows the unprofitability of many farming enterprises.

This small Bill is aimed simply at totally exempting primary-producing land from the imposition of land tax. Clause 2 strikes out the definitions in the principal Act of "declared rural land" and "defined rural area". These are related to section 12c, which concerns a special exemption. In the case of values of land affected by closer development nearby, some concession was granted. Under the Bill, section 12c becomes redundant because all primary-producing land is exempt. Therefore, the definitions are to be struck out. Clause 3 (and this is the important provision) simply includes, in the exemptions from land tax in section 10, that land used for primary production. Clause 4 tidies up section 11. The first part of section 11 includes a simple statement of what is taxable land, the remainder dealing with exemptions to a certain extent in respect of primary-producing land. Under the Bill, these are no longer necessary, because total exemption is proposed, so section 11 is repealed and a simple provision inserted, as follows:

11. The taxable value of any land subject to land tax under this Act shall be the unimproved value of that land.

That is a general statement of what is taxable land. Clause 5 amends section 12 by striking out subsection (4), which was included by the Government's amending Bill last year and which provides for the rate of land tax on rural land. It is necessary to strike this out to achieve the objectives of this Bill. Clause 6 repeals section 12c of the Act, which provides for the declaration of rural areas.

I do not really have to justify the presentation of this Bill: all members know it is necessary. Members know of the action taken in other States, and it is high time the Treasurer was willing to admit that his previous assessment was wrong. He is as wrong today in maintaining land tax as he was last year in maintaining it when he first moved to provide for some concession. When will the Government listen? Surely it does not need a national calamity of proportions yet unknown in the rural sector before it will act. Of

course, it does not need the Treasurer's statement that he has not the money, because he has shown that he has money of that kind. When replying to the question this afternoon about the purchase of the A.N.Z. bank, he said that it might well cost over \$600,000. I have been told that the cost may be at least \$1,000,000 by the time the transaction is settled. I do not know whether that is so, but the Treasurer could not tell us this afternoon.

He has \$1,000,000 available for a plaster-cast replica of someone else's building from across the seas, but he has not \$1,000,000 for those who are losing their livelihood. Which comes first—a replica or an entire livelihood? This is the question that country people are asking, and they are supported by some city people. Another reason why the Treasurer cannot say that he has the money available is that the Budget documents show a significant increase in the land tax yield, overshadowing any proposal for relief. The Government can give a concession and yet make \$1,000,000 or \$1,250,000 this year from land tax.

The only reason why this Government will not act is that it is obstinate and, in its approach to this matter, is directed by other than a sensible analysis. I again urge the Government to reconsider its policy, to study what has been done in other States, as well as what is happening in country areas, and to accede to this most humane request.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

CIGARETTES (LABELLING) BILL

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the marking of cigarette containers with the prescribed health warning, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Mr. MATHWIN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I introduce it with confidence, hoping that it will be regarded as being a "conscience" Bill. I think that all members of this Parliament, whether they be cigarette-smoking addicts, tobacco maniacs, or non-smokers, know how important is the relationship between cigarette smoking and health. One does not have to be a Rhodes scholar, a doctor, or a lawyer to know that this noxious habit causes trouble, worry and ill health to many people.

The Bill is short and in reasonable language so that most members of this House and of the community will be able to understand it fully. The short title is simple. Clause 2 defines "sell" as follows:

"Sell" includes—

(a) offer or expose for sale;

and

(b) keep or have in possession for sale.

People would have to be caught actually selling cigarettes if these provisions were not included. Clause 3, which provides for the regulation of the sale of cigarettes, is self-explanatory, and clause 4 deals with regulations. I hope that our example will be followed by the other State Governments and the Commonwealth Government, and to achieve this, it is imperative that the warnings be uniform. Clause 4(a) is important, because some firms could provide on the packet a warning so small that a person could not read it. Clause 4(c), which deals with colour, is included because possibly some firms could print a warning in purple on a black background or in orange on a yellow background, so that it would be difficult to read the warning. Clause 4(d) provides for regulations to be made prescribing the locations on the container on which the warning is marked. This provision is included because some firms could mark the cigarette packet on the underneath or in some other place where people would not see the marking. I am sure that I have the confidence of the House (and hope that my confidence is not ill founded) in stating my belief that this Bill will not be considered as a Party-political issue.

It is proper that Parliament should legislate to try to prevent people from poisoning or killing themselves. I have no interest in trying to dissuade smokers of adult years from continuing the habit: I am sure that this would be extremely difficult to do. Rather, I am directing most attention to young people and, if possible, we should prevent young people from commencing the habit. I do not want to do this by grandmotherly interference: I would rather direct any possibility of giving warning notices to people who are considering taking up smoking. It would have pleased me to include in the Bill television advertising and advertising on placards. Television is a popular medium with young people.

In January, a compulsory warning of the effect of cigarette smoking was introduced in the United States of America where, it is interesting to note, the average consumption of cigarettes each year is 4,039 for every American over the age of 18 years; that is a colossal and frightening figure. The warning on their cigarette packages, which I consider to be too weak, states:

Warning: The Surgeon-General has determined that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

I think the warning could be expressed in stronger terms than that. In America, cigarette companies, which are prevented from advertising on television, are willing to organize. One company, Liggett and Myers, plans to back motor races throughout the country by putting up \$400,000 in prize money. Another company, R. J. Reynolds, has supplied \$80,000 for a bowling tournament and will provide \$100,000 in awards to the top drivers in the grand national racing tour. However, that is not my concern: my concern is the health of the nation. A warning notice on cigarette packets was introduced this year in the United Kingdom after long debate in the House of Commons and as a result of an amicable agreement between the tobacco companies and the Government. Their warning, which is also too weak, states:

Smoking can damage your health.

The warning should be more definite. For example, "Smoking is harmful to your health", and the "is" should appear in block letters. This wording is recommended by the British Medical Association. The exact wording on the package is vitally important, as it has a vital impact on the people who read it.

Mr. Clark: How do you get people to read it?

Mr. MATHWIN: By twisting their arm.

Mr. Clark: That reply does not help your case very much.

Mr. MATHWIN: I thought the honourable member was being sarcastic. The introduction of smoking into Europe had great significance in Australia, because smoking originated in Europe. Cigarette smoking started in Europe early in the sixteenth century. The French Ambassador to Lisbon at that time recommended smoking for medicinal purposes. His name was Jean Nicot; so, for the great and good gift he gave to these people, nicotine was named after him. Later, in the reign of James I, which was not a very delightful reign of a very delightful King, his famous counterblast to tobacco was to condemn it as a noxious vice.

Mr. Clark: He was wrong about practically everything.

Mr. MATHWIN: Not in this case. He proceeded to increase the duty on tobacco. Henceforth, smoking became increasingly popular, as a result of which England's hold on North America increased. In 1616, the first shipment of new Virginia tobacco arrived in

the United Kingdom, and the American colonists asked that more women be sent from England to what was then called the New World. In payment for the women, additional shipments of tobacco were sent to the United Kingdom. I do not know who got the best of the bargain, but I know who got the most trouble! Had this not been the case the colony at that time would have died out, and history would have been different. At least Government members would not be able to talk about Vietnam, because the present situation would not exist. In Turkey in the seventeenth century smoking was considered fit only for Christian dogs, and some offenders had pipes placed through their noses and were led through the streets on donkeys. The Chinese threatened to decapitate people caught smoking, and in Russia at that time offenders were deported to Siberia. This is still a common punishment in Russia, not for smoking but for speaking freely. Those of us who can remember the Second World War and were in Germany, as I was, know that money was of no value but one could get anything in exchange for cigarettes.

I shall now leave the historical aspect and turn first to the report of the Royal College of Physicians entitled *Smoking and Health Now*. This report was produced in early 1971, and contains the latest data available on this problem. I recommend sincerely that all members peruse this volume, particularly those who are addicted to this vice. Page 1 states:

Premature deaths and disabling illnesses caused by cigarette smoking have now reached epidemic proportions and present the most challenging of all opportunities for preventive medicine in this country.

Page 2 continues:

Death rates in relation to smoking habits: the fatal effects of tobacco smoking are almost restricted to cigarette smokers, and increase with the amounts smoked. Cigarette smokers are about twice as likely to die in middle age as are non-smokers and may have a risk similar to that of non-smokers 10 years older.

I wish that members, particularly those addicted to this habit, would listen to what I am reading, because it may do them some good.

Dr. Tonkin: It is a shame that the member for Forey is not here.

Mr. MATHWIN: The report continues:

It is estimated that over 20,000 deaths in men between the ages of 35 and 64 are caused every year by smoking in the United Kingdom. The chances are that two out of every five heavy cigarette smokers, but only one out of every five non-smokers, will die before the age of 65. The man of 35 who is an average cigarette smoker is likely on average to lose $5\frac{1}{2}$

years of life compared with a non-smoker. Those who discontinue smoking cigarettes run a steadily diminishing risk of dying from its effects, even after many years of smoking, and attain the level of non-smokers after 10 years of abstinence.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Why give it up?

Mr. MATHWIN: The Minister has more than 10 years left in him, but he is not as active as he used to be. The report continues:

The effect of this is shown in the declining death rates from disease related to smoking among British doctors as compared with others. Doctors are now smoking much less than others.

It seems that there are men who realize what can happen and who have been able to stop smoking. The report continues:

Cigarette smokers are therefore much less likely than non-smokers to enjoy retirement unspoilt by illness.

I now turn to another document that was compiled by a special Government social survey in the United Kingdom entitled "*The Young Smoker*". This is a study of smoking among schoolboys, carried out for the Minister of Health by J. M. Bynner. The book was written in 1969, and page 15 states:

Background to the research: The study of smoking among schoolboys is one of a series of researches (Bynner 1967, McKennell and Thomas 1967) carried out for the Ministry of Health to aid the anti-smoking campaign. One of the most notable features of the development of the smoking habit is that most smokers who start smoking really early (11 or 12) go through a long period of experimenting with cigarettes before taking it up seriously.

This is the most important reason why a warning should appear on cigarette packets. People start smoking when they are young and they experiment for a long time, and it is imperative that they be warned about the problems they may be creating for themselves. At page 39 of the report, paragraph 3 states:

Although substantial numbers of smokers said that they were not put off smoking by the danger of lung cancer, there were several indications that the campaign had affected their attitudes to it in other ways. The boys were asked what they thought the right age for boys and girls to take up smoking: 37 per cent of them thought that boys should not take up smoking at any time in their lives, and 48 per cent thought that girls should not take up smoking either. Although total opposition to smoking was more rare among smokers than non-smokers, 11 per cent of the smokers thought that boys should not take up smoking and 26 per cent held this view about girls. Further disapproval of smoking on the part of the boys was shown by their attitudes to their own future role as parents: 91 per cent

of non-smokers said they would not allow their own children to smoke, in comparison with 83 per cent of triers and 63 per cent of smokers.

Triers are those young people who have tried smoking once or twice. The report states that 63 per cent of the smokers thought that they would not want their children to smoke. Most boys try smoking in secondary school, the youngest ones trying it when in first year or second year. I understand that few reach the stage of having one cigarette a week, but in each school year about 30 per cent of boys can be regarded as being "intermediate" smokers and may claim that they smoked more than once or may claim that they have given up smoking, or they just smoke one cigarette a week. It is interesting to note from all the information on the subject that it is less common for children attending private schools to smoke. Also, children who do smoke favour filter tips (unlike people in Europe), and this means that they realize that smoking can be dangerous. It is important to note that there is a slightly lower incidence of smoking in schools where the headmaster does not smoke or where he has given or is willing to give talks on this subject to the students.

Nearly all boys have heard, through advertisements etc., of the dangers of smoking, and it is stated that 68 per cent of them realize that if they continue to smoke they will become diseased, while 78 per cent of them know that smoking damages their health in many ways, such as causing breathing difficulty and bad breath, which is a rather bad thing especially among adolescents. Also, smoking generally weakens a person, and perhaps that is why the member for Florey is no longer a water-side worker but is now here in this place. We must ask ourselves why young people smoke and what is the attraction. From my research, I think that boys smoke mainly because they think it makes them look tough.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Is that why you started?

Mr. MATHWIN: That is why I gave it up. The report to which I have referred suggests that young people may smoke as a result of educational problems, including frustration and tension caused by examinations. While smoking remains a means of appearing tough or mature, it will always be difficult to discourage smokers and to persuade young people to give it up. In television advertisements we see a man smoking while riding a horse or driving a fast car; or he may be an

athlete, advertising cigarettes and puffing away, every puff damaging his lungs. It is evident that more children smoke, or are inclined to start smoking, where their parents have a permissive attitude and allow them to smoke. Many of these parents believe that they will otherwise be regarded as squares.

In larger families, older brothers and sisters, who are even more permissive than their parents, will allow the younger children to have a smoke, perhaps around the corner. I think that all members would agree when I say that most parents would not want their children to smoke. If I asked members of this House, particularly those who smoke, whether they would like their children to smoke, I am sure they would say that they preferred their children not to smoke, and that is the proof of the pudding. We know that this is a problem in the community. It is a health hazard, as people who smoke can suffer lung cancer. Australia is fortunate in that we do not have great smoke pollution, but the United Kingdom is greatly affected by this pollution, as I believe is the United States of America. However, Australia does have the problem of young people smoking, and we have a responsibility to warn young people about the dangers of smoking. Young people say that it is only bad for older people to smoke and that it is only dangerous if a person smokes over a long period, but that is not correct. We must use whatever means are available to warn young people about smoking. We must tell them that it is a dirty habit, which is dangerous and which can cause serious health damage. Generally, it is most difficult to give up smoking, and a great many smokers find that they cannot give it up.

Mr. Clark: I'll pay that.

Mr. MATHWIN: I understand that General Eisenhower, who had given up smoking that day, was asked whether he intended to smoke again. He said, "I don't know whether I'll smoke again, but for sure I'll never quit again." That is an illustration of how hard it is to give up smoking. It is certainly much easier to start than it is to stop.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Did you find that you were hard to get on with after you gave it up?

Mr. MATHWIN: No, although there are some people to whom I have never spoken since. The book to which I have referred states that four times as many people under the age of 65 die as a result of smoking than are killed in road accidents. Young people

believe that retribution for smoking comes slowly. When they hear of someone dying from lung cancer at 45 years of age, they say that that person has had a reasonable life, and that it is not bad to die at that age. However, as one gets older, one realizes that 45 years is the prime of life; at that age a person is very young. I feel young myself. Smoking causes clotting of the blood, and that means that any person who is older than 35 years could find that his next cigarette is his last, for the effect smoking has on the blood is immediate.

Mr. Clark: What about fellows who roll their own? Surely, you should have the warning on packets of ready-rubbed tobacco, too.

Mr. MATHWIN: I thought that very few people rolled their own. However, I am sorry that I missed this point, and I should be more than delighted if the honourable member would move an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Clark: What about cigarette cases?

Mr. MATHWIN: I am only thinking about the hard cases. We must not let these young people think that they can smoke now and pay later, and that is what they will think. We must enable young people at school to read these warning labels. If they see the warning at that stage and heed it, we will be doing them a great service.

Mr. Jennings: Would you object if I went out and rolled one of my own? I can't understand you anyway.

Mr. MATHWIN: The member for Ross Smith is always ready to snipe at me because I happen to speak with an accent, but he is only in this place because of the many English people who give him their vote.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MATHWIN: When I am on my feet the member for Ross Smith always attacks me on the manner of my speech, and this time he was on his feet when he interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Interjections and personal remarks are out of order during a second reading debate.

Mr. MATHWIN: The member for Ross Smith only ever speaks when he interjects. Members on both sides should regard this matter seriously. I ask them to vote according to their conscience on this matter and not to make it the subject of a Party vote. They should read carefully the books I have recommended and think deeply about the matter. I hope that they will support the second reading.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

SECONDHAND DEALERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 1. Page 1272.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I do not oppose the second reading, although I think that in its present form the Bill is unsatisfactory and does not do exactly what the honourable member seeks to have done. The general effect of the Bill is to remove the provision prohibiting a second-hand dealer from buying or selling secondhand goods on any Sunday or public holiday outside the metropolitan Adelaide planning area, which is the metropolitan area for the purposes of the Industrial Code.

I believe there could be no objection to removing the restriction, which is a blanket restriction on secondhand dealers everywhere in the State, in order to bring secondhand dealers into line with other non-exempt shops: that is, to give them the ability to trade at the same times as non-exempt shops in the areas in which they are trading. But in order to do this there must be a further restriction provided in the Bill, and that would be to restrict the removal of Sunday and public holiday prohibitions to areas outside the metropolitan Adelaide planning area and outside country shopping districts where there is a restriction in respect of hours on other shops on Sundays and public holidays.

I do not think it would be satisfactory to have secondhand dealers open in country shopping districts where other general traders in the area would not be open on Sundays and public holidays. If the Bill were to be so amended in Committee, I would see no real objection to it but, as it stands, I do not think it does that (not as I read it, anyway). Consequently, at this stage I should be willing to vote for the second reading in the belief that it would be useful to amend the Bill in Committee.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY secured the adjournment of the debate.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Goldsworthy:

(For wording of motion, see page 889.)

(Continued from September 15. Page 1472.)

Dr. EASTICK (Light): I support the motion. I find that the comment reported on page 893 of *Hansard* on August 18, the last few words of the honourable member in moving this motion, is most pertinent. He said:

I am not asking the Government to do anything other than to establish a committee.

The Minister and the member for Stuart have spoken from the Government benches on this issue and, as we have come to expect of them on many such issues, they have agreed with the principle of the motion, they have been happy to indicate the many virtues of the motion, and they have said that normally they would like to support it. Unfortunately, one gains the impression that, because the motion is being promoted from this side of the House, it may not be supported by Government members. The member for Stuart said he believed there was only a fine line of distinction between some aspects of the motion and what was desired. I suggest that the fine line of distinction is between that which permits members to vote according to their conscience and that which does not permit them to do that, because they do not have the Minister's blessing.

Not one part of the motion requires the Minister to act other than as a catalyst or a provider of a vehicle whereby representatives of the organizations may pool their resources and ideas on the problems relating to the children who are under their care or in whom they have a particular interest. There is no suggestion in the motion that there be any expenditure of finance, although it may be inferred that a small sum should be provided for secretarial work or for an adequate hall or some other venue. However, by the same token, the motion does not prevent the Minister from making available one of his officers as a secretary and making available a hall or an office in his department as the venue. The motion does not suggest that the Minister is required to accept the committee's advice, nor does it suggest that committee members should accept the responsibility for agreeing on behalf of their organizations that this or that course be undertaken. The purpose of the motion is simply to provide an opportunity whereby these people can come together.

The Minister made it clear that he was aware of the many problems besetting parents of handicapped children. He very properly made available to the House the considered opinions of many of his departmental officers and the knowledge that he had gained. However, he failed miserably to show just consideration for the many people who have a very real interest in the problems associated with handicapped children. The situation was not improved by the sniping comments made by the Minister and the member for Stuart about

the speeches of the members for Victoria and Glenelg. In referring to the member for Kavel, the Minister said:

I am confident his aim was entirely worthy and worth while.

How condescending the Minister was to make that statement! The Minister then slighted the people in the community interested in these organizations by saying:

The question of getting a workable committee from representatives of them is likely to become more and more difficult.

What a defeatist attitude the Minister displayed when he made that comment before giving the organizations an opportunity to show their interest and to suggest worthy representatives! It did not enhance the Minister's image for him to make that statement. He said that the Minister of Education of the day must rely on the professional advice available to him in any area. We cannot deny that, but I suggest to the Minister of Education and other Ministers that professional advice is not the only kind of advice relevant to many of the situations that confront them. People who live daily with handicapped children, people who organize groups that assist handicapped children, and teachers who are not tied to a special group may well represent organizations if those organizations were asked to nominate representatives. Such representatives would be able to provide the Minister with necessary advice at the grass roots level. Whether the Minister decides to take that advice is his prerogative, but it has been my experience and that of many other members that those very close to a problem sometimes benefit considerably from advice given by people tangential to the problem under discussion.

The Minister went on to say that the composition of voluntary organizations was not always oriented towards the professional side and that these organizations were not necessarily equipped to provide the amount of professional advice that the Minister may require. Here again the facts I have just related are relevant. The people who could justly become members of the consultative committee proposed in the motion would, in the total sense, be able to advise the Minister, but in no circumstances would they be able to

direct him. This is the fine line of distinction that we should be dealing with, not the one mentioned by the member for Stuart. My colleague the member for Kavel, in moving this motion, explained the difficulty that arose about determining the number of persons involved. His particular reference was available to him from a recent edition

of *Readers Digest*. I was more than interested to find in the Parliamentary Library a copy of the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare report on mentally and physically handicapped persons in Australia, dated May, 1971. This is one of the first papers available as a result of the recent establishment of Commonwealth Senate committees. I wish to refer to several issues canvassed in the report touching on the problem in Australia about ascertaining the number of handicapped persons. At page 3, in dealing with this matter, the report states:

The committee was deeply concerned by the almost complete lack of information on the numbers of persons in each disability group. The committee also obtained little information on the numbers of mentally and physically handicapped Aborigines or on the adequacy of the facilities available for the early detection of handicapping defects in isolated areas of Australia. Almost all witnesses interviewed agreed that this lack of information was seriously impeding planning of future facilities at all levels.

If the Minister of Education had undertaken to create an inexpensive committee as suggested in the motion, it is conceivable that, at least in South Australia, we would be able to obtain from the people who are so close to the problems a greater indication of the number of adult persons and children involved. The Senate committee's recommendations indicate the urgency of getting, at all levels, State and Commonwealth, a better appreciation of the number of children and adults who seek help. The report goes on to give an estimate of the number of retarded persons, based on overseas percentages. I give this information to the House because one would expect that, as it came from the World Health Organization, it would bear a relationship to the situation in Australia. The reference, also at page 3, states:

An estimate by the World Health Organization states that between 1 per cent and 3 per cent of the world's population is mentally retarded. On this basis, it could be claimed that in Australia 120,000 to 360,000 would be mentally retarded. However, it was stated in evidence to the committee that the 3 per cent really refers to "those who during their lifetime will be labelled as mentally retarded".

Added to these numbers, we are also interested, as is implied in the motion, in those persons who are physically handicapped, and this is another area. As we have about one-twelfth of the population of the Commonwealth, the figure for mentally retarded persons in South Australia based on the above would be between 10,000 and 30,000. The report indicates that

the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics made a survey, using the experience of and figures known to various organizations in the different States. Specifically, on page 5 the report refers to the number of handicapped children, and I should like to refer to this information. It states:

At the request of the committee, the Department of Social Services estimated the number of handicapped children in Australia. The estimate is based on the invalid pension criterion and extrapolated from the number of invalid pensioners aged 16 to 20 years in New South Wales and Victoria at June 30, 1970. The extrapolated figure is 41,000 handicapped children (0 to 20 years) in Australia, based on the criterion of 85 per cent permanent incapacity. If children resident in mental hospitals are included the figure becomes 44,000 persons. This figure of 44,000 represents the minimum number of handicapped children in Australia.

I agree with the statement ably made by the member for Elizabeth, when speaking on a related motion before this House, that people are now prepared to expose their children who are mentally retarded or otherwise physically handicapped, and this is a good thing, because one can observe in the community that there are persons, not being the immediate family of the handicapped or mentally retarded person, who are attracted to the handicapped or those to whom the handicapped person will be attracted. This gives to other persons in the community the opportunity to share the responsibility for the management and control (and I do not use that word in the total sense) and also the love that can be given to these people who need special attention. This position is magnified by the opportunities presented to get these handicapped people out and exposed to the community.

The report goes on to spell out clearly the known difficulties and some of the areas of believed difficulty yet to be explored. It indicates that this is a responsibility of government, and it gives just consideration to the responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments. As I have pointed out, this report was issued as late as May this year, and it suggests that the Senate committee believes that there is a definite need for the Commonwealth Government to consider seriously the problems that the investigation has exposed.

Probably, in the months to come, we will see actions directly related to the recommendations in the report, and it is quite possible that the Minister of Education in this State will have made available to him, either as a special grant or on a subsidy basis,

additional Commonwealth funds, so that activities in this area may be taken up. However, I point out again to the House, and particularly for the benefit of the Minister of Education who has now rejoined us, that it is my belief that this motion gives the Minister, at little or no expense, the opportunity of providing the means for interested persons in these organizations to become a force for the advancement of knowledge in the field of the treatment or education of handicapped and mentally retarded children. I suggest that the Minister is abdicating his responsibilities if he adopts, and continues to adopt, the attitude he spelt out in replying to this motion—"We will have no part of it". I can and do accept that he does not want to become involved in any great expenditure. I say again, as I said earlier, that I see in the motion an opportunity for the Minister to be the catalyst in a situation that permits these people to provide worthwhile information without advising him in the sense either that he must accept their advice or that they would be telling him what he should do.

One would be a fool not to expect that this might appear to be the desire of the members of any committee, but I am certain that, given the opportunity (and this is something the Minister at present is denying these people), they would give the Minister and the State the benefit of their experiences, along and parallel with the information that the Minister desires from his professional advisers. That is something to the overall benefit of the mentally retarded and the physically handicapped children. No-one is suggesting for a minute that the organizations have not had and do not currently have access to the Minister. What they have sought (and what I suggest this House could well give them the opportunity of doing) is the opportunity to collectively pool their resources for the benefit of the State. I am certain that, if the Minister will look at the comments I made earlier this afternoon in his absence, he will find that there is no desire or intention on my part (or, I suggest, on the part of the mover of the motion) to involve the Government in expenditure of any consequence or to involve it in a situation in which it is bound to take the advice proffered. At least (and I say it again for the benefit of the Minister) I think we can, to the advantage of the persons involved, wholeheartedly support this motion. I trust the Minister will allow those members who support him on his side of the Chamber to regard this motion more broadly than he does.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It seems to me that the honourable member should have moved an amendment. He does not really agree with the wording of the motion.

Dr. EASTICK: I have pointed out that I think there is nothing wrong with the wording of the motion. The Minister was given the opportunity to move an amendment on another matter. That action can be taken on this motion if there is some part of it that the Minister finds a little prickly or difficult to swallow. In thanking the Minister for the amount of information he imparted to this House on this matter, I would draw his attention to a question asked in the House on November 3, 1970, about special education and the opportunity available to persons who project themselves into this special education field so that they will not, from a status or an economic point of view, be in a backwater for the rest of time. The Minister spelt it out at page 2261 of *Hansard* of 1970 that he was aware of the difficulties and was looking at the situation with his officers. He implied, I suggest, that an announcement would be made on this matter at a later stage. Unfortunately, so far the expected announcement has not been made or the expected answer has not been given. Without hesitation, I suggest to the Minister that such action as would allow people to undertake this special service and training would receive the full support of members on this side of the Chamber. I support the motion.

Mr. McANANEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Goldsworthy:

That in the opinion of this House the Government should bear the full cost of transporting handicapped children, recommended by the Psychology Branch of the Education Department, to schools with special classes when these children are unable to use public transport because of their disability,

which the Minister of Education had moved to amend by leaving out all words after "children" first occurring and inserting "to and from school when the necessary finance can be made available,".

(Continued from September 15. Page 1475.)

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): I do not want to take up much time in supporting this motion that the Government should bear the cost of transporting retarded children to and from special classes and special schools. As the Deputy President of such a school, I have an

interest, as do many other members, in this type of child. Therefore, I support the motion, as moved. Whether a school has a particular class or whether there is a special school for retarded children, it appears to me that the problem is one and the same as regards transport. While in country centres in particular there are special school bus services that happen to coincide with the needs of and are useful to the parents of retarded children that go to special classes, there are so many instances where that is not the case and separate transport has to be arranged. It appears that often it is the local taxi firm that is called on in these cases, or else it is a matter of parents joining together and pooling their own motor vehicles to transport the children to such classes. Whichever way it goes, a heavy cost is involved, in both time and money.

True, so often where there is a child of this kind in a home there is a disadvantage anyway and there are considerable costs that are involved (and probably have been involved for many years) so that the family situation is far from normal. Greater costs are thrown upon such a family because of the retardation. The sum of money involved is not large (some \$40,000, I believe). I am not prepared at present to analyse the State's expenditure of some \$450,000,000, but to my mind it would not be hard for the Government to find the money needed to pay the total bill for the transportation of these children. I do not intend to canvass the fact that Governments spend money on this, that and the other, but surely this Government should be able to find \$40,000 to transport these children.

Mr. Allen: It's a small sum.

Mr. WARDLE: Yes, compared with the amount the Government spends on publicity for its Ministers. On July 23, I received a letter from the Mentally Retarded Special School at Murray Bridge, which states:

At the July committee meeting it was decided to inform you that one of the delegates to the Special Schools Committees Association had already raised the issue of transport costs, in accordance with the Karmel report, with his local member of Parliament to see that this recommendation is acted upon quickly, and we now request you to co-operate in the matter as it vitally concerns this school, too.

No school or special class in the State would not be affected by the cost of transporting students to that school. The difficulty that arises is that often these children are not able to fend for themselves on public transport, even if it is available and convenient; of necessity, it means that private cars or taxis must be provided. I was more than delighted

to find that the local taxi firm in Murray Bridge was interested and considerate in this matter. In the case of two families who were unable to afford the weekly cost of transport, the firm was subsidizing them in order to transport their children to special classes. This is a fine gesture, where there is no blood relationship but purely a keen interest in the children's education. It shows a wonderful spirit when a local taxi firm is prepared to accept some of the cost of getting retarded children to school, in the belief that it is part of its duty to the community. While we appreciate this kind of consideration in the community, surely we should not leave it to a firm such as that to get retarded children to school. I have pleasure in supporting this worthy motion, which I hope will be accepted by the Government.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

REFERENDUM PROSECUTIONS

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Millhouse:

(For wording of motion, see page 894.)

(Continued from September 15. Page 1477.)

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): At the adjournment of this debate, I made the point that a number of people voted at this referendum who did not want to answer the question posed, mostly because they did not want to answer the sort of question that asked, "Have you stopped beating your wife yet?" Presumably, there must have been many people who did not want things changed; thus, I believe, they did not vote. I agree with the member for Mitcham that this is a strong argument in favour of voluntary voting. To refresh honourable members' minds, 23,240 notices were sent out on November 25 asking people to please explain. This action, we were told, was associated with the posting of 300,000 Legislative Council enrolment cards, with an attendant saving of about \$500 in postage; I suppose that was a reasonable thing to do.

However, I wonder whether many of the people who received the dual notice really understood what both notices meant. In other words, if they received an enrolment card, did they look further and note the circular that asked them to please explain why they did not vote at the referendum? There is a fair chance they may not have done so. On January 13, about 3,000 notices were sent out and, on February 11, 1,460 notices were sent out; and 187 people were to be pro-

secuted. However, time had run out and it was too late to prosecute. I wonder whether this was as a result of the delay, in the first instance, involved in the saving of \$500. Is that sum of significance? Is it being fair to those people who have already paid their money? A total of 197 people who acknowledged the receipt of the last notices but who did not reply to the question are to be prosecuted, not for failing to vote but for failing to so reply. A total of 158 replied, but the excuse they gave was not good enough; and 117 have paid \$2. I think this is a poor state of affairs and smacks of discrimination.

The department's excuse that it had a major task on its hands in the immense number of new enrolments and that the canvass was necessary is certainly a reasonable excuse, for it must be a major work programme to canvass that number of people. However, it is also a tremendously expensive programme to investigate about 50,000 electors who did not vote. In reply to a question, I understand it was said that it had been impossible to estimate the cost of following up all these voters. This takes place in normal time and is part of the normal duty of the officers of the Electoral Department. This is no excuse. The officers' time could have been spent in doing some other work. I believe this is a strong case for voluntary voting. The whole referendum gave no democratic opportunity for people who wished to leave things as they were to express this point of view: the only course open to them was not to vote.

The member for Light mentioned that there was some doubt about boundaries and areas and the eligibility to vote, but no doubt this would have received consideration by officers of the department. However, nothing the Attorney-General said during his speech really justified the action that has been taken. He spent most of his time defending his own Party's policy on compulsory voting (compulsory democracy); he did not justify the discrimination now being practised. Why should some people pay and some people not pay? Surely it is a fundamental principle that, if there is any doubt in law, people must be given the benefit of that doubt. If there is any doubt in this case (and some people have paid and some have not) those who have paid should be considered to have paid that sum under duress, and it is entirely unfair that they should continue to bear that debt whereas others who are in the same position have not been required to do so. This is discrimination of the worst sort.

As I have done earlier, I commend the member for Mitcham for introducing this matter, although it is a great shame that it was found necessary to raise it. One would have thought that the Government would use its common sense and its apparent sense of fair play (if it has any) and refund the money without any prodding or suggestion from the Opposition. I am surprised that such a small matter should require this degree of activity, and I hope that the Government will see reason, end this discrimination, and refund the sums that have been paid. I support the motion.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I thank the members for Flinders, Light, and Bragg for supporting me in this matter and for what they have said in the debate. The only Government speaker, who not unnaturally opposed the motion, was the Attorney-General. He spent most of his speech attacking me for what I had mentioned in passing, the question of voluntary voting. The Attorney chose to make this the main point of his speech. I know, in spite of his denials, that he did this because he had nothing else to say in opposing it, and while it was quite irrelevant to the meat of the motion he had to stick to it because there was nothing else. Even on that point I do not agree with what he said. It is not surprising, when the Government had such a poor case as the Attorney demonstrated himself in his opposition to the motion, that no other Government member spoke (often we say, on these occasions, bothered to speak), but they could not speak, because they had nothing to say.

The justice of this motion is apparent, and it is the sheer weight of numbers, the Government's policy, and its determination not to be shown up in any way in this House that will defeat the motion. I moved this motion for two reasons. The first is to underline the fact that at the shopping hours referendum the compulsory vote, so-called, was an absolute farce. A total of 50,000 electors did not vote, and only a handful of them are to be prosecuted. Worse still, most of the 50,000 have written and given excuses to the Electoral Department, but we are not allowed to know what those excuses are. This is another example of the Government's concealing information and, heaven knows, we are getting enough of those examples. We should know, but we are not to know. Then, to crown the lot, we had the bungle (and I will not go into that matter any more) which has resulted in more than half of those who could have been prosecuted for a technical offence under the Act not being

prosecuted because officers allowed the prosecutions to get out of time.

I protest against all of this, and in the light of the circumstances it is quite wrong, unfair, and unjust to prosecute the handful who are to be prosecuted. Incidentally, we have not heard anything about what has happened to them, but we will follow that matter up. It may well be that in spite of the Government's opposition to this motion, these prosecutions will not be proceeded with, and I would not be surprised if that happened. I moved the motion to point to the farcical nature of the compulsory vote and to the injustice that is being done through the mistakes that have been made in the department. For some reason, the Attorney chose to say in his speech the following:

However, I do not intend to stand in this Parliament and belabour and criticize and use epithets about the officers who did their best under extremely difficult and trying circumstances.

Goodness knows what those circumstances were: nothing was said about them. We do not know now whether the department is understaffed: if it is, it may be because of the Government's campaigns concerning enrolments for the Legislative Council and because the staff is doing that work in preference to administering the law. Although I, do not agree with the law it is there to be administered, and one would think the Government would give that its first priority rather than something else. Then the gall of the bloke: he comes into this House and uses as an excuse for what has happened the fact that the officers of the department did their best under extremely difficult and trying circumstances, when he, and the Government of which he is a member, created those circumstances. I hope that, in spite of the pessimism that I have expressed, the House will support this motion in the interests of justice and fair play.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (17)—Messrs. Allen, Becker, Brookman, Carnie, Coumbe, Eastick, Evans, Ferguson, Hall, Mathwin, McAnaney, Millhouse (teller), Nankivell, Rodda, Tonkin, Venning, and Wardle.

Noes (24)—Messrs. Broomhill, Brown, and Burdon, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Clark, Corcoran, Crimes, Curren, Dunstan, Groth, Harrison, Hudson, Jennings, King (teller), Langley, McKee, McRae, Payne, Ryan, Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, and Wright.

Majority of 7 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Hall:

That the Builders Licensing Board regulations, 1971, made under the Builders Licensing Act, 1971, on April 8, 1971, and laid on the table of this House on April 8, 1971, be disallowed.

(Continued from August 11. Page 705.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): The Leader of the Opposition has moved the disallowance of the Builders Licensing Board regulations, and has stated that his reason for moving the motion is that he believes the regulations infringe personal freedom and spell the doom of the subcontracting industry as we know it. He then cited several matters, all of which were totally ill-founded and some of which were completely untrue, and about which I have evidence that will completely explode his case, because the complete converse of his contentions is the case in most instances.

The licensing of builders and subcontractors means that, when a complaint is lodged with the board, the licensee is in danger of losing his licence if he is unwilling to rectify what is judged to be shoddy workmanship. The board has no power to direct that work be corrected but it may use the sanction of the possible refusal of the renewal of a licence or the suspension or cancellation of a licence in order to ensure compliance with its requests, and that is a vital protection for the public. The regulations do not spell the doom of subcontracting in the housing industry. The board has been quite lavish in the number of licences approved both for general builders and in regard to the classified trades. The board has approved the issue of 3,839 general licences to general builders and large subcontractors in particular trades. In the restricted field, 5,823 applications have been approved; in fact, the board has, as an initial step, granted licences to all who are genuinely engaged in the building industry. They have been licensed to continue to practise as they have in the past.

The Leader has complained that the regulations were laid on the table of the House in the last day of sitting of the last session so that no effective attempt could be made to debate them and to disallow them again. True, the regulations were laid on the table of the House on the last day of sitting, but there was no ulterior motive in this. The regulations were reconstituted as soon as possible after the disallowance and were placed on the table of the House on the very day that

they were made by His Excellency in Executive Council. If the Legislative Council had disallowed them earlier, the regulations would have been made afresh at an earlier date. It is true, as the Leader alleges, that the regulations have been working for more than three months quite satisfactorily.

The Leader has complained (and this was the first specific complaint) that two testimonials as to character have to be supplied with an application pursuant to the regulations. What an enormous infringement of personal freedom! What else is the board to do? The Act stipulates that the board must satisfy itself that all applicants are persons of good character and repute. Members would be neglecting their duty if they made no inquiry at all regarding the character of applicants. I point out that the Land Agents Act and regulations provide for five testimonials to be submitted to the Land Agents Board. That legislation was introduced while many members opposite were sitting in this House, and it was under their Government. This is a long-standing requirement from the mid-1950's and, furthermore, applicants for a land agents licence are required to publish twice in the public notices of a newspaper that they are applying for a licence. The Builders Licensing Board, in an effort to simplify procedures, dispensed with a requirement to advertise and reduced the number of testimonials to two.

It would be an extraordinary situation if a person could not easily obtain two testimonials from people as to his character and repute to append to an application to the board. There might be something of consistency in the Leader's contention if there had been any evidence that he intended to act differently regarding land agents and reduce the requirement for them which is much greater than in the case of builders licensing. But that is not so, because this is only put up as some straw with which to belabour the regulations. There is no substance in it at all.

The Leader criticized the number of categories of restricted licence. One of his main charges is that having many categories of restricted licence will restrict subcontractors and introduce demarcation disputes. Let us look at the history of how the number of restricted licences came to be recommended and adopted, because exactly contrary to the Leader's contention is the case. The board originally suggested to the advisory committee

that 16 types of licence should be considered but investigation by the advisory committee disclosed that subcontractors operate in very specialized segments of the various trades. There are, in fact, persons who make their livelihood as specialists in space heating or in roof sheeting in asbestos cement. There are firms who do nothing but demountable partition fixing. If the advisory committee really wanted to stamp out subcontracting, as the Leader suggested, the committee could well have said that a carpenter and joiner's licence was available and, if persons could not qualify for a full carpenter and joiner's licence they must return to working for wages.

That would have been the thing to debate if the object that the Leader says has been adopted in this matter were to have been pursued, but precisely the converse was done, because the people concerned wanted to provide that every person who had a clear category of work would be able to get a licence for that and that there should not be a restriction on his continuing with subcontracting work. The advisory committee saw the necessity for licences to be available for segments of work carried out by the main building trades. It has thus recommended licences for such things as form work and board fixing, although this work comes within the ambit of a carpenter and joiner's licence. There are in fact persons who erect metal roofs and nothing else. They have come into the trade virtually off the street and have been taught to do this work only.

Mr. Mathwin: These should all be covered under "ironworker".

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It would not have covered the whole of the field in this case. In fact, all these categories of licence were, as I will show later, the result of evidence and recommendations from master tradesmen, not from unions at all.

Mr. Mathwin: The ironworker can, of course, roof houses, make ant caps on footings, and fit and fix gutters, spouts and pipes.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Of course he can. What is the honourable member arguing about? I have said that there are people who erect metal roofs and nothing else and who have not been trained to do other work in that field of restricted builders licensing. Therefore, there has to be a special licence for them in order for them to continue.

Mr. Mathwin: Why not make it an ironworker's licence?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member wants to give evidence as a

master tradesman, to the advisory committee, I am sure that that committee will be happy to hear it. In fact, evidence was taken widely from the trade, and the evidence was taken from master tradesmen. The advisory committee was faced with the alternative of saying either they could have a licence to cover this type of work or they should be granted a full plumber's licence, or they must work for wages henceforth. If members opposite will think dispassionately about this statement, they will see quite clearly that the advisory committee acted in a manner to preserve the *status quo* in the industry; not to end subcontracting but to preserve it. True, some qualifications will eventually be required to enter this "dilutee" field, but the right to subcontract for special sections of a tradesman's work is preserved. The opportunity was not taken to wipe out all who were not full tradesmen. I think that the fact that this opportunity was not taken demonstrates more than anything the genuine desire of the administration not to interfere with the subcontracting system but merely to ensure that some standards were set for people engaging in building work.

The Leader has also described the regulations as a great attempt to institute strict demarcation in the building industry. This allegation does not hold water for a moment. Quite early in its deliberations the board considered how the operation of the restricted licensing system could be handled. Suggestions that all building work should be codified and allocated to certain licences were rejected. It would be a mammoth task to codify the work and to keep the code up to date. There would also be hold-ups while a person licensed to carry out certain work could be obtained. The board therefore adopted the simple expedient of saying that licensees would be permitted to undertake the work normally regarded as coming within the ambit of their trade. The guide to applicants also states that licensees will not be prohibited from carrying out minor work outside the scope of their licence provided that it is ancillary to their main contract. Again no hard and fast rule has been laid down as to the amount of ancillary work. If restricted licences are to operate and to have some meaning, the board could not have been more flexible in its approach to the problem of demarcation. If the holder of a restricted licence performs a significant volume of work outside the ambit of his licence and does so in a shoddy manner, the board will prosecute depending on the evidence of persons in the trade to establish that the work concerned

would not normally be granted as coming within the ambit of the licence.

I cannot understand why the Leader has objected to the necessity to renew licences annually. If a licensing system is to be worth anything, there must be a constant review of licensees. We see this with drivers' licences where it is necessary to make an application each year and to state what physical disabilities may have occurred since the licence was last renewed. Licences as land agents, bailiffs and inquiry agents, business agents, and hotel-keepers must all be renewed. I can only regard the complaint as a make-weight. It is most important that the board be given the opportunity to review the financial situation of licensees from time to time. Also in the category of frivolous objections is the reference to the summons which is in a form quite normal for courts and *quasi-judicial* bodies. The Leader has stated that he has never heard anyone explain properly what the board is attempting to do. I can only say that my previous explanations must have fallen on deaf ears.

The board has three main functions. First, the board provides a place where the public can complain about bad workmanship in relation to the building industry. The board will investigate complaints and, where justified, will ask builders to rectify faults under the sanction of losing a licence in a bad case. Although the first inspector was appointed to the board as recently as last month, a number of disputes has been satisfactorily settled. In two cases, women have complained regarding painting work carried out and, in another instance, a man complained about additions to his house and it was agreed eventually that the only solution was for the builder to demolish the room and vacate the site. Another person complained about numerous deficiencies in his house, and the board arranged for the work to be corrected to the satisfaction of the owner. In another case, the board decided that the builder was not at fault in any way and that the client was unreasonable in his demands. There was also an instance where work performed by an unlicensed builder was inspected. The standard was so low that the board refused a subsequent application: it was clear that he had no real knowledge of building work and had not previously earned his living as a general builder. These complaints and the fact that they have been dealt with satisfactorily show the need not only for the licensing of general builders but also for the licensing of subcontractors and tradesmen. The benefit to

the public already demonstrated would not take place without the licensing of tradesmen. One of the trades that was most insistent on the licensing of tradesmen was that of master painters.

Mr. Mathwin: That doesn't prove much: it only proves who need it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I believe that got a fair degree of unanimity amongst people in the trade. The second aspect of the board's work is concerned with a long-term effort to raise the standard of building by issuing licences to persons who have qualified by study and experience. Reference has been made to the requirements set out in the guide to applicants, but I point out that these qualifications were listed as a guide to tradesmen and they do not have the force of law, because they are not included in the regulations. They are merely an expression of intention on the part of the board, and it is expected that the board will use its discretion in particular instances. The advisory committee has been asked this week to proffer advice regarding courses which might be set up with a view to training persons seeking to become tradesmen with a restricted licence. I point out that at the present time no form of training is available to someone who wishes to become a foundation contractor. He must learn by experience only. There are no courses of study. The board anticipates establishing such courses, and in due course a certificate that an applicant has successfully completed a course will be a qualification which will be taken into consideration by the board when determining an application for a licence. Similarly, a man who wishes to become a formwork erector and not a completely trained carpenter and joiner will, it is expected, be able to take a course in formwork at the adult education service. I think no member of this Parliament would decry the training of tradesmen in this regard. Even in the case of trades where apprenticeships are available, it is now uncommon in some instances for the entrants to the trade to have completed an apprenticeship. In these circumstances, it is expected that courses will be available part-time over successive years so that adults may be trained in the trade they practise.

A third objective of the board is to protect the public as far as possible from shady operators with four-dollar companies. It is not uncommon for directors of a company to finance their operations by means of a shareholders' loan rather than by taking up shares in the company. This means that, if the company becomes insolvent, the creditors may

not have access to the moneys advanced by the directors as loans. Loans by shareholders rank equally with creditors' claims so that, if, for example, 50c in \$1 is paid, the shareholder concerned recovers 50 per cent of his investment in his own company, whilst hardware dealers and others who have advanced credit also collect the same proportion. The board has required a number of companies to be recapitalized before it grants a licence. This has involved, in some instances, the conversion of existing shareholders' loans to equity capital and, in other instances, the injection of fresh capital has been arranged. This has improved the security available to the creditors. This is not to say that there will be no more crashes by building companies in the future. The situation can change quite quickly. However, there has been an improvement, and I look for this to continue. The board has also refused to grant general builder's licences to bankrupt individuals.

The Leader has informed the House that he has been told, and he hopes that it cannot be substantiated, that the board is out to reduce the number of builder's licences by 25 per cent in a short time. Far from hoping that it cannot be substantiated, he knows very well that it cannot be substantiated, but then what is one more wild statement in the farrago of half-truths, misconceptions and outright lies being circulated by the various persons in the building industry who are out to wreck this Act. Has any member opposite stopped to think how the board would go about reducing numbers by 25 per cent? Section 17 of the Act provides that the board may refuse an application for a licence or a renewal of a licence upon any ground upon which such a licence may be cancelled or suspended, and section 18 provides that a licence may be cancelled or suspended where a fraud, dishonesty or misrepresentation has been used in obtaining the licence or if the holder of the licence is convicted of an offence the commission of which would, in the opinion of the board, render him unfit to be the holder of a licence; if the licensee has been found by a court tribunal or after a due inquiry by the board to have been negligent or incompetent in the performance of any building work or other work in the building trade or any branch thereof which he had undertaken pursuant to any contract; if the holder of a licence has been found similarly to have been guilty of fraudulent conduct or dishonesty in connection with the undertaking of any building work; or if, in the board's opinion, the holder of the licence,

having undertaken personal supervision and control of any building work, was incompetent. I point out that, upon the making of the order of cancellation or suspension of a licence, the licensee may appeal to the Local Court of Adelaide. Since that form of appeal is open to the licensee, there is no doubt that there are considerable sanctions against the board's acting in an arbitrary way, and there is not the slightest scintilla of evidence that the board has any intention of acting in this way or that any board member will act in this manner. Members opposite know who the board members are. Is this allegation being levelled at Mr. Dow? Is it being levelled at Mr. Baulderstone or Mr. Tune or Mr. Fargher? Which one of those board members would act in that way? Which one of them would act arbitrarily against the interests of general builders in this community? If allegations of this kind are going to be made, let some evidence be produced against the board members who are being attacked in this way.

We now come to the crux of the disallowance motion. The Leader has asked why people who have served their apprenticeship and completed their formal training cannot operate in the building industry as they please. Is he so out of touch with the building industry that he does not know that the majority of persons entering the building industry today have not served an apprenticeship and have not completed formal training? That is what the Act and regulations are all about. The board has licensed all genuine operators for their particular occupation. It has expressed targets for ultimate training which may or may not be achieved in the near future and it is arranging courses to lift the standard of entrants who come into the industry during their adult life. It also hopes to make courses available to youths entering the industry who have not taken up indentures.

It is quite true that other industries have not been controlled and that unskilled persons may continue to operate to the detriment of customers. Houses, however, are very important. All persons need to live in a house, and many invest their life savings for this purpose. All members who have been in Parliament for any length of time will have had constituents who have complained about bad building work. In some cases they have entered into agreements for the purchase of a house and the product which they have obtained has been unsaleable within a year or so because of the shocking workmanship. It is not always the fault of the builder, of

course, but I believe the incidence of such cases can be drastically reduced by the activities of the board.

The Leader has asked why the driver of a bulldozer must have four years' experience before he can level a block. He is, of course, deliberately misreading the suggestions contained in the guide to applicants. The period stipulated is three years and the category is earthmoving machine operator. The period of four years relates to the licence for earthworks construction, which covers not only machinery operation but excavations for large buildings and compaction of fills, together with the ability to set out all types of work and to take levels.

The periods of eight years to which the Leader refers occur in each case in the main building trades. Apprenticeships take five years and, following this, the board will eventually expect the applicant to have completed an additional two years as an adult tradesman before a subcontracting licence is available. The period of eight years includes an extra year in the case of people who have not completed an apprenticeship. If this extra year were not required, there would be less inducement for youths to enter indentures. Comparison of this period of eight years with the time required by a medico to qualify is quite irrelevant. The prospective medical practitioner must first matriculate and this probably is not possible before he is 17 or 18 years old. He must then study full time—and I emphasize full time, not part time—for six years. Even then he normally serves a further year as an intern before practising on his own account.

In the case of the tradesman referred to, the prospective entrant does no studying whatsoever. He leaves school at 15 years of age in many instances and practises a particular trade by gradually picking up a skill over a period of eight years so that, by the time he is 23 years of age or so, he can obtain a subcontractor's licence but it is quite wrong to make a direct comparison between a student studying full time at a university and a youth assisting on a building site. Only if these youths or adults entering the building industry were engaged in full-time study would there be any valid comparison with the period of study required to obtain a medical qualification.

I now come to the article in the journal of the Housing Industry Association. This article was quoted by the Leader very frequently.

The Housing Industry Association deliberately printed untruths in the article; I have pointed out those untruths to its officers, and I have every reason for anger at what has taken place, because they knew that it was deliberate misrepresentation and untruthfulness. The article contains outright lies in that, first, the new licence application form does not demand a sworn statement on the applicant's date of birth. Secondly, the new licence application form does not demand details of any convictions but merely those relating to dishonesty, fraud, or breaches of penalty or company law. Thirdly, a company director or manager-nominee of a company does not have to supply a statement of his own net worth, as he can choose to withhold this information and to take a licence endorsed with the word "manager".

Mr. Coumbe: That was a recent amendment.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, but the article of the Housing Industry Association was published after the amendments. The association was fully aware of the amendments because they were discussed with it. The fourth point about the article is that, in order to continue as a subcontractor, a bricklayer does not require eight years' experience including two years in a position of responsibility: neither do the other tradesmen listed in the article require such experience to continue. The Leader has, of course, seen through these untruths and does not refer to them. He has apparently been gullible enough, however, to believe the distortions and exaggerations contained in the remainder of the article. Surely a prudent person would be suspicious of information contained in an article which contains lies. The distortions and exaggerations include the assertion that licensing will lead to a marked increase in cost. How? In what way has the licensing that is now in force produced any increase in cost to the building industry? The assertion in the article is nonsense. The article states that control will not give a commensurate benefit to the public, but I have already demonstrated what benefits are already accruing to the public. The article says that private information will be leaked by the board and its staff. I bitterly resent that assertion. These public officers of the Builders Licensing Board and the board members should not be traduced and libelled in this way. There is not the slightest question that any leaks from this authority will occur, nor is there the slightest evidence that any

have occurred. Applications have been coming into the board for a considerable period. Where is there any evidence of a leak of private information that has been given to the board, any more than there is any evidence of leaks from the Prices Branch, the Valuation Department, or any of the other departments to which citizens must supply confidential information? There is not the slightest evidence of such leaks. I believe it is utterly irresponsible for any member to make such allegations against public servants and the responsible members of the board.

Mr. Venning: Why don't you bring the Housing Trust under the regulations?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think the honourable member ought to turn his mind to the regulations we are discussing. The article published by the Housing Industry Association says that a Government dossier on migrants is being prepared, but that assertion is entirely without basis. There is not the slightest evidence to support it. It is just a wild allegation like the other allegations. The article further implies that the Western Australian Builders Registration Board unsuccessfully examines financial standing. The Housing Industry Association must have known that to be untrue. The Western Australian board has no power to investigate financial standing. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

THE ESTIMATES

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 21. Page 1552.)

THE LEGISLATURE

House of Assembly, \$114,287; Parliamentary Library, \$33,921; Joint House Committee, \$58,629—passed.

Electoral Department, \$198,056.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I draw attention to the line "Fees for elections and referenda, \$17,269". Can the Attorney-General say how that figure has been reached? I presume it is to cope with by-elections; I can think of no other reason. It seems an unusual and odd sum. Also, can the Attorney say how the actual payment of \$133,417 was made up? I presume that is largely for the shopping hours referendum, but can the Attorney dissect that figure?

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): The amount of \$17,269 proposed for the current year is to enable debiting in this period of the fees of election staffs for the Southern and Adelaide by-elections, both held on July 3, 1971. No provision is made in this current year for further elections. The actual make-up of the sum of money I shall have to obtain for the honourable member.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General tell us whether there was anything besides the shopping hours referendum to make up that amount of money? I can think of nothing else. I presume that is what we spent on that little exercise. Could any other election or referendum be responsible for the figure?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think there was a by-election in that period for the Legislative Council. That would be included in this figure, but I will check it. I think it is made up of money for the shopping hours referendum and the Midland by-election, but I will make sure of the facts and let the honourable member know definitely.

Line passed.

Government Reporting Department, \$294,565—passed.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, \$13,766.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Although this committee does not waste money, it wastes members' time. The same applies to the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, which is on the next line, and it also applies at times to other Parliamentary committees. The Public Works Committee to a large degree does work that any other competent person could do, but it does good and conscientious work. I have been a member of the committee on two occasions and I have also been a member of other committees. A committee may be justified if it instructs its members on how the Government is operating or if it gives them a chance to learn something on which they can make decisions on matters that come before Parliament. Members can also be well employed on Select Committees that have special terms of reference. However, where I do not think they are well employed is on a standing committee, a large amount of whose work is done simply by overseeing, in the case of the Public Works Committee, work proposed to the Government by officers in the Public Service.

The Public Works Committee investigates projects and recommends them at an estimated

cost, which very often is only small compared to the eventual cost, due to various factors. I hope that the member for Elizabeth realizes that I am not criticizing the quality of the committee's work: I am criticizing the waste of time in having these members tied up with the business of the committee, which many times is routine and is sometimes trivial, and could be done by an independent officer of the Public Service. Members are often criticized because they do not do their job properly. We know we could do much more work if we had the time and stamina to do it, but not one member could fulfil everything expected of him. I have not referred to the Subordinate Legislation Committee, which is of greater importance than the other committees and which I do not include in my criticism. Where a project warrants six members meeting and making a study, it should be referred to them in the same way as we refer matters to a Select Committee.

I believe that most of the projects referred to the Public Works Committee should never have been referred to it. We have argued about the minimum cost of a project that requires an investigation by this committee, but I believe that much unnecessary work is being done by the committee and that the time of its members is being unreasonably interfered with. Obviously, one cannot amend the Act at present, but we in this Chamber and in the Parliament generally are over-committed.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): Only last session an amendment was made whereby projects costing less than \$300,000 (the amount previously was \$200,000) need not necessarily be referred to the Public Works Committee. Had the Government moved to make that \$500,000 or \$1,000,000, Parliament would have objected, and rightly so, in my view. I think the Public Works Committee is one of the most important committees because it educates members and because it reports to Parliament on the projects referred to it. It is also important because the departments preparing plans for approval by the Minister concerned and by Cabinet are doubly careful about what they are doing, although this is no criticism of the architects or engineers concerned.

Often, there is opposition to a project, and those in the departments concerned must prepare evidence in such a way as to convince the committee of the merit of the project, in spite of that opposition. This also acts as a guide to the Government that the project is a proper one. Concerning the Victor Harbour

sewerage project, for some reason unknown to me and, I think, to the Chairman of the committee, there was no newspaper advertisement stating that the committee would meet the council and other bodies interested in this matter, and because of that oversight my department and the committee came under severe criticism from Victor Harbour residents. I know that that was a major undertaking. There may be occasions when four or six members inspect a school site; that is a matter for the committee and should not be a criticism of the committee's real function.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Could the committee's work not be done by some Public Service organization, as in the case of the Auditor-General?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Parliament created this committee for a specific purpose, and I do not think that a Public Service department reporting to another department has the same effect as a department reporting to a committee comprising members of Parliament. The Auditor-General is independent of the Public Service: he is appointed by Parliament and can only be dismissed by Parliament. I do not believe it is necessary in this case to have a set-up similar to that of the Auditor-General.

I believe that over the years the Public Works Committee has performed its function extremely well, saving the people of the State much money. I do not think it has made many mistakes, if it has made any at all. It the Director of the Public Buildings Department and the Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department had their way they might be happy to see the Public Works Committee done away with in order to prevent the delay that they often complain about from the time a matter is referred to the committee to the time when the committee reports. I believe that the delay is unavoidable and that the evidence presented to the committee serves a good purpose. One of the most important features is that the general public is able to place before the committee objections about a scheme that the Government may be promoting. In this respect, the committee serves a similar purpose to that served by the Subordinate Legislation Committee. Such objections may influence the Government to change its plans.

Mr. McANANEY: I support what the Minister has said. At certain times I have felt that my time on the committee has been wasted. I believe the committee has made mistakes, as it did in the case of the Victor

Harbour railway line. Our recommendation that that line be left open was a mistake, as subsequent events have shown that it should have been closed. However, our decision was influenced by the fact that the Transport Control Board did not carry out its job in seeing to it that there was reasonable alternative transport available.

The Public Works Committee has often performed a useful purpose. I believe that the committee saved the Government much money when it recommended that a modern type of building rather than the older type should be used at the new Port Lincoln High School. A member of Parliament puts excessive time into his job. When I ran a three-man farm on my own I thought that I worked hard, but I have worked harder in this job, and I have had to spend much time waiting on people. If we are to restrict our activities, we should tell our electors that our function is to legislate rather than to be at their beck and call on minor matters. Some people expect us to be ministers of religion, financial advisers and matrimonial advisers for our districts.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must confine his remarks to the line.

Mr. McANANEY: Perhaps we should have a public accounts committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will not allow a debate on that matter. The honourable member must confine his remarks to the Public Works Committee.

Mr. McANANEY: If there is any weakness in the present system it is that we do not re-investigate a project after it has been completed to ensure that no unwarranted expenditure has been incurred.

Line passed.

Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, \$4,115—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$241,000.

Dr. EASTICK: Regarding the item "Office expenses, travelling expenses, motor vehicle expenses, printing, minor equipment and sundries", last year \$163,000 was approved but \$214,771 was actually spent, yet this year only \$190,000 is provided for. Either there was excessive expenditure last year or measures, which will affect members, are planned that will permit expenditure to be held at \$190,000. Will the Treasurer give further information about this item?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I do not have information on that matter, but I will get it for the honourable member.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I protest about the Treasurer's reply, because he ought to have information about the item. For the Treasurer to say that he does not have any information about it is an insult to the Committee. The whole idea of this debate is that Ministers should give information on the lines that is requested by members. I do not think the member for Light should be fobbed off by the Treasurer's inadequate reply.

Dr. TONKIN: I could not agree more with the remarks of the member for Mitcham. In a company balance sheet, to put a sum like this under such a heading would be quite wrong. I do not criticize the management of these sums but we should have some idea of how the money was spent last year and why we shall not spend so much this year.

Mr. BECKER: Could the Treasurer say whether this line includes stationery, postage, telephone expenses and so forth? If it does, how can a reduction of \$24,000 be effected this year?

Dr. EASTICK: I find from the Auditor-General's Report that there has been an increase from \$203,575 (shown as expenditure for 1969-70) to an actual expenditure of \$265,232 in 1970-71. He also states that the total annual appropriation, in which this sum was included for 1969-70, was \$1,365,718 against an actual expenditure in 1970-71 (including the sum we are dealing with) of \$1,644,230. He makes no other comment on that, but it is a sizeable sum of money and a considerable reduction on previous actual expenditure.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As this section of the accounts is administered by the Chief Secretary's Department, it does not appear in my papers. The item under discussion represents expenditure in relation to the Parliament. The main part of it is, of course, printing costs. The note I have about the alteration in the amount proposed is that, while there is an added volume of costs of printing and additional telephone and telegram costs for 1971-72, there are installation charges, particularly in relation to provision for members and the like, which occurred in the last financial year and will not occur in this financial year. That accounts for the differences.

Line passed.

PREMIER AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND MINES

Premier's Department, \$1,166,607.

Mr. HALL: I refer to the line "Policy Secretariat, Administrative and Clerical Staff".

This is a very rapid growth, from nil before the institution was set up, to the large projected figure of \$154,285. It seems to me that this is a type of organization that must hold the Government's hand when it cannot think for itself. It has been called the "think tank". I hope it is not behind the type of Government decision to give away \$1,000,000 on Victoria Square development. However, if this is so and if that is the type of thought put into the Government's mind, it is exceedingly expensive to the public. It appears at present that the Government has enlisted brains outside itself to help it to make decisions on certain aspects of State administration. As the sum is \$154,285 this year, the Government appears to be doing badly in its administrative procedures. It has frequently revoked decisions it has made in its first 16 months in office. I wonder what part the Policy Secretariat plays in what I consider to be a fairly unsatisfactory record of government.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader has misread the line, which refers not only to the Policy Secretariat but to all the administrative and clerical staff of the Premier's Department. The Policy Secretariat has cost less than one-sixth of that figure. Regarding the secretariat, there has been considerable publicity concerning the nature of its work. This publicity has included articles in the *Advertiser* after discussions by writers of that paper with members of the secretariat and a public lecture given by Mr. Bakewell on the secretariat's work. This is not a new departure in government in Australia or elsewhere. Mr. Bakewell investigated the work of the secretariat in the Commonwealth Government and in Great Britain before we proceeded further with this work, and it was overwhelmingly recommended that valuable work could be done by these officers. In fact, valuable work is being done by these officers and a number of reports that will be useful to Parliament and to people in South Australia will be coming off the desk and a number of them will be published.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I accept the Premier's explanation. This line has increased from \$89,013 last year (the actual payments were \$113,299) to \$154,285. It may be that there has been some rearrangement of duties within the department, but one of the matters about which members of the Opposition have complained from time to time is the enormous increase in the staff of the Premier's Department. On the face of it, this line appears to bear out our complaints when, in

12 months, the amount voted for administrative and clerical staff in the department has risen from \$89,013 to \$154,285. Some explanation is called for. The memorandum circulated by the Premier on February 10 asked Ministers to effect economies in the interests of the financial stringency of the State. The sixth paragraph states:

Ministers should impress on all appropriate departments and authorities under their control the necessity for a continuing examination of all practicable methods of reducing governmental costs.

The Premier has not set an example in his department, and I should like his explanation. Also, I draw attention to the work of the Minister assisting the Premier, who is also Minister of Environment and Conservation. I have said that it seemed to me that this Minister was quite a sham and that his duties and the expenditure over which he had control were almost nil compared with others.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The increase in the staff is not of the magnitude conveyed by the honourable member. The decision to set up the Policy Secretariat was taken before the circular that the honourable member has quoted was issued. Nearly all of these appointments had been made before the circular was issued, but the salaries for the officers concerned were only for a part year. Therefore, this year the full salaries are involved. The salary of Mr. Amadio, who works with the Policy Secretariat, although he is the Development Officer of the Premier's Department, is \$9,500 a year; the weekly wage for Mr. Ceruto is \$68.15; the salary for Mr. Voyzey, Principal Projects Officer, is \$10,225 a year; the salary for Mr. Rodway, Senior Projects Officer, is \$7,290 a year; and the salary for Mr. Lewkowicz, Projects Officer, is \$4,187 a year. In addition, the Public Service Board, after a thorough investigation, recommended that it was essential to have one additional clerk, and, subsequent to the issue of that circular, one additional clerk was appointed to the Policy Secretariat. Those details cover the major items of increase.

Mr. Millhouse: I thought you said it was only one-sixth of the full line.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Of course it is: the honourable member will find that it comes to very much less than \$154,000.

Dr. EASTICK: The number of the full-time staff employed has risen by 60 per cent, from 30 at June 30, 1970, to 50 at June 30, 1971. It is indicated that 34 of the total are in the administrative and policy section

and 16 are in "Industries promotion, etc." A growth rate of 60 per cent in a year is considerable. Whilst I do not deny that only one-sixth is associated—

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It's the Policy Secretariat.

Dr. EASTICK: I see. Thank you.

Mr. EVANS: I wish to deal at some length with the Premier's Department, particularly with the office of the Minister of Environment and Conservation and the State Planning Office, concerning the development of the Hills catchment area. This area has received much recent publicity and, as the member representing a substantial part of it, I take the opportunity to express my views on the activities of the Premier's Department, of the Premier himself as Leader of the State, of the State Planning Office, and of the Minister Assisting the Premier. The area concerned is not all within my own district; indeed, the total area comprises 600 square miles, extending from Williamstown to the wall of the Myponga reservoir. This is not the present catchment area but it is expected to be the catchment area when we complete all of the reservoirs that can possibly be built in this State to harness water. This is a unique area, because it has the highest rainfall in the State, and its native bushland forms one of the most attractive aspects of our environment.

Within the Stirling District Council area is a mixture of exotic and indigenous trees, and some of the State's most stately houses are in this area. Bearing in mind that there have been and still are extractive industries operating in this area, and I admit that I earned part of my livelihood from—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! As we are dealing with the financial aspects of the Premier's Department under various headings, the honourable member will have to confine his remarks to those aspects and to the line under discussion.

Mr. EVANS: I will do that with reference to the State Planning Office. The whole of the area to which I have referred is under discussion, and an agreement has been reached between the council concerned and the State Planning Office that the overall planning of the area will be considered. Therefore, I believe that I can refer to the development of this area, and to what has taken place in the past and what should be done in the future. The extractive industry operating in the area, which has affected the local environment, must be considered in relation to future planning. It is difficult for the State Planning

Office to say that any business at present operating as an extractive industry should be closed down. However, some people, approached in the correct manner, would leave that industry because of the present lull being experienced. I refer especially to operations involving building stone.

There may be every justification for declaring this an area in which an extractive industry should not be located, with the result that this type of operation in the Hills would cease. The District Council of Stirling has had this controversy on its hands. It has one of these quarries now being used as a rubbish dump. Eventually it will be a reclaimed area that will be included in any future development by the State Planning Office, in conjunction with the council, as something other than an extractive industry. I believe the Premier, as Minister of Development and Mines, has a responsibility in this field to make sure that all interests in the area are recognized. He should make an approach to the Commonwealth Treasurer to get some income tax concessions for those who are prepared to leave bushland on their properties in its native state. If such people later decide to develop or subdivide that land, they should lose the taxation concessions in retrospect for five years.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot and will not allow on a line such as this an open debate on taxation. The honourable member commenced his remarks by linking them up to the State Planning Office. I ask him to confine his remarks to the line under discussion and not to speak about taxation.

Mr. EVANS: We are dealing with the Premier's Department, and the Premier controls the State Planning Office. Part of the Premier's salary compensates him for the work he does as Treasurer and Minister of Development and Mines.

The CHAIRMAN: We are not dealing with the Premier's salary; we are dealing with the Premier's Department.

Mr. EVANS: I am dealing with his responsibility.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out that we are in Committee and dealing with certain provisions under the Premier's Department. There cannot be a general debate as may take place during the second reading stages of a Bill. The honourable member must confine his remarks to a definite line before the Committee.

Mr. EVANS: If you will not allow me to continue my remarks about that subject, I will speak about the State Planning Office, which

comes under the direction of the Premier and his Assistant Minister, the Minister of Environment and Conservation. I wish to give my views about the development of the part of the Hills that is in the water catchment area. Originally, 75 per cent of the Stirling area was planned and subdivided in the 1880's. During the same period, three-quarters of the Aldgate area was developed, as were Bridgewater and Crafers. Development of the main section of Bridgewater continued right through to 1912. In considering this, we must remember that, as these areas developed, there were many small allotments. The State Planning Office will now have to consider whether, in the case of two small blocks adjoining one another and having one title or separate titles under the same name, the blocks cannot be aggregated into one title so that larger allotments can be created. One of the major objections to the area at present is that the allotments are too small.

The council has shown that it has regard for the size of allotments. In 1959, it passed a by-law providing that no allotments should be smaller than 12,000 sq. ft. In 1967, it passed another by-law providing for a minimum frontage of 70ft. on regular allotments and of 60ft. on irregular allotments. It went further in September, 1969, when it passed a by-law that provided that 20,000 sq. ft. was to be the minimum size allotment. I and many others believe that that should be the minimum. Any land outside the defined township areas and within the catchment area should not be subdivided any more. At present a regulation provides that one can subdivide a minimum of 20 acres outside township areas and within the catchment area. That regulation is unsound and illogical because it will create the very hazard that we are trying to cure. In reply to my recent question about the regional park that is to be created as Cherry Gardens, the Minister of Environment and Conservation replied that the area would be developed for public recreation. He said:

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.

A letter dated February 11 from the Engineering and Water Supply Department to a Mr. Oser states:

The Department of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation have advised me that you intend to establish a wild-life park on section 1193, hundred of Noarlunga. This property is in zone 1 of the proposed Clarendon reservoir watershed, and this department is opposed to the establishment of a wild life park on that property. It is pointed out that the State Planning Office are considering acquiring this area for a national park.

How honest are the authorities when they say to a landholder who wishes to develop a wild-life park that, because it is in zone 1, he cannot do that, yet at the same time the State Planning Office wishes; to develop the area as a regional park? The Deputy Director of Planning wrote the following report to the Minister assisting the Premier:

Within the limitations of available finance, it has been the policy of the Authority to acquire land in proposed reserves when the owners placed the properties on the market. Compulsory acquisition is only likely if reserve development is about to proceed and a residue of land has not been previously acquired by negotiation. On present indications, this stage is not likely to be reached for many years.

The CHAIRMAN: This line deals with only a certain aspect of the State Planning Office. Therefore, the honourable member must confine his remarks to that aspect.

Mr. EVANS: I accept your guidance, Mr. Chairman. I am dealing with the activities of both Ministers and their departmental officers and the letters they have sent to people both within and without my electoral district concerning planning and development in the Hills catchment area. It is a controversial matter and cannot be tackled in any other way. The opinions of people in that district should be put to the Ministers. The last subdivision of any consequence in that area involved 101 blocks in the Piccadilly area in 1963. In the area of the Stirling District Council for which the State Planning Authority has accepted responsibility, there are about 8,000 assessments. In 1954 there were 2,067 houses and a population of 6,208. The estimated number of houses today is 2,800, and the population is about 8,400. During the last five years the approximate increase has been 100 houses a year, and this year the increase is estimated to be 129. For the moment, I leave aside the matter of water rating. I ask the Treasurer to take note of that line, even though it is outside his jurisdiction. The planning in that

area and the regulations made have restricted the land use for many people. I believe that most do not object (I do not), because it is necessary to conserve the quality of the water within the area. However, when the State Planning Authority looks at the present zoning plans, it would be justified in eliminating from the area general industry, for which there is no justification. It could also eliminate light industrial areas. There may be some future justification for the local plumber, carpenter or electrician having a local workshop: if no land is available to him, he may be in difficulty and the local residents may have to pay more for those services. I see no objection to eliminating industrial areas from that plan. It would offend very few people if they were eliminated.

The Engineering and Water Supply Department must decide where it will put the effluent from the area. The Minister of Environment and Conservation must justify the use that will be made of the land classified as regional parks or other parks within the catchment area. For instance, 40 people were asked to leave properties on 1,600 acres of land at Cherry Gardens because it was said that they were likely to pollute the reservoir, but the Minister controlling that land has stated that he will open it up for use as a regional park. I do not think anyone could justify that action as being honest, because the 40 people already there have been asked to move on. Practically every church organization in the State has a youth camp on the banks of the Onkaparinga River above the reservoir proper. All of these organizations will admit that such camps cannot be justified under present conditions and the knowledge we have of the area and the possibility of pollution. However, the Government should do everything possible to find other areas for them. The authority has a responsibility to define those areas. The National Fitness Council has built a stadium within 250yds. of the Onkaparinga River, in the catchment area, at a cost of \$30,000. I told the council's director that, under present-day conditions, people were not justified in using these areas as playgrounds. In the Hills outside the catchment area are many areas that could be used for this purpose.

I believe we should also do everything possible to restrict the building of multi-storey dwellings in the catchment area within the Stirling District Council. Perhaps we should introduce legislation to compel people to leave a certain number of trees on each allotment and perhaps set up a voluntary or paid com-

mittee to give advice to people in these areas about maintaining the beauty of the areas. It is not a simple matter for the Premier's Department, the Minister of Environment and Conservation or the State Planning Authority to decide what should finally happen to the area, but we must accept that we have sold a title to people who believed that they had a free use of the land within that area. If we are going to cause them hardship, we must reimburse them as satisfactorily as possible. The people who have been prevented from keeping pigs, poultry or dairy cattle or who may have expected to do so in certain areas, in particular in zone 1, have suffered to a degree. I do not believe that any action by any Government department should adversely affect any individual financially. Only the Stirling District Council has said that it is prepared to let the State Planning Authority do the supplementary planning and take over this matter. The council abided by the 1962 plan in broad terms, and carried out every request of the Premier's Department and the State Planning Authority. I do not blame the groups that objected to the council's suggested plan, if they were sincere, but one may be justified in saying that too much emotion brought about some rather nasty comments and had bad public relations for many people concerned in the issue, and that some people have been hurt unjustly.

The council had done all the work asked of it after being elected by the majority of electors, and I respect its sincere approach to the suggested plan. I accept the action that has been taken by which a satisfactory plan will be developed. However, there will be a problem if other councils do not adopt the same attitude as was adopted by the Stirling council. What happens in the next six or 12 months in this area will result in the final decision on how the area is to be developed. As it is the most attractive area in the State it should be protected as much as possible from the ravages of man. People in the district enjoy it, and we hope that others can enjoy it with us.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Treasurer explain the increased amount spent last year and the substantial increase proposed this year in the industries promotion, research and assistance section? Also, what engineering and technical assistance is still being given to industries, and is a charge being made for this work?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The reason for the increase was the additional appointment of a desk officer, two overseas trade officers, and one additional research officer. They were appointed during last financial year, but the full cost of their salaries did not accrue until this year. Mr. Timbs, Trade Officer, London, has a salary of \$10,500; Mr. MacDonald, Trade Development Officer in South-East Asia, has a salary of \$12,000; and Mr. O'Connell, Desk Officer, has a salary of \$6,310. Previous arrangements we had with overseas representatives of Government in one form or another were not satisfactorily dealt with. The way in which correspondence, for instance, with the Agent-General's Office took place meant that there was no adequate central point of follow-up. Therefore, after consultation with the Public Service Board, it was decided that all communications with overseas representatives should go through the Desk Officer, so that a complete tabulation would be kept of requests for activity by various Ministries in South Australia at one central point and so that that Desk Officer could follow them up and see that the requests were met.

The Trade Officer in London has taken up his appointment, and I have had good reports of his work so far. Mr. MacDonald, the Trade Development Officer in South-East Asia, is only just over from South-East Asia at present, and we expect that after a short time in Adelaide he will be going back to Djakarta for some considerable work to be done in the Indonesian area in investigating market opportunities on the spot. Mr. Bassham is an additional research officer whom the Public Service Board had said was quite essential to the work of the department, and he assists the Senior Research Economist. The work of the engineering section is maintained as previously, and I do not know of any charge made for the services of the engineer in giving advice to small industries in South Australia. However, I will check that for the honourable member.

Dr. TONKIN: For "Office expenses, travelling expenses, motor vehicle expenses, minor equipment and sundries" in relation to the Premier's office, the vote last year was \$12,500, actual payments being \$24,661, and the proposed payment is \$28,000. Is this increase purely a reflection of the increased staff and a measure of the increased staff of the Premier's Department? Further, I note the line "Overseas representation—fees and displays", which has not appeared before, but which amounts to \$21,000. I link this with the

"Overseas visits of Premier and officers" at a cost of nearly \$13,500. I make no comment on that, except that I hope we get value for money, and it will be interesting at this time next year to see whether or not that expense is justified. I refer also to "Feasibility studies by consultants", for which \$27,000 is provided. What exactly are these studies and who are the consultants? Will we be told what projects are being investigated?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Concerning the line "Office expenses, travelling expenses, motor vehicle expenses, minor equipment and sundries", the additional expenditure was due to an extension of activities in 1970-71. There has been a marked increase in activities in the department during that period. Within a month of my taking office, the correspondence in the department had increased 400 per cent, and that is just an indication of the extra work going through.

Mr. Coumbe: In or out?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Both ways. If the honourable member cares to check, he will find that much correspondence goes out. The \$28,000 is based on the current spending in this area. The overseas visits of the Premier and officers will cover the work that Mr. MacDonald is doing, and it will also cover some of the work of Mr. Timbs, who is currently in the Middle East. Regarding feasibility studies by consultants, an industrial gaps study to cost \$15,000 has been commissioned. A special steering committee will oversee this study, the results of which we expect to see in March. It is expected that out of that study some further studies in depth will be undertaken.

Mr. HALL: Undoubtedly the Premier has been successful in building up the tempo in his office, but he has been unsuccessful in building up the tempo of industrial expansion in South Australia. The industrial community is concerned at the lack of incentive that exists for industry to come here or for industries to expand because of the policy the Government adopts in other spheres. Will the Premier please reply to Mr. Goree? I have raised this matter before. Mr. Goree is unknown to me, but he wrote to me from Florida in June thinking that I was still the Premier. I wrote to him saying that I had written to the Premier enclosing a copy of my reply and his original letter, and that I confidently expected the Premier to write to him in the next few days. Yet in the last couple of weeks Mr. Goree has written to me again saying that the Premier will not

reply to him. I did not bother sending the Premier this letter; I sent it direct to the Chamber of Manufactures hoping that it would answer it. Will the Premier please reply to Mr. Goree?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, I will do that. If the Leader is dismayed about our attracting industry to South Australia, he must be lonely in that dismay, because South Australia at present has the heaviest commitment ever of Housing Trust funds (more than double the commitment of any previous year) in building factories in South Australia.

Mr. Hall: Will you name the enterprises concerned?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will give as one example G. H. Michell and Sons Pty. Ltd.

Mr. Hall: We know about that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am interested to know that, because it was not arranged while the Leader was in office.

Mr. Coumbe: It was a slightly different proposition.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, we were more generous than the Leader was prepared to be.

Mr. Coumbe: The proposition from Michells was different.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The proposition is very good for South Australia.

Mr. Coumbe: It's different from what it was originally.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is not a lesser one. The Leader suggests that people are frightened to come to South Australia, but he knows that this industry is now being centred in South Australia with the withdrawal of some capacity elsewhere. I will bring down a full list relating to the Housing Trust. The Nylex factory is one example. The drop forge plant of Australian National Industries was not arranged by the previous Government: it was arranged by the present Government. Also, we have the Housing Trust arrangement for building a factory for Fletcher Jones and Staff Proprietary Limited at Mount Gambier; that project was not arranged by the previous Government. Furthermore, Mr. Fletcher Jones himself said that the reason why he did not erect the new factory in Victoria was that he got a very much better deal from the South Australian Government. A few minutes ago Opposition members said that no firm would come here because of the present Government's attitude towards industry. Yet, when I cite examples that show that such allegations are balderdash, Opposition members say, "So you should be giving

a good deal to industry." Opposition members cannot have their cake and eat it, too.

It is only a very short time since the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited announced, as part of a total project, a \$6,000,000 expansion at its Whyalla plant. Does the Opposition think that that is nothing? The expansions at the factories of General Motors-Holden's and Chrysler Australia Limited were both arranged and announced since this Government took office. The Chrysler firm has expressed its gratitude to the Government for its helpfulness.

Mr. Coumbe: Is work still proceeding at the Chrysler factory?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not know whether the honourable member wants to foment a strike. The Government has worked with the managements and the unions to settle industrial disputes, and I have received the thanks of the managements of both firms. In comparison with the two years of the previous Government, the rate of industrial growth under the present Government has increased, not declined.

Mr. HALL: The Treasurer's last statement is erroneous, and he knows it. In the two years in which my Government was in office there was a substantial increase in the number of major firms coming to South Australia. The Premier has access to their names. The Housing Trust programme that he vigorously promotes around South Australia is largely based on a number of them; the Nylex factory is one of them. I believe the plan is for a \$5,000,000 complex, and I think that \$3,000,000 or \$3,500,000 was involved in Housing Trust lease-back premises. The Treasurer can correct me if I am wrong, because it is some time since I have seen the figures. If he examines the amount being spent under the Housing Trust proposals and takes out the Michell project, he will find that most of it is being spent under plans and negotiations conducted by the previous Government. I am pleased about that, but I should like the Premier to acknowledge it publicly. He has made much of the relocation of the Michell plant and his more generous offer. The Treasurer knows, as I know, that the Michell application was to get money at a cheaper rate. This was the basis of its application. We made an offer, which was not accepted because it did not provide the capital it required at that cheap rate and we set a limit on that figure because we would have liked to spread the money obtainable at a privileged rate among other industries. We made an offer that we believed the company would accept

and use to relocate its premises. The offer involved the closing of a certain facility in Melbourne with the possibility of an increase of 100 employees in South Australia, although the new and more modern premises may reduce the number employed on the same processes with the same throughput in the present factories. So it is yet to be proved that there will be a total significant increase.

What the Government and the people of South Australia are assured of is that the factory will remain here and not go elsewhere. I thought it would be built here, and that was the reason for the less generous offer by the previous L.C.L. Government. But that attitude was maintained on a value judgment that was correct—that the industry would remain here and that the lower interest-bearing funds wanted by the company would be used to the extent that this Government was at that time involved in encouraging other industries to come here in a stream.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Just now, the Treasurer referred to Mr. MacDonald from his department who, I understand, has a roving commission in the South-East Asian area. I appreciated the opportunity of meeting Mr. Serijar-Oranda in Djakarta and Mr. Ellery in Singapore. They were competent and anxious to do something but it seemed that the direction had to come from the Premier's Department via Mr. MacDonald. Is that correct? If it is correct, is it intended to station Mr. MacDonald in that area more regularly than previously? The Treasurer has said he will send him to Indonesia for some time. From my brief contact with the area and its people, I think it may be advisable for a person like Mr. MacDonald to spend several extended periods in that area rather than shuttle backwards and forwards, as I understand he has been doing so far.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is intended that Mr. MacDonald shall spend an extended period now in Djakarta. He had previously undertaken one familiarization tour in the Singapore area, on a short trip. He then reported back here and met me in Djakarta the day before I flew back to Australia. I spent a full day with him then, briefing him on the work to be undertaken on instructions I had given in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Djakarta, pointing out the work I expected him to get under way in each of those places. I discussed with him two other visits he was to make—one to Manila and one to South Korea, both of which seemed to open up some opportunities for us. He was then to report

back here, which he has now done, prior to returning to Djakarta, where there is much work to be done on the ground in market surveys.

We have been given a list of products which South Australia could usefully be providing to Indonesia, suggested by the Ministry of Trade in Djakarta, and it is necessary for Mr. MacDonald to examine all the market and transport possibilities on the ground there before we research the products here. We expect him to be spending extensive periods in the area. In addition to the directions he gives when he visits the trade agencies that work on commission for us, they correspond directly with the desk officer here. Work is done on the material they send to us and instructions come from the department through the desk officer to them. In addition to Mr. MacDonald's instructions, they get instructions from here as well.

Mr. COUMBE: I could not find reference to the Industries Assistance Corporation under the Treasury.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: That is under the Loan Estimates.

Mr. COUMBE: Where is the State insurance office shown?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Advances have been made under Loan also to the State insurance office.

Mr. COUMBE: In the coming and subsequent years is the total of the expenses or amounts advanced by Parliament to be made under Loan and is the insurance commission to work as a statutory body?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I expect it to be under Loan, because these bodies are expected to generate their own working funds. They will be reported to Parliament, much as the forestry undertaking is. We expect the insurance office to be open for business soon and we expect it to generate income that will cover its expenses and allow it to make repayments of Loan moneys.

Mr. EVANS: Were any of the officers in the Industries Promotion, Research and Assistance Section of the Premier's Department involved in negotiations concerning the hovercraft project at Elizabeth?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They reported to me on those negotiations, although it was the Industries Assistance Corporation to which an application was made. Mr. Scriven, who is a member of the corporation, reports directly to me.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Premier say whether the report in Sunday's press that "The Premier,

Mr. Dunstan, boasted that the firms production could be sold in China" is true or not? Has the Premier made that statement?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have never boasted that they could be sold in China. At the request of Taylorcraft Proprietary Limited I saw the Chinese Commercial Counsellor in London and quoted to him the negotiations that the company had had with the officials at the Bank of China in Hong Kong concerning the possible sale of Taylorcraft to them. I quoted delivery costs and prices, and asked whether the corporation involved in China would then take up with us subsequently the possibility of purchasing Taylorcraft hovercraft. That was done at the request of the industry. I certainly thought that it looked a fairly saleable sort of line, but I did not get any confirmation from China that there were any orders for it. I urged on the counsellor that this seemed to be a suitable vehicle for their terrain and several things for which they wanted vehicles, but so far we have received no confirmation from Chinese trading corporations that they are interested in pursuing the matter further.

We have tried to assist Taylorcraft Proprietary Limited where we could, but the plain fact is that there are no orders for the company's goods. We bought one for the Government, but the Industries Assistance Corporation reported that the amount that would be needed to put the company into a position of having an effective production line for its vehicles to meet any order of quantity would be considerable and far beyond the \$50,000 referred to in the *Sunday Mail*, and which would not have met the amounts owing to the existing creditors of the company apart from establishing anything new or doing any developmental work. In the circumstances not one member of the corporation (Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Dennis or Mr. Scriven) was willing to recommend that public money should be spent in this way when there were no clear orders at all. The most that could be shown was that people had shown some interest, but we could not get a single firm order, apart from one and a half orders for vehicles outstanding.

Mr. EVANS: Did one person, who may not be employed in the Premier's Department at present but was in the past, and who was originally employed by Taylorcraft, have any effect on the decision?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Who was this?

Mr. EVANS: I do not want to mention any names.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Why not?

Mr. EVANS: I believe it would be unfair to the other person.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not aware of anyone who worked at Taylorcraft.

Mr. EVANS: As this company was in its infancy and a considerable sum was spent in development, it seems amazing that a potential multi-million dollar business has been lost to this State. A press report states:

The British Columbian Provincial Government in Canada was so impressed with a demonstration Skimaire shipped to the country that it indicated it was prepared to financially back a proposal to build them in Canada under licence.

Does the Treasurer consider that that report is correct?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not. If, in fact, a company here is prepared to build these under licence and has orders, we are prepared to back it financially, but it will depend on orders, and I have never known the Government of British Columbia to do anything other than on a business basis. Does the honourable member really expect us to put money into building a production line to produce the vehicles when we do not know that we can sell them? The present Government has spent much money in getting one industry in South Australia out of just that position. David Shearer Limited at Mannum has had considerable assistance from the South Australian Government, and it was in a position of having a production line not established by the Government: it had established the production line itself to make sophisticated headers, and it ended up with over 100 at grass and no-one to buy them. We then went to great lengths to assist Shearer's to diversify, and with the assistance of the Government it has obtained some good contracts and managed successfully to diversify, so that it is now back pretty well to its highest previous strength in employment in Mannum.

We could do that on the basis of finding the company economic work to do, but does the honourable member really suggest that the Government should be committing money to establish the production line for a vehicle where there are no orders?

Mr. EVANS: Is the Treasurer aware of a letter written to Mr. Taylor by the Manager of the Hosho Corporation, dated July 20, 1971, part of which states:

Since last May when we started to work together with Mr. Machikawa on your vehicle, we have been working on the Government politically and have good negotiations with the Ministry of Construction, Self-Defence Forces,

etc. The Ministry of Construction has decided to purchase one sample; therefore one vehicle which is under the customs clearance is to be supplied to it. We have obtained confidential information that if sample would prove good performance, it will contract more than 60 vehicles for its local branch offices. It secured the necessary budget. The Self-Defence Forces is also planning to purchase, and our demonstration of the vehicle is scheduled as soon as the customs clearance is finished.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am aware of that correspondence, and I am aware that samples of these vehicles have been shown in several places, but there is still not a confirmed order. When it can be seen that there is a confirmed order, we shall be in a position to say, "Here's a viable economic project that we can recommend," but until that stage it is impossible for the company to be carried by the Government. The people who have carried the company to the extent of about \$169,000 are themselves not convinced that a market has been established on which they can then further risk their money. They themselves were not prepared to do it. I can say only that the Industries Assistance Corporation has been established with people in it who I would have thought would have the respect of every member. The Chairman (Mr. Kinnaird) is not known for being backward or overly cautious or conservative in what he does, but he wants a project to be businesslike.

There was no partisanship in that appointment. He has done consulting work and committee work for the previous Government, which found him valuable, and so do we. Mr. Dennis is a leading cost accountant, and that is his subject. He looked at the matter as a cost accountant, and could not recommend it. Mr. Scriven was under instruction from me that, if there was any way of our being able to do this soundly, we should try to assist the industry, but none of them could make a recommendation. In those circumstances, I do not see how I could instruct the corporation to recommend against its own judgment.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: I can imagine what the honourable member would say if we put money into it and it went bad.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. Another company in South Australia (Hovergem Sales International Proprietary Limited) is involved in the same field, being in a much better position to provide for a known but restricted market in vehicles of the hovercraft type. I certainly believe that Mr. Taylor has developed a vehicle which is useful and which I would

hope would prove saleable. However, at this stage the plain fact is that there is no effective market developed for the goods. The creditors of the company have held off for a considerable period believing that a market would be developed but, with no firm orders in sight, they have not been prepared to wait further.

Mr. EVANS: I do not wish to discredit members of the corporation, only two of whom I know. However, as a member of Parliament this is the only way that I can obtain information that the public is entitled to have. The Minister of Works insinuated by way of interjection that I would condemn the Government if it backed the organization and the organization failed. I would have the right to do that, as would the Minister if he were in Opposition. If that happened, that would be a duty of a Parliamentarian, as it is now my duty to seek information. I believe one further piece of correspondence should be included in *Hansard* so that people can draw their own conclusions. All this correspondence was offered to the deputation that inspected the Taylorcraft premises, but the deputation did not accept it. I cannot follow that. I refer to the following letter from Mogi (Australia) Proprietary Limited of Melbourne written to Mr. R. V. Taylor on July 18, 1971:

Today we received official order sheet covering one demonstrator Skimaire for Taiwan. Order conditions are then set out. The letter continues:

Please let us know the earliest shipping date so we may organize the opening of a letter of credit.

I realize that that does not justify opening a business for the sum involved, but I am trying to ascertain whether all avenues have been investigated. The letter continues:

We believe this project is now well under way and we can expect regular orders of not less than 100 craft per order; this indeed is very good news to us and we look forward to receiving your acceptance of order and shipping details soon.

I still agree that that is not a final order. However, I believe there is every indication that the craft can be built by floating another company. If another business can be started to produce the craft profitably, surely it should be possible to resurrect the present business. I want the public to know all aspects of the subject.

Dr. EASTICK: I am concerned about planning and development for the outer metropolitan area, which takes in the areas under the control of local government bodies at

Mallala, Mudla Wirra, Freeling, Kapunda, Tanunda, Barossa, Gawler, Gumeracha and the southern Hills area to Victor Harbour. If such planning and development are delayed any longer, problems will be created for those councils. I do not deny that the new work of the State Planning Authority is important, but I should like an assurance that, as a result of its undertaking additional work, other works that have been commissioned and are well advanced will not be deferred.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Environment and Conservation): The honourable member has stated that the State Planning Authority has recently had a considerable amount of work and responsibility given to it. I cannot tell the honourable member off-hand what stage the projects he referred to have reached, but I shall be pleased to obtain the information for him. At present the State Planning Office is working to capacity. It does not have all the staff it needs because some vacant positions cannot be filled. However, the work we intend to undertake in the Hills area should not unnecessarily delay the projects of which the honourable member has spoken. I will provide a report as soon as possible on the stage that those projects have reached.

Mr. BECKER: I am unable to relate the \$195,847 for "Salaries and related payments", given on page 126 of the Report of the Auditor-General, to the \$13,845 for the Director of Planning and the \$175,973 for the Deputy Director of Planning, drafting and clerical staff and temporary assistance, to be found on page 12 of the Estimates of Expenditure. There is probably a simple explanation. I should have thought there would be a relationship between those figures.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: The figures you gave were actual payments for last year.

Mr. BECKER: But they do not balance. What is mentioned in the Auditor-General's Report should be capable of dissection into various headings on pages 12 and 13 of the Estimates of Expenditure. Could the Treasurer obtain a report on that?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is obvious that they are not entirely comparable figures because of the nature of the related payments shown. It is clear that the figure for 1970, appearing on page 126 of the Report of the Auditor-General, is different from that shown on the Estimates. However, I will find out about it.

Mr. EVANS: Under the line dealing with the Builders Licensing Board, I am concerned

about two decisions I have known the board to make about work that it has claimed has not been up to a satisfactory standard; it was said to be not of a satisfactory aesthetic value. Has the board power to make decisions about the aesthetic conditions of a building? If it has, can a comparison be made with identical materials being used in the construction of Housing Trust houses? Should those materials, too, not be condemned?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I do not know the particulars of this case, it would be difficult for me to comment. I cannot go into hypotheses. If the honourable member gives me the details of the case, I will obtain a report from the board.

Line passed.

Agent-General in England Department, \$196,897—passed.

Department of the Public Service Board, \$1,053,318.

Mr. HALL: I am interested in the item "Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, Investigating, Industrial, Personnel, Training and Research Officers, Administrative and Clerical Staff", the provision for which has increased by over 25 per cent. I know there have been substantial rises in Government expenditure, but this is a major one. What abnormal circumstances are there or what additional work is being carried out to warrant this increase of more than 25 per cent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Items 4 and 7 contain things applicable to each item. There is an increase as a result of the 6 per cent wage increase of January 7 and male clerical and other increments of February 4, and they accounted for \$47,000. Four new offices were created, which accounted for \$22,000. Normal increments, reclassifications, and additional cost of training courses (we have made more generous provision for training courses in the Public Service) account for an extra \$8,000. The cost of increases gazetted in the Automatic Data Processing Department is \$62,000. Ten new offices were created in the A.D.P. Department, but they have not been filled.

Mr. Hall: They are under a separate line?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. Some of the comments I am making are applicable to both the line relating to the A.D.P. Controlling Authority and to the Assistant Commissioner, Secretary, etc. There were normal increments of \$33,000, cost of conversion of records to A.D.P., \$7,000, and one additional pay period for the year, costing \$28,000. Three

officers were transferred temporarily from other departments, and this accounts for \$14,000.

Dr. EASTICK: Will any tangible benefits arise from the increased costs in this department? Members would be aware of the delays that occur in effect being given to applications to the board by public servants. I have indicated that there seems to be in Acts operating in other States advantages to the whole Public Service Board system. With this considerable extra expenditure, is it considered that the present Public Service will function tangibly better?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think some of the work of the Public Service will be done rather better, and with the A.D.P. Centre more work will be done more quickly than otherwise would be the case. The four new offices have been designed to facilitate the more rapid handling of matters by the board. I hope that delays will be lessened, but I do not suggest we can get a perfect system by which everyone receives an immediate result on any application, because this would require an enormous department. We have to be as frugal as we can; we have tried to ensure that we do not over-staff the Public Service Board Department but at the same time not lose efficiency. I believe that we have three very good Public Service Commissioners who work extremely hard. If something gums up the works, the matter is always pursued, and I find that I receive effective and rapid results from the board.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Why were four new positions created?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have that information, but I will obtain it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I remind the Treasurer of the contents of paragraph 3 of his circular issued in February. When this document was first produced by the Premier in this House I said that I regarded it as having no effect, and every line that we have examined so far bears out that opinion. It seems that the Public Service Board did not abide by the circular.

Mr. BECKER: Can the Treasurer say why an officer did not attend the Australian Administrative Staff College last year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot say why an officer did not attend. There was provision for Mr. Lewis to attend, and arrangements were made that that attendance should be deferred until this year.

Dr. TONKIN: Referring to payments for consultants' services, can the Treasurer explain who were the consultants and what did they advise, and will he say why the sum is reduced to such an extent this year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Investigations were made by the Public Service Board, which brought in some consultants in relation to efficiency investigations in certain departments. I think this applied to the Engineering and Water Supply Department, although the information here does not express that. The item now provides for part-time consultancy services, and this was the figure struck on what was forecast; it was not for a full-time consultancy.

Dr. TONKIN: In those circumstances, I wonder whether any consideration has been given to employing an officer full-time in that category, rather than using the services of consultants.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Our view on this is that in certain consultancy areas it is better to call in outside consultants than to have an officer of the Public Service because, in order to provide the kind of staff needed in a consultancy, we would have to build up a sizeable staff (it would not involve only one officer), and it would be difficult to provide the kind of teams necessary in all the areas in which we would want to call in consultants. This is where one sees that Parkinson's law should not operate, and this is one means of ensuring that it does not. One does not build up a staff and thereafter have to find work for it.

Dr. Tonkin: It is unfortunate that you should quote Parkinson's law as an example; after all, that is the purpose of my suggestion.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: With great respect, the position here is that if we are going to have consultancies we do not have a permanent staff for which we must find work; it must only involve certain jobs and, of course, there is no particular interest in the Public Service in finding work for that office.

Dr. EASTICK: There is no argument about the Commissioners or necessarily about the staff, but I wonder whether there is something wrong with a system that causes seemingly endless delays. I appreciate that the Treasurer has had excellent co-operation from the board when he has directed questions to it; the board has answered those questions as quickly as possible. I do not suggest that every application should be agreed to, particularly if applications are received every six months or 12 months. As I have said, there are provisions in other States whereby, all other things being equal, applications may be made once every three years. In this way, each group in turn has the opportunity to attend before the Commissioners, knowing that their

situation will be adequately considered. In the case of veterinarians, applications have been in for three years awaiting consideration. In the most recent Australian Veterinary Journal, which was published 10 days ago, there is an advertisement for senior veterinary research officers in South Australia, the commencing salary being below the maximum of the range for veterinary officer (class 2) in other States. The responsibility of a veterinary officer (class 2) is considerably less than that required for a senior veterinary research officer in the Agriculture Department.

A similar situation applies to other professional groups in South Australia. If we constantly lose to other States the best manpower resources in professional fields, we will be in trouble. Recently, three senior veterinary officers in South Australia, whose collective record of employment in South Australia was about 53 years, applied for jobs outside the State. To lose such officers in any profession would be disastrous. We should ensure that the investigating officers appointed can consider academic achievements and requirements. The investigating term of the Public Service Board might from time to time benefit from taking in consultants in the field being considered.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I appreciate that there is a real problem with regard to the level of our professional salaries compared with those in other States. This has been a continuing problem. If we had wholesale movement of professional salaries here to the level of those in other States, our whole Public Service wage structure would change and the cost to the State Budget would be enormous. It is difficult for us to manage this. As far as it has been able to do so, the Public Service Board has sought to marry the business of maintaining a coherent wage structure to an endeavour to meet the market where it must. That has not always been an easy operation, and we have had this sort of trouble in several professional fields, such as engineering and geology. I appreciate the difficulties of the board and the difficulties outlined by the honourable member. I assure him that I will again bring the matter in this area to the notice of the board as I have brought to its notice the case of other professional salaries.

Line passed.

Immigration, Publicity and Tourist Bureau, \$1,059,177.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the light of the Treasurer's lovely circular, I draw attention to the sharp increases in the items relating to

staffing. The Treasurer has studiously avoided answering any of the points I raised, and the irresistible conclusion is that he has no answer and that his circular was a sham for public consumption only. Regarding the provision for fees and expenses of consultants in connection with Ayers House and Windy Point, can the Treasurer say what work is being done there?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A feasibility study has been undertaken in connection with developing Ayers House as a tourist attraction. The fees relate to that study.

Mr. Millhouse: Will Ayers House be developed as a museum?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The feasibility study has not yet been completed, but when decisions have been taken I will tell the honourable member. Unlike the previous Government, the present Government does not want a chest clinic to be built in the grounds of Ayers House; such a project would completely destroy Ayers House as a tourist facility. The present Government has preserved it and intends to develop it. In addition, a consultancy was appointed to do a study on possible developments, such as a restaurant and other facilities, at Windy Point. I cannot make a public announcement about the matter until we commit funds to the project.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I do not know whether others knew that a feasibility study was being carried out concerning Windy Point, but we now find that it has been completed, yet we are not allowed to know the details.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Not until decisions have been taken.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Treasurer did not put that rider on his disclosure about the Ayers House study.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I did; I said that I could not tell the honourable member what was in the feasibility study.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Treasurer say when we are likely to hear further details about Windy Point?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: During this financial year.

Mr. EVANS: I wish to refer to swimming pools in the Hills area, what type they should be, which section of the community they should serve and how we can avoid squandering public money in future. Too many small pools should not be built in school yards, where they can be used for only a few months of the year. We need a subsidy from the State Government to help each district council to build one heated pool where people can be taught to swim in the winter months when

outdoor sporting activities cannot be undertaken. Which swimming pools will benefit by the subsidies mentioned, and is there any thought of specific heated swimming pools being constructed in the colder parts of the State for community use?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Subsidies of \$3,000 each are provided to Elizabeth, Gladstone, Lameroo, Lock, Millicent, Minnipa, Naracoorte, Strathalbyn, Tea Tree Gully, Unley, Waikerie, Woodside, Wudinna, and there is one spare \$3,000. That is under this line but, under the additional provisions we have made elsewhere, there is a new policy of Government subsidy for swimming pools which will be a joint operation between the secondary schools part of the Education Department and local government. Already, we had had applications from some councils. We have set aside a much larger sum than this as subsidies for larger pools of the kind the honourable member suggests, where we would get maximum public benefit rather than a limited use by a certain section of school-children.

Dr. EASTICK: An allowance of \$50 a year is made for the Director of the Publicity and Tourist Bureau (who is also Director of Immigration) for travelling with and entertaining distinguished visitors. No such allowance is given to other Directors for similar activities. I agree that a sum should be made available to the Director and possibly other Directors but I question the adequacy of \$50 a year for someone who will be entertaining people of importance to this State. Is there any other means whereby expenses can be recouped by this Director? Can other Directors who have a vital part to play in promoting this State's image receive Government support, too?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There are provisions under which certain public servants may, with the approval of the Minister, charge specific sums that are clearly used for entertainment purposes in their work. I authorize expenses of that kind from time to time. The amount shown here for the Director is for unvouched for petty cash, in effect, but there will be other occasions when specific items of expense will be charged on a voucher and approved by the Minister.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: What is the immediate future of national pleasure resorts? I imagine they will come under the Minister of Environment and Conservation.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Yes.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Why has the provision for national flower day been increased to such a great extent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This function will be held again in 1972 as an important feature of the next Festival of Arts. No such function was held in 1970-71.

Dr. TONKIN: Under the line "Advertising the State", \$100,000 was voted last year and \$135,000 is voted this year. It is an excellent idea, although I think we got our money's worth in the *National Geographic* a short time ago. However, that was during the Hall Government. How is this money administered? Is the advertising directed through an agency and, if it is, how is the agency selected and appointed? For "Fees and expenses of consultants (Ayers House and Windy Point)", what do the consultants do? The sum of \$24,500 is provided for the Waikerie Gliding Club, I presume in connection with the forthcoming gliding championships. What proportion of the estimated total expenditure does this represent on that function? I note the purchase of the paddle steam *Industry*, which I saw at Renmark recently. Until recently, it was moored at the end of the town wharf and provided an imposing spectacle from the town, but it has now been moved farther downstream. What are the plans for the vessel?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Regarding advertising the State, it is intended that posters and tourist brochures will be entirely revised and redesigned this year. In addition we have had a study done by the advertising agency doing Government work at present. By having one advertising agency, we effect considerable economies and obtain services that would not be given by a series of advertising agencies doing similar jobs. It has made a study of the sources of our tourist activities, the age groups affected, and the kind of publications we need to obtain the biggest penetration in the potential market. It has suggested a proposal for advertisements and where we should insert them and with what frequency, and it has submitted sample designs that have been discussed with the Tourist Bureau.

A feasibility study has been made concerning Ayers House as a centre for the National Trust to be used as a museum and as a tourist attraction. We hope that it will not be just a museum but a centre in which much activity is carried on, and that it will be attractive to residents and tourists. A study of Windy Point was made by Oliver Shaw, who is Australia's leading hotel and restaurant consultant, on the

development of eating and entertainment facilities.

The grant to the Waikerie Gliding Club covers about half the cost of an administration block, public facilities, toilet facilities, and an irrigation system necessary for the club to have the area properly grassed. In addition, the Government is making available other facilities, including accommodation in Education Department buildings at Waikerie. The *Industry*, which is to be developed as a folk museum, is now permanently moored at Renmark as a tourist attraction.

Mr. BECKER: Under the item relating to office expenses, etc., would it be possible for the Tourist Bureau or the Government to promote the completion of the Tower Motel by an overseas company in order to make available a further valuable tourist attraction at Glenelg?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not think that this matter could be considered under this item. Assistance in connection with Mr. Goretzki's building would have to come under industries assistance, a line which we have passed but, so far as I am aware, we have not received any application of that kind. Knowing some of the circumstances concerning that building, I doubt that we will receive an application. I do not think I can send my officers out to try to sort out the problems concerning that building, which is a commercial venture. If we can give some help to a valuable and viable development, that is fine, but it must be on the basis of an application that shows that.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Treasurer explain on what basis advertising agents are appointed? Is it on a yearly basis, and are tenders called?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Tenders are not called; the Government chose an advertising agency and asked it for a quotation. There is no definite term, and there is no actual contract with the agency. The arrangement is on a day-to-day basis. The agency concerned is doing all our work, and we are getting services as a result. If we find that it is unsatisfactory, that arrangement can be terminated immediately.

Dr. TONKIN: Were other advertising agencies invited to submit quotations?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No.

Mr. BECKER: I would hate to see the Tower Motel remain as it is.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I cannot allow discussion and open debate on a matter not included in the line.

Mr. BECKER: Does it come under "sundries"?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Unless the honourable member can specify the line to which he is referring, he is out of order.

Mr. BECKER: In regard to advertising the State, I take it that this item covers general promotion and efforts to induce people to come to South Australia. I am concerned about a statement appearing in the *News* of September 20 in which the Treasurer is reported to have said that more than 870,000 visitors came to South Australia last year and spent at least \$40,000,000, adding that this was a conservative estimate and that it could be as high as \$60,000,000. On my calculation, this would be between \$46 and \$69 a visitor. Can the Treasurer say what is the average stay of each visitor to South Australia?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have an average figure, but I will get the honourable member more detail. The information was prepared by the research staff of the department.

Mrs. BYRNE: For "Immigration Officer and clerical staff, Superintendent and general staff of immigration hostel", \$114,807 is provided. Can the Treasurer say how many migrants have stayed at the hostel during the last 12 months? For "Accommodation, fares and other expenses of migrants", \$53,000 is provided. Can the Treasurer say how money is spent on accommodation and to whom it is paid?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We run a hostel at which we have staff; consequently, we have expenses in relation to it. In the hostel stay people who are part of the State-sponsored migration scheme. We have additional sponsorings to those of the Commonwealth Government, and we have arrangements for the recruitment of migrants to South Australia for certain purposes. I cannot say how many stayed there last year, but I will get that figure.

Line passed.

Mines Department, \$2,404,541.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I notice that for several of these items the sums have been reduced. When the Labor Government was previously in office, the Mines Department did not have as much work as it had when we were in office. It looks as though the same thing is happening again. I refer particularly to the provisions for "Administration" and for "Drilling and mechanical engineering".

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In one case there has been a significant drop in terminal leave payments, and in the other there has been reduction of payroll tax.

Mr. Millhouse: What about the provision for "Drilling and mechanical engineering"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This is in relation to staff wages. Because of the difficulty of getting technical staff, we do not expect that some of the staff vacancies will be filled this year. Although we have created the positions and will fill them if we can, we believe that a higher provision would be unrealistic.

Mr. EVANS: Recently, I asked a question in which I suggested that tests should be undertaken to try to establish whether it was possible to gravitate some water from flood areas back into the underground basin. The reply was that the aquifer and rocky structure was so tight that it was unlikely that water would gravitate underground. Is any investigation in this field likely to take place in the next 12 months?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Most of our tests on this are in the South-East, but I will ask the Director whether he has any plans in relation to Adelaide underground water.

Mr. EVANS: There is no allocation this year for "State Planning Authority Advisory Committees—fees and expenses". Are the committees not expected to meet or is it expected that they will need no fees or expenses?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have any information on that item at present, but I will obtain it tomorrow for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$337,458.

Mr. BECKER: I assume that the provision of \$10,000 for the South Australian Olympic Council is the Government's contribution toward sending athletes to the Olympic Games to be held at Munich. Can the Treasurer say whether the Government will make a further contribution toward sending athletes to those games?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The provision of \$10,000 is the total Government contribution. The sum of \$8,000 was provided toward sending athletes to the previous Olympic Games, and we have provided for a reasonable increase. That is the Government's contribution toward the amount that the South Australian Olympic Council needs to raise.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Regarding the item "Grants and provisions for the performing arts", it is not clear how the provision of \$268,820 will be distributed. The Repertory Theatre, which is about to fix its subscription

for the coming year, made a profit last year only because of its grant. Can the Treasurer say what the grant to that theatre will be?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Repertory Theatre will get \$2,000.

Line passed.

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH

State Governor's Establishment, \$62,448; Chief Secretary's Department, \$79,258; Department of the Public Actuary, \$37,051; Auditor-General's Department, \$446,520; Government Printing Department, \$1,310,383—passed.

Police Department, \$13,196,756.

Mr. BECKER: I wish to refer to the provisions for salaries of the Director and expenses connected with civil defence I was concerned earlier this year about flash floods at Glenelg caused partly by cementing the banks of the Sturt Creek as part of the South-Western Suburbs Drainage Scheme. Some drains are now running uphill into the Sturt Creek! In fact, we almost had a major disaster on our hands. The water coming down Sturt Creek into the Paternalong Basin could have been held back by a high tide and high winds. Had that happened, the area would have been flooded from Glenelg almost to the Morphettville racecourse.

There is a lack of general knowledge of the civil defence movement; the public does not know whom to contact, and where. Every effort should be made to encourage the establishment of further civil defence groups and more money should be provided to ensure their encouragement. Some people seem to object to the name "civil defence" because they immediately think of war, but the movement does a good job in civil emergencies. Regrettably, there is not a group at Glenelg. What does the Minister intend to do about it? Can he say that the development of the civil defence movement will be encouraged in the next 12 months?

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): I will refer the honourable member's remarks to the Chief Secretary.

Dr. TONKIN: I support the member for Hanson. The civil defence movement has not been taken seriously enough. Its title includes the words "and emergency services". That is what people are trained for but far too rarely are they called upon to do that type of work, though perhaps we should be thankful for that. I refer particularly to the Enfield group, the headquarters of which has been transferred from the Enfield council buildings to a site on the rubbish dump close to the walls of the Yatala Labour

Prison. There is a great amount of rescue equipment, blocks and tackle close to the walls of that prison but I am assured by the Chief Secretary's Department that this is known and causes no worry. The people who attend training assiduously and are enthusiastic have no toilet facilities there. Something should be done about it.

Mr. McANANEY: I question the number of trainees in the Police Department. Last year there were fewer than in each of the previous five years. What is the reason for this decrease and what is the policy for training additional young people for this fine force?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer this matter to the Chief Secretary and obtain the information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Prisons Department, \$2,570,318; Hospitals Department, \$42,171,133; Department of Public Health, \$2,070,945—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$9,681,903.

Mr. WARDLE: Has consideration been given to any capital expenditure on a Salvation Army project under consideration at Victor Harbour?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will take up this matter with the Chief Secretary.

Dr. TONKIN: Regarding the Alcohol and Drug Addicts Treatment Board, I am pleased to see that the amount this year is considerably greater than it was last year. Is this the result of an increase in staff, is it in connection with staff at St. Anthony's, or what does it represent?

The Hon. L. J. KING: It represents further development by way of a new clinic at North Adelaide and a proposed clinic at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The hospital at Joslin was closed for three months in 1971, but it has now been reopened. Nursing staff have received a 17 per cent increase in wages, and the full cost will be borne in 1971-72.

Mr. VENNING: Last year, \$13,156 was provided for Meals on Wheels, but nothing is provided this year. Why?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The amount in 1970-71 represented a kitchen that was established at Port Noarlunga. An adequate subsidy is now provided by the Commonwealth Government, hence no provision in the current year.

Dr. TONKIN: Why is it that the grant to the Royal Institution for the Blind has been reduced considerably?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The decrease of \$16,000 is the result of the payment in 1970-71 of a special grant for loss sustained by the institution in the previous year.

Dr. TONKIN: The amount allocated for transport concessions to pensioner and indigent patients has been increased. As payments are made generally for taxi and ambulance services, is provision being made to liberalize these arrangements?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The increase has been caused mainly by an increase in taxi and ambulance fees, and is applied to pensioners in both city and country areas.

Mr. VENNING: In what way is the payment of \$2,000 made to the South Australian Country Women's Association?

The Hon. L. J. KING: It is a grant towards the loss of wages on housekeeping services, and the extension of educational and cultural work in country areas.

Mr. HALL: I refer to the item "Salvation Army—Capital" on which no allocation has been made, and I am extremely disappointed that the Government was unable to help the Salvation Army in its Victor Harbour project. This organization has done and continues to do magnificent work on behalf of the less privileged in many sections of the community. I do not know of a more selfless group of people than the Salvation Army. I assumed the Government would grant some financial assistance for this project, because it seemed to be an admirable work on behalf of others, which would bring some relief and enjoyment to the lives of those who otherwise could not afford it.

We must adhere in our society to the principle of helping those who help others and help themselves. It seems incredible that the Government could decide to buy the A.N.Z. Bank building but was unable to allocate money to the Salvation Army for a new project that would provide assistance to those who could not provide it themselves. I urge the Government to reconsider this matter and pare from other Government expenditure in order to give a few thousand dollars to this most worthwhile project.

I note that a small but nevertheless significant sum is allocated this year for the Committee on Environment, which is one of the most important committees ever appointed in South Australia and which is carrying out its investigations assiduously. I am sure that, judging from the calibre of the people on this committee and from the money being spent, the committee must be doing a most interesting and intricate job. Last year, the committee spent \$17,619, and \$15,000 is allocated this year. I do not quarrel with that provision;

in fact, I will support the Government in providing for this committee whatever it sensibly needs to finish its investigation properly because at this stage we must learn much about the ramifications of the terms "environment" and "conservation" and thereby develop more sophisticated methods of handling our State resources.

Obviously, recycling methods in industry will have to be developed to a sophisticated degree in future. I believe that this committee will give us, as legislators, an extremely valuable basis on which to work in the future, and I take great pride in having been instrumental in appointing this committee. I commend the committee's work to the Government and, indeed, I commend the Government for continuing its support for the committee. It involves one of those worthwhile efforts that transcends Party politics. Despite the change in Government, this committee continues its investigations, and has not suffered the ill-fate that fell on some of the other worthwhile projects instituted by the previous Government. I commend those who serve on this committee and now ask the Minister when it is expected that the committee's report may be available.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Environment and Conservation): I have not tried to pin the committee down to stating a specific date, because its work is fairly complex and not the sort of thing that should be rushed. However, the committee has informed me that it hopes to complete the report before the end of this year.

Mr. BECKER: Why has the allocation to the Royal Institution for the Blind been reduced from \$172,000 to \$156,000?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I point out that this question has already been answered.

Dr. TONKIN: I am pleased to see the increased allocation for the Committee of Inquiry into Health Services in South Australia. The Opposition can take some credit for stimulating the work of this committee. How often is the committee meeting? I take it that most of the expense is involved in the fares of some members of the committee. When will a detailed report of the committee be ready, and how many bodies and organizations have offered to give evidence before it?

The Hon. L. J. KING: As the provision is for a full year's operation, obviously the report is not expected before the end of the current financial year. The Chairman (Mr. Justice Bright) is abroad on his sabbatical leave and is making use of this opportunity to conduct

inquiries for the committee. His expenses in that regard form part of the sum provided for this year. I will obtain further information for the honourable member.

Mr. MATHWIN: I am surprised to see that the allocation for transport concessions to crippled children has been reduced from \$2,700 to \$2,000. What is the reason for this? I imagine this provision is for the taxi transport of crippled children.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The sum provided is to assist with the transportation of children from country areas for treatment in the Adelaide Children's Hospital. It is not right to say that the sum has been decreased this year. The actual payments last year were \$1,885, and the sum provided this year is \$2,000.

Mr. WARDLE: Why was only \$1,961 actually paid of the \$18,200 allocated last year to the Salvation Army for capital?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The reason why there is no provision this year is that furnishings at Sunset Lodge and the Whitmore Square project are now complete. I cannot say why the actual payments last year were so much less than the provision, but I shall obtain the information for the honourable member.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Attorney-General give further information on the provision of \$260,000 in connection with the item "Nursing homes for aged persons—maintenance"? Last year only \$74,841 was spent. Also, can the Attorney-General give further details about the provision of \$81,500 for the part-cost of administration of the Betting Control Board? Why has that item been included in this line?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The reason why about \$74,000 was spent last year in connection with the item "Nursing homes for aged persons—maintenance" is that the State Government, because of the Commonwealth Government's failure to meet its responsibilities, had to provide a maintenance subsidy of \$1 for each occupied bed day. It was expected (with misplaced confidence) that that subsidy would end in September but, for reasons that the honourable member will know very well by now, it has been necessary to extend it for the full year. The provision for the Betting Control Board will meet the net deficiency in the board's administration account, which has been increased as a result of additional salaries as reported on by the board.

Mr. VENNING: Can the Attorney-General say where I can find a provision for the St. John Ambulance Brigade?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I cannot tell the honourable member offhand, but I will track it down.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Attorney-General explain why there has been an increase of over \$86,000 in the provision for the South Australian Fire Brigades Board?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Government is committed to a grant equal to 16 per cent of the estimated overall running costs of the board, and this year additional assistance is being provided by way of making available the *Karloo* to replace the *Fire Queen*.

Dr. TONKIN: I am disappointed at the Government's failure to provide further support for the Salvation Army, and I hope that further help can be given this year. I am disappointed that there has been no increase in the provision for the Family Planning Association of South Australia. I am pleased that the Government supports that association, but I am still awaiting replies to questions I asked on this matter some time ago regarding the establishment of further family planning clinics. The Family Planning Association of South Australia would like to establish a clinic at Port Adelaide, and it has been suggested that one should be established also at the Children's Hospital, where mothers could attend while their children were being treated as outpatients. I shall not deal with the obvious need for family planning clinics. The population problem is known to everyone and stabilization is needed. The Minister of Roads and Transport depends on population control to solve his transport difficulties in the metropolitan area of Adelaide. This organization not only deserves but must have further support, and I am disappointed that the allocation has not been increased. It should have been at least doubled, because the future wellbeing of South Australians may well depend on the activities of the Family Planning Association.

Mr. VENNING: Under the line "Freedom from Hunger Campaign", I see that last year \$3,000 was voted and spent but that this year no money is proposed. Why is that?

The Hon. L. J. KING: No application was made for Government assistance for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign in 1971-72.

Dr. EASTICK: I seek further information regarding the Betting Control Board. If I understand the Attorney-General correctly, the high cost of administration there is the cause of the deficit. An increase from \$66,000 to \$81,500 is proposed for this year. Another document shows that revenue of \$650,000 is expected from the activities of the board, that

being commission on bets. Are we to understand that, although there will be an income of \$650,000, there will be a deficit of \$81,500, or have I misunderstood the Attorney?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The deficiency is a deficiency in the board's administration costs, which have increased this year because of additional salaries paid; but this relates to the administration account.

Line passed.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Attorney-General's Department, \$746,902.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I refer to the line "Law Reform Committee—Members' fees". I understand a research officer has been appointed on a part-time basis, to be shared between the Law Reform Committee and the Attorney-General himself. Could the Attorney tell me what the arrangements are there? I notice there is a substantial increase of about \$23,000 on the line "Solicitors and clerical staff". I presume that is to take care of the position the Attorney has created to deal with commercial prosecutions. Could the Attorney give me information on those two matters?

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): A research officer has been employed in the Attorney-General's office, his services being shared between the Law Reform Committee and the Attorney-General. In fact, since he has been in that position his time has been occupied largely with Law Reform Committee work, and I think it is likely that that situation will continue. The Law Reform Committee is working very actively. It is obvious that if it is to maintain the output we hope to get from it to keep the law in South Australia in accordance with contemporary conditions, it is important that it have the services of a research worker. Regarding the other matter, I have appointed to the Attorney-General's Department a legal officer who is engaged exclusively on the work of the Attorney-General.

Mr Millhouse: Who is it?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Miss Margaret Doyle. She is proving invaluable in providing the sort of assistance that was so badly required in the Attorney-General's office. It has the effect not only of facilitating the ground work required for the formulation of legislation, but also she is able to do the work associated with the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, thereby relieving a Crown Law officer of the necessity of attending to that work. The Crown Law Office badly needs further relief. In addition to that, she is able to formulate instructions for the Parliamentary Counsel in relation to all legislation emanating from the

Attorney-General's office, including the consumer protection legislation, in a way that greatly reduces the work that must be performed by the Parliamentary Counsel.

Unfortunately, in the past the Parliamentary Counsel has been placed in a position where he has tended to get virtually a bald policy decision from Cabinet or a department and has had to construct the legislation from there; that has always seemed to me to be very wrong. It seems to me that, before the Parliamentary Counsel goes to work, those instructing him should formulate clearly their own ideas and the scheme of the legislation they want to be drafted by him. Within the Attorney-General's office the facilities for doing this have just not been present. The availability of the legal officer in that department has meant that, when instructions for legislation come from that office now in what are generally fairly technical matters, they can be formulated in a way that greatly reduces the work of the Parliamentary Counsel. Unfortunately, the position of Commercial Crown Prosecutor has not been filled because it has not been possible yet to obtain a suitable appointment. However, provision is made in the Estimates this year for that position. Whether that money will be spent will depend on whether I am able to obtain the services of a suitable person.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I hope the position is not filled within the Attorney-General's Department: if there is to be such a position it should be in the Crown Law Department. What is the relationship between the Solicitor-General, the Attorney-General and the Crown Law Department? I notice that \$14,000 is to be spent on a law library for the Solicitor-General. I would have expected that, as that is an investment in a permanent asset, it could have come out of Loan; however, that is a small point. I wonder why it is necessary to set up the Solicitor-General with a separate library. I know that since this Government came into office the relationship between the Solicitor-General and the Crown Law Department has altered, and this is further evidence of it which I do not altogether applaud. Will the Attorney explain this relationship and also the physical location of the Solicitor-General, and will he also say when it is likely that the Attorney-General's Department and the Crown Law Department will move from 24 Flinders Street?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The fact that the Commercial Prosecutions Officer should be in the Attorney's office rather than the Crown

Law office is not a matter on which I feel strongly: I have a fairly open mind on the question. The position was advertised as an office in the Attorney-General's Department, but it could well have been placed in the Crown Solicitor's office without disadvantage and, depending on how things shape, the question of transferring the position to the Crown Solicitor's office may be further considered. It is a matter of administration and is not of tremendous importance.

After I took office I arranged that the administrative head of the Crown Law Department be the Crown Solicitor, as was the case before the first appointment of a Solicitor-General during the term of office of the member for Mitcham. I arranged that the Crown Solicitor take over as head of the Crown Law Department, so that the Solicitor-General could be free to perform the services that seemed to me to be properly those of the Solicitor-General, namely, acting as counsel to the State and to the Government. The present Solicitor-General has concentrated on those activities and is kept well occupied, and he greatly appreciates the fact that he is freed of the administrative responsibility for the Crown Law Department. The system is working extremely well.

The library consists of essential books for any counsel. The Crown Law Library has been used by everyone, and the essential books that are in frequent use are often not available when needed. The Crown Law Department has grown, and it is important that the Solicitor-General should have free and ready access to what are his tools of trade when he needs them for his important work. In addition, this library would be available for the Attorney-General's use, as it would be for the Attorney's legal officer. The library will be situated in the new building but, in the meantime, it will be situated in the Solicitor-General's own room.

Our earlier hopes of transferring to the new building have been somewhat disappointing, but I hope that the transfer will not be too long delayed. The last estimate was for December, and I hope that that forecast will materialize. It is necessary for the essential working of the department that the transfer to the new building take place as early as possible. At present, the building is overcrowded; the arrangements are most inconvenient, and the efficiency of the Attorney-General's Department, the Crown Law Department and, indeed, the Solicitor-General's work

is greatly impeded by the existing arrangements.

Dr. EASTICK: The Coroner's Branch would certainly seem to be maintained on a shoe-string budget, the allocation being \$12,308. The work of Mr. T. E. Cleland has been well known in this State over many years. Members have previously suggested that the investigations undertaken by the Coroner, especially concerning road accidents, should be increased. However, from the figures one suspects that the amount of work undertaken by the Coroner's Branch will not be increased: it will be barely maintained, if these figures bear any relationship to increasing costs in all other fields. Can the Attorney-General say whether there is any move to up-date the Coroner's Branch to provide adequate facilities?

The Hon. L. J. KING: There are no arrangements for any improvements in that area that would involve increased expenditure in the current financial year. Of course, what is badly needed in this area is a new mortuary, but that is another story. Concerning country inquests, as I think I explained previously, I have arranged with the City Coroner to keep his eye on reports from country coroners so as to be in a position to inform me whether it appears to him that an inquest ought to be directed in a case where a country coroner has declined to hold an inquest, and that is being done.

Dr. TONKIN: I support the remarks of the member for Light, and I should like to see an inquest conducted on every person killed in a road fatality, for there is much to be learned from it. I can see difficulties inasmuch as autopsies are not performed easily: they must be performed by trained pathologists. However, under the present rather shocking conditions of road fatalities, I think an inquest should be held on every person killed in a road accident. I think that, if this cannot be done, certainly it should be the business of the Coroner to inquire into the blood alcohol level of such people. This would be at least some substitute for a full autopsy, and I join the member for Light in asking that this matter be further considered. If money is necessary, I ask that it be found to make this possible in the interests of road safety.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think the suggestion made from time to time, particularly by medical practitioners, that there should be an inquest into every road death must be based on some misunderstanding of what an inquest actually achieves. In every case of a road death, there is an investigation, and in every

case a report is made to the Coroner. That report is available, and it always includes statements taken from witnesses, as well as details of investigations of the police officers who investigated the accident. In by far the greatest number of cases there is an autopsy, and the autopsy report forms part of the report to the Coroner, including details of the blood alcohol level of the deceased person or persons involved in the accident. That information is available in every case. All that the inquest adds to that is that the witnesses are examined in the Coroner's Court and questioned. Whether that will add anything to the sum total of information about the accident depends entirely on the circumstances of the case. There may be circumstances in which there simply is no eye witness and no-one who can add anything by being examined. Although there may be an eye witness or witnesses, it may be apparent from the written statements that no amount of questioning will shed any further light on the cause of the accident.

It may be pointless to everyone and it may cause inconvenience, as well as emotional stress, to many people to have an inquest. In some cases there are positive reasons why an inquest should not be held. The case is not uncommon where the only survivor of an accident is a child whose parents were killed in the accident. The only person examined at the inquest would be the child, and that would be a traumatic experience for the child. Therefore, unless some really good purpose can be served, the holding of an inquest is useless and can produce much distress, unpleasantness and inconvenience for many people. It is not to be assumed that the holding of an inquest in the case of every fatality would throw any further light on the cause of an accident. The basic information about the accident, including the blood alcohol level, is included in the report to the coroner.

Dr. Tonkin: Is the blood alcohol level given in every case?

The Hon. L. J. KING: In every case where an autopsy is performed, and an autopsy is performed in every case where facilities are available. Only in certain country areas are facilities not available. Whether it is possible for a blood sample to be taken from a corpse where an autopsy is not performed I do not know, but I will have this suggestion examined. I do not believe that an inquest should be automatic in every case when no-one wants it. However, if anyone has a legitimate interest in an accident, either because of some close

relationship which justifies that person in seeking further information about the cause of an accident or because the person has a possible civil claim arising out of the accident, and wants an inquest, I direct an inquest as a matter of course, even where it has been refused by the coroner. I have directed that a number of inquests be held, some on the grounds that some person thinks that investigation in the Coroner's Court may assist in elucidating the facts and sorting out questions regarding a civil claim. In a recent case, the mother of a child who was killed in a drowning accident thought that there might have been some possibility of foul play, although the report to the coroner did not suggest it. She wanted the matter clarified. So that everyone's mind could be put at rest and suspicions allayed, it was desirable that an inquest be held, and I provided that. There should be an inquest in every case where a person has a legitimate reason for requesting it.

Dr. TONKIN: I thank the Attorney-General for the information and for undertaking to investigate the possibility of taking the blood alcohol level in all cases of road fatalities, even when an autopsy has not been performed.

Dr. EASTICK: Why has the Parliamentary Counsel's Branch always been included in the Attorney-General's section of the Budget and not in the Legislature section?

The Hon. L. J. KING: As far as I am aware, the Minister responsible for the Parliamentary Counsel has always been the Attorney-General and the expenses of the Parliamentary Counsel have been included in the Attorney-General's line. However, my experience in such matters is very brief and I would not be dogmatic about that. There is certainly no significance in the fact that the amount is included in Attorney-General's line.

Line passed.

Crown Law Department, \$358,592; Public Trustee Department, \$493,285; Supreme Court Department, \$406,034; Local and District Criminal Courts Department, \$1,246,659; Registrar-General's Department, \$685,643—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$110,802.

Mr. COUMBE: The grant of \$300 to the Royal Association of Justices of South Australia is very much appreciated. That grant will be used to meet the running expenses of the association, particularly expenses connected with rostering justices to serve in various courts, especially in the metropolitan area. I believe that the Attorney-General has received requests that the Government meet the out-of-

pocket expenses of justices sitting in the courts. I make it clear that I am not suggesting that any departure be made from the present honorary system. However, many of the justices who sit regularly in city and suburban courts are superannuated people. Of course, justices living in the country are involved in considerable travelling expenses. If it were not for the system of justices in South Australia, not only would our legal system find it even more difficult to meet the demands made upon it but also the Government would be involved in much greater costs. I suggest that the Attorney-General should consider approving a modest allowance, perhaps \$2.50 a half-day and \$5 a day, to cover the out-of-pocket expenses of justices. The Attorney-General should bear in mind that witness fees are much greater than the allowances I have just suggested. Will he consider providing modest travelling allowances for justices?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Representatives of the Justices Association approached me on this matter. The services performed by justices of the peace have from time immemorial been honorary, and the provision even of expenses would be an entirely new departure. I had some investigations made to try to ascertain the approximate cost of providing something by way of expenses and I discovered that, even if the expenses were pruned to \$1.50 for a full day and \$1 for a half day, the cost would exceed \$20,000 a year. If the figures mentioned by the honourable member were involved, I think the annual figure would exceed \$50,000, so the sum involved would not be inconsiderable.

I am unable to provide for that sort of figure out of the funds available to the Attorney-General's Department in this financial year. I do not say it is wrong that justices be paid expenses, but the matter will need to be reconsidered. In view of the demands of the Budget this year and the funds available, I cannot make a recommendation that would involve that sort of expenditure this year in an entirely new departure. I have informed the Justices Association that I will review the matter when the next Budget is being framed and see whether, after consultation with the Treasurer, anything can be done then.

Dr. EASTICK: For "Compensation for injuries resulting from criminal acts", the marked increase of over 300 per cent in the allocation this year suggests that the Government could be aware of an increase in action to be taken in this respect. Under the line "Contribution towards cost of legal research on the

territorial sea" no provision was made in 1970-71 whereas \$4,693 was spent, and \$5,500 is proposed for this financial year. Has a situation arisen that requires special consideration?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The estimate of \$10,000 for compensation for injuries resulting from criminal acts is simply a guess. No-one knows how many applications will be made or what sum will be awarded, but this is relatively new legislation and it will be availed of to a greater extent in this current year. Moreover, I have made arrangements for the Crown Prosecutor or the Police Prosecutor in a criminal case to apply on behalf of the injured person at the trial. Until that direction was given, the practice had developed of the injured person being required to apply independently in chambers to secure an award, which involved him in some trouble and expense and might have had some effect in discouraging applications. I think there is little doubt that these applications will increase, but nobody knows what the figure will be. Those advising me say that \$10,000 is the best possible estimate for the current financial year.

The other matter represents South Australia's contribution to the preparation of a brief by Professor D. P. O'Connell, of the University of Adelaide, in relation to the constitutional questions that arise out of the Commonwealth Government's assertions of sovereignty in respect of offshore areas. This matter presents very grave problems to the State because, quite apart from any question of the ownership of offshore minerals, the State is presented with serious problems of law enforcement in the areas immediately off shore if the constitutional position is that sovereignty in those areas rests with the Commonwealth, as the Commonwealth asserts. Faced with this problem, the States joined in making preparations for a contest, if it became necessary, with the Commonwealth in the High Court on this question. This matter has involved much preparation and research, and the States joined together in employing Professor O'Connell to research the whole subject in depth so that when the contest came the States would be fully prepared for it. As the work is certainly likely to be completed in the current financial year, I do not expect that this item will appear in future Budgets. However, if it does appear it will be in a very reduced form.

Line passed.

TREASURER

Treasury Department, \$164,746—passed.
Prices Branch, \$210,786.

Mr. BECKER: The allocation for the item "Investigating, accounting and clerical staff" has been increased. Has additional staff been employed by the branch to investigate or to widen the research undertaken by the Prices Commissioner to protect consumers?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): No. So far, we have not found it necessary. The increase is comprised of the 6 per cent national wage and Public Service increases, promotions, increments, and provision for some overtime.

Mr. BECKER: An article in the *Advertiser* of May 7 stated that newspaper, soft drinks, butter, bread, meat, university fees, clothing, fishing lines and timber had increased in price. The Government said it would act to protect the family budget, and that it would set up adequate consumer protection and extend the Prices Commissioner's powers. Why has this not been done?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Apparently, the honourable member was not here during the last session, when the Commissioner's powers were increased. The activities of the Prices Branch have, in consequence, entered several new areas, but we have been able to contain this within the existing staff.

Line passed.

Superannuation Department, \$230,670;
Valuation Department, \$828,348—passed.

State Taxes Department, \$581,551.

Mr. EVANS: Has any consideration been given in relation to having the staff of this department consider land tax as it affects property owners in the water catchment area? It has been suggested that areas outside the township areas within the water catchment area should be exempt from land tax or, if that cannot be achieved, that any land in its natural state should be exempt from land tax.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot permit a question of that nature. We are dealing with the administration of the State Taxes Department and not with State taxation.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Treasurer say whether staff is available within this department to carry out an investigation of land tax within the water catchment area and how it affects that area?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will inquire, but I am not certain of what the honourable member wants. However, I will discuss the request with the Commissioner. I point out to members that, while there was some new and vacant positions due to be filled in the Stamp and Succession Duties Division during 1971-72, and salary awards and annual salary

increments increased this line, there was a reduction in the number of staff of the Land Tax Division as a result of converting to automatic data processing. I should have thought that the member for Mitcham would have congratulated the Government in achieving a reduction in staff in certain departments.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$32,208,375.

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Treasurer explain the need to provide another \$5,000,000 for the Railways Department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Given the finances of the department, that was necessary.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Treasurer comment on the line "Interest on trust funds and on other moneys", and will he give details of the line "Repayments"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The interest on varying balances held in trust with the Government were a little below the expected levels last year. Normally, we lay out moneys held in trust on the short-term money market in order to get the best possible results to the Government with the moneys we have in hand. We try to get the best interest return on the money we hold: we do not just hold cash balances in a deposit account without making them work for us. The sums received are in the appropriate cases credited at the rate prescribed for the various accounts. Regarding the item "Repayments", I point out that after certain periods have elapsed unclaimed moneys held by various departments and instrumentalities are paid to the Treasury. If a legitimate claim is subsequently made, the cost of meeting it is charged to this line.

Mr. VENNING: Regarding "Contribution to Electricity Trust of South Australia—for subsidies in country areas" I note that last year \$445,478 was paid but that this year the allocation is back to \$320,000. Does this mean that the need for electricity in the country is diminishing, or is the Government reducing its contribution?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The country electricity suppliers receive subsidies to enable them to keep tariffs within 10 per cent of rates charged in the metropolitan area. This year's provision is less than last year's actual expenditure because certain amounts in respect of previous years were paid last year, several of the country suppliers are operating more efficiently, and metropolitan tariffs have risen.

Mr. HALL: In regard to "Railways—Transfer towards deficits" there has been an increase in the allocation of about 34 per cent compared with last year's expenditure. This is

an enormous increase on a major item. This is a matter in which all Governments are experiencing difficulty. Under the existing system, we can expect to see the allocation increased in line with rising costs and wages, and this hampers the railways, as well as other business undertakings. However, if there is one thing that needs a thorough overhaul it is the railways administration. There is no doubt that the department is archaic in its methods of staffing and its attitude to providing a service, and it fails to recognize modern administrative and technical methods available to it. One can only instance the archaic system of maintaining certain stations throughout the State to know what savings could otherwise be made.

The Minister concerned is a reactionary, whose attitude we witnessed in regard to the saving of \$1,000,000 as a result of the previous Government's decision to discontinue certain country rail services, replacing them with bus services that proved more satisfactory to the people living in the districts concerned. Can the Treasurer say whether the Government intends to undertake a serious and thorough overhaul of the railways system in South Australia with a view to modernizing it in line with modern technical and administrative developments?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At the request of the Minister, who has been described as reactionary, there is already an investigation into the administrative procedures of the Railways Department by a team in which the Policy Secretariat is involved. This transfer is designed to reduce the prospective deficit in the railways accounts to a figure that could possibly be eliminated by achievements in reducing expenditure or attracting revenue. Therefore, in order to reduce the prospective deficit in an effort to bridge the gap, the transfer has been rather large this year.

Mr. EVANS: For how long has the Chairman of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal been appointed, and is he likely to be reappointed?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not recall offhand the term of appointment of the Chairman. From memory, I do not think there was a term. The question of reappointment has not yet arisen.

Mr. McANANEY: The loss by the Railways Department last year on the carriage of suburban passengers, which is one of the biggest losses on a working deficit, was \$600,000, yet fewer passengers were carted. Surely some effort must be made to improve these services.

I have read that farmers are asking that additional silos be built away from railway lines because it is so much cheaper to use road transport. Surely the Treasurer can give a better explanation than the one he has already given.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In order to upgrade suburban rail services in South Australia, time has to be taken. This is not something that can be achieved in 15 months. The plan of the Government to meet the whole technology of public transport is necessarily a long-term business.

Mr. BECKER: I notice that the provision for "Expenses of conversion and public loans" has been increased to \$600,000. Does this mean that the expenses for converting loans will be higher, or will we have to raise additional loans, thus increasing the public debt?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The provision covers South Australia's share of the cost of floating Commonwealth loans and our share of the premiums payable on special bonds and the discounts offered on cash and conversion loans. These amounts have been approved by the Loan Council. Last year premiums payable on special bonds considerably exceeded the estimate.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS, MINISTER OF REPATRIATION
AND MINISTER OF IRRIGATION

Department of Lands, \$5,339,498.

Mr. HALL: Can the Minister of Works explain the 25 per cent increase in the provision for general administration and finance?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): The net provision of \$1,923,179 under "General" covers the salaries and wages attributable to the Director, and the administrative, finance and survey divisions and includes \$80,000 for administration of the rural industry assistance scheme, and that part of the land settlement division relating to holdings exclusive of war service land settlement and irrigation. The war service land settlement provision of \$283,162 includes both irrigation and non-irrigation areas. It is expected that \$136,000 will be recouped from the Commonwealth for services of officers and for administration of advances to settlers under the scheme. The increased provision is due to the full effect of salary and wage movements and the 6 per cent general increase in 1970-71.

Line passed.

Botanic Garden Department, \$403,975.

Dr. EASTICK: I congratulate the Government on making a special grant to the Mount

Lofty Botanic Garden; that provision will enable preliminary development of parking areas to be undertaken. In that garden plants that are suitable for cooler high-rainfall climates will be grown. Valleys have been planted with rhododendrons. The additional land will make it possible to provide a complete buffer zone for the area.

Line passed.

[Midnight]

Miscellaneous, \$159,201.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I should like to congratulate the Government on providing \$1 as a grant to the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia.

Mr. HALL: Can the Minister tell me something about the Wild Dogs Fund? There is no advance for this year, and the subsidy is maintained at \$24,000. Has the reduction in the bounty meant that the wild dogs situation has altered significantly? If so, does this mean that the fund is now in a state of balance?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The grant of \$1 to the Field Naturalists Society is to enable the society's field reserves to be exempt from land tax under section 10 (1) (e) of the Land Tax Act. Cabinet approval was given on November, 27, 1967. In answer to the Leader, under the Dog Fence Act prior to the 1969 amendment the fund was subsidized \$1 for \$1 on the rate declared by the Dog Fence Board up to 20c a square mile. Section 31 now provides for a \$1 for \$1 subsidy on the rates declared by the board without qualification. The proposed subsidy is based on the full amount expected from the rates.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS

Minister of Works Department, \$54,674—
passed.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, \$16,670,724.

Mr. HALL: I refer to the line "Wages for construction, reimbursement and other works", where the amount of money voted is to rise from \$13,531,045 to \$15,290,000. I understand that, in preparing the Budget, a wage increase of about 9½ per cent was provided for. This increase is about 13 per cent, leaving a difference of about 3½ per cent. Can the Minister tell me anything about this increase? Are there any special reasons for it, such as an expansion of services or something special?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): The only explanation I have is that it is wages for weekly paid employees charged under Loan and reimbursement works. I have

no specific explanation of the increase from \$13,000,000 to \$15,000,000. However, because of the amount of money involved it could be because of increased wage awards; I am aware of no other reason. I will inquire and let the Leader know the reason for the increase.

Mr. BECKER: The sum of \$8,000 is provided for a show exhibit. How will that be spent?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It was decided that the department, in conjunction with the Public Health Department and with the concurrence of the Minister of Environment and Conservation, would organize an exhibit at the Royal Show in order to illustrate to people the problems we have with water and air pollution and with pollution of the environment generally. I was told by the Director of the show that it was a most effective exhibit and I believe it was money well spent. Some of the material used in the exhibit will be used for the instruction of people in training for the Engineering and Water Supply Department. I hope we will spend about the same sum of money at next year's show, because such displays play an important part in educating people, particularly children, on the need to protect our water supply.

Dr. EASTICK: Regarding the Swan Reach to Stockwell main, the promotion for this project was that, with the completion of this main, it would be possible by reverse flow to pass water from the Stockwell end of the main back to the Warren reservoir, which is currently supplied in times of need with water from the Mannum main. Has the project reached the stage where the water can be pumped back into the Warren from this point, are the pumping charges associated with filling the Warren from this source equal to or less than those that apply in respect of the Mannum main, and is the extension from the Mannum pipeline to the Warren reservoir to be left intact or will it become surplus?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The provision of \$100,000 is to supply electric power for pumping on this main. I cannot reply to the specific question, but I will obtain details from the department.

Line passed.

Public Buildings Department, \$12,989,912;
Public Stores Department, \$537,881—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$272,800.

Mr. EVANS: No allocation has been made to the Committee of Inquiry on Water Rating Systems. I am concerned that certain sections of the metropolitan area pay a higher rate on the annual assessed value than do other sec-

tions. In the Adelaide metropolitan area from Evanston to Port Noarlunga the rate is 7½ per cent for the first \$2,000 of the annual assessed value, in the Blackwood-Belair areas it is 9½ per cent, and in the water catchment area in the Onkaparinga Valley it is 12 per cent. Has this aspect been investigated by this committee?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As the committee has concluded its assignment, its report has been in my hands since November last year.

Mr. Evans: Has that point been discussed?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will have that matter considered. This was an important and complicated inquiry, and it is necessary for the committee's report to be evaluated. The committee doing that evaluating will make recommendations to me that will be submitted to Cabinet, and when that has been done I will be able to tell members exactly what the Government considers should be done about the report that has been received and paid for. The Sangster committee has finished its work and, therefore, no money has been allocated this year.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister explain why the allocation for the Control of Waters Act, expenses of administration, has been substantially increased this year, as all of last year's vote was not used?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The additional provision allows for the fitting and installing of meters for the control of water diversion from the Murray River in accordance with recently gazetted regulations.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister say why \$8,000 is allocated this year for "Cost of maintenance of Sturt River works", when only \$3,802 was spent last year?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This relates to expenditure on operating the Sturt River flood control dam. Additional completed works will need to be operated and maintained during 1971-72.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: We are told that the Committee of Inquiry Into Water Rating Systems submitted a complicated report about eight months ago, and presumably after the report has been evaluated by the appropriate committee and then considered by Cabinet it will be released, although one does not know. This committee was set up because of many unsatisfactory features of our water rating system, and the terms of reference, in themselves, ask questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member cannot at this stage debate the terms

of reference of that committee. I allowed him to ask a question of the Minister and to seek information but there will not be a debate at this stage on the terms of reference of the committee.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Surely I can comment on the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can only seek information; there is no allocation this year.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Some people apparently know what is in the report when they have no particular business to know, whilst we as members of Parliament are not allowed to know. When I asked the Minister about the position of landholders in the Coonalpyn area who object to paying the rates, he replied by letter, stating:

I wish to advise that the present position is that the two Supreme Court writs taken out against the Minister of Works have not been withdrawn. It is understood that the parties are proceeding with court action, pending the outcome of the report of the Sangster Committee on Water Rating Systems. Why would the parties not proceed now with court action unless they knew either what was in the report or part of what was in it? Why should they be withholding court action?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I said previously that there cannot be a debate on an item not included in the Estimates. I allowed the honourable member the latitude to seek information regarding the report but I did not allow him to debate the matter.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I am not debating it; I am asking a question.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can seek information from the Minister, but he cannot debate the issue. There is no allocation in the Estimates this year concerning this committee of inquiry.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I simply did what you said: I asked a question, namely, why should these parties be withholding court action unless they know something of what is in the Sangster report. We have never been told why this report is being withheld. When he was asked why he would not release it, the Minister said, "I will not". He said:

When the Government has considered those recommendations, and only then, will I decide whether the report will be released.

Mr. Millhouse interjected—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have said that there cannot be a debate. I have allowed the honourable member the latitude of seeking information. The honourable member cannot continue with the line he has been following.

He has asked for information. Does the Minister wish to give the information sought by the honourable member?

The Hon. I. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member has implied that somehow someone has informed the parties to the court action what is in the report. I take it that is what he said.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Yes.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I can deny categorically that that is the case. People in that area, who gave extensive evidence to the Sangster committee, are awaiting the outcome of the Government's decision on the report. When referring the other day to a report handed to his Government about the Kangaroo Island ferry, the honourable member said that his Government had received that report only a few days before it left office and had not had time to evaluate it. That is what we are doing: we are evaluating the report of the Sangster committee. To release a report of this type to the public before the Government has evaluated the recommendations in it would be absolutely ludicrous. It is not a matter of hiding anything; we are trying to get out of the report something of value to the community. I see no reason why the report cannot be released when we have looked at it, and I think that when honourable members see it they will realize that it was right and proper for us to evaluate it before releasing it.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Yes, but the evaluation has taken as long as the inquiry took.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I am not evaluating the report, I do not criticize those who are doing so for the time they are taking. According to my information, the evaluation will take almost twice as long as the inquiry took. I am told that it will take about six months yet to complete the evaluation. That should indicate just how difficult it is to find another system that is workable. The sooner I get the recommendations the better, but I am satisfied that it is necessary and proper for the committee to take the time it will take. I do not intend to release the report until it has been evaluated and recommendations have been made to the Government and decisions taken on them.

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Minister say what committee is evaluating the committee's report?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is a departmental committee. The report is the second report of this kind that we have had. Previously, a report was prepared by the

Under Treasurer and the Director of Lands, but it was never released—and never acted on, either. I shall leave it to the member for Mitcham to say to whom it was presented.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Minister say what he means by the term “evaluate”? Is another report being prepared on this report, and are the recommendations in the report being translated into a practical scheme? Who are the members of the departmental committee that is undertaking this task? Are they doing it on a full-time basis? Exactly what is the committee doing?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The committee is examining the report to try to establish ways and means of giving effect to a different system of water rating in this State.

Mr. Millhouse: As recommended in the report?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: There were no specific recommendations in the report, but there were suggestions. Experienced departmental officers are considering it and trying to apply it in a practical way to see whether the system can be changed. The report is based on evidence given by people from all over the State. The committee members were not previously associated with water rating or with the administration of the department. With perhaps one exception, they were from outside the department and outside the Government service. I think I have given a reasonable explanation to the Committee.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Minister of Education Department, \$43,501—passed.

Education Department, \$97,676,009.

Mr. HALL: I refer to textbooks for secondary schools, and in particular the book *Within A Community*. The Minister will remember the criticism of that book because of its bias towards the Labor Party in the number of pages devoted to that Party. How far has the situation been remedied? I have been sent copies of these books by the publishers and have gone through them reasonably well. *The Australian Society*, which has the copyright of 1969, seems to me to be quite fair. There are several inaccuracies, which I suppose are bound to creep into a book of such breadth as that, and there may be aspects of a political description that would offend a Party person; but I find nothing wrong with the book *The Australian Society*. *Within A Community* is a substantial book of 272 pages, and it has the copyright of 1970 on it. I do not know whether this book is still being used or

whether some revised edition has since appeared to replace it. Would the Minister of Education find out where the book currently stands? There can be no argument that it favours the Australian Labor Party in its material. I do not want to make a big thing of this tonight because it may well be that previous criticisms have resulted in a new issue. I think the publishers were looking at that aspect. Whether that is so or not, *The Australian Society*, Book II, makes some attempt to present a fair picture of the facts. I do not think it can be said that this second book is unfair; it may be seen to be a substitute for the first one. There are, however, some inaccuracies in it to which I shall refer later, if there is time.

I do not complain about Book II, Part 1. There is no copyright on the front page: I do not know whether or not it supersedes *Within A Community*. However, I must again draw the Minister's attention to this book *Within A Community* with a copyright of 1970. I have totted up the number of pages devoted to the political Parties. The trade unions and the Australian Labor Party have over 50 pages of the 272 devoted to them. I admit that the trade union movement is significant, and I do not quarrel with the description of its historical origin. If the department intends to rely on a book that devotes 14 pages to the Australian Labor Party, one and two-thirds pages to the Liberal Party, 2½ pages to the Communist Party, 2½ pages to the Democratic Labor Party, and 1½ pages to the Country Party, it is a totally inadequate comparison. I do not charge bias on those who framed it. I believe it was ignorance of the political situation on the part of those who wrote it. Has the book been superseded or will it be superseded?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Education): I am not altogether familiar with the position. If those books were sent to the Leader within the last couple of days, they are the same as the ones which I received yesterday and which I have not had time to examine. My understanding in receiving them, together with a copy of a letter from Dr. Tulloch, the general editor, was that they were the new editions of the books. As Minister, I will not interfere in relation to the writer of the textbooks, because it is not my role to interfere with people who are competent and who have a high standing in the community. Dr. Tulloch suffered considerable distress last year as a consequence of what happened. I mentioned last year that one of the authors of the book rang me at home and said, “I

am the guilty one. I wrote the sections on the political Parties, and you can guess what political Party I belong to." I said, "The Liberal Party", and he replied, "That is right." I have not checked on the details of what has been written about each political Party. Certainly, the League of Rights, which was concerned in a somewhat different matter, was less concerned about the space given to political Parties and to trade unions: it was more concerned about questions asked in another book in relation to the role of the family and certain other matters.

Basically, the book is a social studies textbook for track 2 students who are going to be involved in employment in some way and who are not going to go on with any form of tertiary education outside of apprentice or possibly technician courses in a technical college. Any commentator on political Parties would find more to write about regarding the Labor Party. Perhaps one reason is that it has had a longer history, and another is its rather unusual relationship with trade unions. The editors may have considered that they should explain how the trade unions gave rise to the Labor Party. Also, I think that the Labor Party tends, and has always tended, to be more controversial in its history, although less so of late: the Liberal Party has built up an impressive history in this regard in the last year.

A policy statement of the Labor Party attempts to set out a more detailed policy. It attempts through its policy to direct or require members of Parliament to pledge themselves to support a broad policy, and the attempt to provide a coherent point of view is much stronger. After reading the material in the previous edition I found certain comments about the Labor Party to which I objected, because I would not have put them in that way. I am completely satisfied with the general integrity of David Tulloch, who is a distinguished member of the Methodist Church and well known throughout South Australia because of his association with that church; he is a man of the highest reputation and has the greatest professional competence.

One has a duty to satisfy oneself about the general integrity of people writing textbooks. Once one is satisfied on that aspect I believe that one should not interfere, particularly a Minister of Education. Interference could lead to the damaging charge of political control over the use of material in schools. I do not think that any educational establishment that aims to achieve professionalism

can tolerate such a charge being made. I will read the material and may even make one or two critical comments, but I do not intend to direct the textbook writers on what they should or should not do. I understand that these are replacement editions.

Mr. HALL: I shall be disappointed if *Within the Community* is a replacement, because it perpetuates what was criticized by my Party last year. About one-fifth of this book is devoted to Labor and its close associates in the trade union movement. If it were a book dealing with just that matter, I should not have the slightest complaint, for I have no reason to try to withhold information from people. The Minister said he would not interfere, but would he interfere if there were no mention of the Labor Party? There must be a stage at which the Minister will say, "This is beyond the bounds", although he says it has not reached that stage here. I will contact the publishers and ask whether this is their latest publication. If it is, I will certainly draw the matter to their attention, and I will approach Dr. Tulloch on the basis that I would not mind if Labor's main opponents received half as much space.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Is much space devoted to the employers' associations?

Mr. HALL: I did not compare that with the trade union section, although those associations got a most unfavourable reference. I do not think a fair amount of space has been given when the Communist Party gets 2½ pages and the Liberal Party gets 1⅓ pages. What will tend to spoil the political education that is needed in schools is a one-sided approach. There must be some standard that the Minister would use, and I should like him to say whether he thinks a fair thing is being done.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: This book is for track 2 students in social studies who are at the third-year level and most of whom are likely to go to some form of employment after doing the course, hence there is a significant section of the book on the way in which wages are determined. That leads to the section in relation to trade unions and labour developments. The only test I am prepared to consider is whether I am satisfied with the professional integrity of those involved in writing the book. It will be a sorry day indeed if textbooks are altered because of the comments made by politicians who are the last persons to be able reasonably to decide what is fair or unfair in this respect, as they have a direct interest in the political process from a one-sided point of view.

Mr. Mathwin: You'd change your idea if the position were reversed.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I would not do that. The honourable member shows a rather pathetic way of judging importance.

Mr. Mathwin: It depends on which side of the fence you're on.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member obviously believes that the more in the book about the Liberal Party the fairer it is. However, it may be that a Party is better off having less in the book. It may be that students will find out more about the warts on the Labor Party. All political Parties have warts, and much of a politician's time is taken up in trying to hide them. The Leader has said that the Country Party received 2½ pages in the book and the Democratic Labor Party got a couple of pages: those pages can be added to the Liberal Party's total. Surely the amount of space provided is not the way to judge the matter: that is so crude it is pathetic. I know that the Leader has a very simple-minded viewpoint on these things, but I do not appreciate his viewpoint. The basic issue is the question of the professional integrity of the textbook writers. They were involved last year in public criticism as a result of actions taken in this place and on the West Coast. They were subjected to political criticism and, in some instances, to deliberate smears.

The editors' integrity is such that I have no doubt that they considered the contents of the book very carefully. It will be used by track 2 students who are probably completing their final year at school. When they have left school the question of what happens in employment, the role of trade unions, and the political links of trade unions are facts that they will need to know about. Opposition members would surely want the students to know about the political connection of trade unions with the Labor Party, because Opposition members regard that connection as an evil. As a result of the attitude promoted within our community, the students may be critical of the Labor Party, because of its connection with trade unions: I do not know. However, basically, I believe that our teachers are capable of giving a fair presentation. They are not confined to material in the textbook. They use other material, too, and the students are left to make up their own minds on the matter.

The basic purpose of this aspect of social studies is to provide information partly from the textbook and partly from other sources and to leave the students to their own devices in reaching conclusions. I entirely reject the

Leader's suggestion of bias, because it is a continuation of the despicable and unnecessary smear thrown at the editors of the book last year.

Mr. EVANS: I seek further thoughts from the Minister on this because he has put doubts in my mind. By his attitude and method of debate, he has erected a smoke screen on this matter. He himself played politics by saying that we can relate the A.L.P. matter directly to the L.C.L.: it was Party political. The Minister mentioned track 2 students who enter a field of employment and should know about the trade union movement and the fact that it is allied to the Labor Party. Is the Minister honest enough to realize that, if we are to give a balanced education to a child, it should be given, in that track, as much information as possible about the Liberal and Country League, the Democratic Labor Party or the Country Party point of view rather than the Australian Labor Party point of view? Does the Minister not realize that a student on track 2 is liable to end up in the trade union movement because of present-day circumstances and learn about it anyway when he gets there? Is not that the logical thing to happen?

Does the Minister not realize it is important that the students should have a balanced education no matter which track they are in? When the Minister says we cannot doubt the integrity of somebody who writes a book, I do not care which church or sect a person belongs to: if we give such a book to any independent-thinking person and ask, "Do you think it is biased or unfair?" the reply will be, "It is unfair." Does the Minister honestly believe his statement that the group of students in this track should, in the main, receive education in social studies on politics along the lines of the trade union movement and its relationship with the A.L.P.?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I understand that most of the material in the book relates to the trade union movement and the way in which arbitration works and wages are determined in our community. The aspect dealing with the A.L.P. follows on from that but does not occupy most of the space in the book. I doubt whether the honourable member has read the new edition but his remarks lead me to say that, if we followed his precepts in this matter, we should soon have a witch-hunt on our hands. That kind of approach to tests being applied by politicians is contrary to the principles that should apply in a democracy. Politicians are not the people to apply tests.

The test is rather: are the people involved in preparing this book of professional integrity from an educational point of view? I am satisfied that the officers of my department do not express views because the Minister happens to be of a certain political Party.

The Director-General of Education has powers under the Act that the Minister cannot influence. I will not accept criticism of the integrity of my officers, who are satisfied with the professional integrity of the people involved in this project in filling a need for suitable textbooks at the track 2 level which are not available from any other source. I am satisfied with the professional integrity of my officers on educational matters and of the people who are involved in the writing of these books. I resent on their behalf the kind of smear that is put around by members opposite and I object on behalf of the community generally to the attempt by the Opposition to introduce some kind of political test crudely in terms of the number of pages written, apparently to determine whether or not a book is fair. From what I have heard in debate this year and last year, members of Parliament are the last persons to make an appropriate judgment about the nature of textbooks.

Mr. HALL: No-one questions the integrity of the writers of the book; I made that plain. But are they right or not? The Minister has cut his own argument down because he has said that no politician should be the judge; nor is he a suitable judge of the books. His view is as invalid as is mine.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I am not trying to interfere, but you are.

Mr. HALL: That is to presuppose that no-one may question what the Minister is saying. The Minister is saying that he and I are not a judge, and no-one may question. That is a silly situation. It is absurd to say that we live in a community where the Attorney-General's attitude can be put all over the place—do it behind closed doors; don't do anything. Where are we going? I have raised this matter in a quiet atmosphere and have asked the Minister to be fair. He says he is unable to be fair because he is political, and that I am political, too. There must be ways of handling this matter. I trust the integrity of his departmental officers, for whom I have great admiration.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Ask them are they satisfied. Let them exercise the judgment.

Mr. HALL: I am not quarrelling with the Minister, if it was fairly put to them with

proper terms of reference. It is one thing to say, "You must choose from a range of textbooks." How do we know there is a proper flowback to the author of the books? We do not know. Although the Minister may not want to make a decision, I agree with him that I do not want to write what goes into the books, and I do not want the Minister to write it. We are not as far apart on this basic issue as the Minister's reply might indicate. Who is to ensure that the book will be examined properly on the basis of fairness? That is why I want him to read it. If he thinks there is truth in what I am saying or that I have a right to question, I ask him to refer the matter to people independent of politics in his department. I should be happy if he were to say, "I do not agree with the Leader, but I can see what he is talking about. I do not agree that quantity is the subject, but I can see what he means." That would satisfy me.

If the Minister will not examine it, I will approach someone and ask them are they sure everything is fair? I do not want to get into the morass of recommending political philosophy to school students. It may be that the people who wrote the books are ideal for it. The innocents of politics will judge the importance of the Party by the amount of attention given to it in these books. I do not want to say what should be included, because I am not qualified, but I have the right to question not the integrity of the writers but whether they are correct in their assessments.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: When one is in the position such as Dr. Tulloch was in or as other departmental officers were in and the kind of incident that happened last year concerning Mr. McLeay and people in this Chamber, and one is not able to reply in public, invariably it will be found that the criticism and charges levied lead to much upset and consideration of the question involved. I assure honourable members that the people involved in this matter were tremendously upset last year as the result of action taken by members of the Leader's Party. Their professional integrity had been called into question, although these books had been received favourably by professional educational journals in other States. Does the Leader or any other Opposition member believe that, in rewriting these books for another edition, these people would not give the most careful consideration to their contents?

I am certain that that is what has been done, and that Dr. Tulloch sent the books to the Leader because he was confident that

that was what had been done. Does the Leader suggest that in those circumstances the exercise of professional competence has not been carried out in relation to this matter? I prefer to leave it to officers of the Education Department to determine the question and judge it, and to my knowledge they are satisfied with these books. That is where the position will stay while I am Minister, and I will not interfere so long as I am convinced that these people have professional integrity from an educational point of view. I understand why the Leader was careful about the way he put his point of view, but the member for Fisher was not and tried to start another witch hunt in the way that one was started last year, and that is something I reject entirely.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! We are discussing the distribution of these books and not their contents.

Mr. EVANS: I will do that, Mr. Chairman. I point out that two teachers approached me, and I said I would not take the matter any further. I said that there had been enough discussion; that I would not pass on the comments to the Minister; and that I knew his position. I have not asked him to interfere but, as a member of Parliament, what do I do? I have not received an approach yet in respect of this book, which in my opinion is worse than the previous publication. Do I say to constituents, including schoolteachers, who approach me objecting to the contents of the book, "Bad luck! I shouldn't mention it in Parliament, because I would be doubting the professional integrity of some people. The Minister can't interfere, and it is no good going to the department because, again, I would be doubting its integrity"? Do I say, as a member of Parliament, "This is bureaucracy at its best; forget about it! Your objection means nothing. Whoever writes the book can do what he likes with the children. I have no say"? As a member of Parliament, what do I do in all fairness and honesty?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member takes up the matter with the professional officers of the department and with the people who have written the book, if he wishes to take the matter further, or he can make a written submission to them.

Mr. Venning: And not discuss it in Parliament?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Members opposite can get up on their high horse if they are game and want to talk about it. All I am saying is that it is not competent for the

Minister of the day to issue a direction to officers of the department on a matter concerning what should or should not be in a textbook. If members ask me to pass on their opinions to the people involved, that can be done, but these people are to exercise professional judgment in the matter, and that is the only instruction I am prepared to consider. The honourable member may care to tell parents that this is not the only material to be used in one of these courses; that a teacher is required to give a balanced presentation if a Party-political matter is involved; and that there is other material to be used both in the form of roneoed material and books in the school library. I have much confidence in the ability of our teachers to present a balanced point of view.

Mr. EVANS: No-one this evening asked the Minister to interfere.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The implication is that I am to interfere.

Mr. EVANS: No, the method has been to make the point, and it was made quietly and capably by the Leader. The only point I made was that I did not care to what religion or sect a person might belong. Is that not all we are considering this evening? I am making the points to the Minister so that he can pass them on in whatever way he may wish. No-one has asked him to go along to the writers of the books and say, "I want you to change them." As the Minister responsible to the department, all he has to do is say, "I enclose a copy of the comments," or he can pass on comments verbally. Surely, objections having been received, it is the duty of members of Parliament to refer the matter to the Minister, who decides what he will do.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I should be embarrassed to pass on the honourable member's comments, because they all turn on the amount of space devoted to this compared to the amount of space devoted to that. If it is going to be judged in those terms, I should be embarrassed for the honourable member if I passed on his comments.

Mr. McANANEY: As a result of the report of the committee that inquired into agricultural education, will agricultural courses at high schools continue in the present manner?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member will be aware that the committee recommended that all agricultural courses in secondary schools that are purely vocational should be cut out, apart from the certificate courses at Urrbrae. The committee stated that a vocational type of course should be

established in farm colleges. At this stage, all I can say is that the Government does not intend to adopt that recommendation here and now. We need to consider the alternatives before we say that we reject this recommendation. Certainly at this stage we are not able to build farm colleges and are therefore not able to provide the vocational alternative that the committee wanted to see. In addition, we have considerable investment in agricultural education in area and high schools throughout the State, and much of that investment would simply go down the drain if we cut out those courses. An action is proposed in the immediate future on that controversial recommendation.

Mr. EVANS: The allocation for "Contribution towards the cost of bringing lecturers from overseas and interstate" has increased from an allocation of \$20,000 last year (\$69,650 was actually spent) to \$200,000 this year. Can the Minister say for how long the lecturers will stay in South Australia?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I believe this is the general travelling expenses of bringing from overseas and from other States the lecturers and teachers that we have recruited. The main recruiting campaign has been undertaken as a result initially of a trip by Mr. Coker overseas at the end of last year and a visit by Mr. Ayers, of the Education Department, to Oregon. As a consequence of the activities of people connected with the department who are on study tours overseas, the main movement of teachers to South Australia from North America occurred after June 30 this year. Therefore, the main effect on expenditure of the recruiting campaign occurs in the current financial year, although the actual recruitment was often completed before the end of the previous financial year.

Mr. McANANEY: The provision for technical education has been reduced from \$1,543,386 actual payments last year to \$1,416,990. Is that an indication of any change in policy towards technical education?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Actually, there has been about a 44 per cent increase in salaries for technical education, from \$4,500,000 to \$6,500,000. The main reason why there has been such a small change in the provision for contingencies for technical education is that the audio-visual education centre has been transferred from the Technical Education Division to the Teacher Education and Services Division. There have been other adjustments in relation to the allocation of these items.

Line passed.

Libraries Department, \$1,546,788; Museum Department, \$262,262; Art Gallery Department, \$204,737—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$23,456,662.

Dr. TONKIN: No sum appears in this line for the National Fitness Council of South Australia for training youth leaders and subsidizing the establishment of youth clubs. I realize that this item appears in a later line.

The CHAIRMAN: At this stage the honourable member can seek information as to why a sum has not been included, but he cannot comment on it.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister say why the item has been transferred to another line? The National Fitness Council was not informed that that would happen. Why has a misunderstanding been allowed to occur?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Increased provision was made for such purposes under the Minister of Social Welfare's line. It was argued that it was more appropriate to consolidate all the money provided for this sort of purpose under one overall control and method of allocation. That is what was done. The Minister of Social Welfare is establishing a committee to allocate the total funds available, and the National Fitness Council will be represented on that committee. The council will have a say not only in connection with the sum of \$50,000 but also in connection with any additional sums provided in the Minister of Social Welfare's line. It is regretted that there was a breakdown in communication between the Minister of Social Welfare and me on the one hand and the National Fitness Council on the other hand.

Mr. MATHWIN: Does the provision of \$1,145,000 for the Kindergarten Union of South Australia contemplate the provision of any new kindergarten buildings?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: No.

Mr. BECKER: Under "South Australian Public Schools Amateur Sports Association" I note that \$500 was voted for 1970-71, \$198 was actually spent and this year \$500 is proposed. Can the Minister explain why only \$198 was spent?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get the information for the honourable member.

Mr. McANANEY: There is a 40 per cent increase in the allocation to the Kindergarten Union of South Australia. Is that to cover increased costs of administration or to enable more kindergartens to be subsidized by the Kindergarten Union?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The 40 per cent increase is by far the largest the Kindergarten Union has ever had in any one year. It relates entirely to its running expenses. Several decisions have been made during the last financial year and this financial year. First, in the last financial year, the teachers at kindergartens were put on the first of three steps towards equal pay: it was decided that the equal pay conditions applying to teachers should flow on to the kindergarten staff. Secondly, it was decided last year that the decision about the removal of unclassified teachers from the Education Department should also flow on to the Kindergarten Union. Thirdly, there is the full year's effect of the 6 per cent national wage increase and the effect of the increase in teachers' salaries, which also has been allowed to flow on to Kindergarten Union teachers as from May 24. Also, there has been what one may call a coagulation in the staffing of kindergartens, namely, an increase in the average qualifications of Kindergarten Union employees, which has meant an increase in average rates of pay applicable to those employees. All these things provide the bulk of the reason for the increased allocation. We are faced with the situation that there are some 11 kindergartens recognized by the Kindergarten Union but not yet subsidized in their running expenses. The Government has decided that we should aim to eliminate that backlog of kindergartens over a two-year period, with six new kindergartens getting subsidies this year for the first time for running expenses. Provision is made for that. There is also a small increased allocation for the expansion of head office staff, which was probably necessary for the Kindergarten Union.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

Department of Labour and Industry, \$927,558; Miscellaneous, \$14,000—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS

Minister of Agriculture Department, \$52,041; Agriculture Department, \$3,661,597—passed.

Agricultural College Department, \$510,770.

Dr. EASTICK: I am not opposed to the implementation of the Sweeney report at the Institute of Technology and at teachers colleges; it is currently being instituted at the Roseworthy Agricultural College. The situation which I find difficult to understand and which has caused concern to the people at Roseworthy concerns the salaries for senior lecturer, lecturer and assistant lecturer. On July 14, a

series of positions was advertised in a Public Service circular, and the positions were advertised in the *Advertiser* of the following Saturday. The salary for senior lecturers ranged from \$9,540 to \$11,130 (five positions); the salary for lecturer ranged from \$6,697 to \$9,286 (two positions); and the salary for assistant lecturer ranged from \$5,146 to \$6,387. These salaries, which approximated the recommendations of the Sweeney report, had been instituted in other places.

Members of the staff at Roseworthy have had an application under consideration for a long time. Subsequent to the advertisement above, namely, in the *Government Gazette* of August 12, as a result of a flow-on from a general salary increase for agricultural scientists (persons with an agricultural degree or its equivalent), a salary range was given, which in no way paralleled the figures I have just quoted. Similar to the senior lecturer range was a range of \$9,630 to \$11,820. At the other levels were ranges from \$7,500 up to \$9,260. These personnel wonder where they are going. They were invited to apply for a lecturer or senior lecturer position at Roseworthy in mid-July at a salary that was greater in some instances than that notified in mid-August. It may be said that, until such time as all appointments are made on the original application, there is no alteration of the situation relative to lecturer salaries at the college. To this day there has been no indication to the present staff members that their future salaries will be on the same scale as the salaries that were advertised in mid-July. Other difficulties arise, because they are not aware whether they will be considered for the positions they now hold. The requirement of persons to fill the classification of senior lecturer, if based entirely on the Sweeney report, means that they must have had considerable post-graduate experience. Although some of these officers have had this experience within the college, they have not had such experience in industry or in other establishments, as is suggested in the advertisements.

Another confusing aspect is that one of the positions of senior lecturer does not require academic qualifications: it requires a diploma in wine-making or oenology, but not a professional academic qualification. The senior lectureship salary is available to one person, but the four other positions in this field require that the persons have had considerable post-graduate experience and have obtained post-graduate degrees. These decisions handed down through the Minister of Agriculture from the Public Service Board or vice versa can only

cause the staff to lose confidence, and several of them are in the situation of looking outside the college for employment. Even if they are retained on the staff, they do not know whether they will fit into the new salary ranges or will have to be content to remain on the lower range gazetted in August. This adds to their confusion. I should like to obtain from the Minister, if not now certainly as soon as the matter can be considered by the department, some indication of the future of these staff members and of the salary range to which they can be appointed.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): Staff salaries and staff structure are being considered by the Public Service Board. I understand that the Teachers Salaries Board is hearing a case regarding lecturers at teachers colleges and I think that the board will probably await the outcome of this determination in order to obtain a guide in respect to people referred to by the honourable member. However, I will refer his remarks to the appropriate authority to obtain what information I can for him.

Line passed.

Produce Department, \$996,612.

Mr. CARNIE: In his report last year, the Auditor-General advocated a review of the operations of the Port Lincoln freezing works because of its continued losses. Subsequently, the Treasurer said that a committee had been set up to investigate the operations of the Produce Department, with special reference to the Port Lincoln freezing works. However, although that committee was set up at the time, it was not until recently that it commenced its work. This delay is serious, because it has been obvious for some time that something must be done to prevent these continued and growing losses. The committee was in Port Lincoln on Tuesday of last week taking evidence from local people, including farmers and members of the Chamber of Commerce, and it stated that an interim report should be available at the end of this month.

The Auditor-General's Report just released shows that the loss incurred this year is vastly in excess of the loss incurred last year (\$237,000 last year compared to \$317,000 this year), despite an increased throughput. This represents a loss of about \$1.40 for every animal slaughtered at the works. Obviously, something is seriously wrong concerning the operations of the works, and I hope that the Minister of Agriculture will obtain a copy of the committee's report as soon as possible and act on its recommendations.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I have no specific information on this matter, I will refer the honourable member's remarks to the Minister of Agriculture.

Line passed.

Department of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation, \$311,170.

Mr. EVANS: I believe that the Minister of Agriculture should know that research will be needed into the possible effect of effluent on trout in the Sturt River. In a previous reply, the Minister has said that the department is considering the possibility of pumping effluent from the treatment works into the Sturt River. I believe that it would be wise to have information on this matter before recommendations are made in future, in order to avoid a possible public outcry. Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether it is expected that this research will be carried out?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have no specific details of such research and, although I do not know how effluent affects trout, I understand that it helps to fatten fish. However, I will get a report on this matter for the honourable member.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As I understand that this department has recently obtained a hovercraft, I am interested to know what inspection work is taking place in the Younghusband Peninsula and Coorong area generally. There is a legal problem with regard to the control of vehicles on the peninsula. Undoubtedly, people have a general right to visit the peninsula, but it is undesirable to have vehicles perhaps racing all over the sandhills, with damage being done. The northern part of the peninsula is being affected in this way more than is the southern part. Is there any form of control that can be exercised and, if there is to be a prohibition, will it be a blanket prohibition?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The hovercraft is used by the National Parks Commission. I understand that it operates from Salt Creek and is used to cross the Coorong quickly if it is suspected that an offence is being committed in the national park area. The honourable member will know that in the past there have been problems with regard to beach buggies and similar vehicles in the area. Although the problem of isolating beach buggies to certain areas has not been completely solved, on October 1 the Minister of Lands, the Minister of Environment and Conservation and I are meeting in Millicent to view an area north of Beachport that we

consider may be suitable for beach buggies. Requests have been made that other areas closer to Adelaide be set aside for this purpose, and that is being examined. Honourable members will appreciate that, as many people are interested in driving these beach buggies about, the Government considers that the best way to handle the problem is to find a suitable place for them so that they can be isolated in that area and the National Parks Commission can thereby be relieved of difficulties that it currently faces. It is a very great problem in the Canunda Reserve. The hovercraft is being used for quick access to the Coorong to apprehend anyone in a national park area.

Line passed.

Chemistry Department, \$301,433—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$228,000.

Dr. EASTICK: Only a small increase has been made in the provision for fire-fighting services. There is much discussion at present about ways and means of improving those services and placing all of them under the control of one Minister. Can the Minister say whether the small increase in the provision bears any relationship to the projected alteration to the organization of our fire-fighting services? Will this matter eventually be transferred from the control of the Minister of Agriculture to the control of another Minister?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I cannot provide any information for the honourable member other than that a committee has been appointed to work on the matter. I am not certain whether it has made its report yet, but certainly no decision has been made on any reorganization of Emergency Fire Services. Therefore, the increase referred to would have no relationship to the committee's recommendations, nor would it have any relationship to any alteration in the structure of Emergency Fire Services. I doubt whether the supervision of fire-fighting will be transferred to another Minister. If required, an excess warrant can be issued by the Treasury and can be met. I shall obtain further information for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: Last year \$200 was provided for reimbursement to district councils in connection with noxious insects, but no actual payments were made. This year \$3,000 has been provided for that purpose. Can the Minister give details of what the sum will be used for?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This is a provision for the purchase of insecticides to

assist councils in controlling potential grasshopper plagues or locust hatchings in northern districts. The honourable member will be aware that there is if not an actual a potential likelihood of a plague of grasshoppers. Probably the reason for the increase is the likelihood of this happening. The department knew there would be additional expenditure in that area and has, therefore, provided more money.

Mr. VENNING: Under the line "Abattoirs investigation", I notice that \$500 was voted last year, \$478 was actually spent, and this year another \$500 is proposed. Which investigation is that?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This amount is for the final expenses of the committee, which has completed its investigations. Part of the funds needed for the expenses of the committee came in this financial year, so this allocation is the remainder of the money required to pay the committee for its work, although it has in fact completed its investigations.

Mr. VENNING: Under "Weeds" there was an expenditure last year of \$1,238, which is increased this year to \$1,850. Can the Minister explain the increase?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is a provision for additional meetings of the advisory committee, comprising the chairman and seven country representatives, and increased sitting fees and expenses.

Mr. EVANS: There is a problem with noxious weeds. Action is taken by a council but the money that the landholder pays as a fine is kept by the Treasury, so the council does not get it. Will the Minister make a note of that and pass it on to his colleague in another place? If this happens, there is no encouragement to councils to control noxious weeds.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will see that the honourable member's comments are conveyed to my colleague.

Dr. EASTICK: There is nothing in this section about a deficiency in payments for the operations of the Artificial Breeding Board, but in the Report of the Auditor-General, at page 185, we see there was a deficiency of \$19,263 for 1970-71.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member cannot comment on a line when he is seeking information.

Dr. EASTICK: I seek information whether or not provision has been made for the deficiency.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have no specific information on this matter but I will have it checked and let the honourable member

know. I may be able to find it under an earlier line already passed, but it is nothing to do with this line.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Miscellaneous, \$328,402—passed.

MINISTER OF MARINE

Department of Marine and Harbors, \$4,684,015.

Mr. BECKER: Mr. Chairman, you missed Minister of Environment and Conservation, Miscellaneous.

Mr. Millhouse: It shows how unimportant the Minister is!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That line has been passed.

Mr. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, you said "miscellaneous"; you did not say Minister of Environment and Conservation. You said "miscellaneous" twice. You put the same line twice.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The item "Miscellaneous" was put some time ago at \$228,000. The next item put to the Committee was "Miscellaneous, \$328,402". It was put to the Committee and carried.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: You did not announce that that Miscellaneous item was under Minister of Environment and Conservation. You simply put one Miscellaneous and then another. What you did not do, because this is such a small matter—

The CHAIRMAN: Are you taking a point of order?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes. The Minister has only the one line, which is Miscellaneous. Honourable members missed it. I am sure it would have been more appropriate if you had announced that this was under Minister of Environment and Conservation. In all fairness, as I think that members on this side have questions to ask, I ask that you put it again.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot sustain the point of order for the reason that the item was identified by the actual definition as disclosed on the line as Miscellaneous. It was identified clearly, put to the Committee, and carried.

Mr. EVANS: I take a point of order. There is a similarity between the figures.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot sustain the point of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I take another point of order. It is 2.10 a.m. We are all tired. It is a disgrace that the lines are being put through this way in one evening. This is the first time I have ever known—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That is not a point of order. As it seems to be the Com-

mittee's wish that it wants some discussion on the item, although there is no point of order involved, the item will again be put to the Committee: "Minister of Environment and Conservation, Miscellaneous, \$328,402".

Mr. BECKER: What is the reason for delay in payment to members of the Beaches and Foreshore Protection Committee, which was formed in December, 1970? The committee's members have not yet received any remuneration, although \$1,000 is proposed for this year.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Environment and Conservation): Payments have been made to them, but they must have been made from some other source. I will clarify that point for the honourable member, and let him know as soon as possible.

Mr. McANANEY: The amount allocated for national parks and wildlife reserves has been increased by about \$100,000. Is that to provide for normal maintenance or to eradicate the weed problem?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: It is intended to be spent on the purchase of national parks. In reply to an earlier question from the member for Light, I had undertaken to obtain a report concerning the actions of the commission on fire control. I will also obtain one for the honourable member about the control of weeds.

Mr. EVANS: Is it intended to increase fees paid by the public to use facilities in national parks?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Government does not intend to increase fees in the immediate future for the use of facilities at national parks.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF MARINE

Department of Marine and Harbors, \$4,684,015.

Mr. GUNN: Will the department continue to force the surveying of small fishing boats used by fishermen in local coastal waters?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member cannot discuss a matter that is not included in the Estimates.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister give details of the line "Payments to corporations and district councils, \$3,914"?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Marine): These are payments to various councils for kerbing and road moieties in cases where the department has accepted the responsibility for the account.

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister say where the Meyer Recreation Ground is situated?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is in the Semaphore area, and this allocation is to pay wages for the upkeep of this delightful ground.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$5,200.

Mr. VENNING: In regard to the line "Port sites—investigations, etc." for which the actual payment last year was \$23,777, the allocation this year being \$5,000. I understood that the committee investigating this matter was to report to the Minister of Marine at the end of August. Can the Minister say whether this line deals specifically with that report, or will he say when he expects to receive the report? When the report is received, will it have to be evaluated by the Minister's department for some time before it is made available to the public?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The report is not yet to hand, but I will inquire what progress has been made. I expect that the report will contain a specific recommendation on the site of the next major port in South Australia, and I do not see any reason for a lengthy delay in disclosing its contents. It should not require an evaluation by the Government because, as the committee has been investigating only two sites, it will have to recommend one or the other.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT AND
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Department of the Minister of Roads and Transport and Minister of Local Government, \$570,131.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I think I am right in saying that an Englishman from the British Railways has been appointed Director-General of Transport.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Yes.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I should like the Minister to explain to the Committee what the relationship will be between the Director-General of Transport and the Railways Commissioner and other departmental heads. I understood that this man was to be a sort of supremo to co-ordinate transportation in this State, yet I notice that the salary that he will be paid, while it is not an insubstantial sum, is much less than that paid to the Railways Commissioner, who receives about \$21,000. I do not know whether the Director-General of Transport is to have some relationship with the Highways Commissioner, whose salary is \$20,135, but it is a little tough if a man who is to be co-ordinating and in charge is, in fact, being paid less than those over whom he has control. Will the Minister explain just what

duties this officer will have and what his relationship will be with those officers to whom I have referred, and will he say when this officer will take up his duties?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Roads and Transport): The honourable member would obviously know that the salaries shown for the Commissioner of Highways and the Railways Commissioner are the salaries for 12 months. As the Director-General has not yet taken office, the sum shown is expected to be sufficient to cover his salary for the period of the year during which he will perform his duties. The relationship between him and the other departmental heads is currently being considered by Cabinet. At a later stage this session, legislation will be introduced dealing with these matters, and I think they can be more properly canvassed then.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: What will be the annual salary of the Director-General of Transport?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The salary is a matter of negotiation that has not been concluded.

Dr. EASTICK: Earlier this session the Minister said that the Director-General's salary and other aspects of the appointment were being negotiated. What other arrangements are still being negotiated?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As the only matter pertaining to this discussion is that of salary, if I were to refer to the Director-General's duties, long service leave, and so on I would be out of order.

Line passed.

Highways Department, \$6,601,425—passed.

Railways Department, \$43,737,237.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister say whether the uniforms of staff members working in the buffet car and the dining-room will be upgraded?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The matter has been considered but no decision has been made.

Mr. VENNING: Can the Minister say what additional rolling stock has been provided for transporting bulk grain in this State?

The CHAIRMAN: The line deals with the financial aspects of the Rolling Stock Branch, not the rolling stock itself.

Line passed.

Motor Vehicles Department, \$1,302,773—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$523,750.

Mr. McANANEY: Last financial year. \$93,780 was spent on the item "Acquisition of properties for proposed roadworks under the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan, not yet approved". However, there is no

provision for this financial year. Does this mean that all work under the M.A.T.S. plan has ceased? How is the Government planning to cope with Adelaide's increasing traffic? Has the Government dropped all plans for a north-south freeway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This was a sum provided for as a necessity prior to the amendment of the Highways Act, which was introduced into this Chamber, approved by Parliament and assented to in December last. It caters for the situation where properties not on approved routes were purchased. Now that the amending Act has been passed, this provision is no longer necessary.

Mr. BECKER: Under "Dog Registrars—expenses" I note that \$147 was spent last year and under "Woomera Board for dog registration and control" \$200 was spent. What would the allocation of \$150 be for in respect of dog registrars? Is there any comparison between that line and the Woomera Board for dog registration and control, for which \$200 is allocated?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have no specific details but will try to get them for the honourable member.

Mr. ALLEN: I refer to the line "Committee of Inquiry into establishment of local government in outlying areas", in respect of which \$1,500 was voted last year but nothing was spent; and this year \$1,500 is allocated. In this Chamber recently I asked the Minister a question on this matter and his reply was that the Government did not intend to proceed with the local government inquiry in outback areas this year. Can the Minister explain why \$1,500 has been allocated?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There have been requests for the Government to pursue this work, particularly in the district represented by the member for Eyre. Coober Pedy and Andamooka anxiously want local government in their areas; they at least have woken up to the value of having it. and I think that as a result other outback people will have a similar view. Accordingly, we are providing for further investigations, should they be required.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Can the Minister tell me about the Kangaroo Island Ferry Committee? From time to time I have asked the Minister about this. Other lines relate to this matter but the line dealing with the Kangaroo Island Ferry Committee is the most viable at the moment. There is also the line dealing with losses on operations of the

Troubridge, towards which there is a grant of \$200,000.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The grant of \$200,000 has been constant for three years, pursuant to the agreement that was entered into by the previous Government. That agreement will conclude on June 30 next year. Hence, provision is made for payment of the subsidy for the whole of that period. As regards the Kangaroo Island Ferry Committee, I have said previously that it is continuing its work, and financial provision is made for it to be continued.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: About a month ago the Minister said that he was expecting a report from this committee. Has he received it yet?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: About a fortnight ago, in answer to a question, I replied that the report had been received and that certain negotiations were currently proceeding but, in view of the delicate nature of them, I was not at liberty to disclose them. That same position applies now.

Mr. McANANEY: What is the position regarding the purchase of land for public parks and recreation areas?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Public Parks Fund is not a new fund: it has been in existence for a number of years. Previously, it was financed by Loan money, but it has been transferred into revenue.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Regarding the acquisition of properties for proposed road-works under the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no appropriation under this line. The honourable member may only make an inquiry.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I wish to make an inquiry, Mr. Chairman. What is the explanation for the present state of the M.A.T.S. plan? So many people are under the impression that, because of the lines drawn on the maps and photographs in the report, the Government is proceeding generally along the lines of acquiring land as it becomes available in terms of those maps and photographs. This is supported by the Auditor-General's report, which shows that about \$3,500,000 was spent during the 12 months on various freeways, including even the Hills freeway, which has been postponed. The sum of \$205,000 was spent during the last 12 months on the acquisition of land for that freeway. People are concerned about the position. A person who has interests in the Hindmarsh area has told me that his property will definitely be

acquired if the Hindmarsh interchange is proceeded with.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: In 1970-71, the Highways Department spent \$3,487,000 on land acquisition in the transport corridors and a further \$1,364,000 on land acquisition for other roads, a total of \$4,851,000. In 1969-70, the department's expenditure on acquisition for freeways amounted to \$4,728,000, which is significantly higher than the figure for the 1970-71 period, as shown in the Auditor-General's Report. The only logical conclusion to be drawn from these facts is that there has been a slowing down of this acquisition as a result of this Government's policy. As one cannot turn a tap on and off in this sort of operation, there will be some carry-over for some time. I do not accept the statement of the member for Alexandra that people are confused. The Government's policy that has been announced is completely clear and capable of being understood. We have said that we will not proceed with the building of those freeways contained in the M.A.T.S. plan in urban areas where substantial demolition of property is involved. However, we will reserve for the future these areas held, but they will not be used for freeways for at least 10 years, if ever. In reserving them, the Government will purchase properties where it is requested to do so by the owners on an owner-approach basis, without the owner having to provide evidence of hardship, as was required by the previous Government.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you referring to areas delineated in the M.A.T.S. plan?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes, but they are now delineated in the supplementary plan of the Metropolitan Adelaide Plan, and they have been placed there by the State Planning Authority. I think I am correct in saying that the full mechanics of the operation have not been completed, but they have been the subject of consideration and decision by the State Planning Authority.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Has the Noarlunga Freeway been finally delineated?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think the correct description used by planners and engineers is that a schematic line has been drawn, not a definite line on an engineering basis. In other words, it is not possible to say that the corridor starts at point A and finishes at point B. It is a schematic presentation in the same way as the 1962 plan is a schematic plan.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER
OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Department of Social Welfare and of
Aboriginal Affairs, \$7,444,814.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: If it were not for the futility of this exercise at 2.45 in the morning, several things could and should be said on this line but, because of the Government's policy, it is just not worth while saying them. In other words, Parliament is robbed of the opportunity that it should have to debate in a sensible way matters of social welfare and Aboriginal affairs. However, the matter I refer to covers several lines and shows the increase in expenditure in respect of the North-West Reserve. I am glad to see that in one way, although one of the things that was often said to me in office (it is probably said to the present Minister, and I am afraid it is true; whether, because it is true, this means it is undesirable, I do not know) was that most of the money voted by Parliament for Aboriginal affairs never reached the Aborigines themselves but was spent on staff, salaries, accommodation, and in other ways. In other words, most of the money goes to people of Caucasian origin and certainly not directly to the Aboriginal inhabitants of this State.

But be that as it may, there is an increase in respect of the North-West Reserve. I cannot help feeling that, if people who live in the southern part of the State knew or could comprehend the conditions in which some people live on the North-West Reserve and in other northern parts of the State, they would be horrified into shame. When we are told of the number of flies picked out of a child's ear (the record being 21 or 30, or something like that), we cannot but be disheartened, to say the least, by our efforts in this field. However, I do not dwell on that now, but I ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs whether he will expand on what are the plans, particularly in relation to the North-West Reserve and also Indulkana, that are taking the extra money this year.

The Hon. L. J. KING (Minister of Social Welfare and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): Several different items are involved here. The provision for "Aboriginal affairs" relates to salaries and wages for several functions and to wages paid to Aborigines employed on reserves. Apart from the additional salaries paid this year as a result of wage increases, a substantial part of the increase will be devoted to increasing the wages paid to Aboriginal employees on reserves. The Government was

seeking as soon as possible to increase the rate of wage paid to those employees to a point where it would approximate the State living wage, less some adjustment for the fact that the Aborigines working there do not need to provide some of the necessities of life that have to be provided by workers who live in other parts of the State.

That objective will not be entirely achieved this financial year, but substantial increases in Aboriginal wages are intended, and they are expected this financial year to cost about \$30,000. The full increase will not be achieved this year, because these Aborigines are working in what might be described as a welfare situation. To a large extent their work is non-economic, but it is important to them and to the reserve. Another important reason for not bringing the wage up to the State living wage level in one hit is from the point of view of the Aborigines themselves, because a sudden and marked increase in wages requires some adjustment in attitude and ability to handle the money, so it is thought desirable that the increase should be introduced in stages.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$436,650.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The sum of \$50,000 that used to be allocated to the National Fitness Council to be divided amongst organizations active in youth work and for its own purposes is now apparently to be allocated by the department, without there having been any discussion with the council about this or any expression of thanks for the work it has done. I seek an explanation of the apparent rudeness and affront to the council and why the Minister considers that the department will do the job better than the council would have done. Will the Minister give further details about the sum of \$100,000 that is provided for community facilities for children and youth?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Government has decided to provide this additional sum of \$100,000 to provide community facilities for children and youth. An undertaking in this regard was made in the policy speech prior to last election. The Government believes there is an urgent need to encourage the provision of facilities for youth recreation and youth training. It is important, too, that we look not only at the young people who are attracted to the conventional type of structured club but also at the large percentage of young people who need less conventional facilities; it is often the latter type of young person who is at risk in the community. The Government is allocating this substantial sum to pro-

vide a new direction in the provision of youth facilities. It hopes to give a significant stimulus to people who are working among young people and who are willing to develop this type of youth facility.

This money must be allocated upon an assessment of the way in which it can be used most effectively. Consequently, a committee will be established to advise me on its allocation. The committee will have a Chairman appointed by me, a representative of the Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs, a representative of the Education Department, a representative of the National Fitness Council, and two other persons appointed by me who will be experienced in youth activities. I hope to appoint people who have a real understanding of the way young people are thinking at present and of the sort of facility that will meet the needs of modern youth.

The committee will be given some general guide lines. In general terms, it is proposed that about \$60,000 will be spent on buildings for youth clubs and facilities, including extensions and renovations, with a maximum grant in any one case of \$5,000. It is hoped to get the maximum spread, thereby achieving the maximum result. About 10 per cent of the provision will be spent on equipment for youth clubs, and about 25 per cent will be spent on the less conventional type of facility that I have referred to—for example, a drop-in centre, which has an appeal to modern young people. This is the general framework it is expected the committee will adopt. It will be free to allocate this money either by way of subsidy or by way of outright grants.

There are some situations and areas in which the allocation of the money by way of subsidy is likely to yield the best results. In areas or situations where it is likely that voluntary contributions can be attracted, the subsidy system works well, but in many areas where the need is greatest the possibility of obtaining significant voluntary contributions is small and in those areas the committee will be free to make recommendations for the allocation of this money by way of outright grants.

Dr. Eastick: Will they be repeated in subsequent years?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Yes, they will be. It is not a once-for-all provision. What the amount of money will be in future years will, of course, depend on circumstances but it is intended that there shall be provision in future years for amounts of money for this purpose.

Dr. Eastick: To the same organization?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Not necessarily. These are capital provisions for buildings and facilities. Consequently, there is no continuing commitment to this organization and, therefore, the \$100,000 will not be committed on a continuing basis. It will be seen at once that the new money, the \$100,000, being provided has a direct relationship to the purposes for which the \$50,000 allocated by the National Fitness Council in past years was used. Consequently, it was thought desirable that the whole amount should be allocated by the same committee. It is important that the committee should have an overall view of the situation and should be able to make allocations from both sums so that the two can dovetail into one another.

I hope that in future years it will be possible to increase the \$50,000, because I firmly believe that in this area the provision of buildings and facilities is important, but the provision of trained personnel is even more important. A building is nothing without the right sort of people to run the show, the sort of people who can really make it a worthwhile place to which young people are attracted. In future years we must seriously consider significant increases in the sum of money now devoted to encouraging the development of clubs and the training of youth leaders and the like. For that reason, it seemed to me (and Cabinet agreed) that it was important that the whole amount of money should be allocated by the same committee.

The position is that the National Fitness Council has allocated the \$50,000 in past years and has done it very well. The member for Mitcham is entirely incorrect when he suggests that in some ways the National Fitness Council was dismissed without appreciation or a "thank you". That is far from being the truth. Indeed, I have written a letter to the National Fitness Council in which I have placed on record the Government's appreciation of the work done by that council over many years. The member for Mitcham has referred to the fact that the National Fitness Council was not informed of the change before the announcement was made. I regret to say that that is correct. I was under the impression that consultations had taken place at departmental level with the council. I was surprised to receive a communication which suggested that that was not so, but inquiries disclosed that the council was right and that consultations had not taken place.

There was a breakdown in communications which probably arose from the fact that the

council in the past year had been under the jurisdiction of the Education Department, whereas the formulation of this scheme was undertaken by the Social Welfare Department. Nonetheless, that could have happened and, as Minister, I accept the responsibility because I appreciate the possibility that had this not happened I would have been able to communicate with the council myself. There is no truth in the suggestion of the member for Mitcham that the Government has been unappreciative of the council's work: so appreciative is the Government of the way in which the council has handled the money in the past that the scheme as formulated and announced provides for a representative of the council on the committee. That representative will be concerned not only with the allocation of the \$50,000 that it handled before but also with the new \$100,000 to be used for the provision of capital facilities.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: What are the Minister's intentions for the future of Yalata Mission? Under an arrangement with the Lutheran Church, the proceeds of the sale of wool produced on the property were to be divided and the Minister was to get one-half of them. According to the Auditor-General's Report, this one-half of the proceeds amounted to \$20,000 in the year ended June 30, 1970, and to \$12,500 in 1971. This understandably illustrates in a graphic way what must be happening to wool properties throughout the State, and wool proceeds may well be lower in the coming year. The sum of \$12,500 is a small amount. The amount voted to Yalata last year was \$70,165, whereas this year it is \$109,100. Obviously, it must be causing the Government concern, because the Auditor-General was so concerned that in his recent report he states:

The net cost to the department of \$61,681 on account of Yalata Mission was a factor in one of my officers visiting the reserve in January, 1971.

The Hon. L. J. KING: This is a serious problem, which is confined not only to Yalata. The decline in income from rural production produces grave problems to the Aborigines in various areas and it will intensify a problem that will face the Aboriginal Lands Trust at Point Pearce when that reserve is transferred to the trust. It is not easy to see a solution to the problem until and unless alternative means by which Aborigines can provide themselves with an income can be found either by them or by those advising them. The department is trying to tackle the problem, and one of the plans in the reorganized department for which

provision is made is to have what will be described as an Aboriginal resources branch.

Part of the activity of that branch will be a research section charged with the responsibility of developing programmes for dealing with the question of Aboriginal employment and the development of Aboriginal industry by which Aborigines can be provided with a chance in a reserve situation of sustaining themselves. Until it is possible to develop alternative ways by which Aborigines can earn an income for themselves, there does not seem to be any alternative but for the Government to foot the bill and meet the amount of the deficiency. I hope that experts will be able to find for Aborigines some remunerative outlet or industry of a type that will provide them with an income without unduly altering their way of life on their reserves.

Mr. ALLEN: Why has only \$300 been allocated to Nepabunna Mission?

The Hon. L. J. KING: This provision is to meet the cost of medicines and freight but, as I am not sure why there is a difference between this year and last year, I will obtain that information.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister explain why the amount allocated to the Young Men's Christian Association has been reduced?

The Hon. L. J. KING: This arose from an arrangement made some years ago under which the State Government agreed to make an annual grant sufficient to cover the interest on a loan that was raised to erect a hostel at Whyalla. It was reduced progressively each year, because the interest commitments have reduced each year.

Mr. BECKER: I refer under "Social Welfare" to the lines "For training youth leaders and to develop clubs and activities for children and youth" (\$50,000) and "For provision of community facilities for children and youth" (\$100,000). South Australia's contribution in this area in the past has been the lowest in the Commonwealth, so I am pleased to see these provisions. The Western Youth Centre received an allocation from the National Fitness Council (I assume that is part of this allocation), and if the Minister's press statement is correct that this money may not be available until next March it could place youth clubs in difficulty, because these clubs, which have a continuous fund-raising programme, could be looking for earlier assistance.

Also, I should like an assurance that part of the \$100,000 allocation will be directed to life-saving clubs. The Glenelg club has undertaken considerable alterations and extensions in

order to provide a gymnasium and to ensure that club activities can continue right throughout the year. The Western Youth Centre, which was established in 1958, and which incorporates 42 clubs, desires to extend its building for the third time. Will the committee set up to allocate these grants be seeking applications from various clubs, including, I hope, life-saving clubs, in order to provide additional facilities for the youth of this State?

The Hon. L. J. KING: It is not expected that money will be spent on lifesaving clubs, which are dealt with under another department (I think the Tourist Bureau). The committee will be constituted as soon as possible, but the National Fitness Council will not be able to appoint its members until, I think, the middle of October, when its next meeting takes place. Consequently, it will not be possible to appoint the committee until that time. The press statement to which the honourable member refers, and in which reference is made to the hope that payments can be made by March, refers to the \$100,000: in this regard applications will have to be received from people who seek facilities of that kind, and those applications will have to be processed by the department, investigations carried out and decisions made. For that reason, it was thought that it might be March before payments could be made. That does not apply to the money paid out as part of the \$50,000. The practice there in the past has been that applications have been received by the end of September by the National Fitness Council, and notification of the allocations has been given in October for the following calendar year. Therefore, the clubs have known in October each year what their budget may be for the next year.

I hope to be able to adhere to that, and it will involve asking the council whether it is prepared to advise the Minister of the allocation for this current year. Having discussed this with officers of the council, I think it very likely that they will agree to do this. I will ask the council whether it is prepared to do it so that the organizations will know, as was previously the case, what to expect for the year. In future years it will be possible for the committee to follow the same pattern. I do not expect that the setting up of this committee will involve any delay in payments of sums out of the \$50,000 fund.

Line passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

The Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for \$349,388,000

was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. J. D. Corcoran, and read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is for the appropriation of \$349,388,000, details of which are set out in the Estimates which have just been dealt with by the Committee. The Bill serves the same purpose and is in the same basic form as previous Appropriation Bills, but there are some small variations in wording that I shall explain.

In the first place, there have been some minor differences in the past in wording between the Supply Bills, the first Appropriation Bill and the second Appropriation Bill, in referring to the same matters. Small variations have now been made in this Bill to achieve greater simplicity and at the same time uniformity in wording, as far as that is practicable between the several financial Bills that serve similar purposes. As an example, the reference to the Estimates of Expenditure in clause 6 is briefer than previously. These small variations have no effect on the authority given by the Bill. In the second place, there has been a clarification of subclause (2) of clause 3, to which I shall refer again in a moment. Clause 2 authorizes the issue and application of a further sum. As the two Supply Acts effective for 1971-72 authorize the issue and application of \$100,000,000, the effective authority of clause 2 is \$249,388,000, to take the total of such authority to \$349,388,000.

Clause 3 (1) sets out the details of the appropriation of the total of \$349,388,000. Clause 3 (2) provides that, if increases of salaries or wages become payable pursuant to any determination made by a wage-fixing authority, the Governor may appropriate additional funds by warrant. The Act, as passed last year, provided for the Governor to appropriate "any money required to pay those increases of salaries or wages and pay-roll tax". It has always been the intention that these appropriations to cover unforeseen costs of awards should be additional to those appropriations for individual departments listed in clause 3 (1). However, some doubt has been expressed whether the previous wording fully achieved that intention and,

accordingly, the wording has been made more explicit. Clause 3 (2) now provides that the Governor may appropriate "such amounts as are equal to those increases, and those appropriations shall be additional to the appropriations made by virtue of subsection (1)". At the same time the previous reference to pay-roll tax has been deleted, as henceforth departments will be free of pay-roll tax (with only two exceptions—the Highways and Motor Vehicles Departments) and the additional cost of such tax consequent on wage awards for only the two departments will be so small as not to justify special appropriation.

Clause 3 (3) provides that, if the cost of electricity for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main, the Morgan-Whyalla main and the Swan Reach to Stockwell main should be greater than the amounts set down in the Estimates, the Governor may appropriate the funds for the additional expenditure, and the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount of such additional expenditure. On present indications I would say it is most unlikely that the special provision will be required this year.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time up to the amounts set down in monthly orders issued by the Governor, and provides that the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid. Clause 5 authorizes the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by clause 3 of the Bill.

Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to July 1, 1971. Clause 7 authorizes the expenditure of \$5,150,000 from the Hospitals Fund during 1971-72 and of \$1,700,000 in the early months of 1972-73 pending the passing of the Appropriation Bill for that year. Clause 8 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly authorized.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.32 a.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, September 23, at 2 p.m.