

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 17, 1972

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

QUESTIONS**FOOD POISONING**

Dr. EASTICK: In the absence of the Premier, can the Deputy Premier assure the South Australian community that food-handling organizations in this State are inspected adequately in order to ensure that their products are presented free of bacterial contamination? In this afternoon's *News*, under the heading "Poison peril from foods sold in Australia", it is stated over a Sydney date-line that several foods sold in Australia could cause food poisoning, gastro-enteritis and other illnesses, according to a New South Wales Health Department survey. The article states:

Mr. R. W. Proudford, an analyst with the New South Wales Health Department, presented the findings of the survey to the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science Congress in Sydney. Mr. Proudford said the analysis of sample types of food showed: Sausages—More than 33 per cent of smallgoods sausages contained a high level of excreta contaminants. Chicken—73 per cent of frozen chickens were found to contain salmonella, while 95 per cent had other bacterial organisms. Mince—13 per cent contained salmonella, while a high level of excreta organisms also was found in the raw material used in the manufacture of many smallgoods.

I seek this assurance from the Deputy Premier following the problems that arose when the amoebic meningitis outbreak was highlighted in the press and caused much confusion and some resentment and upset among the community.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I should be surprised indeed if it were found that in this State adequate facilities were not available to ensure that foodstuffs handled here were safe. The Leader will appreciate that I cannot give an unqualified assurance without having the matter checked by the Public Health Department, which is responsible for this matter. However, concerning amoebic meningitis, the Leader will realize that I made a statement about two weeks before the press highlighted the outbreak. At that time the newspapers did not see fit to give any prominence to my statement, which indicated that the Government had taken action to combat the outbreak of amoebic meningitis

in the town of Port Augusta and in that area. I claim that the Government acted properly and promptly on that occasion. Therefore, I do not accept the implication that we were behind the eight ball in that case, because we were not. I will ask the Minister of Health, as a matter of urgency, to study the report to which the Leader has referred and to give an assurance, if that is possible, to the Leader that South Australia is adequately protected in this direction.

NORTH UNLEY INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about a "turn left with care" roadway at the King William Road and Greenhill Road intersection?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The proposal to provide a left slip-lane at the south-east corner of the Greenhill Road and King William Road intersection was based on acquisition of vacant land. As the volume of left-turning traffic is small, improvement to traffic flow would be marginal. However, building operations commenced on the site during the course of negotiations, and the proposal is no longer viable in view of substantially increased costs. Negotiations were terminated on April 28, 1972, and the proposal abandoned.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the absence of the Premier, can the Deputy Premier say what caused the Government to change its mind and allow debate on the private member's Bill, introduced by the member for Playford, to extend into Government time? You, Mr. Speaker, will remember that yesterday afternoon, during private members' time, the Bill introduced by the member for Playford was debated, and then the debate continued in Government time, after dinner last evening, until a vote was taken on the second reading. I understand that only the decision was communicated to the Opposition, no reasons being given. I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that I raised this matter with the Premier on July 19, the second day of this session and the first day on which questions were allowed. In answer to me, the Premier said, in part:

The pressure on Government time is likely to be not merely heavy but extreme. The Government has its programme . . .

The Premier then went on to say that this matter was not in the Government's programme. He then said:

I have previously said that, if an honourable member wishes to introduce a private member's

amendment concerning this matter, he is well-come to do so. If an honourable member does that he will be treated in no other way than that in which private members are treated.

The very strong conclusion I drew was that no Government time would be allowed for that debate. On the following day, the Premier reiterated this when I asked him a subsequent question.

The SPEAKER: Order! Is that the end of the honourable member's explanation?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have finished that part of my explanation.

Mr. Clark: Usually you sit down when the Speaker is on his feet.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I beg your pardon, Your Honour.

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I got mixed up.

The SPEAKER: Order! There will be a bit of other mixing up unless there is order in the Chamber.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In further explanation of the question, I wonder whether this means that the Government's legislative programme has been curtailed so that the House can adjourn before the Commonwealth election, which perhaps will be held in October. I particularly wonder whether it means that other private members' business on the Notice Paper will be given similar attention and consideration by the Government.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: First, I am disappointed that the honourable member did not express his gratitude to the Government, as he had asked the Government to do exactly what it did last evening.

Mr. Millhouse: I asked only for the reason.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: One reason why the Government was able to make available time to finalize this important matter last evening was the absence of the honourable member from the House last week. That enabled us to get on with the legislative programme much more quickly.

Members interjecting:

THE SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham has asked a question and has given a rather exhaustive alleged explanation. The Deputy Premier will give the reply that he desires to give and be heard in silence. Also, there will be only one question at a time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: So, members will see that the member for Mitcham played an extremely significant part in enabling this decision to be made. Not only did he

ask for what was done but he facilitated our doing it, because he did not delay the proceedings of this House as he normally does.

Mr. Millhouse: Most insulting!

Mr. Clark: But true.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister is replying.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Another reason for the decision was that, because of the tremendous interest in this matter and the large number of members who desired to speak in the debate, several other members also asked the Premier and the Government to review the previous decision, bearing in mind that the then Attorney-General, the member for Mitcham, introduced the original Bill in Government time. Following those requests and in the light of the progress that had been made (and I say that seriously, because the Loan Estimates were disposed of much more quickly than the Government had expected), we decided that it was fair and reasonable to make available time to dispose of that private members' business last evening. The Government does not intend to make Government time available for other measures, and I think a clear distinction can be made between the measures mentioned by the honourable member and other measures being brought forward by private members during this session.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Why?

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

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member knows that it is different from other measures. It is the same matter as that to which Government time was given by the previous Government, and I have pointed out the interest engendered by it and the number of members who wished to speak in the debate. I am extremely grateful to the member for Mitcham for making the decision much easier than it otherwise would have been.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Deputy Premier arrange for the Government to make available Government time to debate several other private members' issues, particularly the motion by the member for Torrens regarding the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act?

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: That question has been answered already.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I ask leave to make an explanation of the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham has already asked the Deputy Premier whether Government time will be made available for other private members'

business on the Notice Paper. It is my understanding that in substance that was part of the question asked by the honourable member for Mitcham, therefore I cannot allow the question.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I rise on a point of order. The question of the member for Mitcham is written out and I heard him ask it. That question did not refer to the question I have just asked. The member for Mitcham asked what caused the Government to change its mind.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In his explanation he enlarged on the matter but the question he asked—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Alexandra read from the question that had been written out by the honourable member for Mitcham, but the honourable member for Alexandra should have listened to the question asked by the honourable member for Mitcham, because the honourable member threw in another question which was answered by the Minister of Works. This question has been asked by the honourable member for Mitcham and I will not permit it to be debated.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Can I, Mr. Speaker, reframe my question?

The SPEAKER: Yes, all right, reframe it.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Does the Minister of Works think that the subject of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act is important to this House and to the public of South Australia? The member for Torrens has moved a motion on this matter in the time allocated for private members' business. It appears that, although the Government is happy to give preference to one of its own members—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member sought leave to explain his question. A couple of minutes ago the honourable member took a point of order and he has just clearly said "it appears". That is definitely commenting. The honourable Minister of Works.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This matter is very important and it will be given due debating time in this House, in accordance with the custom that has applied, in private members' time. The Government does not intend to make Government time available for such a debate.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In his answer to my question concerning the action of the Government in making Government time available for debate on the Criminal Law Consolidation Act Amendment Bill introduced by the member for Playford, the Deputy Premier relied heavily on my not having been in the House last week; thus, he said, debating time was saved. However, I desire to point out that I was present in this place on every sitting day last week, as well as on Tuesday of this week. I also point out, for the benefit of the member for Stuart, that I am here today and ready, willing and anxious to receive the question that I understand he wanted to ask me yesterday.

Mr. EVANS: Will the Deputy Premier say whether the House will adjourn to allow members the opportunity to study the State Budget and, if it is so adjourned, for what period?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Treasurer intends to introduce the Budget on the day before the commencement of the Royal Show, and the Government intends that the House shall adjourn for the week of the show, which will enable members time to study the Budget and the Auditor-General's Report, which will be handed down at the same time.

Mr. Millhouse: Will we get—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Millhouse: We normally—

The SPEAKER: I am disallowing the question asked by the member for Mitcham, which is out of order.

Mr. Millhouse: It is—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Chair would appreciate it if the member for Mitcham would control himself in accordance with Standing Orders and not try to monopolize this Chamber.

Mr. BECKER: Will the Deputy Premier say when we will receive the Auditor-General's Report? Will we receive it when the Budget is introduced, or will we receive it on our return from the Royal Show adjournment?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier has already answered that in his earlier reply.

Mr. Millhouse: No.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I did not complete saying what I had to say.

The SPEAKER: I understood the Deputy Premier to say that the Budget would be introduced and the Auditor-General's Report would be given to honourable members to study.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I said "The Auditor-General's Report", and I think that

at that stage I was rudely interrupted. I said that the Auditor-General's Report would be handed down so that members could study it.

Mr. Millhouse: During the show adjournment.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No, I did not say that. The member for Mitcham knows full well that I did not make that statement. He is trying, in his usual devious way, to create something that was not said. I will check with the Government Printer and the Auditor-General and let the honourable member know when the report will be available. If it could be made available before the show adjournment, the Government would have no objection to making it available. Despite what the member for Mitcham has said about what has been traditional, we used to be lucky if we got the Auditor-General's Report when the Budget debate was on. However, we will do the best we can for the honourable member so that he will be better informed than he normally is.

RESERVOIR HOLDINGS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question about the holdings in storages on the Murray River?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The holdings in the River Murray Commission storages in the Murray River system are as follows:

	Capacity in acre feet	Holdings in acre feet
Hume reservoir . .	2,480,000	1,794,680
Lake Victoria . .	551,700	546,200
Menindee Lakes . .	1,470,000	1,381,900

In the past three months, the total capacity in these storages has increased by 235,950 acre feet. Because of the complexity of the Murray River system as a whole, it is impossible to gauge accurately the run-off into the River Murray Commission storages.

FOYS BUILDING

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday regarding Foys building and the estimated cost of renovations to that building?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The matter raised yesterday by the honourable member has been referred to the Public Works Committee. The estimated cost of the alterations is \$2,0'80,000.

ROAD SIGNS

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on August 1 last regarding road traffic signs at a Monash intersection?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Officers of the Road Traffic Board have previously investigated the need for "stop" and/or "give way" signs at the intersection of the Renmark-Morgan road with the Monash-Berri road at Monash. The accident rate at this location is low and, in view of the comparatively high, safe approach speeds, it is considered that there is no justification for installing regulatory signs as have been requested. It should be noted that no accidents have been reported since the introduction of the 45 miles an hour speed limit through Monash. However, in order to improve the delineation of the intersection, the board has made recommendations to both the District Council of Berri and the Highways Department. As a result of these recommendations the Highways Department, in conjunction with the council, is currently preparing a design for the installation of a channelized scheme incorporating traffic islands, safety bars and improved street lighting.

GERIATRIC NURSING

Mrs. STEELE: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether the Government has considered setting up special geriatric hospitals or geriatric units, and whether it has considered the training of nurses who would be skilled in relation to geriatric care and who could undertake nursing duties in these hospitals? We know that the nursing and handling of geriatric cases in both public and private hospitals is a growing responsibility, and it is considered these days that geriatric nursing is a specialized field of nursing. It would seem that if the Government could consider this aspect—

Mr. Coumbe: It's being done in New South Wales now.

Mrs. STEELE: Yes; as the member for Torrens has pointed out, this situation already applies in New South Wales, and I think that this is a field that the Government could well explore and enter with a view to establishing special geriatric hospitals and providing for the training of nurses to staff these hospitals.

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. EVANS: I wish to ask a question of you, Mr. Speaker. Is it the accepted practice of this House to have identical notices of motion appearing on the Notice Paper? If you do not have a reply to this question readily, available today, I ask whether perhaps you will bring down a considered reply on this

matter. Members will see that there are on the Notice Paper two notices of motion standing in my name and two identical notices of motion standing in the name of the member for Tea Tree Gully, who is Chairman of the Sub-ordinate Legislation Committee. I personally think that that is a good practice, although I realize that I cannot comment at this stage. I visualize the situation where, if only one notice is allowed to be placed on the Notice Paper and the member in whose name that notice stands does not proceed with the matter (in this case, a motion for disallowance), no member of the House has an opportunity to debate the issue and to vote on the matter; in those circumstances the right of the member concerned to speak to the motion would be denied. Although this is the first time that this situation has occurred since I have been in the House, I hope that the practice continues, and I ask you, Sir, to clarify the issue if possible.

The SPEAKER: It is competent to have more than one identical notice of motion on the Notice Paper at the one time. The progress of notices of motion is a matter initially for the members in charge of such notices and eventually for determination by the House. However, Standing Order 202 provides:

No question shall be proposed which is the same in substance as any question which, during the same session, has been resolved in the affirmative or negative.

SMOKING

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health whether the Government intends to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in its anti-smoking education campaign planned for the next three years and starting in September, and what part the South Australian Public Health Department will play in the campaign? The first stage of the campaign will include television, newspaper and magazine advertising and the distribution of a pamphlet for school-children and of a "facts about smoking" booklet for the general public. I understand that the Commonwealth Government has allocated a considerable sum for this educational campaign, but I think that for it to be effective it will be necessary for the South Australian Public Health Department to reinforce the campaign as much as possible.

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

DIAGONAL ROAD

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport examine the possibility of speeding up roadworks being carried out on Diagonal Road, Glenelg? Work started in May on the reconstruction of Diagonal Road at its junction with Brighton Road, the work proceeding southwards for about three chains. Half of the roadway has been excavated during this period and progress seems to be very slow. A petrol service station is situated at this point and the roadworks are creating considerable hardship for the proprietor.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to examine the problem for the honourable member.

VAUGHAN HOUSE

The Hon. L. J. KING: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Following a recent press report on incidents that have occurred at Vaughan House, I should like to give the House up-to-date information and also to comment on the incident referred to by the press.

Mr. Millhouse: And answer my question.

The Hon. L. J. KING: At the same time it will no doubt answer the question the member for Mitcham asked the Deputy Premier in my absence last week. The number of girls in residence at Vaughan House has been steadily declining during recent years. However, the girls that are currently placed at Vaughan House need considerable care, attention and supervision from staff because frequently the girls have suffered considerable deprivation and uncertainty while in the community and consequently many are severely disturbed. The average numbers of girls in residence for the last four years and the numbers of staff for the same periods are as follows:

	Average number of girls in residence	Staff numbers
<u>1968-69</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>1969-70</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>1970-71</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>1971-72</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>

Two of the staff currently employed at Vaughan House hold the Group Work Certificate of the South Australian Institute of Technology, and nine other staff members are attending Child Care and Development courses to improve their knowledge and skills. Changes in the staff at Vaughan House for the last two years have been as follows:

1970-71	
Commenced	Ceased
7 residential care workers	7 residential care workers resigned
1 residential care worker transferred from another departmental home	1 residential care worker transferred to another department

1971-72	
Commenced	Ceased
4 residential care workers transferred from other departmental homes	4 residential care workers resigned
3 residential care workers	1 residential care worker and 1 chief residential care worker transferred to other departmental homes

The first part of the new building at Vaughan House was completed and opened in 1962. The whole project was completed and opened early in 1965. It is a large two-storey complex with numerous stairs and passageways which make it difficult to subdivide to provide for small living units. Although the premises are locked, they are by no means secure, and at present there is a small, relatively secure section. The Public Buildings Department has been consulted and tenders are being called to subdivide the building to provide for small-unit living and to provide for a more adequate secure section. Because of the size and complexity of the building, it is extremely difficult for all the girls to be supervised properly at all times and to separate properly the girls to provide for individual types of treatment. It is expected that the alterations should be completed within two or three months, and that this will enable better staff control and more adequate treatment for the girls.

I now turn to specific matters referred to in the press reports:

(1) With regard to the specific incidents mentioned in the press report, the Superintendent (Miss McMenemie) suffered an aggravation of an old back injury while moving furniture from the annexe area in September, 1971, and was off duty for 13 weeks. On June 2, 1972, she suffered a cracked thigh bone when she was pushed by a girl and fell on the floor at the centre. She is now being paid full salary while absent from duty with her injury.

(2) In a disturbance at the centre on July 18, 1972, a residential care worker was knocked over, punched, and had her head hit on the floor and wall several times. She was away from work for two days, but had no apparent after effects.

(3) It is reported that staff reasoned with a girl for several hours before she was persuaded to hand over a knife. This incident occurred in April, 1972. The girl concerned had previously been treated at a mental hospital for 18 months before coming to Vaughan House. During the course of this incident, the Assistant Director, Metropolitan Services, went to Vaughan House and, after the girl and her friend had been talked to for some time, the girl finally handed over the knife. Because this girl has no supports in the community and was difficult to control at Vaughan House, arrangements were made recently for her to be transferred to the Women's Rehabilitation Centre, pursuant to section 82 of the Community Welfare Act, 1972.

(4) The incident regarding the typewriter occurred when one of the senior members of the staff was trying to place girls in the security annexe. The girl threw a typewriter at her and this was caught by one of the male residential care workers, who suffered a sprained wrist as a result, but who nevertheless continued on duty.

(5) The number of injuries incurred by staff while restraining girls has been high. Staff are requested to report all incidents, particularly those which involve injury. Although it is probable that other minor injuries may not be reported, they are certainly regarded seriously by the department, and efforts have been made to provide additional temporary staff during crisis periods. Recently the Mental Health Services have made available a psychiatrist to assist girls in the home who are either severely emotionally disturbed or who suffer from minimal cerebral disfunction and require medication.

(6) Departmental policy towards young people in residential care has not become more permissive in recent years, but certainly more attention has been given to the importance of establishing better communications and better relationships with girls as a control measure, rather than requiring staff to exercise control by keeping girls in small confined cabin areas. Secure areas are used as required from time to time and the superintendent or officer in charge has permission to place girls of 15 years of age or over in detention rooms for any period not exceeding eight hours. Girls may be held for periods exceeding eight hours with the express approval of the Director-General. It is not usual for girls to be held in detention rooms for periods exceeding 48 hours unless, in the opinion of the Director-General, this is

in the best interests of the young person concerned. Modern treatment methods emphasize the importance of control by relationships and group pressures. It is particularly important that these methods should continue if the girls are to be helped to find their rightful place in the community after leaving the training centres, and are not to become hardened and more disturbed as a result of the treatment received.

(7) The department's arrangements for the division of the building into small living units to provide for more individual treatment and better control measures should help to prevent the type of problems that have occurred. When these building alterations have been completed, it is planned to transfer all the girls from Windana to Vaughan House for residential assessment purposes.

(8) During the last year the Public Service Association made representations to the department for male staff to be provided at Vaughan House. This matter was already being considered. The department's policy in relation to all residential care centres caring for young people is to provide staff of both sexes to enable better treatment and control as well as a more normal situation for growth and development.

(9) At McNally Training Centre additional staff was provided during a difficult situation, but, more importantly, the staff have worked together with the administration and have divided the youths into small groups for living and recreational purposes. This has resulted in a better atmosphere for youths and the staff. It has enabled closer relationships and supervision of the boys' leisure, and work periods are more adequately organized.

(10) The department, particularly over recent years, has made a consistent effort to obtain more and better trained staff. Currently there are three assistant superintendents in training, and it is intended to provide additional assistance next year. The Government has also approved the establishment of a training scheme for 20 residential care staff. The training course will extend over a three-year period and is expected to commence early in 1973. This should result in a flow of trained staff to the residential care field and, as members of this course move into the residential care centres for periods of practical work, it should be possible to free some of the existing staff for training purposes. Constant efforts are being made to recruit trained staff for positions of Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of residential care centres as these positions become vacant. The group

work and the residential care certificate courses at the Institute of Technology are increasingly providing a flow of people with relevant training for residential care work. Many staff members are attending the child care and development certificate course sponsored by the South Australian Council of Social Service and the Department of Adult Education, University of Adelaide.

(11) The department is consistently concerned about the welfare of staff members, and considerable effort has been made to improve staff salaries and conditions in residential care units. However, it is important that the department and its officers should not lose sight of the purpose for which juvenile institutions exist. The safety of the staff must be sought along the lines of increased staff training and increased understanding of modern technology of managing disturbed juveniles.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Is the Minister of Community Welfare able to reply to the question I directed to the Premier, in the Minister's absence on Tuesday, embodying a request that members be able to visit Vaughan House and Windana? This question is supplementary to the Ministerial statement. In the Minister's absence last week I asked a couple of questions of the Deputy Premier concerning the situation at Vaughan House. Last Tuesday, not having received a reply, I asked whether he would ask the Minister of Community Welfare to arrange for members to visit Vaughan House and Windana Remand Home in order to discuss with members of the staff the situation at those institutions, following recent newspaper reports. I expected when the Minister made his statement today that he would answer my question as part of it, but, as he did not do so, I put the question to him directly.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I am sure that, if members who are genuinely interested in these institutions and in the welfare of the children there wish to visit those institutions, appropriate arrangements will be made. That will always be the case. However, regarding the suggestion that the staff members in those institutions should be exposed to interrogation by the member for Mitcham or anyone else, I have not the slightest intention of exposing them to that sort of experience. The staff members are engaged to perform a professional function. They do it extremely well, and they are entitled to expect to be protected from the sort of interrogation that the honourable member apparently has in mind.

Mr. Millhouse: But that is—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham is being most discourteous. He has asked the Minister of Community Welfare for a reply to a question but, while the Minister is endeavouring to give that reply, he still keeps interjecting. He is entirely out of order.

Mr. Millhouse: The Minister is being most provocative.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. L. J. KING: If any member desires to visit either of the institutions mentioned or, indeed, any other institution, I shall certainly see to it that the department makes the necessary arrangements for a conducted tour. I invite any members who may be interested in this to let me know so that the staff of the institutions will not be inconvenienced by having a succession of visitors; it will be better if we can organize a tour so that members may see for themselves what is being done for the inmates of the institutions.

TRAVEL AGENTS

Mr. BECKER: Can the Attorney-General say when legislation is to be introduced to license travel agents in this State? This question is supplementary to the question asked by the member for Mitcham of the Premier on July 27. The following is the report of a statement of the Deputy Prime Minister:

The Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Anthony) says that State Governments have prevented the Commonwealth Government from moving to license travel agents. Mr. Anthony says the Commonwealth Government is interested in licensing travel agents . . . but has not had State co-operation. He says discussions have already taken place with State Governments on aspects of licensing travel agents. Mr. Anthony says that the Government is willing to license them in the Australian Capital Territory and in the Northern Territory.

Bearing in mind the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister, what is the State Government planning in order to protect the public from unscrupulous travel agents?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have no idea to what the reference by the Deputy Prime Minister relates. The Premier, as Minister responsible for tourism, has been involved in discussions on this matter, but all I can say is that the Government has decided (indeed other State Governments have also decided) to introduce legislation to protect the public in relation to moneys paid to travel agents. Instructions are now with the Parliamentary Counsel to draft the Bill.

HIGHBURY SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Works ascertain what plans the Engineering and Water Supply Department has for sewerage the small area at Highbury that includes Paradise Grove? I have asked about this matter before, the last time being by a question on April 6, to which I received a reply by letter on April 13. At that time it was stated that the Tea Tree Gully council had prepared a limited common effluent scheme to serve part of Paradise Grove, but had not proceeded with this scheme. To sewer this area, long-approach sewers would be needed through unsubdivided land or, alternatively, a temporary pumping station and rising main would be necessary, as some sewers would affect properties already served by the common effluent scheme. For this reason, much investigation work would be needed and it would be essential that discussions be held with the council before a scheme could be considered. I have received further correspondence from a constituent in this area who points out that another six houses are being constructed and that this will cause further problems, because the type of soil in this area does not allow septic tank systems to operate efficiently.

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

MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Minister of Community Welfare say what financial help is available to a woman who has been deserted and in whose case a court order for maintenance has been made against the father of her children, with no payments being made? I have been approached by two or three women in this situation. From the knowledge I have gathered, the only sanction against the husband or the father of the children seems to be that he can be imprisoned. One of the last cases that came to me was that of a woman who had borne the child of a man other than her husband, whom she had divorced. She had borne an illegitimate child whose father she had been living with and against whom she had obtained a court order after he had deserted her. The child is now six years old, and this man has made no payment in respect of the child. I have seen 24 letters which have been sent by the department to this woman and all of which have been answered. The man concerned has been in gaol during this time, but not because he has not made payments under the maintenance order.

The Hon. L. J. King: Did you say they were married?

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: No. She had been married previously, an order having been made against her former husband, who made payments under that order. An order was also made against the other man, but he has made no payments over a period of six years. The point is that what has happened does not help the woman who is in this unfortunate situation. She has had to care for the child over the six years and, as far as I know, she has cared for it well. She has received no payment under the court order, the man concerned owing many hundreds of dollars, probably as much as \$1,000, in arrears of maintenance. This woman has faced difficulties. She has taken a part-time job and is doing what she can to care for the child properly. There is little satisfaction for her in this case if the man is gaoled. The woman has had no financial help, and it appears to me at present that it is unlikely she will receive any financial help. Can the Minister say whether, when these circumstances occur, a woman in this difficulty can be helped?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think that the question the honourable member asks relates to a case where a woman has given birth to an illegitimate child and has secured an order for maintenance against the father in respect of the child, but the father has failed to meet his obligations under the maintenance order. In these circumstances, it is not completely accurate to say that the only remedy is imprisonment of the father for non-payment, because there are remedies against any assets or income he may have. However, the ultimate sanction for refusal to pay is imprisonment. The facilities of the Community Welfare Department are available to assist in enforcing the order against the father. With regard to the mother, if the father does not pay for the maintenance of the child she has no other recourse, since there is no provision in the Commonwealth social service structure for payments to be made in respect of a child other than child endowment payments. So the responsibility, as the law stands, for the maintenance of the child is with the parents. Consequently, if the father does not honour his obligation, there is no recourse. Naturally enough, if the mother is unemployed or in necessitous circumstances she has recourse to the ordinary social services in respect of her own position, but the only provision made in the social service structure, as it stands, in relation to the child is the payment of child endowment.

MARGARINE

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to my recent question about polyunsaturated margarine?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that it has been the accepted practice for many years for the Australian Agricultural Council to set table margarine quotas for Australia, and by agreement the States do not vary quotas independently of the council. At the recent meeting held in North Queensland, the Minister made a strong plea for the release of polyunsaturated margarine from quotas, provided it is manufactured wholly from Australian vegetable oils. The Minister also sought tighter controls on labelling of margarine products. The council remitted the question to a meeting of State Directors of Agriculture and Commonwealth officials. This conference is to be held shortly, and its recommendations are expected to be considered at a special meeting of the Agricultural Council. My colleague is hopeful that the council will see the wisdom of permitting the supply of polyunsaturated margarine to be increased at least to the level of current public demand.

PARKSIDE LAND

Mr. LANGLEY: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the Government has purchased land and buildings owned by J. M. Foley Proprietary Limited at the corner of Greenhill Road and Unley Road for a "turn left with care" roadway? Recently, J. M. Foley, which owns a block of land on King William Road, has commenced building on that site.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will investigate the matter.

KANGAROO ISLAND DISPUTE

Dr. EASTICK: In the absence of the Premier, has the Deputy Premier a reply to my recent question about when the balance of the costs awarded in the Woolley case will be paid?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The cheque for the balance of costs awarded to Mr. Woolley was delivered to his solicitor on August 14, 1972.

TRAINING CENTRES

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Community Welfare a reply to the question I asked in the Loan Estimates debate about the McNally Training Centre and the Campbelltown community welfare centre?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Regarding the McNally Training Centre, the existing dormitory is to be altered to provide separate living sections for boys in selected groups. There will be five sections with about 20 boys in each section, which will have a dormitory, dining and leisure room. These arrangements will enable a move away from the present mass community living and provide opportunities for more personal supervision and involvement by the staff. Structural alterations have commenced but will not be fully completed until next year. The work will be carried out in four stages so that there will be minimal interference with the running of the training centre. Some of the new procedures for small group living have been introduced while awaiting the completion of the structural work. Expenditure on the playing area will provide basketball, handball and tennis courts and a swimming pool. At present there are no facilities of this nature and these were planned when the present buildings were completed in 1966. An extension is to be made to the security section to provide improved facilities for formal education. A teacher is now attached to that section.

Regarding the community welfare centre at Campbelltown, in keeping with the department's policy to decentralize its services throughout the community, it is planned to establish up to 20 community welfare centres in metropolitan and country areas during the next few years. The department does have several small district offices providing limited services in some areas. The new community welfare centres will be more in number and will provide a wider range of services. Generally, each centre is envisaged as an attractive, modern-style building which will be the headquarters of the Community Welfare Department in a given district. Besides providing accommodation for the department's professional staff in a district, the buildings will provide facilities for meetings, training sessions, an information and referral service, general counselling, group work, and the provision of monetary and other assistance. The new centre at Campbelltown will be the first centre specifically designed to meet this multi-purpose use. Planning is for the completion of the centre during the first half of 1973.

PETROL SHORTAGE

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Community Welfare a reply to my recent question about financial assistance for persons affected by the petrol shortage?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The payment of State financial assistance by the Community Welfare Department is subject to certain eligibility criteria, one of which is lack of any liquid assets. When a person ceases employment or is laid off from work and he receives a last pay, that money is expected to last him for a reasonable period before relief is granted. A person working on a commission only basis would be treated by the department similarly to a person laid off from work for the purpose of assessing eligibility for State financial assistance. During the period of the acute petrol shortage several people whose earnings ceased for that reason applied to the department for financial assistance. Several of these were found to be eligible and assistance was granted.

Mr. HALL: I have a note, signed in an unintelligible fashion by a Minister obviously under stress, stating that a reply is available to my recent question about the industrial trouble at Port Stanvac. May I have that reply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am sorry that the former Leader cannot understand my initials. When a new Commonwealth oil companies award was made in December last year, the management of the Port Stanvac oil refinery commenced discussions with representatives of the Storemen and Packers Union, of which union the plant operators are members, concerning a revision of the number of operators needed in the refinery. This followed the installation of a considerable amount of additional automatic equipment. The manning scale for the refinery is set down in the award. As the union did not agree to any alteration in the manning scale, the matter was referred to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The commissioner then assigned to the industry gave a decision on new manning arrangements in the bulk storage area but considered that, before making a final decision on new manning arrangements in the production area, there should be a two-month trial period of working under the new arrangements proposed by the company. This decision was made before the strike of maintenance workers commenced.

After the two-month trial period had elapsed the management of the refinery and the union secretary wrote to the commissioner concerned stating their views on the result of the trial period. The union asked that the matter be re-listed for further hearing. I understand that arrangements are now being made with

the parties to arrange a date on which the matter will be re-listed for further hearing before a commissioner of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. I understand that the Commonwealth commissioner tried to contact the union secretary today by telephone to arrange for the date of hearing, but the secretary was not available up to 1.30 p.m. The commissioner expects to communicate with him later.

WHEAT QUOTAS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my question about interstate trading in wheat?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that there are no immediate proposals to introduce legislation to curtail uncontrolled interstate trading in wheat, which, while undesirable so far as the orderly marketing of grains is concerned, is not illegal. It was one of the aspects of the wheat industry discussed by the Australian Agricultural Council at its most recent meeting, when it was agreed to defer detailed consideration until the report of Sir Allan R. Callaghan on his investigations into various facets of the wheat stabilization arrangements is available. The current wheat stabilization plan terminates at the end of the 1973 crop year, and negotiations for the next stabilization plan can be expected to take place early next year. Interstate trading and prices for stock feed have an influence on over-the-border trading, and would be fully discussed in any negotiations.

VICTORIA SQUARE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Deputy to the Premier say whether any progress has been made on the Government project for an international hotel in Victoria Square and, if it has been, will he say how much progress has been made? This project, in the south-western section of Victoria Square, was announced about 12 months ago and the information the Premier gave then and repeated subsequently was that tenders, I thought, were being called from certain consortia. If my recollection is correct, it was expected originally that there would be a move by Christmas, 1971. I noticed in the last few days the announcement of plans to erect a similar type of hotel to cater for Japanese tourists, and so on, in another part of the city, and there have also been announcements of such a project opposite this House, on the old South Australian Hotel site. So far as I know, there has not been anything from the

Government about the Victoria Square project for months, and the recent announcement to which I have referred prompts me to ask whether any progress has been made and, if any has been, how much.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As Deputy to the Premier, I will inquire of the Premier and let the honourable member know.

OVINGHAM OVER-PASS

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport the information I asked for recently about plans for an over-pass at Ovingham?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The demolition of houses in Torrens Road by the Highways Department is in preparation for the construction of the Ovingham railway over-pass. At this stage it is expected that construction work on this project will commence during 1974-75 and be completed in 1976.

PATERSON HOUSE

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to a question I asked recently regarding Paterson House, Glenside?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary States that medical or hospital benefits are not payable in respect of any patients in Government-owned psychiatric hospitals pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth National Health Act. Because of this, hospital insurance funds likewise do not pay these benefits. Representations have been made to the Commonwealth at each Commonwealth Health Ministers Conference in recent years to amend the Commonwealth National Health Act to remove the discrimination which has been made against patients treated in Government-owned psychiatric hospitals but without success. Such benefits are payable in respect of patients treated in privately-owned psychiatric hospitals or in general hospitals. Since September, 1969, patients accommodated in certain wards (including Paterson House) in psychiatric hospitals have been charged fees up to a maximum of \$3.50 a day or \$24.50 a week. This fee, which covers full accommodation and treatment given a patient, can be lowered in accordance with a means test which is structured to ensure that no patient incurs financial hardship. At the same time, the patient who can afford to pay this fee, which is considerably lower than charges made to patients in general hospitals, is expected to do so. All chargeable patients are pre-assessed on financial grounds, to determine their ability to pay fees. However, in

all cases such financial assessment is subject to an over-riding medical assessment. Assessing officers follow the principle that patients should have funds available for rehabilitation purposes when they are fit for discharge.

The patient who relies entirely on a Commonwealth pension or benefit for support is charged a fee of \$12.75 a week, which is approximately two-thirds of the maximum Commonwealth pension, including supplementary assistance, namely, \$20.25 a week. This is the same accommodation charge payable by the Commonwealth to benevolent homes pursuant to the provisions of the Commonwealth Social Services Act and is aimed at allowing the patient to have an amount of \$7.50 a week for his or her own personal needs. If a pensioner patient receives a pension or benefit less than \$20.25 a week or has financial commitments, such as dependants, rent payments, mortgage payments, room holding fees, etc., the charge for his accommodation and treatment in a psychiatric hospital is reduced to still allow that patient to have at least \$7.50 a week for his or her own personal use. If any patient in Paterson House at the Glenside Hospital is suffering from financial hardship as a result of being charged for his accommodation and treatment therein, the details should be supplied to the Director of Mental Health Services and a re-assessment will be made accordingly.

OPEN SPACE

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say what form of development the Government intends for the 80 acres of land acquired in the hills face zone at Seaview Downs? It is reported in this morning's press that the Marion council is considering a Supreme Court action over the approval given by the Planning Appeal Board for the subdivision of 65 acres of the hills face zone for housing allotments. In reply to a question on Tuesday last, the Minister told the member for Mawson that, as part of the negotiations involved in the Planning Appeal Board's decision to uphold an appeal by the owner of the land (Lady Becker), the Government had acquired about 80 acres of land in the immediate vicinity. The Minister said that that land would be used as open space. Many people have found it difficult to put into perspective the negotiations that have been proceeding between the various parties (the Government, the Planning Appeal Board, the appellants, and the council). How has the Government come into the possession of such a large area in the vicinity of the hills

face zone? I am not suggesting that any wheeling and dealing has occurred, although this has been suggested outside this House by members of the community, but I am interested to know just what the Government plans for this area, and whether it intends to erect any buildings or community facilities on this land as part of its development.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I was surprised to hear that there had been a suggestion outside of wheeling and dealing. I have not heard any such suggestion and I regret that that statement was made. I recently informed the House that, as a result of the decision taken on this matter, there was an area of about 80 acres, part of which lay outside the hills face zone. Had the original application for subdivision been approved, houses would have been built on that land. Because of the way the board's decision went, the State Planning Authority rightly showed an interest in the matter and purchased that area to add to the open space area already there. I also pointed out that there were three large areas immediately adjoining the subdivision referred to, one of 48 acres, one of 132 acres and another of 72 acres. The 80 acres now under discussion adjoins that area of open space. The purchase of this 80 acres by the authority under the open space provisions will mean that additional open space areas can be used as normal open space in the future and, when open space purchases in that area have been completed, consideration will have to be given, not only in this area but also in other areas where the purchase of large open space areas have been undertaken—

Dr. Eastick: There could be additional belts?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: There could be, but for the present we can assume that this is a total purchase for that area. When the purchase of open space in the O'Halloran Hill area has been completed, consideration will need to be given to the way that area is to be developed and managed as a total project in the interests of the community. I shall be happy to show the Leader the map I have before me so that he may have a better appreciation of the Government's intentions on open space in that area.

CITRUS JUICE

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Education assess how much citrus juice would be required, and what would be the cost, to provide a substitute drink for schoolchildren who cannot drink milk? This question is

supplementary to a question I asked recently on notice.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: No. If we received a favourable indication from the Commonwealth Government that it was prepared to modify the existing scheme for free milk, so that citrus juice could be substituted for those children who cannot drink milk, I would undertake to have such a survey made. However, at this time there is no point in so doing. The Commonwealth Government has on several occasions rejected requests from this State to provide citrus juice as an alternative to the milk at present provided. I should be pleased to try again if the honourable member would use his influence with his colleagues in Canberra so that my request might receive a different reply. If we do receive a different reply I shall be only too pleased to have such a survey undertaken.

SCHOOL BOOKS

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Education investigate the administration of the book-hire scheme at the Salisbury High School and, as a result of that investigation, allow the continued use of books in students' possession? Yesterday, I was approached by a Salisbury resident who complained that students were not allowed to use books in their possession. I refer now to material given to me by a relative of the student concerned, and I quote first from a summary that has been sent me, as follows:

The Headmaster at Salisbury High School is attempting to confiscate the books of students and has generally interfered with her rights of education, because her parents have not paid the so-called "voluntary fee". A revised book scheme was introduced at Salisbury High School this year which left some parents worse off financially than they would have been had last year's arrangements continued this year. The scheme was arranged by the Education Department, and the parents were not given any choice in the matter.

I will not transgress Standing Orders and quote the material in detail, but I quote now a passage from a circular sent to parents of the students, as follows:

The book-hire scheme being used this year for Leaving and Matriculation students in most South Australian secondary schools has presented many problems.

Further it is stated:

The free book scholars have had contributed to the scheme on their behalf the book allowance of \$30 for Matriculation or \$28 for Leaving plus a sum of \$11. They have paid neither a deposit on their books nor fees. It is

carry those 25 students free of fees and, as they share in all amenities provided, I must ask them to pay the \$10.50 of fees.

The Headmaster replied to the parents of the children concerned (I will leave out the names, so as not to embarrass officers of the department), as follows:

To be quite candid, Mr. X has made a mess of the arrangements and we have now to try to rectify the matter. . .

In a further reply, the Headmaster stated:

I have already told you that I regret the confusion that has occurred but that I must do my best to rectify it. I must now ask that you finalize the matter with me by July 7.

The essential detail, in conclusion of my question, is contained in a reply given by the Superintendent of Secondary Education to a query raised by the parents, as follows:

The \$10.50 amenities fee which students of Salisbury High School have been asked to pay is purely a voluntary contribution. The money is used to provide, among other things, for library books, sports equipment and the maintenance of schoolgrounds. You need not pay the 50c and the Headmaster will refund the \$10 on your request.

The Headmaster having demanded payment of the \$10.50, it has been (to use the words stated) "threatened directly to confiscate the books from the student if the fees are not paid". As the student has not taken the books to school, it has not been possible to confiscate them. As a result of the approach made to me in this matter, I ask the Minister of Education whether he will investigate the scheme existing at that school and whether he will undertake to prevent any confiscation of books from students until he knows what is the result of that investigation.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I was not able to quite ascertain, from the honourable member's rather tortuous and lengthy explanation, whether the students concerned were what are called free scholars.

Mr. Hall: They are free scholars.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: If they are free scholars, there is no basis whatsoever for any demand being made on them by the Headmaster: any demand so made is completely and utterly illegitimate, and the money that may already have been paid will have to be refunded. If the honourable member will be good enough to give me the details involved, including the names of the students concerned, I will see that the matter is rectified immediately.

WEST LAKES LAND

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Works say whether the 103 acres purchased by the

Housing Trust from West Lakes Limited included the provision of all or some services, or whether the land was purchased as broad acres? During the Loan Estimates debate, I referred to this matter, and the Minister said that he would obtain a report. A letter that I have received today from the Minister states:

With reference to your question during the Loan Estimates debate about land at West Lakes acquired by the Housing Trust, I advise that the gross area of land at West Lakes which was allocated to the Housing Trust was 103 acres. I understand that four to six acres of this will now be provided for a primary school. The amount agreed to be paid by the Housing Trust to West Lakes is \$9,000 an acre.

That figure seems high if no services are provided and if the land in question is just broad acres, involving only reclamation.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will seek that information for the honourable member. As far as I am aware, the transaction was undertaken on a broad-acre basis, and I understand that the trust considered that it received a fairly good deal. However, I will check on the matter.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Education explain the reason for the varying price structure that exists as between primary schools and high schools in relation to certain school supplies? I have received from a parent, who has children attending a primary and a high school in the one area, information detailing the comparison of the costs of the supplies in question. For example, an HB pencil at the primary school costs 2c, but it costs 6c at the high school; an H pencil at the primary school costs 2c, and the high school price is 8c; a 50-page ruled pad, not punched, costs 55c at the primary school and 99c at the high school; and a 12in. ruler costs 4c at the primary school but 7c at the high school. It may well be that other price variations are involved, but I should appreciate it if the Minister could explain why there is such a variation in these prices.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: If the Leader had consulted with the Deputy Leader on this matter, he would realize that there is a ready explanation for this, and it dates back to a Cabinet decision, made in the time of Sir Thomas Playford, which required that all secondary schools in South Australia could not purchase any stationery requirements from the State Supply Department: they all had to

be purchased by the school concerned from private enterprise and then resold to the students. The Deputy Leader will no doubt be pleased to know that that Cabinet decision, which has lasted all this time, was revoked a few months ago, and now all secondary schools in South Australia are free to purchase either from the State Supply Department or from private enterprise, depending on what is their preference. In addition, we have limited the extent of the mark-up that any school can receive, and the mark-up on stationery items supplied at a secondary school has been confined to the same percentage mark-up as that permitted at primary schools. Although I am not sure, I think only a 5 per cent mark-up is permitted.

Dr. Eastick: This is Government price-fixing.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Leader quoted examples which indicated the extent to which private enterprise has been taking secondary schools for a ride.

Dr. Eastick: I am talking about the resale price, not the purchase price.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The advantages that will accrue to the State secondary schools in being able to buy stationery from the State Supply Department will be those arising from bulk ordering by the department, the benefits of which will be passed on to the schools; further, because of the decision which I put before Cabinet and which Cabinet has approved, the mark-up that the schools will charge will be limited to the figure that applies to primary schools. These decisions should mean that the discrepancies in prices that the Leader has mentioned (which I agree are scandalous) will disappear. In view of the honourable member's question I hope he will give full support, public and private, to the Government's decision in this matter.

PORT NEILL SCHOOL

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning painting of the Port Neill Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A recent inspection of the school has been carried out by a Public Buildings Department officer. He reports that internally the paint work is in good condition and does not require attention. Externally the paint work of windows and barge moulds on the southern side of four timber buildings is lifting and peeling. Repainting of these areas will occur late in November of this year. Other external paint

work on all buildings is in fair condition, and it is considered that repainting is not warranted at this stage. It is expected that this work will be executed during the 1973-74 financial year. The burden of the reply is that the repainting will be commenced in November.

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport take action to exempt from road maintenance tax those contractors to the Highways Department who travel on roads they are constructing? One of my constituents, who is a contractor to the Highways Department, has written to me about this, as follows:

We do not engage in any private work, and have been with the Highways Department from 19 to 33 years.

He was writing on behalf of several of his co-contractors. The letter continues:

As we are engaged in construction work only, we do not have the benefit of travelling on the finished road, except when carting metal on a long lead, when we do travel on the bitumen, but this would amount to only 10 per cent of the total miles travelled. Quite a lot of mileage is in the half, one, and two miles, travelling on formation, which is quite a strain on chassis of trucks. While we do not question the payment of tax while travelling on bitumen, we do feel that some concession might be made for travelling on the construction site, etc.

The figures he gave me to support his submission show that the contractors are paying taxation of between \$500 and \$1,000. They were travelling mainly on unmade roads, if that is the term to use for a road under construction. They can fully substantiate their case. I realize it is a question of principle and not of fact but I ask the Minister if he will examine the matter.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Government does not intend to alter the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act in the foreseeable future. The example the honourable member has given sounds fine, except for one flaw: that I think it would be unjust to other road users if, even though only 10 per cent of the travel was undertaken on made roads, the contractors were exempted for the whole of their trips, when it is acknowledged that 10 per cent of their travelling is done on made roads.

Mr. Hall: It is a reasonable request. He is not asking for any relaxation for travel on made roads.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If the honourable member is asking for a proportionate charge of road maintenance tax, even if it were

desirable, one would have to determine how it could be applied. My immediate reaction is that I think the policing of it would be almost impossible. I do not deny the legitimacy of the case. My attitude and the attitude of the Government is quite plain on this matter: we do not like the road maintenance contribution. As I have told transporters who have spoken to me, we would be only too happy to consider some other method of raising a similar sum if it were practicable. I even established a committee to investigate the matter, but no practical answer could be found. At the last Premiers' Conference this matter was discussed, and it was subsequently referred to the Australian Transport Advisory Council. The Premiers could not find an answer, and the committee could not find an answer, either.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Neither could Western Australia.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Western Australia tried to remove it but found that it had suddenly lost \$4,000,000 in revenue. A Government cannot suddenly cut its revenue to that extent. In this financial year we expect an income of \$3,300,000 from road maintenance tax, and to cut down on that suddenly would mean a drastic cut in the road programme. This would have a grave effect on all roads, but I believe it would have a greater effect on the very contractors to whom the member for Gouger has referred. I do not think the Government can assist this contractor.

PUBLIC SERVICE VACANCY

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister of Works say what steps the Public Service Board is taking to expedite the filling of the vacancy caused by the transfer of the former Head of the Structural Section, Engineering Branch of the Public Buildings Department? Upon perusing the report prepared by the Director of the Public Buildings Department for the Minister of Works concerning the Government Printing Office at Netley, I note that on April 11, 1967, Mr. R. F. Beverley was appointed Head of the Structural Section, Supervising Designing Engineer. In August, 1969, Mr. Beverley was nominated for appointment to a position in the Highways Department, and the Public Buildings Department sought the temporary retention of his services. On August 13, 1969, the vacancy caused by Mr Beverley's transfer was advertised by the Public Service Board. On October 2, 1969, an applicant was recommended for appointment to the vacancy, but that person subsequently

withdrew his application. On October 29, 1969, the vacancy was re-advertised by the Public Service Board. On June 1, 1970, a submission relating to a detailed review of the establishment of the structural section was forwarded to the Public Service Board, including divisional recommendations that the position of Head of the Structural Section be reclassified from Supervising Designing Engineer status to the higher level of Superintending Engineer. On July 1, 1970, the position was re-advertised at the lower level by the Public Service Board.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is giving information to the House rather than explaining his question. Has the honourable member finished his explanation?

Mr. BECKER: I realize, Mr. Speaker, that this is quite an involved explanation. The point I am trying to make to assist the Minister is that this position was advertised several times by the Public Service Board and certain recommendations were made, but there appears to have been a fault somewhere.

The SPEAKER: I appreciate the difficulty that the honourable member is experiencing, but it is not customary for members to read from documents in this House, particularly in relation to questions. I think the honourable member for Hanson will assist the business of the House considerably if he refers the Minister to the report and gives the page numbers; that would be preferable to his unduly worrying his colleagues and other members.

Mr. BECKER: I refer the Minister to Appendix II of the report. Can the Minister say whether the Public Service Board is co-operating in trying to fill the vacancy?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have read the report to which the honourable member referred; after all, it was a report made to me by the Director of the Public Buildings Department. The information given by the honourable member in his explanation is entirely correct. It will be seen that the Public Buildings Department has made several approaches to the Public Service Board to have this very important position filled. It appears to me that the lack of success in attracting a suitable person to fill the position has resulted from the fact that an insufficient salary is being offered for the position. I have recently had discussions with the Director of the Public Buildings Department (Mr. Dunn) who has been conferring with the Chairman of the Public Service Board in an attempt to get

the board to make a fresh call for applications at a higher salary.

Mr. Coumbe: A reclassification?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes. On occasions it is difficult to attract to the Public Service people with suitable qualifications for such positions, although I think it is true to say also that there are several side benefits of being a public servant which people do not readily recognize and which public servants themselves sometimes lose sight of after being in the Public Service for a while. Nevertheless, it is vitally important for the department to fill the position and, as I pointed out to the Director, if it is not filled a consultant will have to be employed to supervise construction. We will have to pay much more money to such a consultant, so I hope the Public Service Board will see what I believe to be the wisdom of the suggestion that it make a fresh call for applications for the position after reclassifying it in a higher salary range.

WITNESS ROOMS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General take action to have heating installed in witness rooms in courtrooms? Some time ago, during the interval between sessions, I was engaged in the Adelaide Local Court, and one of the witnesses in the matter had to wait in the waiting room of the No. 1 Local Court for about an hour. Afterwards he told me how incredibly cold and cheerless it was to sit in that room in the middle of winter. His comment made me realize that his experience on that day could be duplicated many times not only in the court building on the corner of Victoria Square and King William Street but also in other court buildings. Some heating is installed now in most courtrooms and most offices, but as far as I know the facilities available for those who must come to the court as a witness (and perhaps in other capacities) are lamentable. As a result of this person's chance remark (it was not a complaint), I am prompted to ask this question of the Attorney-General, realizing that he is entitled to say that I did not do anything about it when I was in office (and I did not, either). Will he take action to improve this facility and perhaps others as well?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I agree that the facilities for witnesses (that is, members of the public) who are required to give evidence in court cases are indeed lamentable, certainly in all the older court buildings. I think this reflects a consistent under-spending on the

administration of justice in this State for many years. It is wrong for a community to expect (and, in some cases, to compel by subpoena) members of the public to come and give evidence and then have them sit on hard benches in the most uncomfortable waiting rooms it would be possible to imagine, often ill-ventilated, and certainly unheated. I agree with the point made by the honourable member. In the modern court buildings the position has been considerably improved, and in the new western court building that will be erected in the Supreme Court complex I am confident that adequate provisions will be made for witnesses, who will be treated in the way that members of the public are entitled to be treated when they are required to wait unavoidably for long periods for their turn to give evidence. I do not know whether it is practicable to provide heating in the existing witness rooms in the old buildings. I do not know what cost will be involved or the position regarding electric wiring and so on, but I shall have the matter investigated. If it is practicable physically and financially to do something to rectify this condition, I shall be pleased to do it.

SOUTH PARA FLOODING

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Works additional evidence that may help clearly to define the cause of the flooding of the South Para River on Sunday, August 29, 1971? The Minister will be aware of the interest that I have shown in this phenomenon. Previous details were inconclusive, and the Minister said that further investigations were proceeding. Can he give further details as a result of these investigations?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: On Monday I asked whether additional information had been obtained, following a radio report I heard (or perhaps it was a television report) that the South Para River had flooded. As I have not received this information, I will check and let the honourable member know the result.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (VALUATION OF LAND) BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1971; the Local Government Act, 1934-1971; the Waterworks Act, 1932-1971; the Sewerage Act, 1929-1970; the Water Conservation Act,

1936-1969; and the Valuation of Land Act, 1971. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

While it makes extensive amendments to several different Acts, its basic purpose is quite simple. It is designed to introduce the complementary amendments that are required as a result of the Valuation of Land Act, which was passed last year. That Act, as honourable members will recall, established a central valuing authority by which valuations for the purpose of rating and taxing are to be made. In addition to the complementary amendments to the rating and taxing Acts, the Bill makes a few amendments to the Valuation of Land Act. These are mainly of a purely administrative nature. Because the Valuation of Land Act has come into operation before the introduction of the complementary amendments, it is now necessary to revise the transitional provisions, and the Bill makes an appropriate amendment for this purpose.

The Bill also makes amendments to the Valuation of Land Act that are designed to give the Valuer-General more flexible powers in fixing the time from which a valuation comes into operation. This power has hitherto been exercised without any specific statutory authorization, and it is, of course, desirable that there should be a secure statutory foundation for its exercise. The Bill also provides that the Governor may make regulations specifying certain fixtures and improvements that are not to be considered when fixing annual values and capital values under the principal Act. In regard to this matter, the report of the Local Government Act Revision Committee states:

The law relating to valuations upon the basis of assessed annual values is troubled by a considerable number of legal decisions upon the question as to what plant or machinery should be taken into account in assessing the rental value of land and buildings. The committee considers that there should be a basic test to determine the answer to this question. That test should be one as to whether, if the building were offered for sale, the particular plant or machinery would normally be included with it. Thus, for example, in the case of a house, the kitchen sink and the stove would normally be included in the house as offered for sale, whereas an electric frypan would not.

The Bill will enable these uncertainties to be removed by regulation, and it also makes a few minor amendments relating to the form of valuation rolls and valuation lists. The provisions of the Bill are as follows. Clause 1 is formal, and clause 2 provides that the new

Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on June 1, 1972. Thus the amendments will be retrospective to the date of commencement of the Valuation of Land Act. Clause 3 sets out the arrangement of the Bill, and Part II makes amendments to the Land Tax Act. Clause 4 is formal.

Clause 5 removes a transitional provision from the principal Act that relates to the assessment of land values. Clause 6 makes an amendment to the provision of the principal Act dealing with the arrangement of its various provisions. Clause 7 amends the definition section of the principal Act; the purpose of the amendment is to tie up the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act with the Land Tax Act. Clauses 8 and 9 make consequential amendments to the principal Act and repeal sections 20 to 30 (inclusive) of the principal Act that deal with assessment of land values. Clause 10 repeals Part V of the principal Act which provides for objections to, and appeals against, assessments of land values made by the Commissioner of Land Tax; these objections and appeals will be dealt with under the Valuation of Land Act by the Valuer-General and the Land and Valuation Court, respectively.

Clause 11 amends section 56 of the principal Act to provide that land tax is to be calculated on the basis of valuations in force under the Valuation of Land Act. Clause 12 enacts a new section 56a in the principal Act; this new section provides that the commissioner is obliged, on receipt of a request from a taxpayer, to render an account showing how his liability or land tax has been assessed. Clause 13 amends section 59 of the principal Act to provide that in any proceedings for the recovery of land tax it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that a person who is shown as owner of the land in a valuation roll compiled under the Valuation of Land Act is liable for land tax in respect of the land. Clause 14 repeals section 60 of the principal Act; this section empowers the commissioner to distrain goods and chattels for the purpose of recovering land tax. As this remedy is not used, the provision is accordingly removed.

Clause 15 repeals and re-enacts section 68 of the principal Act. The new section provides that the right of the commissioner to recover tax is not to be suspended by reason of an appeal against a valuation under the Valuation of Land Act. The commissioner must, however, make a due adjustment of tax if an alteration to a valuation is in fact made

under that Act, either in pursuance of an objection or appeal, or otherwise. Clause 16 makes a consequential amendment to section 75 of the principal Act.

Part III contains amendments to the Local Government Act. Clause 17 is formal. Clause 18 amends the definitions in the principal Act to conform to the Valuation of Land Act. A new subsection is added to make it clear that the enactment of the amendments does not affect the adoption of Government valuations in respect of the 1972-73 financial year. Clauses 19 to 21 empower a council to adopt the Valuer-General's assessment of annual value in relation to ratable property within the council area. Clauses 22 to 26 empower a council to adopt the Valuer-General's assessment of unimproved value in relation to land within its area. Clauses 27 and 28 make consequential amendments to the provisions of the principal Act dealing with appeals against assessments.

Part IV of the Bill amends the Waterworks Act. Clauses 29 and 30 are formal. Clause 31 amends the definition section of the principal Act. The Act at present provides for the imposition of rates on "land or premises". As, under the Acts Interpretation Act, "land" includes premises, it is felt that it would be more consistent with modern drafting practice to refer simply to land, and consequential amendments are made accordingly. Clauses 32 to 44 make consequential amendments to the principal Act. Clause 45 provides for the levying of rates on the basis of valuations in force under the Valuation of Land Act. Clause 46 repeals and re-enacts section 83 of the principal Act; this section provides for the fixing of minimum rates in respect of any land. The rates so fixed may vary according to the water district in which the land is situated, according to whether water is or is not laid on to the land and according to whether the land is vacant land.

Clauses 47 to 49 make consequential amendments to the principal Act. Clause 50 provides that a notice setting out an occupier's liability for water rates may contain a statement of the liability of that same person for sewerage rates. Clauses 51 to 60 make consequential amendments to the principal Act. Clauses 61 and 62 provide for the levying of a construction rate under Part VI of the principal Act on the basis of valuations in force under the Valuation of Land Act. Clauses 63 to 66 make consequential amendments to the principal Act.

Part V amends the Sewerage Act. Clauses 67 and 68 are formal. Clause 69 alters the terminology of the principal Act to provide for the levying of rates on "land" instead of on land or premises, as the Act is expressed at the moment. Clauses 70 to 87 make consequential amendments to the principal Act. Clause 88 reformulates section 65 of the principal Act which provides an exemption from sewerage rates. Clauses 89 to 91 make consequential amendments to the principal Act. Clause 92 provides for the levying of sewerage rates on the basis of valuations in force under the Valuation of Land Act. Clause 93 provides for the fixing of minimum rates in relation to land. Clauses 94 to 110 make consequential amendments to the principal Act.

Part VI amends the Water Conservation Act. Clauses 111 and 112 are formal. Clause 113 amends the definition section of the principal Act. The powers and functions of the Commissioner of Water Conservation have now been taken over by the Minister of Works and, accordingly, the principal Act is amended to refer to the Minister instead of to the Commissioner of Water Conservation. Clauses 114 to 119 make consequential amendments to the principal Act. Clauses 120 to 124 repeal the provisions of the principal Act that provide for rating. Rates have not been levied under the Water Conservation Act for a number of years and it is not proposed to use this Act in future for the purpose of rating. Clause 125 strikes out the word "Commissioner" wherever it occurs and inserts in lieu thereof in each case the word "Minister".

Part VII amends the Valuation of Land Act. Clause 126 is formal. Clause 127 amends the transitional provisions of the principal Act; this amendment is necessary because the Valuation of Land Act has come into operation before the commencement of the complementary amending legislation. Clauses 128 and 129 are designed to allow the Valuer-General greater flexibility in fixing the times as from when a valuation will come into operation. Clause 130 makes a consequential amendment to section 17 of the principal Act. Clause 131 strikes out the requirement that the valuation roll should contain a note of the postal address of the owner whose land has been assessed by the Valuer-General. As the valuation roll has been computerized, compliance with this requirement would involve substantial additional expense.

Clause 132 amends section 20 of the principal Act to provide that a valuation list should be available for public inspection. Because of the confidentiality of certain information that may be inserted on the valuation roll, it is not considered appropriate that all this information should be subject to public scrutiny. Clause 133 makes consequential amendments to the provision in the principal Act enabling the Valuer-General to adopt the valuations made by other authorities. Where the valuation is made pursuant to an Act that allows a right of objection to or appeal against the valuation, there is no fresh right of appeal under Part IV of the principal Act. Clause 134 enables the Governor to make regulations providing that fixtures or improvements of a specified class shall not be taken into account in assessing annual value or capital value of land where the determination of value is to be used for the purpose of raising, levying or imposing a rate tax or impost. This new power is intended to allow the Governor to implement the recommendations of the Local Government Act Revision Committee relating to the assessment of annual values.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (COMMITTEE)

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Planning and Development Act, 1966-1971. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to establish a committee and to invest it with powers to control development within the city of Adelaide. The visionary insight of Colonel Light, the excellence of his ideas, and the competence with which he brought them into execution established a sound basis for the future development of the city. But we have been relying too much on the accumulated capital of the past. Unscrupulous development has taken place in which the wider interests of the community in the proper development of the city have been subordinated to the immediate interests of developers. Now, as never before, the future of the city is threatened by forms of development that have wrought such aesthetic and sociological havoc in other places. We cannot afford to allow a city, so excellent in its original conception and design, to become an aesthetic wasteland of discordant architecture in which the civilized values of design and beauty are stifled.

The City Council has recognized the dangers inherent in the present trends in the development of the city and it intends to engage consultants to advise it on future development. The research to be undertaken by the consultants will, however, take some years to complete. In the interim, we must have adequate planning control, otherwise the council's efforts may be largely frustrated and the value of much of the research destroyed. Under the existing regulations, planning has been largely conditioned on commercial development; this philosophy is now outmoded and inconsistent with the best contemporary thought in the sphere of planning and development. That is not to say that there is any necessary antithesis between commercial development and the humanizing values of good design to which I have referred. However, there must be adequate powers and procedures to ensure that these values are accorded an adequate place in urban development. Sociological evidence shows that where they are ignored the community pays a heavy penalty in crime and human unhappiness, a penalty that no genuinely civilized society can afford.

The Bill proposes the establishment of a committee consisting of seven members. Of these the Government will nominate four, and the City Council three. The Government proposes, however, that the Lord Mayor, for the time being, of the council will be nominated by the Government as Chairman of the committee. This will ensure that the council has adequate representation on the committee.

The powers of the committee are two-fold. First, the committee is empowered to make planning directives. These directives will establish the broader principles within which development will proceed within the city of Adelaide. In addition, the committee is empowered to make directives to preserve the *status quo* where adequate research has not yet established the form in which a certain part of the city should be developed. Secondly, the committee is empowered to consider proposed building work within the area with which it is concerned from the aesthetic and sociological viewpoint. The approval of the committee will be required for any proposed building work, but it is expected that only the more important proposals will be actually considered by the committee. The powers of the committee in respect of the more routine matters will be delegated to the City Council to be dealt with in the ordinary manner simultaneously with consideration under the Building Act.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill are formal. Clause 3 enacts new Part VA of the principal Act. This new part contains all the operative provisions of the Bill. New section 42a contains a number of definitions necessary for the purposes of the new Act. New section 42b establishes the committee and provides for its constitution in the manner described earlier. New section 42c provides that a member of the committee may be paid remuneration allowances and expenses determined by the Governor. New section 42d provides for the procedure of the committee. New section 42e is an ordinary saving provision.

New section 42f provides that the committee may, with the consent of a Minister administering a department of the Public Service, make use of the services of any officer of the department. New section 42g empowers the committee to make planning directives. Those planning directives may (a) restrict or prohibit the performance of building work, or any change in the use of any land or building within a part of the city of Adelaide until adequate research has been carried out into the development of that part of the city; (b) establish zones within the city of Adelaide; (c) regulate or restrict the height of any proposed building, within the city of Adelaide, or any zone; (d) stipulate maximum floor area indexes to which building work must conform; (e) stipulate standards of design and construction to which building work must conform; and (f) restrict or prohibit the use of any land or building for purposes that do not conform to the directive.

Subsection (3) provides that a planning directive shall not disturb an existing lawful use of land. Subsection (4) sets out the matters to which the committee should have regard before it publishes the directive. The Planning Appeal Board is empowered to quash the directive, or to modify it in such manner as it thinks fit. New section 42h provides that a person who intends to carry out building work within the defined area must seek the approval of the committee. In fact, as has been mentioned earlier, only the more important proposals will come to the committee for its actual consideration. The routine matters will be dealt with in pursuance of the power of delegation by the City Council.

Subsection (3) gives the committee power to approve proposed building work unconditionally, to approve it subject to conditions or modifications, or to refuse its approval. Subsection (4) sets out the matters to which the committee should have regard before granting

or refusing its approval. Subsection (6) enables an applicant for the approval of the committee to appeal against its decision to the Planning Appeal Board. Subsections (9) and (10) provide for the delegation of the powers of the committee under this section. Subsection (12) provides that the new section shall not apply in respect of building work for which every consent, permission or approval required under any Act had been obtained before the commencement of the proposed legislation.

New section 42i enables the Governor to make regulations for the purposes of the new Part. New section 42j provides that the new Part will expire on a day to be fixed by proclamation. It is intended that this date will be fixed when the consultants have reported to the City Council and the new planning regulations have been implemented.

Mr. COUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (BOARD)

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Environment and Conservation) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Planning and Development Act, 1966-1971. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

When the Planning Appeal Board was established it had jurisdiction only in respect of land subdivision appeals within the State. By the middle of 1972 it had been given further jurisdictions under the Real Property Act, 1886, as amended, the West Lakes Development Act, 1969, as amended, the Coast Protection Act, 1972, and under some 28 different sets of land-use control laws made under the Planning and Development Act. Some indication of the considerable increase in the work of the board may be gained from the statistical material that I shall ask to have incorporated in *Hansard*. In addition, honourable members will be aware that a further Local and District Criminal Courts judge has been appointed to assist in the work of the board.

It is projected that if the present conditions were to apply some 82 cases, apart from those part-heard, would be awaiting commencement by December 31, 1972, without allowing for any increase in the number of localities in which land-use planning laws are in force. Heretofore the commissioners of the board have acted in a part-time capacity. During the last financial year they have given freely

of their time. For the most part they are either self-employed, in which case they have responsibilities not only to themselves but to employees, or they are employees whose employers have a very natural tendency to believe that they are not giving sufficient time to their ordinary employment.

Because of the part-time position of the commissioners, considerable difficulty is being faced in determining individual cases with appropriate speed. Individual commissioners cannot sit for unlimited consecutive days whilst they are all on a part-time basis. This introduces an element of discontinuity of hearings because it then becomes difficult to accommodate advocates, parties and professional witnesses to the availability of time of the part-time commissioners. As a result, time delays of up to a year have occurred between the lodging of an appeal and the delivery of the determination. This has caused considerable hardship to parties.

It is expected that with the appointment of some commissioners on a full-time basis, whilst continuing the participation of other commissioners on a part-time basis, the work of the board will be able to be carried on expeditiously with minimum disturbance and expense both to planning authorities and to those appealing to the board against decisions of planning authorities.

I will now deal with the Bill in some detail. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 makes amendments to section 5 of the principal Act (the interpretation section) that are consequential on the amendments proposed by the Bill. Clause 4 again provides for amendments to section 21 of the principal Act which are consequential on the proposal to appoint full-time commissioners.

Clause 5 is the principal operative provision of the Bill. At subsection (1) of new section 21aa it is provided that the power of the Governor to appoint commissioners may be exercised so as to appoint full-time commissioners. At subsection (2) provision is made to fix the salary and allowances of full-time commissioners. Subsection (3) provides that, as far as possible, full-time commissioners will be subject to the Public Service Act. Subsection (4) provides that the application of the Public Service Act to full-time commissioners may be modified in the light of the circumstances of their case.

Subsection (5) is intended to ensure that full-time commissioners will not be located in a Government department that provides for

the staffing of courts or in any other department where an appearance of "conflict of interest" may arise. For example, it would be inappropriate to have the commissioners located in a department concerned with the general administration of the principal Act. Subsection (6) will permit a retiring commissioner to complete the hearing and determining of any matter. Subsection (7) makes it clear that a part-time

commissioner may accept appointment as a full-time commissioner. Subsection (8) provides that a full-time commissioner is eligible for superannuation under the appropriate Act. Clauses 6, 7 and 8 again contain formal and consequential amendments.

I ask leave to have the table to which I have already referred incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

BOARD PROCEEDINGS

In the calendar years mentioned below the number of cases coming before and dealt with by the board and the number of sitting days were as follows:

Year	Cases lodged	With-drawn without hearing	With-drawn after hearing	Determined	Part-heard	Not commenced	Carried over (total of last two columns)	Sitting days
1967	20	2	Nil	1	6	11	17	23
1968	19	9	Nil	17	6	4	10	44
1969	26	2	1	21	1	11	12	47
1970	70	9	6	35	20	12	32	65
1971	70	8	7	30	38	19	57	126
(½ year 1972 to 30/6/72 only)	49	4	12	33	35	22	57	100

Mr. EVANS secured the adjournment of the debate.

TEXTILE PRODUCTS DESCRIPTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (OATH)

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2)

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

STOCK FOODS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Members will be aware that it is common practice to treat grain intended for use as seed with certain herbicides or insecticides to enhance its use as seed. For some time the responsible authorities in this matter have been concerned to ensure that such of these substances as are potentially dangerous to human beings are not available for human consumption, either directly or indirectly as a result of the consumption of the meat of stock that

have been fed with treated grain. The form of the legislative scheme arising from this concern will be apparent from an examination of the clauses of this Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 3 of the principal Act, the Stock Foods Act, 1941, as amended by (a) removing the limb of the definition of "manufactured stock food" that deals with substances that are in fact stock medicines, with a view to leaving them to be dealt with under the Stock Medicines Act; and (b) inserting a definition of "seed grain" in that section.

Regarding the definition of seed grain, I draw honourable members' attention to the fact that it is rather a restrictive one. Thus, not all grain that is used as seed grain will fall within the definition; only grain that has been treated by a prescribed substance or in a prescribed manner will fall within it. It follows from the considerations that have given rise to this measure that the prescriptions would generally be confined to substances and methods of treatment that would render the grain potentially unfit for human consumption.

Clause 4 amends section 7 of the principal Act and provides for an appropriate regulation-making power. In the nature of things, regulations made under this provision are subject to the scrutiny of this House. In addition, the maximum penalty for a breach of the regulations has been increased from the

equivalent of \$40 to \$100. This increase in the maximum penalty is, it is considered, consistent with the maximum at present prevailing for offences of the nature envisaged. Clause 5 amends section 8 of the principal Act, which deals with the duties of sellers of stock food and again provides for a similar increase in penalty.

Clause 6 is the operative clause in the Bill and proposes a new section 8a in the principal Act. Briefly, three separate offences are provided for by this section:

- (a) that of feeding seed grain (in the restrictive sense defined) to livestock;
- (b) that of selling or delivering seed grain, as defined, except for the purposes of use as seed;
- (c) that of mixing seed grain with other grain except for the purposes of using the resultant mixture as seed.

The need for the creation of the first two offences is apparent but it is also considered that considerable dangers can arise from mixing contaminated grain with non-contaminated grain. It remains to draw attention to proposed new subsections (3) and (5). New subsection (3) casts a burden on the seller or supplier of seed grain, as defined, to satisfy himself that the grain so sold or supplied will be used as seed and seems a reasonable burden in the circumstances of the measure. New subsection (5) in effect absolves persons who deal with seed grain in ignorance of the fact that the grain is seed grain as defined. Clauses 7, 8 and 9 make amendments consequential on the amendments proposed by clause 6, and clause 10 merely brings a citation of an Act up to date.

The Hon. D. N. BLOOKMAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 15. Page 738.)

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): This Bill virtually explains itself. It amends the Parliamentary Superannuation Act so that persons who have retired from Parliament and are receiving superannuation can have their pensions increased by 5 per cent in line with the increase in the general cost of living. I do not think anyone could really object to this.

A problem with all superannuation funds is that, no matter how well one plans for one's retirement, there comes a time after one retires when, as a result of increasing inflation, one's pension is slowly eroded. Having

perused the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund's balance sheet for the year ended June 30, 1972, I do not think the 5 per cent increase provided for in this Bill will place any undue stress on the fund, the balance of which is increasing slightly. It must be remembered that the number of persons contributing to the fund had also increased at May 30, 1970. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

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

JUDGES' PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 15. Page 739.)

Mr. CARNIE (Flinders): As stated in the explanation of the Bill, this is one of three measures intended to supplement pensions payable to members of the Judiciary, members of the Public Service, and members of Parliament. The same remarks apply to this Bill as applied to the Parliamentary Superannuation Act Amendment Bill, with which the member for Hanson dealt. I support the measure.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 15. Page 739.)

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I support the Bill and agree wholeheartedly with the principle behind it. The consumer price index has increased by a little more than 5 per cent, and this Bill is in line with the two other Bills that we have just considered and provides for payments of an increase of 5 per cent to superannuants as from the date set out. I have spoken on this matter several times previously and am pleased at the action that the Government has taken on this occasion.

I remember that the late Frank Walsh, whom we all respected, flatly refused to make such an adjustment.

On checking the figures regarding the fund (and I could refer only to the Auditor-General's Report for last year, because I had no other figures) it was clear that the fund was in a healthy position. At June 30, 1971, there was almost \$57,000,000 in the accumulated fund account and \$6,500,000 in the voluntary savings section of the South Australian Superannuation Fund. In the first case, it was an increase in funds in a year of \$5,300,000 and, in the case of the voluntary savings account, it was an increase of more than \$400,000.

The Superannuation Department accounts, as set out in the Auditor-General's Report, give the House a clear indication of what is happening in that department. We can see in this fund the advantages of the action taken to vary the type of investment that could be made. For many years investment was limited to a trust fund type of investment. Now, a greater average return on investment is being received. The move made in this Bill is worth while and I support it.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

POLICE PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 3. Page 545.)

Mr. McANANEY (Heysen): I support the Bill. I think the provisions are quite fair and just. Widows covered by the existing Act should be able to receive pensions if they are again widowed after remarriage. We passed similar legislation during the last session, and it is only fair that widows should be included in such benefits.

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): I add my support to this Bill, which is a step in the right direction. As things stood previously, the situation could have been a deterrent in some cases to remarriage. It is possible that this situation could have meant, in all sincerity, either on the part of the widow or the suitor, that the marriage would not have taken place. Now that the matter has been cleared up the Bill makes the position much more satisfactory, and I support it.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): Whilst I support the Bill, which is certainly a generous one, there is one question with which I am not completely satisfied, looking at the matter from

the point of view of the fund itself. It is fair enough that a widow should receive a pension, but if she is widowed after remarriage then she is entitled to a pension on account of her first husband. Anyone who is trying to run a pension or superannuation fund and keep it buoyant could see the difficulties of trying to cover this contingency. One would simply not know what is likely to happen to the widows of former members of the fund. It would not be possible to know the exact commitment that might arise. If they all remarried no-one would know how long they would stay married to the second husband, and this makes the position rather difficult.

The Hon. L. J. King: If all the members of the Police Force dropped dead on the same day, that would also create a problem.

Mr. BECKER: The whole situation creates a problem. Since abolition of the means test is being advocated as far as Commonwealth social service pensions are concerned, why put in this restriction at all? I am pleased to see that this provision alleviates the position to some extent, but I still have a doubt in my mind. Although I am not completely satisfied, I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 3. Page 546.)

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Alexandra): As the Minister said in his second reading explanation, the Bill makes a small number of law revision amendments to the Police Offences Act, and contains one or two other amendments. The first of these which seems at first sight to have some importance is the amendment to section 26 of the principal Act which has been requested by the Commonwealth Government. The section provides that it is an offence for a male person to live on the earnings of prostitution, and the amendment extends the application of the section to female persons who live on the earnings of prostitution. At first sight, I thought this might be merely a demonstration of the importance of Women's Lib., but having looked at the Act I think there is possibly just an atom of merit in it. It is merely to keep the United Nations happy, to keep Australia's name fair in the United Nations, and I do not think it has any other real significance.

Section 25 of the Act refers to female persons soliciting, and section 26 provides that no male person may knowingly live, wholly or in part, on the earnings of prostitution. That is the section now extended to include females. The following sections deal with brothels and seem to have the situation so tied up that, even before this Bill comes into effect, it would be very difficult for a female person to get away with very much. I do not see the significance of it, but, as the United Nations and the International Convention on the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation

of Prostitution of Others seems to consider it important, I think we should go along with it. The other matter of any importance concerns control of crowds and really provides what might be termed an onus of proof clause, which we so often deal with. I think it is quite sensible and I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.42 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 22, at 2 p.m.