

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, November 24, 1971

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: PYRAMID SELLING

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. J. KING: During the present session I have been asked a number of questions in this House concerning various pyramid selling organizations and activities. In particular, I have been asked about Holiday Magic Proprietary Limited, Adelaide Promotions Proprietary Limited, Australian International Merchandising Proprietary Limited and Golden Chemical Products (Australia) Proprietary Limited.

All these companies are engaged in the business of pyramid selling. It is difficult to provide a comprehensive definition or description of pyramid selling which fits the activities of all organizations carrying on this type of activity, but in all cases the emphasis is upon the selling of distributorships. These ideas, and in many cases the promoters, have come to this country from the United States of America and Canada. An intensive, high pressure advertising campaign is mounted to attract people to pay money for distributorships. The general distributors who pay for their general distributorship set about enlisting others as distributors and receive substantial commissions for their sponsorship.

Prospects of making huge profits are painted to the would-be distributors in glowing terms. Opportunity classes are held, at which the promoters and their representatives represent the distributorship as an assured opportunity of making large sums of money. In this way, ordinary members of the public without business experience or aptitude are encouraged to mortgage their houses and sell their assets to put money into purchasing these distributorships. In most cases, disaster is inevitable. What is worse is that they are encouraged to get their friends and relations to do the same thereby bringing the same misfortune on those close to them.

These pyramid selling organizations have now left a trail of misfortune and ruin right across the Commonwealth. Hundreds of distributors have lost everything they had. They are left with a quantity of unsaleable products. The contract which they sign even pre-

cludes them from selling the products with which they are left at prices below the prescribed price. It seems to me, however, that this part of the agreement is invalid as an infringement of the Commonwealth retail price maintenance laws.

The result is that enterprising dealers are taking advantage of the desperation of unsuccessful distributors to buy the products from them at give-away prices. These products are then sold to retail stores and marketed to the general public at a price much below the price prescribed by the pyramid selling organization but much above that paid to the desperate distributor. The dumping of the products in this way makes it even more difficult for the continuing distributors to survive.

Despite all this, the pyramid selling companies are still doing everything in their power to induce others to pay for distributorships. Dishonest devices of many descriptions are used in an endeavour to ensnare others into the trap. Advertisements appear which refer to business opportunities in glowing terms but give no hint that the organization is a pyramid selling organization. Telegrams are arriving from senders in the United Kingdom, offering a business opportunity and asking the addressee to ring a telephone number "for date and place of information meeting on great new business opportunity especially for you." The telephone at that number is answered by a Mr. Smith who, it turns out, may also be contacted by ringing the telephone number of Golden Chemical Products (Australia) Proprietary Limited.

The Attorneys-General for the various States have had the question of legislating to overcome these evils studied by departmental officers. It does not appear that it is practical to formulate legislation which would meet these problems, at any rate on a State level. It would seem that the only practical course would be to constitute a tribunal with power to forbid unfair trading practices of this kind. The Attorneys-General have asked the Commonwealth Attorney-General to consider whether such a jurisdiction might be conferred upon the Restrictive Trade Practices Tribunal. If the Commonwealth Government agrees to this, complementary State legislation would be needed. In the meantime, I can only issue, once again, the strongest warning to members of the public to avoid entering into any business arrangement of the pyramid selling character or with an organization engaged in pyramid selling activities.

QUESTIONS

ABATTOIR DISPUTE

Mr. HALL: Will the Premier say whether he or his Government (perhaps through the appropriate Minister, under Cabinet direction) will use section 70a of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Act to have meat killed outside the metropolitan area brought into the metropolitan area in substantial and sufficient quantities to break the strike now current at the Gepps Cross abattoir? The Act that I have mentioned was amended in 1962, and subsection (1) of section 70a provides:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act the Minister, if he is of the opinion that in the interests of the public it is expedient so to do, may grant a licence for such period as he shall think fit to any person to slaughter, elsewhere than at the abattoirs of the board, any stock for sale for human consumption.

Subsection (4) of that section provides:

Any carcass or meat slaughtered in accordance with the terms of a licence issued under and inspected pursuant to the directions (if any) given under this section may be sold within the metropolitan abattoirs area.

I ask this question because of the continuation of the strike, the tremendously unsatisfactory situation that exists for the board of management of the abattoir, and the inconvenience which is being caused and which will be caused to the public of South Australia.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not intend to take any action of a strike-breaking kind. The effect of such advocacy by honourable members opposite is only to exacerbate the present situation. Any such action by the Government would only widen industrial unrest markedly.

Mr. Crimes: That's what they want.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Well, one can easily assign motives: that is fairly easy to do after the things that Opposition members have said in the past few days. A voluntary conference, which was obtained by the Minister's action, will take place at 2.15 this afternoon between the parties to this dispute, and we hope that this voluntary conference will be successful. This Government is using every endeavour to obtain a satisfactory result and proper conciliation in this dispute.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether it is a fact that the person dismissed at the Gepps Cross abattoir, and thus the cause of the present industrial trouble there, has a long record of absenteeism, and whether he recently threw a mallet at a fellow worker? If the Minister is not in possession of this informa-

tion, will he obtain it and give it to me in the House tomorrow?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I am not in possession of the information referred to by the honourable member but, if what he suggests is the case and if there are matters associated with absenteeism or any other issues affecting the employee in question, I imagine that they would be canvassed before the court.

POLICE INTERROGATIONS

Mr. JENNINGS: Some time ago I asked the Attorney-General whether he would take up with the Chief Secretary the matter of police interrogations of people who were apprehended or arrested, and I explained that the reason for asking the question was that I had received a letter from a constituent who claimed that the information he gave to the police when he was apprehended was completely different from that which the police gave in the subsequent court case. I did not know that the question was publicized, but apparently it was and, as a consequence, I have received tremendous number of letters complaining about the same sort of thing, including two letters from stipendiary magistrates who, I can only infer from their letters, must have been worried about the same sort of thing in their judicial performance over the years. I have been suffering from a nagging doubt over the years, wondering why, according to the police evidence, people who are honest and truthful apparently just tell lies when they get into the witness box. Has the Attorney-General a reply to my original question?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Government is about to establish a committee to inquire into the criminal law. One of the terms of reference will relate specifically to the investigation of alleged offences. The honourable member's suggestion will be considered by the committee.

BERRI DRAINAGE

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Irrigation a reply to my recent question about a drainage problem in the Berri irrigation area?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that he is aware of the problem brought about by overtaxing the No. 10 main drain system in the Berri irrigation area. He has made arrangements to relieve this situation. It is intended that an electrically-operated pump be installed at the sump at the junction of Nos. 10 and 10A main drains. This pump will deliver drainage water through 2,200ft. of

12in. diameter pipe at a rate of 750gall. to 1,000gall. a minute direct to the Berri evaporation basin. This action is expected not only to relieve the position in regard to No. 10 system but also to permit some seepage water to be "bled off" the Monash main outfall line. The work is expected to cost about \$10,000.

YACKA RAILWAY STATION

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked some time ago about parcel facilities at the Yacka railway station?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yacka is in the same category as very many other unattended stations. Facilities for the receipt and despatch of parcels and goods have not been discontinued. Parcels are delivered at Yacka each evening by the passenger train arriving there at 8.24 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 8.51 p.m. on Sunday. Parcels for despatch are picked up by the passenger train arriving there at 7.56 a.m. Mondays to Saturdays. The addressee is obliged to remove his parcel from the station waiting room after the arrival of the train. To despatch a parcel, a consignor completes a consignment note and leaves the parcel at the station. The average number of parcels received at Yacka a week is 15 and the average revenue totals \$4.35. The average number of parcels despatched each week is two, and the average revenue totals 42c. The very small number of parcels received and despatched does not appear to warrant the services of a ganger in the area to perform the duties involved.

EVICCTIONS

Mr. WRIGHT: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked a week ago about evictions from houses?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The matter of providing immediate accommodation for families or single people who are either being evicted or are being threatened with eviction is one which is always before the trust. It is not an exaggeration to state that each day one or more of these cases is brought to the attention of the trust. Whilst it is possible that some families are not aware of the method of making application to the trust, it is thought that these cases would be exceptional. Those who prepare for possible eviction by making application should receive a priority and, should the trust depart from its policy of housing by date of application as well as by suitability as tenants, those applicants who showed the forethought in applying would continue to be penalized until such time as

they could show threat of eviction. The trust does and will in cases of extreme urgency house families out of line. Each week special cases are approved by the trust for housing. The trust is strongly of the opinion that, if families or single people do not have continued security in their existing accommodation, they should make application for rental accommodation.

Dealing specifically with elderly people, it should be stated that the trust's cottage flat programme for aged pensioners is now at an all time record high. Unfortunately, though, there are still many hundreds of old people to be assisted and the waiting time is considerable. There are many organizations which also provide accommodation in the form of flats and to which these elderly people could apply. The question of housing in the emergency has been the subject of discussion in recent months, particularly with those in the social welfare field. The trust is involved at the present time in discussions with the South Australian Council of Social Service on this matter and will participate in a joint meeting soon.

SUNNYSIDE SWAMP

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about the Sunnyside swamp?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Sunnyside is a private reclaimed area upstream of the Sunnyside shacks opposite the township of Myponga. The reclaimed area of about 140 acres is a centre portion of a much larger swamp of some 600 acres. Drainage water is conveyed to the downstream bank and is pumped over the bank into the adjacent water-covered swamp area. The quality of the drainage water would be almost identical to that of the originally diverted water from the river. No damage whatever could be expected to plant growth in the swampy area.

RIDGEHAVEN FIRE STATION

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to my question of November 4 in which I requested details of the Ridgehaven fire station?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the estimated cost of the fire station being constructed in Dewar Avenue, including land, is \$60,000. A fire appliance and equipment valued at about \$25,000 will be installed or housed at the station. It is expected that the station will be commissioned early in 1971 with a complement of three officers and eight men, which provides full-time attendance of an officer and two men. This is the normal

complement at such stations, which are supported where necessary by other stations and headquarters. The total annual operating cost is currently estimated at \$72,000, but this will be subject to any wage increase granted in this financial year. A plan and definition of the area covered by the proposed new fire district is available for the honourable member's perusal.

BUSH FIRES

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently about aerial spotting for bush fires?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that there is no stipulation or restriction as to the time of day at which fire spotter aircraft commence flying. This decision is made on a day-to-day basis by the controlling officer.

PORT AUGUSTA BRIDGE

Mr. KENEALLY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the Port Augusta bridge?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As the honourable member is aware, the Corporation of the City of Port Augusta originally supported the retention of the old bridge for use as a local access to Port Augusta West and for recreational purposes. However, at the same time, the council was not keen to take over responsibility for its continued care and maintenance. On completion of the new bridge, the present structure will no longer be required to accommodate utility services. The corporation has now reconsidered this matter and has indicated that it would like the old bridge removed as soon as the new bridge is completed. Accordingly, I intend to authorize the Commissioner of Highways to call tenders for its removal at the appropriate time, namely, on completion of the new bridge.

FARE CONCESSIONS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport or the Government further considered the question of concessions to pensioners who use private bus lines or those in the country? This matter was considered some time ago in regard to the Hills area. People in country areas where private buses operate have told me that pensioners in these areas cannot obtain any concession.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Government has considered this matter but, because of several circumstances (not the least being the financial position), the matter has again been deferred. Although I do not want to inflict

anything on the private bus operators to whom the honourable member has referred, I point out that some bus operators who run country services have, of their own volition, voluntarily given concessions to pensioners, and there is nothing to stop any bus operator from doing the same thing.

Mrs. STEELE: Will the Minister give details of the eligibility of war widows for fare concessions on public transport? As a result of my discussing this matter with the Minister the other day, he has kindly given me a reply in writing. However, as I believe the information is of general interest to all members, I ask him whether he will be generous enough to supply it to the House.

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

- (a) Basic pension: \$32 a fortnight, plus
- (b) Domestic allowance: \$16 a fortnight if the widow is over 50 years of age or has dependent children, plus
- (c) \$12 a fortnight for the first child; \$10 a fortnight for the second child and each subsequent child.

Under this scale, a war widow with one dependent child is paid a pension of \$60 a fortnight, made up of components (a), (b) and (c). On the other hand, an age or invalid pensioner with one dependent child under the age of 16 years or a student child over this age, with "assessed means" being equal to or below the specified minimum, receives a pension of only \$37 a fortnight, made up as follows: basic pension \$32 a fortnight, plus \$5 a fortnight for a child under 16 or a student child.

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

this stage, to extend the concession scheme to include this group of pensioners.

BEDFORD PARK BLASTING

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Minister of Works a report on the matter about which I spoke to him yesterday concerning blasting in the area of Francis and Rupert Streets, Bedford Park, alongside the Flinders University? I hope that the reply he will give me will allow me to allay the fears of some of my constituents in that area. As a result of blasting that took place last Monday, I understand that rock fragments landed in backyards in Rupert Street.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As he has said, the honourable member discussed this matter with me yesterday, and I now have a report for him. The "blasting" which is occurring on the site is part of a seismic survey to determine the nature of the substructure. Mr. Tomlinson (site office) was asked by a householder whether "rock blasting similar to the teacher college" would take place. This rock blasting was undertaken to excavate deep basements out of solid rock. Mr. Tomlinson explained that the hospital required no digging into the rock, so there would probably be no need for excavation blasting. I presume the current seismic shots are being mistaken for this. The Mines Department has, however, been instructed not to undertake any more seismic testing near the houses. The replies to the three specific queries are as follows:

- (1) At this stage, it is not expected that houses on the west side of Francis Street will be affected by road widening, as road widening will be occurring on the eastern alignment of the roadway.
- (2) No bridge is planned. The question may refer to an earlier proposal for a foot bridge from the university; this will not now be constructed.
- (3) Francis Street will remain as at present used, that is, for part use by the university.

FIRE ESCAPES

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Education reconsider his department's policy on the installation of knock-out panels (fire escapes) in timber frame classrooms? The Plympton Primary School Committee wrote to the Director-General of Education on July 27 expressing concern that four of the timber frame classrooms had fire escapes provided by hopper windows, while all the other classrooms had escape hatches. The land and buildings

officer informed the school committee on October 7 of the policy with regard to knock-out panels in timber frame classrooms which was drawn up by the Public Buildings Department and endorsed by the Director-General of Education on June 12, 1970. That policy is as follows:

- (1) All new timber frame classrooms to be provided with knock-out panels under the window diagonally opposite the classroom door. No differentiation should be made between infants and primary classrooms, such as is the present policy, as the occasion could arise when an infants class would be occupying a primary classroom.
- (2) Knock-out panels be provided in existing timber frame classrooms if and when alterations are intended to that structure, for example, if the wooden classroom is to be relocated, or if any modifications are to be made.

The department informed the school committee that in the circumstances the department could not accede to the committee's request for the fitting of escape hatches in these four timber frame classrooms at present lacking these facilities. In view of the recent loss of a timber frame classroom by fire at the Plympton Primary School, the school committee desires to have safety precautions available in such an emergency.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will investigate the matter for the honourable member and, as we are near the end of this part of the session, I will notify him by letter.

NARACOORTE CAVES

Mr. RODDA: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question concerning the Naracoorte caves?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Several changes have been made recently at the Naracoorte Caves Reserve involving, amongst other things, tighter control over the approach chamber to Blanche cave, also sometimes known as the "big" cave. However, the cave is open to the public, as one of three (Alexandra, Victoria and Blanche) through which paid guided inspections have been conducted several times daily for many years. A 20-acre native fauna park has been established on the reserve as an additional tourist attraction. Service clubs active in the Naracoorte district combined to construct the perimeter fence, enclosing an area that was agreed between the clubs and the Tourist Bureau. The entrance to Blanche cave is located a short distance inside the enclosure. Cave guides now escort visitors through the fauna park and into the cave. The cave itself

comprises three chambers. The approach chamber is relatively open and lit naturally from above. There is no barrier at its entrance, but there is a control door where it leads on to the other two chambers containing the main features of tourist interest. In the past, local groups occasionally sought and were granted permission to gather for picnic or other purposes in the open approach chamber. More often, groups and individuals entered without permission and vandalism and pollution had become significant problems. Through the control now provided by location of the chamber inside the fauna park, unauthorized entry has been checked.

There are several other picnic areas within the reserve, the general facilities at which are being progressively upgraded. It is rather difficult to believe that local people, individually or in groups, would genuinely prefer to picnic in the approach chamber to Blanche cave. It is considered most unlikely that travellers would expect to be offered such facilities. It is suggested that any local groups, feeling aggrieved that a facility has been withdrawn, make representations to the Tourist Bureau, seeking permission to enter the chamber for specific purposes.

PENSIONER COTTAGES

Mr. WELLS: Will the Premier, as Minister in charge of housing, ask the Housing Trust to have modifications made to age pensioners' cottages in my district? Recently I visited these cottages, which are on North-East Road, Holden Hill, and they reflect great credit on the trust. However, the occupants are encountering some problems that I think should be rectified. The first is that the mirrored bathroom cabinets have been installed too high on the wall for many elderly people, particularly elderly ladies, to use. Even if they stand on tip toe, they can see only the top of their head in the mirror. This has been demonstrated to me. Secondly, a hook that also serves as a door stopper is provided behind the bathroom door for dressing gowns and such things, but I could just reach the hook myself, and these elderly people cannot reach it. It should be 18in. lower, and this fault could easily be rectified. Again, I think a dangerous situation exists because of the provision of gas fires. They are beautiful and modern gas fires, but ignition is achieved by applying pressure and a twist of the knob and, if the gas did not ignite, these elderly people could be in danger because the gas would escape and they would not know that the

fire was not alight. I consider that these fires should be replaced with electric fires.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will certainly have the matters examined. The trust insists upon steady improvement in design quality in the interiors of the houses that it builds, and I will take up with the trust the matters that the honourable member has raised.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health to inquire into the problem of parking cars in the car park at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital? Part of a letter that I have received from a constituent states:

I consider that a most unsatisfactory situation has arisen at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital parking ground. Obviously, when the hospital was built, the parking area was set aside for the benefit and use of both outpatients and visitors of inpatients. It would appear that the car park makes provision for approximately 500 cars, but for some considerable time the whole area appears to be being utilized by workmen who are currently engaged on construction work at the hospital. I spoke to one of the leading specialists from the outpatients department about this subject and he told me that the hospital administrators were well aware of what was happening but they were not able to do anything about it. He knew that some of them were having to park almost a mile away, as some streets in the immediate vicinity have various parking regulations. In their walk from their car to the hospital, they were at times forced to sit down on the kerb to rest as many as three times.

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

DENTAL CLINICS

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about use of the dental clinic at the Cummins Area School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Director-General of Public Health states that the dental clinic at the Cummins Area School will be restricted to 1,150 primary and pre-school children in Cummins and at other schools on Lower Eyre Peninsula. These include Tumby Bay, Karkoo, Port Neill, Yeelanna, Brimpton Lake, Lake Wangary, Wanilla and Ungarra. It will be necessary to allow at least 18 months to two years to overcome the backlog of untreated dental disease in this group and to institute control by regular preventive service. When this objective is achieved, reassessment will determine if and to what extent the resources of the clinic may be extended in the Cummins area.

Mr. BURDON: Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government intends to provide, at school dental clinics, dental facilities

for pensioners in country areas? Both the Minister of Labour and Industry, as the member for Pirie, and I have asked questions about this matter in the past and, with the establishment of dental clinics, I understand that it is intended that some of them will ultimately be used for this purpose. Will the Attorney-General take this matter up with the Minister of Health to see whether this service can be provided through these clinics or, if it cannot, whether the service now provided at the Royal Adelaide Hospital can be extended to Government hospitals in country areas?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Yes.

ADELAIDE OVAL

Mr. COUMBE: Does the Premier recall that some months ago I asked him a question about the Adelaide Oval, which is in my district, and about the discussions that are proceeding between the South Australian National Football League and the South Australian Cricket Association regarding the future use and management of the oval? Can the Premier now report on the negotiations that have been proceeding before an independent arbitrator to try to solve the problem that has arisen in respect of this matter? I believe that most people would prefer to see the playing of football continued on the oval. If the Premier cannot give me this information today, will he give me a reply tomorrow?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Although the independent arbitrator believes that progress has been made in the talks, the Chairman of the South Australian National Football League has given me information that does not indicate much hope of success in this respect. At this stage, however, the matter is still proceeding.

SECONDHAND CAR PURCHASE

Mrs. STEELE: Will the Attorney-General initiate an inquiry into the sale of a second-hand motor vehicle in April last by Palmdale Motors Proprietary Limited, of Torrens Road, Woodville? In explaining this question, I indicate that I am prepared to give the Attorney-General all the relevant documents. A constituent of mine, who is an age pensioner of 73 years, bought from this firm an EK Holden station sedan for which he paid \$695. It was purported to be a 1962 model when, in fact, it was found at a subsequent Royal Automobile Association inspection to be a 1961 model. I ascertained that the list price for a 1961 standard station sedan, if in average condition, was \$305, or \$485 if in good

condition, a difference respectively of \$390 and \$210. If it had been a 1962 model (which was what it was sold as), the price would have been \$325 if in average condition or, if in good condition, \$510 (differences of \$370 and \$185 respectively). That it was only in average condition is indicated by the R.A.A. report, which, after exhaustive examination, lists enumerable defects or repairs necessary and puts the value at \$375 (\$320 less than the price at which the vehicle was sold to my constituent).

Shortly after purchase, he had trouble with the vehicle and, after he had made representations to the Prices Commissioner, the vendor eventually agreed to sand-blast the pistons, provide new rims, and also replace the radiator. A further undertaking to replace the king pins was never honoured, and a mechanic who saw the car later said that they had not been touched for years; indeed, they were covered with thick hard grease. The representations made to the Prices Commissioner gave little satisfaction to my constituent, even though I have in my possession a letter over the stamped signature of that officer implying that the matter had been settled satisfactorily. At present my constituent owes \$55.70 to a car firm at Maitland for repairs to the vehicle, which broke down completely some months ago several miles from that town. It is obvious that, as an age pensioner, he is not in a position to meet this bill. He told me that he practically starved for a month to meet the cost of the R.A.A. inspection. Obviously, the old man should have been more astute, and he realizes this now, but there is little doubt that he was taken down and given what I believe is called a "crook deal". I should be pleased if the Attorney would give this matter his urgent attention so that some justice can be forthcoming for my constituent.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I believe this case is typical of hundreds of cases that have recently been brought to the notice of members of Parliament and the Prices Commissioner, and I have every sympathy for the predicament of the honourable member's unfortunate constituent. I will certainly take up the matter with the Prices Commissioner and see what can be done. The honourable member will appreciate that the Prices Commissioner's powers and my powers to do much about a case such as this are severely limited under the existing law. However, I hope that, following a certain event that is to occur this evening, both the Prices Commissioner and I will be in a much stronger position in future.

SCENIC ROAD

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about advertising signs displayed by national park authorities and other persons adjacent to the proposed scenic road through the Adelaide Hills?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Regarding signs advertising blocks of land for sale, this has been the subject of recent correspondence between the Stirling District Council and the Director of Planning. The Director of Planning has recommended that the council take action to remove the land agent's signs in so far as they do not relate to the land on which they are erected. Regarding land agents' signs on land for sale, the Director has supported a restriction by the council in number of signs and length of display time. A letter has also been addressed to the City of Mitcham on this subject. In the case of national park signs, most of these were in existence before the metropolitan development plan (Mount Lofty Ranges scenic road) planning regulations came into effect in March, 1970, and consent under these regulations is therefore not required. It is intended to standardize all national park signs of this type in the future and to construct these from routed wooden signs of standard colouring. The National Parks Commission has been asked to apply to the council concerned for consent for any signs erected after March 12, 1970.

WHEAT

Mr. GUNN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about wheat quotas and the future of the appeals committee?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Agriculture confirms that the appeals committee will be retained until he is satisfied that the quotas allotted to wheatgrowers are as equitable as can be achieved within the terms of the legislation. The three-member review committee receives the following fees and allowances: the Chairman, \$36 a sitting; non-Government member, \$30 a sitting; and the Government member receives no payment in addition to his normal salary. Members are also reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses and for travelling expenses at ruling Public Service rates.

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister ask his colleague to obtain from the Police Department or the Wheat Board a report on whether illegal sales of wheat are taking place in South Australia? I have seen reports that illegal sales are occurring in Western Australia. Moreover,

a New South Wales Labor member of the Commonwealth House of Representatives (I think his name is Grassby) has complained about illegal sales in New South Wales.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: We will see whether the Police Department or the Wheat Board can investigate this matter; I will obtain a report from my colleague.

RELAXA TABS

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Health a reply to my question of November 9 about Relaxa Tabs?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Minister of Health states that regulations are currently being drafted to restrict the bromide group of drugs, including the proprietary preparation of Relaxa Tabs, to prescription only. This proposal is along the lines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council and is similar to provisions being introduced in other States.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Works say whether, when it was considering the effects of the introduction of daylight saving, the Electricity Trust considered reducing the financial commitment of councils with regard to street lighting? The Minister will appreciate that street lighting charges are the responsibility of councils. Before daylight saving was introduced, the procedure was to make street lighting available from lighting-up time until 1 a.m. (in some areas lighting is available from lighting-up time until about dawn). Only two prices apply in respect of lighting. I seek this information because at present many council areas have lights still burning until 2 a.m. In other words, an adjustment has been made to the lights so that their turning on will coincide with the altered time of the approach of evening, but no adjustment has been made at the other end of the period for which they operate; instead of the lights being turned off at 1 a.m. they are being turned off at 2 a.m. It could be suggested that, if it was unnecessary to have lighting available until 2 a.m. before daylight saving was introduced, there could be nothing now to justify providing lighting between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. If the time at which lights were turned off was brought back to 1 a.m., councils would have their commitment reduced by from one-fifth to one-seventh (dependent on the total lighted time), and at this time any concession possible would be worth while to councils.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not know whether the Electricity Trust considered the matter raised by the honourable member at the time daylight saving was introduced; certainly I did not raise the matter with the trust. However, I recall seeing advertisements in newspapers which had been inserted by the trust and which stated that the tariffs that applied after a certain hour of the day would not be altered during the trial period of daylight saving. Possibly a similar conclusion was reached with regard to street lighting. It might be that, because people were expected to go out at a slightly later hour, it was also expected that they would stay out later and need street lighting until 2 a.m. However, I will take up the matter with the trust.

Mr. CURREN: Will the Minister ask the Electricity Trust to consider altering, during the months of daylight saving, the time clock regulators of irrigators who rely on off-peak power for irrigation purposes? Although I realize that my question is similar to the one asked by the member for Light earlier today, I point out that it refers to a different aspect of the problem that has been created by daylight saving. I have received a letter from a constituent which states:

With the advent of daylight saving the off-peak pumping rates on these pumps now start at 10 p.m. instead of 9 p.m., which means that, by the time all pumps are started, portable sprinkler lines checked, etc., it is often nearly 11 p.m. when I get home. All milk collections are geared to daylight saving time. I have to get up at 5.30 a.m. to work in with this, which doesn't leave very much time for sleeping.

This position has created a serious problem for this landholder and for others who must rely on off-peak pumping for their living.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I think I have already pointed out that I noticed an advertisement which had been inserted in a newspaper by the Electricity Trust and which stated that the trust did not intend to make any alteration in respect of off-peak meters. However, I will have this matter investigated and obtain a report for the honourable member.

DERNANCOURT SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on November 16 about the faulty wiring work in the new canteen at the Dernancourt Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Delay in completion of the electrical work in the canteen occurred because of a number of out-

standing items requiring attention by the contractor before the job could be accepted. He has given an assurance that the work will be finished this week.

ROAD MARKING

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked some time ago about road marking on the road between Murray Bridge and Bordertown?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The stretch of road between Bordertown and Murray Bridge has recently been surveyed to locate the sections where visibility is limited. Some additional double lining is required and will be undertaken soon. The extent of the double lining is not expected to approach that on the Victorian side of the border where the road is of an older design.

KINDERGARTENS

Mr. KENEALLY: Has the Treasurer a reply to my recent question about financial assistance for kindergartens?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The problems faced by the various kindergarten committees is a matter of some concern to the trust as a housing authority but, unfortunately, the trust is not in a position to give financial aid either by gift or loan. However, it can provide land at cost and make available its architectural services for both design and supervision subject, of course, to availability of staff. Should the land be owned by the local government body, it is possible for that body to apply to the Minister for loan money for this purpose. The Munno Para council has recently been able to assist a pre-school kindergarten committee by applying successfully to the Minister for finance to erect a school building on its own land and is in the process of making a further request on behalf of yet another committee.

RURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question about making officers available to address meetings on methods of obtaining assistance under the Rural Advances Guarantee Act?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that, in accordance with the announcement he made on November 4, he will make officers available to address meetings concerned with rural industries assistance, if these are arranged. The meetings which have already been held, including the meeting held at Keith, I think last evening, were arranged

as a result of an initiative which my colleague took to suggest to the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated that, if meetings were arranged, he would make officers available to explain to farmers the conditions of the scheme and the types of assistance available.

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister ask his colleague why the Rural Reconstruction Authority offers only 80c in the \$1 credit to people who have applied for assistance? A constituent of mine is owed a considerable sum by a person who has applied for rural reconstruction assistance and he has received from the authority a letter which states:

In order to effect a reconstruction of the applicant's affairs, it is considered desirable to seek a composition of his debts and, in this connection, I shall be glad if you will advise whether your company would be prepared to accept the sum of 80c in the \$1 in settlement of its account and, if so, would you also advise the present amount outstanding?

This person makes only a small profit on his sales and he will be making a considerable loss if he has to accept the 80c. As I understand that the Rural Reconstruction Authority does not force people to accept its offer, I wonder whether it could be more explicit and explain that it is only an offer.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: A similar problem that arose in my district was brought to my attention recently, and I took it up with the department on Monday last. I have not yet had a reply. As the honourable member says, this is a suggestion rather than a demand, and, if the honourable member's constituent wrote back and said that he was not prepared to accept 80c in the \$1, I am sure the full amount would have been paid. The member for Hanson shakes his head. This is not bankruptcy, as I understand the situation: this is a debt adjustment.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It is a moratorium.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes. The authority asks people to hold up the matter, or to accept a reduced rate in some cases, but I do not think these things can be forced on them.

Mr. Gunn: The authority has not pushed them.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No, I understand that. In the case I know of, it has not pushed them and the amount owed by the person applying for the assistance has been outstanding for three years. I will check on this matter and inform the honourable mem-

ber: I am anxious to find out for my own purpose, too.

PENSIONERS' SPECTACLES

Mr. BURDON: Representations were made to the Walsh-Dunstan Government in 1967 to set up in country areas services, for providing pensioners' spectacles, similar to those which applied in Adelaide, so that pensioners who could not travel to Adelaide could have spectacles provided, if necessary. During the term of the previous Liberal Government, in reply to a question I received the following report from the Director-General of Medical Services:

Following the acceptance in principle by the previous Government that pensioners be provided with free spectacles at country Government hospitals on the same basis as pensioners attending the Royal Adelaide Hospital, it was proposed that a pilot study of this project should be made at Mount Gambier Hospital. Accordingly, medical practitioners at Mount Gambier were approached and their co-operation was sought in the introduction of this free service to pensioners. While the medical practitioners were unanimous in their approval of the principle of free glasses for pensioners, none of them felt in a position to undergo training as refractionists. They considered, however, that if the pensioner medical scheme was extended to the specialist field this would allow the practitioner to refer his own pensioner patient requiring eye investigation to a recognized ophthalmologist, who would make such investigation without charge to the patient and be reimbursed by the Commonwealth under the pensioner medical scheme.

It is understood that the suggestion that the pensioner medical scheme be extended to cover specialist services (at a specialist rate) has been referred to the Commonwealth by the Australian Medical Association. If this submission meets with Commonwealth approval, it will allow the scheme, as suggested by the medical practitioners at Mount Gambier, to be put into operation. In the meantime, however, the medical practitioners at Mount Gambier have deferred any decision on whether they would be able to co-operate in any State-assisted scheme to provide free spectacles for pensioners at Mount Gambier until a decision has been made by the Commonwealth regarding the A.M.A. submission. The Commonwealth recently introduced a scheme to provide hearing aids for pensioners, and this largely superseded State assistance granted in this respect to pensioner patients at metropolitan hospitals.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is making a rather long explanation.

Mr. BURDON: I am nearly at the end of it. The report continues:

It is considered, therefore, that it would be premature to proceed with any scheme for State assistance for the provision of spectacles to pensioners in country areas until the result of

the A.M.A. submission to the Commonwealth is known.

Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health whether the submissions of the A.M.A. have yet been made to the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain the information.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Premier ask his Ministers to facilitate replies to questions without notice that are asked by Opposition members? Many other Opposition members and I are in a somewhat difficult position. Until November 10, I have 10 replies outstanding, two from the Premier (one as long ago as September 22), one from the Minister of Education, one from the Minister of Roads and Transport, and six from the Chief Secretary and Minister of Health. It is not a question of there being insufficient time to ask for the replies in the House, because that time has been freely available, to me at any rate, in the last two or three weeks. In the 10 outstanding replies, I have not included the six replies notice of which I have been given today. Although I have ticked those six off on my list, I still have 10 outstanding replies. If the Premier would like the information, I have the details regarding the days on which I asked my questions and the appropriate *Hansard* references.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have an outstanding reply to a question the honourable member asked on September 22 relating to Government property, but it has not been possible to obtain an answer quickly. My Ministers all have listed the questions that have been asked of them, together with a note, normally given to them every day, about what is happening in regard to obtaining information on the question, together with the date on which it was asked. As soon as replies are given to Ministers, members are notified. That is the normal practice adopted by all Ministers. It has often happened that notice has been given to Opposition members but that they have not asked for their replies for some time. If the honourable member will give me the details of the questions to which he has referred, I shall see what can be done for him. Frankly, as far as I can see, the Public Service is doing its very best to keep up with the rate of questions asked, but I point out to Opposition members that it is the business of the Government to continue with public administration. What is happening in Parlia-

ment today is that many more questions are being asked than were asked some years ago, and a greater burden is now placed on the Public Service because of an increase in the number of members in the House, but questions are replied to as quickly today as they were years ago. I shall do my best for the honourable member, but I cannot promise to do more than that.

APPRENTICES

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of November 18 regarding terminal examinations for first-year and second-year apprentices?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Some technical colleges in 1970 were given approval to experiment with a system of continuous assessment of apprentices instead of the previous system of formal mid-year and end-of-year examinations. This applied to apprentices in their first and second years of attendance, with the normal type of formal examination being retained as a final examination for third-year apprentices. In each case where approval was given for the experiment to be conducted, heads were asked to provide regular reports on the operation of the new system. Because these were so favourable, continuous assessment as a method of testing and recording progress is now used throughout the technical colleges, although still on an experimental basis, with heads being required to provide regular reports. One of the most significant results of the new system of examining is that students are kept up to the mark over the whole of the year, whereas under the former system some would tend to slacken until just before examination times in the hope that they could then reach the necessary standards by means of a concentrated burst of work.

There would seem to be strong arguments in favour of examining by continuing assessment throughout the whole course, and this final change could well be made in the near future. A secondary gain resulting from the new system is that there is no need to allocate two whole weeks of the school year in which to conduct mid-year and final examinations for first and second-year apprentices, which means that the full 40 weeks of attendance can be used for effective teaching.

COWANDILLA SCHOOL

Mr. WRIGHT: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the

buildings at the Cowandilla Demonstration School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As it will be a considerable time before an entirely new school can be built at Cowandilla to replace existing buildings, a proposal to replace timber classrooms with four-teacher and six-teacher units that will be incorporated with the present solid buildings is being currently examined on site by architects in consultation with officers of the Education Department. A full and detailed report, together with plans for upgrading the present solid buildings, will be submitted shortly.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the school librarian course and the position of teachers who may find that the content of the course has changed?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Despite the considerable increase in funds made available to the Education Department this year, and partly because of the large proportion of this increase that has been absorbed in increased salaries, teachers college principals in apportioning their budgets imposed a cut on the projected expansion of staff employed to lecture in librarianship courses. This was unknown to me when the honourable member asked his question. Without expansion in staff, quotas would have had to be imposed in librarianship A and B, and the term-long courses for teachers wishing to become teacher-librarians would have had to be discontinued. Reinstating the term-long course and permitting all those entitled to do librarianship B to do so while imposing a quota of 150 for librarianship A would require the employment of two extra lecturer-librarians for which no financial provision was available. In my view and that of the department, it would be wrong to prevent those who had passed librarianship A from continuing their course by imposing a quota in librarianship B, but in the circumstances it would not be unreasonable to impose a quota in librarianship A. We also consider that it would be most unfortunate if the term-long courses were to be discontinued. Having regard to all these circumstances, it has now been decided to provide the necessary funds to enable the required two additional lecturer-librarians to be employed.

PINNAROO SCHOOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning the Pinnaroo Area School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I told the honourable member yesterday that a reply was available. Tenders for the construction of changerooms and toilets at the Pinnaroo Area School close on Friday, November 26, 1971. Subject to the receipt of a satisfactory tender, construction should be completed by mid-1972.

COWELL SCHOOL

Mr. CARNIE: Can the Minister of Education say what is the intention of his department concerning the conversion to an open-space unit of a building at the Cowell Area School? I understand that when the Minister visited the school earlier this year he saw the building and said that plans would be made for its conversion. Nothing further has been heard about it, and the school has requested me to ask whether the department intends to undertake the conversion at the same time as the new library unit is built, which I understand is to be next year.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I certainly would not have said on the spot that the building, which I think is on the southern side of the school, would be converted. I am not an architect, so I would not know the potential of the building. It seemed to me and to the headmaster that there was some potential there, and I think I asked for the matter to be investigated. I will check on the latest position and inform the honourable member by letter.

STRATHMONT TRAINING CENTRE

Mr. WELLS: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider having street lighting installed at the entrance to the Strathmont Training Centre, which is situated on Grand Junction Road. At present there is a light at the intersection of Grand Junction Road and Foster Road, and one at the intersection of Walkley Road and Grand Junction Road, but these are the only lights in the vicinity. I realize that the council will be concerned with this. The complex itself is well lit, but the staff and visitors to the training centre are of the opinion that street lighting is necessary for safety reasons.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will refer the matter to the appropriate authority.

BRIGHTON ROAD FENCE

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning a fence on Brighton Road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The relocation of the front fence and other associated work at 53 Brighton Road, Glenelg, was deferred

pending finalization of the design of this section of Brighton Road. Preliminary designs have now been completed and it is expected that a contract will be let within three months to enable the work at the property to proceed.

BUS SHELTERS

Mr. LANGLEY: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider the possibility of building shelters at bus stops in King William Street? Recently a constituent of mine who lives at Goodwood called at Parliament House and offered to pay for a shelter. He uses Tramways Trust buses frequently, and he thinks his offer would be welcomed by other people waiting for buses and that his offer would be an effort for the community.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I do not know who is the person who has offered to pay for the shelter. I have not been informed about this, but I know that many of these shelters have been donated by local service clubs. I shall be very pleased to look into the matter further if the honourable member will give me the details.

BEACH EROSION

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question concerning beach erosion?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Government has considered the purchase of a dredge for beach reclamation work, but no further action is contemplated until the offshore sand survey, for which tenders have been called recently, is completed. The economics of beach replenishment by contract, or by direct labour using Government-owned plant, will also have to be explored before the purchase of any dredging equipment is made. The honourable member may be assured that the whole question of beach replenishment, the method of its accomplishment, and the relative economics of various solutions open are all being considered by experts in this field.

SOUTH-EASTERN FREEWAY

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the Highways Department has any plans to provide an underpass or overway at the big gum tree intersection? Last week, when dealing with this matter, the Minister went into detail but he did not explain how he proceeded when he arrived at the big gum tree intersection, where there are lights and he might have to wait while traffic proceeds from east to west and west to east and then when it turns from the west proceeding south. This intersection

decreases the traffic flow by a third. Where a freeway runs into a dead end like this, action must be taken to maintain the flow of traffic. Otherwise, the freeway is wasted.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There are no plans to put an overpass at the big gum tree, any more than there are to provide one at any other location similar to the one to which the honourable member has referred. After all, one could apply the same test to the intersections of South Terrace and Pulteney Street or Franklin Street and King William Street. One could go on and on. The only criterion—

Mr. McANANEY: You wouldn't—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has asked his question.

SCHOOL BOOKS

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked about the secondary schools book loan scheme?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The only directive issued on this matter was in a circular from me to heads of secondary schools, informing them of the new scheme and giving details of the assistance that would be provided to them for its introduction. In the circular I stated that the scheme would operate for fourth-year and fifth-year levels in 1972, apart from a few schools that would be introducing the scheme for all years immediately. I also stated that parents had the option of taking part or of purchasing books under separate arrangements if they so desired. It was pointed out that successful implementation of the scheme would substantially relieve many parents of the financial burden involved in purchasing secondary textbooks. At the present time, 98 schools have indicated that they will put the scheme into operation for fourth-year and fifth-year classes next year; 22 schools will use it throughout the school, and two schools wish to institute or continue alternative arrangements. The department is still waiting for information from some smaller country schools, although in one or two cases no fourth-year students would be involved.

RAILWAY FIRES

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport take the necessary action to safeguard properties adjacent to railway lines, particularly in areas where it is known that fires could occur because of the need for railwaymen to apply the braking system to trains hauled by diesel-electric power? Last Saturday morning I received a telephone call from a person who stated that a train travelling

from Caltowie to Gladstone had started a fire a few miles north of Gladstone. As the Minister knows, in many areas of the State fire breaks are not now being ploughed along railway lines. In the area I have mentioned, there is tall grass, and I understand from the person who telephoned me that, after the train leaves Caltowie, the crew apply the brakes as they come into Gladstone. There is an urgent need to burn off these areas to safeguard the country from destruction on a day of high fire risk. I was amazed at what happened, because it had rained that night, yet the fire was started about 5 o'clock in the morning. Will the Minister consider this situation, which could be serious this year because of the growth of weeds?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will have the matter examined.

WOOD CHIP INDUSTRY

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Premier say whether his Development Branch or any other Government department has considered or will in due course consider establishing a eucalypt wood chip industry in South Australia? The most recent issue of *Rural Research in Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization* (No. 73, of September, 1971) contains a report that a growing eucalypt wood chip industry is developing in Australia. One paragraph of the report states:

Japan's interest in Australian eucalypt chips arises from the need for raw materials for the manufacture of fine papers by the kraft (sulphate) process. Already four companies, one operating from Eden, New South Wales, and the others in Tasmania, have obtained approval from the Commonwealth Government to export wood chips to Japan. These contracts will earn more than \$400,000,000 in export income over a period of 5-18 years—and others are expected.

There is much other useful information in the report, including a map showing that South Australia has an area of *eucalyptus viminalis*, which is the type of eucalypt used in this process.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have had no discussions with the Director about the matter, but I will take it up with him.

SUBURBAN REDEVELOPMENT

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation, who I understand is Minister in charge of the town planning authority, say whether he recalls that some years ago councils in the inner metropolitan area were asked to submit to the authority plans for inner suburban redevelopment,

as a master scheme? I understand that this work has been done, and I should like the Minister to say what consideration the authority has given to these proposals and what plans the Government has for the near future regarding the scheme.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I will ask the authority for an up-to-date report on its activities in this matter and give the honourable member a detailed reply.

SICK-ROOMS

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Education examine the facilities in and the design of sick-rooms provided at infants schools? A person who contacted me on this matter earlier this week told me that, in the infants school concerned (which I do not wish to name but which I will name if the Minister so desires) as many as six children have had to use the sick-room at the same time, two children sharing a bed and another two sitting on chairs. As the Minister knows, only one bed is provided, but the mothers club at this school has purchased an additional bed. Some children have colds but other children have infectious complaints such as chicken pox, and some children are sent to school when they are obviously ill. Some children are even covered in spots and sores and have to be sent to the sick-room immediately they arrive at school. When some children are driven home, they have to return to the school, as no-one is in the house, the reason being that obviously it is necessary for the mother to work. The infants school that has raised this matter has tried to solve the problem by putting burnable paper sheeting on the beds, but this is only a part solution, and the school concerned cannot, as I cannot, suggest to the Minister a complete solution. Perhaps sick-rooms could be designed differently so that children with various complaints, especially an infectious illness, could be segregated.

It seems that in infants schools more than one bed is necessary, because infant children need to go more often to the sick-room than do older children. Older children seem to be able to keep going, whereas infant children easily give in. I have been asked to draw this matter to the Minister's attention, not on the basis of an individual infants school but on a general basis, so that the subject can be considered more fully when infants schools and, to a lesser degree, primary schools are being designed.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will look into this matter, but I think I should point

out that it would be unusual even in an infants school to have more than two children in the sick-room at any one time. It seems that one or two additional problems have been experienced in the infants school which have caused the honourable member to ask this question. In regard to the design of school buildings, we have to consider the extent to which any facility provided will be used. That we have insufficient funds to do all the building we wish to do imposes this sort of restriction on us, whether or not we might wish it to be otherwise. However, as points arising from the honourable member's question may require more detailed consideration, I will see that they are considered.

ROAD TAX

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about exempting export flour from road tax?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Although it may be possible to legislate for exempting the carriage of export flour from the requirements of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act, to do so would assist to defeat the purpose of that Act and further complicate its administration. The Act was designed to recover from commercial goods vehicles with a load capacity of more than eight tons a contribution towards the additional wear and tear caused to public roads. Since the wear and tear remains the same whether the goods carried are manufactured for local consumption or for export, there are no apparent grounds for granting the exemption sought. Further, the practical difficulties associated with identifying flour manufactured for export from flour manufactured for local consumption, the fact that any exemption granted would apply to the owner of the commercial vehicle and not directly to the manufacturer, and the likelihood of immediate requests for the concession to be extended to all other export products are all sound supporting reasons for the current position to be maintained.

CHOCOLATES

Mr. RODDA: Has the Premier a reply to the question I recently asked, on behalf of the member for Hanson, about the price of certain chocolates? I am sure that the member for Hanson will be interested to have the Premier's reply; indeed, the honourable member hopes that the Premier enjoyed the samples made available to him.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Minister of Lands states that the confectionery bars

in question have been tested by the Weights and Measures Branch of his department. Bar numbered 2 (dimensions 5in. x 1in. x $\frac{1}{8}$ in.—3.125 cu. in.) was weighed gross and found to be 64.75 g, which is 2.36oz. It is understood this size bar has not been manufactured since August 10, 1971. Bar numbered 1 (dimensions 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 1in. x $\frac{1}{8}$ in.—2.8125 cu. in.) is the new size bar and weighs 50.6 g gross, which is 1.79oz. Inquiries indicate that the manufacturers introduced the new size bar because of increased costs and to produce a bar similar in size to their competitors. The twin pack weighed 104.3 g, which is 3.68oz. The bars do not come under the provisions of the Packages Act, 1967-1969, as confectionery under 3oz. gross weight is exempted, and the package is therefore not required to be marked with the weight of the contents. Because of the arrangement between the States and the Commonwealth for uniformity in packaging legislation, this State cannot act unilaterally to bring these bars within the provisions of the Packages Act. However, the matter will be raised for discussion at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Packaging. I did not enjoy the samples given to the Government, because chocolates are not in my diet and I return them to the honourable member.

WEEDS

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation ascertain how many people are at present employed in national parks in the hills face area in an effort to eradicate noxious weeds, and will he say what plans the department may have to control weeds in the accessible areas of national parks?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I have an idea that I recently provided the honourable member with considerable detail on this matter but, as his question may relate to new matters, I shall be pleased to get a report.

DRUGS

Dr. TONKIN: I have much pleasure in asking the Minister of Education whether he has a reply to the question I recently asked about an educational campaign regarding drugs.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I, like all other Ministers, am concerned to give prompt and efficient service. If the honourable member had not wasted an earlier question this afternoon, he could have asked this question considerably earlier. Since the educational

campaign on drugs commenced in the latter part of 1970, officers of the Public Health Department have given 44 lectures in schools. In addition, some private schools include lectures on this subject, using information and material made available by the department.

GUNS

Mr. BECKER: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to the question I asked on October 26 about guns?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary states that South Australia has conferred with the Commonwealth and the other States with a view to revising all firearms legislation for the purpose of standardizing this as far as possible, and incorporating any reforms considered desirable. As a result of Ministerial discussions, a subcommittee was appointed to prepare draft legislation for consideration and, pending a report from this subcommittee, no review on a State basis is currently being considered.

PAY-ROLL TAX

Mr. GUNN: In view of the Treasurer's desire to stimulate the economy by urging the Commonwealth Government to restore the 20 per cent investment allowance on new plant and equipment, I ask the Minister of Works, in the temporary absence of the Treasurer, whether the Treasurer will reduce the pay-roll tax to its previous level. By doing this, he would be practising what he is preaching to the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Although I did not hear the full text of the question, I will refer it to the Treasurer. However, I ask the honourable member whether he is willing to tell the House what cuts he would make, and in which areas they would be made, in order to maintain the present level of expenditure. If pay-roll tax were to be reduced, I ask him whether he would be willing to take a cut in respect of the servicing of a school or hospital in his district.

POLICE TRAINEES

Mr. McANANEY: Some time ago I asked why there were fewer police trainees in the last financial year. In view of the number of school leavers who are facing possible unemployment, will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary whether the Government can make a special effort to take in a full complement of trainees this year?

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

CLARE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked some time ago about the road approach to the Clare High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: This matter is at present being investigated by the Highways Department.

OAKLANDS CROSSING

Mr. MATHWIN: I understand that a working plan of the proposed overpass at the Oaklands crossing is now available. Will the Minister of Roads and Transport make a copy of that plan available to me?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: A proposal has been placed before the councils that they are now considering. To the best of my knowledge, no plan has yet been adopted. When a plan is adopted, I shall be happy to supply a copy to the honourable member.

PORT BROUGHTON SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Port Broughton Area School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Consultants have been engaged to prepare designs, drawings and specifications for civil works for a group project including Farrell Flat, Georgetown, and Port Pirie Primary Schools and Port Broughton Area School. Funds have been approved for the work at Port Broughton which involves resealing of the existing pavement. It is expected that documentation for tender call will be completed by the end of next month, and that tenders will be called for a group contract in the last week of January, 1972. A schedule of requirements for a replacement school has been sent to the Public Buildings Department and is on the referred list. When circumstances permit, this project will be transferred to the design list so that further planning may proceed. In view of the tremendous amount of building work that we have in front of us, and having regard to the availability of funds, I think that it will be a considerable time before the Port Broughton Area School is rebuilt.

HILLS LAND

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about 120 acres of land near Mitcham and Belair?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Mitcham council did apply in March for a subsidy to purchase about 120 acres of land, comprising both hills face zone and residential

zone land. However, the matter was deferred at that time because of limited finance being available. At the request of the council, the matter was recently reopened. The Public Parks Advisory Committee considered the matter recently and will report to the Minister of Local Government. Following receipt of the report, the matter will be considered.

PINNAROO SWIMMING POOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Education say whether the department still intends to put a fibre-glass lining on the swimming pool at the Pinnaroo school and, if it does, when it is expected that the work will be carried out?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to look into the matter, the honourable member having asked such a concise question.

WATER RATING

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Works any knowledge of, or will he obtain a report on, how many incorrect water rate assessment notices were sent out for the 1971-72 water year? The Minister will be aware that correspondence has recently passed between us dealing with parcels of land that are adjacent to one another in the hundred of Munno Para. Of 15 assessments considered, four have been found to be incorrect, with three cases being below the true assessment and one above. The letter from the Minister indicates that alterations will be made in due course. This represents an error of more than 26 per cent, a large error in calculations for rating purposes. I seek from the Minister an indication whether, as a result of the investigation that his department has carried out regarding this group of assessments, any pattern has been revealed which would indicate that the problem is more far-reaching than just that of this parcel of 15 assessments.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I take it that the honourable member is talking about the valuations of properties for water rating purposes?

Dr. Eastick: Yes.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: That is not an assessment. I thought the honourable member was talking about mistakes that had been made in accounts sent to people.

Dr. Eastick: The assessed value.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Once the valuation is made it is given to the consumer, whose prerogative it is to appeal against the valuation if he wishes to do so. The depart-

ment does not go around checking its own valuations.

Dr. Eastick: Four errors were made.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The department does not intend to do what the honourable member has suggested, namely, that I send one set of valuers out to make assessments and another set out to check them. What if they disagree? The right of appeal is provided for and, when an appeal is lodged, it is considered. If there is a variation in that, it is right and proper that there should be an appeal: otherwise, there would be no point in having the right of appeal. Because, in the area to which the honourable member has referred, in 26 per cent of the cases it was found that a variation was required—

Mr. Jennings: This shows the value of an appeal.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: That is the point I was about to make. I have no intention of asking the department to make another assessment just because this incident has occurred.

MURRAY BRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Education say when the new plans for the Murray Bridge Primary School will be available? About a year ago the Minister gave me some information on this matter. He will recall that this school has been planned for at least five years but that several times the plans were scrapped as unsuitable for the site, and other plans were brought forward.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am not sure whether this project has been referred to the Public Works Committee or even whether the project exceeds the \$300,000 limitation, thus requiring it to be referred to the committee. However, as a result of the honourable member's question, I will investigate this matter to see what stage the sketch plans have reached, whether the plans have been finalized, and whether they have been approved by the committee. I will notify the honourable member by typed letter.

TEACHER'S SALARY

Mr. KENEALLY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the salary of a teacher at the Port Augusta High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: When the teacher to whom the honourable member referred was appointed, he was unable to supply documentary evidence of his training or of his teaching service in Belgium. So that

he might receive at least a basic salary as quickly as possible, it was fixed in accordance with such documents as were available. He undertook to try to get the necessary documentation from Belgium to support any claim for higher salary. In addition, departmental officers made offers of assistance to get this documentation, but the teacher concerned does not seem to have taken up either of the suggestions which were made. I point out to the honourable member and to other members that, where payment of a salary is dependent on the holding of certain qualifications, it is simply not possible to pay the appropriate salary on the say-so of the individual concerned that he holds such qualifications: we must see documentary proof of the qualifications. With some oversea teachers, it is difficult to obtain proof of such qualifications, and this often causes delay in the appropriate salary being paid. However, once we have the necessary documents, the teacher receives the higher rate of pay back-dated to the date of appointment.

NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding change-rooms at the Naracoorte High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Director, Public Buildings Department, has informed me that difficulty is often experienced in obtaining suitable contractors to carry out work in country areas at a reasonable price. In regard to the change-rooms at Naracoorte High School, the contractor who is located in the area had assured the department that the work would be carried out within the stipulated time. Unfortunately, despite the department's efforts, construction has been delayed. The latest advice received from the contractor indicates that the work will be completed by the commencement of the 1972 school year. The department will make further efforts to ensure that this target is achieved.

DERNANCOURT PARKING

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Education investigate the possibility of providing additional parking space at the Dernancourt Primary School? At present, the one parking lot is too small, so it is necessary for vehicles to be parked on the grass inside the school gates at the top side of the school facing Parsons Road, and this area becomes a quagmire in wet weather. However, the area would be ideal as an additional car park. Also, once a week a contractor calls at the school to clean

the incinerator, and a sealed roadway is necessary to permit this work to be undertaken in all weathers.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will investigate this matter.

MAINS FLUSHING

Dr. TONKIN: The Minister of Works has informed me that he has a reply to my question of November 9 about mains flushing. Will he now give that reply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: On November 10, the honourable member's question was sent to the Director and Engineer-in-Chief who, on the same day, sent it to his Engineer for Water Supply who, on the same day, sent it to the Regional Engineer in the metropolitan area for report, who sent it to the superintendent of the district, who no doubt made the appropriate inquiries. The report has now come back through the same channels to me to give to the honourable member. I give that detail to show the procedure in obtaining a reply to the question. Since my reply to the honourable member on October 14, the Engineering and Water Supply Department has received only one complaint from a resident in Tusmore, and no complaints have been received from residents of Marryatville. When complaints of discoloured water are received the department investigates these and, if necessary, the mains in the vicinity are flushed and every effort is made to satisfy the consumer. In many cases, local disturbances to the system caused by a council or some other body or person operating a fire hydrant or a burst main may give rise to discoloured water. In all cases, consumers should be advised to contact the radio room at the Kent Town depot (23-4622) so that remedial action, if possible, can be taken at the earliest possible moment.

ADELAIDE AIRPORT

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation arrange to have noise-level readings taken at 4.20 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, when the Qantas 747 jumbo jet arrives at Adelaide Airport? On October 26, when I asked the Minister whether noise-level readings had been taken in the area surrounding Adelaide Airport, the Minister promised to obtain a report for me, but I have not yet received it. However, I have recently received information about noise-level readings of jet aircraft in the United States of America. I am concerned because, although the sideline noise from a 747 jet is considerably less than that of a conventional

jet coming to Adelaide Airport, the overhead noise, on take-off, of the 747 is considerably louder than that of any other jet, and I believe it is even louder than the noise of the Concorde. Also, the 747 is considerably noisier on approach than any other jet that comes into Adelaide, although this is contrary to general opinion.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I will see whether facilities for such a test are available and, if they are, I will see whether such a test can be conducted.

MOTOR CYCLES

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning the flip stand being a contributing factor in motor cycle accidents?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This question was asked by the honourable member on November 9, and two days later it went to the Chairman of the Road Traffic Board. At the next meeting of the board, this question was considered, and a report was forwarded to me on November 19. I apologize that I was absent from the House yesterday because, had I not been away, I would have given the reply. The Road Traffic Board has no evidence to indicate that the flip stand on motor cycles has been a primary contributing factor in motor cycle accidents. However, the matter will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Vehicle Performance for investigation on a national basis and the formulation of a standard if this is considered necessary.

ASSESSMENT CENTRE

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Social Welfare a reply to a question I asked recently on assessment centres? Although I am grateful for the explanations the two Ministers have given concerning their replies to my questions, I point out that I specifically exempted the six replies that were offered me earlier today.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Pilot programmes for the assessment of children are already in operation at Windana and at the department's training centres. The assessments are being done by teams comprising a psychologist, a social worker, a schoolteacher and residential care staff. Consultant psychiatrists are available when needed. Building alterations are planned so that Windana can be used as an assessment centre for boys. Vaughan House will be altered to provide a separate unit in the new building for girls sent there for assessment. For the time being children requiring

non-residential assessment will attend at the department's head office in Rundle Street.

The Public Service Board is being asked to create two additional positions of psychologist in the department. It is hoped that appointments to these new positions can be made shortly. The department now has two psychiatrists working part time on a sessional basis. It is expected that the Education Department will make available guidance officers to join the assessment panels shortly. When the judge has been appointed to the Adelaide Juvenile Court it is intended that assessment arrangements will be discussed with him so that any requirements of juvenile courts can be taken into account as the department's assessment procedures are progressively developed.

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

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

PUBLIC SUPPLY AND TENDER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Public Supply and Tender Act, 1914-1940. Read a first time.

The Hon. I. D. CORCORAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is intended to give effect to a decision to change the title of the principal officer under the Act, the Chief Storekeeper, to that of Director, State Supply Department, and to make appropriate transitional arrangements. To give full effect to this decision certain proclamations must issue under the Public Service Act and for this reason this Bill will come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill are formal. Clause 3 makes an appropriate transitional provision. Clause 4 formally alters the title and makes provision for the change in title of the present incumbent of the office. Clause 5 is consequential on the change in title of the office of principal officer under the Act.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

SECONDHAND MOTOR VEHICLES BILL

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's amendments:

No. 1. Page 11, lines 9 and 10 (clause 20) — Leave out "section 24 of".

No. 2. Page 14, lines 15 to 38 and page 15, lines 1 to 13 (clause 24)—Leave out the clause.

No. 3. Page 15, lines 14 to 35 (clause 25) — Leave out the clause.

No. 4. Page 15, lines 36 to 40 and page 16, lines 1 to 11 (clause 26)—Leave out the clause.

No. 5. Page 16, lines 12 to 43 (clause 27)—Leave out the clause.

No. 6. Page 17, lines 1 to 21 (clause 28)—Leave out the clause.

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be disagreed to.

These amendments can be dealt with in one motion, because they all have the same effect. *In globo*, they delete from the provisions of the Bill, as it left this place, the requirement that a dealer disclose the defects in a vehicle that he sells and that, to the extent that he does not disclose defects, he warrant freedom from defects for three months or 5 000 km. The Legislative Council has deleted those provisions entirely from the Bill and, as that is what the Bill is all about, it really amounts to a rejection of the principles of the measure.

The purpose of the Bill, and its effect, was to ensure that, when a dealer sold a used car for more than \$500, he would be responsible for its condition to the extent of undisclosed defects for three months or 5 000 km; in other words, the Bill as it left this place sought to see that, for instance, the sort of purchaser that the member for Davenport referred to in the question she asked this very day could rely on the vehicle, at least for that modest period of three months or for a distance of 5 000 km. Everything else is ancillary to these crucial provisions. The Bill stands or falls on the provision as to disclosure of defects and as to warranty.

It is regrettable that members of another place have heeded the vociferous lobbying of interested groups whose members advertise loudly enough that they are willing to stand behind their vehicles and, indeed, in some cases are willing to give a 100 per cent guarantee on parts but are strangely unwilling to accept legislation that more or less gives them an opportunity to prove their genuineness in this regard.

These amendments amount to a negation of the principles on which this Bill is founded. Without these provisions, the Bill would afford no protection to the public and, indeed, would be misleading, because having a licensing system (and that is really all that is left) without real obligations on the dealer would amount to cloaking with an aura of respectability people who, apparently, are not willing

to accept the obligations of honest traders. In those circumstances, I have no alternative but to recommend that the Committee disagree to the Legislative Council's amendments.

Mr. EVANS: I have no alternative but to support the Legislative Council's amendments at this stage. I stated clearly in the second reading debate that I was willing to take a middle road on the Bill by making sure that the dealers were compelled at least to give an unconditional guarantee but, at the same time, by giving certain people the right to opt out of any guarantee if they thought they were good enough judges of a vehicle.

The Bill, as drafted, contained two main matters. The first was the setting up of a licensing scheme and the second went to extremes in consumer protection. By going to extremes, it placed an increased financial burden on all secondhand car buyers, unnecessarily so in many cases. Even if the Legislative Council's amendments are accepted, the Bill will still oblige a dealer to honour any guarantee that he gives, and I suppose that that is right. If a dealer does not honour a guarantee that he has said he gives, the board can draw the dealer's attention to this and tell him that, if he does not come into line, it will have no alternative but to revoke or suspend his licence.

The board could refuse to grant a licence to a dealer who had a criminal record or who was not honest enough in his past trading. Instead of going to the extremes, we could first impose the lesser restrictions that the Council suggests and then impose stricter control later if that is necessary. We have not tried a licensing system with an obligation on the holder to prove that he has been trading honestly. At this stage, I suggest that we take the first step, license all secondhand car dealers and then tighten up on any dealers who operate unsatisfactorily. That first step would eliminate some ratbags from the trade. We all agree that not all dealers are dishonest.

Regarding members of the trade lobbying, I hope that we never reach the stage in Australia where it is considered wrong for people to lobby members of Parliament to put over their point of view. It has been suggested in this place in the past that some people have not taken an interest in legislation affecting their trade or profession, and we have condemned these people for that lack of interest. Now the Attorney-General tends to condemn people who have lobbied members of Parliament or to say that the decision by another place was a result of the lobbying.

The Hon. L. J. King: I do not condemn the lobbyist: I condemn the politicians who allow him to cloud their judgment.

Mr. EVANS: Perhaps the Attorney-General's mind has been clouded by the situation. I support the Council's amendments and am disappointed at the Attorney-General's reference to people lobbying members of Parliament. Merely because the point of view of members of this or the other place tends to be the same as that of people making representations does not mean that members have changed their minds. They may have had the same opinion previously.

Mr. WARDLE: I was not here during the second reading debate, but I do not want to make a second reading speech now.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member would be out of order if he did.

Mr. WARDLE: From what I have heard of the debate, the Bill has two objectives. The first is to establish a licensing board, and the second is to restrict traders. I understand that clauses 24 and 25 are the most difficult from the trade's point of view. There is no objection to establishing a board, but it seems incredible to agree that it is right and just that, for three months, a purchaser may bring a motor vehicle back and tell the trader that he can have it back for some reason. The term "ratbag" has been used regarding some dealers, but in my opinion there are 100 per cent more ratbag drivers than there are ratbag traders in this business. Any man who has served in a court of law as a justice of the peace knows of many instances of completely foolish driving that would absolutely wreck any vehicle previously in good repair. It is completely ludicrous that this should be so loaded against the trader, and I strongly protest at the provisions contained in clauses 24 and 25.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I oppose the motion. I should have preferred to steer a middle course, that is, to adopt a proposal somewhere between that of the Government and that of the Legislative Council, which has performed fairly major surgery on this Bill. However, I think members of another place have erred on the correct side in this matter. I resent the Attorney-General's remark that members of another place (and, perhaps by inference, members of this place) have allowed their judgment to be swayed by intensive lobbying by members of the trade. I have been approached by two groups, and the group that approached me as recently as last Friday comprised nine members of the

motor trade in the Barossa Valley, all of whom I know personally and all of whom enjoy a high reputation in the community. Those people, who are better known in their district than others may be known in the city, and who would not stay in business long if they did not have that reputation, are especially worried about the clauses in question. I would certainly prefer to accept the professional arguments of people whom I know to be reputable than accept the argument of the Attorney-General, who adopts a rather emotional stance on occasions. I do not believe that the removal of these clauses renders the provisions useless, although it alters the Bill considerably. Although I am not entirely happy with the amendments, I oppose the motion.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): One of the difficulties in discussing the Bill at this stage is that we know it is not in its final form. I believe that there should be an opting-out clause, which could be used at the discretion of the buyer, and that there should be a cooling-off period, so that the purchaser would not be prejudiced by having to make an instantaneous decision.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have allowed the Leader to refer to this matter, but it must not be debated.

Mr. HALL: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, and I have said all that I wish to say on that matter. I think the Government is foolish not to investigate further the possibility of devising a compromise amendment. The Attorney-General cannot deny that the Government has had approaches from people engaged in the secondhand car trade, as we have had approaches, but the difference here is that the Government has not listened, whereas we on this side have listened.

The Hon. L. J. King: The difference is that the Government has kept the public interest in mind, and you have lost sight of it.

Members interjecting:

Mr. HALL: If the Attorney-General were willing to adopt a middle course now, it would save much trouble.

The Hon. L. J. King: It's not the view you and your Deputy Leader entertained last week.

Mr. HALL: The Attorney-General knows what view I took last week.

The Hon. L. I. King: I'm talking about conferences and compromise.

Mr. HALL: The Attorney-General was keen to take the advice of the Legislative Council last week.

Mr. Clark: You criticized him for it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! We are dealing with certain amendments. The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. HALL: The Attorney-General should consider a compromise now so that agreement might be reached on the Bill without a conference. It seems that he is willing to oppose all amendments, whereas no doubt the Legislative Council will oppose his rejecting them. I am sure that the trade recognizes that, in asking for a board, it must accept some of the discipline that goes with it, but it is not willing to accept the totally restrictive attitude of the Government in wanting to confine the trade to guarantees that demand more responsibility than should exist.

Mr. VENNING: I oppose the motion. The Attorney-General refused to accept what Opposition members suggested when the Bill was previously before the Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I point out that we are not dealing with the Bill; we are dealing with the amendments of the Legislative Council, and all remarks must be confined to those amendments.

Mr. VENNING: If the Bill had passed this place in the form in which it should have been, these amendments would not have been necessary. I believe the Government knew what the Council would do, and allowed for this in framing the Bill. Opposition members have made the position of the trade clear, while Government members have put forward the position of rank and file members of the community. It has been clearly shown that the trade is happy with the amendments. The warranty of three months would lead to people using a vehicle, returning it, getting their money back, and going to another dealer for another vehicle.

The Hon. L. J. King: What Bill are you talking about?

Mr. VENNING: I am talking about how these provisions will work out in reality.

Mr. McANANEY: I support what the member for Kavel has said. I think that the amendments go too far, and we should take a middle course. When the Attorney-General came into Parliament, I thought he would be a well balanced character who would weigh what was right for all concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: This debate is not concerned with the merits of the honourable Attorney-General; we are dealing with the Legislative Council's amendments. All remarks must relate to those amendments.

Mr. McANANEY: I was trying to relate my remarks by saying that the provisions of the Bill should be fair to all sections of the community. The provisions tend to apply a sledge hammer when a much lighter weapon would achieve the required result. The Attorney accused the other place of giving in to lobbying. Although thousands of secondhand cars are sold in a year, far fewer than 5 per cent of the people who buy them complain that the vehicles are not up to standard. Therefore, at least 95 per cent of people who buy these vehicles are happy with the cars they buy. Some people are dissatisfied with the new cars they purchase. A warranty of 5 000 km or three months is excessive. Many people do not drive properly, thus causing damage to their vehicles. We must take a course that is acceptable to all concerned.

Motion carried.

The following reason for disagreement was adopted:

Because the amendments remove essential protective provisions from the legislative scheme.

Later:

The Legislative Council intimated that it insisted on its amendments to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

Consideration in Committee.

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

That the House of Assembly insist on its disagreement to the Legislative Council's amendments.

Motion carried.

A message was sent to the Legislative Council requesting a conference at which the House of Assembly would be represented by Messrs. Evans, Hall, King, McRae, and Payne.

Later, a message was received from the Legislative Council agreeing to a conference to be held in the Legislative Council Conference Room at 9.45 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GENERAL)

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's amendments:

No. 1. Page 1, line 15 (clause 2)—Leave out "subsection" second occurring and insert "subsections".

No. 2. Page 2 (clause 2)—After line 4 insert new subsections as follows:

"(lb) For the purposes of subsection (la) of this section, land shall be deemed to be

occupied if it is used (continuously or intermittently) solely for the agistment of sheep or cattle.

(1c) Where any land or building is presently unoccupied but has, within the preceding period of twelve months, been occupied for purposes that would render the land or building ratable property under the provisions of subsection (1a) of this section, a council shall, in the absence of notice of a contrary intention given by or under the authority of, a Minister of the Crown, be entitled to presume that it is intended that the land or building will be again so occupied within the succeeding period of twelve months."

No. 3. Page 3, line 4 (clause 5)—After "property" insert ", whose name and address are known to the council,".

No. 4. Page 3 (clause 5)—After line 10 insert new subsection as follows:

"(4) The notice shall also be published in a newspaper circulating generally in the areas affected by the petition.

No. 5. Page 6, lines 11 and 12 (clause 24)—Leave out "(if the Minister approves in writing of expenditure for that purpose)".

No. 6. Page 6, lines 16 to 18 (clause 24) — Leave out paragraph (c).

No. 7. Page 6 (clause 25)—After line 37 insert new subsection as follows:

"(1a) A council shall not expend moneys under subsection (1) of this section in the provision of any hospital, infirmary, nursing home or domiciliary service of a therapeutic nature unless the Chief Secretary has consented in writing to the expenditure of moneys for that purpose."

No. 8. Page 10, lines 12 and 13 (clause 37)—Leave out "from time to time".

No. 9. Page 10, line 13 (clause 37)—After "fixed" insert "at the time of the issue of the debentures".

No. 10. Page 10, line 21 (clause 38)—Leave out "convert" and insert "use".

No. 11. Page 10, line 22 (clause 38) —Leave out "into" and insert "as".

No. 12. Page 10, lines 24 to 29 (clause 39) —Leave out all words in this clause after "is" in line 24 and insert:

"repealed and the following section is enacted and inserted in its place:

459a. *Disposal of reserves*—(1) Subject to this section, where a council is of the opinion that any land that constitutes or forms part of, a reserve is not required as a reserve, or for the purposes of the reserve, as the case may be, the council may sell or otherwise dispose of that land.

(2) No such land shall be sold or otherwise disposed of without the consent in writing of the Minister.

(3) Public notice must be given of any proposal to sell or dispose of land under this section at least twenty-eight days before the council sells, or disposes of, the land.

(4) A council shall not proceed under this section to sell, or dispose of, land that is of more than one-half acre in area unless a proposal to do so has been submitted to a poll of ratepayers and a majority of the ratepayers voting at the poll has voted in favour of the proposal.

(5) In this section—

'reserve' means any land vested in the council and shown as a reserve on a plan deposited in the Lands Titles Registration Office or the General Registry Office."

No. 13. Page 11, line 3 (clause 41)—Leave out "marked out" and insert "indicated by markings".

No. 14. Page 12, line 22 (clause 48)—After "was" insert "driven,".

No. 15. Page 12, line 25 (clause 48)—After "position" insert "or was so driven in contravention of the by-law".

No. 16. Page 13, lines 1 to 3 (clause 51)—Leave out "earth, building material, stone, gravel or other similar substance" and insert "goods, materials, earth, stone, gravel, or other substance".

No. 17. Page 13, lines 15 and 16 (clause 51)—Leave out paragraph (b) and insert new paragraph as follows:

"(b) goods, materials, earth, stone, gravel, or other substance";.

No. 18. Page 13, lines 21 and 22 (clause 51)—Leave out "earth, building material, stone, gravel or other similar substance" and insert "goods, materials, earth, stone, gravel or other substance".

No. 19. Page 13, lines 29 and 30 (clause 51)—Leave out "earth, building material, stone, gravel or other similar substance" and insert "goods, materials, earth, stone, gravel or other substance".

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Local Government): The Legislative Council has returned 19 amendments to the Bill and, wherever possible, the amendments will be agreed to. Of the 19 amendments, only four cannot be accepted by the Government. I hope that, on the second attempt to get this most desirable Bill through Parliament, we will not falter again as we did a year ago.

Amendment No. 1:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO moved:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 1 be agreed to.

Motion carried.

Amendment No. 2:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 2 be amended by striking out new subsection (1c).

Clause 2, to which the Legislative Council's amendment relates, deals with the new provision the Government is writing into the Act to provide that councils should receive rates on properties owned by the Government, irrespective of whether or not they are tenanted, subject to their being held for the purpose of leasing. New subsection (1b), which is the first part of the Legislative Council's amendment, merely adds a new provision

dealing with land used solely for the agistment of sheep or cattle. As the amendment will do no harm, I agree to it.

However, new subsection (1c) is a different matter altogether. It would appear that the intention of the new subsection is that, if the council is not notified to the contrary (and it does not say when, but I assume that it means that the notification must be given either prior to the making of the assessment or to the declaration of the rate), rates shall be payable. More simply put, this will mean that, if a Government department has a property that has been held for lease and if it requires the tenant to vacate the property for demolition purposes but it fails to notify the council of this fact, the department will be required to pay rates to the council. The danger is that this task would probably be assigned to a somewhat junior officer in the first instance. Bearing in mind the various procedures that must be followed in Government departments, the notice would probably find its way into a docket and remain in the department's channels for some time. Occasionally some of these dockets do get lost.

The final result would be that the Auditor-General would pick up this matter and say that the department should pay rates to the council merely because an officer had failed to comply with the requirements of the Act. The Auditor-General would take the next obvious step and issue a surcharge on that officer. I do not think the Legislative Council intended this to happen, but this could be the effect of the amendment, because it is not stated when notice to the contrary must be given except that it must be given by or under the authority of a Minister of the Crown (not my authority, but the authority of the Minister in charge of the department). No suggestion has been made of when the notice would be required, but I presume that it would be required prior to the date of the council meeting at which the rate was set. Again, this is a very fluid factor on which Government departments would have to work. I think the Adelaide City Council usually sets its rate at the first meeting after the holding of annual elections, but I do not know of many other councils that follow that practice. No doubt most of them would do this between six and 10 weeks after the holding of elections or the coming into office of the new council. In other words, councils usually set their rates in August or September.

If that is the date that is presupposed by the amendment, we would be asking officers

of Government departments, by some magic wave, to find out when councils were going to set their rates and when the meeting night would be, and the rate would have to operate before that date. In some cases, it could be July 4 and in other cases it could be September 4; that is unsatisfactory. It is undesirable to have an unnecessary feature included in the measure. Even if that provision were inserted in the Bill, the Government could still challenge the payment of rates by going to court, and it would win. I certainly would not support any legislation that would mean that any State Government department had to take a council to court. I believe we ought to provide for better than that. In most cases, although the assessment is determined, it is not adopted until the date when the rate is fixed. Usually the two things are done at the same meeting, and then the 21-day period for appeals applies to both factors. For these reasons, I believe new subsection (1c) is unacceptable.

Dr. EASTICK: The attitude of the Minister surprises me. He seems to have thrown up many difficulties for a matter of little moment. If members of the public have to comply with rules and regulations of Government departments, councils and other authorities by a given period, I see no reason why officers of the Government should not also be expected to comply. The acceptance by all parties to a notification being required by, say, July 1, or any other given date, would simplify the situation which the Minister has spelt out. It is not unreasonable to expect that everyone requiring a certain consideration should apply for that consideration by a date which is well known and which is constant. I believe that by approaching the subject on the same basis as the public has to approach so many subjects that relate to Government direction would overcome the red herring the Minister has put. I ask members to accept the Legislative Council's amendment.

Motion carried.

Amendments Nos. 3 and 4:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO moved:

That the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 3 and 4 be agreed to.

Motion carried.

Amendment No. 5:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 5 be disagreed to.

The Act currently provides that a council may subscribe to the funds of an organization within the State of South Australia, and the Bill

originally sought to extend this provision to include organizations that have as their principal object the furtherance and interests of local government generally throughout Australia. The reason for this is that there is at least one organization, which I believe is called the Capital Cities Secretariat, which functions as a representative group of the mayors and town clerks of Australia and which held a week-long conference in Adelaide a few weeks ago. If the provisions of the Local Government Act are complied with, it is not possible for the Corporation of the City of Adelaide to contribute funds to that organization. The Legislative Council has suggested that the Adelaide City Council subscribes to the secretariat, but I believe it does not. Whilst the Government applauds the concept of the Adelaide City Council and other councils wishing to subscribe to any interstate organization, we believe that, once the ambit of operation is taken outside the State, some control is not unreasonable. This is why, when we introduced this measure, we included the words "if the Minister approves in writing all expenditure for that purpose". I know it is very easy to get emotional about this item, and at the moment many people have a fetish about the control of a Minister, be he the Minister of Local Government or any other Minister of the Crown. It is interesting to note that, whilst the Legislative Council has sought to delete these words from that section, in its amendment No. 7 it has added a provision that the council cannot do something without first having the authority of the Minister, so it realizes there is much benefit in safeguarding a council in some matters. In many other provisions in the Act, Ministerial approval is required, and I would think this was desirable.

Dr. EASTICK: I think the other matter to which the Minister has referred is different, because finance is involved. I oppose the attitude that the Minister has expressed but, because of the circumstances of this amendment, I do not oppose the motion.

Motion carried.

Amendment No. 6:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 6 be disagreed to.

This also involves Ministerial control. Section 287 of the Act gives councils power to do many things, amongst them being power to promote any Bill before the Parliament that may be necessary or desirable for the benefit of the area. The Bill as it left this Chamber added the words "if the Minister approves in writing

of the expenditure for that purpose," and the Legislative Council, not surprisingly, has deleted those words. Councils are rarely inhibited in carrying out their functions in terms of the Act, although they are required to seek Ministerial approval for many functions. For instance, the Minister's approval is required if a council desires to borrow money for works.

The provision that the Government sought to make probably has not been included previously because the need for it has not been suggested. However, last year we had a good indication of why this matter should be considered more closely. Whilst Opposition members, at least in part, applaud the Local Government Association for its activities, sometimes the wheel tends to turn, and a person who is on the winning side today may be on the losing side tomorrow. As I have told honourable members previously, last year the association prepared a draft resolution, stating:

That the Local Government Association of South Australia Incorporated be requested to establish a fund to be called the Local Government Legislative Purposes Fund, which shall be held by the association upon trust for the purpose of promoting any Bill before Parliament which may be necessary or desirable for the benefit of all local government areas in the State and in particular for promoting any such Bill as may be necessary to maintain, ensure, restore or provide that the entitlement to vote at local government elections shall be limited to persons who are the owners or occupiers of rateable property and, further, that voting shall not be compulsory at such elections, with power for the association to invest the fund and accumulate the income for a period of not more than 20 years, and if any portion of the fund or income shall not be expended for such purposes the association shall hold the balance upon trust for the benefit of the councils contributing to the fund in proportion to the contributions made by each of them; that in the event that the association establish the said fund, this council, under the authority of this resolution, make a donation or contribution to such fund of an amount equal to one half of 1 per cent of its general rate revenue for the current financial year.

I have not the most up-to-date figures, but the 1970 *Year Book* shows that the rate revenue in South Australia was \$24,369,000, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of that is \$121,845. I am pleased that the association's move was not successful. I do not think anyone could accept that taking \$121,845 out of the works programme of the council areas of South Australia was applying, in a proper way, the money that the ratepayers had given to the councils. The Act refers to promoting a Bill before Parliament that may be necessary or

desirable for the benefit of the area. Who decides what is desirable or necessary? Further, it must be for the benefit of the area. I would be far more impressed by what is beneficial to the people of an area, because the area is defined as the municipality.

Mr. Mathwin: One includes the other, surely.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I should like to think so, but 12 months ago it was shown that some councils placed far more importance on the area than on the people in it, because they did not want to give the people within the area the opportunity to vote. The Local Government Association resolution refers to voting at council elections being limited to persons who are owners or occupiers. That organization does not believe that the wife of a man who owns a house ought to have a vote, or that a returned serviceman should have a vote. We know that the policy of the Local Government Association is to take away from a wife who is not a joint owner the right to vote, and I am sorry that that is its policy. Why should councils continually have to treat the wife of a man who occupies a rental house as a second-class citizen?

Mr. Coumbe: They are occupiers.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: They are not occupiers; the breadwinner is regarded as being the occupier. It was shown 12 months ago that there is the opportunity of abuse and, until such time as that abuse were shown, it could be argued that there was no need to worry about it. However, having had this experience, I believe that action should be taken to prevent any future abuse.

Dr. EASTICK: This amendment is different from the previous amendment, which I supported, although I did not agree to it in principle. It is wrong that the third tier of government should be denied the right, if it sees fit, to promote its views before Parliament, and I oppose the motion. I do not believe that all the information that the Minister has tried to convey about the size and effect of the fund is relevant, because it was never decided that such a fund should exist.

Mr. COUMBE: We are discussing an entirely different principle from that involved in the previous amendment: we are dealing with the right of a democratically-elected body (part of the third tier of responsible government in South Australia) to promote before Parliament a matter which in its opinion will benefit the people in the area concerned. I cannot see why the council concerned should not have this right. At present a council

has the right to spend money, without the Minister's permission, on promoting by-laws that are considered by the Subordinate Legislation Committee and subject in this House to debate and possible disallowance. Such by-laws are usually for the good regulation of the area concerned and the people therein, and by-laws are not often disallowed. This does not necessarily apply to the present Minister but, if a Minister were violently opposed to a certain council that wished to promote a Bill, he could, by refusing approval, prevent that council from promoting such a Bill.

If a council wishes to promote certain legislation, it desires to ascertain, first, what the effect of it will be, and it consults its own solicitor. That attracts a fee. If the Minister's argument were taken to the extreme, a council could not expend money on obtaining a legal opinion. Ultimately any Bill proposed must come before this Parliament, which is the judge, and it also judges council by-laws.

Mr. GUNN: The Minister seems to take strong exception to the Local Government Association. He is deliberately taking away the rights of councils. As they collect the taxes from ratepayers, they should decide how the money is to be spent. They are in the best position to spend money in the best interests of ratepayers. Why should the Minister be involved in this? If councils had seen the Minister last year about the obnoxious Bill he introduced, he would not have listened to them. There was a noticeable toning down in the Minister's remarks today, compared to his remarks on previous occasions. This is another instance of the Government's taking away rights, with in this case councils being affected.

Mr. MATHWIN: I support the Council's amendment. Under this provision, the Minister will vet proposals before they come to this place. If a Bill was promoted by councils, once it was before Parliament the Minister would have an opportunity to tear it to pieces, if he so desired. The Minister referred to one case, but surely he does not blacken all councils because of that case. I suggest that councils are of a high calibre and that their decisions, especially with regard to promoting a Bill, would be carefully considered. If ratepayers and other people in a district objected, a council would take notice. This provision gives the Minister far too much power, and that is undesirable.

Mr. McANANEY: I, too, support the amendment. Money collected from ratepayers in an area is spent in that area, and it is the concern of people in the area

how it is spent. The provision in the Bill will only slow up procedures. I can see no reason why the Minister should have this power.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This provision does not take away from Parliament the right to discuss a measure. We are providing a safeguard so that councils will not spend money beyond their capabilities. To suggest that Parliament is the place to discuss these matters is irrelevant; Parliament discusses them one way or the other. I am sure that, whoever the Minister might be, if he refused to permit a council to make a contribution for the purpose of promoting a Bill, he would be called to answer in this place. In this connection, the numbers in the Chamber make no difference, as the Minister would still be called to answer. Even if the Government of the day had the numbers and did not like a Bill that was being promoted by a council, it would still be called to answer. This provision simply seeks to prevent a council from going off at a tangent in an area in a way that is not in the best interests of the people living in that area. It is wrong to suggest that this takes anything away from local government.

Mr. COUMBE: This provision will mean that, if a council in any part of the State wishes to ask any private member to introduce a Bill to amend the Local Government Act, before the member has the right to introduce such a measure, which would be promoted by the council, he would have to get the Minister's consent. It will mean that, if a council in my area asks me to introduce an amendment to the Local Government Act, it would obtain its solicitor's opinion in helping it to draft the amendment and would incur the expense of promoting the Bill. However, before I could introduce the Bill, it would have to go to the Minister for his consent in writing.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: You have not read what it means.

Mr. COUMBE: That is what the provision means, and it impinges not only on the rights of councils but also on the rights of a private member.

The Committee divided on the motion:

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

Noes (19)—Messrs. Becker, Brookman, Carnie, Coumbe (teller), Eastick, Evans, Ferguson, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Hall, Mathwin, McAnaney, Millhouse, Nankivell, and Rodda, Mrs. Steele, Messrs. Tonkin, Venning, and Wardle.

Majority of 4 for the Ayes.

Motion thus carried.

Amendment No. 7:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 7 be agreed to.

The amendment merely requires Ministerial approval before a council spends money on the provision of hospitals and infirmaries.

Dr. EASTICK: I accept the amendment, which is entirely different from the last one, because the Chief Secretary will make funds available for the provision of hospitals and infirmaries. Accordingly, the Chief Secretary should have this authority.

Motion carried.

Amendments Nos. 8 and 9:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 8 and 9 be agreed to.

I agree that the interest rate should be the rate at the time of the issue of the debentures.

Motion carried.

Amendments Nos. 10 and 11:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 10 and 11 be agreed to.

These amendments deal with park lands which are to be used as caravan parks or camping grounds. The Legislative Council likes the word "use" instead of "convert", and a consequential verbiage alteration is necessary. No national issue is at stake here.

Motion carried.

Amendment No. 12:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 12 be disagreed to.

Although this amendment still deals with open areas, it is somewhat different. It is interesting to note that the Legislative Council, in new section 459a, requires the approval of the Minister to be obtained in this case. However, I object to the mandatory requirement of a poll being held before the council may sell or dispose of land.

Two features leave me gasping. First, I cannot accept the idea that a block of land, merely because it is 1 sq. yd. less than half an acre in size, can be disposed of as the council sees fit and without consulting the people,

whereas an area that is half an acre plus 1 sq. yd. in size cannot be disposed of without a poll of ratepayers being held. Conducting polls of ratepayers is not the cheapest way of spending a Saturday, and not always the most pleasant. I cannot see the logic of requiring a poll in these circumstances.

The second point is that the value and purpose of the site have tremendous importance in the decision. A block of land comprising less than half an acre in a township may be much more important than a block comprising two acres that is 25 miles out of the town, as far as retention for parks is concerned. There could be cases where a poll should be held when a council wants to act in a way that does not seem to be in the best interests of the public, but subsection (2) of the new section provides that no land shall be sold without the consent of the Minister.

Dr. EASTICK: Not knowing the Minister's previous attitude, I have not been able to check the situation regarding a poll, but I accept the situation that the Minister has outlined. Perhaps deletion of one subsection would have been sufficient. As the measure left this Chamber, it was adequate for the purpose. Fear has been expressed regarding further erosion of the green belt in the Adelaide City Council area, but there are adequate provisions to cover that possibility.

Motion carried.

Amendments Nos. 13 to 19:

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO moved:

That the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 13 to 19 be agreed to.

Motion carried.

The following reason for disagreement to the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 5, 6, and 12 was adopted:

Because the amendments prejudicially affect the objects of the Bill.

Later:

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly to its amendment No. 2; that it insisted on its amendments Nos. 5 and 6, to which the House of Assembly had disagreed; and that it did not insist on its amendment No. 12.

Consideration in Committee.

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

That the House of Assembly insist on its disagreement to the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 5 and 6.

I am grateful that the Council adopted a tolerant attitude in dealing with two of the four amendments that we insisted on. We

accepted 15 of the original 19 amendments made by the Council, and rejected four; the Legislative Council has now insisted on two. The first of these amendments deals with the question of councils being able, as provided originally in the Bill, for the first time to subscribe to organizations outside South Australia. We attached to that the prerequisite that Ministerial approval should be given before councils took such action. Regrettably, the Council considers that no tags should be attached. If this were the right occasion, I would move that this whole clause be deleted. In that case, the Adelaide City Council would suffer. However, if the Council insists on its amendment, that is a simple way of solving the problem. If the Council agrees to a conference, that is the line I will take.

The other amendment of the Council deals with the requirement of Ministerial approval before councils can subscribe to an organization for the purpose of promoting Bills before Parliament. In this case, the Council is adamant. If it persists in taking this line, the responsibility rests with that Chamber. As I have said before, 12 months ago the Government attempted to have passed by Parliament a Bill to benefit local government, but was thwarted by a hostile Council. About six months ago, I introduced this Bill. At the third reading stage, the member for Light said that its passing would be a red letter day for local government as it represented one of the most forward steps taken for a long time in this field. I only hope that we do not have to wait another 12 months for such legislation because we cannot now get the co-operation needed.

Motion carried.

A message was sent to the Legislative Council requesting a conference at which the House of Assembly would be represented by Messrs. Brown, Eastick, Gunn, Harrison, and Virgo.

Later, a message was received from the Legislative Council agreeing to a conference to be held in the Legislative Council Committee Room No. 1 at 9.45 p.m.

HOUSING GRANTS ADMINISTRATION BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 23. Page 3287.)

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): This Bill is a wonderful vindication of and an example of support for past Liberal and Country League policies, as well as Commonwealth policy, on housing. The Premier made little reference to those past policies, but he

could not ignore them, because of the figures he was compelled to give when explaining the provisions of the new agreement. It is significant that the Premier had to say that about 17.1 per cent of the total moneys made available to the States under the previous agreement came to South Australia, and that proportion approaches the 21 per cent per capita average throughout Australia. The success of housing in South Australia depends on several aspects of the one major housing policy, but the whole basis of the programme applied by the State Treasurer in the past, year after year, has been the ability to obtain sufficient funds from the Commonwealth Government to be allocated to housing, and the capacity to allocate tremendous sums at the 1 per cent concession rate.

This has established South Australia pre-eminently in regard to housing, and it is rather ironical that, having achieved this pre-eminence, we should be instituting the strictest building licensing controls known throughout Australia. This will have an impact on the costs to be met by those who purchase and rent houses in future. That L.C.L. Governments in South Australia have devoted much of their Loan funds to housing programmes has meant that the new grant system will especially benefit South Australia, and we shall be attracting developmental money from what is, in fact, a generous Commonwealth Government.

It is ironical that the Premier does not say that that Government is generous when it is. Whenever he gets a chance to criticize its financial policies, he takes it, never saying a word of thanks when it shows its generosity in this way. The Premier said that the States had made representations to the Commonwealth Government on three major bases: first, that there should be an interest concession under the new agreement; secondly, that there should be special allocations of grant moneys to help those in an under-privileged situation who are housed by the relevant housing authorities; and thirdly, that there should be additional funds for urban development. These representations were met generously in the first two instances, and the Premier, through the figures he quoted, has revealed the Commonwealth Government's generosity.

By the simplest comparisons, one sees that the bond rate today is 7 per cent, yet the Housing Trust will be able to operate on funds provided at an average of 4½ per cent. Any Government policy that enables the interest

payable on housing funds to be reduced from 7 per cent to 4½ per cent obviously demonstrates the Commonwealth Government's concern and shows that it has a practical approach to the problem. It is interesting that, at the same time as the State Government is able to allocate money to the Housing Trust at a reduced rate of 21 per cent, it is able to continue applying the 1 per cent concession rate that has been available previously through the home builders funds. South Australia can continue to take advantage of this tremendous opportunity as long as it can contain its building costs, and it can retain its foremost position in Australia in regard to housing.

The Housing Trust, in the last few years of rising interest rates, has experienced considerable difficulty, as the Premier has said (and as I observed when in Government), in providing rental premises at an economical rent to those on low wages who have to rent the houses in question. By tending to equalize rents in respect of those houses, it has offered this type of accommodation at a rent below the sum that might be considered economical. It is pleasing to note that at this time, when interest rates are higher than they have been for many years, the trust can obtain funds at a rate of 11 per cent less than the rate that has applied previously. This should certainly give the Housing Trust hope that it can in some way meet the rapidly rising costs that are threatening the building industry in South Australia at present.

This State's share of the \$2,750,000 provided especially by the Commonwealth Government this financial year will amount to \$470,250, which is \$205,250 more than the \$265,000 received from the Commonwealth Government last year. This increase will enable the Treasurer to provide for a reduction in interest rates from which the Housing Trust will now benefit. In addition, the Commonwealth Government has made available \$1,250,000 to all Australian Governments for housing under-privileged families, and South Australia will receive \$152,000 of this sum. Again, this is because of our large per capita involvement in the housing fund from the Commonwealth Government, our share comparing favourably with what is received by the other States. Therefore, the trust will have grant moneys free of interest with which to assist under-privileged families. I have no doubt the money will

be wisely used by the trust, a body that we have grown to respect greatly.

The Premier also referred to building societies. I trust that over the years the societies will be able to expand their activities, for I support them. It is common sense for a Government to place moneys in the hands of private building societies, as that money attracts further savings, the total capital available for housing thus being greater than would be the case if money were disbursed to Government agencies alone. During the term of the previous Government, the then Treasurer (Sir Glen Pearson) fought a battle on behalf of building societies and was able to achieve, with the added funds at our disposal, a significant increase in the money that went to these societies. The Premier is limiting the societies to the present 12½ per cent rate that they receive from house-building funds. As I believe this is a generous limit, I have no complaint about the matter. All I ask is that, whether in Government or in Opposition, the Premier assist the building societies so that additional capital might be attracted from the private sector for building purposes.

I see this Bill as a fine example of action by a generous Commonwealth Government, which has made available funds that will be used properly in South Australia. This vindicates the action of the previous Government in keeping the component of Loan funds at the highest level. In this case we have an example that the Government should follow in other directions. I hope the Government will keep this in mind when dealing with the building industry in matters such as the licensing of builders or in the case of other repressive measures that it may have in mind. The housing industry in South Australia is based on intelligent management, with private enterprise combining with Government enterprise.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hanson.

Mr. Millhouse: Why shouldn't he speak?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I didn't say anything.

Mr. Millhouse: Don't scowl so much.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham is out of order in trying to create a controversy with members opposite him.

Mr. Millhouse: It's bad temper.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member for Mitcham interjects again while I

am on my feet, he will have to put up with the consequences. Interjections must cease.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): I support the Bill and ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Later:

Mr. BECKER: Although I support this important Bill, it is a pity that it has been brought before us at this late stage in the session, one day before the House is to adjourn until next February. I think the Premier is asking too much of the Opposition if he expects us to accept a Bill and to say little about it. I draw attention to the following statement in the Premier's second reading explanation:

The Government had hoped that, by this stage, the Commonwealth legislation would have been passed but, whilst there is every expectation on the part of the Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Bill that it will be passed without any amendment of substance, it may be two or three weeks before that stage is reached. Accordingly, it has become necessary for this Government to submit this Bill without being absolutely certain as to the details that will be included in the Commonwealth legislation when it is finally passed.

In other words, we are being asked to consider amendments to the Act and to accept Commonwealth legislation about which we do not really know all the particulars: we are putting the cart before the horse, and the Government has a cheek to expect the Opposition to do this. However, the Opposition is willing to co-operate in seeing that the State progresses, especially in regard to housing. The Bill is to renew an agreement which expired on June 30. The Commonwealth Government will increase its allocation of housing funds to South Australia, and the benefit to this State will be great. South Australia can be proud of the Housing Trust's role and of the manner in which it has handled the funds supplied by the Commonwealth to develop housing. Most people who own their own house have been able to purchase it through the trust or by means of Commonwealth money supplied by the State Bank. Unfortunately, at present we still face a crisis in housing, especially rental accommodation which the ordinary working man can afford. Nowadays, many flats are being built, but they rent at about \$25 a week, which the average man cannot afford.

Deserted wives and young couples find it difficult to obtain reasonably priced rental accommodation, because many landlords will not accept young married couples with children. Any additional funds that South Australia

will receive from the Commonwealth Government should be used to provide reasonably priced housing accommodation for young married couples with children. This is not being done now, with the result that two and three families often live in a house and pay more than \$25 a week in rent. Someone owning a nice three-bedroom house on Anzac Highway can rent it for \$60 to \$70 a week. We hear so much about our affluent society, yet we cannot adequately house young married couples. The Commonwealth Government is doing the right thing by providing housing finance to the State, and it is up to the State Government to see that this money is wisely spent. The Premier has stated that South Australia's share of Commonwealth housing funds will be 17.1 per cent, or \$470,250, for each of the next 30 years; that is a generous allocation when it is considered that South Australia has only one-ninth of the population of the Commonwealth.

I draw attention to the break-up of money received by the States, particularly with regard to building societies, which will receive a slightly increased share. The building societies in 1970 received 7.6 per cent of the total funds available to South Australia, or 14.3 per cent of funds left after allocation to the Housing Trust. However, the societies in this State consider that they do not receive a fair allocation in comparison with those in the other States. Although there are only three major building societies in this State, more are being established and all of them must share in the cake. In 1970-71, South Australia's allocation from the home builders fund was \$25,000,000, of which \$11,750,000 was allocated to the trust, 14.3 per cent of the balance of \$13,250,000 (amounting to \$1,900,000) was allocated to building societies, and \$11,350,000 was allocated to the State Bank. Those figures illustrate that the societies do not receive a great share of this money, yet they are expected to provide finance, as are other financial institutions, for housing in South Australia. The Bill will provide cheap finance for home purchasers.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

At 6 o'clock, the bells having been rung:

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

That the sittings of the House be continued until the House has completed dealing with messages from the Legislative Council.

Motion carried.

HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

[Sitting suspended from 6.4 to 7.30 p.m.]

HARBORS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 23. Page 3287.)

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): This Bill is short, and I understand from the Minister's explanation that other amendments to the principal Act will be introduced. The measure deals specifically with development of the State in that it will enable supply vessels to service the oil exploration development at Port Lincoln. Masters will be able to pilot their vessels into and out of Port Lincoln harbor, I think at least twice a week.

Mr. Coumbe: What if they have to go in more than that?

Mr. RODDA: I think I can assure the honourable member, from my study of the Bill, that that would be in order. The Opposition is interested in seeing that the Bill is watertight. Any amendments to the Harbors Act should not be made lightly, as pilots have special qualifications. However, my examination of the Bill indicates that these matters have been covered. The provisions will apply to competent masters engaged in specific work.

Mr. Coumbe: Is there a limitation on tonnage?

Mr. RODDA: I do not think there is any limitation on tonnage, and large vessels are engaged in the work concerned. The legislation meets a demand and I hope it has a speedy passage. The penalties have been increased, and this is a further safeguard to the public and people operating in the marine field. The Bill meets the requirements adequately, and I think the Opposition will support it. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1—"Short titles."

Mr. RODDA: As this Bill deals with harbour and marine matters, I ask the Minister whether it requires Her Majesty's assent.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Marine): That is a condition of this Bill, and I think the Attorney has taken steps to solve the problem that any amendment to the Harbors Act must receive Her Majesty's assent. That assent is required because of the international ramifications of any amendment.

Mr. Millhouse: It's an Imperial Act.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member can get up and air his knowledge if he wants to do that. I am replying to the question asked by the member for Victoria and explaining that the Bill will require Her Majesty's assent.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (2 to 6) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Later, the Bill was returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

IRRIGATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its prime object is to facilitate the disposition of town allotments in areas the subject of the Irrigation Act. This is provided for in clause 4, and an account of how this object is to be achieved will be given in the comments on that clause. In addition, opportunity has been taken to effect some formal conversions to metric measurements in the principal Act. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 repeals sections 25 and 26, which placed limitations on the amount of ratable land that might be held by any person or combination of persons, ratable land being defined as land that is supplied with water under the Act and in respect of which rates are payable.

Clause 4 provides for the disposition of town allotments and, while the provision is generally self-explanatory, I offer the following comments. The principal Act at present provides for town allotments in irrigation towns to be offered at auction or allotted by the Land Board under perpetual lease tenure, and a private individual can obtain a fee simple title only if he holds a licence or a perpetual lease and has erected permanent improvements, or satisfies the Minister that he will do so. The Crown Lands Act provides for disposal of town allotments in several ways, and it appears desirable that the disposal of allotments in irrigation towns should have the same flexibility. The methods provided under

the Crown Lands Act which it is desired to apply to irrigation town allotments briefly are (a) sale by auction for cash; (b) sale by auction with the option to purchase under an agreement with covenant to purchase over a specified period; (c) sale by private contract if unsold at an auction; and (d) an estate in simple allotted by the Land Board.

Provision is made under each of these methods in the Crown Lands Act to prevent speculation by providing for buildings to be erected and restricting dealings without the consent of the Minister for a specified period with an appropriate power of cancellation for breach of conditions. These provisions are also provided in this clause. The power of cancellation for non-compliance with the building condition can sometimes be harsh in its application when a substantial sum has been paid for the land and the purchaser then finds himself unable to comply with the condition. Provision has therefore been made in the proposed new section for the Minister, in his discretion and on the recommendation of the Land Board, to refund an amount considered to be equitable in any particular case. Clause 5 effects what is, for practical purposes, an exact conversion to metric measurements in section 40 of the principal Act, which deals with grants of land for public or charitable purposes.

Clause 6 again effects a metric conversion that makes no difference to the operation or effect of section 74 of the principal Act. However, in paragraph (b) of this clause provision is made for the future rating to be based on actual amounts of water supplied rather than on the area of land supplied with water. Clause 7 effects formal metric conversions and provides an amendment to section 75 of the principal Act consequential on the amendment effected by clause 6 (b) referred to above. Clause 8 amends section 80f of the principal Act and increases in respect of drainage outlets, constructed after the commencement of the Act proposed by this Bill, the maximum contribution payable towards the cost of construction of the outlets. I emphasize that this increase will only apply with respect to outlets constructed in the future. The old maximum charge was at the rate of about \$25 a hectare.

Mr. Millhouse: How big is a hectare?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Mind your own business. The new maximum charge will be \$50 a hectare. Clauses 9 and 10 effect formal conversion amendments to sections 80g and 80i respectively of the principal Act.

Clause 11 again effects formal metric conversions to section 80j of the principal Act. Clause 12 slightly increases the maximum amount that may be expended on a block by the Minister under section 89 of the principal Act, and clause 13 is consequential on this clause. Clause 14 effects a formal metric conversion to the second schedule to the principal Act.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 23. Page 3289.)

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): My colleagues are somewhat jealous because of the measure by which I weigh in on this subject. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill. Although existing provisions are being reintroduced here, the Bill contains two major changes: first, it takes away from local government responsibility in regard to weights and measures and gives that responsibility to central government; and, secondly, it establishes an advisory council of six people to advise the Minister on matters concerning weights and measures. Dealing with the first major change, I point out that some people object to taking from local government a right and privilege that it has held over many years.

Mr. Mathwin: And jealously guarded.

Mr. WARDLE: Yes and no. I think it can be said that some councils were happy not to have to guard it any longer: they were happy to hand over the matter to central government. An amazing number of councils agreed to this change: about 100 out of over 140 councils agreed that central government should have this responsibility, and only four of the remaining 47 councils desired to administer this responsibility independently. The other 43 councils comprise two groups, one in the Thebarton area and one in the Barossa area, which have a qualified officer or officers who do the work in question. Local government could never justify financially an argument to retain this responsibility, because it has never been a financial success, the fees from weights and measures inspection never having been as great as the cost involved. Therefore, the transferring of this responsibility to central government means no financial loss to councils.

I have some sympathy with those who say that the financial aspect should not be regarded as important but that we should consider the principle of taking away from

local government something that virtually belongs to it. I have been prepared to accept the principle of this Bill on the basis that, when councils have had the opportunity to hand back this power to the Government, many have handed it back. This seems to me a reasonable basis for saying that it appears that most councils desire not to have the responsibility.

I appreciate the advice and leadership given by the Warden of Standards since he came here from Queensland. Many council officers would give credit to the technical skill and ability of this officer and the officers of the department, who have assisted councils so much in the past with weights and measures. As a participating council officer, I believe that the Warden of Standards put some life, interest and meaning into the matter of weights and measures in local government. This work was done rather haphazardly and without great efficiency, because it was carried out compulsorily only once every two years and took only three or four weeks to perform (that was the position in my area and less time would have been spent in smaller areas). When the end of the two-year period was approaching, a council officer found himself getting out his weights and measures equipment and the Act, and trying to bring himself up to date with procedure. It cannot be said that operations carried out in that way were as efficient as will be the work carried out now by people who will spend all their time doing such work.

Moreover, councils were not able to have all the equipment necessary to do the work, whereas the new authority will have ample equipment. I well remember in my early days in local government trying to test large 500lb. and 1,000lb. scales with the equipment we had at the council. The 25 lb. weights were carried in the boot of a car by the council officer. Admittedly it was stimulating physical work trying to carry the equipment in and out of various premises. I can understand how a council officer who has reached his middle years will be happy to have someone else take over this job. When one sees the central authority with all its equipment, one realizes just how inefficient generally was the gear councils had for the job. To some extent, the Government's taking over weights and measures represents a loss of authority by local government. Councils like to be able to carry out all the necessary functions in their areas. I guess it has been fairly convenient for local

business people to have the privilege of calling at the council office and saying that they want a set of scales or some other equipment tested before putting them in use. However, most measuring devices and scales are being tested either where they are being manufactured or the local council officer is being called in before the scales are dispatched to country centres. Therefore, most of this equipment has been tested and stamped before it is taken to country districts.

For this reason, I suppose it cannot be said that local traders miss out on much if they do not have a local officer to stamp their equipment. In addition, the limited equipment councils have and the limited experience of the officers certainly reduce the efficiency level with regard to administering this Act. The first advantage I can see in the Government's taking over weights and measures is that this work will now be the responsibility of one central authority. Members will know that at present the local inspector deals only with the measures and scales of local business premises. He is not able to test the equipment at chemists' shops or to test weighbridges or petrol pumps, so much of the work is already done by a central authority. Therefore, the central authority will be able to move into an area and do all of the work required under the Act in that area.

Secondly, there may be an advantage to councils in not having the financial responsibility for this work, as the fees charged do not nearly cover the costs involved. As I have said before, the central officer will be more widely experienced and his equipment will be more up to date. We must bear in mind that soon much of this equipment will have to be able to make metric tests as well. This would involve much cost in providing 140 local government areas with the new equipment. Local councils retain an interest in weights and measures in the formation of an advisory council as provided in the Bill. Under this provision, councils may have more direct say in the provisions of the legislation than is the case at present, although I guess each council has the right now to correspond with the Minister of Lands. Under the new provision, at least one-third of the membership of the board will be made up of council representatives, as local government will have two representatives who will be able to guide the Minister in these matters. It is important that the council should have preserved this right. The advisory council of six members will comprise the

Warden of Standards, the Deputy Warden, the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs, two local government representatives and a representative of the Chamber of Manufactures. The council shall at the request of the Minister, or may of its own volition, advise and counsel the Minister on any matter or thing in connection with or arising out of the weights and measures policy of the State. Members will notice that the schedules to the Bill deal with metric standards and the tolerances that will be allowed under the Act; these tolerances are shown in imperial weight and in metric weight and measure.

I hope that the Bill will result in some decentralized form of inspection and that, as several Government departments have decentralized and established country offices (I have in mind the suitability of the central town in my district to be such a place for such an officer), such inspectors of weights and measures will be strategically placed throughout the State so that country districts will have the expert officer right in their midst. We must remember that with weights and measures we always have hanging over our heads the possibility that, if the State Government does not accept its responsibility to manage weights and measures efficiently, the Commonwealth Government could always step in and take from the State Government its authority in regard to this matter. Although there are those who will question the principle of taking the inspection and management of weights and measures legislation away from local government and placing it in central Government hands, I believe that the measures in the Bill are progressive and that local traders anywhere in the State will not suffer to any great extent because of the measure. I am happy to see that local government will be represented by two appointees on the advisory council. For those reasons, I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I had not intended to speak to the Bill, but I do exactly what the member for Murray suggested in his closing remarks, namely, question the taking over of local government functions by the central Government. I was assured that this measure was acceptable to local government, but to satisfy myself I contacted two councils in my district this afternoon, and both of them expressed reservations about the measure. One council considered that the legislation encroached on local government and that it would add to the erosion that has taken place in several areas for some time, and these

councils are unhappy about the Bill. The Chairman of one of the councils I contacted had served as a member of the committee of inquiry into this measure, and he raised a query regarding the advisory council's composition. Apparently, when the original suggestion was put to the Government (I think the committee met last year) that there would be three representatives of local government on the advisory council, it meant that the council would comprise seven members, namely, the Warden of Standards, the Deputy Warden, the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs, three local government representatives and a representative of the Chamber of Manufacturers; this would mean three Government representatives and four not directly associated with central government.

Some councils are alarmed over the erosion of their authority, and it is no understatement to say that many councils are having difficulty in raising their rate revenue. I have only to think of the position in the Adelaide Hills where land is being taken over for various purposes, for instance at Gumeracha, especially for afforestation, and this is causing loss of rate revenue. The Engineering and Water Supply Department is assuming control over pollution to an extent that makes some local boards of health largely redundant. Councils consider it an imposition that they should be compelled to make contributions to hospitals. I raise these matters to show that feeling is not unanimous regarding the provisions of the Bill. At present, provision exists for councils to hand over their authority to the central body, and about 100 out of 140 councils have chosen to do this. It seems somewhat coincidental that the two councils I contacted today voiced opposition to this measure and that the Chairman of one of the councils who served on the committee of inquiry was surprised to learn that people from outside the Government would not have a slight majority on the advisory council.

Dr. Eastick: Was it the Barossa council?

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: No, it was not that council, although it was a council in the Barossa group. Having voiced my reservations, I am not prepared to oppose the Bill, but I think it should be pointed out that apprehension exists and that one council is opposed to the measure. This legislation is a trend towards the centralization of power, and that does not appeal to me. I hope the Bill will not mean that local government will be hemmed in by a multitude of regulations.

Some council authorities fear this in the operation of the legislation.

Mr. Venning: Especially with this Government in office.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: There is a feeling abroad that we are hemmed in by regulations and controls in all directions. We are hemmed in by fishing regulations and building regulations, but I hope that this legislation will not lead to a multiplicity of controls. However, I am not willing to oppose the Bill outright at this stage.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): I support the remarks made by the member for Murray and the member for Kavel. I consider that, as has been stated in the Minister's second reading explanation, this is a measure to consolidate the Weights and Measures Act. However, it will nationalize the weights and measures group at Thebarton. Two men employed there do not know what their future employment will be after this Bill has been passed. Therefore, I seek the Minister's assurance that these men will be employed under this new legislation and that the Government will ensure their continuity of employment.

Mr. Payne: You think this is a Socialist plot, do you?

Mr. Gunn: I shouldn't be surprised at anything.

Mr. Payne: You would like to see these men sacked?

Mr. BECKER: I should really ask that the honourable member be required to withdraw that remark.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must speak to the Bill.

Mr. BECKER: The men to whom I have referred are Mr. Alsford and Mr. Corcoran, and I understand that they have the qualifications and ability for the job.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must confine his remarks to the Bill and not use the opportunity to solicit jobs for his constituents.

Mr. BECKER: Clause 19 relates to the employment of inspectors, and I take it that that is the clause dealing with this matter. I have written to the Minister of Lands and have received a reply dated September 7. I seek a definite assurance that the employment of these men will be preserved.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 12 passed.

Clause 13—"Establishment and constitution of the advisory council."

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I seek verification that the original recommendation was for three council representatives on the advisory council, whereas the Bill provides for two representatives. I have not had a chance to check information given to me as late as 7.15 this evening by a person who served on the original committee of inquiry.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): I am sorry that I cannot give the information. The only reference I have is to what is contained in the Bill. However, I will check the matter further.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The Chairman to whom I spoke did not know that a change had been made and he thought that there would be three local government representatives on the advisory council.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I hope that the honourable member is not suggesting that the department agreed with local government that they would have three representatives and then submitted a Bill providing for two representatives. I am sure that this would not have happened.

Mr. WARDLE: I have canvassed this matter closely in council circles, and the only information I have been able to get is that only two council representatives were ever suggested.

Clause passed.

Clauses 14 to 18 passed.

Clause 19—"Officers, etc."

Mr. BECKER: I seek the Minister's assurance that the department will offer employment to the two men employed at the Thebarton weights and measures group. The letter from the Minister of Lands, dated September 7, states:

Furthermore, nothing could be done until the Bill has been passed by Parliament. They have indicated however, that it is this department's view that there is a moral obligation to employ them provided they hold the necessary qualifications.

I seek from the Minister a definite assurance that the Government will employ those men, provided they hold the necessary qualifications, which I believe they hold.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am pleased that the honourable member has said "provided they hold the necessary qualifications". The letter from the Minister stated that the department had a moral obligation, and surely that indicates that there is no legal obligation. It has been admitted that the department has a moral obligation to employ these people, provided they have the qualifications.

Mr. Jennings: And it'll be honoured.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Of course it will. I will certainly not give the honourable member an unqualified assurance, and he would be foolish to ask for it.

Mr. Brown: That's what he wanted.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, until he qualified his remarks just before he sat down, and that changed the reply I would otherwise have given. The Minister gave an assurance in that letter, and I guarantee that that assurance will be met, provided the men concerned hold the necessary qualifications.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (20 to 50), schedules and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

MINING BILL

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's amendments to its amendments Nos. 13, 22, 24 and 30; that it had agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly to its amendment No. 11, with a further amendment in the annexed schedule; and that it did not insist on its amendments Nos. 4 and 32 to which the House of Assembly had disagreed, but that it had made an alternative amendment to its amendment No. 4 as indicated in the annexed schedule.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Environment and Conservation): I move:

That the Legislative Council's further amendment to the amendment made by the House of Assembly to the Legislative Council's amendment No. 11 be agreed to.

During the second reading debate the Assembly agreed that a two-year period was satisfactory for a person interested in a property to apply for the proclamation of a private mine within two years. The Legislative Council amended this to increase the period to five years, and that amendment was rejected by this Committee. The Bill was returned to the Council, which has now amended the term to three years, and I believe this is satisfactory.

Motion carried.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I move:

That the Legislative Council's alternative amendment to its amendment No. 4 be agreed to.

When discussing the matter concerning land that would be exempt from the operations of the Bill, this Chamber agreed that the Pastoral

Act would apply to land within pastoral areas and that the land situated within 150 m of a dwellinghouse, factory, etc., should also be exempt from the provisions of clause 9. After considering this matter, members in another place were of the opinion that the 150 in should be increased to 400 m, and amended the provision accordingly, but this Chamber rejected that amendment. However, the current amendment made by another place restricts the provision concerning 150 m to a dwellinghouse only, whereas the provision concerning 400 m will apply in all other circumstances.

Mr. EVANS: I expressed concern previously over this distance of 400 m. Even though the Government and most of my colleagues are prepared to accept the amendment, I still oppose it. I believe that in some areas within 30 miles of the city some small operations may find difficulty in continuing if the amendment is accepted. Unless the Bill is administered reasonably, these operations may find it difficult to continue.

Motion carried.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 23. Page 3296.)

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): I welcome the introduction of this Bill to amend the Health Act. The Bill has two objects, and is in two unconnected but nevertheless important parts. The first of the principal objects of the Bill relates to clean air and the second relates to private hospitals, nursing homes and rest homes. The important part of the measure relates to clean air, and its aim is to extend the effective operation of the provisions of the Act relating to clean air and air pollution to all areas of the State. The need for the introduction of the Bill is evident in the changes it seeks to bring about. Pollution as such is regarded as rather an in subject at present. It is regarded as a new subject, something about which we may have only just become conscious. However, that is not so because, with the passing of the Noxious Trades Act in 1943, we came some way towards recognizing that pollution, even then, was a problem.

Although the Act was passed in 1943, it did not become operative until January 1, 1949. The concept of pollution was rather a different one in those days, and it was defined very well by the term "noxious practices". The pollution referred to in the Act was rather an obvious form of pollution.

I could say that it probably tended to thrust itself on the sense and consciousness of the community, as one could hardly miss some of the smells from the various manufacturing processes set out in the Act. The regulations set out the nature of the building, the method of operation and standards of hygiene, but the long list of regulations setting out the industries themselves makes interesting reading. Battery manufacturing is first on the list; this was changed to lead smelting in August, 1950. The list refers to blood-boiling, blood-drying and boiling-down.

Mr. Coumbe: Blood-curdling?

Dr. TONKIN: No, that is reserved for the other side of the House. It also refers to bone-grinding (I suppose that could refer to orthopaedic surgeons), fellmongering, tanning, gut scraping, hide and skin drying, fat extraction, fat melting, glue-making, knacker-ing, soap and candlemaking, tallow rendering, wool scouring and fish-meal making. The list has been added to and amended over the years. All members will agree that these are obvious forms of pollution. One has only to drive past the abattoir and other areas to know exactly what was covered in that Act.

Dr. Eastick: I find it a pleasant stench.

Dr. TONKIN: Every man to his own taste. I remember attending an establishment in my youth, and the Premier and the Deputy Leader will remember that we could always tell which way the wind was blowing because the smell from the Sanitarium factory came from one direction and the smell from the Rosella factory came from the other.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: You were sanitized and sauced as well.

Dr. TONKIN: Fair comment. The regulations were amended in 1955 to allow for appeals, but no separate appeal board was set up to hear appeals, as this Bill intends; the Central Board of Health (that old war horse) was the appeal board. Since then, the concept of air pollution has widened considerably, and we have become much more aware of the widespread implications that will result if we are not careful to control the degree of air pollution. Pollution has become a matter not only of intense concern but one of world-wide concern. All honourable members will be aware of the concept now held by most conservationists of space and earth and of the fact that we could well out-grow our resources on this planet. Air pollution as it affects the community rather than

a separate area in a community was apparent to newcomers and visitors to Port Pirie, where people became conscious of the fumes from the smelters because of stinging eyes. This did not apply to everyone, but people with sensitive eyes knew that something foreign was present in the air. As the member for Flinders reminds me, a sore throat was sometimes a symptom, too.

I think we are all well aware of the unfortunate effects that widespread pollution has caused. We have heard of the pollution problems in various cities. Tokyo is probably the worst: some of its traffic policemen must take oxygen periodically in order to remain on duty. The smog problem in Los Angeles has become a byword, and London's pea soup fogs have become a way of life. It is not only pollution but the effect that smog has that is a matter of concern. We have found that air pollution has led to death. Certainly the people who die are usually old and are suffering from chronic lung disease, but this is by no means always the case. Air pollution is a dangerous and insidious thing. Even in Adelaide, if one stands in the foothills and looks over the city one can sometimes see the obvious air pollution that exists. It is a good thing that we have introduced a system of air pollution potential warnings.

We tend to consider, as with many other things, that pollution applies to every other city in every other part of the world but that it does not apply to Adelaide. This is far from true. We must play our part in Adelaide if we are to keep the atmosphere of the world free from pollution and fit to live in, just as people in every other city must play their part, too. Many tons of solid matter fall on the earth from the air every week. This varies from place to place, depending on the pollution rate and on the degree of industrial development. The use of oxygen and the production of excess carbon dioxide is becoming and will become even more of a problem than the depositing of solid matter. The extent of air pollution throughout the world's atmosphere may be gauged now by the very slight but definite fall in the content of oxygen in the world's atmosphere and by the increase in carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide.

This definite lowering of the oxygen level throughout the world is, as with so many other things, a symptom of the population increase. Air pollution and water pollution are equally important and, of course, they are

inter-related. I do not think that many members will be aware (I was not aware of this until recently) that about 60 per cent of the world's atmospheric oxygen is produced by chlorophyll-containing organisms in the sea rather than by plants and trees on the land. I was surprised to hear that. Of course, it is important when one considers that eutrophication—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation.

Dr. TONKIN: It is important when one considers the eutrophication that is occurring in the gulf waters off Bolivar, because this is not only a matter of the destruction of small fish life and the upset of the ecological balance: it is a more important matter in the long run and will result, in a small way, in depleting our available oxygen in the atmosphere.

Therefore, water pollution and air pollution and their control are very much inter-related, and extremely important for our future environment and our survival. I think that, following the introduction of legislation in many overseas countries that have developed a reputation, the position has been improved greatly. The position in Los Angeles is much better, and I have been told that a pea soup fog in London is a thing of the past. I suppose that is almost a break with tradition, as one has come to associate pea soupers with London. These fogs have not occurred since the passing of the Clean Air Act. That is a good example of what has been achieved, as is the way the Thames River has been cleaned up. These legislative actions are important and can serve as models for countries throughout the world.

Mr. Nankivell: The buildings are all scrubbed up and clean.

Dr. TONKIN: One reason for passing the Clean Air Act may have been to stop unnecessary time and effort being spent to clean up the buildings that were being spoilt. When we were first in London, we moved into a new building that was beautifully built and comprised nice bright brickwork. However, when I went back five years later, the building was as black as any building could be.

Mr. Mathwin: The population is getting the same, too.

Dr. TONKIN: I welcome the introduction of this Bill. Section 91 of the Noxious Trades Act prohibits the operation of the preceding two sections in areas where the Noxious Trades Act applies, and that is almost all of the metropolitan area. Apparently, at the time it was

considered that the Noxious Trades Act sufficiently covered the situation in that area, but now, with a wider understanding of air pollution, it has been realized that one must control all aspects of air pollution, and the legislation now rightly will take precedence of the Noxious Trades Act in that regard.

I believe that the establishment of the Air Pollution Appeal Board is an important part of the legislation. A balanced attitude is needed and we should not penalize industry unduly, yet we should preserve minimal air pollution. I was pleased to read in the Minister's second reading explanation that the Government fully realizes that industry must be given as free a hand as possible to operate efficiently and profitably. This is important. It is apparent that we, as members of the human community, must live in harmony with our environment, not in competition with it to our expense and ultimate disadvantage.

It may be said that the establishment of the Air Pollution Appeal Board is sufficient justification for the proposed increase in fines for offences under the Act from \$200 to \$2,000, but this increase worries me greatly. It is a tenfold increase. An amount of \$200 may not be great to an industry—

Mr. Coumbe: Some industries would have difficulty in finding that much.

Dr. TONKIN: Some industries would find that amount a burden, and they would certainly find a fine of \$2,000 an extreme burden. I am rather disturbed about this and also a little disturbed that the main provisions will relate mainly to regulations.

Mr. Coumbe: Do you think the composition of the board should be spelt out in the Bill?

Dr. TONKIN: I think it is a good move to have the board but I have serious misgivings about the fines proposed. I agree that, if this board is important enough, it must have teeth, penal clauses that mean something, but I believe that \$2,000 is far too great an amount for a first offence. I consider that a more appropriate amount would be perhaps \$500 for a first offence, with \$2,000 for the second and subsequent offences. Industry is well aware of its responsibilities to the community. Sometimes it may need a little nudge or reminder, and I think a fine of \$500 would provide that reminder.

I think such a fine would also give some protection to the industries that offend inadvertently for the first time. There is no excuse for a subsequent offence and, therefore, for that an industry should have to pay the full

amount of \$2,000. However, a first offence may be committed inadvertently, such as when a factory is being set up or while a new process is being tried. We must use gentle persuasion, as represented by a fine of \$500, rather than make the full threat of a fine of \$2,000. I will canvass this matter further in Committee.

The spirit behind the thought of gentle persuasion and co-operation is evident in the fact that an appeal board will be set up, and I think that this spirit could be extended to provide an initial penalty less than the main penalty and more in line with an initial penalty than the steeply increased fine of \$2,000. My criticisms are minor, because I approve of the objectives of the Bill, but I am also concerned at the provision for a fine of up to \$200 a day while an offence persists. Time should be allowed for an offending industry to rectify the situation, and I will also canvass this matter further in Committee. It is rather unfair and unfortunate that an industry will be penalized by a daily fine, when I am sure that the industry will be only too anxious to co-operate by rectifying any defect that exists. I thoroughly approve of the introduction of these general provisions, which I consider to be the major part of the amending Bill.

As members will have seen, the second part of the Bill relates to the definition of private hospitals, nursing homes, and rest homes. I think the member for Alexandra asked a question about this matter a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, in South Australia we have been a little out of line in our definition of nursing homes and rest homes and there has been no clear-cut definition or distinction for the purposes of licensing these facilities. The definitions in the Bill are self-explanatory. Indeed, I think that this section of the Bill has been ready for presentation to Parliament for some time and I suspect that it was ready for presentation during the term of office of the previous Government. I approve of these definitions. It is necessary to define nursing homes and rest homes because of the various Commonwealth benefits payable in respect of patients in these institutions. Therefore, I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Dr. EASTICK (Light): I support the Bill. I do not wish to discuss provisions in relation to hospitals, except to say that I fully agree with them. I know that from a local board of health point of view these provisions will help councils, which are responsible for conducting these boards and for their management

and control. However, I should like to discuss the pollution aspect. It was heartening to hear the Minister say:

At the same time the Government fully realizes that industry must be given as free a hand as possible in order to operate efficiently and profitably.

From this statement one can take heart that we will not see a situation where the anti-pollutionists, conservationists, and others that come into this category so bog us down with theoretical requirements that it will be impossible to advance. I am aware that the Central Board of Health has provided clean air regulations, which have been forwarded to the local boards of health and, in particular I refer to paragraph 4 of the circular recently distributed by the Central Board of Health in which the following statement appears:

Your board recommends that methods other than burning should be critically examined.

It is necessary that thought be given to alternatives, but in many instances it is completely impracticable and certainly unprofitable for councils or other organizations to use methods other than burning.

I highlight five aspects in respect of which the Minister will agree, I am sure, and I hope that those in authority will ensure that the burning method will be available to dispose of household and industrial wastes that are collected and deposited in council and private rubbish dumps. I appreciate the advantages of the land-fill method of rubbish disposal and I realize that it works most effectively, but one must appreciate that it is becoming more difficult and expensive for councils and private enterprise to find a sufficient number of holes or areas in which to dispose of the waste. In many instances large quantities of disposable matter have to be carted long distances, and this is an expensive process for the council or private undertaking.

Also, the burning process is important to the timber industry, as at all times there should be a means of adequately disposing of timber waste from the sawmills, timber from land clearing and, to a lesser extent, but equally as important, the disposal of timber waste associated with road-making activities. Sometimes most of the waste can be used in industry or for domestic purposes, but one only has to consider sawmill activities in areas such as the South-East, or in smaller undertakings in the Adelaide Hills (where several acres is set aside for the disposal of sawdust and offcuts) to realize that without some means of removing these by-products by burning we would have the situation that

around every sawmill or similar enterprise there would be an ever-increasing area of this type of material. Not only is it a problem of immediate disposal, but it is also a dangerous problem associated with adequate protection of the area (or of towns adjacent to it) in the case of an outbreak of fire.

Further, some diseased animals require to be disposed of by burning. With several diseases where the life cycle must necessarily be broken, complete disposal by burning the diseased carcass is necessary. While this does not require a large volume of burning, it is an aspect that must be referred to when discussing this matter. Also, one should refer to the need for firebreaks inside and outside township areas. Never has this need been more apparent than during this year, when these real problems were associated with potential fire tragedies. In many areas of the State, particularly in the Districts of Light, Gouger and Goyder, stubble burning is an essential part of the agricultural process, and this is another aspect that must be considered. I take heart, particularly after hearing the Minister's statement, that the needs of the profitability, the practicability and the efficiency of industry will be considered.

Mr. CARNIE (Flinders): I do not intend to take much time in speaking to the Bill but, as it is important, I should like to make one or two comments. As previous speakers have said, this Bill covers two main items that are completely unrelated, although the Government has introduced them at the same time. The first item deals with penalties for air pollution and, in a sense, tidies up the Act in this regard. As the member for Bragg and the member for Light dealt with this matter fully in their specialized fields, I shall not enlarge on this aspect of the Bill. The member for Bragg referred to a large list that was covered by the provisions of the Noxious Trades Act, such as wool scouring, fellmongering, and gut scraping. The world has suddenly become aware of pollution in all forms, such as physical, environmental, and in the air (a subject dealt with by this Bill). This problem has always been with us, but until recently it seemed not to be recognized.

The member for Bragg referred to the atmosphere at Port Pirie causing sore throats, and I remember when, as a small child, I had a sore throat caused by the pollution that existed in the air at Port Pirie. Although it was a long time ago, I still remember it.

No-one seemed to worry about it then. I know that in those days it was impossible to grow a garden in Port Pirie, because of the sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, but that has now been largely remedied. A similar situation existed at the fertilizer works in Port Lincoln, but that problem has also been recognized. Gradually, we are becoming aware of the damage and danger arising from air pollution and are beginning to do something about it.

I think there are probably two reasons for the sudden increase in pollution generally: first, there is a trend towards greater urbanization not only in this State but throughout the world, and there is a greater concentration of people living in close proximity. There must therefore be more problems concerning pollution. Secondly, rapid industrial development is occurring, and factories seem to be establishing almost constantly. As a result, we are faced with the problem of noxious gases and other pollutants entering the environment.

I am a little concerned at the increased maximum penalty of \$2,000 in connection with pollution offences, the previous maximum being \$200, and I will support the member for Bragg's foreshadowed amendment. A factory or industry may be doing its best to prevent pollution, and any pollution it creates may be completely inadvertent. Although I agree that the court does not have to impose the maximum penalty, I think that the foreshadowed amendment should be supported. Regarding the board to be established, the Bill does not set out how it shall be constituted or who will be its members, this situation to be covered by regulation. It is a tendency of the Government to introduce regulations, not spelling out provisions sufficiently in the Bill. Indeed, I should have preferred to see this matter dealt with specifically in the Bill.

The second part of the measure is unrelated to the first, as it seeks to remove an anomaly that has existed for some time in respect of

nursing homes, rest homes and private hospitals. The Commonwealth Government provides various levels of benefit for these organizations but a difficulty arose as a result of a difference between the Commonwealth definitions and the definitions in the Health Act in this State. What were thought to be private hospitals were classified by the Commonwealth Government as nursing homes, and a different rate of benefit was applied. I am pleased to see that the Government is standardizing the definitions of these three institutions and that the existing anomaly will be removed. I support the second reading.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): I think the easiest way to sum up not only my attitude but the attitude of all people to that part of the Bill dealing with pollution is to read to the House a letter I received a few days ago, as follows:

Dear Sir, I am very mad about pollution. In Tokyo people have to listen to the radio to see if they can go outside because the smoke is so thick that they should stop most of the smoke. The rivers are full of slime and bacteria. The Government should not put up so many factories. They should make more places like where they press a button and there is no smoke. We should stop pollution before it kills us.

That letter was written by Neil White, a grade 3 student at the Netley Demonstration School.

Mr. EVANS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable the conferences on the Second-hand Motor Vehicles Bill and the Local Government Act Amendment Bill (General) to be held during the adjournment of the House, the managers to report the results thereof forthwith at the next sitting of the House.

Motion carried.

At 9.33 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, November 25, at 2 p.m.