

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Forty-First Parliament (1974)

Parliament, which adjourned on March 28, 1974, was prorogued by proclamation dated April 18. By proclamation dated June 13, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday, July 23, and the Third Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 23, 1974

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin) took the Chair at noon.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Mark Oliphant) summoning Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.
2. Since you were last called together the people of this State, in common with the people of the whole of Australia, have been saddened by the death in June of His Royal Highness Henry, Duke of Gloucester. The term of office of His Royal Highness as Governor-General of Australia was during the difficult post-war period and the manner in which he carried out his duties earned him the respect and affection of Australians. His Royal Highness and the Duchess also visited this State in 1934, an occasion which some of those present here may recall. On behalf of the people of this State, I sent a message to Her Majesty the Queen expressing our deepest sympathy, which Her Majesty acknowledged with thanks.

3. It is with much regret that I have also to recall the deaths, since you were last called together, of Edgar Rowland Dawes, C.M.G., member for Sturt from 1930 until 1933, and Ernest Clifford Allan Edwards, member for Eyre from 1968 to 1970. In recording our appreciation of the services rendered by these gentlemen to this State, I feel sure that you will join me in expressing our sympathy to their families.

4. Throughout the State generally there has been an excellent opening to the current agricultural season, with the sowing of all cereals well advanced, and pastures have made early and prolific growth in most districts. However, whilst the start of the season has been favourable, there are some doubts as to its future, since climatic conditions have, so far, set the stage for another year in which losses from rust may be expected. To a large extent, the weather in spring will determine whether or not the disease will develop and also the extent of its damage to cereal crops. A new dairy product "dairy spread", being a combination of butter and edible fats, which retains the flavour of butter but has some additional advantages in use, has been developed by the Agriculture Department and widely accepted in consumer trials. Legislation will be laid before you during this session to permit the manufacture and sale of this product.

5. The close attention of the Coast Protection Board is being directed to the protection, restoration and development of our coastline, particularly in the metropolitan area, where a number of projects have been completed or are in progress. A plan is being developed for the future management of the natural and man-made assets, recreational facilities, areas of ecological significance, and similar aspects of the coast from Port Gawler to Sellick Beach. The State Planning Authority is proceeding with its work in relation to redevelopment schemes for Hackney, Port

Adelaide District Centre, Kensington and Norwood, and Moseley Square, Glenelg. The authority is continuing to purchase open space areas in furtherance of the Metropolitan Development Plan. Already the authority has purchased 2 276 hectares, representing about half of the planned purchases at a cost, to date, of the order of \$3 300 000. It is hoped that Australian Government financial assistance will become available for the purchase of the remaining areas.

6. In order that the Cooper Basin resources of natural gas and petroleum liquids may be developed in the best interests of the whole community, rationalization in the use of presently known reserves will be required in the future. So far, the products of two fields, Moomba and Gidgealpa, have been set aside for the Adelaide market, while the products of other, mostly smaller, fields have been set aside for the supply of the Sydney market. In the light of current experience this somewhat arbitrary division throws up some problems in the orderly development and depletion of the fields. Accordingly, negotiations are now directed towards the allocation of the total established reserves to the various markets on a more rational basis. A vigorous programme of exploration is in contemplation for this area during the next decade, and both private and Government geologists are confident that this exploration will find further significant gas reserves to meet the increasing demand for this most valuable fossil fuel. My Government, in co-operation with the Australian Government, is examining proposals for the development of a uranium enrichment plant in the Spencer Gulf area. Such a project is in furtherance of the declared policy of my Government that maximum use will be made of energy resources within its jurisdiction. In the application of this policy my Government has established a State Energy Committee to advise it. Negotiations between my Government and the Red Cliff petro-chemical consortium relating to the establishment of a petro-chemical industry at Red Cliff in the State are now in their final stages, and legislation, ratifying an indenture agreed upon between the parties will be placed before you during this session of Parliament. During the forthcoming year it is expected that plans for the new city of Monarto will be further developed. Public participation will continue to be a feature of the planning process. It is probable that the land acquisition programme for the new city will be substantially completed by September of this year.

7. A new feature of the work of the South Australian Housing Trust relates to activity within the city of Adelaide. In and near the city the trust is engaged in the purchase of older houses and rehabilitating them. So far, over 500 dwellings have been acquired under this programme. Since developments of this nature must be balanced between rehabilitation and new works, the trust has also begun the building of 49 terrace houses in Carrington Street and has plans to extend its operations in this field. Funds which will be made available this year to the trust under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement will exceed last year's allocation by nearly \$5 000 000 and will permit the trust actively to continue my Government's policy of providing houses for persons with limited means. The amount available under the agreement for mortgage loans for houses through the State Bank will also increase. This, together with the undertaking of the Prime Minister of Australia that the allocation of further funds will be considered if the States are able to show that they could be put to productive use in welfare housing, has permitted my Government to

announce an increase to \$15 000 in the maximum amount of a home loan.

8. My Government attaches considerable importance to the matter of improving communication between management and workers in industry to the end, amongst other things, that workers will, to the greatest extent, be heard in relation to the manner in which they perform their tasks. With this end in mind, through its Labour and Industry Department my Government is encouraging the formation of joint consultative councils and the introduction of schemes of job enrichment both in the private sector and in its own activities. A Bill will be laid before you during the forthcoming session to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act providing, amongst other things, that industrial disputes will be dealt with by industrial tribunals, that civil actions for damages will not be available in connection with industrial disputes, and for removal of the penal provisions from that Act.

9. A greater priority for national highways and a somewhat reduced rate of spending on roads in the Adelaide metropolitan area are the predominating features of the Highways Department's programme of work in the immediate future. In keeping with this trend, work on three major national road links will be accelerated. These are the Eyre Highway, the South-Eastern Freeway and possibly the Stuart Highway. However, a major task facing the department will be the restoration of roads damaged in recent floods in the Far North of the State. Agreements have already been entered into between my Government and the Australian Government for the construction of a standard gauge rail link between Adelaide and Crystal Brook and the construction of the Tarcoola to Alice Springs line. Legislation to ratify these agreements will be placed before you, and in the meantime the necessary planning of the projects is proceeding. A further agreement between my Government and the Australian Government has been entered into, and this agreement provides for a major contribution by the latter Government towards the cost of urban transport in South Australia. Funds provided under this agreement will greatly facilitate the achievement of my Government's objectives in the urban transport field.

10. The report of the Royal Commission into the boundaries of local government areas in this State will be presented to Parliament and, to the extent that legislation will be required to give effect to the report of the Commission, an appropriate Bill will be laid before you. The Local Government Act Amendment Bill, which failed to become law during the last session of Parliament, will again be laid before you.

11. With the co-operation and financial assistance of the Australian Government, community health centres have been, or are in the process of being, established at Ingle Farm, St. Agnes, Noarlunga, Clovelly Park, Port Lincoln, Ceduna, Cooper Pedy, Keith, Cummins, and Tumby Bay, and many other projects of a similar nature are under active consideration or development. My Government has supported the operation of domiciliary care services in both the metropolitan and the country areas, and new projects in this field, at present under consideration, include Port Augusta, Millicent, Victor Harbor, Mannum and the Barossa towns. My Government is conscious of the acute shortage of medical practitioners in the Para region and in some rural areas of the State and is applying itself to finding a solution to this problem.

12. The Electricity Trust of South Australia will continue with a vigorous programme of developmental work in relation to the transmission and distribution of electricity throughout the State. On Eyre Peninsula, the trust's system

is being extended from Poldia to Wudinna with the construction of a 66 000-volt transmission line. New coal handling, rail loading and other facilities, needed for the further development of the coalfield, are being constructed at Leigh Creek at a cost of \$4 000 000. This will ensure a continuing supply of coal for the power station at Port Augusta for many years. A Water Resources Branch has been established in the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and senior officers have already been appointed. The branch will be responsible for a continuing assessment of the State's water resources and in forward planning for the most beneficial use of those resources. It will also have the administration of comprehensive water resources legislation that will be placed before you in this session. The department's activities in the field of the control of water pollution encompass such diverse activities as the requirements for sewage treatment at the new city of Monarto, the abatement of water pollution in the Barossa Valley, the disposal of toxic liquid wastes in the metropolitan area and the co-ordination of the control of water quality along the whole length of the Murray River. A recent agreement entered into with the Australian Government by my Government has assured this State financial assistance for a comprehensive water treatment programme to up-grade the physical quality and safety of the water supply for metropolitan Adelaide, and already appropriate water treatment works are planned or under construction.

13. Legislation providing for a "small claims court" will be laid before you in this session of Parliament. This court will be the means whereby speedy and inexpensive justice may be provided for litigants in small civil claims.

14. The South Australian Land Commission, established under its enabling Act of 1973, has commenced operations by compiling a programme of land acquisition for present and future urban expansion. This programme has been approved by my Government and qualifies for financial assistance from the Australian Government. Under the terms of an agreement between the two Governments the sum of \$8 000 000 was made available to the commission for the acquisition of land during the immediately concluded financial year. The programme of land acquisition will continue, and planning has already commenced for the development and future disposal of some of the acquired land to satisfy the requirements of urban expansion. There is some evidence that the commission's existence and activities, coupled with urban land price control, have already had a stabilizing effect on the market for urban land. It is expected that further stability will result from the commission's disposals of developed land.

15. In the area of education, the most significant development during the past year was the establishment of the Australian Schools Commission and the adoption by the Australian Government of the financial recommendations of the report of the Interim Committee for the Australian Schools Commission. This has resulted in substantial additional funds for South Australian education under seven separate programmes. The first funds under these programmes were paid, from the beginning of 1974 and have already had a significant impact in the schools, particularly in the field of the employment of large numbers of additional ancillary staff. Unfortunately, the rapid escalation in building costs has somewhat diminished the impact of increased expenditure on buildings, and in that area the Schools Commission funds that have been made available have done nothing more than offset some of the effects of inflation. The last year has seen a rapid expansion in the provision of State Government funds for pre-school educa-

tion and the first entry of the Australian Government into this field. It is now proposed to introduce legislation to establish a Pre-School Education Committee to advise and assist the Minister of Education in the development of pre-school education. Parliament will also be asked formally to empower the Education Department to enter the pre-school education field. The acceptance of the recommendations of the Australian Committee on Technical and Further Education by the Australian Government should stimulate the development of further education in South Australia.

Members of the House of Assembly:

16. The Estimates of Expenditure will be laid before you in the usual way.

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

17. In addition to the measures already referred to, my Government intends to lay before you a substantial legislative programme for the forthcoming session, and included in this programme will be Bills relating to architects, boilers and pressure vessels, builders licensing, building societies, commercial arbitration, commercial and private agents, co-ordinate survey systems, the Constitution, control of advertisements, control of litter, country fire services, credit unions, Crown lands, Crown proceedings, deceptive packaging, fences, fire brigades, fisheries, friendly societies, further education, health, highways, inflammable liquids, insurance, irrigation, judges' pensions, the Kindergarten Union, legal practitioners, licensing, local and district criminal courts, local government, long service leave for casual workers, lottery and gaming, the meat industry, mental health, the Municipal Tramways Trust, noise control, occupational therapists, planning and development, potato marketing, prohibition of discrimination, the Public Service, railways, road and railway transport, second-hand motor vehicles, shearers accommodation, stamp duties, superannuation, swine compensation, trading stamps, the University of Adelaide, and wheat delivery quotas.

18. The Budget presented to you in August, 1973, indicated that, after allowing for prospective increases in wage rates, the revenue deficit for 1973-74 could be of the order of \$11 250 000. On Loan Account it was estimated that a surplus of \$2 900 000 would be held which, with the loan surplus of earlier years, would cover the prospective revenue deficit. Overall, the run-down of finance during the year was then estimated at about \$8 400 000. The actual deficit on Revenue Account was \$3 500 000 and, whilst the improvement on the Budget forecast was due to a great variety of savings in expenditure and increases in revenue, a very significant factor in this improvement was the increase of almost \$8 000 000 above the estimate in the Financial Assistance Grant from the Australian Government which is escalated in accordance with a formula which has regard to increases in the average level of wages prevailing and in the population of the State. On Loan Account the deficit for the year was \$4 000 000 so that on Revenue Account and Loan Account combined there was a run-down of \$7 500 000 compared with the \$8 400 000 run-down which was envisaged in the proposals presented to you last year. At the Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meeting this year it is now on record that the Australian Government has agreed to support a loan programme of only 10 per cent in excess of last year and has refused to provide increases in revenue grants beyond those provided in the formula contained in the enabling legislation. In the area of capital works, by the careful exercise of priorities and with the assistance of Australian Government funds in areas selected by that Government,

my Government expects to be able to put before you a reasonable capital works programme. However, if my Government is to continue to provide social and other services to standards which the people of this State expect and to which they are properly entitled, it will be necessary for it to take action to increase existing revenues and explore new avenues of income if the Revenue Account deficit is to be contained to manageable proportions.

19. Over the next year or so the fiscal measures announced or contemplated by the Australian Government to deal with the problem of inflation will have their impact on the community. In so far as these measures may result in a slow-down in the economy, my Government is acutely aware that the people of this State are likely to suffer rather more severely than those elsewhere. Whilst my Government is conscious of the role of the Australian Government in this situation, the wellbeing of the people of this State is necessarily in the forefront of its mind. Accordingly, my Government will keep the effect of the Australian Government's fiscal policies on this State under the closest scrutiny and will not hesitate to point out to that Government any hardship that may arise for the people of this State, particularly when that hardship is not shared equally by the rest of the Australian community.

20. I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of this State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber, and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS

The PRESIDENT: It is with profound regret that I draw the attention of honourable members to the lamented death, since the last opening, of Mr. Edgar Rowland Dawes, C.M.G., and Mr. Ernest Clifford Allan Edwards, former members of the House of Assembly. The late Mr. Dawes represented the District of Sturt in the House of Assembly and was Leader of the Australian Labor Party in that House from 1930 to 1933. He was a prominent member of the Australian Labor Party and held the position of President of the Trades and Labor Council of South Australia and of the South Australian branch of the Party. During the war he served the Ministry of Munitions in several capacities before taking up an appointment as Vice-Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, a post he held for 22 years until 1967. Mr. Dawes was also a governor of the Adelaide Festival of Arts and a member of the boards of the Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals. He was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the 1958 New Year's Honors List.

The late Mr. Edwards represented the District of Eyre in the House of Assembly from 1968 to 1970. He was a farmer and grazier on Eyre Peninsula, an enthusiastic member of the Agricultural Bureau for 20 years, and a zone director of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited at the time of his death.

It is appropriate that we place on record the Council's appreciation of the outstanding public services of these deceased gentlemen and extend to their relatives the sincere sympathy of honourable members. I ask honourable members to stand in silence in their places as a mark of respect to their memory.

As a mark of respect, members stood in their places in silence:

[Sitting suspended from 12.49 to 2.16 p.m.]

PETITION: VIOLENT CRIMES

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS presented a petition signed by 238 persons alleging that the increase in the number of bashings, sexual assaults and rape was considered to be a result of the permissive society and that existing penalties were no longer providing a satisfactory deterrent to acts of this kind. The petitioners also alleged that, in order to provide a more effective deterrent to the increasing incidence of violence, it was desirable to reintroduce corporal punishment and that the effects of corporal punishment were a far better deterrent than a short gaol sentence.

Petition received and read.

PETITION: SODOMY

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS presented a petition signed by 46 persons objecting to the introduction of legislation to legalize sodomy between consenting adults until such time as the Parliament had a clear mandate from the people by way of a referendum (to be held at the next periodic South Australian election) to pass such legislation.

Petition received and read.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: PORTFOLIOS

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I have to inform the Council that, during the absence of the Chief Secretary (Hon. A. F. Kneebone) overseas on official business, I have been appointed to act as Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation, and Minister of Irrigation, and to be the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. I shall continue as Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forests. The Minister of Health (Hon. D. H. L. Banfield) will act as Chief Secretary.

QUESTIONS

ROAD SIGNS

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the appropriate Minister.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL: I travel nearly every day on that admirable piece of road known as the South-Eastern Freeway. Since Parliament was last assembled, the kilometre measurement has come into effect instead of the mile measurement. I must emphasize that on many of the sign posts miles an hour and kilometres an hour are given together, one above the other. At Verdun the post shows 65 kilometres an hour and underneath that is shown 35 miles an hour. At the turn on Glen Osmond Road by the quarry, on the way uphill 55 km/h is given as 35 m.p.h., while on the way downhill 45 km/h is given as 35 m.p.h. I realize that the authorities may have taken advantage of the change to metric measurement to alter speed limits in certain proclaimed areas. I am referring not to that but rather to the confusion that exists, in my mind at any rate. At the Eagle on the Hill, 55 km/h is given as 30 m.p.h., and less than half a mile away 45 km/h is given as 30 m.p.h. My deduction is that 35 m.p.h. equals 65 km/h, 55 km/h or 45 km/h, and that 30 m.p.h. equals 55 km/h or 45 km/h. To put it another way, 55 km/h is equivalent to either 30 m.p.h. or 35 m.p.h., or both, according to the signs, and 45 km/h is equal to 30 m.p.h. and also to 35 m.p.h. In fact, not one of these conversions is correct. The only accurate conversion I can find is 80 km/h, which appears in many places along the freeway, and which converts almost exactly to 50 m.p.h.,

but which is nowhere mentioned. It seems that even the brilliant mathematicians cannot make an accurate conversion. As I find all this extremely confusing, I should like to know how much longer this mathematical farce will be allowed to continue.

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I seem to be a few metres behind the honourable member. However, knowing that *Hansard* has recorded what he has said, I will refer the question to my colleague and see what can be done.

SECURITIES REPORT

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a short explanation prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, who is at present representing the Attorney-General in another place.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: The Senate Select Committee on Securities and Exchange, under the Chairmanship of Senator Rae, recently tabled its report. The report states that the committee found substantial distortion and manipulation of the share market by stockbrokers and companies. Indeed, the Commonwealth Attorney-General (Senator Murphy) said that the committee had confirmed all sorts of fraudulent activities. He also said that there was unrestrained and uncontrolled racketeering. Following the tabling of this report, the South Australian Government has no doubt studied it in relation to activities in South Australia. Can the Minister say whether the Government intends to take any action on this report? If it does, what action does it intend to take?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I will take up the matter with the Acting Attorney-General in another place and see what the situation is in South Australia and whether the Government intends to take action as indicated by the honourable Leader.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to asking a question of the Minister of Health, representing the Minister of Local Government.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. CAMERON: There has been much publicity in the past two days concerning a Royal Commission report submitted to the Government involving drastic changes to local government boundaries. I have heard rumours of a possibility of council boundaries being changed without legislation necessarily having to go through Parliament. If legislation is necessary, when will it be introduced to allow the changes in boundaries? Is the rumour correct that it is possible for the Government to institute these changes without having to pass legislation? Will sufficient time be given for local communities affected by such changes to discuss the findings in the report? Will a referendum be held of local ratepayers in each area concerned in order to determine their concurrence or otherwise in the suggested changes?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: The honourable member should have listened to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor when he said that the necessary legislation would be introduced, having proper regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission. I will refer the second part of the honourable member's question, concerning the referendum, to my colleague for further information.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Local Government.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I think all honourable members have been interested in newspaper reports of the recommendations of the inquiry into local government boundaries. A copy of the Royal Commission's report was put on my table today. Will the Minister of Health take up with the Minister of Local Government the possibility of allowing a period of appeal against the findings of the Royal Commission? In other words, will the Minister provide for a cooling-off period to allow the Government to re-assess some of the recommendations?

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD: I shall be happy to refer the Leader's question to my colleague and to bring down a report.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I heard on the radio this morning, and saw on television last evening, the Minister of Agriculture talking about the reorganization of the Agriculture Department. He said that one of the reasons for the changes that were to take place arose from a report that was asked for by the Minister and brought down by Sir Allan Callaghan, a former Chairman of the Wheat Board and Director of Agriculture in this State. So that honourable members can be *au fait* with the recommendations of Sir Allan Callaghan, can the Minister say whether he intends to table the report in Parliament and, if he does, when? If he does not intend to table the report, will he make a Ministerial statement on the precise reasons for the changes, and will he give any further information he may have on the matter?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I assure the honourable member that the report of Sir Allan Callaghan will be tabled in the Council as soon as possible.

MINISTER'S OVERSEA TOUR

The Hon. C. M. HILL: Will the Minister of Agriculture state which countries he visited on his recent overseas tour and in what way he expects the primary producers of this State to benefit as a result of his official inspections and discussions in those countries?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I visited countries of South-East Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan. I also had an opportunity of visiting the west coast of the United States, where I had discussions with the wheat industry people and from which most of the grain is shipped from America to South-East Asia. It seems to me overall that, when I have completed my report to the Government, and the Government has considered it, the primary producers of this State will be able to benefit, in such things as cereal grains and livestock. I know that is, rather a basic statement to make at this stage, but I assure the honourable member that they are the two basic areas in which South Australia can benefit. It is difficult to summarize just what this entails. However, I shall be delighted to discuss the matter with the honourable member, if he so wishes, and pursue with him his question either outside the Chamber or by letter.

UNDERGROUND WATERS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I refer to the vexed question of the use of underground water in the Adelaide Plains area and also to the need for the use of recycled water. As I believe that the three-year trial period has elapsed, can the Minister report on the findings of the trials or comment on a possible scheme for reticulating reclaimed water for the vegetable growers in the Two Wells, Virginia, and Angle Vale areas? If he cannot do that, in view of the serious continuing overdrawing of the water basin, will he take all necessary steps to hasten the day when he can come up with a scheme, which is necessary, to preserve the industry and conserve the underground waters there?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I assure the honourable member, as I have on numerous occasions, that the Government is mindful of the situation in the Adelaide Plains area but, until I get a report, I cannot comment on the situation. When the report comes to me, the Government will study it, and no doubt a statement will be made.

MURRAY RIVER

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Marine.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. C. BURDETT: On November 6, 1973, in directing a question to the Minister representing the Minister of Marine, I referred to the then high level of the Murray River and to the fact that many dead trees and much other debris were in the river. I pointed out the danger that was thereby caused to water skiers and craft travelling at high speeds. At about the same time, councils in the area made representations to the Minister pointing out that levee banks were being weakened by the wash of speed boats during the period of high river. Subsequently, the Minister prohibited boats from travelling at high speeds and he prohibited ski-ing in affected parts of the river. When the river level returned to normal, the prohibition was lifted. There is a high river at present; it is at about the same height as it was when I asked my original question. There is less water ski-ing at present and there are fewer high-speed boats travelling on the river, but such activities are still going on to a considerable extent. As a result, there are the same dangers to skiers, occupants of boats, and levee banks. Has the Minister of Marine currently prohibited high-speed boat travel and ski-ing on the river and, if he has not, does he intend to do so?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I shall refer the honourable member's question to my colleague, who I am sure will be interested in what has been said. I shall bring down a reply as soon as possible.

SPREADS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I was interested, and I am sure others were interested, to hear in the Governor's Speech that there was to be a new spread consisting of more than 50 per cent butter. Does the Minister intend to amend the Dairy Produce Act to bring that about? I believe that a reference to that matter was in the Speech, too. Does the Minister intend to raise at the next Agricultural Council meeting the matter of increased table margarine quotas or, in view of the changes that the Minister intends to bring about by amending the Dairy Produce Act, does the

Government intend to abandon table margarine quotas completely?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I cannot give the honourable member a specific reply at present because, as he knows, this is a matter for the Agricultural Council.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I was asking what your policy was.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: My policy, and the Government's policy, has always been that there should not be any quotas on table margarine at any time; that was first brought home during the inquiry into the dairying industry in about 1966. I believe that the latest green paper on the rural industry makes a similar suggestion. I will never know what justification there is for margarine quotas at this stage; I have been trying to lift them for the past four years. I will certainly put forward the same view at the forthcoming Agricultural Council meeting, which will be held in Adelaide early next month. The honourable member would know that the dairy industry made available \$30 000 for research on butter oil spreads. This research was carried out in South Australia and, because it supplied all the personnel, this State became directly involved in that experiment. As a result we have produced a commodity which is very spreadable, which tastes very much like butter, and 80 per cent of which is butter oil, the remaining 20 per cent being poly-unsaturated vegetable oil. Queensland has produced a similar spread which has a 25 per cent vegetable oil-content compared to this State's 20 per cent. Queensland has introduced and passed legislation on this matter, even though it promised to co-operate in all respects with South Australia in drawing up legislation on the matter. However, it has beaten the gun: that is not unusual for Queensland. Nevertheless, South Australia is happy with its product. I hope that, when the legislation is introduced into Parliament, honourable members will give it their wholehearted support.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Attorney-General.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: Some industries are exempt from the jurisdiction of the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs. Indeed, most primary industries are exempt (which is a pity), as are agricultural machinery manufacturers, which is an even greater pity. I wonder why these industries are exempt. Will the Minister ask his colleague how many secondary industries are exempt from the control of the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs?

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

MONITORING SERVICES

The Hon. C. M. HILL: My question relates to the recently instituted monitoring services and the general organization that revolves around that section of the Government service. Will the Minister of Agriculture ascertain whether any news items or reports, other than comments made by Ministers when radio stations seek such comments, are being pre-recorded and given to such stations?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I will try to get the honourable member a reply to his question and bring it down when it is available.

LAND AND BUSINESS AGENTS ACT

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: I seek leave to make a statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture, as Leader of the Government in this Chamber.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Considerable concern has been expressed to me by many people in the community, not business or land agents but people who buy and sell properties, who consider that the recently passed Land and Business Agents Act is not in the best interests of the community. Indeed, many people claim that it discriminates against certain people, particularly against the sellers of properties. I listened attentively to His Excellency's Speech, but I did not hear any reference to the Land and Business Agents Act. Will the Minister say whether the Government intends listening to those people in the community who are demanding some changes in this legislation, or does the Government intend to remain inflexible in relation to the community need in this regard?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: Naturally, no approach along these lines has been made to me. If the Leader has been approached, no doubt my colleague will have been approached, too. I will refer the Leader's question to my colleague, who will no doubt consider fully any suggestions made by these people.

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The Minister is overseas.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: But there is an Acting Minister. I will refer the Leader's question to my colleague who is looking after this portfolio during the absence of the relevant Minister and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

FAUNA AND FLORA

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I seek leave to make a statement before asking a question of the Minister representing the Minister of Environment and Conservation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: For many years this State has taken a keen interest in the conservation of its fauna and flora, and it is probably the leading State at present in the work that has been done and the legislation that has been passed to protect its native fauna and flora.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: This Council in particular.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: True. Does the Minister expect any action to be taken to try to persuade the Commonwealth Government to enable South Australia to proceed with the export of kangaroo skins and products made therefrom, which has become a useful export industry and which does nothing to denude this State of its natural fauna? Indeed, the industry is probably doing the State much good by harvesting our kangaroos. When the Minister of Agriculture was also Minister of Environment and Conservation, he took a keen interest in this matter. It seems wrong that the Commonwealth Government is not allowing South Australia, which has conformed to every condition laid down by the Commonwealth Minister, to export these products. This has been detrimental to the State's economy as well as to conservation. Will the Minister therefore take up the matter to ensure that the Commonwealth Government will not impede the proper export of the commodities to which I have referred?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am delighted to be able to tell the honourable member that the Minister of Environment and Conservation has already taken what I believe to be correct steps along these lines. For many years I have believed that the export of kangaroo skins should not be banned provided the kangaroos are harvested in a manner beneficial to the ecology of this country. I

think this can be done, and I assure the honourable member that my colleague has already taken steps along the lines to which the honourable member has referred.

WEEVIL CONTROL

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Will the Minister of Agriculture inform me of any measures the Government intends to take regarding weevil control in South Australia?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am at present having drafted a Bill which will cover these pests in our grains and which will bring South Australia into line with the other States. Unfortunately, South Australia is the only State that does not have such legislation on its Statute Book. If there is no overall agreement to put into effect measures for the control of insect pests in grain, which measures are so essential in this country, we would not be able to act in this regard. I think the only proper and sensible way of doing it is to introduce legislation so that, if the Commonwealth, together with the Australian Wheatgrowers Federation or any other body interested in cereals, should wish to control weevils, we will be able to implement the necessary procedure forthwith.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS: Can the Minister say whether the legislation proposed in South Australia will follow the Commonwealth recommendations? That is the point that concerns me.

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I am not sure what the honourable member means when he refers to the Commonwealth recommendations. At the moment, that does not ring a bell with me. However, if he wishes to tell me more about it perhaps I can help him.

DAIRY FACTORIES

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I was appalled to see that the Minister for Science (I do not know how he managed to win that portfolio) made a statement that was most detrimental to the dairy industry. He was reported to have said that South Australian factories were filthy and that the product being exported from them contained dieldrin to a degree detrimental to health. On his arrival back from an overseas trip (probably a day or so after Mr. Morrison, the Commonwealth Minister, had made this statement), the South Australian Minister of Agriculture said (I think at the airport) that he did not consider this to be so, but that he would check the position. Subsequently, I noticed a further report that a factory had inadvertently used a rag on a portion of machinery and that this had in some way given a taint to the outside rind of a small quantity of cheese not offered for export. I view most seriously a situation in which a Commonwealth Minister should poke his nose into a State matter and make irresponsible statements that could have a most detrimental effect on an industry that has worked hard to establish export markets in Eastern countries and throughout the world. Has the Minister taken up this matter with the Commonwealth Minister; if so, has he received any form of apology or assurance that this will not occur again?

The Hon. T. M. CASEY: I think the honourable member will agree that it is the responsibility of a Commonwealth Minister to make known certain facts brought to his notice in matters dealing with export trade. After all,

matters concerning exports are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. If a Minister receives from his officers a report that something detrimental has occurred in any factory in the Commonwealth, it is his duty to make known that that factory has done something contrary to the regulations, if that is the case. In the case to which the honourable member referred, while I think that the Minister probably sounded off a little too loudly, I believe he was within his rights in referring to the matter as it was reported to him. I have not heard from the Minister, and I suggest that, in these circumstances, everyone has learned by this lesson.

OMBUDSMAN REPORTS

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Ombudsman:

- Refusal of Engineering and Water Supply Department to issue a water licence,
- Refusal by Engineering and Water Supply Department to provide indirect water service in metropolitan watershed area.

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:

- Coromandel Valley Primary School (Replacement),
- Fishing Haven, Port Adelaide,
- Glenside Hospital (Residential Accommodation),
- Holden Hill North Primary School,
- Mines Department Building, Glenside (Redesign),
- Parafield Gardens High School,
- Victor Harbor and Encounter Bay (Additional Water Supplies),
- Yorke town Area School.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Hons. R. C. DeGaris, A. F. Kneebone, Sir Arthur Rymill, and A. J. Shard.

Library: The President, the Hons. C. W. Creedon, M. B. Dawkins, and F. J. Potter.

Printing: The Hons. B. A. Chatterton, R. A. Geddes, C. M. Hill, A. J. Shard, and V. G. Springett.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. T. M. Casey, B. A. Chatterton, C. W. Creedon, R. C. DeGaris, and C. R. Story be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GOVERNOR)

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of the Council to the proclamation published in the *Government Gazette* on July 4, 1974, notifying the Royal Assent to the Constitution Act Amendment Act, No. 45 of 1974.

BILLS RESTORED

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture) moved:

That the following lapsed Bills be restored to the Notice Paper, pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1974:

1. Transplantation of Human Tissue Bill, 1973.
2. Boating Bill, 1974.
3. Beverage Container Bill, 1974.

Motion carried.

TRANSPLANTATION OF HUMAN TISSUE BILL

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture) brought up the report of the Select Committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Report received and ordered to be printed.

BOATING BILL

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Agriculture) moved:

That the time for bringing up the report of the Select Committee be extended until Tuesday, August 13.

Motion carried.

BEVERAGE CONTAINER BILL

The Hon. D. H. L. BANFIELD (Minister of Health) moved:

That the time for bringing up the report of the Select Committee be extended until Tuesday, August 27.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.10 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 24, at 2.15 p.m.