

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 14, 1971

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Appropriation (No. 2),
Corporal Punishment Abolition,
Dentists Act Amendment,
Presbyterian Trusts,
Statutes Amendment (Public Salaries).

PETITION: HILLTOWN RURAL SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING presented a petition from 32 parents of children attending or expecting to attend the Hilltown Rural School, objecting to the Minister's approval of the closure of the school, because the present enrolment was far in excess of the minimum required, residents concerned with the school had provided necessary modern equipment and teaching aids in excess of the Karmel report recommendations, and parents objected to the transporting of young children out of the district to a larger school. The petitioners prayed that the decision to close the school at the end of 1971 be reconsidered and that the present use of the school be allowed to continue.

Petition received and read.

QUESTIONS**MORATORIUM ROYAL COMMISSION**

Mr. HALL: Will the Premier say when the Government intends to introduce legislation, following the report of the Royal Commission on the moratorium march in September last year, to amend the Statutes of the State in accordance with some of the Royal Commissioner's recommendations?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: During this session.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question is one of policy and, therefore, I direct it to the Premier. Will the Premier say whether the apparent sudden reversal of policy by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Labor Party has changed the South Australian Government's policies on the matter of fines being imposed on those employees or employers who break industrial agreements? On Tuesday, during the Premier's illness, several questions were asked of his

Minister of Labour and Industry, arising out of the publicity of the proposals by Messrs. Whitlam and Cameron on this matter and the apparent violent reaction against the proposals from the trade union movement and some sections of the Labor Party.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is starting to comment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the course of his reply the Minister indicated that these matters were under contemplation by the State Government with a view to amendments being inserted in the Industrial Code. He said that, as the Government was considering amendments to the Industrial Code, he asked the Leader to be patient, and he said that it would be unwise for him to take something out of context. Now that the matter has taken a sudden reversal, I ask the Premier whether it has made any difference to the thinking of the Government.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As to the honourable member's explanation, the Minister did not say that this issue was under contemplation by the Government. The reply to his specific question is "No".

MEDICAL STAFF

Mr. SLATER: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my recent question about medical staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that there is no diminution in medical staffing of the casualty department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital over weekends. Occasions occur, as in every emergency department, when a sudden influx of minor casualties produces an increase in the normal waiting time of some patients. The medical staff are instructed to call for additional emergency help from within the hospital if it becomes necessary. Patients who after examination require referral to the X-ray department and then require plaster application are the type that incur a longer waiting time than average. At present, the hospital strength of junior medical officers is below establishment, but care is taken to see that the casualty department does not fall below its normal staff establishment.

VICTOR HARBOR SEWERAGE

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about whether the Victor Harbor High School will be included in the proposed sewerage scheme for the town?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Victor Harbor High School had not been included in the proposed township sewerage scheme, as the present system of septic tanks and soakage wells and trenches is sufficient to meet the school's current needs. However, because of the expected increased loading of sewage disposal facilities from the new changerooms, which are scheduled to be built during 1972, it is considered essential that the high school should now be included in the proposed scheme. Accordingly, appropriate action is being taken by the Engineering and Water Supply Department to have this work implemented.

HIGHBURY RESERVE

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say whether consideration will be given to acquiring land between Packer Drive and the Torrens River, Highbury, (which includes a disused quarry) as a fauna and flora reserve? This matter was the subject of a petition recently served on the city of Tea Tree Gully, and I have been asked to intercede in this matter. An application by a subdivider to subdivide this land is now before the council. The petition states that the land is unsuitable for residential development, because it is liable to be flooded in the lower part, it has excessive gradients in the higher part, and a danger exists of polluting the Torrens River. If I give the Minister a copy of the petition, will he have the matter investigated?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I shall be pleased to investigate this matter. Although I am not familiar with the area, I shall examine the terms of the petition and probably visit the area.

STATE LIBRARY

Mr. COUMBE: Is the Minister of Education aware of the concern of many secondary students and the inconvenience being caused to them because of the limitation being placed on their study in the State Library? Representations have been made to me as a result of the ban or the limitation on students using their own textbooks which, as the Minister knows, are essential in the case of many students in carrying out proper studies, especially in a library. This situation has caused much concern not only to students but also to their parents. Since the member for Kavel asked his question on this matter, has the Minister been able to investigate it and can he offer any solution to the problem?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have discussed this matter several times with the State Librarian. There is simply insufficient accommodation available in the reading room to serve normal and legitimate library users, if the space is occupied to the extent that it was last year at various stages by students studying for examinations and bringing in their own textbooks, but not otherwise using the library's facilities. The State Library is for public use, and students who wish to find a place where they can study from their own textbooks and notes should not create the situation whereby the library ceases to fulfil its normal functions. Clearly, any student who wishes to use the library's books has the same rights as anyone else, but the library was never designed for, nor can it provide, the accommodation necessary to cater for all these secondary students who wish to use it purely as a place of study without using its facilities. I am sure that the honourable member would also receive complaints if tertiary students and other members of the public who wished to use the library's facilities could not find accommodation in the library. It seems to me that there is no adequate solution to this problem.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Would you exclude secondary students?

The SPEAKER: Order! One question at a time.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The State Library should be used for library purposes. As demands on it for library purposes are considerable, I must support the State Librarian's decision to exclude students who wish to use the library purely for study purposes and who prevent others from using it for legitimate library purposes.

PHARMACEUTICAL COSTS

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Health to my question of August 18 concerning pharmaceutical costs?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Minister of Health states that for the year ended June 30, 1971 (involving eight months), persons in South Australia receiving pharmaceutical benefit prescriptions, other than pensioners and their dependants, were expected to pay \$753,000 in excess of the sum that would have been paid if the patient contribution remained at 50c each prescription. It is estimated that, in a full year, this type of patient will contribute 38 per cent of the total cost and that the Commonwealth Government will meet the remaining 62 per cent.

UNIONISM

Mr. RODDA: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether, in view of his Government's stated policy that any person in Government employment is expected to be a member of a union and that preference will be given to unionists, the Government will follow what happened last week in the Australian Capital Territory regarding this matter? A statement has appeared concerning a strike that was averted in the A.C.T. when a person who conscientiously objected to joining a union paid an equivalent fee to an accepted nominated charity. It was stated that this payment would be accepted in lieu of the payment of a fee to join a union. Bearing in mind that compulsory unionism is part of the Minister's policy, we have this precedent now whereby conscientious objectors are being let off the hook by their paying to a nominated charity a fee equivalent to the union membership fee. If the Minister is confronted with this situation, will he treat it as it has been treated by his counterpart in Canberra?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: The Government does not enforce compulsory unionism: our policy is one of preference to unionists, as the honourable member well knows. He would also know that most awards include a provision concerning conscientious objectors, particularly in respect of people employed in Government departments. I will have the question examined but I think the provisions that already prevail are satisfactory.

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

Mr. HOPGOOD: I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport, and no doubt the Attorney-General would also be interested in it. Will the Minister consider an appropriate amendment to section 124 of the Motor Vehicles Act? My notice has been drawn to this section of the Act, arising out of problems that have confronted a constituent of mine. However, I think it might be better, in explaining my question, if I quoted from a parallel case, namely, *Surrey Insurance Company Limited v. Nagy and Nagy* before Chief Justice Bray in the Supreme Court, in 1968. In explanation, I point out that section 124(1) provides that, upon the happening of an accident which results in the death of or causes bodily injury to any person, and is caused by or arises out of the use of a motor vehicle, the driver and the person in charge thereof shall forthwith give notice of the accident to the insurer.

Section 124(2) provides that, when neither the driver nor the person in charge of a motor vehicle concerned in such an accident is the owner of the motor vehicle, the owner shall give a like notice immediately on the accident's coming to his notice. Section 124(4) provides that, if an insured person fails to comply with the requirements of the section, the insurer may recover from him all money paid and all costs incurred by the insurer in relation to any claim arising out of the accident in respect of which such failure occurred. Giving the judgment, Chief Justice Bray's comments were, *inter alia*:

Section 124 is a most draconian section. The provisions relating to the giving of the notices required by the section are not accompanied by any of the saving provisions relating to mistake or other reasonable cause, lack of prejudice to the insurer, and the like which are often inserted in legislation of this kind. Cf. s. 29 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1932-1966. The insurer may know all about the accident the next day from some other source but that makes no difference. The driver, if he is bound by s. 124(4), may not know the identity of the insurer. There may be all sorts of reasons why notices are not given forthwith but that may not make any difference either. Indeed the obligation of s. 124 may be greater than the obligation of the policy in this case which only requires notice to be given "as soon as possible", not "forthwith". The insurer can settle for whatever amount he thinks fit but apparently the insured person is not entitled to question either the presence or extent of negligence or the quantum of the damages. One could imagine a case where the insurer might not think it worth while incurring any expense and might pay the amount asked by the injured person without any investigation, trusting in his right to recover from a wealthy owner who has neglected to give notice. And, by a crowning absurdity, s. 124(5) would, if read literally (and I think a court would do its best to avoid reading it literally) appear to prevent an insured person sued in a civil court under the section from proving that he had in fact given notice in accordance with its terms, since that subsection makes the notice inadmissible except in criminal proceedings for an offence against this section.

My constituent is the owner of the motor vehicle in which he was at the time of the accident. For some weeks after the accident he could not speak and was therefore unable to give formal notice of the accident. This case, which has gone on for seven years, has not yet been resolved.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I was informed of the Chief Justice's remarks when he delivered his judgment and the question has been considered. I agree with the remarks made by the Chief Justice and I believe that the section

should be amended. This is one of the amendments that will be introduced as soon as possible, subject to Cabinet approval, and the matter is very much in hand.

WEST BEACH WATER SUPPLY

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the West Beach water supply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Considerable work has been done and is continuing to be done to improve both the quantity and quality of the supply of water to consumers in the West Beach area. In 1968, \$56,000 was spent in laying 5,412ft. of 18in. main in Burbridge Road, Brooklyn Park, to connect the 24in. main in Marion Road with the existing 12in. main in Burbridge Road and the 30in. main in May Terrace. With this new section of trunk main considerably more water was able to be brought into the West Beach area. In early 1969, a further \$3,000 was spent in laying 812ft. of 6in. main in Simcock Street, West Beach, to complete a 6in. feeder through the centre of the West Beach area between Tapley Hill Road and Military Road. During the past winter all mains in this area have been flushed and, where complaints of dirty water have been received, the mains serving this area have been swabbed. In the next few weeks it is intended to do a further swabbing of mains in the area between Military Road and the seafront at West Beach.

During 1969-70, 21 complaints were received from consumers in the whole of West Beach. These complaints cover all types, including low pressures and dirty water. This number had reduced to 17 in 1970-71. In many cases, when investigated, the complaints of poor supply came from property holders who were served by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. services and had only 1in. internal piping. Much of the pressure loss then occurs in the service and internal piping. Consumers are therefore advised to contact the Kent Town depot of the Engineering and Water Supply Department whenever difficulties are experienced so that an inspector can investigate the matter and, when found necessary, advise the consumers to apply for a larger service or enlarge or replace their own internal piping. To improve the supply along the whole of the coastal area from Seacliff through to Port Adelaide, approval has been given for an expenditure of \$5,500,000 for the augmentation of the western suburbs water supply.

WATER QUALITY

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning dirty water?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The reply I have applies also to a question asked by the member for Alexandra. All water at present being supplied in the Burnside-Tusmore area is being supplied from Kangaroo Creek reservoir. As I have pointed out this is a new reservoir which has this year filled for the first time. Because of this the water this year is more than normally discoloured. While the water is perfectly safe from a health point of view it is at present a pale yellow colour.

The department has received, however, relatively few complaints. Five only have been received from consumers in Burnside and Tusmore and only 16 have been received from the whole of the Burnside corporation area since September 1, 1971. Where complaints have been received, mains have been flushed. There has been no general flushing in the Burnside area as this has apparently not been warranted. Considerable work has been done by the department in recent years to clean the distribution mains in the metropolitan system.

A total of 313 miles of main has been cleaned and cement-lined in the last 15 years, including 10 miles in the last 12 months. A total of 92 miles of main has been cleaned by dragging since 1957-58. A total of 581 miles of old unlined mains has been replaced with new concrete-lined pipes since 1957-58 and eight miles of main has been swabbed to remove clay and algal material that may be adhering to the walls of the pipes.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Is the Minister satisfied with the progress being made in cleaning water mains? I pointed out in my question that the Labor Party gave a pre-election undertaking to clean the water mains in Adelaide, and in his reply the Minister stated that 313 miles had been cleaned and cement lined in the last 15 years, 10 miles having been cleaned in the last 12 months. The average for the 15 years is 21 miles a year, so the Labor Government has succeeded in achieving less than half the annual average, following its public undertaking. The Minister also states that 92 miles of mains have been dragged since 1957-58, and that is an average of seven miles a year. He does not state how many miles were dragged in the last 12 months. He states that 581 miles of old unlined mains have been replaced with concrete-lined pipes since 1957-58, and that is an average of about 45 miles a year, but again I do not know what the actual progress was during the last 12 months. The one figure that the Minister has given about what has been done in the last

12 months is less than half the average annual mileage dealt with in the previous 15 years. I therefore ask the Minister whether he is satisfied with the progress being made towards honouring his Party's public undertaking.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Of course, the honourable member did not hear the reply that I gave to the member for Hanson.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: This is not the same one.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No, but I have said that \$5,500,000 has been allocated for improvement of the service in the specific area referred to in that question. I think the area extends from Seacliff to Port Adelaide, and the allocation is in connection with the replacement of inadequate pipes; that expenditure would enable a fair few miles of unsatisfactory pipes to be replaced. Regarding the cleaning of pipes, I noted, as the honourable member noted, that only 10 miles was cleaned last year. As a result of this information, I will take up this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief. However, I point out that no purpose is served in cleaning pipes that do not need cleaning. In other words, I cannot say to the member for Alexandra that, as a result of an undertaking that all pipes would be cleaned, we would rush all around the metropolitan area and clean pipes that did not need to be cleaned.

Mr. Millhouse: Was that qualification made at the time?

The SPEAKER: Order! The interjection is out of order.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have not checked the statement to which the member for Alexandra has referred, but I will do so. Honourable members, particularly Opposition members, have a habit of placing their own construction on statements. I will not accept the statement made by the member for Alexandra, in whom I have some trust, until I have checked it. I might then find that a slightly different construction could be put on it.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You'll check the statement?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes. Even if the statement is as the honourable member has said it is, if it is unnecessary to clean the pipes, money will not be wasted on cleaning them.

SCHOOL MILK

Mr. HARRISON: Will the Minister of Education ascertain how many schools and schoolchildren do not, for various reasons,

receive their daily milk issue? Will he also consider the substitution of South Australian fruit juices in these instances?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member. He may not know that this matter has been taken up with the Commonwealth Government on many occasions, the member for Chaffey having probably been one of the prime movers in trying to promote the use of orange juice in this way. It seems that the dairying lobby is stronger with the Commonwealth Government than is the influence of the citrus industry. So far, all approaches that have been made to the Commonwealth Government to enable fruit juices as well as milk to be supplied have been rejected. However, I will see how long it is since the last approach was made and, if there seems to be any point in taking up the matter with the new Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science, I shall certainly do so.

ACCOMMODATION TAX

Mr. EVANS: Can the Premier, as Minister in charge of tourism, say whether the Government plans to introduce a bed tax, as suggested by the Director of the Tourist Bureau (Mr. Pollnitz), to help promote tourism? A report in today's *News* states that Mr. Pollnitz believes that it would be desirable to have a bed tax in this State, and also to have some allocation made out of motor car registration fees towards developing the tourist industry in South Australia. I believe that there would be some merit in this suggestion if the revenue collected was used for this purpose only and not put into general revenue.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Government has no present plans to introduce such a tax. I saw the suggestion of the Director before he made it. An accommodation or bed tax imposed in numbers of other areas as a promotion levy on the tourist industry has often had beneficial effects. The bed tax so far publicly proposed in Australia was under the Victorian Liberal Government, the proposal being for a 10 per cent accommodation tax payable into revenue for general purposes. This Government would bitterly oppose such an imposition on the industry, as it would not serve the purposes of the industry and would place an impossible impost on it. However, the proposal of the Director was that the industry should consider whether

the imposition of a 2 per cent or 3 per cent impost specifically payable to a fund for the promotion of tourist facilities to help the industry might be considered here. The Government has made clear to the industry that such a proposition would be entertained only with the consent and support of the industry. It would in effect be a levy similar to levies that are imposed voluntarily in respect of other industries or production areas of the State for the promotion of those industries.

BETTING SYSTEM

Mr. WRIGHT: Has the Attorney-General any knowledge of an advertisement which appears in the October 5, 1971, issue of the *Burra Record* and which calls on members of the public to pay \$10 for certain information about a successful method of backing winners at the racetrack and, if he has not, will he examine the advertisement so as to establish its authenticity and legality? The advertisement, which appears under the heading "Gamblers Seldom Win" (which is set out in bold, black type), states:

But big money can be made from scientific punting. An exclusive system used since 1965 at Sydney Greyhound Meetings has proved this by averaging over \$40,000 per year net profit. Based on ingenious yet simple principles, the system is completely infallible. There is no long run of outs and a large bank is not required. A \$10 outlay can produce \$4,000 profit in one year.

The Syndicate operating the system is now disbanding to move overseas and is making available a limited number of copies to the Australian public for the full price of \$10. This offer is completely genuine in every way. Easily checked results are supplied with each copy and if not completely satisfied after a 30-day trial, return the system for a full refund. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to make punting really pay. Rush \$10 to: A. J. Reardon Syndicate, Box 495, Crows Nest, 2065, for your copy to be forwarded by return mail.

The constituent who raised this matter with me objects particularly on the ground that the company is disbanding and going overseas, probably with all the \$10 it collects. I have been requested to ask the Attorney-General to establish whether this is a fair advertisement.

The Hon. L. J. KING: It occurs to me either that it is an unfair advertisement or the proprietors must be extremely wealthy, if they have operated since 1965. Although I know nothing of the system, I will try to have the matter investigated and to have that investigation completed before the impending departure of this company for overseas.

FESTIVAL HALL

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about exhibiting a model of the festival hall?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A large model of the performing arts complex and river bank development could be made available for public viewing by late November. An examination of the site suggests that it is not practical for it to be located on or near the current construction. The suggestion made by the honourable member is an admirable one and, as the Government wishes to keep the public fully informed on this project, I will ask for an investigation to be carried out to find a suitable spot for the model to be displayed. It has been suggested that the display should be in the A.N.Z. Bank building, but unfortunately we do not have possession of that building yet. As we will have some models available before we get possession of that building, where the models could be displayed, we are examining the possibility of putting them in the foyer of the State Administration Building in Victoria Square, where we normally have displays. Some models have already been prepared, and the others will be ready by late November.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation have a thorough investigation made of the shocking pollution problem that exists in connection with the exhaust systems of freight locomotives and railcars? When the Minister of Roads and Transport replied to a similar question of mine last year, amongst other things he said it was not considered that a pollution problem really existed in this connection. However, in view of the horrible black smoke that belches forth, particularly from the "red hens" as they travel through my district, I believe that a pollution problem certainly exists.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: From his explanation, it appears that the honourable member knows that the Minister of Roads and Transport has been investigating this matter, but I shall be happy to discuss it with him again.

RURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. FERGUSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Lands to my question regarding an application for rural assistance?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that no agricultural industry is excluded

from the scheme (except for farm build-up cases eligible under the marginal dairy farms reconstruction scheme). The scheme has, however, been framed with the circumstances of the sheep and sheep-wheat industries primarily in mind. Where the particular circumstances of an agriculturist in another industry are such that the scheme applies to his circumstances, it is open to him to apply. Although the honourable member has not given the name of the constituent concerned (and this is understandable), my colleague has examined the file which is apparently referred to. This applicant is engaged in pig production and the reference made in the committee's report and letter is one of general comment. The recommendation by the committee, reached after consideration of various alternatives, is that, in view of the applicant's financial situation, it is unable to suggest any form of debt reconstruction which would enable this applicant to service commitments and reach the stage of commercial viability within a reasonable time. In these circumstances, and in consideration of the requirements of the scheme, the application was declined.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Premier a reply to my question in which I asked about the possibility of expanding the membership of the Rural Assistance Committee?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Minister of Lands states that he gave very careful consideration to the constitution of the Rural Assistance Committee before making a recommendation to the Government. He believes that the three-man committee is adequate for the task and possesses sufficient expertise to give effect to the agreement. The committee has sought the co-operation and liaison of the organizations concerned and also has the assistance of experienced officers of the Agriculture Department and Lands Department, from whom reports are sought. True, in some other States, the committees or boards have more members, but there is no evidence to suggest that they are more effective than is the committee appointed to administer the scheme in this State. However, should it be found that a larger committee is desirable, an increase in membership could be considered.

HILLS SUBDIVISIONS

Mr. McANANEY: In view of the decision of the Planning Appeal Board to over-rule a decision by the Director of Planning, supported by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, that allowing a subdivision in the Hills watershed area would be a pollution risk, can

the Minister of Works explain the position regarding subdivisions in the Hills at present and say whether he intends to take any action in the matter? The board stated that the determination did not criticize the Director of Planning or the Engineer-in-Chief for having a policy about protection of the catchment area and also stated that it might be a most desirable policy and one that should have prevailed with the Ministry and possibly with the Legislature to bring about changes in the law by statutory enactment. The present position seems to be strange.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I, as well as the honourable member, was concerned that the court had upheld an appeal by a subdivider. I am not critical of the court for doing this, of course: it is an avenue open to it, and the court ruled in this case that the Engineering and Water Supply Department could not prove that the subdivision would lead to pollution. The Engineer-in-Chief has just returned and he will be going away again next Monday and Tuesday. However, I will discuss the matter with him and I shall then be better able to know whether the Government may have to take further action to protect the water catchment area.

COOKED CHICKEN

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked about cooked rabbit being sold as cooked chicken?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have had this matter examined by the Prices Commissioner, and he reports:

This criticism has been the subject of many complaints to two Government bodies concerned with food quality, but inquiries by this branch have indicated that on every occasion the charge that cooked rabbit was being sold as chicken has proved to be unfounded. The chicken carcass is cut into nine portions, of which two include rib sections. When the latter are crumbed and cooked, they closely resemble similar sections of rabbit. The company involved is concerned about such adverse publicity and has provided pamphlets showing the method of portioning each chicken, together with a letter authorizing the complainants to enter any of their premises at any time to conduct their own inspections.

If the honourable member wishes, I can let him have a copy of the pamphlet and letter referred to in the report.

NURSING HOMES

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my question regarding nursing homes?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that private hospitals and rest homes are

licensed by local boards of health and must meet the requirements of the Health Act and regulations. Where State and local officers find a departure from these requirements, the owner or manager is asked to remedy the deficiency. A time limit for compliance may be set. Advice is readily available, and given, on the best way of meeting the problem. About 20 hospitals in the past three years have closed voluntarily following negotiations with local boards. During this period there was only one appeal to the Central Board of Health against the local board for refusal to grant a licence. This was dismissed. The Commonwealth Health Department approves hospitals and nursing homes for the payment of benefits under the National Health Act. If the institution meets the requirements of the Commonwealth inspectors, benefits are paid. The question relates to three hospitals in particular. One of these is in premises which are quite unsatisfactory and in unsound condition. It has nine beds, and over the past few years has had an average of three to five patients. The local board has been advised, after conference with the hospital board and a building contractor, that repair is impracticable, and the licence should not be renewed. A second hospital in the same small town recently had to increase its fees. Shortly afterwards 14 of the 32 patients were relocated without requiring assistance. In the third hospital, of 27 beds, in an adjacent larger town, attention was drawn to unsatisfactory features in January, 1971. Certain of these were required to be remedied within six months, and the latest report shows all but some minor matters have been satisfactorily corrected.

BUSH FIRES

Mr. LANGLEY: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the Agriculture Department intends to give a lead in a campaign on radio and television, as well as by the issue of car stickers, to bring to the notice of the public the fire danger during this summer? We have just had a season in which prolific growth has occurred over most parts of the State, and before long this growth will be dry. In past years the fire hazard has been brought to the notice of the people, and the results of doing this have been successful.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to take this matter up with the Minister of Agriculture. I think it is a good question, and I take this opportunity to compliment the people of South Australia on their awareness of the danger of fire in the State. Our

people are amongst the most fire-conscious in Australia, as has been shown by the lack of serious fires in this State in the last few years. In the past the department has issued stickers for motor cars, reading "No Bush Fires for S.A." and I imagine that similar stickers will be available again this year. My colleague has already issued several warnings about the imminent fire danger that could result from the spring rains, but I shall be pleased to take the matter up with him and let the honourable member know what is the position.

MANNUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: Will the Minister of Works try to get from the Public Buildings Department a reply to a question I asked about four weeks ago concerning the paving of the yard at the Mannum Primary School? Several questions have been asked about this matter in this House since 1968, and I should be pleased if the Minister would try to get the information that I sought recently.

The Hon. I. D. CORCORAN: I will certainly do that. I do not know what has caused the delay in this matter. During the past week, I think, I have written to the honourable member about other school matters, but I will check on this matter and expedite a reply.

GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education details of the progress of the new Gladstone High School? As you well know, Mr. Speaker, some progress has been made, but I should like to know what stage negotiations have reached.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member will be pleased to know that progress has been made. The new high school at Gladstone will be in Samcon construction, and will comprise a group of five separate buildings linked with covered ways and courtyards. Working drawings have commenced, with a schedule call target date for February, 1972, which would allow an estimated availability date of November, 1972. As in my replies to similar questions asked by other members, I emphasize that these are estimated dates and cannot be relied on with full confidence.

NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation considered charging an entrance fee at some of the more popular national parks in South Australia, in order to

cover the costs of maintenance and pollution control? When in the Northern Territory recently, I visited the national park at Ayers Rock at which each person is charged \$1 to enter, with an additional charge of 50c a day thereafter. About 30,000 people visit this area each year and the receipts from this charge are used to pay the wages of four caretaker-rangers who control the park and keep it tidy, as well as acting as rangers. As this system seems to work satisfactorily, has the Minister a similar idea of applying it in South Australia?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: This question has been considered seriously by the Government, but, as it has been decided not to implement such a policy, no entrance fee will be charged at our national parks.

DENTAL TECHNICIANS

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my recent question about dental technicians?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the Government has not completed its investigations into the desirability of legislation for the registration of dental technicians. Consideration will be given to this matter when these investigations have been completed.

SUPERANNUATION ACT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Treasurer say whether the Government intends to introduce further changes to the Superannuation Act? I was pleased to hear the Treasurer give notice of his intention to introduce amendments to the Police Pensions Act, a matter on which I and other members have made representations to him recently. However, the latest copy of the *Public Service Review* contains a reprint of the letter he wrote, as Leader of the Opposition, to the South Australian Government Superannuation Federation before the 1970 election. An article appearing on page 7 of the journal shows that the Treasurer has not, by any means, honoured all the promises that he made in that letter. I refer particularly to the promises regarding relief to older contributors, about which the article states:

Representations to the Government on this point have been met with a stony silence.

Therefore, with relation to that point and the other matters on which he gave undertakings, does the Treasurer intend to introduce legislation to cover these matters?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Several of the undertakings given to contributors to the

Superannuation Fund and to superannuants before the last election have already been honoured, and that has been acknowledged by them.

Mr. Millhouse: I did not say that they had not been.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I thank the honourable member for that remark. As to the remaining matters that have been raised, contributors and superannuants are well aware that the Government is considering at present an investigation to alter the whole basis of contributions for Government superannuation in South Australia, so that the present anomalies in the scheme will be eliminated and superannuants will retire on a pension which is a proportion of their existing salary and which will be contributed to by a proportion over the total period of their employment in the Public Service. This system will replace the present unit system. The investigation will take a considerable time to complete: it has been proceeding since the Government took office, but it is not expected to be completed before the latter part of next year. We hope to introduce legislation before the end of the next session of Parliament and, in the meantime, alterations have been made to cope with several existing anomalies, and amendments will be introduced this session to provide for further cost of living adjustments with respect to superannuants.

Concerning the difficulties of older contributors, it is not the case that the Government has met their representations with stony silence. Having had several consultations with members of the federation, I have told them that this matter is being considered by the Government and that it is likely that during this year a proposition will be put to them concerning this matter. The claim made for an alteration in this area goes far beyond anything the Government at any time promised. The federation's suggestion is that the most favourable situation of every other State should obtain here, even though this State has a more favourable situation in some areas than have the other States. The Government has promised that the overall position will be at least equal to that of any other State or the Commonwealth, and that position will truly obtain. However, it is not possible for the Government to go, in total, far beyond anything that obtains anywhere else, although that, in fact, has been urged on the Government. With great respect to the federation, I do not think that some of the things it has said regarding our proposals are fair or accurate. I have tried to negotiate

effectively here to provide for signal improvements and the federation has expressed its gratitude to the Government for the improvements already made or those which have been indicated to it and which we will certainly make.

Mr. Millhouse: That's not the tenor of the article.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not responsible for the article or for the honourable member. It is evident to all federation members that the Government has done far more than the honourable member's Government ever did to help them.

RECLAIMED WATER

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of October 7 about Bolivar effluent and the reclaimed water therefrom?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Because of its high algal content, economical disinfection of Bolivar effluent by chlorination is not possible without pre-filtering. To date, the Director-General of Public Health has released the effluent for use only on potatoes, flood-irrigated glasshouses tomatoes, vines, fruit trees, almond trees and flowers. The economics of reticulating this water through the Virginia district are not promising. However, before this project can be further considered, it is necessary to demonstrate the suitability of the effluent for irrigation of approved crops on the soils and under the natural drainage conditions existing on the northern Adelaide Plains. This \$31,000 investigation is being conducted by the Agriculture Department. It is understood that the investigation will be of considerable duration.

COUNCIL RATES

Mr. EVANS: Can the Treasurer say whether the Government will legislate during this Parliament to enable the Government to pay moneys in lieu of rates in respect of Government-owned properties into a fund to be distributed to councils in whose areas the properties are situated? An article in yesterday's *News*, headed "Council Moves on Rates", states in part:

This is one of the recommendations of the Local Government Act Revision Committee for inclusion in future State legislation governing administration of councils.

That recommendation was that the State Government should be asked to pay moneys in lieu of rates on Government-owned land. The article states that about \$500,000 a year is lost to the Adelaide City Council and about \$1,500,000 a year is lost overall throughout South Australian council areas. The article suggests that the Commonwealth Government should also be

asked to pay money in lieu of rates in respect of its property. I have always accepted that argument; the amount is only about \$1,000,000 throughout Australia. Local government in South Australia is denied \$1,500,000 in rates by not receiving such rates from State Government bodies. In my area, the National Parks Commission is an example of this, and I have used this example many times; the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Woods and Forests Department are other examples. Local people must carry this burden, especially in areas where restrictions are placed on the use of their land so that better quality water can be supplied to city people, although the local people pay about double the water rates that city people pay.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In my capacity as Treasurer, I can simply say "No".

LOTTERY LICENCES

Mr. SLATER: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my question of September 30 concerning licences in respect of small lotteries?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary reports:

Since the introduction of the Lottery Regulations, 1971, on April 1 this year, the following licences have been issued to October 5:

Annual Licence: Providing for prizes in any one lottery to \$200 in value.

Number issued: 1,587.

These licences were granted up to and including August 31. On September 1, amendments to the regulations replaced this class of licence with two separate categories of annual licence, namely:

Minor Licence: Permits the conduct of an unrestricted number of lotteries during the period of licence, with total prizes in any one lottery not exceeding \$50 in value.

Number issued: 320.

Annual Licence: Permits the conduct of lotteries during the period of licence where prizes exceed \$50 but do not exceed \$200 in value.

Number issued: 104.

Special Licence: This licence allows an approved organization to conduct a lottery with total prizes not exceeding \$200 in value for the benefit of another approved association which itself holds a current minor or annual licence.

Number issued: Two.

General Licence: Provides for the conduct of one lottery with total prizes exceeding \$200

Number issued: 146.

Housie Licence: Permitting up to five sessions of play.

Number issued: 1,533.

Sweepstake Licence: For lotteries on the Adelaide Cup, Melbourne Cup, Port Adelaide Cup, Onkaparinga Great Eastern Steeplechase and the Caulfield Cup. Maximum gross proceeds not to exceed \$500.

Number issued: 62.

Newspaper Licence: Each licence allows up to four lotteries, with a maximum jackpot period in each lottery of 10 weeks.

Number issued: Five.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of September 22 about the cost of certain rail standardization work?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The figures requested by the honourable member are as follows:

	1967 estimates \$	Expected final cost \$
Track and structures, including Crystal Street Station yard	36,777,412	39,400,000
Locomotives and rolling stock.....	14,100,894	10,525,454
Compensation to Sil- vertown Tramway Company.....	1,000,000	2,000,000
	51,878,306	51,925,454

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

Mr. NANKIVELL: As the Commonwealth Government intends to use precast concrete sleepers and continuously welded rail on its new section of railway between Port Augusta and Whyalla, I ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether a section of the south line still to be constructed between Keith and the Victorian border might have incorporated in it a section of this type of line, so that an assessment might be made of the effectiveness of this form of construction and so that it might be ascertained whether or not the principle could be adopted in this State in future.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I advocated in this House for a long time, especially when I was in Opposition, the desirability of concrete sleepers because I believed, from a layman's point of view, that they had a considerable advantage. However, this matter has been investigated by the Railways Commissioner and, from information he has provided, I now believe that the advantages may not be as great as they seem. I am not sure that we would be reasonably able to include concrete sleepers in the relaying of the main track between Adelaide and Melbourne, because of the problem of the additional and separate plant required for this type of operation. However, I am more than optimistic that we shall be able to have concrete sleepers used on the construction of the new line from Adelaide

to link up with the east-west line in the standardization project.

EARTH-MOVING WORK

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about earth-moving work on the South-Eastern Freeway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: In my reply to the honourable member's earlier question of September 14, 1971, I indicated that nine separate tenders had been called for the hire of various earth-moving equipment for use on the South-Eastern Freeway. I have this day authorized the acceptance of six of these tenders and expect the contractors to be notified accordingly within the next two or three days. Because of the amounts involved in the remaining three contracts, it has been necessary for me to refer them to Cabinet in terms of audit regulations. Subject to Cabinet approval, I expect that the contractors will be notified in about one week's time of the result of their tenders.

BREAM

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I recently asked about the many dead bream found in the Patawalonga Lake?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Following the receipt of a report of dead fish in the Patawalonga boat haven, samples of the lake water and the fish were collected by an officer of the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department and forwarded to the Chemistry Department for testing. No pesticides were traced in the water but, amongst traces of various substances evident in the fish, .12 parts a million of dieldrin was detected. No conclusive evidence could be produced as to the cause of death of the bream or a satisfactory explanation given as to how the fish became contaminated with this poison, or why smaller concentrations of other similar pesticides were found in the specimens. The Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation states that marine organisms are more sensitive to pesticides than are the pests for which they are intended. The Director points out, and it is important that the public should be aware, that some of these poisons are cumulative in their effect on fish, and even small quantities and concentrations can have serious reactions on some forms of marine life. All persons using the boat haven, or living in areas nearby, from which there is a run-off of

water into the lake, should be urged to ensure that no poisonous garden sprays, weed killers or similar dangerous substances are permitted to enter the water.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to the question I recently asked about time lost as a result of industrial disputes?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: No statistics are kept of the hours of work lost as a result of people being stood down because of strikes. The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics publishes statistics of hours lost because of disputes, but no division is made between workers directly and indirectly involved on a state-by-state basis. Workers indirectly involved are defined by the Commonwealth Statistician as "those employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but who are not themselves parties to the dispute". No account is therefore taken of workers laid off in establishments other than where the strike occurred.

GOVERNMENT PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I recently asked about a report from the committee inquiring into the operations of the Government Produce Department?

The Hon. I. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that he has now received a preliminary report from the committee of inquiry. He is considering the views expressed but, because it is only an interim report, he does not intend to make it public.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Education say what plans he has to effect the improvements needed to return the Correspondence School to a condition conducive to efficient working? I understand that, as the building has become inadequate for the needs of the school, the service provided for outback children may be severely hampered because of the lack of facilities. The development of audio-visual and audio techniques requires that facilities be available for recording purposes. I am informed that one section of the building is so badly cracked that storage is impossible. In addition, the provision of parking facilities is among the other matters that have been raised with me and, from the general position outlined, it seems that extensive modifications

or some other arrangements will have to be made soon.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am sure that the member for Bragg will be interested to know that the member for Torrens has taken up this matter with me and, in consequence of the actions of the member for Torrens, I recently visited the school. The honourable member is probably aware that the Correspondence School was moved into the premises at North Adelaide only a short time ago, and it was expected at the time of the move, which occurred under the previous Government when the member for Davenport was Minister, that this would be a suitable location for the school. The school is certainly crowded and further extension of facilities will be difficult on the existing site. Just what can be done to solve the problem has yet to be determined. When I can make an announcement on this matter I will inform the member for Torrens first, and I will also see that the member for Bragg receives any general information that comes to hand.

ABORTION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I ask my question of the Premier, as it concerns a matter of policy. Will the Premier say what is the Government's policy regarding the release of reports of what is being called the statutory committee to examine and report on abortions? Some weeks ago, I had to raise with the Government the matter of the release of, I think, the first report of this committee. I now know (and the Premier explained) that this report was being withheld from me by mistake. In the course of his reply, the Premier revealed that at least one other report had been received but, because some parts of it contained confidential information that could easily identify some persons, it had not been released. I cannot believe that all the material in the various reports of the committee will be of this nature. This is a matter of great public interest, as I am sure the Deputy Premier will acknowledge, and I suggest that it is in the interests of the public that as much information as possible should be available freely. If the present indications are to be followed we are not even to know when reports have been made. I ask the Premier what is the Government's policy regarding the release of these reports.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The general policy of the Government is that information should be given to the public about statistical

material which can be released without identifying persons or institutions which it would be inadvisable for the Government specifically to identify. Therefore, care has to be taken, otherwise it would be impossible to complete the statistics. That has been our policy. With regard to the last report made to the Government, I will get a full reply from the Chief Secretary for the honourable member.

NORTH ADELAIDE SCHOOL

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the North Adelaide Primary School?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Consultants have been engaged to examine and report on the extensive renovations and painting necessary at the school. It is expected that tenders will be called and a contract let for work to commence either in February or in March, 1972.

BEX TABLETS

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question of September 21 concerning a certain brand of analgesic tablet?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I assume the honourable member means Bex tablets. The Minister of Health states:

The advertising of medicines on television is controlled by the Commonwealth Broadcasting and Television Act, which requires the text of such advertisements to be approved by the Commonwealth Director-General of Health. The Commonwealth Department of Health, Canberra, has stated that the advertisement to which the honourable member has referred has been accepted for television advertising, as it appears that the advertisement stresses the use of Bex as an analgesic for relief of aches and pains and not the stimulant effect, if any, of the caffeine content of the powders.

SPINNING WHEELS

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning spinning wheels?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is not intended to supply spinning wheels to schools as part of regular educational equipment. However, models are available for about \$50, and schools which wish to purchase this equipment and which have instructors may do so from grant funds provided by the Education Department under the new arrangements.

POLICE TRAINEES

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to the question I asked about police trainees during the debate on the Estimates?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the reason for the decrease in the number of trainees in the Police Force as compared with other years is a reduction in both the number and quality of youths applying. Maintenance of the necessary strength of cadets in training is continually watched and an active recruiting campaign at schools, together with careers nights and advertising, is continually being carried out.

RURAL MARKET OUTLOOK

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the August issue of *Rural Market Outlook (Extension Bulletin)*, which is in the library, is the first issue? It is an excellent publication, and I should like to know whether it is to be issued monthly, to whom the initial copies were issued, what is the procedure for a person to have his name placed on the circulation list, and what is the yearly subscription fee to this publication.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: If the honourable member cares to confer with the member for Light, he will find out all about the matter.

SOUTH-EAST ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about an electricity supply for certain hundreds in the South-East?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Residents in the hundreds of Penola and Monbulla are already receiving a reticulated supply of electricity, with the exception of two properties in the latter hundred adjacent to the border of the hundred of Killanoola. These properties will be supplied from extensions yet to be constructed in the hundred of Killanoola. Residents in the eastern portion of the hundred of Comaum and the north-east of the hundred of Killanoola are already receiving a power supply. The reticulation of the remainder of the hundred of Comaum is expected to be completed by December of this year and of the remainder of the hundred of Killanoola by about May, 1972.

COWELL AREA SCHOOL

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

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A triple-unit library building for the Cowell Area School has been included in the 45th list of wooden buildings timed for erection in the first half of 1972.

However, it should be made clear that the actual building time will depend on the progress of the Public Buildings Department's building programme.

DEEP SEA PORT

Mr. VENNING: Can the Minister of Marine say when the report about a second deep sea port in South Australia will be available? When I previously asked questions in the House about this matter, I was led to believe that the report would be ready at the end of August, but it is now well into October. As I know that the men on this committee are very busy Government officials, I appreciate the position they are in. However, as we await with great interest the outcome of this committee's recommendation, I should like the Minister to say when the report will be available.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I have told the honourable member previously, the report has been completed and is being printed; I have not yet received it, but I expect to receive it shortly. I will then look at the report and decide whether or not it can be made public, as I think I have also told the honourable member previously.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I wish to ask the Premier a question on a matter of policy. Does the Government intend to make available additional sums to the independent schools of the State? I do not know whether the Premier read the articles which appeared in the *Advertiser*, I think last Friday and Saturday, which were written by Mr. Stewart Cockburn and which detailed the difficulties of some of the independent schools, including the one to which the Premier and I both went, which the Premier in the past has called the wealthier independent schools. The articles clearly showed the depth of the need of those schools, as well as the need of other schools in what we could call the independent system. Obviously, unless some financial assistance is given to them, the system will collapse. I know that the policy of the present Government has been to allocate on the basis of need the moneys that it has made available, and many of these schools, if not all of them, have been excluded up to date. It is really to find out whether that policy is to continue, as well as to find out whether additional sums have been made available, that I ask this question.

The SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The position—

Mr. Millhouse: I asked the question of the Premier.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Well, I am answering it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham must realize that it is not proper to direct a question to one Minister on a matter that is the responsibility of another Minister.

Mr. Millhouse: This was a matter of policy.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not have interjections made when I am on my feet. The honourable member for Mitcham has been here long enough to know the Standing Orders. The honourable Minister of Education is responsible for education, and I have called on him to reply.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As I think the honourable member would be aware, the Commonwealth Government provides to independent secondary schools across-the-board assistance of \$50 per capita and, to independent primary schools, \$35 per capita. The State Government provides for secondary schools across-the-board assistance of \$20 per capita and, for primary schools, \$10 per capita. In addition, this year a further sum of money has been made available to independent primary schools, with varying degrees of assistance ranging downwards from an additional \$20, \$15, or \$10 per capita to, in some cases (the so-called category D schools), no assistance at all. When the Budget was being discussed this year, the Government decided that an additional sum would be made available for the needs committee that had been established partly to extend the sums made available to independent primary schools, and to extend the system of grants on a needs basis to independent secondary schools. I have little doubt that, when this committee investigates the matter, if it considers that additional assistance is warranted it will make recommendations in an appropriate form to me, as Minister. I will then discuss such a matter with the Government.

I point out that the Commonwealth has already demonstrated that it has the resources to provide substantial assistance in this area; it provided some additional assistance in its Budget, not by way of per capita aid but by way of increasing the taxation deduction for education expenses from \$300 to \$400. I

think that the member for Mitcham will appreciate that this means that reductions in tax are obtained by taxpayers who incur expenses of \$400 on education. I believe that the honourable member will also realize that, the greater the income of the parent, the greater the reduction in tax, and that therefore a school where the average income of parents is high will be in a better position to increase fees than will a school where the average income of parents is low. This means that the Commonwealth Government's assistance in this area discriminates in favour of those independent schools where the average income of parents is higher than normal. In these circumstances, the policy of the State Government in providing additional assistance on a needs basis is completely justified.

WALKERVILLE LAND

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of September 28 about land acquisition at Walkerville?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have obtained for the honourable member a report from the Land Board concerning the matter of land acquisition of certain land in the Walkerville council area. I previously indicated that it was Government policy, and had been for many years, that 50 per cent of the Land Board's valuation be paid in cases such as this where land was purchased under the provisions of the Public Parks Act. In this area of land, which is three acres, less than half an acre has any value for residential purposes. Of the remaining 2½ acres, 1¼ acres is estimated as suitable for vegetable growing, and the balance of 1¼ acres is in the creek beds. The market gardening area was valued at \$1,250 by the Land Board and the residential area at \$5,000, making a total valuation of \$6,250 for this land. Inquiries have revealed that the essential difference between the Land Board's valuation and those obtained by the owner and the council is in the highland portion of this land. As at November, 1970, which was the date of the Land Board's valuation, the subject land was zoned broadly as "residential", which would have permitted flat development, but the Walkerville council had plans for rezoning this land with the classification of R1, which would have excluded such development.

As at the date of the board's valuation, an application to erect flats on the land would therefore have been referred to the building

referees, and in view of the proposed regulations which were exhibited in March, 1971, it is not at all certain that the application would have been approved. On the basis that the land would yield one large allotment, the board placed the value of \$5,000 as set out above on it, whilst the council valuer arrived at a figure of \$8,300. It appears to be a matter of opinion whether the potential of the land could have been fully exploited under flat development and, whilst the Land Board may have been too conservative in rejecting this potential, it seems to me to be equally incorrect to assume, without reservations, that the land could have been used for flats. After further consideration of this matter, the Land Board has indicated that it is of the opinion that, whilst there is some doubt in this matter, it feels that a figure half way between its valuation and that of \$10,600 fixed by the council's valuer would be reasonable in this instance. The resulting figure is \$8,425 and, taking 50 per cent of that Land Board valuation, I am prepared to recommend (and have recommended) that the council be paid \$4,212 as its contribution under the Public Parks Act.

DRUGS

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my recent question about influx of drug users?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that it is an established fact that drug abusers are very much nomadic in their habits and form part of a floating population. Drug abusers from Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales have all been located here and, conversely, South Australians have been located in other States. In a recent sampling compiled by the central crime intelligence bureau it was noted that the incidence of offenders moving both within and out of Australia was high and inconsistent with the average amount of travel undertaken by the normal population. As can be realized, this poses difficult problems of enforcement in matters of identification and location. In regard to the comment "There's a shortage of drugs in Sydney but they are easy to get in South Australia", this is an instance of misreporting. The actual comment made by the Police Prosecutor was, "The defendants thought that drugs were more easily obtainable in South Australia than in Sydney." It may be of interest to note that the defendants arrived on the evening of September 15, 1971, and were arrested on the evening of September 16, 1971.

PORT LINCOLN POLICE STATION

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to the question I asked on September 21 about the Port Lincoln police station?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the preparation of contract documents has commenced and it is expected that tenders will be called in May, 1972, and that the building will be available for occupation in September, 1973.

DISNEY ON PARADE

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Attorney-General yet received a report on the terrible accident last week that occurred at a performance of *Disney on Parade* in the west park lands? In reply to a question I asked him last Tuesday, the Attorney said that he expected to have a report soon after that time. As this matter is of great importance to the general public, I now ask the Attorney whether he has a reply and, if he has, whether he will give it to me.

The Hon. L. J. KING: As I told the honourable member last Tuesday, I had received an interim report on this matter, indicating that the accident occurred as a result of a fracture of a shaft. Matters are still to be considered about whether the report should be made public in its present form. One of the points about which I am seeking information is the likelihood of legal claims being made and the bearing of the comments in the report on that subject. The practice in the Labour and Industry Department regarding accident reports in the case of industrial accidents is that only the facts that are observed are disclosed to the parties, and it is not the practice to disclose opinions formed by the officer who investigates the accident. I should think that the same course of action would be appropriate in this case, although the investigation was carried out by the Inspector of Places of Public Entertainment, merely because the accident occurred at a place of public entertainment. Therefore, it may be necessary, when the final report is available, before publication to segregate the actual facts that the inspector observed when he visited the scene from opinions that he may have formed. Certainly, I will publish the facts as observed by the inspector and any other information that I am free to publish in accordance with the established practice.

RAILWAY ACCOUNTS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked on October 7 regarding an explanation of railway accounts?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The reconciliation sought by the member for Heysen is published annually by the Railways Commissioner in his report. The 1970-71 report is not yet available but there are adequate figures in the Auditor-General's Report to give a very good indication of the reconciliation. The honourable member will see by a study of previous published reconciliations (and his attention is drawn particularly to the one on page 21 of the Commissioner's 1969-70 report) that the substantial explanation is invariably to be found in variations in outstandings on Revenue Account and variations in revenues represented by cash in hand and cash in transit held by the Railways Department at the year-end but not yet paid to the Treasury. The latter are outstandings so far as the Treasury is concerned, as well as the former, for it had not received either of them at the year-end, though from the railways point of view the latter were cash in hand or in transit. The difference between the Treasury figure for cash actually received into the Treasury during 1970-71 of about \$48,140,000 and the railways figure for earnings in respect of 1970-71 of about \$49,134,000 is about \$994,000. Page 17 of the Auditor-General's Report shows that railway outstandings on Revenue Account increased as between June 30, 1970, and June 30, 1971, by about \$551,000 whilst page 151 shows that over the same interval railways cash in hand and in transit increased by about \$448,000. The

honourable member referred to the figure on page 151 for sundry debtors, which showed an increase of only about \$61,000, but this is not relevant, for the figure includes debtors other than on Revenue Account, and the amount of the latter fell considerably over the period. The figures relevant to debtors on Revenue Account are those shown on page 17. The two different figures I have quoted in explanation show an aggregate of \$999,000, whereas the amount for which an explanation has been sought is \$994,000. The net difference of \$5,000 between these arose from a variety of quite minor adjustments, and in particular from adjustments after the year-end in correcting the classification of certain small items for which information at the time of receipt was incomplete or not available. The honourable member will see the nature of these minor items if he studies page 21 of the 1969-70 report

of the Commissioner.

GEPPS CROSS SCHOOL

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Education say whether sheltered workshop features

will be included in the new school for the mentally retarded to be built at Gepps Cross? The press announcement states that a new senior school for intellectually retarded students will be built at Gepps Cross, and the announcement makes other comments. We are dealing with the senior group. As other authorities have said that at this age and in this grouping an important feature of the students' normal activity is associated with maintaining them in an employed state, will the Minister say whether it will be purely for educational purposes or whether it will be for education, plus the chance for the students to function as a working unit, that the new school is to be built?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The department's special senior schools are run in conjunction with an arrangement the department has with the Mentally Retarded Childrens Society: we educate the children from the age of 15 years to 19 years inclusive in these senior special schools, and at the age of 20 years the students go to the society's sheltered workshops. The result is that these special senior schools are concerned mainly with creating an environment appropriate for the students' future employment either in industry (where that is possible in one or two cases) or in sheltered workshops. Certain forms of production are undertaken in these special senior schools and, if the honourable member is interested, I shall be pleased to arrange for him to visit the Kensington Special Senior School to observe the type of work that goes on in that school and the kind of product it produces. The training there is at varying levels and under varying degrees of supervision, and some fine work is produced by the school's students, some of whom can occasionally be placed in outside employment in normal industry circumstances. The scheme that has been under way at Kensington for some time is a model of the kind of arrangement that will apply at Gepps Cross.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I should like to ask you a question, Mr. Speaker. On what criteria do you decide which Minister to call to answer a member's question? It has in my experience here been the custom to address questions on policy matters to the head of the Government (the Premier) irrespective of the subject matter and irrespective of whether a certain Minister is responsible, and these matters have been described usually as policy matters. Today, I addressed several questions to the

Premier on policy matters. The first question I addressed to him was on a matter dealing with labour and industry. I explained that I addressed it to him because it was a policy matter, and you called on the Premier to answer, as I had hoped and expected. However, a few minutes ago I addressed another question to the honourable gentleman, this time on a policy matter concerning education. I explained my question and, to my surprise, you called on the Minister of Education to answer it.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Education rose.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Labour and Industry had not risen earlier. When I protested about this, you put me off by saying that questions on matters which were the responsibility of individual Ministers would be answered by them. There appears to have been an inconsistency in your practice, even in Question Time today.

The SPEAKER: As a general practice, the Minister responsible for the portfolio is the one to answer the question. The Minister of Education, who was the appropriate Minister to reply, indicated that he wished to reply. I thought it only right and proper to call on the Minister whose responsibility the matter was.

MURRAY FLOODING

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about flooding in the Albury area and its likely effects on South Australia?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Present releases from the Hume reservoir, coupled with flows in the Ovens River, will necessitate release from Yarrawonga of an estimated 25,000 cusecs. Indicated flows in downstream tributaries (the Goulbourn, Murrumbidgee and Darling Rivers), coupled with estimated diversions, will provide a flow not expected to exceed 16,000 cusecs in South Australia, and this is not a flow that would cause flooding. Any further rain in the catchment could, of course, materially alter the present estimate.

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

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GENERAL)

In Committee.

New clause 42—"Depositing of rubbish, etc."

Mr. BECKER: I move:

In new section 783 after subsection (4) to insert the following new subsections:

(5) Where an authorized officer observes any person deposit litter, refuse, or waste matter, in contravention of this section, or any by-law under this Act, he may require that person to disclose his name and address.

(6) The authorized officer may give to the person so observed a notice in writing alleging that he has committed an offence under this section and stating that the offence may be expiated by the payment of the sum of two dollars to the council within seven days after the date of the notice.

(7) If the offence is expiated in accordance with the notice, no proceedings shall be instituted before any court in respect of the alleged offence.

(8) If a person of whom a requirement has been made under this section, and to whom the authorized officer has exhibited his certificate of authority, fails truthfully to disclose his name and address to the authorized officer, that person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.

(9) In this section—

"authorized officer" means a person in the employment of a council authorized in writing by the council to exercise the powers of an authorized officer under this section:
"certificate of authority" means the instrument by which an authorized officer is authorized to exercise the powers of an authorized officer under this section.

(10) The powers conferred upon an authorized officer shall not be exercised by that officer outside the area of the council from which he derives his authority.

The amendment provides for on-the-spot litter fines. As a result of questions I had asked in the House about introducing legislation on this matter, the Minister of Environment and Conservation replied on August 17 as follows:

No decision has yet been taken by the Government to introduce such legislation.

Therefore, I consider this to be an opportune time to amend the Act so as to authorize

councils to institute on-the-spot litter fines, if they so desire. This would especially benefit seaside councils and councils such as the Adelaide City Council. The provision is similar to that applying in certain countries overseas where a council officer may issue a notice to someone who deposits, say, a cigarette packet or banana skin on a footpath or road, and that person would have the opportunity immediately to pay a \$2 fine or to pay the fine to the local council office within seven days. Much of the trash thrown into the Sturt River and Torrens River eventually reaches the beaches, and there must be some system to try to encourage people to dispose of litter in a more orderly way. The pollution in the rivers may enter the gulf eventually and sharks may feed off the waste materials, with the result that the number of sharks may increase and present a danger to people using the beaches in the summer. Now is the time to give local government the opportunity, if it desires, to institute on-the-spot litter fines.

Mr. MATHWIN: I support the amendment. I think we all realize the undesirable situation that is caused by people who dispose of everything from bus tickets even to cats and dogs. Councils, especially seaside councils and probably Hills councils that have large reserves in their areas, should have the opportunity to try to solve this problem. Indeed, it is a big problem in Australia, but it has been solved in parts of Europe where on-the-spot fines are imposed on people who, for example, discard tram tickets in the street. Tourism is now one of the largest industries in the world. We must encourage tourism and we will not encourage it if we allow people to dispose of their litter wherever it suits them to do so.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Local Government): Provision is currently being written into the Act in the amendment I have moved to help councils that desire to solve this problem to do so in a proper manner. Not one word has been said by either the member for Hanson or the member for Glenelg indicating that on-the-spot fines will solve the problem any more than the normal course of reporting and taking the normal court procedure in relation to the litter bugs will solve it. The member for Glenelg referred to this terrible thing that we have here with people discarding their litter wherever they want to. He also referred to places in Europe that have introduced on-the-spot fines, and he has suggested that they

have done this successfully. I suggest he looks at on-the-spot fines in America and then say whether he thinks they are successful. God forbid we should ever have anything of that nature introduced into South Australia.

When we start talking about on-the-spot fines I think we have to be careful about what we say and what we do. We have to do our homework thoroughly to make sure that we do not set up a group of people who could be regarded as the pimps of society. If the member for Mitcham walked along the beach and pulled out his handkerchief to blow his nose and a tram ticket fell out, would one of those authorized officers go up to him and say, "Righto sport, \$2 or else." Is that what we want? One thing the member for Hanson and the member for Glenelg omitted to refer to as a prerequisite of a clean environment was the provision of adequate receptacles.

Before an amendment is introduced, it must be workable. We have heard the cry very often from members opposite that a Bill is a bad piece of legislation and therefore will not work. We have been criticized for that, yet now we are given an amendment without all the points being clarified. It is no good blaming people if they throw their cigarette boxes or their beer cans on the ground because there are no receptacles. In some cities in the world people do not litter the streets: but they have receptacles. I think we are forgetting the person who fills his car boot up and drives to some country road to dump his rubbish. To me this is a far more serious problem. Have a look at the people who are involved in that type of littering and invariably you will find they come from the district councils that fail to cater for the needs of the ratepayers.

I am in the fortunate position of living in a council area where four hard-rubbish trailers are placed at strategic points throughout the district so that ratepayers can dump anything in them. The dump itself is open to ratepayers free of charge and I suggest, without having any statistics available, that very few ratepayers from that municipality infringe by dumping rubbish of that nature. My point is that the responsibility comes back to the council: it must provide receptacles for the rubbish. Once this has been done, I believe that the provisions in the new clause I have inserted are more than adequate to meet the situation.

Mr. McANANEY: The Minister seems to have spent most of his time arguing against his own provision. Although the new clause provides for fines, the amendment of the mem-

ber for Hanson, by providing for on-the-spot fines, makes it simpler to collect these fines. If someone believes that the authorized officer is not doing his job, he does not have to pay the \$2 on-the-spot fine; he can then take advantage of the procedure provided in the Bill by the Minister. When this measure is first brought in, as a result of action taken at beaches, under the Minister's proposal, the courts could be overflowing. I cannot see any inconsistency between what the Minister has advocated and what the member for Hanson provides in his amendment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I support the amendment, hoping that we will see soon the institution of on-the-spot litter fines. Perhaps the member for Mawson will explain whether this is Labor Party policy, as I thought it was.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Reference to Party policy is out of order; we are dealing with an amendment to a clause.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Under the amendment, it is not mandatory for councils to institute on-the-spot fines, but they will have the power to do so. The Minister is wrong in suggesting that there is no alternative in the amendment to an on-the-spot fine (perhaps he was looking at an earlier copy of the amendment). The amendment allows three courses to be followed. If I dropped an apple core, and an officer said that I would be fined for doing so, I could accept the fine and pay there and then; I could take the ticket and expiate it within seven days; or I could take a chance in court.

I do not know whether the problem of litter impresses the Minister, but it certainly impresses me. It does not matter whether or not receptacles are about, one still sees people who should know better chucking away cigarette butts and so on. My favourite beach is Moana (I was there at the weekend) and, particularly since Councillor Jim Gifford has joined the Noarlunga council, plenty of receptacles for rubbish have been provided at that beach, yet it is in a most deplorable condition. Day after day one sees bits of plastic, paper plates, beer cans and bottles (often broken most dangerously), and a few lemonade bottles. This appalling problem should cause us shame, for it shows that as a community we have little civic pride. I believe that civic authorities should have the power at their own discretion to deal with the matter if they wish, and that is all that this amendment provides for. Although the Minister has spoken and the members behind him will support him, irrespective of their

views, I hope that on-the-spot fines for depositing litter will be introduced soon. If the dreadful consequences that the Minister has suggested follow, Parliament can consider the matter again. The present problem justifies action being taken.

Mr. EVANS: I support the amendment. No member has said that it is wrong for councils to provide receptacles in which the community can deposit litter, and the Minister has argued against his own provision. The Minister knows that ratepayers can vote out the members of a council if they disagree with the council's action. I accept the Minister's argument about the Hills and country areas, and there is no reason why we should not have all the provisions suggested. It is difficult to apprehend people who deposit rubbish, unless they leave something to identify them and enable them to be tracked down.

Dr. Eastick: They often do.

Mr. EVANS: Yes. If we encourage councils to provide the facilities we would largely solve the problem, but it is foolish to say that the amendment is useless or not practicable. The Minister has referred to people not wanting to be the pimps of society, but would he regard a councillor who reported someone for depositing litter as being a pimp of society? The duty is the same and I am sure that the average man in the street who committed an offence of this kind would prefer to pay \$5 than to battle the matter out in court, at greater cost.

Mrs. STEELE: Drastic abuses need drastic measures and for that reason I support the amendment. Surely Australia must be one of the worst litterbugging nations. On Australian beaches, particularly South Australian beaches, one sees rubbish knee deep extending for yards away from the receptacles that are provided, and that shows that insufficient receptacles are provided. In the United States the penalties vary from \$50 to \$200, and I have never seen people more conscious of keeping their highways and pleasure resorts beautiful than the people of that country. I understand that New South Wales has introduced legislation to deal with this matter, and we should do it here. Anyone with civic pride could follow up a case of depositing litter.

Mr. MATHWIN: I support the amendment. The Minister has said that we did not name the countries that have taken this action. However, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Monaco have provision for them. Further, if I remember correctly, Singapore provided for an on-the-spot fine of \$10 when I was there

about 18 months ago. Surely the main objective of the amendment is to overcome the present cumbersome and difficult method by which councils operate. The Government should encourage councils to combat this problem. Anyone who went to our metropolitan beaches would see that many receptacles are provided there.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: I have seen receptacles overflowing at 10 a.m.

Mr. MATHWIN: Yes, that would be after holiday weekends, because council employees take some time to go along the beach. The Minister has said that in his council area trailers are parked so that people can deposit litter in them. Those who advocate that method say it is a good idea, but they do not want the trailer parked outside their house. The council to which the honourable member has referred is fortunate because it has many places in which to dump rubbish.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: They are civic-minded citizens, too.

Mr. MATHWIN: I do not argue with that. However, other councils are less fortunate, and we should do all we can to assist them. Councils would not be obliged to employ inspectors, but if they were employed they would use their authority with discretion.

Dr. EASTICK: I, too, support the amendment. The Minister has attempted to draw a red herring across the trail. There have been instances when the contents of the receptacles provided by the councils have been emptied out and strewn around, wheels have been removed from the trailers, and the trailers or their contents have been deliberately set on fire. If people do not use the receptacles provided or do not fall in with any campaign to keep the area clean, this legislation could be used against them, but I am sure that councils would use it wisely.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: On June 14, it was reported in the press that the State Conference of the Australian Labor Party had endorsed the policy of on-the-spot litter fines and would consider introducing the necessary legislation. In view of this, the Minister's position seems to be hard to understand: I thought he would be only too happy to support the amendment.

Mr. BECKER: I thought the Minister would have been as anxious as I to ensure that our streets and beaches were free of litter. He said that provision already existed in the Act, but it refers mainly to people who deposit large quantities of rubbish on roadways: it does not provide for on-the-spot fines. I have

previously suggested that the maximum and minimum fines for depositing rubbish should be increased because some councils found that, by the time they had taken court proceedings, the fine imposed was hardly worth the trouble. If on-the-spot fines were introduced, the inspector could collect the \$2, if the offender had the money on him, or give him seven days in which to pay the fine. Council inspectors should be required to carry the appropriate identification when on duty. This system operates in some of the most popular European beach resorts. People who deposit litter on the beaches, etc., should be reminded of their responsibility in a modern society and should be stopped from practising this habit. Councils could minimize the problem if a publicity campaign were undertaken, but this would require much money. Indeed, most of the councils' moneys come from the Government, and I believe that we should give them an opportunity to take action on this matter. The Glenelg council has recently taken a step forward by providing rubbish receptacles at about 150-yard intervals along Jetty Road, and I think most councils are taking similar action.

I draw the Minister's attention to the litter-free highways in Sydney, where a person who throws, say, a cigarette butt out of his car window commits an offence, for which he can be fined \$5. The road that I saw near the Spit bridge, for example, is one of the cleanest that one would see anywhere, and this proves that, if we can erect signs stating that the road in question is a litter-free highway and that an offender may be fined, there can be beneficial results. Indeed, if this works in Sydney, I think it can work in Adelaide. I appeal to the Minister to accept the amendment.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The member for Hanson says that the Government's amendment merely relates to the depositing of large heaps of garbage, and so on, but I draw attention to his own amendment, namely, new subsection (5), which provides:

Where an authorized officer observes any person deposit litter, refuse, or waste matter, in contravention of this section, or any by-law under this Act, he may require that person to disclose his name and address.

Therefore, we are dealing with waste matter, and it is referred to in the provision I have moved to insert. The honourable member's amendment merely relates to on-the-spot fines for exactly the same offence as is provided for in the proposed new clause. Regarding the claim by councils that it costs more to pursue these matters in the courts than is collected in

fines, I remind members that we have amended the penalties in acknowledgment of that fact.

Mr. McANANEY: What is the Minister's objection to the amendment? To be consistent, he would have to amend the provisions relating to parking fines. As the measure would be difficult to administer, and bearing in mind the pressure on police officers at present and lack of recruits, etc., I hope that those Government members who have some common sense will support the amendment. Streets in Asian countries are kept tidy, and I am sure that if the proposal of the member for Hansen is put into effect it will assist the position in this State.

The Committee divided on the amendment:

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

Noes (23)—Messrs. Broomhill and Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Clark, Corcoran, Crimes, Curran, Dunstan, Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, King, Langley, McKee, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo (teller), Wells, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Hall. No—Mr. Burdon.

Majority of 6 for the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived; new clause inserted.

New clause 44a—"Count by deputy returning officer."

Dr. EASTICK moved to insert the following new clause:

44a. Section 824 of the principal Act is amended by striking out subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph I and inserting in lieu thereof the following subparagraphs:

(a) in the presence of any scrutineers who are in attendance, open every ballot box in which voting papers have been deposited at the polling place at which he presided, remove the voting papers and exhibit the ballot box empty;

(b) examine the voting papers so removed;

New clause inserted.

New clause 44b—"Count by returning officer."

Dr. EASTICK: I move to insert the following new clause:

44b. Section 825 of the principal Act is amended by striking out subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph II and inserting in lieu thereof the following subparagraphs:

(a) as soon as practicable after the close of voting, in the presence of any scrutineers who are in attendance, open every ballot box in which voting papers have been deposited, remove

the voting papers, and exhibit the ballot box empty;

(b) examine the voting papers so removed;

This is consequential on the passing of new clause 44a.

New clause inserted.

Title passed.

Bill reported with amendments. Committee's report adopted.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Local Government) moved:

That this Bill be now read a third time.

Dr. EASTICK (Light): It is an important day for local government that this Bill, which contains many desirable features, should pass, making these features available to councils and to the State as a whole. Had it not been for the fanaticism of the Minister on an earlier occasion, these desirable features could have been available many months ago. On that earlier occasion, the Minister was given the opportunity—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The third reading debate is confined to the terms of the Bill as it comes out of Committee. The honourable member is completely out of order in referring to any debate that occurred months ago or to anything other than the Bill as it came out of Committee.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The honourable member for Light must confine his remarks to the Bill.

Dr. EASTICK: What I have said hurts the Minister of Education. The Bill will be advantageous to the whole State and especially to those councils that desire to make use of many of its provisions. As has been pointed out previously, many of the Bill's desirable features will not be acted upon very quickly.

Some of those features are desirable in many areas. They will require considerable thought, and in many instances the matter of local government financing will require some rethinking. The provision in the Bill enabling local government to obtain Commonwealth assistance for the provision of infirmaries and homes for the aged, and so on, is indeed a worthwhile feature. However, because of the present state of local government finances, this provision will not be acted upon immediately.

The provision regarding social service workers has been requested for some time, and it will rationalize certain actions that some councils have taken in the past. The member

for Elizabeth will be pleased with the provision regarding the use of park lands for caravan parks because earlier, as the member for Gawler, he made representations in this respect. I look forward to the advancement of the well-being of the community that this Bill will permit.

Bill read a third time and passed.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 30. Page 1853.)

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I support the Bill, the major provisions of which are straightforward. Clause 2, which amends section 2 of the principal Act, deals with the Statutes of the university. Following the passage of the principal Act in the first session of this Parliament, some doubt was apparently cast on the validity of those Statutes, because the Acts Interpretation Act did not use specific wording but referred generally to the university's by-laws, rules and regulations. These are being preserved, and the statutory provisions in the principal Act are being re-enacted.

Although doubt was cast on the validity of the Statutes, it was not a very strong doubt. However, it was considered wise that the position should be made perfectly explicit, and clause 2 has that effect. No fault can be found with clause 3, which inserts in the principal Act a more comprehensive definition of "university grounds". The only clause that could be considered contentious is clause 4, which amends section 12 of the principal Act. The Legislative Council amended the Bill and this caused some consternation, apparently, in some circles regarding people who were in part-time employment at the university to give occasional lectures.

I think the intentions of the amendments introduced by the Legislative Council were fairly clear. By the amended Act, of the 22 members of the council to be elected by the convocation of electors, eight shall be persons engaged in the employment of the university as members of the academic staff, and 12 shall be persons not engaged in the employment of the university. Doubtless, the thinking behind this amendment was that it was considered that the majority of the university council should not have close contact with the university, and, in fact, that the majority of people elected to the council should come from outside the university. I subscribe to this point of view.

Also, I believe that the amendments were such that these people who are in part-time employment at the university were expected to be elected under section 12(c)(1), which provides that eight persons shall be engaged in the employment of the university as members of the academic staff. I believe that the intention behind the amendments made in the last session was that these people should be elected under these terms. In fact, the University Council set up a committee to examine this Bill, and apparently this was the advice that the committee received. The relevant sentence in the report states:

The committee has been advised that anybody who receives remuneration, however small, for services rendered in the year concerned is in the employment of the university. . . .

That is the interpretation I put on the amendments, that these people who are in part-time employment of the university, only in a small degree, could possibly be elected as one of the eight. However, I will concede that it would make their election more difficult, and the university pointed out that they could hardly be classed as members of the university staff. I consider that this is a valid interpretation of the intention behind the amendments. As a result of this inquiry by the university, clause 4 has been inserted, and this gives the council the power to define those who are considered to be on the academic staff in the employ of the university. The clause inserts a new subsection 12(2a), which provides:

For the purposes of this section, a person shall not be regarded as being engaged in the employment of the university unless he derives remuneration for services rendered as an employee of the university in excess of limits determined for the purposes of this subsection by the council.

I believe that at present the amount set by the council is \$1,000: in other words, if anyone receives remuneration in excess of \$1,000 for part-time academic work, he is considered to be a member of the academic staff and would be required to be elected to the council under section 12(1)(i). If these part-time people earn less than \$1,000 they are not considered to be members of the academic staff and would be eligible to be elected under placitum (iv). The second reading explanation states:

The university now considers that uncertainty has been introduced into the administration of the provisions because there is a significant class of persons, consisting largely of eminent professional men and women, who are occasionally called on by the university to give lectures to classes at the university. These could hardly be regarded as members of the

"academic staff" but, on the other hand, they are occasionally employed by the university. They are thus apparently excluded from membership of the council.

I do not subscribe to that interpretation. I do not believe they would be excluded, but could have been elected as members of the academic staff. However, I think it would make their election more difficult and I believe that was the original intention of the amendments moved in another place. I should like to have received more information on who is employed by the university and who earns less than \$1,000. Members of the staff could be housewives or others employed as tutors on a part-time basis, and this could be their only income. However, if they earned \$900, it could be considered that they were not employed by the university, but I do not think that that is a valid interpretation. Where are we to draw the line? I believe the amendments of the other place had some merit, and they would have strengthened the position that the majority of members of the council should not be closely associated with the university or in its employ. This amending legislation tends to weaken that position somewhat, but I consider it reasonable and will support it. When referring to clause 5, the second reading explanation states:

The amendment removes any possibility that an employee of the university elected to membership of the council could, after leaving the employment of the university, remain in office for a period extending beyond the time of the next election of candidates by the convocation of electors.

If a person employed by the university earns \$900 he must be elected under section 12(1)(iv), but if for some reason his income varies and he receives more than \$1,000 he must be excluded from membership of the council. Eminent professional men give occasional lectures for which they may receive an honorarium, and may be considered as part of the academic staff but, in a subsequent year, if they do not deliver a lecture they may not qualify for election to the council, and this could result in a difficult situation.

I see some difficulty in clause 5, because the people who are likely to change in status are those who do occasional work. In one year they might receive payment of \$1,000 or over, which would make them ineligible to remain on the council; they would have to be replaced at the next meeting of the convocation of electors. The Bill and its amendments could mean major changes to the University Council and to those who elect the council.

The convocation is the major electing body and the convocation of electors is an all-embracing body. Those directly connected with the university, and the graduates, would have an overwhelming voice in the council's composition. There is some merit in the Legislative Council's amendments in trying to ensure that the council is not completely dominated by personnel associated with the university and that there should be a fair balance in favour of membership of those not directly associated with it.

From my limited experience of being a council member, I consider that, regardless of where the council members come from, at present they bring a responsible view to the deliberations of the council. I do not think that anyone there has an axe to grind. The university is heavily subsidized by public funds, and those on the council from outside it have wide experience and certainly should not be overwhelmed by those directly associated with the university.

Clause 6 tidies up the determination of the term of office of the warden. Clause 7 gives the university power to regulate matters relating

to Matriculation, as a specific request was made for its inclusion. I am not entirely convinced that some people would be excluded from election to the council under the terms of the Bill as originally passed, although I concede that it could be made difficult for them to be elected. The possibility of election would be diminished in the case of those who do part-time work or who give occasional lectures by being one of eight instead of one of 12.

The proposed sum of \$1,000 is generous when one considers that there could be part-time tutors whose only remuneration could be several hundred dollars and whose only real employment is at the university. They will be eligible to be elected as members not associated with the university. It is a matter of where to draw the line in this matter. I support the second reading.

Mrs. STEELE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.30 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 19, at 2 p.m.