

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

Wednesday, March 13, 1974

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS****DAIRY RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME**

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I seek leave to make a short statement with a view to asking a question of the Minister of Lands.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: In 1970, the Governments of the Commonwealth and the States negotiated assistance for the dairying industry under the terms of the dairy reconstruction scheme. Can the Minister say how much use has been made of the finance that became available under that scheme; secondly, will he report to the Council whether it has been beneficial to the State in doing what it was supposed to do, that is, aggregating small dairy farms and making them more profitable by putting two together and writing off the debts of some of the less viable farms which were in existence at that time?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Some use has been made of it, but to get a clear picture of the latest position I shall get a report from my department and bring it down as soon as it is available.

**WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION**

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to directing a question to the Minister of Health, representing the Minister of Labour and Industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Yesterday, the Minister replied to a question I had directed to the Minister of Labour and Industry on the Workmen's Compensation Act. The last part of the reply stated:

The only circumstance where earnings with another employer are taken into account in calculating average weekly earnings is where a workman holds concurrent contracts of employment; this was the position before the 1973 amendments.

The reply the Minister has given does not cover one significant point. It implies that for workmen holding concurrent jobs the position is the same as it was previously, prior to the 1973 amendment. In fact, that is not so because under the previous legislation there existed an upper limit for weekly payments for compensation. Under the new system where concurrent contracts of employment are held, I direct the following questions to the Minister: how is the average weekly earning to be computed, secondly, is one employer responsible for payment of the average weekly earnings covering other employers?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I shall seek a reply for the honourable member.

**INSURANCE**

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I seek leave of the Council to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: This morning's *Advertiser* contains an article which states:

At a press conference later, Mr Whitlam said he believed it was important for the Government to enter the general insurance field.

The article further states:

Mr. Crean said, "I think there is an urgent need to rationalize insurance corporations in Australia."

Further, he said:

I hope the Woodhouse committee will present a report very soon. When that report is presented the Government will be prepared to look at the whole field of insurance including the setting up of an Australian Government insurance office.

He said also:

I think there are much greater arguments for the Federal Government entering the general insurance field than for it to enter the life insurance field.

That part is not so important, but my questions are: what effect would a Commonwealth Government insurance office have on the present State Government Insurance Commission? Would the State commission expect to be taken over by the Commonwealth Government insurance office? Would they compete side by side, with yet another competition in the insurance field? I think these questions are vitally important.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I have not seen the report referred to. I do not know what the Prime Minister had in mind about a Government insurance office, but I will have the matter investigated to see whether it would be likely to have any effect on our State Government Insurance Commission. I do not think it would, but I will have it investigated and bring down to the honourable member a reply as soon as I get it.

**LAND AGENTS**

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking a series of questions of the Chief Secretary, representing the Attorney-General.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Last year we passed the new Land and Business Agents Bill, after much discussion. The Bill has not yet been proclaimed, but information that has come to me from several sources indicates clearly that there is much confusion among persons who are licensed as land brokers and land agents as to what they are to do in the future. I know several conflicting legal opinions have been obtained, but it seems to me that the difficulties arise primarily because there is no clear indication to anyone of what is to be Government policy on one or two matters. Therefore, I should be pleased if the Chief Secretary could obtain for me answers to the following questions:

(1) Where a person currently holds both a land agent's licence and is also a licenced land broker, will he be permitted to retain both licences and elect to carry on business only in one capacity?

(2) If a person currently holding both a land agent's licence and a broker's licence relinquishes one of them, will he be permitted in the future to obtain again a licence for the relinquished category without restrictions or difficulties—for example, again having to submit himself to a qualifying examination?

(3) Where a land broker was previously employed by a land agent and continues in that capacity, pursuant to the terms of the new Act, will that broker be permitted, with his employer's consent, to undertake work in his private capacity as a broker, either within or outside his normal employment hours?

(4) Where a land agent lawfully continues to employ a land broker on his staff, will he be permitted to refer persons, who may call at his office seeking the services of a broker, to his own employee?

(5) Will a person who carries on business solely as a licensed land broker be permitted as such to collect for

and on behalf of his clients (a) principal and interest repayments on mortgages which he has prepared for clients; and (b) house rents where he has prepared the lease?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: I shall be pleased to refer the honourable member's series of questions to my colleague and bring down replies as soon as possible.

#### **SALMONELLA**

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I seek leave to make an explanation prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I understand that a survey has just been conducted in New South Wales with regard to food infection by salmonella bacteria. The survey showed that up to 40 per cent of frozen chicken food samples were contaminated by this bacteria. Can the Minister say whether any tests have been conducted in South Australia on this problem and, if they have, whether the problem is as acute here as it is reported to be in the Eastern States?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I have received no report from my officers regarding this matter. However, I will obtain a reply for the honourable member.

#### **HIGHWAYS EXPENDITURE**

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Has the Minister of Health, representing the Minister of Transport, a reply to my question of February 26 regarding Highways Department expenditure on freeways in South Australia?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The reply is that the expenditure on corridors is \$658 000.

#### **IRRIGATION**

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: My question relates to licences to divert water from the Murray River. As I understand the position, licences are granted, on the basis for onion-growing, of 50in. (1310 mm) an acre (.405 ha) annually and for other vegetable growing 30in. (762 mm) an acre annually. I have been told that the problem which arises is that onion-growers, sometimes for reasons of varying the rotation of crops or because their land is diseased, find that the onions become diseased, and they change to other kinds of vegetable growing. I have been told that when the change is made the allocation is reduced from 50in. a year to 30in. a year and that when growers change back to onion-growing they are still restricted to 30in. annually. Will the Minister say where an onion-grower changes for reasons of disease or rotation of crops to vegetable growing and then changes back to onion-growing the change in his allocation will be made? In addition, will the Minister consider granting allocations on the basis of the total volume of water diverted instead of so many inches an acre annually?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I will refer the honourable member's questions to my colleague and bring down a report when it is available.

#### **UNDERGROUND WATER**

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture?

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: My question relates to a matter I have raised in the Council several times regarding

the parlous state of the Adelaide Plains underground water basin. There is no need for me to explain the position to honourable members, as they are well aware of the situation. As about three years ago the Minister of Agriculture instituted a trial use of this water to extend over three years, I presume that the period has expired or is about to expire. I should like to know whether the Minister can indicate the results of the trial and, if he cannot, when he expects that the results will be available. In addition, in the event of a favourable report, which seemed to be indicated by interim examinations that had been made, will the Minister consider an irrigation scheme that might overcome the difficulties in the Virginia, Two Wells and Salisbury area? Such a scheme would be very small scale, compared to the schemes instituted in the Murray River areas in past years.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: As the honourable member knows, the tests are still being carried out and, from memory, I do not think they will be completed until later this year. Without knowing the contents of the report, it would be premature for me to comment on the scheme envisaged by the honourable member. I therefore ask the honourable member and other interested people to bear with me until the report is available.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Can the Chief Secretary, as Leader of the Government in this Council, say what the Government's view is of the Commonwealth Government's proposals to allocate funds directly from the Commonwealth Government to local government in South Australia?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Because the matter concerns the Minister of Local Government more than it does me, I will get a reply from my colleague and bring it down as soon as possible.

#### **APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) (1974)**

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It seeks appropriation of \$17 670 000. In the normal course, appropriation authority to supplement that approved by Parliament in the main Appropriation Bill would be sought somewhat later in the financial year. In this year, however, it is the Government's intention to avoid further sittings between the end of this session and the commencement of the new financial year. Accordingly, it is necessary to introduce a supplementary Appropriation Bill now to ensure that sufficient authority exists for payments to be made until June 30 next. Therefore, although honourable members will be advised of the position on Revenue Account in the usual way, any observations made here in relation to a possible final result for the year must be viewed with the fact in mind that more than a quarter of the year has yet to run. Large fluctuations are possible, of course, in the next few months.

The Revenue Budget presented by the Government on August 30 last forecast a deficit of \$11 250 000. Recent reviews have indicated that receipts and payments are running at higher levels than expected. These higher levels are, of course, a reflection of the general inflationary trends in the economy. However, despite the marked increases on the receipts and payments sides of the Budget, it seems that the net effect may be fairly small and that the final deficit may not be far away from the original forecast. The volume of land conveyance and mortgage

transactions has continued to rise, and the stamp duty payable on these transactions forms one of the major components of the higher receipts. Pay-roll tax receipts are also in excess of the Budget estimate, reflecting the generally higher wage and salary levels obtaining throughout the community compared with those used in the Budget projections. These two items and other smaller variations may produce additional receipts of State taxation of the order of \$8 000 000 to \$9 000 000.

Railway earnings seem likely to show an increase of about \$2 500 000 for the year, because of the handling of greater volumes of grain from the 1973 harvest and because of an increasing quantity of goods moving into rural areas as a result of the improving agricultural situation. Interest earned on cash balances not immediately required may return about \$1 000 000 more than the estimate included in the Budget. This can be attributed largely to higher interest rates prevailing as a result of the Australian Government's initiatives in financial policy in September and October last.

Grants from the Australian Government for education purposes may be some \$3 500 000 above estimate. The excess will arise from arrangements to pay university recurrent funds earlier than previously planned, from special contributions not yet determined in detail towards pre-school services, and from grants sufficient to cover the costs of certain higher salary and wage rates. Salary and wage rates are also a major factor in the formula determining the level of the State's financial assistance grant from the Australian Government. The recent review suggests that, because of higher wage levels, this grant could be about \$3 500 000 higher than earlier estimates.

I have referred only to those items of receipts in which a very big movement is expected. There are many others showing smaller but still significant increases, and the end of the year could see total receipts exceeding the Budget estimate by more than \$20 000 000. These increases are being matched in the broad by correspondingly higher payments. Higher salary and wage rates impact on the Public Service in much the same way as on the private sector, and they are resulting in payments well in excess of the Budget estimate. Higher income from interest earned is offset to some extent by an increased commitment to pay interest in respect of moneys held in certain trust and other accounts at the Treasury. Additional receipts from the Australian Government for education purposes are balanced by increased grants to the individual institutions. I will comment in a moment on the detail of some of the larger increases in payments.

In summary, present trends indicate that the final result may not be far from the \$11 250 000 deficit forecast in the Budget. I hope that we may see some improvement on that figure, but would repeat my observation that more than a quarter of the financial year remains and that large fluctuations could occur between now and the end of the financial year.

Before moving on to an explanation of the individual expenditure lines in the schedule to the Bill, it may be useful if I remind honourable members of the appropriation procedures within which the Government is able to operate. Early in each financial year Parliament grants the Government of the day appropriation by means of the principal Appropriation Act (supported by Estimates of Expenditure). If these allocations should prove insufficient, there are three other sources of authority for supplementary expenditure, namely, a special section of the same Appropriation Act, the Governor's Appropriation Fund, and a further Appropriation Bill.

Appropriation Act—special section 3 (2) and (3): The main Appropriation Act contains a section which gives additional authority to meet increased costs due to any award, order or determination of a wage fixing body, and to meet any unforeseen upward movement in the costs of electricity for pumping water. This special authority is being called upon this year to cover part of the cost to the Revenue Budget of a number of salary and wage determinations, with part being met from within the original appropriations. It is not available, however, to cover the costs of such decisions as the recently announced over-award and service pay increases and leave loadings. If these cannot be met from the Governor's Appropriation Fund then a supplementary Appropriation Bill must be presented. With regard to pumping costs, because of the summer rains it is not expected that the special authority will be needed this year.

Governor's Appropriation Fund: Another source of appropriation authority is the Governor's Appropriation Fund which, in terms of the Public Finance Act, may cover additional expenditure up to the equivalent of 1 per cent of the amount provided in the Appropriation Acts of a particular year. Of this amount one-third is available, if required, for purposes not previously authorized either by inclusion in the Estimates or by other specific legislation. As the amount appropriated by the main Appropriation Act rises from year to year so the extra authority provided by the Governor's Appropriation Fund rises but, even after allowing for the automatic increase inherent in this provision, it is still to be expected that there will be the necessity for a supplementary Appropriation Bill to cover the larger departmental excesses.

Supplementary Bill: The main explanation for this recurring requirement lies in the fact that, whilst additional expenditures may be financed out of additional revenues with no net adverse impact on the Budget, authority is required nonetheless to appropriate these revenues. Also, the appropriation procedures do not permit variations in payments above and below departmental estimates to be offset against one another. If one department appears likely to spend more than the amount provided at the beginning of the year the Government must rely on other sources of appropriation authority, irrespective of the fact that another department may be under-spent by the same or a greater amount.

The appropriation available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund is being used this year to cover a number of individual excesses above departmental allocations and this is the reason why some of the smaller departments do not appear in the Bill now before honourable members, even though their expenditure levels may be affected by the same decisions as those which do appear. It is usually only the larger amounts of excess expenditure for which appropriation is sought by way of an Appropriation Bill, the remainder being met from the Governor's Appropriation Fund.

Details of Appropriations: With these special authorities in mind then, the Government has decided to introduce a supplementary Appropriation Bill for \$17 670 000. The estimated cost of the two salary and wage decisions recently taken forms a large part of this additional expenditure and is a part reason for the very high figure of appropriation required. The other reasons may be seen from the detailed explanations which follow.

Over-award and service pay: Over-award and service payments for the Government's weekly-paid employees were last reviewed in 1972. The Government recently agreed to a further review in the right of generally increasing salary

and wage levels and after having regard to what had been agreed by other Governments. The cost to the Government of the higher rates now adopted is estimated to be about \$10 000 000 in a full year inclusive of the effect of overtime and other penalty payments. In the current year the cost is expected to be about \$5 000 000, of which about \$3 500 000 will impact directly upon Revenue and some \$1 500 000 on other accounts, including the Loan Account, the roads funds, the forestry fund and various departmental reimbursement and working accounts.

Leave loading: in October of last year, the Government approved the payment of an annual leave loading for all of its daily-paid and weekly-paid employees. Day workers were granted 17½ per cent whilst shift workers received 20 per cent of the amount of wages the employee would have received in respect of ordinary time he would have worked had he not been on leave, inclusive of certain allowances but exclusive of shift premiums and weekend penalty rates. The loading is payable on all leave due and taken after July 1, 1973.

The policy was extended in December, 1973, to include salaried Government employees, excluding teachers. A maximum of \$100 was granted to those employees whose salary does not exceed \$7 500, with an abatement of \$1 for every \$5 by which an employee's salary exceeds \$7 500. The total cost to the Government of these policies, which are similar to those operating in other States, is estimated to be about \$3 250 000 this year, of which about \$2 250 000 will impact on revenue.

Combined effect on salaries and wages. Amounts representing the anticipated cost of both over-award and service pay increases and leave loading are included in the Bill as follows:

<i>Departments</i>	
	\$
<u>Police.....</u>	170 000
<u>Lands.....</u>	80 000
<u>Engineering and Water Supply.....</u>	600 000
<u>Public Buildings.....</u>	350 000
<u>Agriculture.....</u>	70 000
<u>Marine and Harbors.....</u>	105 000
<u>Highways.....</u>	70 000
<u>Railways.....</u>	1 465 000
<u>Hospitals.....</u>	1 080 000
<i>Authorities</i>	
<u>Municipal Tramways Trust.....</u>	360 000

As I indicated earlier, the excesses for the smaller departments will be met from the Governor's Appropriation Fund.

Police. In recognition of the additional work load imposed upon members of the Police Force in an effort to reduce the road toll during the Christmas holiday period, the Government introduced a system of bonus payments. The cost of these payments this year is about \$100 000 and this figure is included in the sum shown under Police Department in addition to the provision of \$170 000 for leave loading mentioned earlier. A further \$80 000 for this department provides for increases in pay granted to the staff of the Women's Police Auxiliary, giving a total of \$350 000.

Treasurer—Miscellaneous—\$1 400 000—Expenses of conversion and public loans: Current information relating to the movement of prior issues of special bonds into the new series 2C which offers interest rates ranging from 8 per cent to 8.4 per cent, indicates that the cost to the State for premiums and capital gains on the older series so converted will be much higher than the previous estimate. A provision of \$350 000 is made for this purpose.

Interest on trust funds and other moneys: The sum of \$450 000 is provided for the additional payment of interest, now estimated to be required because of the higher rates prevailing.

Municipal Tramways Trust—contribution towards deficits: In addition to the \$360 000 provided to cover the effects of over-award and service pay increases and leave loading, the trust's deficit is expected to be influenced by the national wage case decision, flow-ons from changes to the Metal Trades Award, and costs associated with the take-over of private bus services. It is difficult to make any accurate assessment at this stage of the additional costs which will be incurred as a result of these decisions, but they may be about \$240 000. This sum is included in the provision, giving a total of \$600 000.

Engineering and Water Supply—Metropolitan water-works—materials, etc.: The quality of water pumped from the Murray River has been markedly lower than usual owing to the flood conditions on the river and this has necessitated additional water treatment. An abnormal incidence of algae blooms in metropolitan reservoirs has also contributed to treatment costs and an additional \$400 000 may be required. Added to the \$600 000 for salary and wage adjustments described earlier, this gives a total of \$1 000 000 for the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

Public Buildings—Maintenance, minor additions, etc.: Higher costs incurred for office accommodation leased for use by departments, together with a slightly accelerated programme of maintenance of hospital buildings, are the major reasons for the provision of an additional \$300 000. The total for this department, including salary and wage adjustments, is therefore \$650 000.

Education—Miscellaneous: I have already referred to the need for additional appropriation to make payments to education institutions. The amount sought is in respect of the two universities, South Australian Institute of Technology, Torrens College of Advanced Education, and the Kindergarten Union of South Australia. The provisions for the universities are related to arrangements made with the Australian Government for the earlier payment of grants covering recurrent expenditure, together with increases in the grants as a consequence of higher wage and salary rates. The two colleges of advanced education will also receive additional Australian Government grants almost entirely due to wage and salary increases. The provision for additional payments to the Kindergarten Union derives from Australian Government special purpose grants and grants towards the cost of wage and salary increases. It is estimated that a further \$3 470 000 may be required in all.

Agriculture: Four outbreaks of Mediterranean fruit fly have been reported in the metropolitan area this year and additional staff has been employed to carry out the necessary eradication and preventive programme. The sum of \$280 000 for this purpose is included in the Bill in addition to the \$70 000 for over-award and leave loading payments previously described.

Railways: Some additional operating costs will be incurred in coping with the unusually high loadings I mentioned earlier and \$600 000 is included in the salaries and wages provision to meet the cost of overtime, giving a total, including over-award and service payments and leave loading, of \$2 065 000. The increase in costs (other than overtime) as a result of larger volumes earned is relatively insignificant.

Minister of Community Welfare—Miscellaneous—Payment of portion of pensioners' rates and taxes: The Budget introduced in August included a programme of rates and

taxes remissions for pensioners under which those people in possession of a pensioner concession card would be entitled to a 50 per cent remission of corporation and district council rates, water and sewerage rates and land tax up to certain maximum limits. It was pointed out to the Government after the Budget had been brought down that increases in valuations and higher rates in the dollar of valuation had resulted in some pensioners receiving little effective remission as compared with the previous year, and, after consideration, the Government decided to increase the remission to 60 per cent.

Originally, it was intended that the cost of this programme would be recorded as a payment in respect of local government rates, but as a reduction in the revenue received from water and sewerage rates and land tax. It is considered now that a more accurate view of the Government's income generating services, taxation measures, and welfare provisions would be given if the amounts remitted were appropriated in the welfare area of the Budget and the requisite transfers made to revenue receipts. In the August Budget, the reimbursement of corporations and councils for rates remitted by them was included under "XIII—Minister of Transport and Minister of Local Government—Miscellaneous" but, in line with the proposal to show the cost of the other two parts of the programme under "Community Welfare", this section is to be moved also.

Some \$2 830 000 of the estimate now shown, then, will have no net effect on the Budget result, since it was brought to account in other areas during the preparation of the Estimates. The subsequent 10 per cent increase and experience so far in the operation of the programme have been considered when framing this latest estimate, however, and the provision is now increased to a total of \$3 200 000.

Hospitals: In addition to the \$1 080 000 for service and over-award payments and leave loading, \$1 100 000 is provided to cover higher fees for visiting medical specialists and other payments for which alternative appropriation authorities are either not available or insufficient. Also, the department has found that general cost increases on hospitals contingencies items have been running at about double the 8 per cent used to frame the original Budget, and a further \$1 250 000 will be needed to cover these increases. The total provision in the Bill for the Hospitals Department is therefore \$3 430 000.

Minister of Health—Miscellaneous: Similar wage and salary adjustments and cost increases have, of course, impacted on the budgets of those hospitals and institutions that are in receipt of Government grants, and it is not expected that they will be able to carry the burden of these extra costs until the end of the year. The provision of \$1 500 000 made here will enable the Government, after examination of individual budget trends to pay appropriate additional amounts periodically by way of grant and so ensure that the efficiency of the subsidized hospitals and institutions does not deteriorate because of cash shortages.

The clauses of the Bill give the same kinds of authority as in the past. Clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further \$17 670 000 from the general revenue. Clause 3 appropriates that sum for the purposes set out in the schedule. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives the power to issue money out of Loan funds, other public funds, or bank overdraft if the moneys received from the Australian Government and the general revenue of the State are

insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to July 1, 1973. Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated.

The Hon R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I support this Bill, which is the normal type of Appropriation Bill that comes before Parliament at this time of the year. However, I should like to comment on the matters raised by the Chief Secretary in his second reading explanation. I have not had time to compare absolutely or accurately all the figures given, but it seems to me there is an increase in revenue during the year of about \$20 000 000, and an appropriation is sought for \$17 000 000.

I know that for various matters there are contra entries, but most of the extra appropriations being sought relate to over-award payments, to increased service payments, and to increased salaries and wages in the departments. From a quick look at the document before us, I find that the impact of over-award payments and increased service payments on this year's Budget will be about \$5 000 000. Day workers were granted a 17½ per cent leave loading on their annual and, I think, long service leave, and shift workers received 20 per cent. This is having an effect of about \$3 250 000 on this year's Revenue Account. And so one goes on to see the combined effect of salaries and wages on revenue to the extent of about \$4 000 000.

I draw attention to one or two matters relating to the increases and their impact on the community as a whole, particularly in certain areas. This Bill indicates the direction the financial policy is taking, both at State level and at Commonwealth level. I consider that there is an element of irresponsibility in the financial management at both levels. This is not the time to make a long speech on this matter, but I shall touch on one or two matters where I believe the financial policy of the Government is having a serious effect.

The first matter is housing. How many young people in the community at present have been adversely affected by the Government's financial policies? The problem of housing for young people (although it applies to others as well) has leached such proportions that it has become a national tragedy. Those may seem strong words, but I believe my statement to be true. The first important policy of any Government should be to encourage young people to own their own house. That is completely fundamental to the philosophy that should be followed. The financial policies being pursued at present are destroying the ability of young people to own their own house. Our success as a State and as a nation in relation to house ownership and young people owning their own house is probably the best in the world; yet, because of the Government's financial policies, the desirable effect in the community of having as high a proportion of house ownership as possible is being destroyed.

In the past two years, housing costs in South Australia have risen dramatically. I know many young people, with both husband and wife working, who some two years ago, shall we say, costed a house at about \$13 000. They were saving to build that house. Now, exactly the same type of house costs between \$20 000 and \$22 000, and their dream of owning their own house is fading further and further away from them. The policies that are effecting this are the very thing one sees in the document before us—over-award payments, leave loadings and increased salaries and wages, with the Government itself being the pace-setter in these matters. Whereas it may be very nice for the Government to be the pace-setter in relation to salaries and wages, it is doing nothing for

the people who desire to own their own house. Although workmen's compensation has little to do with this Bill, nevertheless in this field once again its impact on the cost of housing for young people is dramatic. This problem exists now and, in six or eight months time, it will have a tremendous impact on the ability of young people to own their own house in South Australia and in Australia as a nation. This matter can be directly related to the financial policies or, shall I say, the financial irresponsibility of the policies being adopted by various Governments.

Education is referred to in the Bill, which is quite normal in an Appropriation Bill of this kind, as lines are being corrected where over-expenditure has taken place. If one studies the education field one becomes aware that school aides are being employed to do things that schoolchildren did in the classroom until a few years ago, I believe to the good of their character. The taxpayer is now being loaded with the responsibility of providing these services.

Although I support the Bill (because there is not much else I can do), I briefly want to draw to honourable members' attention that it reflects the Government's financial policy and, I believe, some of the difficulties which have already developed in the community, because of the Government's financial policies, and which will develop further in the coming few months in this State. It is time the Government took a more realistic attitude towards matters of finance for the State instead of being the pacesetter, providing more and more for fewer and fewer people in the State.

The Hon. C. M. HILL secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### **SUPPLY BILL (No. 1) (1974)**

Received from the House of Assembly and lead a first time.

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It provides for the appropriation of \$100 000 000 to enable the Public Service of the State to be carried on during the early part of the next financial year. In the absence of special arrangements in the form of the Supply Acts, there would be no Parliamentary authority for appropriations required between the commencement of the new financial year and the date, usually in October, on which assent is given to the main Appropriation Bill. It is customary for the Government to present two Supply Bills each year, the first covering estimated expenditure during July and August and the second covering the remainder of the period prior to the Appropriation Bill becoming law.

This Bill is for a smaller sum than was provided in the first Supply Bill for 1973-74. The possibility of an unusual delay in passing the second Bill, against which it was deemed prudent to provide, made it necessary to include \$110 000 000, which was estimated to be sufficient to cover the three months to September rather than the two months to August. It is intended this year to return to the more usual practice. However, the sum provided in the Bill now before honourable members is considerably higher than half of the total sum provided by both supply Bills last year. This is, of course, a result of rising salary and wage rates and other costs, together with a steady expansion in the services provided by the Government.

The absence in the Bill of any detail relating to the purposes for which the \$100 000 000 is to be made available does not give the Government or individual departments a free hand in spending during the early months of 1974-75. Clause 3 ensures that, until the main Appropriation Bill becomes law, the sums made available by Supply Acts may be used only within the limits of the individual

Lines set out in the original and Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament for 1973-74. In accordance with normal procedures, honourable members will have the opportunity to debate the 1974-75 expenditure proposals fully when the Budget is presented.

The Hon R. C DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): This is the normal Supply Bill which comes before us about this time each year and which usually provides for an appropriation of \$100 000 000 to enable the Public Service of the State to continue during the early part of the coming financial year. I remember that the Supply Bill for last year was for \$110 000 000, because the Government had some idea that it might not present its Budget quite as early that year as it had done in previous years. However, the Government has returned to its normal procedure, as it seems to be reasonably happy with the present situation. I support the second reading.

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

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence.

Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works (Engineering and Biology Building),  
Nuriootpa Police Station

#### **DENTISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Dentists Act, 1931-1971. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It provides for the conditional registration of dentists. It sometimes occurs, especially in the case of foreign graduates coming to live in South Australia, that the board is not satisfied that the applicant for registration is fully competent to practise dentistry without supervision or restriction. The board may, however, be satisfied that the applicant is competent to practise dentistry in restricted fields, or is competent to practise dentistry, provided that his work is supervised. At present the board has no option but to refuse registration to such applicants. In a number of cases, this is neither fair to the applicants nor in the best interests of the State. The present Bill therefore enables the board to grant registration subject to conditions. Under these conditions the applicant may be prevented from practising dentistry otherwise than under the supervision of a registered dentist, or the fields in which he may practise dentistry may be restricted.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for the conditional registration of certain applicants. Clause 3 provides for the deregistration of a dentist who contravenes any condition subject to which his registration was granted. Clause 4 makes it an offence for a registered dentist to contravene any condition subject to which his registration was granted. Clause 5 provides that no appeal lies against a decision of the board to refuse conditional registration, or to deregister a dentist on the ground that he has acted in contravention of a condition subject to which his registration was granted.

The Hon R. C. DeGARIS secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (JUDGES' SALARIES) BILL**

Read a third time and passed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 3.17 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, March 14, at 2.15 p.m.