

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, September 17, 1968.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett) took the chair at 4.57 p.m., and read the prayer.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (BREAD) ACT.

BREACHES : PROSECUTIONS :
ENFORCEMENT.

The Hon. A. K. BRADBURY (North-Eastern Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture).—

(a) Has the attention of the Minister of Labour and Industry been drawn to the flagrant abuses of sub-section (4) of section 104 of the Bread Industry Act 1967; if so, who has made such reports, how many cases have been notified and what bread manufacturing companies are involved?

(b) How many cases have been reported by inspectors of the Department of Labour and Industry?

(c) What action has the Minister taken or proposes taking to enforce compliance with the Act?

(d) Have any prosecutions been taken against any bread manufacturing company; if so, which?

(e) Is this section of the Act being fully enforced and policed; if not, why?

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answers are—

(a) A number of allegations have been received that various persons have failed to observe the conditions prescribed by section 104 of the Labour and Industry Act 1958, as amended by the Labour and Industry (Bread) Act 1967. To supply the details requested by the honorable member would require such volume of work as to cause disruption of the normal procedure of the Department and, therefore, I do not think I should cause this information to be supplied.

Furthermore, it has never been the practice of Ministers of Labour and Industry, so far as I am aware, to announce in Parliament the names of persons who are alleged to have been in breach of the law and against whom legal proceedings may be taken.

(b) Nine reports have been submitted by inspectors of the Department.

(c) Whenever a report discloses a prima facie case, consideration will be given to proceedings against the offender.

(d) No proceedings have yet been taken against any baker for breach of the new section 104, but a number of cases are presently under consideration.

(e) Every report of an alleged breach of the law is being investigated.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

PUBLICITY : USE OF PUBLIC
RELATIONS FIRM.

The Hon. J. M. WALTON (Melbourne North Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

Has the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works employed a public relations firm to publicize and popularize the Board's activities; if so—(i) what is the name of the firm and what have been their charges to date; (ii) what is the cost of advertising and publications as a result of their suggestions; and (iii) how long is it anticipated they will be retained?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works first retained the consultant public relations services of the predecessor of the firm now known as Image Australia Proprietary Limited in September, 1952, to publicize the projected Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme and since that time has retained, subject to annual review, such services for planning and other purposes. During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1968 :—

(i) The sum of \$5,607.81 was paid for such services.

(ii) \$8,837.05.

(iii) It is anticipated that the need to employ consultant public relations services will continue.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION: STUDY BY EFFICIENCY EXPERTS.

The Hon. J. M. WALTON (Melbourne North Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

Has the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works employed a firm of efficiency experts to study its administrative section; if so—(i) was this at Government direction; (ii) how long have they been making this study and what has been the cost to date; and (iii) what improvements or economies have they suggested and when is it anticipated they will complete their task?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

The Board has not employed a firm of efficiency experts to study its administrative section. However, management consultants have been assisting the Board to establish—

- (a) a methods engineering staff of its own to improve technical performance in its engineering and field activities; and
- (b) a staff section to modernize the system for works programming and control using the latest established techniques for the over-all integration of manpower, material resources and cash flow requirements for the major capital expenditure with which the Board is concerned.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

DYSLEXIA: RESEARCH: REMEDIAL MEASURES: INCIDENCE.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister of Education—

(a) What research has been undertaken in Victoria into the problem of dyslexia or word blindness?

(b) Does the 1967 report of the Education Department's Remedial Education Committee suggest that children with such problems should not be sent to special remedial clinics; if so, does this view conflict with modern research that early intervention is necessary?

(c) At what grade level does a primary school child qualify for attendance at a remedial centre?

(d) Does the Education Department agree with an article published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* for 11th May, 1968, that there are over 7,000 cases of children suffering from dyslexia in Victorian schools and that no Australian State has adequate facilities for the proper teaching of these children?

(e) What measures have been proposed or are planned to assist children in Victorian schools who may be suffering from dyslexia?

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answers are—

(a) Because of the tentative nature of research findings in this field elsewhere, the Education Department has not as yet embarked on a specific research project into the problem of dyslexia *per se*, but some of its officers participated in the recent dyslexia symposium and a close study of the literature and of developments elsewhere is being made. Work preliminary to possible future research projects is therefore proceeding.

The recommendations of the Remedial Education Committee are now being implemented. These include the establishment of a multi-disciplined research oriented remedial clinic to study, among other things, the kind of problem the term dyslexia is often used to describe.

(b) No.

(c) Children may be referred to remedial facilities at whatever age the need becomes apparent.

(d) No. The figure quoted in the article referred to was put forward only tentatively to illustrate the size the problem would be if the incidence were 1 per cent. of the school population.

(e) The development of demonstration units for initial and in-service teacher training, the provision of itinerant consultant reading specialists, the establishment of tutorial centres and of a research oriented remedial clinic are part of the added new provisions planned by the Education Department to help children with reading problems. These children will necessarily include those with any specific reading disabilities which may exist. These plans are being implemented sequentially as rapidly as resources allow.

Existing facilities for remedial tuition have been expanded from fifteen in 1965 to 60 in 1968. An active programme of teacher education in the detection and remedy of educational difficulties at the class-room level is being followed, and experimentation with materials and methods and with school organization to deal more adequately with individual differences in learning rates is common.

PURCHASE OF HOUSE AS TEACHER'S RESIDENCE IN TRARALGON.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister of Education—

(a) What was the priority of a house purchased at Traralgon recently for teacher housing?

(b) Who made the final decision to purchase this house, what were the reasons and did this decision run against the advice of the Residence Selection Committee?

(c) Did the committee discuss this particular decision; if so, was any resolution carried and in that case what was the resolution?

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answers are—

(a) and (b) The Residence Selection Committee considered the question of providing a residence for the principal of the Traralgon High School at its meeting

on 7th March, 1968, but felt that the case could be deferred until May, 1969. However, during a visit to Traralgon in June, 1968, I was acquainted first hand with the housing situation there by the president of the advisory council and, as a house was available for purchase, I agreed that this opportunity should be immediately investigated. After personally inspecting the house with the principal, an independent valuation was obtained together with a suitability report from the Public Works Department. The Department then made an offer to the vendor which was accepted. The necessary Ministerial approval for the expenditure was given by the Assistant Minister of Education, in accordance with usual policy, on 29th July, 1968.

(c) The minutes of the Residence Selection Committee meeting on 5th August, 1968, show that the decision was conveyed to the meeting. No resolution on this matter was recorded.

SUBSIDIES FOR SCHOOLS.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister of Education—

(a) What schools have requested subsidies for the new financial year and have been rejected, giving the amount of subsidy involved in each case?

(b) Why has this position arisen?

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—As the answers resemble an excerpt from the *Year Book*, I suggest that, by leave of the House, they be incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.
		\$
28	Bacchus Marsh ..	72.50
39	Bullarook ..	135.00
84	Cheltenham ..	238.00
87	Dean ..	180.00
113	Newport ..	600.00
123	California Gully ..	34.00
124	Corio ..	50.00
192	Truganina ..	150.00
220	Elphinstone ..	80.00
226	Addington ..	20.00
244	Hallam ..	8.30
257	Franklinford ..	93.50
262	Gisborne ..	100.00
264	Guildford ..	150.00
299	Harcourt ..	28.20
304	Highton ..	280.44

No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.
		\$
319	Bell Brae ..	150.00
327	Chiltern ..	300.00
366	Romsey ..	300.00
386	Learmonth ..	100.00
404	Maryborough ..	554.00
415	Mt. Macedon ..	45.00
482	Beeac ..	56.50
483	Essendon ..	56.50
522	Rutherglen ..	35.00
523	Raglan ..	150.00
541	Geelong East ..	253.00
614	Taradale ..	150.00
617	Terang ..	120.00
640	Violet Town ..	96.00
649	Werribee ..	600.00
668	Cardigan ..	91.63
693	Yarram ..	16.00
699	Yea ..	60.00
722	Illabarook ..	22.40
728	Caramut ..	180.00
749	Bealiba ..	89.25
756	Crowlands ..	118.45
773	Caulfield ..	284.35
794	Wedderburn ..	301.80
798	Sutton Grange ..	13.00
846	Mordialloc ..	116.00
847	Bass ..	300.00
932	Bannockburn ..	300.00
978	Smythesdale ..	150.00
981	Kangaroo Flat ..	185.51
1003	Diamond Creek ..	600.00
1031	Pomborneit ..	47.60
1070	Bolinda ..	60.00
1090	Sorrento ..	450.00
1091	Alfredton ..	410.00
1112	Mansfield ..	110.00
1115	Middle Indigo ..	40.00
1120	Lindenow ..	45.56
1126	Murchison ..	300.00
1130	Nirranda ..	150.00
1146	Leopold ..	241.67
1147	Inverleigh ..	22.00
1165	Quarry Hill ..	164.53
1178	Noorat ..	34.50
1189	Golden Square ..	600.00
1198	Everton Upper ..	19.00
1207	Timor ..	50.00
1210	Mailor's Flat ..	197.00
1243	Gerangamite ..	150.00
1254	Maldon ..	285.00
1295	Lower Plenty ..	600.00
1307	Ferntree Gully ..	600.00
1336	Toolleen ..	150.00
1339	Buckley's Swamp ..	20.00
1352	Wahring ..	100.00
1382	Chatsworth ..	40.00
1403	Dandenong ..	76.80
1414	Grantville ..	150.00
1420	Meredith ..	93.45
1439	Pimpinio ..	19.00
1449	Acheron ..	30.00
1458	Harston ..	150.00
1493	Golden Point ..	140.00
1497	Lovely Banks ..	182.14
1498	Warrenbayne ..	150.00

No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.	No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.
		\$			\$
1510	Sebastian	13.32	2382	Hazelwood North ..	56.90
1524	Moorilim	132.50	2411	Nhill	293.38
1527	Dookie	270.00	2437	Erica	33.00
1536	Ailsa	48.44	2457	Menzies Creek ..	51.72
1546	Ravenswood South ..	44.56	2462	Collingwood ..	116.00
1566	Gravel Hill	76.00	2464	Edi	88.00
1571	Macarthur	450.00	2479	Digger's Rest ..	150.00
1578	Keilor	40.00	2498	Mitre	103.50
1587	Yulecart	37.00	2505	Longwarry	450.00
1604	Malvern	79.33	2541	Hoddle's Creek ..	150.00
1608	Mount Moriac	72.00	2563	Congupna	300.00
1613	Codrington	85.28	2607	Boolarra	300.00
1615	Nelson	150.00	2633	Langkoop	92.40
1631	Swan Reach	187.20	2634	Armadales	423.74
1658	Springvale North ..	200.00	2658	Lima South	60.47
1664	Arnold	150.00	2689	Wychitella	80.00
1680	Byrneside	48.00	2743	Brunswick South ..	127.40
1685	Wannon	140.00	2744	Orbost	600.00
1691	Fyansford	123.75	2762	Mepunga East ..	150.00
1696	Delvine	80.00	2815	Middle Park	432.00
1697	Pyramid Hill	41.84	2820	Seville	300.00
1729	Dergholme	32.00	2839	Bearii	132.00
1742	Glenrowan	60.04	2857	Laverton	280.00
1764	Devenish	40.00	2864	Budgerec	38.60
1772	Dederang	150.00	2871	Kegunyah South ..	19.20
1799	Laen	150.00	2877	Gormandale East ..	165.00
1812	Tatyoan	51.00	2888	Glengarry	300.00
1845	Batesford	129.51	2890	Brunswick West ..	52.23
1848	Drummond	114.40	2948	Auburn	600.00
1855	Puckapunyal	600.00	2953	Ensay	18.75
1862	Landsborough	92.80	2954	Jumbunna	32.00
1866	Lysterfield	58.50	2961	Pearcedale	15.00
1874	Merrigum	33.75	2966	Thorpdale	300.00
1886	Abbotsford	90.00	2979	Giffard West	36.50
1902	Warrnambool South ..	150.00	2986	Waaia	31.50
1912	Footscray	600.00	2990	Lalbert	13.65
1913	Newham	93.01	2995	Brim	228.50
1930	Noradjuha	150.00	2997	Ringwood	600.00
1931	Mincha West	145.53	3028	Fish Creek	75.00
1934	Sheep Hills	28.80	3035	Clarkefield	42.40
1938	Wunghnu	100.00	3050	Metung	40.00
1956	Cudgewa	135.00	3051	Toolondo	96.00
1960	Bungaree	150.00	3053	Newhaven	114.00
1971	Navigator	150.00	3062	Bena	98.62
1976	Camp Hill	450.00	3074	Ormond	600.00
1989	Picola	60.70	3102	Ten Mile Creek ..	40.00
1996	Boorhaman	18.84	3112	Genoa	150.00
2022	Ballarat	54.00	3153	Gelantipy	7.10
2027	Bald Hills	150.00	3161	Kew East	325.50
2050	Derrinallum	220.00	3166	Mardan South ..	60.00
2051	Castlemaine North ..	450.00	3182	Kamarooka	45.27
2114	Traralgon South ..	117.28	3195	Airey's Inlet	150.00
2140	Alberton West ..	150.00	3200	Mywee	150.00
2147	Bessiebell	150.00	3230	Cocoroc	56.00
2167	Minyip	51.00	3263	Nyah	262.00
2176	Scotsburn	45.00	3271	Myall	195.00
2181	Strathbogrie	19.87	3284	Mount Dandenong ..	300.00
2189	Ellinbank	150.00	3286	Neerim North	129.60
2203	Burrarnine South ..	62.90	3300	Humevale	48.00
2207	Myrtlebank	150.00	3309	Badger Creek	150.00
2219	Glen Waverley	60.00	3322	Point Lonsdale ..	300.00
2248	Nar Nar Goon	237.25	3366	Mystic Park	150.00
2253	Toora	90.54	3373	Woomelang Group ..	54.33
2275	Gillieston	150.00	3376	Dalyston	150.00
2327	Moorooduc	45.00	3383	Weerite	104.00

No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.	No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.
		\$			\$
3401	Nyora	236.00	4674	Gowerville	400.00
3423	Exford	150.00	4691	Bandiana	300.00
3426	Ultima	300.00	4692	Morwell	600.00
3559	Sydenham	170.61	4694	Greythorn	600.00
3599	Alphington	31.60	4695	Warragul North	40.00
3615	Ouyen	200.00	4703	Tottenham North	59.34
3626	Nambrok	213.75	4707	Tottenham	266.66
3628	Mincha	144.00	4710	Brooklyn	33.00
3630	Balliang	60.00	4713	Olympic Village	38.40
3663	Katamatite East	92.12	4714	Syndal	133.34
3665	Stony Creek	93.50	4718	Ferntree Gully North	237.24
3670	Boolarra South	83.20	4724	Boroondara	600.00
3675	Noble Park	43.20	4732	Broadmeadows East	600.00
3688	Glenmore	100.00	4735	Oberon	120.00
3702	Irymple South	150.00	4740	Moe	183.00
3708	Nanneela Estate	55.50	4745	Sunshine North	95.33
3712	Stockdale	16.28	4746	Banyule	600.00
3745	Mead	150.00	4754	Cheltenham East	600.00
3747	Walpeup	45.00	4763	Cheltenham North	58.66
3790	Edithvale	393.33	4776	Newcomb	481.86
3798	Linga	25.00	4787	North Park	100.00
3894	Kawarren	150.00	4809	Glenroy West	89.20
3897	Gardenvale	600.00	4811	St. Albans North	140.00
3931	Eildon	123.00	4838	Watsonia	568.40
3939	Hurstbridge	154.00	4840	Clayton West	181.07
3945	Woorinen	60.00	4844	Antonio Park	20.00
3956	Don Valley	20.00	4851	Westall	430.31
3967	Yallourn North	600.00	4852	Tullamarine	428.00
3973	Patchewollock Group	45.00	4871	Mitcham Special	435.36
4000	Mittyack	150.00	4872	Frankston Forest	600.00
4015	Essendon North	600.00	4873	Bellaire	600.00
4060	Wattle Glen	150.00	4874	Coolaroo South	125.33
4064	Colac West	450.00	4875	Knoxfield	600.00
4080	Mitta Junction	107.00	4876	Pinewood	600.00
4085	Yallourn	153.00	4886	Broadmeadows	600.00
4089	Boundary Road	150.00	4888	Moomba Park	491.67
4099	Irrewarra	150.00	4899	Mullum	150.00
4158	Westbreen	36.00	4904	Doncaster Heights	450.00
4160	Footscray North	311.00	4907	Warrnambool West	600.00
4166	Brewster	138.40	4916	Heatherdale	600.00
4177	Westgarth	227.30	4917	Mirrabooka	233.88
4183	Auburn South	600.00	4919	Ruskin Park	600.00
4188	Banyena South	11.80	4920	Burbank	578.01
4217	Dandenong West	600.00	4931	Fyans Park	450.00
4246	Macleod	600.00	4932	Studfield	90.00
4251	Forest Hill	600.00	4946	Altona North	232.00
4260	Coburg East	40.00	4952	Burwood Heights	600.00
4271	Caldermeade	72.00	4954	Syndal North	399.00
4278	Pira	303.75	4955	Mentone Park	66.00
4304	Brunswick South West	600.00	4957	Seymour East	67.20
4314	Chatham	76.94		<i>High Schools—</i>	
4316	Preston East	496.91	..	Alexandra	466.67
4324	Prospect Estate	68.00	..	Altona North	600.00
4362	Konongwootong North	20.00	..	Casterton	600.00
4415	Melville Forest	21.48	..	Essendon	50.00
4429	Sandringham East	179.33	..	Malvern Girls'	113.32
4543	Coburg North	14.00	..	Merrilands	600.00
4588	Katylil	27.30	..	Mirboo North	600.00
4614	Tawonga South	300.00	..	Mount Beauty	600.00
4641	Solway	192.54	..	Red Cliffs	600.00
4645	Sunshine East	600.00	..	Rochester	600.00
4652	Traralgon	68.00	..	Stawell	66.67
4662	Moe	35.64	..	Sunshine	600.00
4666	Shepparton South	600.00	..	Timboon	113.33
4670	Newborough East	422.00	..	Warragul	400.00
			..	Wodonga	54.00

No.	School Name.	Subsidy Not Approved.
		\$
<i>Consolidated Schools—</i>		
..	Cobram	600.00
..	Lockington	600.00
..	Poowong	216.00
<i>Technical Schools—</i>		
..	Aspendale	408.00
..	Ballarat	600.00
..	Castlemaine	158.00
..	Heidelberg	600.00
..	Jordanville	600.00

(b) There was an approximate increase of 60 per cent. in the number of applications received in the first week of July as compared with last year. The aggregate sum requested exceeded the amount of subsidy funds available. The latter was not less than last year.

PRIMARY TEACHERS' COLLEGES:
GRADUATE STUDENTS: UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION COURSES: COURSES AT
INTERSTATE UNIVERSITIES.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister of Education—

(a) How many graduate students from primary teachers' colleges have been awarded extensions to a university in each of the past three years?

(b) How many of these students have subsequently been rejected by the quota system operating at Victorian universities in each of these years?

(c) Will the Education Department allow such rejected students to undertake courses in interstate universities such as New England, Hobart or Canberra, which are seeking students for enrolment in their courses?

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answers are—

(a) For 1966	51
For 1967	106
For 1968	79

(b) No information is available as all students do not accept the awards offered them. Some students decline for various reasons not made known to this Department.

(c) Permission was recently given for a student to attend New England University if he is unable to gain entry into a Victorian university next year. Further applications of this type will be considered on their merits.

VICTORIAN PIPELINES COMMISSION.

NATURAL GAS: CHARGES FOR TRANSPORTATION.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

What will be the charges by the Victorian Pipelines Commission for the transportation of natural gas from Dutson to the city gate at Dandenong and on what basis are they to be calculated?

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answer is—

The Victorian Pipelines Commission has not yet completed its studies into charges for the transmission of natural gas from Dutson to Dandenong. The Commission currently envisages that its charges will be calculated on a "cost of service" basis for the initial years of operation.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

APPLICATIONS FOR ACCOMMODATION:
DARBY AND JOAN FLATS: ERECTION
OF FLATS ON MUNICIPAL LAND.

The Hon. G. J. O'CONNELL (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) How many applications are outstanding with the Housing Commission for—(i) single units; (ii) Darby and Joan flats; and (iii) other types of accommodation?

(b) How many lone person and Darby and Joan flats have been erected on land granted by municipal councils to the Housing Commission in the past two financial years and where were these units erected?

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answers are—

(a) The following applications are still outstanding:—

	Metro-politan.	Country.	Total.
Single units (lone person) ..	2,272	541	2,813
Darby and Joan units ..	327	155	482
Other ..	8,512	3,632	12,144
			15,439

(b) Four hundred and seventy-nine lone person and 42 Darby and Joan flats have been erected in the past two financial years on land donated by municipal councils to the Housing Commission. Units were erected in the following municipalities.

Metropolitan.								
Northcote (Agg-street)	..	..	..	Lone person	41	Darby and Joan	Nil	
Prahran (Union-street)	..	..	..	" "	212	" "	Nil	
South Melbourne (Victoria-avenue)	..	..	..	" "	132	" "	12	
Country.								
Ballarat	..	..	..	Lone person	25	Darby and Joan	3	
Colac	..	..	..	" "	10	" "	Nil	
Horsham	..	..	..	" "	7	" "	Nil	
Mornington	..	..	..	" "	..	" "	16	
Morwell	..	..	..	" "	42	" "	9	
Penshurst	..	..	..	" "	4	" "	Nil	
Warracknabeal	..	..	..	" "	6	" "	2	
Totals	..	..	..	..	479		42	

ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY COURSE: SUBJECTS: SALARIES OF TECHNOLOGISTS: FINANCE FOR 1969.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister of Education—

(a) What subjects have not been offered this year at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in the medical laboratory technology course?

(b) How many technologists have had their chance of salary increase and promotion deferred by this breakdown, and what effect will this failure have on students wanting to complete their diplomas in 1968 and 1969?

(c) What are the estimated amounts for part-time or full-time salaries and other costs which are required before these subjects can be offered again?

(d) Following the Minister's approach to the Federal Minister for Education and to the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education, what agreement or solution has been reached to finance these subjects for 1969?

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—As the answers contain a great deal of detail, I suggest that, by leave of the House, they be incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

- (a) Subjects not offered this year:
Haematology II.
Histopathology II.
Clinical Biochemistry II.
Clinical Microbiology II.

(b) Probably no technologists have had their chances of promotion and salary increase deferred, since no one was prevented from completing their course in 1968. It is likely that a few students would have taken one or other of these four subjects, if they had been available, since many students' courses tend to get a little out of step and they attempt some final year subjects while still not having passed some earlier ones. It is conceivable that any students in this position might have been offered a salary increase on having passed one of the four final year subjects. If the four final year subjects should be unavailable in 1969, some 40 to 50 students would be prevented from completing their courses, with resulting deferment of promotion.

(c) Only one of the four final year subjects, viz., Clinical biochemistry II., had ever been offered previously. The costs of the individual grades are not defined in the estimated costs as they have been supplied to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology by the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Melbourne university. The estimates that have been supplied are as follows:—

Subjects to be conducted at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, 1969—

	\$
Haematology I. and II.	.. 10,100
Clinical biochemistry II.	.. 7,000
	<u>17,100</u>

Subjects to be conducted at Melbourne university, 1969—

	\$
Histopathology I. and II.	.. 17,500
Clinical microbiology I. and II.	.. 28,000
	<u>45,500</u>

These estimates of costs have been related to the Victoria Institute of Colleges.

(d) Discussions between interested parties are at present taking place.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

**ROLLING-STOCK REPLACEMENT PARTS:
MANUFACTURE AT NEWPORT WORK-
SHOPS: PURCHASES BY CONTRACT:
EMPLOYEES AT NEWPORT WORK-
SHOPS.**

For the **Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH** (Doutta Galla Province), the **Hon. Archibald Todd** asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) What rolling-stock replacement parts previously made and fitted at the Newport railway workshops such as brake blocks, springs, axles, wheels, etc., are now being made and fitted at Newport?

(b) What parts are purchased by contract from outside manufacturers?

(c) Are any of these tenders let to interstate and/or international contractors; if so—(i) who are the contractors; and (ii) what and where are the parts manufactured?

(d) What is to be the future role of the Newport railway workshops in the supply and fitting of replacement parts for railway rolling-stock?

(e) What was the total number of men employed in the years 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965 and at present respectively?

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—As the answers contain detailed information, I suggest that, by leave of the House, they be incorporated in *Hansard* without being read.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

(a) Cast-iron brake blocks, springs for maintenance purposes and some axles. Wheels were never made there.

(b) Non-metallic type brake blocks, helical side bearing springs, axles, wheels, wheel centres and tyres and a number of minor miscellaneous items.

(c) Yes.

(i) and (ii)—

Non-metallic brake blocks—Hardie Ferodo Proprietary Limited, New South Wales; McPherson's Limited, Victoria.

Helical springs—Henderson's Federal Spring Works, Victoria; Industrial Engineers and Spring Works, South Australia; Pioneer Industries, New South Wales.

Axles—Commonwealth Steel Co., New South Wales; Sumitomo Shoji, Japan.

Wheels, wheel centres, tyres—Commonwealth Steel Company, New South Wales; Bradford Kendall Limited, Queensland; Thompsons (Castlemaine) Limited, Victoria.

(d) Newport workshops will continue to repair and manufacture rolling-stock; also to manufacture parts as availability of plant and productivity can economically justify.

(e) The total number of men employed at the Newport workshops in the years 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965 and at present were and are 2,596, 2,835, 2,622, 2,354 and 2,321, respectively.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS BOARD.

ROSTERS: REDUCTION OF SERVICES.

The Hon. ARCHIBALD TODD (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

In view of the answer given to question No. 24 asked in this House on the 11th instant, is it a fact that rosters reducing services were recently prepared by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and posted in depots; if so, what was the reason for their removal on the eve of their coming into effect?

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answer is—

Yes, rosters were prepared and posted, but following representations from the Australian Tramway and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association they were withdrawn for further examination.

PESTICIDES (PROCLAMATIONS) BILL.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Pesticides Act 1958 with respect to the revoking amending or varying of proclamations and for purposes connected therewith.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.**POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I understand that Mr. Galbally wants to make a second-reading speech on a Bill standing in his name on the Notice Paper, and that this is the only private member's Bill with which it is desired

to proceed at this stage. Therefore, to meet the convenience of Mr. Galbally, I move—

That the consideration of the Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the motion for the Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and the Orders of the Day, Government Business, be postponed until later this day.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—My purpose in wanting to make a second-reading explanatory speech on one of the Bills standing in my name to-day is to obviate the necessity for the House to meet to-morrow. I would have adopted a similar procedure with the Eavesdropping Devices Bill last week, but the Bill had not been returned from the Government Printer on Tuesday.

The motion was agreed to.

VALUATION OF LAND (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Valuation of Land Act 1960, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (QUALIFICATION OF ELECTORS) BILL.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The aim of this simple Bill is to reduce from 21 years to 18 years the age at which citizens of Victoria are eligible to vote at State elections. There is nothing magical about the age of 21 years. It became the age of majority solely because of an historical accident, one related to the weight of armour a knight carried in the eleventh century. In the age of chivalry, the profession of arms required an ability and strength not generally attained before the age of 21 years. A youth could not manage the crushing load of armour, and the minimum age for a knight determined the age at which a man could manage his own affairs. It is ludicrous

that the weight of armour in the eleventh century should decide, in the present day, the age of eligibility to vote, to make contracts or wills, or to enter into mortgage arrangements.

This explanation should help to persuade honorable members to adopt a confident approach to the question of changing the voting age. I know that, according to the traditions of the Legislative Council, I am wrong in presenting this measure. Not for one moment do I expect that any of the hallowed ghosts from the past who may be haunting this Chamber to-night will applaud this measure. On the contrary, many of them would incline to raising the age to 50 rather than to lowering it. Politically, this is the age of the "shrunk shank". All over the world, ancient men rule the destinies of their peoples. DeGaulle is 76 years old; Salazar is 78; Franco is 80-odd. I will not come closer home.

Honorable members laugh, but some of the laughter has a hollow ring. Many an honorable member sitting in this Chamber can be expected to shudder and go pale. I can hear it being said, "Allow people to vote on attaining the age of eighteen years! Damm it all, we eventually surrendered on the right of women to vote, and in 1950, there was abject surrender on manhood suffrage. There is almost nothing left to us in this Chamber except the solid principle that one farmer is worth two people in the city—one pure merino is worth two city slickers."

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—Are you sure you meant "slickers", and not "suckers"?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—I am obliged to Mr. Nicol. These people say, "Good heavens, reduce the age to eighteen? No, we know what is good for the country. We would be handing the place over to golden-spooned irresponsible youths with expensive tastes, prone to driving big, flash sports cars with open exhausts, and with a taste for champagne and ladies who are fair and fragile. They

are inarticulate when it comes to passing examinations but vocal when disrupting meetings of the Prime Minister."

This is the background of the situation, and my task is formidable. I remind the House of these words—

The organs of age must submit to be taught by youth.

That statement was made by none other than Edmund Burke. What is the true picture of the rising generation? Are they responsible? If they are, to keep responsibility from them when they are ready and able to take it is much more likely to make them anti-social and irresponsible than to help them. To-day, there is a trend towards earlier physical maturity. We all know that in this country we are breeding a race of giants.

The true picture of the young to-day is very different from that which emerges from an hysterical concentration on a delinquent minority. Has the majority no rights? The young themselves resent their lack of rights, and well they might. I do not consider that a youngster who falls foul of the law is any more typical of young people to-day than Dr. Crippen was of the medical profession in the last century. Temptations of various kinds—they exist everywhere throughout the length and breadth of this country—face young people to-day. Considering what they have to put up with, including living in the world of the atomic bomb, their level-headedness is outstanding. Like Clive of India, they may well be astounded at their own moderation.

Crabbed age and youth never did get on but, in this city to-day, the oldest and crustiest members of Essendon, Carlton, and Geelong football clubs, in their efforts to win a premiership flag, within the next couple of Saturdays, are turning to the boys. The centreman of to-day, the man who plays in the most important position on the football field, is eighteen years of age. But when they are asked to give eighteen-year-olds the vote these same men say, "Oh, no." Many of these youths,

brave and skilful as they are, have full-time jobs. Many of them are at university, undertaking difficult courses. That is the true picture of youth to-day, not the nonsense we read about.

The same is true of university students. Last night, the La Trobe University Council, of which, with Mr. Clarke, I am a member, met the Australian University Council. Its members told me how proud they are, by and large, of the university students they meet as they travel throughout Australia.

Why condemn youth for its delinquent members? That is what honorable members will do if they reject this measure. Are the youth of to-day responsible? The answer is, "Yes". At the age of eighteen, are they capable of managing their own affairs? Again the answer is "Yes". Numbers of young men and women are married at the age of eighteen. The young people of to-day have more money than those of other years; their attitude is different; they travel more; they are better educated. Old men are never tired of relating how youth are not what they were. But they never were! Young people of to-day are literate, educated and independent. At school and at university they are taught to think and to inquire for themselves. Their experience of the world is wide. The whole thing comes down to this: It is not a matter of whether it is a good thing or a bad thing that young people are as they are, but of what we are going to do about it. I do not need to assure any member of this House that I am against all forms of violence, whether by the mob or by an individual; I have always abhorred crimes of violence.

What are we to do? Shall we cling to the grotesque results of an accident of history and continue to say that 21 years is the age at which a man reaches his majority? This whole matter was the subject of a close examination by a distinguished English commission whose members

came down very solidly in favour of lowering to eighteen years the age, not only at which people could vote, but at which a citizen was *sui juris*. Of course, this Bill deals with only one aspect of the problem. In the eyes of the law, a person under the age of 21 years is an infant yet, as I have indicated, some of these infants own their homes and cars, are married and have children. If this measure meets with a favourable reception I hope to introduce other Bills to lower the age at which people can act in certain ways. It would be wrong to include in this Bill, which deals with the voting age, amendments incorporating other reforms. The task of anyone who has to ascertain what is the law becomes impossible if one measure includes amendments of the law set down in various Acts. It may be asked why the age of eighteen is suggested, not nineteen or twenty. I have already stated that this matter received close attention from an English commission. The reason is that the age of eighteen represents a watershed in life far more than the age of 21. It more closely approximates the psychological and physical realities of adulthood than does the age of 21. Generally speaking, the present law was designed to protect the children and property of the well-to-do. A father who left a fortune might not want some youngster to get his hands on it too soon.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER.—Some people do not get their inheritance until they are 25 years of age.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—That is so, but the law stepped in, and, provided that, irrespective of the feelings of the parents, a person under 21 years of age could not make a will or sign a contract. To-day, if two young people marry and acquire real estate, they cannot sign a mortgage because they are not *sui juris*, despite the fact that education standards have been raised, that persons mature at an earlier age and that they have a higher wage-earning capacity than hitherto.

If the Council passes this measure it will be the first legislature in Australia to do so, and in that moment we will wash out all the sins of the past. The great youth take-over is an illusion. Youth is not taking over the world; the world is plagued with sick and ageing autocrats who have the impudence to believe themselves to be indispensable. The "time bomb" is ticking away. Let us do away with the age of the political "shrunk shank" and the "lean and slipper'd pantaloons".

On the motion of the Hon. A. J. HUNT (South-Eastern Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, September 25.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS (PETROL SERVICE STATIONS) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 10) on the motion of the Hon. R. J. Hamer (Minister for Local Government) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province).—The Labor Party does not oppose this measure although it is critical of certain aspects. If the Inflammable Liquids Act had been vetted properly before it was passed, the amendments contained in this Bill would not be necessary because it would have been obvious that certain provisions should not be applied to petrol service stations.

As one who resides in an area which contains bulk petrol and oil installations, I appreciate the importance of such installations being brought under the Inflammable Liquids Act. I am appalled at the fact that there is a difference between the standards of construction of tanks that hold petrol in bundage areas under the Inflammable Liquids Act and underground tanks situated in a factory or on a farm which come under the Petrol Pumps Act. Safety should always be the paramount consideration in relation to the storage

of volatile liquids such as petrol, kerosene and diesel oils. All honorable members are aware, from either their experience or their reading, of the dangers inherent in the storage of such materials. The Government should carefully consider the fact that the Petrol Pumps Act provides a lower standard in respect of the construction of underground tanks and other tanks. It should also consider the question of the storage of heating oil in tanks which are affixed to houses throughout Australia. The safety standard should never be lowered and should be the highest possible.

Under the existing legislation, it is possible that in one street some service stations, which have a bulk storage of 10,000 gallons or more and are subject to the regulations made under the Inflammable Liquids Act, have to pay an annual fee of \$20 whilst others, which may have only 9,500 gallons, are not subject to this fee and are subject to regulations made under the Petrol Pumps Act. This anomaly should be rectified.

Persons who reside in an area where there are petrol depots and refineries tend to be more conscious than the average person of the dangers of cigarette smoking in the vicinity of petrol-filling stations. You, Mr. President, will recall from your service days, that stringent penalties were laid down for infringement of regulations relating to the fueling of aircraft and motor vehicles. I contend that the Petrol Pumps Act should provide penalties for infringement of certain safety regulations. Overseas, explosions have occurred on occasions at petrol filling stations.

I wish to quote from the Petrol Pumps Regulations 1965, Statutory Rules 1965, No. 88, clause 26 of which is headed "Precautions to be taken against fire and explosion" and states—

It should be the duty of every person supplying motor spirit from petrol pumps

The Hon. A. W. Knight.

to see that every precaution is taken against fire or explosion, in particular—

(1) No supply of motor spirit should be made to a vehicle whilst the engine of such vehicle is running.

On many occasions I have seen vehicles, with the engines running, being filled with petrol. This regulation should be strictly enforced because of the inherent danger of explosion.

(2) The person supplying motor spirit shall see that the vehicle driver has switched off the engine before the fuel tank is opened.

I do not think service station attendants very often ask a driver to switch off the engine.

(3) The person supplying motor spirit shall not smoke whilst making a delivery of motor spirit, and he shall caution any person who is in close proximity to the fuel tank of a vehicle against smoking or throwing lighted matches or cigarettes, etc., where they may come in contact with petrol vapours during fillings operations.

That regulation does not state that the driver of the vehicle shall not smoke. I point out that, although the petrol tanks of several makes of motor car are at the front of the vehicle, the petrol tank is usually situated at the rear. In large American cars, particularly, the petrol tank is situated at the rear, quite a long way from the driver. Would the driver be classed as being "in close proximity" to the fuel tank? I believe the regulations should be clarified and policed, as are the regulations made under the Inflammable Liquids Act. Stringent conditions are applied in relation to employees working at installations which contain inflammable liquids; these employees are required to leave their cigarettes and matches at the gate as they go in and to collect them on their way out.

Precautions should be taken before accidents occur, and Victoria should take the lead in this regard. Although I do not wish to make extra work for municipalities, it might be a good idea if one condition of registration of a petrol pump within a municipality was the erection at service stations of a standard sign stating

"No smoking whilst filling operations are being carried out". Employees of a service station who were engaged on repair or other work could still be permitted to smoke.

As I said at the outset, Opposition members have no objection to the passage of this Bill, although we are critical of the fact that the anomaly which the measure will correct was not discovered before the Inflammable Liquids Act was passed.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE (Northern Province).—This amendment is a technical matter which I think the Minister explained quite well, and Mr. Knight has made an excellent contribution to the debate. The Country Party has no objection to the passage of the Bill. However, I wish to make one or two comments relating to petrol service stations. On the whole, they have provided a great service to the motorist, but there are still a great number of kerb-side pumps in existence. I should like to be informed what plans the Government has in regard to their eventual abolition.

Mr. Knight drew attention to a number of dangers in regard to petrol and other inflammable liquids. Large semi-trailers and transports frequently get out of control and run off the road. They pass close to the old type kerb-side pumps, and I hate to imagine what would happen if a large truck smashed into a row of kerb-side pumps and flames erupted from the collision. The Government should consider that matter.

The practice of certain service station proprietors who leave their "Open" signs permanently displayed causes a great deal of annoyance to motorists. I have had the experience of calling at four or five service stations which had the "Open" sign displayed late in the evening, although they were closed. Sometimes one has to turn across the road to find that out. This matter could be policed more effectively. Members of the Country Party commend the Bill and wish it a speedy passage.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2, relating to interpretation.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—I have taken note of several points which were made by Mr. Knight, who is well informed on this subject not only because he represents the Williamstown area but also from his training and experience. I appreciate his comments, and I shall be prepared to examine the policing of the regulations, especially to ascertain what variations there may be in the requirements for the construction of underground tanks and how these tanks differ from bulk tanks above the ground.

Concerning the policing of the regulations, I shall give particular attention to the question of smoking on the tarmac. This matter is covered by the regulations, which may not necessarily be observed at all times. As a former municipal councillor, Mr. Knight will recollect that the registration of petrol-filling stations is one of the responsibilities with which local councils are charged. They have considerable powers of supervision in this regard. I believe that greater enforcement of the safeguards could reduce the risk of explosions at petrol-filling stations.

The matter of kerb-side pumps, to which Mr. Clarke referred, also comes within the jurisdiction of municipal councils. Under section 7 of the Petrol Pumps Act, a council may make by-laws regarding the fixing or maintaining of petrol pumps in or on footways and such like. In exercising this power, councils frequently require the removal of kerb-side pumps to some other location farther from the road. This objective is gradually being achieved. I do not know the position in the province represented by Mr. Clarke, but certainly, when petrol-filling stations are rebuilt, it is necessary for petrol pumps to be moved from the street alignment, which is desirable. With

a view to ensuring that work of this type is done with more speed than at present, I am prepared to circularize councils and direct their attention to this desirable objective.

The clause was agreed to, as were the remaining clauses.

The Bill was reported to the House without amendment, and passed through its remaining stages.

MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS (EGG AND EGG PULP MARKETING BOARD) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 10) on the motion of the Hon. G. L. Chandler (Minister of Agriculture) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—This small Bill merely substitutes the word “five” for the word “three” in paragraph (b) of sub-section (4) of section 38 of the principal Act. For the reasons that were advanced by the Minister of Agriculture, I see no reason why the House should delay the passage of the Bill.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province).—The purpose of this brief Bill is to amend section 38 of the Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958. This section, which sets out the procedure under which the producers’ representatives are elected to the Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing Board, provides that the maximum time that must elapse between the eligibility date which is printed in the *Government Gazette* and the holding of the election is three months. Apparently, this does not allow the Board adequate time in which to prepare for the election. For this reason, it is simply proposed to extend the period from three to five months. The Country Party sees no reason why it should not support the proposal.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—

That the consideration of Order of the Day, Government Business, No. 4, be postponed.

I understand that Mr. Todd is not ready to proceed with the second-reading debate on the Margarine (Amendment) Bill. If that is so, I am prepared to agree to the postponement of the consideration of this measure until next week. However, I feel that a fortnight from the date of my second-reading explanatory speech should be sufficient time to enable Mr. Todd to examine this measure.

The Hon. ARCHIBALD TODD (Melbourne West Province).—After the Minister of Agriculture had explained the purpose of the Margarine (Amendment) Bill to the House, I moved the adjournment of the debate and, in doing so, I sought an assurance from the honorable gentleman that if members of our party were not then ready to proceed with the debate, a further period would be granted. My party wishes to ascertain whether the proposed legislation is just or unjust. It is possible that, in seeking to provide justice for one section of the community, some other section could suffer an injustice. I wish not only to ascertain the views of the people who are concerned with this measure, but also to check the information and statistics supplied by the Minister of Agriculture. It is not always easy to do this. I do not wish to wrangle with the honorable gentleman concerning the date of the resumption of the debate on this measure but I shall do my best to be ready to proceed in seven days’ time.

The motion was agreed to.

**PESTICIDES (PROCLAMATIONS)
BILL.**

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Under sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Pesticides Act 1958, the Governor in Council is empowered to make proclamations with regard to certain matters. Proclamations made under section 3 relate to the declaration of substances such as fungicides, insecticides, vermin destroyers and weed destroyers for the purposes of the Act.

Under section 4, proclamation may be made prescribing standards for pesticides fixing the constituents that may or shall be contained therein, and quantities or proportions of these constituents and their chemical or physical conditions. This section also makes provision for the Governor in Council by proclamation to abolish or alter any standard prescribed, or to prescribe another standard in lieu. Section 6 enables proclamations to be made with regard to notification and labelling requirements in respect of specified constituents of pesticides.

Over the years, many proclamations have been made under the Act and the majority of these are still extant. Of the operative proclamations, many have been in force for a considerable time, the oldest since 1917 and the most recent since 1959; consequently, they are in need of revision and up-dating. Furthermore, as these proclamations all contain declarations and specifications with regard to pesticides, it is difficult for dealers and other interested parties to ascertain the overall requirements under the Act. For these reasons, it is desired to revise and up-date the contents of the existing proclamations and consolidate them into a single document which will include references to all of the matters which the Governor in Council has determined by proclamation pursuant to the powers conferred in the Act.

However, apart from sub-section (3) of section 4, which provides for the abolition, alteration or substitution of prescribed standards, the Pesticides Act contains no power for the revocation, amendment or variation of any proclamation made under the Act, and the purpose of the Bill is to remedy this defect.

Clause 2 inserts a new section 6A in the Act which requires that all proclamations shall be published in the *Government Gazette*, and provides that any proclamation may be revoked, amended or varied by a further proclamation of the Governor in Council. The provisions of the proposed new section are along the same lines as those which were inserted last year in the Milk and Dairy Supervision Act to meet a similar problem.

As the powers conferred by the new section will enable proclamations to be revoked, amended or varied, the existing provision made in sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Act for abolition, alteration or substitution of prescribed standards, will be no longer required. Clause 3 provides for the repeal of that sub-section.

I am sure that all honorable members will agree that it is desirable that all proclamations concerned with pesticides, insecticides and other similar substances should be brought up to date and consolidated in a single form. This will provide quick reference to all those persons interested in the subject and will be of interest to everyone engaged in the industry. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. ARCHIBALD TODD (Melbourne West Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 24.

ADJOURNMENT.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT : TRANSPORT OF STUDENTS FROM KERANG RAILWAY STATION TO HIGH SCHOOL.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

The motion was agreed to.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE (Northern Province).—I direct the attention of the Minister of Education to an urgent transport problem which has arisen at Kerang. For some time pupils have been transported by train from Koondrook to Kerang to attend the high school there and have been transported by bus from the railway station to the school, a distance of approximately one mile and a half. Other students from the Koondrook area are transported direct to the high school by bus. I have been informed that the Education Department has ordered that the bus is not to pick up the 44 pupils involved and carry them from the railway station to the high school in the morning and back to the station in the afternoon. This is to be effective from 18th September, which is to-morrow. Some of the pupils who travel from Kerang to Koondrook leave home at 6.30 a.m. and arrive back at their homes at a very late hour in the evening, and I consider it quite unreasonable that they should be required to walk the one mile and a half from the station to the high school.

It is difficult to understand the reason for this order and why it should be introduced in such an arbitrary fashion and at such short notice. I ask the Minister of Education to ensure that this service is continued until an investigation can be made. I should like the Minister to look at the over-all situation in relation to pupils who travel to railway stations in country towns and must then walk some distance to the high school. I do not consider that

they fall within the group of pupils who live within a radius of 3 miles of a school and who must therefore arrange their own transport.

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The honorable member has raised this question with the Education Department and investigations have already commenced.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.21 p.m. until Tuesday, September 24.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, September 17, 1968.

The **SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie)** took the chair at 4.1 p.m., and read the prayer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON BREATHALYZER TESTS AND CONVICTIONS.

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I wish to make a personal explanation. On the 1st May of this year I answered a question on breathalyzer tests and convictions which appears on page 4638 of *Hansard* No. 25. Unfortunately, the information I gave to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was incorrect, and I apologize to you, Sir, and to the honorable member.

To correct the matter I should now like to supply the House with the proper figures. They are—

1. From 1st January to 30th April, 1968, 1,376 motorists underwent breath tests conducted by members of the Breath Analysis Section and the results were as follows:—

Three persons were charged with driving a motor car whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Three hundred and twenty-four persons were charged with driving a motor car whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor and also with driving a motor car whilst the percentage of alcohol in their blood, expressed in grams per 100 millilitres of blood, was in excess of .05 per cent.

Nine hundred and fifty persons were charged with driving a motor car whilst the percentage of alcohol in their blood expressed in grams per 100 millilitres of blood, was in excess of .05 per cent.

Ninety-nine persons were not charged with driving offences involving liquor as the percentage of alcohol in their blood, expressed in grams per 100 millilitres of blood, did not exceed .05 per cent.

The Chief Commissioner of Police has advised me, so far as the number of persons convicted is concerned, that a large percentage of the charges have not yet been determined by the courts and of those cases dealt with it would be virtually impossible to ascertain this figure as statistics of this nature are not kept. To obtain the information in respect of the number of convictions would necessitate a physical search of approximately 70,000 briefs of evidence.

With regard to the number of breath tests conducted by members other than those attached to the Breath Analysis Section, the figure of 696 supplied in answer to the questions was obtained from the instrument log cards kept in respect of each instrument by the Forensic Science Laboratory for the purpose of checking on the use of breathalyzers located outside the metropolitan area.

These records disclose only the number of breath tests carried out and, so far as determining the number of convictions recorded as a result of these tests is concerned, the Chief Commissioner has advised me that it would again be virtually impossible to obtain the information for the reasons previously mentioned.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS.

For **Mr. COCHRANE** (Gippsland West), **Mr. Whiting** asked the Treasurer—

Whether the Government has made any grants to historical societies; if so—(a) what towns have participated in these grants and how much was made available in each case; and (b) whether the grants were for—(i) capital expenditure; or (ii) fittings and/or maintenance?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

(a) and (b). The Government has approved grants towards the cost of historical museums and similar projects in the following towns :—

	\$
Beechworth	6,000
Echuca	11,334
Jeparit	4,000
Kilmore	2,066

	\$
Kyneton	13,334
Moe	20,000
Nathalia	1,200
Numurkah	2,666
Swan Hill	150,000
Warragul	6,000

Grants are for capital purposes and are paid to the municipal council of the area concerned on condition that the council takes an active interest in the planning, construction and availability of the project in the general community interest. The Government accepts no responsibility for operating and maintenance costs in respect of assisted projects.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

TURNOVER TAX.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Treasurer—

How much has been received by the Treasury from the State Electricity Commission each year since the 3 per cent. tax on turnover was imposed?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

1966-67	\$4,800,000
1967-68	\$5,340,000

STAMP DUTY.

EXPLANATORY BOOKLET.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Treasurer—

Whether it is the intention of the Government to publish a booklet on stamp tax, outlining the obligations and effects on taxpayers, clubs, organizations, &c.?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

Yes. A booklet has been prepared and is now being printed. It is expected to be ready for widespread distribution in the next few weeks.

SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH.

TRANSFER OF OFFICER FROM PENTRIDGE GAOL TO FRENCH ISLAND.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Under what circumstances an employee of the Social Welfare Department may be arbitrarily transferred from one institution to another?

2. Why an officer, found not guilty of the charges of negligence laid against him with respect to an escape at Pentridge, was ordered to work at French Island?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. Under any circumstances where the requirements of the Department justify such a transfer.

2. Because the Director-General considers French Island a suitable station to which the officer should be posted.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether, prior to the escape incident at Pentridge involving Mr. R. G. Bennetts, a notice was displayed at the gaol for the purpose of advertising two vacancies for single men only at French Island?

2. Why the Social Welfare Department directed the transfer of Mr. Bennetts to French Island, without taking into consideration the fact that he was a married man with a wife who is in ill health and under constant medical supervision?

3. Whether, in view of his domestic situation, the Department will reconsider its decision?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

As I have already said in an earlier reply, the Director-General considered all aspects of the matter before transferring Mr. Bennetts.

If the honorable member is in possession of any additional information, I suggest he make it available to the Director-General either directly or through me.

VACANCIES FOR QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

How many vacancies for qualified social workers remained unfilled, as at 1st September, 1968, in the Social Welfare Department?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is, "Twelve".

ABORIGINAL PERSONS IN DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

How many Aboriginal persons are currently under the supervision of Social Welfare Department institutions?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

The Social Welfare Branch does not maintain a separate register of wards who are Aboriginal or part-Aboriginal. As there are approximately 2,500 children in institutions the information is not readily available. In fact, there is no racial discrimination in the Social Welfare Branch. They are all children who have to be cared for.

YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION.

DEATH OF CHILD AT HILLSIDE BOYS' HOME.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What were the circumstances of the hanging of a child at Hillside Boys' Home?

2. What staff were on duty at the time?

3. Whether the degree of supervision is considered adequate?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. A boy was found apparently dead at Hillside Boys' Home on 7th September, 1968. Until the Coroner's inquest is completed it is not possible to say how he met his death.

2. Three.

3. Yes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS: RECRUITING CAMPAIGN.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether he agrees with the statement of the secretary of the Police Association that Victoria needs a Force of 6,000 police?

2. Whether he expects that a Force of 6,000 could be achieved in Victoria?

3. What action the Government has taken to step up police recruiting, and what additional action it proposes to take?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers to these questions are lengthy, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* with my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1 and 2. The Government would like to see the strength of the Police Force increased, and continuous provision is being made for this, but, at the same time, we agree that existing standards should be maintained.

3. Overseas applicants who are British subjects are examined immediately and local candidates inquiring at the recruiting office are also given the option of being examined immediately.

Recruiting teams periodically visit provincial cities in an endeavour to attract candidates. Appropriate advertisements are inserted in provincial newspapers setting out the qualifications required by candidates and particulars of the locations and times when the recruiting team will be in the area.

Police lecturers also participate in "careers nights" organized by Apex and Lions clubs where lectures are delivered to students in their final year on the advantages and rewards of a police career.

Suitable advertisements are also placed in the *Careers* magazine and the *Australian Student* newspaper. Recruiting brochures are also distributed to students in their final year. Recruiting brochures are placed in all Commonwealth Employment Offices throughout the metropolitan area and are also made available to all young men awaiting discharge from the army after fulfilling their National Service obligations.

A specially fitted train allowing manufacturers and other organizations to display their products and merchandise to the public toured the principal centres of Victoria during the months of April to August inclusive. This train also visited Mount Gambier in South Australia and Albury and Deniliquin in New South Wales. The Victoria Police Department had an exhibit on this train, attended by a member of the Force, with a view to attracting recruits.

As many recruits graduate through the Police Cadet Corps, advertisements seeking candidates for the Corps will be placed in Melbourne daily newspapers between now and the end of the year. Also, it is proposed to place recruiting posters in trains operating on the metropolitan system with a view to attracting recruits for the Force.

Free rail travel is provided for candidates required to attend for examination.

POLICE ON DUTY AT SPORTING FIXTURES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many members of the Victoria Police Force were on duty at—(a) the Victorian Football League semi-final on Saturday, 7th September; (b) the Caulfield racecourse on Saturday, 7th September; and (c) the Victorian Football Association semi-final on Sunday, 8th September, 1968?

2. Why 30 extra police were used to detect people illegally selling tickets at the league semi-final?

3. From where all the police involved in these duties on Saturday, 7th September, were marshalled?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. (a) One hundred and thirty-two.
- (b) Fifty-two.
- (c) Twenty.

2. Extra police were not used for this purpose.

3. Melbourne District	65
Henty District	24
Criminal Investigation Branch ..	30
Traffic Control Branch	65

STRENGTH OF FORCE: TURNOVER OF STAFF.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What was the authorized and actual strength, respectively, of the Victoria Police Force in each of the years 1956 to 1968?

2. How many persons were recruited into the Force in each of those years?

3. How many persons left the Force, and for what reasons (including retirement) in each of the years 1956 to 1968?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers consist of a series of statistical tables, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1.

Year.	Authorized Strength.	Actual Strength.
1956	3,772	3,392
1957	3,772	3,709
1958	3,772	3,754
1959	3,876	3,792
1960	4,011	3,923
1961	4,116	4,030
1962	4,265	4,168
1963	4,402	4,239
1964	4,467	4,344
1965	4,570	4,369
1966	4,571	4,422
1967	4,681	4,617
1968 (as at 11th September, 1968) ..	4,732	4,713

2.

Year.	Appointments.
1956	418
1957	451
1958	206
1959	198
1960	264
1961	284
1962	298
1963	238
1964	254
1965	225
1966	255
1967	366
1968 (as at 11th September, 1968)	252

3.

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968 (as at 11.9.68)
Died	11	10	10	9	6	8	11	10	10	15	10	4	11
Superannuated—													
Retiring age	74	54	69	78	42	65	51	56	32	38	35	30	25
Ill health	4	7	4	9	7	6	5	9	11	22	31	23	18
Resigned	66	59	71	64	76	94	91	87	90	116	127	109	91
Discharged or dismissed ..	3	5	2	3	7	2	3	2	2	9	1	9	2
Termination of appointment	3	7	8	2	5	8	3	4	4	1	..	..	9
Totals	161	142	164	165	143	183	164	168	149	201	204	175	156

STAFF SALARIES AND CLASSIFICATIONS: OVERTIME PAYMENTS: ANNUAL LEAVE: SICK LEAVE.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What are the salaries and classifications of members of the Victoria Police Force?

2. What is the average number of policemen who would be on annual leave at the same time?

3. Whether the Government will consider paying penalty rates to members of the Force who work overtime, instead of their taking days off in lieu?

4. How much—(a) annual leave; and (b) sick leave, a member of the Victoria Police Force is entitled to in any one year?

5. Whether unused annual and sick leave is cumulative; if so, to what extent?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers consist of fairly lengthy statistical tables, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1. (a) Officers—

Rank.	Salary per annum. \$
Superintendent, Grade I. ..	7,274
Superintendent, Grade II. ..	6,446
Chief Inspector	5,786
Inspector, Grade I.	5,410
Inspector, Grade II.	5,215
Station Officer	4,599

(b) Sub-officers—

Rank.	Salary per annum. \$
Sergeant	4,190
Senior constable	3,786

(c) First constables and constables—
Rank. Salary
per annum.
\$

First constable—

During twelfth year of service and after .. 3,422

During eleventh, tenth, ninth, eighth and seventh years of service .. 3,335

During sixth and fifth years of service .. 3,283

During fourth and third years of service .. 3,232

During second and first years of service .. 3,180

Constable—21 years of age and over—
During seventh year of service and after .. 3,021

During sixth and fifth years of service .. 2,975

During fourth and third years of service .. 2,896

During second year of service .. 2,766

During first year of service .. 2,685

Constable—under 21 years of age—

During third year of service .. 2,720

During second year of service .. 2,610

During first year of service .. 2,542

(d) Police Cadets—

Age.	Salary per Annum. (If single.) (If married.)	
At sixteen years ..	1,078	1,714
At seventeen years ..	1,272	1,780
At eighteen years ..	1,494	1,877

2. 516 based on actual strength of 4,713.

3. It is felt that it is in the best interests of members to be granted time off in lieu of being paid overtime as the health and/or efficiency of any person who works overtime consistently must surely suffer.

On occasions members have been paid where they have been unable to take the time off.

4. (a) Forty days.

(b) Fifteen days during the first year of service and twelve days thereafter.

5. All unused sick leave is cumulative but annual leave is not. Annual leave must be taken in the year in which it becomes due but with special permission all or part of it may be carried over to the following year.

BREATHALYZERS: ALKA-TESTERS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many breathalyzers the Victoria Police Force possesses?

2. To which stations they are allotted?

3. How many trained operators are available at any one time to operate the machines?

4. Whether the Government has given any consideration to the use of alka-testers by the Force?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. Sixty-three.

2. One breathalyzer is allotted to each of the following stations:—Ballarat, Kyneton, Morwell, Wonthaggi, Swan Hill, Seymour, Benalla, Shepparton, Kyabram, Wangaratta, Wodonga, Bendigo, Geelong, Ocean Grove, Warrnambool, Colac, Horsham, Sale, Bairnsdale, Ringwood, and Ararat.

Twelve breathalyzers are allocated to the Breath Analysis Section and ten are retained at the Forensic Science Laboratory as exchange units where an instrument allotted to a station requires maintenance and also for training purposes. A further twenty units only recently received have not been serviced as yet prior to allocation. It is intended to allocate one of these units to each of the following stations:—Camperdown, Castlemaine, Echuca, Hamilton, Kerang, Kilmore, Lilydale, Mildura, Portland, St. Arnaud, Stawell, Traralgon, and Warragul.

Five units will be allotted to the Forensic Science Laboratory and two to the Breath Analysis Section.

3. Approximately 300 members of the Force have been trained to operate these instruments.

4. Consideration has been given to the use of alka-testers and tests of these units have been carried out since 1955 but they have been found unsatisfactory as they give only an approximation of a person's blood-alcohol level.

AMPHOMETERS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many amphotometers the Victoria Police Force possesses?

2. To which stations they are allotted?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. Thirty.

2. One amphotometer is allotted to each of the following stations:—Wangaratta, Sale, Mildura, Warrnambool, Horsham, Dandenong, Chelsea, Benalla, Bendigo, Geelong, Ballarat, Shepparton, Morwell, Seymour (owned by Seymour Shire Council) and Ararat (owned by Ararat City Council).

Six amphotometers are used by the Mobile Traffic Section in the metropolitan area.

A further nine units have recently been received and will be allocated as follows:—three to the Mobile Traffic Section; and one to each of the following stations:—Warragul, Colac, Bairnsdale, Wodonga, Swan Hill, and Hamilton.

When the allocation is completed there will be one amphotometer located at each country Mobile Traffic Section.

PROMOTION OF CONSTABLES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What average time is served in the Victoria Police Force by a constable before he is eligible for promotion to—(a) first constable; (b) senior constable; (c) sergeant; and (d) inspector?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

(a) If a constable passes the appropriate examinations he may be promoted to the rank of first constable after five years' service from the date he is allotted his register number at the completion of his recruit training.

However, a constable who has not passed these examinations may, after the completion of ten years' service dating from the date on which he received his register number, be promoted to the rank of first constable, if the Chief Commissioner is of the opinion that his conduct and efficiency warrant such promotion.

(b) Eleven and a half years.

(c) Eighteen years.

(d) Twenty-seven years.

USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

How many police vehicles, as distinct from privately-owned vehicles, were on establishment in the Victoria Police Force in each of the years 1956 to 1968?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer consists of a series of figures, and I seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:—

Year.				Police vehicles (including motor cycles).
1956	..	..	..	345
1957	..	..	..	357
1958	..	..	..	400
1959	..	..	..	400
1960	..	..	..	405
1961	..	..	..	430
1962	..	..	..	450
1963	..	..	..	487
1964	..	..	..	517
1965	..	..	..	552
1966	..	..	..	621
1967	..	..	..	664
1968 (as at 11th September, 1968)				679

**RATIO OF POLICE TO POPULATION:
POLICE AVAILABLE FOR DUTY:
MOBILE TRAFFIC BRANCH: WIRE-
LESS PATROL.**

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What was the ratio of police to population in each of the years 1956 to 1967, and from 1st January to date?

2. What actual number of police is available for duty at any one time?

3. In respect of the Mobile Traffic Branch—(a) what is the present manned strength; (b) whether the Branch operates on a 24 hour per day basis; (c) what areas are patrolled by the Branch; and (d) how many crews operate in each area?

4. In respect of the Wireless Patrol—(a) what is the present manned strength; (b) how many crews operate at the one time; (c) what shifts they work; and (d) what particular area is covered by each shift?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers include statistical tables, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1.

Year.				Ratio of Police to Population.
1956	..	..	..	1 to 690
1957	..	..	..	1 to 709
1958	..	..	..	1 to 726
1959	..	..	..	1 to 733
1960	..	..	..	1 to 731
1961	..	..	..	1 to 719
1962	..	..	..	1 to 706
1963	..	..	..	1 to 700
1964	..	..	..	1 to 701
1965	..	..	..	1 to 701
1966	..	..	..	1 to 704
1967	..	..	..	1 to 699
1968 (as at 11th September 1968)				1 to 704

2. On an average, 1,730 members are on duty daily under normal conditions but the actual shifts vary during the day. However, when circumstances require the services of all police, time and days off are held in abeyance until the return of normal conditions.

3. (a) Three hundred and eighteen.

(b) No. Shifts commence at 7 a.m. and continue until 3 a.m. except in isolated cases when circumstances require members to remain on duty.

(c) Patrols are made throughout the metropolitan area and on all highways throughout the State.

(d) The metropolitan area is divided into three sections and approximately twenty crews operate in each section.

4. (a) One hundred and one (including three police reservists).

(b) and (c) (i) Nine crews—10 p.m. to 7.30 a.m., seven days a week.

(ii) Eight crews—2.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive.

(iii) Nine crews—1 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., Saturdays only.

(iv) Two crews—2.30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sundays only.

(v) Two crews—7 a.m. to 3 p.m., seven days a week.

(d) Wireless patrol cars patrol the whole metropolitan area and in exceptional circumstances may be directed to any part of Victoria by D.24. However, they rarely patrol more than 30 miles from Melbourne.

CLOSURE OF POLICE STATIONS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many police stations have been closed or have ceased to operate in—(a) the metropolitan area; and (b) country areas, in each of the past five years?

2. What additional police stations the Government proposes to close down, and where they are situated?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are lengthy, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1. (a) Metropolitan Area.

Year.	Station.
1963	.. Nil.
1964	.. Glen Iris, but transferred to Ashburton.
1965	.. Nil.
1966	.. West Melbourne.
	Windsor closed and demolished to allow for part of stage 2 of South Eastern Freeway.

- 1967 .. Middle Park; Brunswick East; Brunswick West, but retained as a licence testing station.
- 1968 .. Auburn; East Kew; Ivanhoe, but retained as a licence testing station; Gardenvale, but retained as a licence testing station; Thornbury; Ormond.

(b) Country Area.

Year.	Station.
1963 ..	Wendouree.
1964 ..	Ballarat West.
1965 ..	Nil.
1966 ..	Nil.
1967 ..	Avenel, Cowwarr, Talbot, Ultima.
1968 ..	Bealiba, Chewton.

2. It is the practice of the Chief Commissioner of Police to recommend the closure of a police station only after a thorough and detailed examination of the police needs of the area concerned. In every case the foremost consideration has been the need to provide an efficient police service. Whenever a small police station has been closed, police services in the district have been rationalized to provide a comprehensive coverage from a nearby centrally situated station adequately manned and equipped. This has resulted in the more effective use being made of manpower, mobility and communications generally. At this stage the Force has no proposal to close any more additional stations.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

PERSONS HELD ON REMAND.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many persons—(a) awaiting trial; (b) awaiting sentence; and (c) awaiting pre-sentence report, were held on remand during the period 1st January to 31st May, 1968?

2. In respect of the above-mentioned categories, what was the period of time each person was held on remand?

3. How many persons within the above-mentioned categories were held on remand on 1st January and 31st May, 1968, and what was the period of remand in each case?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I seek leave of the House to have the lengthy answers incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1 and 2. The information sought is not readily available. To answer the questions would involve the examination of the reception lists for each day between 1st January and 31st May. These lists contain approximately 6,000 names of which many are

aliases. Many face more than one trial and may be currently serving sentences for one charge or charges and be on remand for others. It is estimated that it would require two experienced officers two full days to dissect the lists and in the circumstances I feel I am unable to supply the information sought.

3. On 1st January, 1968, 115 prisoners were awaiting trial. Of these, thirteen were committed for trial in October, 1967; 36 were committed for trial in November, 1967; 66 were committed for trial in December, 1967; three had been convicted and were awaiting psychiatric and pre-sentence reports. Another 58 prisoners were on remand to appear at Courts of Petty Sessions. These had been held for periods of up to three weeks.

On 31st May, 1968, 51 prisoners were awaiting trial and fifteen convicted prisoners were awaiting sentence. Of these, twelve were awaiting pre-sentence reports.

Of the 66 prisoners, two were committed for trial in December, 1967; two were committed in January, 1968; two were committed in February, 1968; three were committed in March, 1968; nineteen were committed in April, 1968; and 38 were committed in May, 1968. Another 63 prisoners were on remand to appear at Courts of Petty Sessions, and had been held for periods up to four weeks.

SUICIDES OR ACCIDENTAL DEATHS CAUSED BY BROMUREIDE.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Attorney-General—

How many coronial inquiries, into suicides or accidental deaths in each of the past ten years, have reported preparations containing bromureides as a major factor contributing to death?

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—The answer is—

The limited information readily available in regard to the findings of coronial inquiries indicates that, in the period from 1st January, 1958, to 30th June, 1968, 31 cases were recorded in which death was attributed to an overdose of bromureide. The details are—

		Males.	Females.
1958 ..	..	3	—
1959 ..	..	—	—
1960 ..	..	3	2
1961 ..	..	1	1
1962 ..	..	2	—
1963 ..	..	4	1
1964 ..	..	1	1
1965 ..	..	1	2
1966 ..	..	1	2
1967 ..	..	2	3
1968 (to 30th June)	..	—	1

In each of the inquiries into the three deaths occurring in 1958 it was found that an overdose of bromide had been taken. It is likely that bromureide was involved.

MOTOR REGISTRATION BRANCH.

POSTAL ISSUE OF DOCUMENTS: REGISTRATIONS FOR T.P.I. PENSIONERS: COVER NOTES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether it is possible to speed up the postal issue of documents by the Motor Registration Branch and so reduce the period in which a motorist can be left without current registration papers for his vehicle?

2. Whether, in the case of a “no fee” registration for a T.P.I. pensioner, a “continuous” registration could be issued or, alternatively, whether registration certificates could be issued automatically?

3. Whether he has considered any scheme whereby a motorist who for any reason (for example, distance) is unable to make personal application over the counter at the Motor Registration Branch, could obtain a cover note or other type of acknowledgment (from, say, a police station or post office), to enable him to use his motor vehicle if a renewal certificate is not received in time, providing he is able to produce proof of postal application; if not, whether consideration will be given to the possibility of implementing such a scheme?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—As the answers are very lengthy, I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1. Except during the busy Christmas-Easter period registration certificates and labels are dispatched about ten days after receipt of the renewal requirements in the Motor Registration Branch. Normally renewal notices are sent out three weeks prior to the expiry date and there is provision in the Motor Car Act 1958 for the renewal of registration to be effected up to fourteen days after the expiry date without loss of registration cover, so that a motorist has about five weeks in which to effect renewal. At present, a firm of management consultants—Messrs. W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd.—are undertaking a survey of methods and organization in the Motor Registration Branch and it is expected that, as a result of this investigation, a considerable speed up in the processing of transactions will result.

2. “No fee” registration concessions are granted to a large range of motorists and corporate bodies—Government Departments, primary producers, ambulance and fire authorities, incapacitated ex-servicemen, &c.—and it is considered that the same system of renewal of registration should apply in all cases. Although there is no fee payable

for registration, full third-party insurance requirements must be met by the applicant paying the insurance premium to the Motor Registration Branch or producing a certificate of insurance, and it is only after this has been done that a registration can be effected for the ensuing twelve months. It has been found also on a number of occasions that the issue of a renewal notice brings forth information such as change of ownership or address, death of the registered owner, desire to cancel registration, &c., that would not have been notified to the Motor Registration Branch except for the requirement to renew “No fee” registration.

3. No. A motor vehicle remains registered, and can be used, so long as all the necessary requirements are received by the Chief Commissioner of Police within fourteen days after the expiry of the registration. It would not be possible for a postal official to issue a cover note merely by sighting a document mailed to the Motor Registration Branch. The fees and insurance details must be correct before registration can be renewed, so that all papers would have to be perused by a competent officer.

As a motorist usually has five weeks in which to renew his registration, and as the time taken to process a renewal should be reduced considerably after the completion of the present methods and organization survey, it is not considered that any scheme to issue a cover note would be satisfactory.

PENSIONERS.

INCREASED COMMONWEALTH PAYMENTS: STATE ASSISTANCE.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether it is the intention of the Government to reduce State assistance to persons in receipt of pensions which have recently been increased due to provisions in the Federal Budget; if so, to what extent the Government intends to reduce assistance?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

The responsibility for social service payments is primarily that of the Federal Government and the State assists only in what it regards as necessitous cases. The effect of the recent increase in pensions is being examined and the extent to which the State should supplement such increased pensions is at present under consideration.

REBATES ON GAS AND ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

1. What concessions for rebate of accounts are made to pensioners by the Gas and Fuel Corporation and the State Electricity Commission?

2. What means test is applied by these authorities in assessing rebates for pensioners?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. Rebate of Accounts for Pensioners.

(a) Gas and Fuel Corporation—Pensioner tariff is extended by the Corporation to consumers who receive full Commonwealth Government old age or invalid pensions, if they can quote a pension serial number as proof that they are bona fide applicants.

Significant savings are enjoyed by pensioners provided that their gas consumption is less than 2,000 cubic feet per month. Ordinary domestic tariff is applied to accounts when the usage is in excess of 2,000 cubic feet. The average consumption by pensioners is 800 cubic feet a month, the rebate for which is 25 per cent.

Pensioners who already receive other concessional tariffs are not eligible for pensioner tariff as their monthly gas consumption figure is too high.

(b) State Electricity Commission.

Electricity—No special concessions are granted by the State Electricity Commission to pensioners as such at the present time. The State Electricity Commission has framed its domestic tariff to ensure favourable rates for small users of electricity, of whom pensioners form a large part. The number of units and the rate per unit in the initial block of the domestic tariff are substantially lower than for the commercial and industrial tariffs. Furthermore, the minimum charge is much lower than would be the case if the tariff were developed solely on economic considerations.

Briquettes—The Commission will, on request by municipal councils, supply briquettes to them at wholesale rates for issue by the councils to deserving pensioners.

2. Means Test.

(a) Gas and Fuel Corporation—Pensioner tariff is extended by the Corporation only to those consumers who receive full Commonwealth old age or invalid pensions.

(b) State Electricity Commission—Nil.

CONFERENCE ON CONCESSION FARES IN GEELONG.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether he has received an invitation to attend a conference between the Geelong Combined Pensioners Association and the Geelong Bus Operators for the purpose of discussing ways and means of granting concession fares for pensioners in the Greater Geelong urban area at off-peak periods such as apply in Melbourne; if so, whether he has consented to attend such a meeting?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer is—

On Friday last I received a letter covering the matter raised in the honorable member's question. I shall consider it and reply to the writer as soon as possible.

MUNICIPALITIES.

SOCIAL WELFARE WORK.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What assistance will be given to local government bodies attempting to establish their own social welfare work section?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

Generally the funds available to the Social Welfare Branch are fully committed in meeting the needs of that Branch and at this stage I cannot make any general promises to assist local government bodies for the purposes suggested by the honorable member.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.

FILE ON ERECTION OF SHOP IN EAST ST. KILDA.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will lay on the table of the Library the file or files relating to the erection, by Mr. and Mrs. M. Bendel, of a shop at the corner of Westbury-street, and Alma-road, East St. Kilda?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—I have arranged with the Minister for Local Government to have the Local Government Department file laid on the table of the Library.

FILE ON EXTENSION TO BUILDING IN EAST ST. KILDA.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will lay on the table of the Library the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works file relating to the extensions being carried out by Mr. Peter Rand at 254 Dandenong-road, East St. Kilda?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The Minister for Local Government has supplied the following answer:—

As the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is not within the administration of the Government, the Minister for Local Government is unable to meet the honorable member's request.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

WATER CHARGES AND CONSUMPTION.

For **Mr. LOVEGROVE** (Sunshine), **Mr. Wilton** asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. What have been the charges for water supplied by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to—(a) domestic consumers; and (b) industrial consumers, over the past five years?

2. What are the reasons for any variations in those charges?

3. What proportion of any increase in charges is borne by—(a) labour-intensive industries, such as the textile industry; (b) export industries, such as wool; and (c) building construction?

4. Whether any increase in charges to domestic users is planned in the next two years?

5. What are the respective proportions of consumption by—(a) domestic users; (b) secondary industry; (c) building construction; and (d) other consumers?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answers to the questions supplied by the Minister for Local Government are voluminous, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1. Charge for water supplied by measure (per 1,000 gallons).

—	Domestic Consumers.	Industrial Consumers.
1964-65	20 cents	20 cents
1965-66	20 cents	20 cents
1966-67	20 cents	20 cents
1967-68	25 cents	25 cents
1968-69	25 cents	30 cents

2. The Board is required by its Act to meet its financial commitments. In the case of water supply it does this by means of a charge for water supplied by measure and by a water rate. Because the cost of supplying water has increased it has been necessary for the Board to increase its charges.

3. The Board does not have this information available.

4. The charge for water will be reviewed annually when the estimates are prepared in connexion with the making of the rate.

5. (a) Domestic users	54
(b) Secondary industry	30
(c) Building construction	1
(d) Other consumers	15

UNSEWERED PREMISES IN SUNSHINE ELECTORATE.

For **Mr. LOVEGROVE** (Sunshine), **Mr. Wilton** asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. How many homes and what other buildings are unsewered in the Sunshine electorate?

2. Where they are located?

3. When it is expected they will be sewered?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answers supplied by the Minister for Local Government are—

1 and 2. With the exception of a few scattered properties—mainly factories—in the vicinity of McDonalds and Somerville roads and fifteen houses at the south-eastern corner of Millers-road and Cresser-street, the whole of the electorate is now provided with sewerage facilities.

3. These unsewered properties probably will not be sewered for some years.

PORTS OF MELBOURNE AND GEELONG.

CONTAINER SHIPS: EFFECTS ON CUSTOM AND LABOUR.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of Public Works—

1. When it is anticipated container ships will operate in the ports of Melbourne and Geelong?

2. What is the comparison (time-wise, labour-wise, and in vessel usage) between such ships and the ordinary ships at present in use?

3. Whether it is expected that containerization may reduce custom at the port of Geelong?

4. Whether he anticipates any future reduction of labour required for operations of the ports of Melbourne and Geelong; if so, what steps are being taken on a State basis to consider the future of any such men affected?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answers are—

1. Containers are not new to the port of Melbourne and have been handled by the port in increasing numbers over the past ten years. A special container ship has been operating in the Melbourne-Fremantle trade since 1964. It is expected that overseas container ships in the United Kingdom-Europe-Australia trade will commence operating in March, 1969. It is not expected that they will operate at Geelong.

2. The Melbourne Harbor Trust is not responsible for the provision of labour for ships in the port of Melbourne. From experience in container ships already using the port it can be expected that there will be considerably less time spent by ships in port; fewer ships will be required to handle the same amount of cargo and there will be a reduction in the requirement for waterside labour. It is not anticipated that there will be any significant reduction in the Melbourne Harbor Trust work force.

3. Geelong has developed as a port providing special facilities for its customers; it is not expected that the introduction of overseas container ships will significantly affect the position in this port.

4. As indicated in question 2, the Melbourne Harbor Trust is not responsible for the provision of labour. It is understood that the unions concerned have already had discussions with the employers.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

SUNSHINE ELECTORATE: RENTS:
VACANT ACCOMMODATION: WAITING
TIMES: HOUSES PURCHASED:
EVICTIONS.

For **Mr. LOVEGROVE** (Sunshine),
Mr. Wilton asked the Minister of
Housing—

1. What are the maximum and minimum rents, respectively, charged by the Housing Commission for—(a) two-bedroom flats; (b) two-bedroom houses; and (c) three-bedroom houses, in the Sunshine electorate?

2. How many houses and flats, respectively, became vacant in the electorate during the twelve months ended August, 1968?

3. What is the waiting time for these units?

4. How many houses are being purchased?

5. How many tenants were evicted during the twelve months ended August, 1968?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—

1. Maximum and minimum rents charged for two-bedroom flats and houses and three-bedroom houses in the Sunshine electorate are as follows:—

	Maximum.	Minimum.
	\$	\$
Two-bedroom ..	10.00	7.75
Three-bedroom ..	10.50	8.25

2. Houses—45.
Flats—33.

3. Tenancy—
Two-bedroom flats—15-18 months.
Three-bedroom houses—3 years (Large families only).
Low rental units (two-bedroom)—6 months.
Purchase—
Two-bedroom house—3 years, approx.
Three-bedroom house—5 years approx.

4. Two hundred and seventy-six.

5. One.

RENTS PAID BY PENSIONERS.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North)
asked the Minister of Housing—

Whether, following the recent increase in pension rates for single and married pensioners, it is proposed to increase rents of Housing Commission flats or houses occupied by pensioners?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

Rebated rentals applied to pensioner tenants are fixed in accordance with a formula for which provision is made in the Commonwealth and States Housing Agreement and in regulations under the Housing Act 1958. Consideration must therefore be given to the rentals payable by both single and married pensioners when the effective date of the recently increased pension rises is known.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS.

SOCIAL WORKERS: VACANCIES FOR
QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

How many vacancies for qualified social workers remained unfilled as at 1st September, 1968, in the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).—The answer is, "Four".

EDUCATION: SCHOLARSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

1. What submissions have been made to the Director of Aboriginal Affairs, since the establishment of the Ministry, with respect to Aboriginal scholarships and educational assistance programmes?

2. What assistance is being given by the Ministry to Aboriginal children in primary schools?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).—The answers are—

1. Numerous submissions have been made to the Ministry by a number of organizations with respect to Aboriginal scholarships and educational assistance programmes.

2. Subsidies amounting to \$4,812 have been allocated to organizations and schools to assist Aboriginal children in primary schools, and additional assistance is given to parents of children as necessary.

ABORIGINAL PERSONS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS: REHABILITATION.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

What provision is being made to assist Aboriginal persons in the care of State institutions to be returned to their families, or to be placed with an Aboriginal community?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).—The answer is—

Social workers of the Social Welfare Branch work towards returning children to their families, irrespective of racial origin. However, where it is appropriate, officers of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs are consulted.

LEGAL AID FOR ABORIGINAL PERSONS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

1. Whether he is aware of the policy, expressed by the Director of Aboriginal Affairs, with respect to legal representation of Aboriginal persons?

2. Whether he accepts that Aboriginal persons with a number of convictions should be refused legal aid by his Ministry?

3. What was the decision of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs if, and when, it was consulted?

4. Whether he will ascertain and inform the House whether Aboriginal persons have, prior to the establishment of his Ministry, been convicted without having had the benefit of legal aid?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).—The answers are—

1. Yes.

2. No. Each case will be dealt with on its merits.

3. The answer to this question appears in part 2.

4. As free citizens subject to the same laws as others, Aboriginal persons may in the past have been convicted without having had legal aid. Since the Ministry came into being on 1st January, 1968, the number of Aboriginal persons assisted with legal aid has increased substantially.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS: REPORTS ON SPEAKERS: MINISTERIAL POLICY.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

1. Whether he will make available to the House any report that he has been given on Aboriginal persons who have addressed public meetings on the subject of Aboriginal affairs?

2. Whether he will indicate the reasons for an official of the Ministry having tape-recorded a speech by Mr. H. Penrith, a member of the Aboriginal community, when he was addressing a student meeting at Monash University?

3. Whether he will indicate the policy of his Ministry with respect to Aboriginal persons making critical comments on the activities of the Ministry?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).—The answers are—

1. No written reports have been received by me.

2. The reason why a tape recording was made at this meeting was that the Director, who had taken part in the series of meetings, was unable to attend this particular session, and was interested to know what was said. The Director instructed an officer of the Ministry to attend the meeting and openly display both the tape recorder and the microphone, and it was because this was done that it was known that a recording had been made.

3. Aboriginal persons, as members of this community, are free to speak on any matter that they wish, and the policy of my Department is to respect this freedom of speech. In fact, Aboriginal people have been invited to criticize the activities of the Ministry, and meetings have been arranged by the Ministry for this specific purpose.

FALLS CREEK ALPINE VILLAGE.

LODGE HOLDERS: CHARGES FOR USE OF FACILITIES.

Mr. MITCHELL (Benambra) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

Whether the Falls Creek committee is levying rates on lodge holders in the Falls Creek Alpine Village; if so, by what authority?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer is—

Rates, in the normally accepted sense of a charge based on the net annual value or unimproved capital value of a property, are not levied at Falls Creek, but the committee of management which provides a number of facilities, including water supply and sewerage and garbage collection, naturally has to recoup the expenditure involved. The committee is empowered pursuant to sub-clause (a) of clause 9 of the Falls Creek Tourist Area Regulations 1959 to make reasonable charges for the use of these facilities.

NATURAL GAS.

EXPECTED REDUCTION IN CHARGES: AVAILABILITY IN GEELONG.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

1. What is the anticipated approximate percentage reduction in charges to householders in respect of the use of natural gas?

2. When it is expected natural gas will be available to the Greater Geelong area?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. Because a fixed transmission cost has not yet been decided upon and because certain other capital and operating costs have yet to be determined, natural gas tariffs have not yet been finalized, but it can be anticipated that there will be reductions for all consumers, varying according to volume and type of usage.

2. It is currently expected that natural gas will be available to the Greater Geelong area by 1971, but this depends upon the outcome of present studies and negotiations.

MARKETING INTENTIONS: FRANCHISE AREAS: RETRENCHED LATROBE VALLEY WORKERS: COMPENSATION FOR SALE OF HOMES: FINDS BY EXPLORATION COMPANIES: PETROLEUM LEASES.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

1. Whether he has reconsidered the necessity to make available to this House

and the public the letter of intent in relation to the marketing of natural gas?

2. Whether the Government will define the franchise areas of the Gas and Fuel Corporation and the three smaller gas utilities, and whether these areas will allow for the industrial and urban expansion of Victoria?

3. Whether, as the introduction of natural gas had produced the retrenchment of many workers in the Latrobe Valley, the Government has plans to place them in new employment?

4. Whether the Government intends to compensate these workers for financial loss involved in the enforced sale of private homes?

5. Whether the Government has a financial retrenchment plan to assist workers to re-establish themselves?

6. Whether it is mandatory for exploration companies to notify the Government of oil and gas finds within a statutory period; if so, what finds have been notified within the last twelve months and what is their location and chemical composition?

7. What means of surveillance the Government uses to enforce section 34 of the Petroleum Act 1958?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. As stated to the House on 28th February, 1968, the natural gas letter of intent is a confidential document and the property of the parties concerned.

2. The question of the definition of franchise areas for the Gas and Fuel Corporation and private gas companies is at present under active review, and it is hoped that before long the necessary enabling legislation will be presented to Parliament. The proposed areas will allow for the industrial and urban expansion of Victoria.

3, 4 and 5. The introduction of natural gas has only affected those workers in the Latrobe Valley who are employed at the Lurgi works of the Gas and Fuel Corporation.

The Corporation has adopted a generous redundancy policy which has been agreed to by the Trades Hall Council, and which covers all matters likely to affect employees when the Lurgi plant closes down towards the end of 1969.

In answer to question No. 3, one clause in the redundancy policy document states that the Corporation will assist surplus employees to find other employment outside the Corporation.

As regards financial loss involved in the enforced sale of private homes, the Corporation will reimburse surplus employees who are purchasing either Housing Commission or private houses up to \$2,000 for any loss of equity they might suffer.

In order to help surplus employees re-establish themselves, the Corporation has adopted amongst other things the following—

- (i) *Ex gratia* payment equivalent to *pro rata* long service leave to those who have more than three years' service at the date of retrenchment. At present, *pro rata* long service leave applies on retrenchment after ten years' service.
- (ii) Payment of a retiring allowance to surplus employees who have more than three years' service at date of retrenchment. At present, retiring allowance applies on retrenchment after five years' service.
- (iii) Payment of a severance allowance at the rate of two weeks' pay for each completed year of service to all employees who remain with the Corporation as long as required and for whom other employment cannot be provided by the Corporation.
- (iv) Surplus weekly paid employees between 60 and 65 years of age may be permitted to retire prior to the due date for retirement, and they will be paid long service leave, retiring allowance and severance pay to the age of 65 years.
- (v) Special short-term training programmes will be introduced to prepare surplus employees for new positions. Employees will be paid normal rates for existing positions whilst undergoing training for new position.
- (vi) Surplus employees will be kept on the job for a period of up to four weeks after closing of plants, and they will be paid normal rates of pay during this period.
- (vii) The Corporation will pay renewal expenses and \$50 transfer allowance when surplus employees are transferred within the Corporation elsewhere, or if surplus employees are forced to take up residential locations in Victoria in order to obtain other employment.
- (viii) A lodging allowance of \$3.50 per day—Monday to Friday—up to a period of six months will be paid to surplus employees who are transferred within the Corporation prior to moving their families from their present homes. First class return rail fares will be paid to these employees each week-end providing Corporation transport is not available.

6. Yes. In relation to on-shore exploration a number of provisions in the Petroleum Act 1958 relate to the keeping of cores and logs, and the supply of reports and information to the Minister of Mines.

The arrangements that are made to give effect to these provisions are that, during the drilling of a well, the permittees or licensees are required to give reports daily, the common practice established being that a report for the 24 hours to 8 a.m. each day is phoned through to the Mines Department by mid-morning of the same day. This report includes reference to hydrocarbon showings which are recorded automatically by gas detection equipment and to signs of oil such as fluorescence or chemical sampling. The full logs of these records are forwarded to the Department when prints are available, within a few days.

When drill stem or production testing for the recovery of well fluids is carried out, it is common for a Mines Department officer to be present during the test, but in any case reports are phoned through to the Department immediately if any fluids of economic significance are recovered. This daily reporting system extends into week-ends in relation to important shows or tests.

Section 77 of the Act requires that all information supplied must remain confidential. I am able to say, however, that during the last twelve months no economic petroleum has been encountered in Victorian on-shore areas.

In relation to off-shore exploration, provisions in the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act enable the designated authority to obtain information in relation to discoveries or to require testing of them.

The giving effect to these provisions is done in a similar way to that required for on-shore exploration. Daily reports, followed by full well logs including hydrocarbon logs and followed again by weekly reports, are obtained for all exploration wells drilled, and a departmental officer is commonly present during the conduct of drill stem or production fluid recovery tests. Immediate reports of fluid recovery tests are supplied.

Section 118 of the Act requires various classes of information supplied to the designated authority to remain confidential for varying periods. I am able to say, however, that during the last twelve months commercial discoveries of oil have been made at the Halibut and Kingfish fields, and that reserves of 350,000,000 and 850,000,000 barrels respectively have been announced for these two fields.

Discoveries which remain to be evaluated have been made in the Tuna, Snapper and Flounder wells and in the Barracouta field. Further work will be required to evaluate these finds.

7. Section 34 of the Petroleum Act applies to Petroleum Mineral Leases. As no such leases are in existence this section of the Act is not required to be invoked.

CONSUMERS PROTECTION COUNCIL.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MILLERADIO.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South), asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

How many complaints against the firm of Milleradio have been lodged with the Consumers Protection Council to date?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answer is—

During the period from 1st September, 1965, to 30th June, 1968, there have been 234 complaints against the firm of Milleradio which have been lodged with the Consumers Protection Council.

UNIVERSITIES.

STUDENT POPULATION: SUBSIDIES.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. How many students attend each of the three Victorian universities?

2. Approximately how many of those students have their education subsidized by the State and/or Federal Government?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has furnished the following answers:—

1. University of Melbourne	..	14,000
Monash University	..	8,470
La Trobe University	..	1,160

2. All university students have their education subsidized by the State and Commonwealth Governments. The State Government pays 45 per cent. of the cost of all students. The Commonwealth Government contributes 35 per cent. of the cost of all students. Student fees cover the remaining 20 per cent. of cost. At the University of Melbourne some 2,500 students have their fees paid in full or in part by the State Government and some 5,500 students by the Commonwealth Government. For Monash University the figures are: State 2,820 and Commonwealth 3,060, while at La Trobe University the figures are: State 390 and Commonwealth 210.

WAGES BOARDS.

CLAIMS ON WORK VALUE BASIS.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. What wages boards are currently considering marginal claims entailing work value investigations?

2. How long each of these claims has been before each board?

3. When it is anticipated that each work value investigation will be completed?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answers are detailed, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

Name of Board.						Time in Months Claim Has Been before Board.	Estimated Time for Completion.
Bagmakers	..	..	..	..	..	10	Unknown
Bricklayers	..	..	..	..	..	5	"
Brick Trade	..	..	..	..	..	10	"
Butter Factories	..	..	..	..	..	2	Approx. two more meetings
Condenseries	..	..	..	..	..	2	"
Fire Brigade Officers	..	..	..	..	..	1	Unknown
Fire-fighters	..	..	..	..	..	3	Approx. three more meetings.
Hospital Administrative Officers	..	..	..	..	..	10	Unknown
Hospital and Benevolent Homes	..	..	..	..	..	1	"
Hospital Medical Ancillary Services	..	..	..	..	..	10	"
Painters	..	..	..	..	..	1½	"
Plasterers	..	..	..	..	..	1	"
Plumbers	..	..	..	..	..	17	"
Shops Board No. 6 (Chemists and Dispensaries)	..	..	..	..	..	1	1968
Tilayers	..	..	..	..	..	23	Unknown
Underground Clay Mining	..	..	..	..	..	1½	September, 1968.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**STAWELL TECHNICAL SCHOOL: FILE ON EXTENSIONS.**

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

If he will lay on the table of the Library the file relating to the extensions to the Stawell Technical School?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is, "Yes."

NEW HIGH SCHOOL FOR PAKENHAM.

For **Mr. COCHRANE** (Gippsland West), **Mr. Whiting** asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. Whether it is expected that tenders will be called this month for the new high school at Pakenham, as promised by the Minister to a deputation from the Berwick Shire Council on the 25th June, 1968; if not—(a) why; and (b) when it is now expected tenders will be called?

2. Whether it is expected that portion of the building will be ready for occupancy for the beginning of the 1969 school year, also promised; if not, why?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—

1. No. The Minister did not at the deputation on 25th June, 1968, promise that tenders would be called this month. He said it was anticipated that they would be, but unfortunately this target has not been achieved. It is expected, however, that tenders will be called before the end of this year.

2. No. It is not expected that building work will be sufficiently advanced at that stage. Additional portable class-rooms will be made available until the buildings are ready for occupation.

SUNSHINE TECHNICAL SCHOOL: PROJECTED WORKS AND ESTIMATED COSTS.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

What works are to be undertaken at Sunshine Technical School in the current financial year, and what are the estimated costs?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answer provided by the Minister of Education is—

Requirements for the erection of a two-storied trade block consisting of class-rooms and workshops for the turning and fitting, welding, electrical wiring, industrial electronics, motor mechanics and panel beating trades have been submitted to the Public Works Department for detailed planning, and it is expected that tenders will be called early next year. No firm estimate of the cost of the proposed works has been prepared.

MIGRANT CHILDREN: EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS: COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

What further progress has been made in discussions between the Minister and representatives of the Commonwealth Departments of Education and Immigration in regard to—(a) the educational problems of migrant children; and (b) assistance from the Commonwealth?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has provided the following answer:—

(a) The Minister has stressed to the Commonwealth Minister of Immigration the educational problems being faced by non-English-speaking migrants. He has requested the adequate supply of students' and teachers' text-books prepared by the Commonwealth Office of Education and Science. It was also suggested that the Commonwealth embark on some form of instruction in the English language prior to the migrants' arrival in Australia.

(b) An offer of partial assistance in the supply of books has been received but the Minister of Immigration has been asked to give further consideration to the request for total assistance in this matter.

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES: TEACHING STAFF RESEARCH.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. Whether further action has been taken by the Minister to expand facilities to overcome the serious language handicaps of migrant children or whether the staff concerned with this problem still consists of one expert teacher?

2. Whether research efforts of the Curriculum and Research Branch have resulted in a particular programme to assist migrant children; if so, what are the details of this programme?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answers provided by the Minister of Education are as follows:—

1. The problem is under constant review and the staff has been expanded. Two other officers have been appointed to assist the co-ordinator and adviser.

2. Yes. An expert advisory committee consisting of representatives from Curriculum and Research, Psychology and Guidance, and teachers from primary, secondary and technical schools has been formed. This committee has drawn up an interim course of 40 units of work contained in eight basic stages. This course is available to all schools requiring it. An in-service training programme of four-day courses for teachers has been instituted. Four of these courses have already been held and others are planned. The co-ordinating and advisory staff are visiting schools on call to deal with problems and give advice on teaching migrant children. Guide notes have been prepared for the course and a sub-committee of the expert committee is now preparing a special course for children under eight years. Details of assistance for schools are set out on page 209, of the *Education Gazette* for 13th June, 1968. Plans and procedures are under constant review.

SITES FOR NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS: EXPERT ADVICE.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

Whether, in planning the sites for new school buildings, the Minister seeks the advice of demography experts on a regular basis; if so—(a) what experts are used; (b) what are their qualifications; and (c) what are the arrangements for consultation, specifying the frequency over the past two years?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has furnished the following answer:—

No. The information on population trends and projected housing developments is obtained locally by district inspectors prior to recommendations. The survey and statistics officer also consults with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and Housing Commission planning authorities. All relevant information is

considered by the departmental sites committee prior to the decisions in planning for the reservation of future school sites being made.

FACILITIES IN INNER SUBURBS: CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN AUTHORITIES.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

What are the precise arrangements for consultation and co-ordination between the Education Department, the Housing Commission, and urban redevelopment authorities in providing educational facilities for redeveloped inner suburbs?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has provided the following answer:—

Participation by Survey and Statistics Branch in the type of consultation referred to is as follows:—

At intervals of approximately three months, the survey and statistics officer of the Education Department meets the chief technical officer of the Housing Commission for the purpose of being provided with information as to the nature and proposed time of construction of all Housing Commission building projects which are likely to cause an increase in school enrolments in the inner metropolitan area.

On the basis of the information provided, the survey and statistics officer prepares estimates of enrolment increase which are passed to departmental officers responsible for provision of school accommodation.

PROVISION OF CLASS-ROOMS.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

How the Education Department intends to deal with the lag in the provision of class-rooms for the rapidly-expanding child population of Victoria?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has provided the following answer:—

It is the policy of the Education Department to improve, progressively, the accommodation situation in our schools. For example, in 1961 in the Primary Schools Division, there were 472 classes of over 50, this year there are 39 and next year we aim to eliminate all classes over 50. In 1958 the staffing schedule provided one teacher for 44

pupils and was improved in 1960 to provide one teacher for 40 pupils. Sufficient class-rooms were made available to make possible this more generous teacher-pupil ratio. This year we are gradually introducing a still more generous teacher-pupil ratio of one teacher to 35 pupils. The implementation of this scheme will require 605 new class-rooms over the next three years. If the Education Department was still adhering to the teacher-pupil ratio of 1958 there would be several hundred class-rooms in excess.

In the secondary field our major aim this year is to improve staff-room accommodation in as many schools as possible. In some cases this will mean the replacement of class-rooms taken over to extend existing staff-room accommodation.

HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT IN INNER SUBURBS: SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION: ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES: COSTS: TIME LIMITS.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

As a result of the redevelopment Housing Commission projects in the Collingwood, Richmond, and Fitzroy areas, what progress has been made since 30th April, 1968, in relation to—(a) the erection of additional schools; (b) the alteration, renovation or extension of existing class-rooms in existing schools; and (c) the acquisition of any properties, specifying in each case, the location of the properties for additional playing space for existing schools in the area; giving in each and every case—(i) the estimated costs of each specific plan; and (ii) the time limits in which it is proposed to work?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has provided the following answer:—

(a) and (b) The erection of three class-rooms and an office/store at State School No. 1567, Hightt-street Richmond, is included in a bulk contract, tenders for which close on 17th September, 1968.

Following the acceptance of a tender in March, the building of the Richmond High School has progressed steadily and it is expected it will be ready before June, 1969.

The preparation of contract documents for the erection of the new infant block at State School No. 450 Fitzroy has reached a stage that will probably enable tenders to be called before the end of 1968.

The Public Works Department is investigating the situation at State School No. 1490 Fitzroy North with a view to

determining whether the school should be remodelled or replaced. A full report is expected shortly.

Three portable class-rooms have been allocated to State School No. 2462 Collingwood and they will be on site at an early date.

Several proposals relating to the development of the Collingwood High School are under review and an early decision may be expected.

(c) The Department plans to acquire a number of properties for extension to existing schools in the Collingwood, Richmond, Fitzroy areas during the current financial year. Since the owners of these properties have still to be approached it is considered undesirable for specific details of these plans to be made public at this stage.

SELECTED HIGH SCHOOLS: STAFF: STUDENTS.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. Whether the Minister intends to implement the proposal circulated to advisory councils of all State high schools to recruit selected pupils on a State-wide basis for Melbourne, MacRobertson, and University high schools; if so, how staff will be chosen for these schools, and whether this will denude other high schools of highly trained staff?

2. Whether the Minister has considered the implication that this proposal will lead to discrimination between pupils and create an elite at these chosen schools?

3. What plans the Minister has to obviate any ill-effects of this proposal on schools and children not selected for this special treatment?

4. Whether the Government considers that an adequate number of pupils will be available within the zones of these schools in the near future due to the programmes of urban redevelopment now in progress; if so, whether these children will be forced to travel long distances to the high schools to which they are allocated if they are not selected for one of these three schools?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The Minister of Education has supplied the following answers:—

1. Yes; no change will be made in current procedures for staffing these and district high schools.

2. It is not agreed that the proposal implies discrimination of any significance. The proposal itself was in fact recommended by the High School Principals' Association.

3. It has not been demonstrated that there will be ill-effects on any schools or pupils.

4. If redevelopment produces adequate numbers of pupils to return entirely to traditional procedures for filling these schools the new proposal will progressively disappear.

TERTIARY EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS: SECONDARY FACILITIES IN WESTERN DISTRICT.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. What are the Government's plans to provide additional tertiary educational institutions in rural areas?

2. What are the reasons for the delay in affiliation of the Warrnambool Technical College with the Victoria Institute of Colleges, and whether affiliation is contemplated in the future; if not, why?

3. What are the plans for extension of secondary school facilities in the Western District, particularly in Hamilton?

4. Whether the Minister has inspected the prefabricated buildings being re-erected at Hamilton; if so—(a) whether he regards them as suitable class-rooms for teaching in 1968; and (b) whether he will consider the urgent requests of the parents and teachers at Hamilton for the demolition of these prefabricated structures?

5. If the Minister will lay on the table of the Library all files dealing with the re-building of the Hamilton High School, including notes and memoranda of all submissions received by him requesting the demolition of inadequate prefabricated structures?

For **Mr. ROSSITER** (Minister of Labour and Industry), **Mr. Wilcox** (Minister of Transport).—The answers provided by the Minister of Education are lengthy, and I seek leave for their incorporation in *Hansard* without being read.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1. In June, 1965, the Government set up the Victoria Institute of Colleges to foster the development and improvement of institutions other than universities offering tertiary education in Victoria. The Victoria Institute of Colleges is largely an autonomous institution. The Government, of course, provides the Victoria Institute of Colleges with the funds it needs for its operations but the council of the Victoria

Institute of Colleges subject to the provisions of the Victoria Institute of Colleges Act makes its own decisions and governs its own affairs.

(a) The Victoria Institute of Colleges is developing regional colleges of advanced education at Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong on fine new campuses on the outskirts of these cities. Residential facilities are expected to be developed on these campuses to provide for students from surrounding country districts.

(b) The Victoria Institute of Colleges has recommended the provision of a new campus for the Yallourn Technical College to allow its development as the regional college for eastern Victoria. When the student demand requires it, residential facilities will be provided here also.

(c) Consideration is being given to ways of improving transport to facilitate travel of country students between their homes and these colleges.

2. The Victoria Institute of Colleges has been studying the potential of the Warrnambool Technical College for development as a regional college of advanced education in the Western District of Victoria. It is a complex matter which has demanded extensive consideration. This matter is *sub judice* until the Victoria Institute of Colleges announces the results of its deliberations which should be very soon now. However, I have been assured that the Victoria Institute of Colleges is very conscious of its responsibilities to foster the development of tertiary education in country districts and the report in the answer to question No. 1 of what is being done bears this out. The Victoria Institute of Colleges council is the sole authority for deciding whether or not a college shall be affiliated in the Victoria Institute of Colleges system. In making such a decision it must assess the future potential of the college for development as well as its existing levels of student population and facilities, and the council must have regard for the numerous priorities that exist throughout the Victoria Institute of Colleges system and ensure that available finance is distributed responsibly in accordance with these priorities.

My personal view, previously expressed, is that the college should be affiliated. I have therefore asked the council of the Victoria Institute of Colleges through its vice-president, Dr. Law, to give further consideration to the question of affiliation.

3. There are no plans at present.

4. Yes.

(a) No, not in their old form.

(b) No.

5. Yes.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

HOUSES OWNED IN SUNSHINE ELECTORATE: RENTS: CONDITIONS OF TENANCY.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. How many houses in the Sunshine electorate are owned by the Railway Department?

2. What rents are charged for the houses?

3. What are the conditions of tenancy?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answers are—

1. Four hundred and seventy-six houses.

2. Rentals charged by the Railways Commissioners are—

—	Actual Rental (Subsidized).	Economic Rental.
	\$	\$
Two-bedroom residences	4.75	10.00
	per week	per week
Three-bedroom residences	5.50	10.50
	per week	per week
Four-bedroom residences	6.25	11.00
	per week	per week

3. I shall hand to the honorable member a copy of the usual tenancy agreement.

TRAVANCORE SPECIAL SCHOOL.

VISITS BY PARENTS: ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTRY PARENTS.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether visits, by parents to children at Travancore special school suffering from infantile autism, are considered part of their psychological therapy?

2. What arrangements are made to assist parents resident in the country to visit such children?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answers:—

1. Children suffering from infantile autism, and all other children suffering from emotional disturbances, would benefit from visits by parents and such visits could be considered as part of their psychological therapy.

2. It is the established practice to offer rail vouchers to parents in need on four occasions per year—that is, at Easter and school term holidays.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

MEDICAL OFFICERS: EMPLOYMENT ON SCHOOL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. How many equivalent full-time medical officers of the Department of Health were concerned with school medical examinations in each of the last five years?

2. How many—(a) initial examinations of school children at each grade level; and (b) repeat examinations of school children at each grade level, were made in each of the last five years?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers provided by the Minister of Health are lengthy, and I seek leave for their incorporation in *Hansard*, without being read.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1. 1964	..	..	39.
1965	..	..	39.
1966	..	..	41.
1967	..	..	41.
1968	..	..	41.

2. The records of children examined are grouped according to the school attended, and therefore a statement of the total number of children examined at each grade level cannot be prepared without analyzing the records for each individual school visited during the last five years.

The total number of examinations carried out in 1966 and 1967, and the estimated number for 1968 are as follows:—

—	Initial Examinations.	Repeat Examination Including Reviews and Referral.
1966	54,047	96,967
1967	55,098	74,493
1968	57,000 (estimated)	48,000 (estimated)

The records of all children found to be normal are destroyed according to a planned programme (partly because of the physical volume of such records) and no figures are available prior to 1966.

In 1966 the policy was to examine all school children in Grade 2 and to repeat

the examination of all children (including those found to be normal) when they reached Grade 5 and again in Form III. The repeat examination of normal children has been eliminated over the last two years.

The new system has led to a more purposeful examination of children in Grade 1, made in perhaps 70 per cent. of cases after consultation with a parent of the child, and a more useful examination of children from other grades who are referred where necessary.

MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.

REHABILITATION OF ALCOHOLICS.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. What centres exist at State mental institutions for the rehabilitation of alcoholics?

2. Whether the operation of rehabilitation programmes for alcoholics at these centres depends on a minimum number of such patients being admitted; if so, what are the minimum numbers and why they are set?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answers:—

1. No centres for rehabilitation of alcoholics as such exist at any State mental institution, although wards at both Larundel and Royal Park psychiatric hospitals are devoted to the treatment and care of patients suffering from alcoholism. A number of wards at other hospitals also have patients suffering from alcoholism. The honorable member will be aware that plans are well in hand for the establishment by the Government of a comprehensive service for alcoholics.

2. Rehabilitation programmes for patients suffering from alcoholism are available irrespective of the number of such patients needing to participate. However, when only a few alcoholic patients are undergoing rehabilitation, it depends upon the availability of staff as to whether a suitable separate programme can be maintained for them. Many therapeutic programmes for other types of patients are quite suitable for persons suffering from alcoholism and these are used when separate programmes cannot be maintained.

INMATES OF INSTITUTIONS: CONSUMPTION OF BROMUREIDES: ATTEMPTED SUICIDES.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

Whether the Mental Health Authority has any information on the numbers of persons

admitted to its institutions who—(a) have been taking preparations containing bromureides; and (b) have attempted suicide by large doses of preparations containing bromureides?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answer:—

(a) No separate information is kept but it is estimated that the proportion of the total admissions to psychiatric hospitals who have been taking preparations containing bromureides prior to admission is 5 per cent. The greater portion of this 5 per cent. are females.

(b) Medical statistics taken out by the Mental Hygiene Branch of the Department of Health over the year 1966 show that one patient attempted suicide by taking an overdose of a preparation containing bromureides.

VACANCIES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

How many vacancies for qualified social workers remained unfilled as at 1st September, 1968, in the Mental Health Authority?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answer:—

There were six vacancies for qualified social workers as at 1st September, 1968.

NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL PERSONS IN INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

How many Aboriginal persons are currently under the supervision of Mental Health Authority institutions?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answer:—

There are nineteen Aboriginal persons at present inmates of mental institutions within the State of Victoria.

HAIR AND SCALP TREATMENT.

ADVERTISEMENTS: QUALIFICATIONS OF TRICHOLOGISTS: PAYMENTS.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to advertisements by a firm claiming to specialize in the treatment of hair and scalp; if so, what qualification a person needs to use the title trichologist?

2. Whether it is the custom for charges for courses of treatment by such persons to be paid in advance?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answers:—

1. The Minister of Health has had his attention drawn to this advertisement. No qualifications are required of a person using the title trichologist.

2. The Minister is unaware whether it is the custom for charges for treatment to be paid in advance but he understands that any payment is a matter between the customer and the person providing the service.

APOLLO BAY PRE-SCHOOL AND INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

HOLIDAY PAY FOR MRS. A. L. LEORKE.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether his attention has been drawn to the non-payment of \$1,540 in holiday pay to Mrs. A. L. Leorke by the Apollo Bay Pre-school and Infant Welfare Association?

2. Why this non-payment occurred?

3. Whether audited copies of the balance-sheets of the Association for the years 1956 to 1967 were examined by the Department of Health?

4. Whether the Minister proposes to offer any assistance to either Mrs. Leorke or the Apollo Bay Pre-school and Infant Welfare Association to resolve the difficulty?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has provided the following answers:—

1. Yes, the Minister is aware of a claim by Mrs. Leorke that she is entitled to holiday pay, but understands that there is no agreement on the actual amount involved.

2. During the period of employment of Mrs. Leorke, she was an employee of the Apollo Bay Pre-school and Infant Welfare Association and the question of holiday pay is solely a matter for determination and arrangement between Mrs. Leorke and her employer.

3. No. The conditions under which Government subsidies are made available to municipal councils and approved organizations towards the cost of maintaining kindergarten services simply provide for a copy of statements of receipts and expenditure during any one year.

4. No. From inquiries made by officers of the Department of Health, it would appear that the Association has over the years used some of the subsidy money made available from the Department towards the cost of maintaining the kindergarten services for purposes other than payment of the kindergartner and in my opinion any correction of the situation that has to be made is the responsibility of the committee.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

COMMONWEALTH EXTENSION SERVICES: GRANTS AND EXPENDITURE.

For **Mr. R. S. L. McDONALD** (Rodney), **Mr. Buckley** asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

What Commonwealth extension services grants were received during the last three financial years and how these funds were expended?

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The answer to this question, as supplied by the Minister of Agriculture, is lengthy, and I seek leave of the House to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:—

In the last three financial years, there have been three Commonwealth extension services grants. In 1965-66, extension services funds were received from the Commonwealth extension services grant (C.E.S.G.) and the Commonwealth dairy industry extension grant (C.D.I.E.G.). In 1966-67, the above two grants were

received, and a further grant was also made under the title Commonwealth extension services grant (additional funds). In 1967-68, the three grants were combined into one Commonwealth extension services grant. The table which follows shows the expenditure under these various grants for 1965-66 and 1966-67 and the allocation of funds for 1967-68. The expenditure figures for each project for 1967-68 are not yet finalized and approved by the Commonwealth.

Project Title.	1965-66 Expenditure.			1966-67 Expenditure.				1967-68 Allocation.
	CESG.	CDIEG.	Total.	CESG.	CDIEG.	CESG Additional.	Total.	CESG Combined.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Weeds research ..						4,589.89	4,589.89	6,533.00
Fodder conservation ..	4,619.06		4,619.06	4,956.72		4,770.50	9,727.22	8,195.00
Potato Research Station, Healesville ..						9,948.41	9,948.41	6,170.00
Irrigation Research Station, Kyabram ..						2,502.71	2,502.71	17,540.00
Animal disease specialists ..								10,159.00
Beef extension services ..						6,797.02	6,797.02	8,675.00
Poultry extension services ..	12,826.04		12,826.04	9,868.92		4,000.00	13,868.92	17,517.00
Regional pasture research ..	7,985.33		7,985.33	8,974.86		7,676.14	16,651.00	19,325.00
Sheep and wool extension services ..						9,120.31	9,120.31	9,530.00
Pastoral Research Station, Hamilton ..						24,544.25	24,544.25	27,335.00
Pasture research, Rutherglen ..						5,586.53	5,586.53	8,846.00
S.S. Cameron Research Laboratory ..						26,576.73	26,576.73	30,350.00
Trainee extension officers, horticulture ..						2,071.15	2,071.15	12,900.00
Horticulture extension services ..	14,443.85		14,443.85	20,119.33		21,311.34	41,430.67	28,681.00
Citrus Research Station, Mildura ..	163.42		163.42					1,140.00
Mass media services, horticulture ..						4,656.03	4,656.03	9,765.00
University cadetships ..	8,777.30		8,777.30	6,258.75		11,017.65	17,276.40	31,881.00
Plant Research Laboratory, Mildura ..						21,423.00	21,423.00	16,500.00
Soils Advisory Officer ..						1,488.50	1,488.50	2,800.00
Regional extension services ..						2,281.23	2,281.23	
Mass media services, Information Branch ..	48,936.21	22,286.75	71,222.96	49,699.61	11,098.77	52,021.34	112,819.72	98,610.00
Agriculture engineering ..								4,300.00
In-service training ..	1,084.59		1,084.59			4,234.92	4,234.92	1,880.00
Farm management economics ..						505.00	505.00	4,640.00
Statistical analysis ..	488.00		488.00			3,000.00	3,000.00	5,500.00
Post graduate scholarships ..						1,800.78	1,800.78	4,000.00
Overseas and interstate tours ..	4,973.92		4,973.92	1,547.38		16,551.40	18,098.78	16,278.00
Irrigation research and extension ..						468.15	468.15	8,441.00
Pasture demonstrations, wheat belt ..	1,323.77		1,323.77	3,080.26			3,080.26	3,737.00
Foot rot demonstrations ..	9,151.47		9,151.47	10,601.97			10,601.97	9,741.00
Grade herd recording ..		71,200.00	71,200.00			71,200.00	71,200.00	71,200.00
Sire and farm survey ..		77,029.00	77,029.00			85,085.09	85,085.09	88,200.00
Dairy husbandry extension ..		7,484.25	7,484.25			10,616.14	10,616.14	17,400.00
Attwood Veterinary Research Station ..						25,867.02	25,867.02	22,580.00
Barley improvement ..						990.00	990.00	6,580.00
Soil sulphur studies ..								5,434.00
Victorian Plant Research Institute, Burnley ..								4,746.00
Ellinbank Research Station ..								14,600.00
Regional Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Hamilton ..								22,865.00
Water Supply, Research Station, Rutherglen ..								29,400.00
Agricultural extension services ..	1,227.04		1,227.04	892.20			892.20	1,900.00
Soil Conservation Authority extension services ..	4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00		4,000.00	8,000.00	15,400.00
Totals ..	120,000	178,000	298,000	120,000	178,000	279,800	577,800	731,274

DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

FARMERS LEAVING INDUSTRY: COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows) asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. Whether the Government has agreed to support the Federal Government's proposal for assisting dairy farmers to leave the industry?

2. Whether the Minister can inform the House how much of the \$25,000,000 the Federal Government provided for the above scheme will be allocated to Victoria?

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The Minister of Agriculture has provided the following answers:—

1. Although preliminary discussions have taken place between Commonwealth and State officials, the Government has not yet received a firm proposal from the Commonwealth Government.

2. The figure of \$25,000,000 has been mentioned as the amount to be provided by the Commonwealth, but no details as to the proposed allocation between the States have yet been submitted.

LAND UTILIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

REPORT ON LITTLE DESERT AREA.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows) asked the Minister of Lands—

If he will lay on the table of the Library the report of the Land Utilization Advisory Council dealing with the Little Desert area?

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

Under section 20 of the Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act, the Land Utilization Advisory Council is required to advise

the Government and the Soil Conservation Authority as regards the use of land. There is no statutory provision for the council's reports to be made public. The report on the Little Desert is presently being considered, and it is not proposed to lay it on the table of the Library at this stage.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION.

DRAINAGE PROJECTS: COMPLETION AND COSTS.

For **Mr. R. S. L. McDONALD** (Rodney), **Mr. Buckley** asked the Minister of Water Supply—

1. How many drainage projects were completed over the last three years, and what was the cost of each scheme?

2. How many drainage schemes are currently under construction, what has been the expenditure on each to date, when it is expected each will be completed, and what is the estimated final cost of each scheme?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—The answers are—

1. Drainage works are not readily grouped into projects for which a completion date can be stated. The following list includes major systems substantially completed in the period:—

		\$
Dunbulbalane area	800,000	
Broken-Nine Mile creek dredging	520,000	
Mosquito depression system (lower end)	1,300,000	
Dodney-Undera drains	170,000	
By-pass drain at Two Mile swamp, Kerang	2,400	
Flowerdays by-pass drain, Koondrook	12,000	

2.

Name.	Expenditure to Date.	When Complete Years.	Estimated Final Cost.
	\$		\$
Swan Hill North (Tyntynder)	930,000	3	1,250,000
Koondrook drains	360,000	5	1,000,000
Piccaninny-Barr system	160,000	10	660,000
Pyramid drains (Tragowel Plains)	300,000	1	420,000
Lockington system	510,000	5	3,000,000
Bamawm system (remodelling)	460,000	5	900,000
Campaspe system	100,000	5	1,054,000
Deakin main drain (remodelling)	590,000	5	1,200,000
Wyuna-Coram system outfall (Kanyapella basin)	200,000	1	400,000
Shepparton North main drains (11 and 12) (remodelling)	170,000	2	420,000
Murray Valley system	3,650,000	3	4,500,000
Redcliffs drains (additions)	60,000	3	170,000
Macalister drains (remodelling)	470,000	10	1,000,000

The actual dates of completion will be dependent upon the funds which become available for drainage construction from year to year and upon the priority given to the various works, having regard to the severity of the problems which develop in the several areas.

TEN-YEAR WATER CONSERVATION PLAN.

For **Mr. R. S. L. McDONALD** (Rodney), Mr. Buckley asked the Minister of Water Supply—

In respect of the Government's ten-year water conservation plan, what is the position to date?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—The answer is—

The ten-year water conservation plan comprised ten items and the position with respect to each item is as follows:—

Item 1: Devilbend reservoir—completed.

Item 2: Bellfield reservoir—completed.

Item 3: Buffalo reservoir, first stage—completed.

Item 4: Corop Lakes—first stage—completed.

Item 5: Tarago reservoir—completed.

Item 6: Chowilla reservoir—construction deferred by River Murray Commission.

Item 7: Nillahcootie reservoir—completed.

Item 8: Lake Merrimu storage and diversion tunnels (Bacchus Marsh)—stage 1 in progress.

Item 9: Lake Mokoan (Winton swamp)—diversion channel to storage in progress.

Item 10: Buffalo reservoir—second stage (high dam)—investigations proceeding.

PETITION.

BALLARAT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

Mr. A. T. EVANS (Ballaarat North) presented a petition from certain citizens of the Ballarat district praying for such action as may be necessary to provide for the continuation of a public transportation system in Ballarat.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN.

DIRECTORSHIPS OF COMPANIES.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I wish to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, “the propriety of the Chief Secretary accepting a company directorship in a company known as Avis Rent-A-Car System Pty. Ltd., and the possible conflict with his administrative duties as a member of the Cabinet”.

Approval of the proposed discussion was indicated by the required number of members rising in their places, as specified in Standing Order No. 8B.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—This is the second occasion within twelve months on which the Opposition has adopted the adjournment procedure to point out to the Government the need for it to adhere to a Constitutional convention which emanated from the Mother of Parliaments—the House of Commons. This convention is followed in every State of Australia other than Victoria, in the sister Dominion of New Zealand, and by the President of the United States of America when he appoints his Cabinet advisers. The convention is simply this: Ministers of the Crown should not place themselves—or, more importantly, their very high offices—in a position where, in the public mind, there can appear to be a conflict between their public and private interests.

The failure of the Government to adhere to this principle has led to concern and confusion not merely within the community at large but within the Liberal Party itself. More significantly, it has led to a weakening in the public regard for the important role played by our political institutions and by Ministers of the Crown. When there is a weakening in public regard for the institution which appoints the Ministers of the Crown, there is a weakening in the public regard for Parliament itself.

Last Sunday night, the people of Victoria were subjected to the spectacle of the Chief Secretary—the Deputy Premier—of this State appearing on a television show during the course of which he abused the press—that is his political prerogative—and complained that somehow he needed the directorship in question to provide him with some economic certainty for his future. It is a matter of deep regret to all members of this Parliament that the Chief Secretary should demean his position in this way; it is a matter of regret to Opposition members, even though they are politically opposed to the Government, that the Government should be demeaned in this way; and ultimately it must be a matter of concern to all citizens of the community that the institution of Parliament should, through the actions of the Chief Secretary, be so demeaned.

What is even more deplorable is that the Chief Secretary and the Premier, instead of coming to grips with this issue, recognizing the damage they are doing to this institution, and moving to adopt a principle and a convention which other Parliaments have found it necessary to adopt to preserve the nature of the institution of Parliament, have deliberately endeavoured to confuse the public about the nature of this convention and the way in which it should operate in terms of Ministers of the Crown. Unfortunately, the Chief Secretary equated his own position in this situation with that of other members of Parliament. For the Premier to act in this manner is understandable, because probably he has never understood the convention, but the same could not be said of the Chief Secretary.

Because he is trained in the law, he understands the nature of both legal and constitutional precedents, and his attempt to equate the position of a Minister of the Crown with that of a mere member of Parliament is not only misleading but quite dishonest.

Mr. Holding.

I do not wish to go right through the body of precedents which exist in respect of this matter, for the Opposition has done this on a number of occasions in recent years. However, I should like to make clear the point that this convention is directed solely towards Ministers of the Crown to protect them both personally and in the very high offices that they hold. The reasons for the convention are obvious. By the nature of the important occupations in which they are engaged every day, Cabinet Ministers are beneficiaries to many secrets concerning the welfare and financial future of the State.

Many Ministers continually have to sign Government contracts involving large amounts of money, and the convention has been adopted, and rigidly maintained in all of the Parliaments of the Commonwealth, except Victoria, so that Ministers may act in a manner which permits no possible conflict between their public and private duties; and, more importantly, so that in the public mind there cannot appear to be any conflict.

As I have said, I do not intend to traverse the large body of precedents. They are there, and if necessary my colleagues will cite them. I need do no more than repeat what was said when this convention was outlined in the House of Commons by no less a Parliamentary figure than the late Sir Winston Churchill. For the guidance of members of the House of Commons, Sir Winston Churchill said—

It is a principle of public life that Ministers must so order their affairs that no conflict arises, or appears to arise, between their private interests and their public duties.

Such a conflict may arise if a Minister takes an active part in any undertaking which may have contractual or other relations with a Government Department, more particularly with his own Department. It may arise, not only if the Minister has a financial interest in such an undertaking, but also if he is actively associated with any body, even of a philanthropic character, which might have negotiations or other dealings with the Government or be involved in

disputes with it. Furthermore, Ministers should be free to give full attention to their official duties—

that is the significant and basic proposition which emerges from the statement—

and they should not engage in other activities which might be thought to distract their attention from those duties.

Mr. SUGGETT.—One man, one job.

Mr. HOLDING.—In his interjection, the honorable member for Bentleigh has voiced the excuse that the Government has been using year in and year out. It is an endeavour to equate the role of a Minister of the Crown with that of a private member of Parliament.

Mr. SUGGETT.—Do you believe in the principle of one man, one job?

Mr. HOLDING.—I believe in the maintenance of conventions designed for the protection of Parliament and the reputation of its Ministers. It is a matter of deep regret that a Minister of the Crown can be hawked around this State for hire to private companies. It is that to which the Opposition objects. I remind honorable members opposite, who are concerned to interject, that their great political leader, Sir Robert Menzies, rigidly adhered to this principle when he was Prime Minister; indeed, the Liberal Party in the Commonwealth Parliament adhered to it when Mr. Bury and Mr. Barnes were appointed to the Ministry. One may well ask: If it is good enough for the Liberal Party in the Commonwealth Parliament to adhere to this principle, why is it not good enough for the Liberal Party in the Parliament of Victoria? This Administration stands apart as the only Government in Australia which allows this abuse of a Ministerial position, and it is one of the few in the Western democratic world to do so; it does not matter whether the abuse is intentional or unintentional.

The Opposition is gravely concerned at the continual erosion of this principle. When the Government came into office, the principle was

loosely applied. I can understand that a Government, when appointing a member of Parliament to the high office of a Minister of the Crown, might feel reluctant to ask him to relinquish his interests in a business which he has built up over the period of his working life; but less than twelve months ago this Government made a dramatic departure from the principle—a departure which, to my knowledge, has not been made by any other Australian Parliament, or, so far as my research has disclosed, by a legislature anywhere else in the Western world. The departure was that a Minister of the Crown, who had occupied that office for many years, suddenly took up a directorship in a public company. That was a new and novel situation and one of the few things that this Government could claim to be unique to it.

On that occasion the Opposition believed it had a duty to point out to Parliament the inherent dangers in the situation. I remind the House that the Opposition raised the matter then to put it at an appropriate level and to allow the Government an opportunity to consider all the implications. The Opposition indicated that it would not take the matter to a vote in the House if the Minister wished to reconsider his position and if the Government wished to make a statement about it. It adopted that attitude because it was concerned to preserve this institution. Unfortunately, the offer was rejected, and since then the Chief Secretary has extended his commercial activities—has gone from slippers to cars.

Honorable members are bound to ask themselves why it is that companies engaged in a wide range of commercial activities which are entirely different in their nature should seek out the Chief Secretary for appointment as a director. The honorable gentleman himself says that he has not practised law for years; therefore, it is not because of his knowledge of company law that he is sought, and he knows that that is not the reason. If one were

running a slipper factory or a car business, why would one wish to approach the Chief Secretary with a view to his becoming a director of the company? The answer is obvious. If the Chief Secretary or any other Minister of the Crown accepted a directorship, he would carry into the company the prestige of his Ministerial office.

As I have said, this is not a matter that worries the Premier, because his sensibilities with regard to this issue were blunted long ago. There can be no real parallel between a member of Parliament practising his profession while in office and his accepting directorships which, by their very nature, largely depend on personal influence. This Government will go down in history, as the "rent-a-Minister Government," because it can be said of this Administration, "If you want a Minister, you can rent him". The situation might be reached when every honorable gentleman adorning the Treasury bench could be walking down Bourke-street with a sign on his back reading "Minister for hire".

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I think the honorable member goes a little too far.

Mr. HOLDING.—With respect, Mr. Speaker, the Chief Secretary has gone a little too far. When this matter first arose, the Opposition did everything it could to alert the Government to the dangers of the situation. I ask you to ponder this, Mr. Speaker: If a Minister of the Crown may accept a directorship of this nature, is it not a logical extension of the principle for a Minister of the Crown about to travel overseas to say "I will accept commissions"? How far are we from a situation in which an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper saying "Minister of the Crown travelling overseas. Will accept commissions from large commercial undertakings"? That is the logical corollary of to-day's situation. That may sound harsh, Mr. Speaker, and because you have a

duty to maintain the prestige of this institution and its members, I can understand why you should feel concerned. The Opposition is also concerned.

That brings me to the next point, which is this: Has there been a conflict of interests? As to that, only the Chief Secretary can inform the House. He has made a statement to the press, and from that it would appear that there does seem to be some conflict. Recently the Chief Secretary visited New Zealand, and, on behalf of Avis Rent-A-Car, he had discussions with Ministers of the Crown in the Dominion.

I find it disturbing that when the honorable gentleman returned he was quoted in the *Sun News-Pictorial* of 12th August as having said—

My visit was connected with promoting tourism between the two countries and it far from conflicted with my official duties.

Had I been able to achieve what I went there for, it would have been an asset for Australia.

Another press report states—

The New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Marshall, says the business that brought Victoria's Chief Secretary, Sir Arthur Rylah, to New Zealand, was Avis rental cars, of which Sir Arthur is a director.

Sir Arthur met Mr. Marshall for 45 minutes today with three men he brought from Australia.

Sir Arthur went from that meeting to a private meeting with the Attorney-General, Mr. Ralph Hanan.

Avis has had a rough ride in New Zealand.

It took the company five years to win permission to start modest operation in New Zealand. Now it is here it takes it six months to get permission to install a petrol pump.

This new concept of the Bolte Government and its erosion of the convention is alarming. On the one hand, the Chief Secretary said that he went to New Zealand to negotiate on behalf of Avis, which company paid his fares; on the other hand, he endeavoured to assure everybody that if the discussions had been successful he would have been promoting tourism. We are fast reaching a

situation where it will be claimed that what is good for Avis is good for Victoria or for Australia.

Mr. SUGGETT.—Sometimes private enterprise can promote tourism.

Mr. HOLDING.—I realize that the honorable member's Federal colleagues support private enterprise, but they do not support this sort of public nonsense. The Chief Secretary also states that his conscience is clear. I submit to this House and to the honorable gentleman that it is a matter not of his conscience, but of public confidence in the institution of Parliament. Ministers of State, in the execution of their duties, should be free from the pressures that can be mounted upon them in private board rooms. Moreover, a Minister should not be prepared to hawk the prestige of his office for the benefit of private companies because, whether we like it or not, the first duty of a company director is to the shareholders. This is not merely a moral duty—it is a legal duty which is enshrined in company law. A director's commercial duty is to maximize the profits of the company.

How can a Minister of the Crown, who controls the omnibus Chief Secretary's Department, attend a directors' meeting, take off his garb as a Minister and say, "My first duty to-day is to promote Avis"; then go to New Zealand and say, "My first duty is to promote Avis and that is why I am here"; and upon returning to this State, say that he has another duty which is to promote tourism? That statement by the Chief Secretary poses questions to this House and to the people of Victoria.

By a letter dated 12th August, I directed a series of questions to the Premier which, to date, have not been answered. I invite honorable members to consider those questions now. They were—

1. Whether Sir Arthur's trip was regarded by you as primarily to promote the interests of a private company of which he is a director, or was it also, as stated by Sir Arthur, to promote tourism?

2. To the extent of which it was promoting tourism, then was it the subject of any, and if so what, discussions with the Minister responsible for tourism?

3. What were the specific requests made by Sir Arthur on behalf of the Government to any, and which, Ministers of the New Zealand Government for the purposes of promoting tourism?

4. What Ministers of the Government of New Zealand did Sir Arthur contact, and in what way would tourism between New Zealand and Victoria benefit by the submissions put by Sir Arthur?

5. Were the submissions made by Sir Arthur designed to benefit tourism between New Zealand and Victoria, and did he have the approval of yourself as Premier, the Minister responsible for tourism and your Cabinet?

The defence of the Chief Secretary by the Premier makes this a Cabinet matter, and the public defence by the Chief Secretary in the public press and through the medium of television makes this a public matter.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The honorable member has one more minute.

On the motion of Mr. WILKES (Northcote), Standing Order 8b was suspended to enable the Leader of the Opposition to continue his speech for fifteen minutes.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I thank the House for its indulgence. It is implicit in the defence by the Premier that this matter goes beyond what we would all understand and accept as the loyalty of one Minister to another, or the loyalty that a Minister would expect to receive from the Premier. The abandonment of a convention designed to protect the institution of Parliament and the reputation of its Ministers is involved. This abandonment and the continual erosion of that principle has produced this situation. I assure the House that the Opposition derives no pleasure from moving this motion; its members have continually warned the Government of what was involved.

Does any Minister or back-bench member believe that, when the President of the United States of America appoints as his advisers in

Cabinet some of the most senior and significant figures operating in the American economy—heads of gigantic business undertakings—his insistence on their abandonment of directorships, in a free enterprise economy such as the United States, is contrary to the interests of his Government? It is obvious that this course is followed so that at any level in the public mind there can be no suggestion that a member of the Administration or a senior adviser will be involved in a conflict of duties.

Mr. JONA.—Does this apply only to a company directorship?

Mr. HOLDING.—If the honorable member and the Government took the trouble to examine precedents and the statements which dominate the constitutional practice of the House of Commons and of every other Parliament in Australia, including the Federal Parliament, he would know that it was unnecessary to ask that question.

The current situation has been brought about by the Government's evasion of the issue. The issue is not whether some back-bench member is a director, a lawyer, a doctor, or a farmer, but whether a member, holding the office of a Minister of the Crown, is willing to make the prestige of his office available for hire or barter in the commercial market places of this city. The answer which has been given by every other Government and Parliament in Australia, as well as by the Mother of Parliaments, on this issue is that the reputation of Ministers is so deeply involved with the integrity and the reputation of Parliament itself that, upon appointment as a Minister, a member ought to resign directorships in private or public companies. That is the convention, and the Government must accept full responsibility for any results which flow from its abandonment of the convention. In that situation, the actions of the Chief Secretary cannot be separated from the actions of the Government, because the Chief

Secretary has acted with the approval of the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues.

The Opposition has had to raise this matter twice in less than twelve months. It does not want to have to raise this issue once every twelve months or once every six months. There should be no question in the public mind of a possible conflict of duty, and there should be no need for editorials in the daily press suggesting that the Chief Secretary might have been guilty of an indiscretion or some other action in respect of the acceptance of company directorships. In the interests of good government of the people of this State, and particularly of this Parliamentary institution, it is time the Premier made it clear that Ministers of the Crown are not for hire by motor car or other commercial companies that believe their commercial interests would be advanced by hiring a Minister of this Government and thereby attaching to their commercial activities the prestige of Ministerial office. That is the situation that has arisen in Victoria today.

It is time that the Government put an end to this practice. The Chief Secretary should make up his mind whether he wants to be a company director or the holder of one of the most senior and important political positions in Victoria.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I oppose the motion which was moved by the Leader of the Opposition and which alludes to—the propriety of the Chief Secretary accepting a company directorship in a company known as Avis Rent-A-Car System Pty. Ltd., and the possible conflict with his administrative duties as a member of the Cabinet.

The motion refers to the hypothetical question of a possible conflict of interests.

Mr. HOLDING.—It is no longer hypothetical.

Mr. G. O. REID.—The question is put in the hypothetical form of a possible conflict of interests, and it

is to that particular aspect of the matter that I wish to direct myself. The Leader of the Opposition went to great trouble to quote authorities and conventions of other Parliaments; but it has not been the convention of the Victorian Parliament that a Minister of the Crown should cease to be a director of a company. If members of the Opposition look through the records of previous Cabinets, including the Cabinets of some past Labor Governments, they will probably find that some of their former colleagues held company directorships.

Mr. STONEHAM.—That is not so; you have no right to make such a statement.

Mr. G. O. REID.—The Leader of the Opposition put the question of the holding of the office of a company directorship on a far too narrow basis. A possible conflict of interests may be found in dealing with people in other walks of business, whether they are directors of companies or not. Why is attention always directed to the question of a Minister holding a company directorship? After all, a directorship means only that a person is a principal adviser or executive officer of some corporation. A man may be conducting a business in his own right and not under the cover of a company. Surely there have been occasions when some members of the Cabinet have had such an interest?

Mr. STONEHAM.—Are you saying that the principle should be carried further and that we are not going far enough?

Mr. G. O. REID.—If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to carry this principle in relation to company directorships a little further, he should also apply it to people conducting businesses in their own right, and to barristers and solicitors.

Mr. FLOYD.—Yes, if they traded with the Government.

Mr. G. O. REID.—I listened to the Leader of the Opposition in silence.

Perhaps my remarks are provoking and are hitting home to members of the Opposition. A Minister of a former Labor Government was an eminent barrister. Could it be suggested that, when he conducted a case in court, it was an interference with his duties as a Cabinet Minister? Is it going to be suggested that when an eminent barrister who is a member of the Cabinet accepts a brief—I use the words of the Leader of the Opposition—he is being held for hire or for barter? From time to time, some solicitors may be impressed by his being a member of Cabinet and may be drawn to him in that way. This is the kind of sinister suggestion being made by the Opposition.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—It could easily be suggested that he got the case because he was a Minister of the Crown.

Mr. G. O. REID.—That is so. Is this principle to extend beyond company directorships? If the Leader of the Opposition is to take this pure attitude with regard to Cabinet Ministers, he must extend the principle into other walks of life. Is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is the proprietor of a business, to be debarred from Cabinet rank because he owns that business?

Mr. WILKES.—What business?

Mr. G. O. REID.—In the first instance, the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition is based on possible conflicts. There could be many possible conflicts between a person's private interests and the public's interests, whether he is a director of a company, a practising barrister and solicitor, or other professional practitioner.

Mr. STONEHAM.—You are arguing for an extension of the principle.

Mr. G. O. REID.—If the former Leader of the Opposition, the honorable member for Midlands, has a logical mind, he must believe that, on the argument of the Leader of the Opposition, a Minister of the Crown should have no outside interests at all. His Leader stressed the

point of view that there is a great difference between the position of a Minister of the Crown and a member of Parliament. Surely this is a matter of degree. There can also be this possible conflict of duty between an honorable member's private interests and his interests as a member of Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition is holding the position of a member of Parliament very cheaply if he suggests that there is a great gulf between a Minister of the Crown and a member of Parliament. The contractual arrangements between the Government and some private organization in which an honorable member is interested is a matter which applies to members of Parliament at large, and is not confined to Ministers of the Crown.

If this principle of conflict of interests is carried to its logical conclusion, it should be applied to ordinary members of Parliament as well as to Ministers of the Crown, because it can arise in the voting on measures before the House. Some members of the Opposition might have to consider their position if they should be required to vote on a matter in which they hold some outside interest. If that principle is carried to its logical conclusion, the only people eligible to be elected to Parliament will be those who have had no experience in any walk of life, and who have been entirely divorced from any outside interests. Having lived in a vacuum, they would legislate in a vacuum because they would be out of touch with the outside world. That is the sort of logical conclusion to the possibilities envisaged by the Leader of the Opposition.

The honorable member did himself less than justice when he referred to the Chief Secretary's association with the company concerned, and to the interview given by the Chief Secretary on television on Sunday night. I suggest that his comments were grossly exaggerated.

Mr. SUGGETT.—They were also untrue.

Mr. G. O. Reid.

Mr. G. O. REID.—That is so. He said that the Chief Secretary abused the press. I watched this interview and by no stretch of imagination could it be said that the Chief Secretary abused the press. He might have complained of some unfair criticisms, but by no stretch of imagination could it be said that the press was abused. Further, this interview was only part of a general picture given by the Chief Secretary in dealing with several topics of public interest. Towards the end of his interview, the honorable gentleman was asked a number of questions. He did not in any way reflect on or discredit his office of Minister of the Crown or that of a member of this Parliament.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—It is not as interesting as the Calwell-Cairns feud!

Mr. G. O. REID.—That is so. This has been a wonderful opportunity for the Opposition; the motive behind this motion is not to protect the sanctity of Parliament or to ensure the integrity of Ministers of the Crown but to distract public attention from the feud that is taking place between Dr. Cairns and Mr. Calwell.

On the motion of Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development), Standing Order 8B was suspended to enable the Attorney-General to continue his speech for fifteen minutes.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I thank the House for its indulgence. Much has been made of the acceptance by the Chief Secretary of the particular directorship in the Avis company. This is a proprietary company, not a public company. The Chief Secretary has been challenged in connexion with various matters concerning this company. It is suggested that during his tenure of office as Chief Secretary the honorable gentleman went to New Zealand. In fact he went to New Zealand openly and avowedly, not in his Ministerial capacity but in fact in his capacity as a director of the company.

The position is abundantly clear. The Chief Secretary did not use his

position as a Minister in any way to influence the transactions which took place between the Avis company and the New Zealand Ministry. The honorable gentleman can say this for himself; indeed he has done so. It has also been suggested that in some way the Chief Secretary may have influenced contracts between the Commonwealth Government and the Avis company. That suggestion is entirely unfounded. These matters of contracts were dealt with before the Chief Secretary became a director of the company. It is clear that the Chief Secretary in no way used his position as a Minister of the Crown to benefit himself or the company of which he is a director.

Mr. HOLDING.—How do you know that?

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—After thirteen years in the Ministry can anyone point a finger at him?

Mr. G. O. REID.—Even those who have criticized the Chief Secretary in the press acknowledge that throughout his long Ministerial career the honorable gentleman has shown the utmost integrity in all his transactions.

Mr. STONEHAM.—We admit that.

Mr. G. O. REID.—The honorable member for Midlands admits it, and I think it can be taken as an authoritative admission on behalf of the Opposition that throughout his career as a Cabinet Minister the Chief Secretary has conducted himself with the utmost integrity. The reason for the Opposition's challenge concerning directorships may be based on the idea that the time spent by the Chief Secretary on duties associated with one or other of these directorships may distract him from his Parliamentary duties or Ministerial responsibilities, but if that is to be adopted as a criterion of challenge then it could be extended against any member of Parliament who engages in some outside occupation whilst he is either a Minister or a private member.

The second challenge is that it is quite wrong that the prestige of the prominent position of Minister of the Crown should be made use of in some other avenue in which the member concerned is associated. If this is to be adopted as a criterion, it could be asserted that any member of this House who is engaged in some other occupation, whatever the business or profession may be, should not continue to pursue it because the prestige of Parliamentary office will be brought into his other activities.

I have given the answers to the arguments submitted by the Leader of the Opposition, of which no doubt we shall hear more during the course of the debate. I submit that the House should reject this motion entirely, coupling with that action its confidence in the integrity and ability displayed by the Chief Secretary during his long years of office.

Mr. STONEHAM (Midlands).—The integrity of the Chief Secretary is not the issue before the House at this time. Some months ago when the Attorney-General attempted to put up a defence in a similar debate honorable members gained the impression that he was one of those members of the Cabinet who strongly adhere to this vital principle of avoiding the possibility of conflict between a Minister's duty and his private interests. However, tonight the Attorney-General went from bad to worse. First, the honorable gentleman could not tell us whether the Chief Secretary visited New Zealand on a private or a public trip, or whether it was a dual-purpose trip, and he argued that the case presented by the Leader of the Opposition was faulty because it did not go far enough. The Attorney-General asked why emphasis was placed only on directorships and why the idea should not be carried further. The Minister asked why any member of Parliament should not be prohibited from having any outside private interest. The Opposition has not suggested such a prohibition because the

combined wisdom of all the most distinguished leaders in the democratic world, belonging to all parties in all countries—but pre-eminently, of course, in Great Britain—has produced the unanimous view that the convention should apply to directorships.

The Attorney-General, who is a lawyer, has raised the question with respect to practising lawyers who are members of Parliament. The honorable gentleman knows that members of the legal profession are governed by a very strict code of ethics. Does the Attorney-General suggest that the code of ethics appertaining to the legal profession is so fundamentally wrong, as he tried to indicate to-day, that it should be drastically altered, and that the convention which is advocated by the Leader of the Opposition, and which is recognized throughout the democratic world, should be greatly widened? The Attorney-General was actually arguing in favour of the motion, although he is supposed to be opposed to it. I hope the Premier will enter this debate because normally the honorable gentleman is on very good terms with the *Herald*.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Do you remember the Ryan case by any chance?

Mr. STONEHAM.—That was the exception that proves the rule. I am referring to a leading article in the *Herald* of the 12th August, 1968, which said—

Sir Arthur Rylah, the Victorian Deputy Premier and Chief Secretary, has laid himself open for criticism by the way in which he undertook a mission to New Zealand last week.

I have not the time to quote the whole of the article, but it went on to say—

The duality of Sir Arthur's unorthodox role in New Zealand certainly raises questions of prudence which the Premier should clarify.

The Premier has said that the Chief Secretary has an enviable record of public service, with which I agree. The Opposition is asserting that if the Chief Secretary continues on the road

upon which he has embarked, and if he is followed by any more Ministers—of course, at least one other member of the Cabinet holds directorships—

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Who is that?

Mr. STONEHAM.—*Jobson's Investment Digest* year book for 1968, a recognized publication, lists the Honorable R. J. Hamer, Minister for Local Government, as chairman of General Foods Corporation and a director of the Nylex Corporation.

Because of the Chief Secretary's visit to New Zealand, the publicity given to it and the very grave public concern on this matter, and because the Avis company is involved in a controversy in the National Parliament over the letting of contracts at airports throughout the Commonwealth of Australia, the question of the Chief Secretary in Victoria being a director of the Avis company immediately becomes a storm centre. Although the Minister may be completely honest in his intentions and actions, all the combined wisdom of the leaders of the democratic world is unanimous in the view that a man who is a Minister of the Crown should not hold a company directorship.

This view has been supported by such men as the late Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Robert Menzies on the Conservative side of politics, and leaders of the Labor Party in both Great Britain and Australia, also the Country Party in the Commonwealth sphere, and certainly in the State of Queensland, where Mr. Nicklin, when he was Premier, made it compulsory for his Ministers to resign from the boards of co-operative butter factories. In addition, recognized authorities of the standing of Mr. Arthur Berriedale Keith and Sir Ivor Jennings in Great Britain, and other great constitutional authorities in America, the Scandinavian countries, Germany and France all agree that a man who is a Minister of the Crown should not hold a company directorship. I am well aware that the

Attorney-General adheres to that belief, and it is amazing that over the years the Government has seen fit to allow itself to be dominated by the Premier on this particular issue.

This is the third debate on this subject in which I have participated in this House over a period of ten years. I join the Leader of the Opposition in saying that it is most regrettable that the Government has not seen fit to profit by the expressions of outraged public feeling on this particular issue. The convention which we defend is fundamental to democracy, and everything we have forecast in the past has now come about.

Mr. WILCOX.—What has come about?

Mr. STONEHAM.—Not corruption, but a road leading to corruption. This will occur—it may be long after the present Chief Secretary is no longer in politics—particularly if this Government's disregard of the convention becomes firmly established and is permitted in absolute and total defiance of the established practice in democratic countries throughout the world. If Ministers in this State are permitted to continue on this road there can be only one result—there will be a stinking scandal. That is on the basis of reality and the genuine danger that the whole democratic structure will be undermined. Quite apart from that, in the theoretical sphere no valid argument can be produced against this very vital convention and fundamental rule that was established first in Great Britain and ultimately throughout the democratic world.

It is obvious that the Chief Secretary was encouraged by someone to accept a directorship. No one can tell me that the honorable gentleman, with his record of public service, would be so silly as to jeopardize that record. Something could happen to this company that would be beyond his control and he could find himself in the centre of a storm. Even

though he may be completely innocent, he would be represented to the public as a guilty man. The Attorney-General has clearly demonstrated that there is no valid argument against the motion that has been submitted by the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope that even at this very late stage the Government will take stock and immediately mend its ways, and will get into step with enlightened and distinguished democratic opinion throughout the world.

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—It seems to me that two expressions used in the motion stand out. One is the word “propriety” and the other is the expression “possible conflict”. I should like to say something about the use of the term “possible conflict”. It seems to me that it is an important part of the motion because if a conflict arises in the duties of any one person, the person concerned must act to resolve it.

I should imagine that any Minister who happened to be a director of a company, or a lot of other things for that matter, would say to himself, “Here is a situation in which I see a conflict between my position as the director of a company or my position as an office-bearer of a trade union and my position as a member of the Cabinet”. In such a case I should think any honorable person would consider the matter, would take advice and would act to resolve the conflict. It is important that the motion contains these words because they highlight one of the situations. I do not believe any honorable member would stand up in this House and say that he has only one responsibility at any one time. Members of Parliament have a variety of responsibilities; those responsibilities involve duties, and from day to day the members are engaged in carrying out those responsibilities. When conflicts arise, they are resolved by appropriate action as a member sees fit at the time.

In the situation envisaged in the motion, I think if the Minister concerned saw a conflict arising he would resign from one position or the other. In this debate reference has been made to a Minister other than the Chief Secretary. The Leader of the Opposition referred to Ministers, and, although he did not specify the other Ministers, with a wave of the hand he spoke of Ministers being for hire and walking in the streets with signs on their back to that effect. The Leader of the Opposition chose an unfortunate expression when he referred to "Ministers for hire". It is the same as saying that Ministers can be bought. One would have thought that if all the terrible possibilities referred to in this debate were to occur, they might have occurred in the thirteen or fourteen years in which the present Government has been in office. In the light of its record I should think the use of the expression, "Ministers for hire"—in other words, that Ministers can be bought—is insulting, to say the least. I remind honorable members opposite, and indeed honorable members generally, that if there was to be any corruption at the seat of Government a remarkable opportunity was available in recent years in relation to natural gas and oil.

Mr. WILKES.—We did not intend to mention that.

Mr. WILCOX.—If you were game to mention it.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The Minister of Transport should address the Chair and not members of the Opposition.

Mr. FENNESSY.—The Minister must go around with his head in the air.

Mr. WILCOX.—I shall be interested to hear from the honorable member for Brunswick East what the people are saying concerning corruption in relation to this matter. The Government's record is there for everyone to see. The Leader of the Opposition said that the subject-matter of this motion was not a matter of

conscience. If the terms of the motion are not a matter of conscience, what are they? Surely conscience is always important in the conduct of honorable men and women, but the Leader of the Opposition dismisses it. I warn the Leader of the Opposition that he and those who support him should be very careful in what they say on this matter because it could apply to all members of Parliament as well as to Ministers.

Mr. SUGGETT.—Particularly to shadow Ministers.

Mr. WILCOX.—Yes. Because of the numerous and varying matters that are discussed in this House and in the party rooms, honorable members should be careful not to take too narrow a view or they will disqualify themselves, and the only persons left in this Chamber will be those who are living in cocoons and who are cut off from the realities of life. If this proposition is carried to its logical conclusion, it means that no honorable member should be connected with any outside organization.

Mr. WILKES.—No, only Ministers.

Mr. WILCOX.—It is not possible to draw that distinction. Members could not be patrons of organizations, vice-presidents, or officials of trade unions. All municipal councillors would be involved.

Mr. FLOYD.—Only if they were doing business with the Government.

Mr. WILCOX.—I suggest that the honorable member for Williamstown cannot point to any organization, official or unofficial, which does not at some time do some business with the Government. If honorable members examine previous Budget Papers they will see that grants and subsidies are given to all sorts of organizations, societies and clubs. These grants and subsidies are not given to companies. Therefore, one has to be very careful how far one carries this principle.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the practice in the United States of America where heads of

gigantic organizations are appointed to executive office. He said that they resigned from those offices. I can understand that, but I have my views on this subject, and I would certainly never seek to say that such a person should be automatically disqualified. However, I do say that people who have that sort of background must always be liable to suffer the things which honorable members opposite have said. It is only human. They would be subject to the same complaint even though they had resigned from the organization and sold any shares they owned in it.

As I have indicated, conflicts in daily life cannot be ignored. Life is too complex to exclude the possibility of conflicts, and in deciding our duty we must always be alive to them. I draw an analogy from the practice of law. Over the years, practitioners have told me that they have been faced with certain ethical problems. At times, the discussion has revolved on the point that it is a pity that there had not been a code laid down with principles 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on. But that is not practicable in matters of ethics and conscience. It is possible, however, if one is alive to the contingency of such matters arising, to find, after discussing them with others, that a clear course can be followed to resolve the conflict.

On all sides, over the years, the Chief Secretary has been acknowledged as a man of complete integrity. If there were conflicts in relation to the matters set out in the motion, he would be alive to the conflicts and would take the necessary action. It is clear that his record supports that view. The record of the Premier and, indeed, of his Ministers, also supports that view. The motion should certainly be rejected.

The sitting was suspended at 6.32 p.m. until 8.7 p.m.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—The Attorney-General and the Minister of Transport embarked upon a piece of question-begging humbug which, in my view, did not do justice

to themselves and did the Government a disservice. When a titular head of the Government is attacked, it is regrettable that at least one of the titular heads does not reply on his behalf.

No reply has yet been made to the case submitted by the Leader of the Opposition. On the contrary, the two Ministers who have spoken have apologized in terms which are, in effect, an agreement with most of the area covered by the Leader of the Opposition. The Attorney-General, who said he saw nothing wrong with this practice and in effect attempted to put a Minister of the Crown in the same position as a member of Parliament, would, I suggest, be the last person to put himself in a position where, as the administrator of the Law Department, the courts, and the machinery for justice, he would be connected with a company. I am in no way attacking the honorable gentleman's integrity which, as is the case with the integrity of the Chief Secretary, is fully respected by the Opposition.

I speak subject to correction when I say that it may well be that the Chief Secretary did not become a company director whilst he was the titular head of the Law Department. If that is correct, it is obvious that he did not because he knew that, because of the nature of the functions of the Law Department, membership of a directorate of a company would constitute a breach of Parliamentary democracy and Ministerial responsibility, to which reference was made in tones of respect by the Attorney-General and the Minister of Transport.

I point out that a former Minister of this Government does not agree with the case submitted by those honorable gentlemen. When speaking to a motion for the adjournment of the House on 25th October, 1967, when the matter of Ministers of the Crown accepting company directorships was debated,

as reported at page 1295 of *Hansard*, the honorable member for Malvern, said—

On becoming Minister of Electrical Undertakings, it immediately occurred to me that I should not retain those directorships because there was quite a reasonable possibility of a genuine, as opposed to a theoretically or maliciously generated, conflict of interest between my position as a director of a company in one case and as Minister of Electrical Undertakings in the other.

He was referring to the acceptance by the Chief Secretary of a directorship in a company known as Easywear Limited, and he went on to say—

If it were shown to any reasonable individual that there was, in the present instance, any likelihood of the sort of situation that I found myself in recurring—if it was clear on the surface that this situation would appear—I would not find myself speaking for the Government and the Chief Secretary as I do at this moment.

Sir JOHN BLOOMFIELD (Malvern).—I rise to a point of order. It is not reasonable for the honorable member for Sunshine to select certain passages from my speech. I made it perfectly clear that those companies of which I was a director related to the electrical industry.

Mr. WILKES.—You did not.

Sir JOHN BLOOMFIELD.—I believe I did. If I did not make that clear, I certainly intended to do so.

Mr. FLOYD.—This is not a point of order; it is a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The House must thank the honorable member for his personal explanation.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—The honorable member for Malvern is correct. He did say—

Shortly before then, I had been appointed a director of a number of companies which were interested in the electrical implement business.

Sir JOHN BLOOMFIELD.—That is so.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The honorable member for Malvern did not wait for a particular situation to occur; he anticipated it. Speaking subject to correction, I think it is highly possible that, before the Chief Secretary became a director, he anticipated the situation and ceased to hold

the portfolio of Attorney-General. I ask the present Attorney-General, the titular head of the Law Department, to inform the House whether, as Minister responsible for the administration of law in Victoria, he would put himself in the position that the Chief Secretary refused to put himself in.

Although there has been a lot of question-begging and humbug by the two honorable gentlemen who have spoken, they both must admit that the principles enunciated by the Leader of the Opposition are irrefutable. Because of the statements made by the honorable member for Malvern, I ask: What is the situation in Victoria to-day? At page 1296 of *Hansard* of the 25th October, 1967, the honorable member for Malvern further stated—

A director of an industrial concern who is a member of the Government of the United Kingdom, which has as Ministers people who are responsible for income tax, the Board of Trade, customs duties and trade of a Sovereign nation, is liable to run into those difficulties, and one can well understand the Prime Ministers of Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia laying down as a principle of convenience and excessive caution that their Ministerial colleagues should not retain directorships.

Therefore, the statements of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Transport have been repudiated by the honorable member for Malvern, who was formerly Minister of Education and Minister of Electrical Undertakings. He accepted that the principles laid down by the Parliaments of the United Kingdom and Australia for the conduct of Ministries are correct. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the conscience of the Chief Secretary, and with his usual ineptitude, perhaps unintentionally, the Minister of Transport misrepresented him.

Mr. WILCOX.—I must have said something worth while for you to reply in that form!

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The Minister of Transport has interjected with his usual genius for misunderstanding. He is a veritable encyclopaedia of

ignorance in these matters. He endeavoured to imply that the Leader of the Opposition had spoken slightly of the conscience of the Chief Secretary. In the *Sun News-Pictorial* of the 12th August of this year, the Chief Secretary is reported as having denied that he used his public position to advance the business of a private company. He said, "My conscience is completely clear".

It has never been suggested by the Leader of the Opposition or by any member of the Labor Party that the Chief Secretary—or any other Minister of the Crown—used his position to advance the business of a private company. However, it has been unanimously suggested by every newspaper in Australia that a Government which permits its Ministers to get into the incomparably invidious position in which the Chief Secretary has placed himself has failed the democratic system of this country. The newspapers, not the Opposition, first raised this matter, and they are still raising it.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—And now you are on the bandwagon.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—No. If I were on the bandwagon—as the Premier so elegantly puts it—I could have raised a number of other issues before this Parliament, and certainly the Labor Party would not have given its second preferences to the Liberal Party in Swan Hill. The Premier is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Labor Party to-day, so he should be the last to talk about the bandwagon.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I am not a director of the Labor Party.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—No, nor a director of the Avis Rent-A-Car company. Let me endeavour to contribute in some small way for the edification of the Premier to what the honorable member for Malvern said last year. It is fair to construe him as saying that the principle espoused by the Opposition is right for the Parliaments

of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and America, but it is wrong for Victoria; but that if a conflict between Ministerial duties and private interests becomes imminent, the Minister will resign. The honorable member for Malvern did not wait for that situation to occur. Every Australian is asking why this Government waited for such a situation to occur. This is no reflection on the Chief Secretary or the Attorney-General, or on any other company director on the Government benches to-night.

Mr. G. O. REID.—I am not a company director.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—Of course not, because the honorable gentleman is the head of the Law Department.

Mr. G. O. REID.—You named me as a company director.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—I did not. I said, "Any company director on the Government benches to-night".

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I wish to raise a point of order. The honorable member for Sunshine distinctly referred to "the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General or any other company director on the Government side". I ask the honorable member to withdraw.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—There is nothing to withdraw.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I am afraid I missed the implication.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I raise a further point of order. The honorable member for Sunshine used a phrase suggesting that the Chief Secretary and I were both company directors, and I ask him to withdraw that allegation.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I listened carefully, and that was not said. Is the Attorney-General saying that if he were offered a directorship in Avis Rent-A-Car System Pty. Ltd. he would refuse it?

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I cannot uphold the point of order. If, in fact, the statement is incorrect, it should be refuted.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—Mr. Speaker, I am sure I did not say what is alleged and I did not intend to do so. I in no way imply that the Attorney-General would become a company director, because he knows in his heart that it would be improper for him to do so. By his conduct and behaviour and by his admission tonight he has destroyed in a few words everything that he said in the debate a few hours ago.

The SPEAKER.—Order! The honorable member's time is about to expire.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—I conclude by referring members of the Government to Galbraith's book of last year entitled *The New Industrial State*; I refer them also to industrial developments which are taking place on a mammoth scale in Victoria, and also to the growing influence of the great industrial long-term enterprises in this State, which is now imposing its own taxation. I warn Government members that the function of democratic Government in Victoria is not to lie down to these people but to stand up and supply the public with a counter-vailing influence; that is their democratic duty.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I have listened with some interest to the three speakers from the Opposition side—the Leader of the Opposition, the former Leader and the former Deputy Leader. It seems to be somewhat significant that the Opposition put up two "has-beens" to support—

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I wish to raise a point of order. The description of honorable members in this House in the terms used by the Premier and Treasurer is unparliamentary, and I ask that the expression be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! If the Leader of the Opposition finds the term offensive, I ask the Premier to withdraw.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I ask you to rule, Sir, that the description of any member of this institution as a "has-been" is unparliamentary.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he did not allow me to complete the sentence.

Mr. HOLDING.—You know what you meant.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I said that it was significant that two supporting speakers were "has-been", and I was going to add "Leaders".

Mr. HOLDING.—You did not.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! For the best order of this House, I confirm my ruling and ask the Premier to withdraw the term "has-been" in reference to an honorable member of this House.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I acknowledge your ruling, Sir, and I withdraw the term "has-beens" that I used, because I do not really believe that; I believe they are the two most prominent members in the Labor Party, and if justice were really done they would still be the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER.—Order! I suggest that this matter has been carried far enough.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I hope it is successfully concluded.

Mr. HOLDING.—Tell us why you want to get rid of your Chief Secretary. If you want it rough, we will give it to you.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—The Leader of the Opposition is getting excited.

The SPEAKER.—Order! I invite the Leader of the Opposition to handle the matter of listening in the same way as he handled the matter of speech-making.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—In order to calm down the Leader of the Opposition, I wish to state briefly that I have had the honour of leading a Government for some thirteen years and that during that period a number of Ministers have from time to time occupied positions as company directors. I have accepted the sole responsibility for the conduct, the propriety and the honesty of all of these Ministers. If I considered at any time that a Minister's directorship was in conflict with his administrative position in any Department, I should ask him to do one of two things—resign his directorship or resign from the Ministry. I am not influenced by quotations from the late Sir Winston Churchill or Sir Robert Menzies, or anyone else. The sole test of propriety is performance, and I challenge any honorable member, or anyone outside this Parliament—the press included—to point a finger at any Minister who has occupied a position in any of my Cabinets over the past thirteen years.

Mr. HOLDING.—You did not care what they said about you before dinner.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I do not care what the press or the Leader of the Opposition may say. I am not in conflict with the press. I believe the press is entitled to take any line it may choose, but surely it is reasonable to suggest that the press may be influenced in its policy by financial matters.

Mr. HOLDING.—In what way?

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I shall give an example to assist the Leader of the Opposition. Only last week the Government decided to place a ban on cooking margarine which is camouflaged as butter. The press objected to this policy. Nobody, least of all myself, would suggest that because the company concerned is going to spend about \$500,000 in advertising, of which the press would be the beneficiary, this would in any way influence how the press would

present the case. Honorable members will appreciate that I am not at all suspicious in this field. If this is so and the policy of the press on this question is accepted as honourable and ethical and the considered opinion of the press, surely in turn the press can accept the assurance of the Leader of a Government or a Minister that his administration is not affected by any of his outside interests.

In replying to the Opposition's submissions, the Attorney-General drew an analogy with a private member, the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but surely no member of this Parliament would suggest that in speaking during a debate on workers compensation or third-party insurance the Leader of the Opposition would be influenced by the possibility of his practice or income being assisted. I would not for a second believe that this would influence his views.

Mr. HOLDING.—Of course it would not.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Therefore, I ask the Opposition to accept that Ministers are in the same category in which its members would wish to place themselves.

Mr. FENNESSY.—You did not suggest that in regard to margarine. You suggested that the press was accepting advertising.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—In reply to that disorderly interjection, it is not a question of accepting anybody's point of view. The point at issue is whether the Minister concerned is honest and his integrity unchallenged. That is what the House is debating to-night. Honorable members are not debating whether the interests could be in conflict. How could they be in conflict?

Mr. HOLDING.—The Minister said that he was promoting tourism. You say that he was promoting a private company. What was he promoting?

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Mr. Speaker, I am delighted with that interjection because I heard the honorable member for Midlands say in his opening remarks that the integrity of the Chief Secretary is not in question.

Mr. HOLDING.—We are still waiting for you to clear up the matter.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Did the honorable member for Midlands not say that the Chief Secretary's integrity is not in question?

Mr. FLOYD.—The present Chief Secretary, not a future Chief Secretary.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—That is so. Therefore, why should the Leader of the Opposition by interjection offer the inference that it is in question?

Mr. HOLDING.—I am asking.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—No, you are not. You are trying to promote something.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The Premier should be addressing the Chair.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Mr. Speaker, I have been endeavouring to behave in a normal manner. I can assure you I am not as excited about this matter as my friends opposite, who have periodically raised this question. The former Leader of the Opposition raised this matter some years ago. Prior to that, the late Honorable John Cain raised the same question in relation to the late Sir Arthur Warner, probably twelve or thirteen years ago. I point out that after thirteen years Victoria is still the only State in the Commonwealth in which there has not been a Royal Commission on a Minister.

Mr. HOLDING.—You would not have one. I have asked for a Royal Commission into the oil industry, but you will not agree to it.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I can recall that in the past Royal Commissions were held on Labor Ministers in New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland. I think there was even a Royal Commission on a Labor Minister in the Federal Cabinet, concerning timber in New Guinea.

I point out that they did not have to be company directors to fall under suspicion. If there is an opportunity in political life for people to accept something on the side—

Mr. HOLDING.—I should not have thought you would know anything about that.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—If that were so, I suggest that the last person anyone would approach would be a Minister of the Crown. I relate that view to all previous Governments in this State and all political parties. I refer not only to my own party, but also to the Country Party and the Labor Party. I think we can be justly proud that in the 112 years of the history of the State of Victoria, there has never been a political scandal.

Mr. TURNBULL.—Have you not read *The Land Boomers*?

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Perhaps I am going back too far. Since the turn of the century there has never been a political scandal associated with any member of the Victorian Parliament. I hope this situation will continue. I repeat my opening remarks that I am answering any attacks made on the Chief Secretary or any other Minister.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—Honorable members have heard the Premier refer to former Leaders, past Ministers and Ministers of his own Government. Opposition members do not intend to get down into the gutter to make any insinuations or accusations about any member of the honorable gentleman's Cabinet. We are merely asserting that the Premier enjoys the dubious distinction of being the only Premier in this country—and, in fact, one of the only Government Leaders in the free world—who will permit a Minister to act as a company director—to accept a directorship in a public or private company. The inherent dangers of this practice are well known to the Premier who has said that he is not interested in statements made by the late Sir Winston Churchill or by Sir Robert Menzies.

The honorable gentleman sets himself up as a greater judge of situations of this type than either of those eminent gentlemen.

The Premier claimed that over the years there had never been a Royal Commission into the actions of any member of this Government. He said, in effect, "How could a Minister of my Government find himself in a position where a conflict of interests could take place?". Surely the honorable gentleman realizes that certain people and certain companies to-day might see fit to use a Minister of the Crown for their own purposes. Would it not prove advantageous for a public company to have a list of Ministers on its prospectus, particularly if the name of a Knight—in this case, Sir Arthur Rylah—could be included? The Premier knows that my assertion is correct.

The Premier did not inform honorable members whether the Chief Secretary, as Acting Premier, visited New Zealand to promote tourism or to promote the interests of a private company. The Chief Secretary is reported to have said—in fact, he repeated the statement on a television programme—that the company of which he was a director gained great publicity out of his tour to New Zealand, and if he had been able to get a certain contract signed it would have meant a great deal to Victoria. He did not explain, however, whether it would have meant a great deal to the State or to the company in which he is interested. Statistics prove that the majority of tourists who visit Australia come from New Zealand. The Opposition wishes to know whether the Deputy Premier visited New Zealand in his official capacity or as a director of Avis Rent-A-Car System Pty. Ltd. The people of Victoria do not know the answer to this question and, if the Premier knows it, he did not explain it to the House tonight.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—You have only a short time in which to conclude your speech.

Mr. WILKES.—Thanks to the Premier, I have only a limited amount of time left. If more time were available to me, I should be able to quote some of the precedents that have not been quoted.

Ministers who participated in this debate were asked to defend not the integrity of the Chief Secretary but the attitude adopted by the Government and the Premier in allowing Ministers to take directorships in public companies. There is no parallel between private members and Ministers of the Crown or between back-bench members of the Government party or of the Opposition and Ministers of the Crown. A Minister occupies a privileged position which carries with it certain responsibilities and, if he pursues his own interests in the capacity of a director of a public company while occupying such a responsible position, he is always confronted with the danger of a conflict of interests. Any person who disregarded this danger would be burying his head in the sand.

The Premier stated that if on any occasion it was thought that a Minister encountered this conflict of interests, he would be asked to resign. The Opposition contends that the situation should not be allowed to arise; it does not happen in the Federal Parliament or in any other State Parliament. So long as this position continues, this Government will be the subject of criticism not only in the press but by responsible people in Victoria who are amazed that the Chief Secretary and Deputy Premier should accept the position as a director in a company that could quite easily do business with the State Government, just as it is doing business with the Federal Government. There is a thin line of distinction between dealings with the Crown in the Commonwealth sphere and dealings with the Crown in the State sphere.

The Premier has refused to face up to the situation. Until he takes a stand to ensure that this position of

embarrassment does not exist in his Cabinet, he will find his Ministers always in the shadow of this doubtful position of conflict between their private interests and their responsibilities as Ministers of the Crown. For the reasons that have been enumerated by Opposition members, I contend that the motion should be carried.

The House divided on the motion for the adjournment of the House (the Hon. Vernon Christie in the chair)—

Ayes	..	..	15
Noes	..	..	50
			—

Majority against the motion 35

AYES.

Mr. Clarey	Mr. Sutton
Mr. Fennessy	Mr. Trezise
Mr. Floyd	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Holding	Mr. Wilkes
Dr. Jenkins	Mr. Wilton.
Mr. Lovegrove	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mutton	Mr. Edmunds
Mr. Stoneham	Mr. Ginifer.

NOES.

Mr. Balfour	Mr. Rafferty
Mr. Billing	Mr. Reese
Mr. Birrell	Mr. Reid
Sir John Bloomfield	(Box Hill)
Sir Henry Bolte	Mr. Reid
Mr. Borwick	(Dandenong)
Mr. Buckley	Mr. Ross-Edwards
Mr. Darcy	Sir Arthur Rylah
Mr. Dixon	Mr. Scanlan
Mr. Doyle	Mr. Smith
Mr. Dunstan	(Bellarine)
Mr. Evans	Mr. Smith
(Ballaarat North)	(Warrnambool)
Mr. Evans	Mr. Stephen
(Gippsland East)	Mr. Stokes
Mrs. Goble	Mr. Tanner
Mr. Hayes	(Morwell)
Sir Herbert Hyland	Mr. Taylor
Mr. Loxton	Mr. Templeton
Mr. Macdonald	Mr. Trethewey
(Glen Iris)	Mr. Trewin
Sir William McDonald	Mr. Vale
Mr. McKellar	Mr. Wheeler
Mr. McLaren	Mr. Whiting
Mr. Manson	Mr. Wilcox
Mr. Meagher	Mr. Wiltshire.
Mr. Mitchell	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Moss	Mr. Jona
Mr. Phelan	Mr. Suggett.
Mr. Porter	

PAIRS.

Mr. Divers	Sir Edgar Tanner
Mr. Ring	Mr. Rossiter.

Mr. Wilkes.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS (PETROL SERVICE STATIONS) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Council and, on the motion of Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power), was read a first time.

MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS (EGG AND EGG PULP MARKETING BOARD) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Council and, on the motion of Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands), was read a first time.

MELBOURNE SAILORS' HOME (POWER OF TRUSTEES) BILL.

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Melbourne Sailors' Home Act 1964.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to repeal sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Agricultural Education Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LISTENING DEVICES BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the use of listening devices, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

COUNTY COURT (JURISDICTION) BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, to vest the jurisdiction thereof in the County Court and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

STATE COAL MINES (WINDING UP) BILL.

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision with respect to the closing of certain State Coal Mines, to repeal Part II. of the Coal Mines Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

FISHERIES BILL.

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to re-enact with amendments the law relating to fisheries.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (REDUCTION OF VOTING AGE) BILL.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

EAVESDROPPING DEVICES BILL.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the use of eavesdropping devices and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

MOTOR CAR (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Motor Car Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER (OMBUDSMAN) BILL.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision for the appointment and functions of a Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) and for purposes connected therewith.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS (FURTHER AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES (FEES) BILL.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Hospitals and Charities Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish capital punishment.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

WRONGS (INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS) BILL.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Wrongs Act 1958 with respect to industrial accidents and for purposes connected therewith.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (EQUAL PAY) BILL.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Labour and Industry Act 1958 to provide equal pay for equal work.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

WORKERS COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Workers Compensation Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the long service leave provisions of the Labour and Industry Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LISTENING DEVICES BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The purpose of this Bill is to regulate the use of any device which may be used to listen to or record a person's private conversation, and to impose

a prohibition upon such use except in circumstances coming within certain defined categories. I shall outline the reasons which have prompted the Government to introduce this Bill.

It is a commonplace that every development in scientific knowledge brings in its train a disturbance of existing social conditions and creates problems for society which have to be adjusted by the legislator. One has to think only of the development of the motor car and the amount of legislation and administration which has arisen as a result of the use and misuse of motor vehicles. Similarly, as we have progressed in perfecting machinery to record human speech, a stage has been reached when instruments in the nature of tape recorders and refinements of these instruments may be used to record conversations which one at least of the parties to such conversations may not wish to be recorded.

It is obvious that at the present time many devices are being used with the object of recording conversations and they are frequently secreted so that the parties to the conversations are not aware that their privacy is being invaded. Evidence of the use of such devices may be obtained from a perusal of articles in the press and elsewhere, both in Australia and overseas. Recently, a television programme was shown on the "Four Corners" series on Channel 2 indicating that many kinds of sophisticated listening devices are now in use, particularly by inquiry agents. According to the *London Times* of 2nd July, 1968, a recently developed device known as the "laser-listener" has been used. I quote the first paragraph of the relevant article:—

A window device that could enable spies to listen in to conversations in sealed rooms without the use of planted microphones was demonstrated at an international conference in London, yesterday.

It could be placed outside Cabinet offices, defence headquarters, and board rooms of industrial companies to pick up secret information. People in the rooms would not know they were overheard. The "laser-listener" turns a window into a super-sensitive microphone. Theoretically it could send its message as far as the window can be seen.

In a later paragraph, the article states—

It is based on the fact that the sound waves inside a room will produce minute vibrations in window glass. If a beam of very pure light from a laser is reflected from the window it will pick up these vibrations. Then a receiver can turn the vibrations back into speech.

The result of inquiries at various electrical stores in Melbourne indicate that listening devices of various kinds are available for sale. It appears, however, that the United States of America is far ahead of Australia in the manufacture of such products, and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that before long there will be in Australia a great increase in the number of these articles and great advances in the techniques of their manufacture. However, from what one sees of advertisements in the Australian press, there are people in this country who are already on the move towards selling and advertising the use of listening devices. This advertisement appeared in a Brisbane paper:—

Write to—

and here the address of a post office box is supplied—

to obtain the following—

(1) A device to allow you to "see people who relax in privacy" and have no way of knowing that you can see anything they do. \$10

(2) A subminiature listening bug which can easily be concealed anywhere to hear conversations. \$4

(3) A directional mike that will pick up whispers from a safe distance. \$9

(4) A telephone listening device that will pick up both sides of any telephone conversation from a distance. \$9

Various private inquiry agents have inserted in the pink pages of the *Telephone Directory* advertisements implying that they use such equipment in the course of their investigations.

Mr. WILKES.—What would they be worth in the Liberal Party room upstairs?

Mr. G. O. REID.—They may be worth much more at the house in Eltham where certain conversations between Mr. Calwell and Dr. Cairns have taken place.

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Various public bodies have urged upon both the Commonwealth and State Governments the enactment of legislation restricting these devices. For example the Jay-Cees National Convention of 1968 made the following statement of policy:—

We believe in the gift of personality and that the dignity of man is upheld by a right to personal privacy. Each one of us has a right to experience the pain, pleasures and satisfactions of life, to share our thoughts and emotions with our families and others whom we choose, free from intrusion.

The important part of this statement is the last three words—"free from intrusion".

The devices to which I have referred have been used as a means of intercepting private conversations in commercial and industrial matters. They have also been employed by agents seeking to obtain evidence to support allegations of adultery in divorce proceedings.

It is in the context of such evidence indicating the use of these devices that the Governments of the Commonwealth and the States have given serious consideration to the introduction of Bills to limit the use of such devices. Other countries have already taken action in this regard. In the United States of America, the States of Alaska, California, Georgia, Illinois, Marylands, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, and South Dakota have already legislated with this end in view. Holland, in December, 1967, promulgated an amendment of the Penal Code providing restrictions on the use of such devices. In West Germany, the Bundestag in May, 1968, passed the second reading of an Eavesdropping Bill, under which unauthorized wire tapping is prohibited, with an exception in favour of public authorities.

Many statements on the subject of listening devices have been made by authoritative associations or individuals. The International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in March, 1968, passed a resolution that the organizations of the United

Nations should undertake a study of the problems with respect to human rights arising from developments in science and technology, particularly with regard to—

- (a) respect of private life in view of recording techniques ;
- (b) protection of the human personality and its physical and intellectual integrity in view of the progress in biology medicine and biochemistry ;
- (c) the uses of electronics which may affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on its uses in a democratic society.

Sir John Barry, senior puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, has also drawn attention to the abuses of listening devices and has emphasized the need to introduce uniform Commonwealth and State legislative controls. Mr. Justice Selby of the Supreme Court of New South Wales is reported to have criticized the employment of these devices to gather divorce evidence, and to have made the following statement:—

These devices are an intrusion of privacy. It is being recognized in America and England that a law is needed to provide for this new trend.

I would like to see a new law here. I don't like to see new restrictions on the individual's liberties. But electronic devices have reached such a stage of perfection that a law to control them is necessary.

In April, 1967, a member of the Federal Parliament asked the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, the Honorable Nigel Bowen, Q.C., a question concerning a television programme on the "Four Corners" feature of Channel 2. Mr. Bowen raised the subject at the meeting of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General held in July last year. The matter was further discussed at meetings of the committee held in February and June of this year. Various proposals have been examined, and there will be a further discussion when the committee meets

again in Perth on 31st October next. With some modification, the Bill which I am now presenting to the House is along the lines of a draft which I have circulated among my fellow Attorneys-General.

It will be obvious to honorable members that in controlling the interception of messages by electronic or mechanical devices, the Commonwealth and States each has some degree of responsibility. The Commonwealth has already legislated to deal with telephone tapplings, since it is the Government responsible for the administration of the telephone system. It seems clear, however, that in controlling the use of the devices which I have described the initiative must be taken by the States.

It is considered that the debate on this Bill should elicit valuable contributions from members of all parties. The other Governments interested in this problem should all benefit from the views expressed. The honorable member for Brunswick West obviously has a particular interest in this matter because to-day he introduced a private member's Bill on the subject. I shall be interested in hearing his contribution.

I turn now to the underlying principles of the Bill. It is primarily actuated by the desire that the individual man or woman should be protected against persons who spy on his or her private conversations. All of us, I think, believe that we are entitled to talk with our friends or associates in private, and we regard with abhorrence the possibility that inquisitive persons may be listening in to such conversations.

This Bill therefore is an instalment towards the establishment of a right of privacy. Such a right at present is somewhat tenuous. The decisions of courts of law in English-speaking countries have not gone very far in affirming such a right. Furthermore, the legal remedies for enforcing such a right have not been particularly efficacious. Legislation to establish a

general right of privacy and to provide remedies for its invasion would necessarily touch upon a wide range of subjects and might be very general and theoretic in character. It seems, therefore, more appropriate to make a pragmatic approach, and to limit this legislation to the immediate objective of regulating the use of listening devices.

The Government, however, has been faced with another problem, and that is in deciding whether police or other public officers charged with the enforcement of law should be able to use these devices in the carrying out of their duties. It is obvious that persons breaking the law will have access to the devices which we seek to regulate by this Bill, and that if an absolute prohibition is imposed which will cover all police officers and law enforcement officers we might well be giving those who break the law an advantage over those who enforce it. While, therefore, it is well to affirm a right of privacy as an incident of human freedom, it must be remembered that freedom is of little value in a society which is not orderly.

In saying this, I am reinforced by what was said last year by the Honorable Sir Reginald Sholl, now Australian Consul-General in New York, a very distinguished jurist and a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, who in the course of his judicial career always exhibited a high regard for the rights of the individual citizen. Sir Reginald, in addressing the Frederick A. Moran Institute on Delinquency and Crime, held at St. Laurence University, used these words—

It is indeed an empty freedom, a vain individual liberty, which is accompanied by a significantly increased risk to oneself or one's family of being the victim of crime. What is the real value of greater individual liberty so called if it is obtained at the price of making crime harder to detect and punish and therefore safer to commit? What is the real value to a decent law abiding citizen of being in less danger of possible abuse of power by the police but in greater danger of fraud, theft, violence or death from criminals, large and small, organized or un-organized? Are the ordinary citizens of this

country so devoted to the notion of privacy at all costs that they are prepared to guarantee it even to organized crime, to gang bosses, pimps, procurers, drug peddlers and others?

It is unfortunate that in the world to-day crime is increasing and furthermore is becoming highly organized. It is considered, therefore, that in the public interest the police, subject to certain safeguards, should be permitted to use listening devices in the course of their duty of detecting and preventing crime. For similar reasons, customs officers are, subject to certain safeguards, exempted from the main prohibition of the Bill. It must be borne in mind that these officers have now a particularly onerous duty in combating drug pedlars who are a well organized group and would not scruple to use any device, mechanical or otherwise, to make profit out of one of our greatest social evils. Again, it has been thought desirable to afford Commonwealth security officers some form of exemption. It is unnecessary for me to stress that, having regard to the present state of international tensions and to revelations in various espionage trials of the activities of agents of foreign powers, it is necessary to allow to those charged with the responsibility of protecting national security the use of methods which their foreign counterparts would not hesitate to employ. In short, the Bill endeavours to balance the rights of the individual with the security of the community.

I shall now describe the broad pattern of the Bill and the way in which it will achieve regulation of the use of listening devices. First, I shall describe what is included in the expressions "listening device" and "private conversation". These are defined in wide terms in clause 3 of the Bill.

A "listening device" is expressed so as to cover any electronic or mechanical tape recorder, transmitter, laser-listener or super-sensitive microphone. "Private conversation" is expressed so as to include all conversations which should reasonably be

regarded as personal or confidential and extends the protection of the Bill to all such conversations made in circumstances other than those under which the parties reasonably expect the conversation may be overheard or recorded.

I shall now pass to the portion of the Bill which prohibits in emphatic terms and under heavy penalty any use of a listening device by a person who is not a party to the conversation. The terms of this prohibition are contained in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 which provides—

A person shall not—

- (a) use any listening device to overhear record monitor or listen to any private conversation to which he is not a party.

The penalty which is set out at the end of the clause is a fine of \$2,000 or imprisonment for a term of not more than six months. Paragraph (b) of sub-clause (2) further imposes a prohibition subject to a like penalty upon the communication or publication of any conversation recorded by means of a listening device whether or not the person who used the listening device was a party to the conversation.

This clause, however, contains certain exceptions. The first of these, at the commencement of paragraph (b) of sub-clause (1), permits a recording, whether made by a person who was a party to the conversation or not, to be used in the course of any legal proceedings. This exception proposes a statutory incorporation of the fundamental common law principle that evidence is admissible whenever it is relevant to the matters in issue.

Sub-clause (2) sets out certain circumstances which also constitute an exception to sub-clause (1). This exception applies only to a party to a conversation who has used a listening device. The sub-clause provides that such person may communicate or publish such a record of the conversation if it is reasonably necessary to do so in the public

interest or in the course of his duty or for the protection of his lawful interest. The phrases incorporated in this expression are not new to the courts and have been the subject of many decisions, especially in the context of the defence of qualified privilege in relation to the law of defamation.

Sub-clause (3) of clause 4 sets out exceptions to the otherwise complete prohibition of the use of listening devices contained in sub-clause (1). I shall now deal with the three exceptions in turn. Sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (a) of sub-clause (3) makes provision for the use of a listening device by any member of the Police Force who has been authorized in writing to use such device by the Chief Commissioner of Police or Deputy Commissioner, or by anyone of or above the rank of inspector who has been appointed in writing by the Chief Commissioner to authorize the use of listening devices.

It will be noted that such use is not made dependent upon the obtaining of a warrant from a judicial authority. Rather, by clause 5, it is made the subject of strict Ministerial supervision. Further, clauses 6 and 7 place onerous burdens upon members of the Police Force to make only such communication of a recorded conversation as is necessary in the course of their duty. This is considered the most expedient and desirable control and is due to the recognition by the Government of the need to balance the importance of privacy of the individual with the need for more effective measures to prevent and detect crime. To impose upon the Police Force the necessity to obtain a judicial warrant in a matter of urgency and in the case of all interviews would hinder the police in their efforts to prevent and detect crime.

I know that a proposal has been submitted elsewhere that, in these circumstances, it should be necessary for the police to obtain a warrant from

either a County Court or a Supreme Court Judge. To anyone who knows anything about the detection of crime, that would place an impossible burden upon the police. I cite as an example police engaged in the detection of criminals who have planned to commit a crime in a country district. One can imagine the difficulties of the police in seeking out a County Court or a Supreme Court Judge a long distance away in an endeavour to get a warrant in those circumstances. It would be a somewhat impracticable suggestion. No such proposals are embodied in this Bill, but the control of any excessive power to the police is through Ministerial decision.

Sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of sub-clause (3) makes provision for the use of a listening device by any officer of customs when acting under the authority of a warrant under the hand of the Comptroller-General of Customs and Excise.

Finally, sub-paragraph (iii) of paragraph (a) of sub-clause (3) provides an exception for the use of a listening device by a person employed in connexion with the security of the Commonwealth. In this context, security means the protection of the Commonwealth and its Territories from acts of espionage, sabotage or subversion. This is the common definition of national security contained in Commonwealth legislation. As these are matters of direct concern to the Commonwealth and matters proper to be regulated by the Commonwealth Parliament, I am sure that all members will agree that this Parliament should not attempt to regulate these activities in greater detail than is indicated in this Bill.

Paragraph (b) of sub-clause (3) is a consequential exemption. It is expressed to exempt any communication or publication of a private conversation recorded in accordance with this Bill if such communication or publication is made by any member of the Police Force, officer of

customs or person employed in connexion with the security of the Commonwealth in performance of his duty.

I now turn to clauses 5, 6 and 7, which may be termed the protection provisions of the Bill. These clauses impose stringent restrictions upon those empowered to use a listening device and further impose heavy penalty provisions for breach of the trust reposed in such persons under this legislation. Clause 5 provides for the Minister to be kept informed of authorizations granted to members of the Police Force. In order that the Chief Secretary of the day will know whether or not authorizations are being too freely sought, the Bill also provides that the Chief Commissioner of Police must inform the Chief Secretary within seven days of any authorization being granted and submit reports at intervals of not more than one month. This does not necessarily mean that the Chief Commissioner is required to impart to the Chief Secretary the detailed information learnt by the use of the listening device, but it does mean that the Chief Secretary will be informed whether or not results were obtained by the use of listening devices. With this information, the Chief Secretary will be better able to evaluate the merit of the authorizations.

Clause 6 imposes a penalty of \$500 or imprisonment for one month upon any member of the Police Force, customs officer or person employed in connexion with the security of the Commonwealth who communicates or publishes, otherwise than in performance of his duty, information he has obtained by use of a listening device. If any other member of the respective Departments has access to such information and communicates it or publishes it otherwise than in the course of legal proceedings or in accordance with paragraph (b) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4, that person will be liable to the penalty imposed by paragraph (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4.

The Government has realized that some material will be recorded in accordance with the provisions of this Bill which has no police, customs or security significance. The Government has felt that it is proper that records of such material should not be kept but should be destroyed. To give effect to this view and as an aid to the prohibition in clause 6, clause 7 provides that the person who recorded such information shall destroy it if of the opinion that it is not likely to assist the functions of his departmental head. Failure to do so brings down a relatively severe penalty of \$200, and this should ensure that only matter which is relevant to the particular use sanctioned by the Bill will be retained.

The measure as presented to the House does not permit a private person to obtain permission from any judicial or executive authority to use a listening device. I emphasize that fact. Such a provision subject to strict safeguards had been included in the draft legislation submitted to the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General. However the present Bill does not contain any such clause. If, in the course of debate, it appears that provision should be made for any individual to obtain permission, the matter will be further examined. One argument advanced for such a provision is that banks and other financial institutions should be free to place listening devices in the vicinity of their strong-rooms in order to detect safebreakers. In that regard, an article appeared in to-day's *Sun News-Pictorial* relating to the employment of photographic devices to detect safebreakers.

It will be noted that the Bill does not contain any clause which prohibits the admissibility of evidence obtained by a listening device in contravention of the provisions of the measure. The desirability of inserting such a clause has been given very careful consideration by the responsible officers of my Department and by myself. It has been decided that

we should adhere to the principle enunciated by the Privy Council in the case of *Kuruma v. The Queen* and generally accepted in Australian courts. That is a comparatively recent case, and is reported in 1955 *Appeal Cases* at page 197.

This principle is that the test to be applied in considering whether evidence is admissible is whether it is relevant to the matters in issue. If it is, it is admissible. The court is not concerned with how the evidence was obtained. This rule is of course subject to the general qualification that in criminal cases the Judge always has the power to exclude evidence which he thinks would operate unfairly against the accused, and the rule that evidence of admissions or confessions is inadmissible unless it is shown that they were made voluntarily.

In conclusion, I refer to clause 8, which imposes the penalties of the legislation upon the officers of any body corporate which has committed an offence, and is in form a provision to which this Parliament is accustomed.

This is an important measure in that it breaks new ground in regard to a subject which has evoked the necessity for new legislation. As I said earlier, this matter has been the subject of consideration by the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General and has been the subject of a great deal of thought by officers of my Department, notably the Solicitor-General, Mr. B. L. Murray, Q.C., the Parliamentary Draftsman, Mr. John Finemore, and one of his assistants, Mr. McCabe, who is also the secretary of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General. If any honorable member wishes to seek advice or information in regard to this Bill, those officers of my Department will be readily available to him. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West), the debate was adjourned.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That the debate be adjourned for two weeks.

If members of the other parties desire additional time in which to consider this Bill, I shall certainly be reasonable. As I indicated earlier, the Government is not seeking to stampede this Bill through the House and will be happy to receive contributions from members of all parties.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—In the circumstances, the adjournment of the debate for two weeks is reasonable. The subject-matter of this Bill is the same as that dealt with in a measure which has been introduced in another place, and I desire an opportunity to consider the proposals.

The motion was agreed to, and it was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 1.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Honorable members will recall that, on 4th October, 1967, when introducing legislation to set up the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, I undertook to examine its operation and, if necessary, to bring in amendments to provide for improvements. I specifically undertook to examine the question of the election of Aborigines to the proposed Aborigines Advisory Council, and one of the principal purposes of this Bill is to give effect to the principle of election of these representatives.

Before proceeding to explain the exact terms of the Bill, I should like to give a brief report on the operations of the Ministry since its inception on 1st January, 1968. The Ministry has endeavoured to avoid anything in the nature of a paternalistic approach to Aboriginal policy and has sought instead to encourage

self-direction by Aborigines. For this purpose, a good deal of effort has been put into the development of lines of communication between Aborigines and the Ministry.

At Lake Tyers the residents have been encouraged to set up a Lake Tyers council with minimum responsibility originally, but with the object of gradually increasing the area of responsibility as they become accustomed to the tasks of managing their own affairs. The work of improving the housing standards at Lake Tyers has been continued, and the area is at present being "town planned" by a firm of leading architects. A programme of full employment at award wages has been established, and several of the men are engaged in contract work in the forest.

With the approval and the co-operation of the residents of Lake Tyers, an adventure camp for twenty Aboriginal and twenty non-Aboriginal secondary school boys will be held at Lake Tyers in January, 1969. Manatunga settlement is in process of being closed and the families rehoused in the town of Robinvale. The concept of transitional houses for Aborigines has been abandoned, and in future it is intended to house Aborigines in conventional houses, either through the Housing Commission or, where necessary, in premises provided by the Ministry. Home help services are being introduced to assist families in adapting to these improved premises.

Approval has been obtained for substantial increases in staff, and these are being actively recruited. A senior social worker has been appointed, and one of his particular duties will be to carry out special training of field staff. A residential staff training course is being planned. A rent subsidy scheme is in operation. Rentals for Housing Commission and Ministry units are charged within the range of \$2 to \$5 a week, according to income and family size. The Ministry pays to the Housing Commission the difference between the subsidized

rent and the economic rent in approved cases. At 30th June, 1968, 192 Housing Commission tenants had received subsidies under this scheme.

The Ministry has financed the purchase of two houses for Aboriginal people, and several other applications are under consideration. The Commonwealth has made available some \$225,000 in the current financial year for expenditure on housing, education and health services in Victoria. This money will be largely devoted to the establishment of the first two of the five Aboriginal centres to be located throughout Victoria. These centres will provide for social, recreational and training facilities, with some accommodation for single persons. A health survey is being conducted by the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs at Monash University, but this has not yet been completed. A survey into alcoholism among Aborigines in Gippsland is being undertaken by the Ministry with the co-operation of the Mental Health Authority.

The Ministry is actively co-operating with various community organizations in the provision of assistance to children enrolled in schools. As yet no Victorian Aboriginal pupil is enrolled at a university, but two students are attending senior technical colleges and two potential candidates for tertiary education are being assisted towards obtaining their matriculation. A number of Aboriginal youths have commenced apprenticeships in various trades, and several young women are being assisted to undertake training as stenographers, hairdressers, and so on. Six young men have recently completed a course at a shearing school at which they are reported to have done very well. Two of them are now employed as full-time shearers, and a third is expected to obtain full-time employment in the near future.

Total expenditure by the Ministry and the Aborigines Welfare Board in the financial year 1967-68 amounted

Mr. Meagher.

to \$533,758, and, as I mentioned, this year in addition to funds made available by the State \$225,000 of Commonwealth funds will be expended on housing, education and health. The Commonwealth has also established a fund from which it will be possible for individual Aborigines with viable business proposals to receive financial assistance to establish or develop their enterprises. With a view to developing good public relations and better understanding between the Aborigines and non-Aborigines, a film and information booklets are in preparation, and a regular newsletter is about to be produced. I have arranged for all honorable members to be placed on the mailing list for this newsletter.

The foregoing comments are a very brief outline of some of the activities of the Ministry since its inception, and are not meant in any way to be comprehensive, or to anticipate the annual report. With this as a background, I shall now proceed to explain what is proposed in this Bill.

Clause 2 amends section 8 of the principal Act which, in its present form, provides that the Ministry may employ such officers or employees as necessary subject to the Public Service Act 1958. As I mentioned previously, all Aborigines at Lake Tyers are now employed by the Ministry—there is some doubt as to the legality of the employment—but many of them would have difficulty in satisfying Public Service Board requirements for permanent employment in the Public Service. As the Government desires that the Ministry should make the maximum use of Aboriginal labour both at Lake Tyers and generally in the field of liaison between the Aboriginal population and the Ministry, and as there are Aboriginal people who would be suitable for this type of work but may not be able to satisfy the Public Service Board requirements, this amendment authorizes the Minister to employ any Aborigine outside the Public Service system on such terms and conditions

as are determined by the Governor in Council. These terms and conditions will at all times be in accordance with industrial awards.

Clause 3 repeals paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) of section 10 of the principal Act. This section authorizes the advisory council to consult with Aborigines, other Departments and organizations. Later in the Bill, provision is made for the election of Aboriginal representatives to the advisory council, and it is desired that those elected representatives shall be the spokesmen for their people. It is felt that the abolition of this paragraph will strengthen the Aboriginal voice and emphasize the advisory character of the council.

Clause 4 repeals section 11 of the Act and substitutes a new section 11, which provides that the advisory council shall consist of the Director of Aboriginal Affairs who shall be chairman, and twelve other members, of whom six shall be persons appointed by the Minister who, in his opinion, have special knowledge of Aborigines or who have experience in other fields of special value to the council, and six shall be Aborigines elected in accordance with the regulations. These regulations will provide for the division of Victoria into six regions, each of which shall elect one person to be its representative on the council. An electoral roll of Aboriginal citizens will be prepared and will include all people of Aboriginal descent who are 21 years of age and over. Voting for the first election will be on the "first past the post" system and will then be reviewed. The reason for this provision is that it is not certain how many Aboriginal people are familiar with the preferential voting system and in fact exercise their right to vote in formal Parliamentary elections. In my view, this first election of Aboriginal people should be made as simple as possible in order to avoid any confusion, but we should aim, in the shortest possible time, to train Aborigines to exercise their constitutional rights in the same way as the rest of

the community. I hope that for the second triennial election it will be possible to introduce preferential voting. Aborigines shall be elected for three years and other members for such time as the Minister may determine.

Honorable members will recall that in October last I undertook to refer this question of election of Aborigines to the new advisory council, and this was done. Members of the council made a number of suggestions as to the number of Aboriginal representatives who should be on the council and as to the method of electing them. After considering all of these proposals, including one that the council should be all Aboriginal, I decided that the Aboriginal representation should be increased from the present four to six members who will be elected by Aborigines. In the Government's view, the task of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is to enable the Aboriginal people to achieve equal status with the rest of the community, and not to place them in a position which is superior to that of their fellow citizens or to encourage the development of a feeling that Aboriginal interests are opposed to those of the general community. For these reasons, it is considered that the development of consultation between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal population is essential to success, and that this is particularly necessary on the advisory council to the Ministry. Accordingly, the number of Aboriginal representatives on the council is being raised to equal that of the non-Aboriginal representatives, and the non-Aboriginal members will be selected for their ability to contribute to the better understanding of Aboriginal problems by both sides.

Clause 5 amends section 12 of the Act to remove the provision whereby the Governor in Council is empowered to remove members from office. This Bill provides that the Governor in Council may remove appointed members from office, but may not remove elected Aboriginal members. Clause 6 amends section 26 of the

principal Act to make it clear that the Ministry may, in addition to providing houses and other assistance to Aborigines, also provide furniture, furnishings and household equipment. This type of equipment has been supplied in the past, but a doubt has arisen whether or not it is authorized in the Act, and this amendment will put the matter beyond doubt.

Clause 7 deletes the word "welfare" where twice occurring in section 35 and substitutes the word "field". Section 35 gives the Minister power to appoint any person to be an honorary welfare officer. To remove the "welfare" concept from Aboriginal affairs, the word "welfare" has been removed from the Act wherever it is appropriate to do so. The former title "Welfare Officer" has been replaced by the term "Field Officer", and the present amendment proposes that the honorary staff will also take the title of honorary field officers rather than honorary welfare officers.

Clause 8 amends section 37 of the principal Act, which section requires a court to notify the Director of any case concerning an Aborigine so that the Ministry may provide him with representation. It has been pointed out to me that in many instances the court is not aware that an Aborigine is involved in a case until he appears before it, and that adjournment of the case in these circumstances may cause considerable inconvenience to the accused and to witnesses and others who have been summoned to appear, and who would not have been so summoned if the court had known that it was likely that the case would be adjourned under the provisions of this section. Accordingly, it is now proposed to amend this section to place a statutory obligation on the police to notify the Ministry when an Aborigine is to be charged. The amended section retains the proviso that the court may still, if it thinks fit, adjourn the case.

Clause 9 is consequential to clause 4 and substitutes the word "elected" for "selected" when referring to

Aboriginal members of the advisory council. These amendments are designed in the light of experience to improve the workings of the Ministry and to ensure the maximum participation by Aborigines in their own advancement. I commend them to the House.

On the motion of Mr. WILKES (Northcote), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 1.

POLICE ASSISTANCE COMPENSATION BILL.

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. For many years, it has been the general practice of the Government to give sympathetic consideration to an application for an *ex-gratia* payment to any person who has been injured while assisting a member of the Police Force in the execution of his duties. The purpose of this Bill is to provide a statutory right to compensation for persons who are injured whilst so assisting the police.

The principle involved in this legislation is not new in Victoria. Since the coming into operation of the Country Fire Authority Act 1946, any casual fire fighter who, at the request or with the approval expressed or implied of the officer-in-charge of operations, assists in fighting a fire in the country area of Victoria and receives a personal injury in the course thereof, has been entitled to receive compensation as though he were a "worker" within the meaning of the Workers Compensation Act 1958. The Government is of the opinion that, if a person suffers a personal injury or damage to property whilst rendering assistance to the police at the request of a member of the Force, he should have a statutory right to compensation rather than depend upon the sympathetic consideration of any particular Government.

Mr. Meagher.

Clause 2 of the Bill confers the right to compensation upon any person who suffers personal injury arising out of or in the course of assisting or attempting to assist any member of the Police Force in arresting another person, in preserving the peace, or in otherwise acting or apparently acting in the execution of his duty after being requested to do so. The right of compensation also extends to any person who could reasonably have inferred that he had been requested to assist, or could reasonably have expected that he would have been requested to render assistance, if the members of the Force had been aware of the circumstances and had been able to request assistance.

Compensation will be payable not only in respect of the person injured whilst assisting the police but, in the case of death of that person, to his wife and children and other dependants. The compensation which will be payable will be in accordance with the provisions of the Workers Compensation Act and rules and regulations made under that Act as though the injured person were a "worker" employed by the Crown with an average weekly wage of \$38 and had suffered personal injury arising out of or in the course of his employment. The average weekly earnings of \$38 may be increased from time to time by order of the Governor in Council.

Any question or matter concerning entitlement to compensation for personal injury or payment of that compensation including the amount thereof or the existence of dependency shall be determined by the Workers Compensation Board constituted under the Workers Compensation Act 1958. The Board shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine the question or matter as though it arose under the Workers Compensation Act. Sub-clause (3) of clause 2 empowers the Chief Secretary to pay to any person who assists

the police when called upon compensation for damage to or destruction of his property or to property in his possession or under his control. The damages which will be so payable will be those which the Chief Secretary considers to be reasonable in the circumstances. Such damages will be payable, whether or not the person concerned suffers personal injury arising out of the act of assisting the police.

The injured person may sue his attacker for damages at common law, both for personal injury and for damage to his property, but, if he recovers damages at common law, he cannot recover compensation under the provisions of this Bill. The costs of compensation and damages incurred under the Bill will be charged against Consolidated Revenue, which is appropriated for that purpose by clause 5. Where compensation has been paid in respect of personal injury, damage or destruction in such circumstances that a liability has been created in some person other than a member of the Force to pay damages in respect thereof, the Chief Secretary may take proceedings against that person to recover the amount of the compensation or portion of it in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Clause 6 makes it an offence for any person to wilfully make any false statement, or otherwise to wilfully mislead or attempt to mislead the Chief Secretary, the Workers Compensation Board, a member of the Police Force or any other person in respect of any claim for compensation. The penalty for the offence is a maximum fine of \$500 or imprisonment for three months, or both fine and imprisonment. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 1.

KEW LANDS (GRANT AMENDMENT) BILL

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. It provides for the excision from the reservation and Crown grant for Yarra Bend park of two strips of land, each generally 50 links (33 feet) in width with splayed corners at the Boulevard end, and for their inclusion in the Crown grant which issued in 1960 to the Royal Talbot Colony for Epileptics.

The lands proposed to be excised from Yarra Bend park contain a total area of 1 rood 29 perches, as indicated by black cross-hatching on the plan included as a schedule to the Bill. They form part of the area which was permanently reserved by Order in Council of 26th March, 1935, as a site for public park and recreation, and for which a Crown grant for those purposes—volume 6443, folio 407—dated 26th March, 1935, issued to trustees.

The site to which it is proposed that the excised areas will be added is known as allotment 59B, Parish of Boroondara. It is indicated by black hatching on the plan included in the schedule to the Bill, and contains 58 acres and 34 perches for which a Crown grant—volume 8242, folio 125—dated 31st May, 1960, issued to the Royal Talbot Colony for Epileptics, pursuant to the provisions of section 5 of the Land (Special Grants) Act 1959, No. 6594. This site was made available to the Royal Talbot colony to replace its freehold site at Clayton which was required for inclusion in the site of Monash University.

Chandler Highway was shown as road abuttal in the Crown grant for allotment 59B but, in view of difficulties of construction of practical access from that road to the Royal Talbot Colony land, temporary provision was made during building construction for entry to the allotment to be at two locations in a section of Yarra Bend park reserve situated

between the Boulevard and the north and west boundaries of the allotment. The northern temporary access strip was sited in the position of the area of 1 rood 10 perches indicated on the plan in the schedule to the Bill. The southern temporary access provision was located in a position slightly south of the area of 19 perches shown on that plan.

The northern strip has developed on a permanent basis, and permanent access to the southern section of the colony's site is now considered to be a vital requirement, in view of the fact that the centre, which is now known as the Royal Talbot General Rehabilitation Hospital, is about to embark on a building project to provide beds for convalescent patients from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and other rehabilitation facilities. The provision of the additional southern access through the park reserve was not unanimously favoured by the park trustees but has been agreed to by the Government because of the importance of the proposed development of the centre to the community.

The two access strips were surveyed in the positions indicated by black cross-hatching on the plan in the schedule to the Bill, after conferences on the ground by interested parties. These two areas are proposed to be excised from the park reservation and Crown grant, and included in the Crown grant which issued in 1960 to the Royal Talbot Colony.

Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the proposed Act to be cited as the Kew Lands (Grant Amendment) Act 1968. The revocation of the permanent reservation for public park and recreation so far as concerns the total area of 1 rood 29 perches in the two sections indicated by black cross-hatching on the plan in the schedule is provided for in sub-clause (1) of clause 2. Sub-clause (2) provides for similar excision of that area from the Crown grant relating to the

Yarra Bend park reserve, and sub-clause (3) frees the excised area from all trusts, encumbrances, reservations and other limitations or restrictions to which it may be subject at the time of the passing of the proposed legislation.

Clause 3 includes the excised area of 1 rood 29 perches in the Crown grant for allotment 59B, Parish of Boroondara, which issued to the Royal Talbot Colony for Epileptics. Clause 4 authorizes and directs the Registrar of Titles to make the necessary adjustments to the Crown grants to which the legislation refers. Clause 5 is the standard provision that no liability shall attach to the Crown. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 24.

ADJOURNMENT.

SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH : TRANSFER OF OFFICER FROM PENTRIDGE GAOL TO FRENCH ISLAND—LAND UTILIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL: REPORT ON LITTLE DESERT AREA—MINES DEPARTMENT: DUST NUISANCE AT QUARRY IN EAST KEILOR—GRACE MCKELLAR HOUSE FOR THE AGED: SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at half-past Two o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg).—I direct attention to the reply that I received from the Chief Secretary this afternoon in response to a series of questions which I asked. Reference was also made to this subject by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It concerns the transfer, very much against his will, of Mr. R. G.

Bennetts, a warder, from Pentridge Gaol to French Island. In my opinion this is a case in which justice has not prevailed, and I think the reply of the Chief Secretary was extremely evasive. I am under the impression that the Chief Secretary and not Mr. Whatmore, the Director-General of Social Welfare, is in charge of the Department. I should like the honorable gentleman to make available to me or to any other interested honorable member the transcript of the evidence submitted on behalf of Mr. Bennetts at the appeal heard by the Public Service Board two or three weeks ago. I should also like a copy of the report made available to the Minister of State Development when he was Acting Chief Secretary. The Minister of State Development made a statement requesting that information concerning Mr. Bennetts should be made known to him. The honorable gentleman then said that Warder Bennetts would go to French Island, and that the Director-General of Social Welfare had confirmed the proposed transfer of Warder Bennetts from Pentridge Gaol to French Island.

I am ventilating this case because this man was tried for allowing a prisoner to escape from Pentridge Gaol in July. He was taken before the Public Service Board and was exonerated on all charges. He was subsequently suspended for five weeks, and during that time not the Chief Secretary or the Acting Chief Secretary but the Director-General of Social Welfare, Mr. Whatmore, as a result of a whim of his own imagination, transferred Mr. Bennetts to French Island. Justice has not prevailed in this case, and it would be fitting and proper for the Chief Secretary to authorize a public inquiry into the case and to submit to this House a copy of the transcript of evidence given before the Public Service Board and a copy of any evidence that the Minister of State Development gained from Mr. Whatmore relative to this matter.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—I refer to a report made by the Land Utilization Advisory Council in connexion with an area of Victoria known as the Little Desert. This report is of considerable interest in the area, and for reasons best known to himself the Minister of Lands has refused to make a copy of it available to me. A considerable amount of publicity has been given to proposals which are reported to be under consideration by the Government for the development of this area. I have received several inquiries from interested people, and I am gravely concerned that the honorable gentleman has declined to make a copy of this document available to me.

I should like the Minister to indicate to the House why he will not make the report available. Is there something in it which the Government does not want to become known publicly? It concerns me greatly when a responsible body such as the Land Utilization Advisory Council prepares and submits a report on a vital question and members of Parliament are denied the benefit of examining the report to determine what their attitude should be in regard to it. I am particularly interested in this matter. Members of the Opposition find themselves at a disadvantage because the Government has adopted this attitude of refusing to make a report from a responsible authority available to them. I invite the Minister of Lands to indicate to the House why the Government has adopted this attitude.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—I bring to the attention of the House representations which have been made to me concerning the amount of dust being emitted from a quarry adjacent to Noga-avenue in East Keilor. The problem associated with this quarry is not one normally associated with quarrying activities, when dust may be coming from a faulty crusher where the dampening operations are not successful. In this case the problem is caused by

the tremendous heaps of overburden around the perimeter of the quarry. With the approach of the drier months and the prevailing winds, large amounts of dust are being blown onto homes adjacent to the quarry. I should like the Minister of Mines, who is in charge of extractive industries, to have a survey made of the problems associated with this quarry. Perhaps he might also examine the position at two other nearby quarries along the banks of Steele creek south of the Calder Highway in East Keilor where the prevailing winds carry tremendous amounts of dust across the creek and onto the residential areas of Niddrie. These surveys should be made at this early stage so that something can be done to prevent a bad problem occurring during the summer months.

Such a survey would be to the advantage of the Education Department because it is proposed to build the Keilor Heights High School adjacent to the quarry. If preventive work is not undertaken, this school may be subjected to a heavy dust cloud. The residents of the area greatly appreciated the action taken by the former Minister of Mines when excessive blasting was occurring at the quarry some eighteen months ago and rocks were being blown out onto the street. As a result of representations made by me on this matter in the House, action was taken by the then Minister, and I hope the present Minister can do something to assist in the prevention of excessive dust nuisance on this occasion.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North).—I bring to the attention of the Minister in this House representing the Minister of Health the concern of a large cross-section of the Geelong community at the refusal of the Minister of Health to receive a deputation on the important subject of the inadequate accommodation at the Grace McKellar House for the Aged at North Geelong. The request for the deputation was the outcome of a meeting held between all municipalities of the area, the Grace McKellar House

committee and the local State and Federal members of Parliament. Although Geelong has a population of 110,000, only 185 beds are available at the Grace McKellar House. The growing waiting list is at present in excess of 700 and of those on the list 183 are classified as most urgently in need of accommodation. I understand that, under present conditions, it will take 72 years for some of the persons on the waiting list to gain admission to the home. Comparisons with other provincial cities are interesting. Ballarat has a population of 56,000 and the similar bed accommodation is 746. Bendigo has a population of 42,000 and has 407 beds available. Castlemaine has a population of 7,000 and there are 344 beds for aged persons in that city.

It is a disgrace that this position exists in the leading provincial city of Victoria. It is to the detriment of the welfare and life of aged people in Geelong and district that the Minister of Health refused to receive a deputation on this subject. I urge the honorable gentleman to reconsider the request and to receive a deputation.

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—I regret that I was not present to hear the submission of the honorable member for Coburg. However, I shall discuss the subject with him and then, in turn, with the Chief Secretary.

I shall refer the matter mentioned by the honorable member for Geelong North to my colleague, the Minister of Health, and give the honorable member a reply in due course.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The problem referred to by the honorable member for Deer Park will be directed to the attention of the appropriate Minister. The honorable member for Broadmeadows referred to a report made by the Land Utilization Advisory Council. I find it difficult to add to the answer I gave in the House to-day.

Mr. WILTON.—That was just "No".

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD.—With respect, that is not so. The answer was that section 20 of the Act provides for advice to be given to the Minister. There is no obligation on the Land Utilization Advisory Council to report to Parliament on this question. The answer to the honorable member's question is that, as the Government is still considering the report, it is not prepared to make it available. I repeat that I find it difficult to add purposefully to that answer.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.32 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, September 18, 1968.

The **SPEAKER** (the Hon. **Vernon Christie**) took the chair at 3.7 p.m., and read the prayer.

LATROBE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MUNICIPAL GRANTS.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Premier—

How much money has been granted to each municipality on the recommendation of the Latrobe Valley Development Advisory Committee?

For **Sir HENRY BOLTE** (Premier and Treasurer), **Sir Arthur Rylah** (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

	\$
The Shire of Morwell ..	333,825
The City of Traralgon ..	411,295
The Shire of Narracan ..	52,530
The City of Moe ..	473,070

MELBOURNE CITY ABATTOIRS.

LEASING ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Premier—

Whether he has received protests relative to the leasing arrangements entered into by the Melbourne City Council in respect of the Melbourne City Abattoirs; if so, from whom and on what grounds?

For **Sir HENRY BOLTE** (Premier and Treasurer), **Sir Arthur Rylah** (Chief Secretary).—I suggest that the answer, which is lengthy, be incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:—

Yes. The organizations from which I have received protests and reasons given are—

The Australian Primary Producers' Union (Victorian Division) (21st June, 1968): "We have not yet been afforded an opportunity of appearing before the Joint Select Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry to give evidence."

Victorian Prime Lamb Committee (3rd July, 1968): No reason stated.

The Tasmanian Farmers' Federation (1st August, 1968): No reason stated.

Newmarket Producers' Association (8th August 1968) (Following a meeting with representatives of graziers, butchers and selling agents): "Not yet been afforded an opportunity of appearing before the Parliamentary committee to give evidence; considered no action should be taken by the Melbourne City Council to disturb the *status quo* of the City Abattoirs without Government approval, and action should be deferred until after the Parliamentary committee has presented its report to Parliament."

The Graziers' Association of Victoria (22nd August, 1968): "As these abattoirs are located on Crown land granted to the city council for the specific purpose of providing public slaughtering facilities, the council is morally, and probably legally, in breach of the conditions of its occupancy of this Crown land."

Victorian Farmers' Union (27th August, 1968): "... consider it would be a dereliction of its trust for the city council to sub-lease for profit its tenancy of the abattoirs area entrusted to it by the Government. . . . it would be morally wrong to take such action which ignored the welfare of so many trading at Newmarket."

Newmarket Producers' Association (27th August, 1968) (Following a meeting of graziers, butchers and selling agents): "... it would be a dereliction of its trust for the city council to sub-lease for profit its tenancy of the abattoirs area entrusted to it by the Government."

Victorian Dairyfarmers' Association (3rd September, 1968): "It is considered that the leasing of the abattoirs will result in a decline in the number of smaller operators, thus reducing competition among butchers at Newmarket."

Mansfield A. & P. Society (4th September, 1968) (Telegram): No reason given.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

RECONSTITUTION.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Premier—

Whether the Government intends introducing legislation during the current session of Parliament to abolish the present system of local government representation on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and the replacement of this body by a Commission?

For **Sir HENRY BOLTE** (Premier and Treasurer), **Sir Arthur Rylah** (Chief Secretary).—A decision has not yet been made.

HORSE-RACING.

STABLE EMPLOYEES AWARD: TRAINERS ASSOCIATION.

For **Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North), **Mr. Wilton** asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether the Government has any plans to ease the burden imposed upon racehorse owners, breeders, and other sections of the industry by the recent award for stable employees; if so, what plans?

2. Whether the Government intends to consult the Victoria Racing Club on the compulsory membership of the trainers association by all trainers, to represent that section of the industry in any future consultations, &c?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. No. This is a matter of immediate concern to the Victoria Racing Club, as the principal club in Victoria, and the owners and trainers concerned.

2. The Government has expressed its concern to the Victoria Racing Club on this subject.

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD.**FOOTBALL BETTING.**

For Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North), Mr. Wilton asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether, in view of the popularity of football, consideration has been given to extending the activities of the Totalizator Agency Board to football wagers; if not, why?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

As far as I know, no request has been received by the Government to extend the activities of the Totalizator Agency Board to football betting, and in any event, personal discussions with some football executives indicate that there is considerable division of opinion as to whether betting should be legalized and encouraged.

YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION.

TURANA RECEPTION CENTRE: FIRE DAMAGE: EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION: REBUILDING.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Which sections of the Turana Reception Centre were destroyed by fire?

2. What emergency accommodation was arranged for the boys displaced by the fire?

3. Whether rebuilding will increase accommodation and include any changes in facilities at the reception centre; if so, to what extent?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. Quamby and Coolibah sections were damaged. Quamby section received damage only to a small section of the roof. Coolibah received more extensive damage and a substantial part of the roof was destroyed. Seventeen rooms were affected representing accommodation for a maximum of 34 boys.

2. Emergency accommodation was found at Bayswater and Morning Star Youth Training Centres. Some home releases were accelerated and others were dispersed in various other sections of Turana.

3. Rebuilding will not increase accommodation but the connexion between Coolibah and Quamby sections has been redesigned. This will incorporate some additional facilities for staff and administration and will also greatly improve the appearance of the buildings.

PIRA GIRLS' HOME: TRANSFER OF GIRLS TO TRAINING CENTRES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many girls have been transferred from the Pira Girls' Home to youth training centres each year since the home was opened in 1961?

2. What were the reasons for these transfers?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1.				
1961-62	..	..	..	Nil.
1962-63	..	..	..	Nil.
1963-64	..	..	..	7
1964-65	..	..	..	11
1965-66	..	..	..	10
1966-67	..	..	..	12
1967-68	..	..	..	8

2. Behaviour problems and persistent abscondings made transfers to a more restrictive institution necessary.

CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRE AT BUNDOORA.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What progress has been made in the construction of the centre for the Youth Welfare Division at Bundoora?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

The consultant architects have completed their first report and ground planning. Construction has been deferred to enable available loan funds to be used on increasing accommodation for male trainees which is currently more pressing than for females.

FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION.**FAMILY GROUP HOMES: STAFF TURNOVER.**

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What is the annual staff turnover of cottage parents and domestic staff, respectively, in the family group homes conducted by the Family Welfare Division since their inception in 1957?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answer consists of a lengthy table, and I suggest that it be incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:—

FAMILY GROUP HOMES—ANNUAL STAFF TURNOVER 1957–1968.

Year.	Cottage Mother Authorized Establishment.	Number of Cottage Mothers Com-menced Duty.	Number of Cottage Mothers Resigned.	Year.	Domestic Authorized Estab-lishment.	Number of Domestic Com-mencing Duty.	Number of Domestic Resigned.	
1957	21	13	2	1957	13	12	2	Two additional cottages established Ararat.
1958	21	26	19	1958	13	11	9	
1959	21	13	12	1959	13	4	2	
1960	21	8	8	1960	13	5	5	
1961	25	13	9	1961	15	10	10	
1962	25	7	10	1962	15	4	3	
1963	25	4	7	1963	15	10	10	
1964	25	8	6	1964	15	13	12	
1965	25	5	6	1965	15	9	6	
1966	25	10	10	1966	15	11	16	
1967	25	16	18	1967	15	14	12	
To date								
1968	25	14	10	1968	15	9	9	
		Total 137	Total 117			Total 112	Total 96	

SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH.

CHILDREN'S HOMES SECTIONS: LIMIT ON TRAVELLING EXPENSES: RESTRICTIONS IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What were the reasons for limiting travelling expenses of field workers in the Children's Homes Sections of the Social Welfare Department?

2. Whether such limitations extend to other workers in the Department; if so, which sections are affected?

3. Whether similar restrictions were placed on the work of public servants in other Government Departments?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1 and 2. All sections of the Social Welfare Branch are under firm instructions that the amount provided in the Budget for travelling expenses must not be exceeded. This does not apply only in the Children's Homes Section.

I may say that this situation has been strictly followed since the Committee of Public Accounts publicly castigated the Social Welfare Branch for spending money that was not allocated to it by Parliament.

3. All Departments are required to work within the limits of the financial provisions approved by Parliament.

MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.

STATE WARDS: ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What arrangements have been made with the Mental Health Authority to increase accommodation for wards from Allambie Reception Centre awaiting admission to Authority institutions?

2. How many wards are involved?

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. From time to time, wards suitable for mental health institutions come into the care of the Social Welfare Department. The Mental Health Authority places these wards on its already long waiting lists for admission. It does not give priority to wards but reviews all cases on their merits.

2. At present eighteen wards at Allambie are awaiting transfer to the Mental Health Authority.

MUNICIPALITIES.

REPAYMENT OF BORROWINGS: INTEREST CHARGES.

Mr. SCANLAN (Oakleigh) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

What percentage of municipal rate and total revenue, respectively, is at present committed to repayment of municipal borrowings and interest in each of the metropolitan municipalities?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is in the form of a long schedule, and I seek leave of the House to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:—

METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES.

GENERAL FUND—YEAR ENDED

30TH SEPTEMBER, 1967.

Municipality.	Percentage loan redemption and interest to rate revenue.	Percentage loan redemption and interest to total revenue.
Altona Shire ..	27.4	19.1
Berwick Shire ..	7.2	5.1
Box Hill City ..	20.3	17.4
Brighton City ..	18.8	15.3
Broadmeadows City ..	12.5	9.4
Brunswick City ..	16.3	10.8
Bulla Shire ..	15.7	11.1
Camberwell City ..	11.2	8.6
Caulfield City ..	9.4	6.9
Chelsea City ..	12.9	8.6
Coburg City ..	20.7	15.9
Collingwood City ..	12.3	9.6
Cranbourne Shire ..	13.2	9.5
Dandenong City ..	17.2	11.8
Diamond Valley Shire	5.6	3.5
Doncaster and Templestowe City	13.6	9.5
Eltham Shire ..	20.5	13.9
Essendon City ..	16.5	12.3
Fitzroy City ..	11.1	9.3
Footscray City ..	16.5	11.0
Frankston City ..	19.3	12.2
Hawthorn City ..	9.4	7.0
Heidelberg City ..	17.8	15.0
Keilor City ..	28.4	17.8
Kew City ..	14.7	11.3
Knox Shire ..	14.6	9.0
Malvern City ..	3.4	2.5
Melbourne City ..	42.2	21.8
Melton Shire ..	32.9	22.6
Moorabbin City ..	23.9	17.1
Mordialloc City ..	22.9	17.5
Northcote City ..	15.2	10.6
Nunawading City ..	27.5	17.2
Oakleigh City ..	18.5	12.7
Port Melbourne City ..	8.5	6.9
Prahran City ..	15.0	11.4
Preston City ..	17.2	10.3
Richmond City ..	19.4	13.6
Ringwood City ..	23.2	17.6
Sandringham City ..	26.9	21.6
Sherbrooke Shire ..	19.1	10.7
South Melbourne City	15.2	10.8
Springvale City ..	19.7	12.6
St. Kilda City ..	5.5	4.8
Sunshine City ..	15.4	11.7
Waverley City ..	14.6	10.7
Werribee Shire ..	28.4	22.4
Whittlesea Shire ..	7.0	5.0
Williamstown City ..	13.9	9.5

RECONSTITUTION OF MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS: ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT "FIGHTING FUND".

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. Whether the Minister is aware that the Brighton City Council has, by circularizing other municipalities initiated moves to build up a "fighting fund" to fight some possible reconstitution of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works at some unknown date; if so, whether this move to build up a fund is in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1958?

2. Whether that Act permits municipalities to contribute to other than firm commitments, and whether these should have been included in the year's estimates?

3. Whether, if no reconstitution of the Board eventuates, it will be legal for the organizers of the municipal contributions to hold the fund; if so, for how long and whether any provision is necessary for repayments wholly or in part?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The Minister for Local Government has supplied the following answers:—

1. I am aware that the Metropolitan Councils Local Government Promotions Committee set up by a conference called by the Brighton City Council has established a fund to be applied as may be considered necessary to support the principles of local government. Contributions to the fund have been sought and obtained. No contravention of the Local Government Act is involved.

2. Not necessarily. Some financial commitments cannot be foreseen when annual estimates are being prepared.

3. Any contributions to the fund would have to be applied in accordance with its stated purposes, and subject to any directions given by contributing councils. Provided that the expenditure does not contravene the Act, the management of the fund would be a matter for the contributors.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

DUPLICATED ENTRY INTO BALLARAT.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballaarat South) asked the Minister of Public Works—

1. Whether the Country Roads Board has adopted a final plan for duplicated entry into the City of Ballarat in the vicinity of the present Caledonian bridge; if so, when the plans will be made known; if not, when a decision will be made?

2. When it is anticipated that work will be commenced and completed, respectively?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answers are—

1. No. Investigations into certain aspects are proceeding and it is possible a decision can be made within the next few months.

2. It is not expected that construction will commence before the financial year 1969-70. The construction period is likely to be approximately eighteen months.

FORESTS COMMISSION.

SHEPPARTON AND RUSHWORTH
OFFICES: REVENUE: STAFF.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Shepparton) asked the Minister of Forests—

1. What was the revenue last financial year from—(a) the Shepparton district office of the Forests Commission; and (b) the Rushworth district office of the Forests Commission?

2. What are the office hours of the Shepparton and Rushworth offices of the Forests Commission, respectively?

3. What are the numbers of staff working at the Shepparton and Rushworth offices, respectively?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Forests).—The answers are—

—	Shepparton District Office.	Rushworth Sub-district Office.
1. Revenue 1967-68	(a) \$31,995	(b) \$11,473
2. Office hours ..	8.45 a.m. to 5.6 p.m. Monday to Friday (inclusive)	8.45 a.m. to 5.6 p.m. Friday 4 p.m. to 5.6 p.m. Monday to Thursday (inclusive)
	The above hours are extended as required during the fire season.	
3. Number of staff ..	2	1

HOUSING COMMISSION.

BRUNSWICK WEST ELECTORATE:
RENTS: VACANT PREMISES: WAITING
TIME: PURCHASES: EVICTIONS:
NUMBER OF UNITS.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. What are the maximum and minimum rents, respectively, charged by the Housing Commission for—(a) two-bedroom flats; (b) two-bedroom houses; and (c) three-bedroom houses, in the Brunswick West electorate?

2. How many houses and flats, respectively, became vacant in the electorate during the twelve months ended August, 1968?

3. What is the waiting time for these units?

4. How many of these houses are being purchased?

5. How many tenants in the electorate were evicted during the twelve months ended August, 1968?

6. What is the number of housing units in the electorate?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—

1. Maximum and minimum rents charged for two-bedroom flats and houses and three-bedroom houses in the Brunswick West electorate are as follows:—

	Maximum.	Minimum.
	\$	\$
Two-bedroom ..	10.00	7.75
Three-bedroom ..	10.50	8.25

2. Houses—Four.
Flats—Thirteen.

3. Lone person flats—48 months, but variations occur in view of council's right of tenant sponsorship.

Low rental flats—six months, but subject to variation in view of council's right of tenant sponsorship.

Two-bedroom flats—15-18 months.

Three-bedroom flats—15-18 months.

Two-bedroom houses—available for purchase only, waiting time two and a half to three years.

Three-bedroom houses—available for tenancy—large families only—two years.

4. Fifty-four.

5. Nil.

6. Two hundred and ninety-three.

CONSTRUCTION OF UNITS IN GEELONG AREA.

For **Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North), **Mr. Wilton** asked the Minister of Housing—

1. How many Housing Commission units have been completed in the Geelong area in each of the last five years?

2. How many such units are planned for construction in the current and succeeding year?

3. What were the numbers on the waiting list for lone-person units in the Geelong area at 30th June in each of the last five years, and what is the present number on the waiting list?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—
1.

—	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
Constructions..	207	248	327	330	124

2. Sixty-three houses and twenty lone person units are planned for construction in the current year. The building programme for the succeeding years will be determined when available funds and accommodation requirements are established.

3. As at 30th June, 1964—83.
30th June, 1965—42.
30th June, 1966—71.
30th June, 1967—100
30th June, 1968—97.
18th September, 1968—113.

GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION.

DISPLAY HOMES : ADVERTISING OF GAS APPLIANCES.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

1. What is the scheme of arrangement between the Gas and Fuel Corporation and Consolidated Home Industries (C.H.I.), regarding loans advanced by the Gas and Fuel Corporation to C.H.I. for the building of display homes which advertise gas appliances?

2. What total amount of loan moneys is involved?

3. What other companies (if any) have similar arrangements with the Gas and Fuel Corporation?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. There is no scheme of arrangement between the Gas and Fuel Corporation and Consolidated Home Industries whereby loans are advanced by the Gas and Fuel Corporation to Consolidated Home Industries for building display homes which advertise gas appliances. Pursuant to a contract, the Gas and Fuel Corporation purchases from Consolidated Home Industries a limited number of display homes (at 90 per cent. of sworn valuation) for subsequent resale.

2. No loans are thus involved.

3. No other company has such an arrangement with the Gas and Fuel Corporation.

FALLS CREEK ALPINE VILLAGE.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

For **Mr. MITCHELL** (Benambra), **Mr. Moss** asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

1. Who are the present members of the Falls Creek committee of management and what interests, bodies, organizations, or departments each represents?

2. How the system of voting on this committee operates?

3. Under what authority this committee is constituted, and what are its powers?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. The present members of the Falls Creek Tourist Area Management Committee are:—

Mr. L. W. Fargher (chairman)—an officer of the State Electricity Commission.

Dr. J. D. Swann (deputy chairman)—representing the State Electricity Commission.

Mr. S. A. Clarke—representing the State Electricity Commission.

Mr. C. H. Bridgford—representing Alpine Developments (Ski-Tows) Pty. Ltd.

Mr. C. W. Dobson—representing other commercial licensees.

Mr. J. Robertson—representing the Victorian Ski Association.

Mr. R. Howe—representing the Victorian Ski Association.

Mr. T. Glazebrook—representing the Upper Murray Regional Committee of the Central Planning Authority and the Country Roads Board.

2. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Governor in Council.

Each year nominations are called from commercial licensees at Falls Creek—other than Alpine Development (Ski-Tows) Pty. Ltd.—for appointment to the committee. Each commercial licensee is entitled to one vote in the ballot which is conducted in accordance with regulation 4 of the Falls Creek Tourist Area Regulations.

Other members of the committee are nominated by the bodies they represent and appointed by the State Electricity Commission.

3. The committee is constituted under the Falls Creek Tourist Area Regulations made pursuant to section 110 of the State Electricity Commission Act and its powers are set out in the regulations.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

CONCESSIONS TO PENSIONERS.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—

Whether consideration will be given by the State Electricity Commission to extending to pensioners a special tariff in a manner similar to that of the Gas and Fuel Corporation?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer is—

The State Electricity Commission believes that the concession given in the standard domestic tariff to all small users of electricity is the most equitable way of assisting pensioners, who form a large section of this group.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

ALBERT-STREET STATE SCHOOL: CLASS-ROOM EXTENSIONS.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

Having regard to the urgent need for class-room extensions to the Albert-street State School No. 1213, when it is expected that works will be undertaken?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The Minister of Education has furnished the following answer:—

The erection of additional class-rooms at Albert-street State School No. 1213 is included in the Department's list of capital works, but its priority is such that it will not be possible to call tenders during the current financial year.

However, the needs of the school will be borne in mind when the Department's building programme is being reviewed next year.

The situation will be examined shortly with a view to ensuring that sufficient accommodation will be available in February next.

COMMONWEALTH SCIENCE GRANTS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

For **Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North), Mr. Wilton asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. On what basis priorities are determined in the allocation of Commonwealth science grants to secondary schools?

2. Whether this basis is ever varied; if so, why?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The Minister of Education has provided the following answers:—

1. All secondary schools are considered for the provision of science rooms under the Commonwealth grants each year, and factors taken into consideration include the total school enrolment, the size of the senior school, and the number and quality of existing rooms.

2. No.

NEW TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT NORTH GEELONG.

For **Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North), Mr. Wilton asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. When site works are due to be commenced for the construction of the technical school at Barton-street, North Geelong?

2. When the school will be transferred to the site?

3. What sewerage, drainage, and class-room facilities will be available for the opening of the school?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The Minister of Education has furnished the following answers:—

1. Subject to present negotiations being concluded satisfactorily, preliminary site works will commence in six weeks' time with a view to locating portable class-rooms on the site.

2. The school will be transferred to the site as from February, 1969.

3. Nine portable class-rooms, plus sufficient portable toilets, connected to a nearby sewerage line, to cater for 180 boys will be available for the opening of the school. Adequate drainage facilities will be provided at the same time.

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AT MOUNT CLEAR.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballaarat South) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. What is the reason for the delay in commencement of building of the primary school at Mount Clear?

2. When it is expected that the building of the school will be—(a) commenced; and (b) completed?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers provided by the Minister of Education are—

1. There has been no delay in the preparation of contract documents which are almost completed.

2. Subject to the obtaining of a satisfactory tender, building could commence before the end of next month. If so, the building will probably be completed before the end of March, 1969.

WAGES BOARDS.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CHAIRMAN.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

Whether in view of the existing large number of wages boards and the likelihood of further increases in this number, he will indicate whether the Government intends to provide for the appointment of an additional wages board chairman?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

The question of appointment of an additional wages board chairman is at present under my consideration. A recommendation may be made to the Government when the present investigation of the situation has been concluded.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.

ACCIDENT IN EXCAVATION AT GEELONG.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

Whether the Department of Labour and Industry investigated the cause of the earth fall into the excavation at Geelong on Friday, 6th September last, and the near-fatality that resulted; if so—(a) what was the depth and length of the trench; and (b) what safety precautions were taken by the contractor to ensure the safety of employees working in the trench, and whether they conformed to the regulations?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

The accident to which the honorable member refers was not investigated by any officer of the Department of Labour and Industry because there are no laws within the administration of the Department governing safety in tunnelling or excavation work. This is a matter that comes within the administration of the Minister

of Mines. His Department is, I understand, at present engaged in appropriate investigations into the subject generally.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

HORSHAM NORTH OVER-PASS.

Mr. BUCKLEY (Lowan) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. When a start will be made on the Horsham North over-pass, as promised in April, 1967?

2. Whether plans have now been prepared; if so, what is the estimated cost of the project?

3. What work will be carried out this financial year, and when it is expected work will be completed?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answers are—

1. Late in 1969.

2. Detailed plans have not yet been prepared; subject to this qualification the estimated cost is \$700,000.

3. Some design work and land acquisition.

MELBOURNE-GEELONG LINE: DUPLICATION.

For **Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North), **Mr. Wilton** asked the Minister of Transport—

1. When it is expected tenders will be called for further work on the duplication of the Melbourne-Geelong railway?

2. What portion of track is next to be duplicated?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer is—

The next section of the Geelong line to be duplicated is from Werribee to Little River. Earth works are at present being carried out by contract between Werribee and Manor.

Tenders are expected to be invited towards the end of this year for earth works between Manor and Little River.

New station buildings are in the course of erection at Laverton.

NEWPORT WORKSHOPS: CLOSING OF BRAKE-SHOP.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether the brake-shop at the Newport railway workshops has been closed down and work transferred to the Bendigo workshops; if so—(a) whether this is a temporary measure or whether decentralization of railway work is the reason for the transfer; if not, what are the main reasons; and (b) whether it was necessary to transfer any tradesmen from Newport to Bendigo?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer is—

The brake-shop at Newport workshops was closed down on 14th June, 1968, and the majority of the work transferred to Bendigo North and Ballarat North Workshops.

- (a) The move was in accordance with railway decentralization policy which has been in force for many years.
- (b) No; the tradesmen concerned have been engaged on other work.

ELECTRIC SIGNALLING CABLES.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. What is the approximate average annual cost of replacement of the containers carrying the cables for railway electric signalling, due entirely to damage and not to natural wastage?

2. What steps are being taken to prevent unnecessary damage to the cable containers?

3. Whether there have been any breakdowns in the signalling system due to the cables being exposed over long periods in damaged containers?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answers are—

1. \$3,000.

2. Protective timbering is erected when earthmoving machines are working in the vicinity. Workmen discharging track materials are required to exercise care to avoid damage to trackside apparatus and equipment.

3. No.

MELBOURNE-SYDNEY STANDARD GAUGE LINE.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. What was the anticipated life of the Victorian section of the standard gauge line between Melbourne and Sydney, when completed in 1962?

2. Whether it has now been necessary to replace the rails of this section ahead of schedule; if so; what is the cause?

3. Whether Victoria will have to bear the cost of capital replacements, apart from ordinary maintenance, and what will be the cost of such rail replacement?

4. How the anticipated and the actual life of the Victorian section compares with the New South Wales section of the standard gauge line?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answers are—

1. The life of any section of railway track depends upon the tonnage which passes over it.

2. It has been necessary to replace a number of rails because of flaws detected by the rail flaw detector.

3. Victoria bears all maintenance and replacement costs, but no estimate as to the extent of the latter can be supplied as no major replacement of rail is expected to be necessary for some considerable time.

4. It is not possible to compare the two sections of line as the New South Wales section handles all intra-state as well as interstate traffic.

WAGONS: VISIBILITY AT NIGHT: SAFETY MEASURES.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether the Railway Department has made any progress in its research towards making railway wagons more visible when passing over level crossings at night: if not, whether the introduction of railway wagons from other States, due to standard gauges and bogie exchanges, has prevented some uniform method of better visibility (such as luminous paint) being used?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer is—

There is no known method of making reflectorized signs on goods wagons last. This is the experience not only in Australia, but also overseas.

Many unlit level crossings have been fitted with reflectorized strips on the far side at ground level so that the glow from motor vehicle headlights will be interrupted by the wheels of a train passing over the crossings. More crossings are being fitted with these strips.

I have arranged for the Railways Commissioners to keep this matter under review, particularly so far as it concerns goods wagons.

MARGARINE.

ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTS: STORK MARGARINE.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. Whether any of the numerous brands of margarine now being sold in Victoria have been analysed recently; if so, with what result?

2. What company manufactures Stork margarine?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The Minister of Health has supplied the following answers:—

1. During the year 1967 eight samples of margarine were submitted for analysis to the Health Section of the State Laboratories for compliance with the standard for margarine as fixed under the Food and Drug Standards Regulations 1966 and to date four such samples have been submitted during the current year. On analysis, all samples were found to comply with the Food and Drug Standards Regulations.

The Department of Agriculture administers the Margarine Act and the above figures do not include analysis of margarine samples which may have been taken for compliance with this legislation.

2. The label of "Stork Cooking Margarine" carries the following statement: "Prepared for World Brands Pty. Ltd. by Unilever Australia Pty. Ltd., Sydney."

CLEAN AIR ACT.

EXPENDITURE: RECORDING APPLIANCES: CHIMNEY HEIGHTS.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. What amount of money was made available for expenditure by the Department of Health during the financial years 1965–66, 1966–67, and 1967–68, for the purposes of the clean air legislation?

2. What proportions of such amounts were expended in respect of—(a) salaries; (b) research; and (c) appliances?

3. What is the situation of any appliances established for the purpose of such legislation, and what was the amount of "dust fall-out" recorded by such appliances during 1967–68?

4. Whether any of such appliances are situated in the electorate of West Brunswick; if so, what is the situation of each appliance?

5. Whether any regulations have been made under the Clean Air Act 1958 in respect of the height of chimneys; if so, what regulations?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The information supplied by the Minister of Health is rather lengthy, and I seek leave of the House to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

1.

1965–1966	..	..	\$20,046
1966–1967	..	..	\$27,320
1967–1968	..	..	\$30,106

2. The proportions of such amounts expended in respect of salaries and appliances were as follows:

—		Salaries.	Appliances (equipment).
1965–66	..	80 per cent.	6 per cent.
1966–67	..	71 per cent.	11 per cent.
1967–68	..	87 per cent.	4 per cent.

It is not possible to determine the proportion of the remainder of the expenditure which was devoted to research.

3. Details of the siting of appliances established for the purpose of air pollution legislation and the amount of "dust fall-outs" recorded by such appliances are detailed in a document entitled *Air Pollution Measurements in Victoria—Yearly Results for the period 1960–1967*. A copy of this publication is available for the honorable member.

4. Dust deposit gauge No. 141 is located at the croquet club in Brunswick park, Victoria-street, Brunswick. A smoke and sulphur dioxide monitor is located at the council depot in Albert-street, Brunswick.

5. No regulations have been made under the Clean Air Act 1958 in respect of the height of chimneys. Officers of the Clean Air Section examine plans and specifications of all proposed industrial plant coming within the scope of the clean air legislation and ensure that the chimneys proposed are of such heights as to reduce the ground level concentration of emission to acceptable limits. If the height proposed would not achieve an accepted ground level concentration, the installation would not be recommended for approval by the Commission of Public Health.

MILK BOARD.

SURPLUS MILK SUPPLIES.

For **Mr. DUNSTAN** (Mornington), **Mr. Trethewey** asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. What control the Milk Board has over surplus milk by a dairy farmer holding a Board contract?

2. Why an agent of the Milk Board, who is not a manufacturing agent, does not have to supply the Board with a record of surplus milk purchased from dairy farmers?

3. How the surplus milk is disposed of?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), **Mr. Balfour** (Minister of Fuel and Power).—The Minister of Agriculture has supplied the following answers:—

1. Under the terms of the contract entered into between the Board and a dairy farmer it is provided that if at any time the Board requires from the farmer milk produced by his herd in excess of the daily contract quantity, the Board may buy such quantity of that milk as it requires at the appropriate price determined for contract milk.

2. Board depot agents, whether or not engaged in manufacture of dairy produce, are required to advise the Board of the total quantity of milk delivered to them by the contract dairy farmer each month, as well as the quantity received and accepted by them as agents on behalf of the Board. However, dairymen agents who are concerned solely with market milk are only obliged to advise the Board monthly of milk received and accepted on behalf of the Board. If such dairymen acting as agents for the dairy farmers undertake to dispose of the surplus on behalf of the farmers, it is a matter for the dairy farmer to decide whether or not to advise the Board of these sales for the purpose of recording his total production for the information of the Board when daily contract quantities are being revised.

3. Under the terms of the contract between the Board and the dairy farmer the Board requires the farmer to supply contract quantity and the Board has a lien on his total production. However, the Board may or may not exercise its right to accept a quantity in excess of contract quantity. If such a right is not exercised the farmer is at liberty to sell milk surplus to Board requirements as he sees fit.

LATROBE VALLEY WATER AND SEWERAGE BOARD.

LAND : OWNED AND CONTROLLED :
USAGE : PROPOSED PURCHASES.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

1. How much land the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board owns or leases?

2. Whether the whole of this area is being used; if not, when it will be brought into use?

3. Whether the Board is purchasing, or trying to purchase, more land at present?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—The answers are—

1. The Board owns or has under its control lands as follows:—

(a) Water supply purposes (Moondarra reservoir service basins)—

Owned by Board ..	4,800 acres.
Crown land (under control of Board)	900 acres.
Leased by Board ..	Nil
	5,700 acres.

(b) Drainage purposes (Dutson farm, depots)—

Owned by Board ..	11,700 acres.
Crown land (under control of Board)	11,500 acres.
Leased by Board ..	Nil
	23,200 acres.

2. (a) The whole of the land obtained for water supply purposes is being used.

(b) The land obtained for drainage purposes (disposal of effluent) is being used as follows:—

Irrigated area ..	2,400 acres.
Storage of effluent ..	600 acres.
Dry grazing land ..	4,700 acres.
	Total 7,700 acres.

An area of 15,500 acres is not being used at present for the following reasons:—

(i) Part of the area is Crown land which has been placed under the control and management of the Board against future requirements.

(ii) An area of about 4,000 acres of vacant land abutting Lake Reeve is not suitable for development, and a further 3,000 acres at the western extremity of the farm would be expensive to develop at the present time.

(iii) Some land is low lying and would present drainage problems.

The unused portions are remote from present development. However suitable lands are being progressively developed and the Board expects to bring all suitable land into use by 1975.

3. The Board was recently given approval to purchase an area of 950 acres of privately-owned better class lands. This would enable the present excessive rate of application of effluent on the irrigated areas to be reduced, thus leading to increased productivity of the farm. The 950 acres concerned are surrounded by lands under the Board's control and its development would be less costly than developing the existing remote lands.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

IRRIGATION BLOCKS IN ROCHESTER AREA.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Lands—

1. What number of irrigation blocks are now available in the Rochester area under land settlement schemes?

2. Whether applications are being sought from interested persons at this stage; if not, when applications are likely to be called for?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. None are currently advertised as available for application.

2. Four irrigation holdings at Rochester will be advertised as available for application, pursuant to the Land Settlement Act 1959, in October–November, 1968.

DEVELOPMENT OF LITTLE DESERT AND LOWER GLENELG REGIONS.

For **Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North), Mr. Edmunds asked the Minister of Lands—

1. What areas of the Little Desert (West Wimmera) and Lower Glenelg regions are proposed to be opened for development, and what areas are proposed to be permanently preserved?

2. What consideration the Government has given to the recommendations made by the Land Utilization Advisory Council when investigating the Little Desert, and to the case submitted by the Western Victorian Conservation Committee for the Lower Glenelg region?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer is—

All reports and representations concerning Crown Lands in the Little Desert and Lower Glenelg regions are currently being considered.

As soon as decisions have been made the House will be informed by means of a Ministerial statement.

HEYTESBURY ESTATE: REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

For **Mr. WILTON** (Broadmeadows), Mr. Edmunds asked the Minister of Lands—

If he will lay on the table of the Library a copy of the report of the committee set up by the Government to investigate problems affecting settlers on the Heytesbury estate?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer is—

In 1963, a special committee reported to the chairman of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission on certain holdings in the Heytesbury land settlement project. The report contains references to personal details of settlers, such as their respective incomes, and part of the report is *sub judice*. In the circumstances I do not believe I would be justified in tabling the report.

CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT.

DISEASED CATTLE.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

Whether consideration has been given to amending the Cattle Compensation Act 1967 to include any disease of cattle (as in the Stock Diseases Act 1958 and regulations) necessitating a property being placed under quarantine; if not, whether consideration will be given?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Agriculture contains a long list of names, and I seek leave of the House to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:—

- (i) Careful consideration has been given to amendment of the Cattle Compensation Act 1967 to include any disease of cattle necessitating a property being placed under quarantine.
- (ii) Under the Stock Diseases Act, inspectors of stock have power to impose quarantine on properties where they find disease. Disease in this instance means those diseases which are proclaimed by the Governor in Council in the regulations under the Act. Disease affecting cattle may be listed as follows:—

Actinomycosis
Anthrax
Aujeszky's disease
Blackleg
Blue tongue
Buffalo fly
Cattle tick
Contagious abortion
Ephemeral fever
Foot and mouth disease

Infectious necrotic
Hepatitis (black disease)
Johne's disease
Malignant tumour
Malignant catarrhal fever
Mucosal disease complex
Pleuro pneumonia contagiosa
Rabies
Rinderpest
Tick fever
Trichomoniasis
Tuberculosis
Warble infestation

- (iii) Compensation is at present paid to owners of cattle where an inspector destroys or orders cattle to be destroyed because of disease in any disease control or eradication programme. At present compensation is payable where cattle are slaughtered because of actinomycosis, Johne's disease, malignant tumour, pleuro pneumonia contagiosa, hydatids, and tuberculosis.
- (iv) The Cattle Compensation Act was originally introduced because difficulty had arisen in departmental disease control programme where compulsory slaughter of cattle was ordered, as in those days the farmer was expected to bear the cost involved in such compulsory slaughter. The effect of the Cattle Compensation Act through the years has been to enable the Department to make very significant progress in the control and eradication of diseases of stock in this State.
- (v) It is not proposed that any other disease should be made compensatable unless or until a test and slaughter policy is imposed in respect of any such disease.

LANDS DEPARTMENT.

TRANSFERS OF CROWN LAND AT BENDIGO: DELAYS.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura) asked the Minister of Lands—

1. How many transfers of Crown land cases are awaiting inspection and report at the office of the district surveyor, Bendigo?
2. What is the longest period of delay in any of these cases?
3. What steps are being taken to reduce delays, and also the work-load on the district surveyor and his staff?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers are—

1. Six hundred and seventeen.

2. Information of this nature is not readily available, but inspections and reports on low priority cases could be subject to considerable delays.

3. Staff increases have been requested and a decision by the Public Service Board is awaited.

RAIN-MAKING.

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT : USE IN EAST GIPPSLAND.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. How many aircraft are available for rain-making purposes?
2. Where these aircraft are stationed?
3. Whether in view of the continuing dry conditions being experienced in East Gippsland, the Minister will provide the services of one of these aircraft, in an effort to induce an increase in rainfall in the area?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The Minister of Agriculture has supplied the following answers:—

1. Three.
2. Two aircraft are based at Horsham, one for the Wimmera-Mallee wheat growing area operation and one for the Grampians water catchments operation.
- One aircraft is based at Moorabbin for the Melbourne and Eildon water catchments operation.

3. The current rain-making authority issued under the Rain-Making Control Act 1967, authorizing the operations listed in the answer to question No. 2 expires on 30th September, 1968. As the Rain-Making Control Act provides that rain-making authorities cannot be varied or revoked by me without first consulting the appropriate members, I will consult my colleagues, the Minister for Local Government and the Minister of Water Supply, as to whether the current rain-making authority should be varied to provide for rain-making operations in East Gippsland and also whether this area should be included in authorities to be issued to cover rain-making operations beyond 1st October, 1968.

WHEAT INDUSTRY.

STABILIZATION PLAN.

For **Mr. WILTON** (Broadmeadows), Mr. Edmunds asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. Whether the Government supports the new wheat stabilization plan as outlined by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry?

2. Whether the Government intends to bring down complementary legislation this session to implement the above scheme?

For **Sir WILLIAM McDONALD** (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Agriculture are—

1. The new wheat stabilization plan as outlined by the Federal Minister for Primary Industry is under consideration by the Government in consultation with the wheat growing organizations in this State.

2. The Government will not bring down complementary legislation which does not have the support of the Victorian wheat industry.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION.

DESALINATION OF WATER : RESEARCH.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

1. Whether the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is conducting any research into desalination of water; if so, what amount is allocated for this work annually, and what are the results to date?

2. Whether any consideration has been given to Victoria's rural water requirements by the provision of small desalination plants at cheap cost for use by farmers on brackish streams?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—The answers are—

1. No. Many millions of dollars are being spent overseas each year, mostly in the United States of America through Government and privately financed research programmes in this field. The Commission is kept continuously informed on the progress of this work and there is no requirement for it to conduct independent research at the present time.

2. No. The possible use of desalination equipment for country town water supplies is under consideration.

UNDERGROUND WATER : RESEARCH.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

Whether the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is doing any research or practical work in the search for underground water; if so, who is carrying out the work, what amount of finance is allocated annually, and what are the prospects of substantial augmentation of Victoria's water resources from this source?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—The answer is—

Yes. A limited amount of work is carried out in connexion with the augmentation of water supplies under the direct control of the Commission. More extensive investigations are, of course, carried out by the Mines Department.

During 1967-68 some \$20,000 was spent by the Commission.

There are no extensive underground resources in Victoria of the magnitude existing in some other States. However, useful supplies are available in some localities to meet or augment urban requirements. In other localities sufficient quantities of underground water are available for limited irrigation but these are insufficient to sustain areas comparable with those served from surface supplies.

LAKES ENTRANCE WATER TRUST.

CONSTITUTION : STAFF VACANCIES : LEGALITY OF DECISIONS : NEW PIPELINE.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

1. How the Lakes Entrance Water Trust is constituted?

2. Whether vacancies exist on the trust at present; if so—(a) how many; (b) for how long; (c) why these vacancies have not been filled; (d) when it is intended to bring the trust to full strength; and (e) whether, if one of the existing vacancies is the Government-appointed commissioner, what has caused the delay in a replacement?

3. Whether trust decisions are legal, without the participation of a Government commissioner?

4. Whether the trust recently contracted for the replacement of 1,300 feet of 12-in. cast-iron concrete-lined pipeline with an asbestos-cement type of pipe, and whether the whole of this line had to be excavated when completed and additional work carried out because of the use of the wrong type of joint couplings; if so, what was the cost of the additional work and who was responsible for payment?

5. Whether the trust supervised the work, and whether the line was tested before being covered with earth?

6. Whether the structural defects in the couplings caused loss of water; if so, what was the estimated amount in gallons and whether this occurred at a time when water had to be carted to Metung by road and in that event, who paid for the cartage?

7. Whether the pipeline is now completed and satisfactory?

8. What was—(a) the final cost of the work; and (b) the difference between this figure and the contract price?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—The answers are—

1. The trust comprises six commissioners elected by ratepayers and one other appointed by the Governor in Council.

2. (a) There is one vacancy at present.

(b) The vacancy occurred on 18th May, 1968.

(c) The vacancy has not yet been filled because of a delay in the submission of a nomination to fill the vacancy.

(d) A nomination has now been received and an appointment will be made as soon as practicable.

(e) The nomination was delayed through the absence overseas of the local member for the Legislative Assembly who is normally asked to suggest a suitable person.

3. The trust's decisions without its Government nominee have been legally valid, as a quorum of commissioners has been present at each meeting.

4. The trust recently replaced 1,300 feet of 12-in. cement-lined cast-iron piping being part of its main pipeline because of excessive corrosion from ground water where the line passed through a swampy area. The new piping was of asbestos-cement and the pipes were longer, lighter in weight and had a slightly different type of joint to that of the original cast-iron pipe. On completion of the replacement considerable difficulty was met with the anchorage of this pipeline because of the soft ground conditions and it was necessary to virtually relay the line, with special measures being taken to hold the line in position and prevent the opening of joints. The cost of the additional work to reinstate the new pipeline was approximately \$5,300 and this cost has been met by the trust from loan funds.

5. The replacement work was supervised by the trust's engineers and a clerk of works. The line was not tested before being covered with earth because of the difficulty in anchoring the pipe in the soft ground situation.

6. There were no structural defects in the couplings, and the loss of water was the result of the movements in the pipeline which caused the joints to open.

The amount of water lost is difficult to assess but was of the order of 2,000,000 gallons. Because of the breaks in the pipeline and the consequent loss of water it was necessary to cart water to Metung by road, and the cost of this carting was met by the Metung Waterworks Trust.

7. The repair work was completed about seven weeks ago and now appears to be satisfactory.

8. (a) The final cost was approximately \$13,000.

(b) This was \$5,300 above the contract price.

ESTIMATES FOR 1968-69.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1968-69, in lieu of the Estimates of Expenditure for the first three months of the year 1968-69, transmitted on the 20th March, 1968, and recommending an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1967-68.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1967-68, and recommending an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.

PERPETUITIES AND ACCUMULATIONS BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to effect reforms in the rule of law commonly known as the rule against perpetuities and to abolish the rule of law commonly known as the rule against accumulation, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

PROPERTY LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend sections 5 and 14 of the Property Law Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

THE BUDGET.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I present to the House the Budget statement for the financial year 1968-69, the fourteenth successive annual Budget which it has been my privilege to introduce.

Twelve months ago, when I presented last year's Budget, we were under the shadow of drought. At that time we had already had the lowest winter rainfall on record, and while there was still time for late spring rains to retrieve the position to some degree, there was a considerable element of doubt about farm prospects for the rest of the year. In turn, as I then observed, this meant that the Budget Estimates—particularly the revenue estimates—might not be realized, and I sounded a note of caution.

What transpired is now history. The drought conditions did worsen, and the farming community endured the worst drought in the history of the State. The effects spilled over into business and commerce, but the brunt of the burden was borne by the farmer.

Action taken by the Government, and in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government, to alleviate the problems of the drought has been reported to the House from time to time by my colleague the Minister of Lands, Sir William McDonald, and I don't propose to record it in detail here. Basic to the measures taken was the provision of carry-on finance, and finance for restocking, so that on emerging from the drought, farmers could get their farms back into full production as quickly as possible.

Fortunately the drought has broken, and prospects this year are for a good season. Yet it must not be forgotten that the farmer has suffered a permanent loss. Behind the statistics of the poor wheat harvest, the fall in stock numbers, the loss of wool production, and the falling wool prices, stand all the individual farmers who have suffered serious losses of income. They come out of the drought with bigger mortgage debts, which have to be repaid, for even the money which the Commonwealth Government made available for advances to farmers has to be repaid to the Commonwealth Government. All this has hit the farmer at a time when his costs are rising, and when overseas influences are reducing farm incomes. In these circumstances the Government believes that something more is called for than mere drought relief, and we propose to abolish land tax on land used for primary production. Some compensating adjustments will be necessary to offset the loss of revenue to the Government, but these will not concern the farmer. He will get the full benefit of the relief from land tax on land used for primary production. I will come back to this matter again.

The drought also had an important effect on the State accounts for last financial year. It will be recalled that the Estimates presented with the 1967-68 Budget provided for a balance—neither a deficit nor a surplus. The actual result was a deficit of \$2,800,000. The main change occurred in the railway accounts. Railway traffic was severely hit by the drought conditions, particularly wheat railings, and railway revenue finished \$9,100,000 below the Budget Estimate. The Commonwealth Government provided special revenue assistance to all drought-affected States during the year, and Victoria received \$4,800,000 in this way to help offset the consequences of the drought on the State Budget. However, this assistance did not go all the way to meeting our problems, and still left our revenue \$2,800,000 short of expenditure.

The matter of further Commonwealth assistance towards this drought-caused shortage was raised at the Premiers' conference in June. The Prime Minister then said that the Commonwealth is always ready to consider making assistance available if any State is faced with serious financial difficulties, and serious problems arising from circumstances beyond its control.

The special revenue assistance made available last year to New South Wales and Queensland to help offset the adverse effects of drought on their Budget revenues, in fact assisted those States to the point of putting their Budgets into surplus. I am sure honorable members would pardon me for having thought that perhaps Victoria could have expected to have its 1967-68 Budget brought to balance. We certainly did not seek or expect to be put into surplus. However, I have to report to the Committee that, true to form, the Commonwealth Government has rejected our approach. The Prime Minister has sought to justify this on the grounds that in 1966-67—two years ago—when the Commonwealth gave New South Wales special assistance, New South Wales was left with a Budget deficit of \$3,100,000. So much for the words of the Prime Minister about the Commonwealth being always ready to come to the aid of a State faced with serious problems arising from circumstances beyond its control.

The June Premiers' conference was open to the press—incidentally, this action was taken on my motion—and was fully reported, and I don't propose to cover the ground of the conference in this Budget speech. However, for the sake of the record, I think I should refer to the more important aspects of the conference. The Premiers would have wished to discuss with the Commonwealth the breakdown of the tax reimbursement formula and the revision of that formula. All Premiers raised the matter, but the Commonwealth refused to discuss it. They made it clear that so far as they were concerned their present income tax reimbursement legislation did not expire until 1970, and they were not willing to consider the matter before then.

In addition, the Prime Minister uttered some strong and heady words about the future intentions of the Commonwealth Government to tell State Parliaments what they may or may not do in the way of raising revenue to pay for education and other State services. Honorable members will be familiar with the terms of the statement. They will be familiar also with the reaction by the New South Wales Parliament. For my Government, and this Parliament, I simply say that this Parliament is its own master. It is not run by outside influences—and I fervently hope it never will be. Specifically in relation to our Stamps Act of 1967, I make it clear that the Government has no present intention whatsoever of recommending to Parliament the repeal of any part of that legislation. Canberra may well wish to sweep under the carpet the whole mess they have created of Commonwealth-State financial relations. They have done so for a long time. However the people are awake to the confidence trick the Commonwealth has been perpetrating on the States and I am confident that this will force Canberra to change its tune.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1968-69.

The detailed Estimates of Expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for 1968-69 have been circulated. They provide for an expenditure of \$651,000,000. The basis on which these Estimates have been prepared is the provision for the needs of normal growth. There has been no cutting back on essential needs, nor on the other hand is there provision for any

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spending spree. Departmental expenditure proposals have been carefully scrutinized and pruned to a manageable amount. In all, the Estimates now before you for consideration represent a reduction of \$15,000,000 on the requests as submitted by Departments.

The amount provided represents an increase of 7·7 per cent. on last year's expenditure. The increase in expenditure on education is 11·3 per cent., but the increase in other expenditure is only 5·9 per cent.

The Expenditure Estimates have been based, and can only be based, on current cost levels. Any increases in wage and salary rates by wage fixing authorities during the year would change the picture.

ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR 1968-69.

No new taxation is proposed for 1968-69. The only change proposed is in the field of land tax. I have announced already that land tax will be abolished on land used for primary production.

To offset the revenue loss from this, the rate of land tax on other land will be increased where the value of the land owned exceeds \$25,000. There will be no net effect on the revenue yield from land tax as a result of these changes.

Total revenue for 1968-69 is estimated at \$651,000,000, sufficient to cover the expenditure for the year estimated on the basis of current conditions.

STATE BORROWINGS.

Normally, when presenting the Budget I deal first with the Departments, and then borrowings. Borrowings are a most important part of the State's economy and, because of their profound effect on our budgetary position, I believe they should be taken in conjunction with the Estimates, and that is why I intend to handle the matter at this stage.

One of the major costs on the Budget is interest on, and the repayment of, State borrowings, and it is appropriate that I should deal with this matter in some depth at this stage.

At its June meeting the Loan Council approved a works and housing programme of \$710,000,000 for all States for 1968-69. This included \$126,000,000 for the Commonwealth which will be lent on to the States under the Commonwealth and States Housing Agreement. The remaining \$584,000,000 is for borrowings by the States for works programmes. The relevant figures for Victoria are that in the current financial year the Commonwealth will lend to Victoria at interest \$34,500,000 under the housing agreement. We will borrow \$146,600,000 through the Loan Council for works programmes.

The proposals for the spending of these loan moneys will be explained fully when the loan appropriation Bills come before the House. At this stage I propose merely to mention some of the items which have received special priority in framing the 1968-69 works programme. Education has again received first consideration, with emphasis being placed on expenditure on buildings and equipment for the three universities and the colleges of advanced education. The allocation to the Chief Secretary's Department has been increased by \$1,600,000, the main increase going to police and

social welfare buildings and to the new Arthur Rylah Research Institute at Heidelberg for the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch. Some \$3,500,000 will be required to meet expenditure on jetties and other developments at Westernport and on associated rail and road facilities. In addition to these items, increased amounts have been provided for hospitals and health services, forestry and country water supply, and a wide range of other Government services.

There is an understandable degree of confusion in the minds of many about where responsibility really lies in the matter of the raising and spending of loan funds, the annual payment of interest on these loan funds, and the eventual repayment of them.

If we look at the statements attached to the Budget speech of the Federal Treasurer we find that the whole of the \$710,000,000 to which I have referred, and which will be spent by the States on new works and housing programmes in 1968-69, is included in Commonwealth expenditure for 1968-69. It has been counted as Commonwealth expenditure in arriving at the figure of \$547,000,000 given by the Federal Treasurer as the expected Commonwealth deficit for 1968-69. The truth is, however, that all of this \$710,000,000 is to be spent by the States. Not one cent of it can be spent without an appropriation by the Parliaments of the States.

This Parliament has already authorized the spending of the \$34,500,000 being lent to us by the Commonwealth this year under the Commonwealth and States Housing Agreement, and the spending of the \$146,600,000 to be borrowed through the Loan Council must be authorized by loan appropriations by this Parliament.

In addition, Victoria has to meet the annual interest payments on these moneys, and apart from a minor contribution by the Commonwealth under the Financial Agreement of 1927, Victoria has to find the revenue to pay the money back. All this has to be authorized by this Parliament. It is plain dishonesty on the part of the Commonwealth to include State loan expenditure in its own expenditure. It is State expenditure, and it adds to the debt of the States, not of the Commonwealth.

In point of fact the debt owed by the Commonwealth has been dramatically reduced in recent years, while the debt of the States continues to grow. The figures at 30th June last are revealing. They show the debt of the Commonwealth at \$3,600 million and the debt of the States at \$8,316 million. But the Commonwealth debt includes an amount of \$1,505 million which is merely money advanced by the Commonwealth to the States for expenditure under the housing agreement. The States have to repay the money to the Commonwealth and pay interest to the Commonwealth in the meantime. This is really State debt, not Commonwealth debt, and \$1,505 million has to be subtracted from the published figure of Commonwealth debt and added to the published figure for State debt. This makes the debt of the Commonwealth at 30th June, 1968, only \$2,095 million and the true debt of the States \$9,821 million.

But the Commonwealth picture is even rosier than it appears because it holds vast quantities of Commonwealth securities as investments of its revenue surpluses. In fact, at 30th June, 1968, it owned no less than \$1,700 million worth of these securities. Therefore its net debt at 30th June last was only some \$395,000,000. This may sound rather complicated but the following simple table illustrates what I have just explained.

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					\$ million
	Commonwealth debt as published	..	..	..	3,600
less	State housing debt	..	..	..	1,505
					2,095
less	Investments in Commonwealth securities (approx.)	..			1,700
					395
	Net Commonwealth debt at 30th June, 1968	..	..		

Not too bad for a Government which claims to have had deficits totalling more than \$3,600 million in the last ten years. Compare a Commonwealth debt of \$395,000,000 with Victoria's debt of \$2,450 million, and the total debt of all States of \$9,821 million.

Is it any wonder that State finances are beset with such intolerable difficulties, when we are short-changed on income tax reimbursement, and also have to carry the burden of the national debt?

It is in fact quite illuminating to look at who has to pay the interest on the national debt. This year the Commonwealth will pay some \$85,000,000 in interest on its debt, and receive back to itself some \$60,000,000 in interest on its own investments in its own securities—an effective interest bill of only some \$25,000,000. This year the interest bill to be met by Victoria, and included in this Budget, is \$117,000,000, and the interest bill to be met by all States this year will be some \$450,000,000. To the sum of \$117,000,000 in interest could be added the sum of \$24,000,000 to repay the loans, making a total of \$141,000,000.

This whole matter of the cost of borrowed money is almost as serious for the States as the filching of taxing rights, and the latter day threats of hell fire and damnation unless State Parliaments surrender to the will of the Commonwealth Government such slender remaining powers as they have. Interest, of course, doesn't worry Canberra. Suppose it builds a new school which costs \$1,000,000. It pays for it out of taxation and that is the finish. But suppose we build the same sort of school costing \$1,000,000 in this State—not that we could ever do that; it would be within the realms of phantasy to suggest that Victoria could put up the same standard of building as Canberra. But suppose we did and the building cost \$1,000,000. We have to borrow the \$1,000,000, pay interest on it, and repay the loan. By the time we have repaid the loan the total cost will be \$2,500,000 for the same school, including interest on the loan.

Last financial year the school building programme included 24 new schools completed at an initial cost of \$6,400,000. Each one of those schools has a mortgage on it for 100 per cent. of the cost. When we have finished paying off the loan the total cost of those schools, including interest on the loan, will have become \$16,000,000. If they had been built by the Commonwealth in Canberra the first cost would have been the final cost for there would have been no interest. To the States interest is a hard, cold cost. It is money. To the Commonwealth, interest is a money-lender's profit.

Mr. SCANLAN.—It is a usurer's profit.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I use that word later in my speech. The Commonwealth Budget conceals the fact that this year the States will pay to the Commonwealth some \$95,000,000 in interest on loans which the Commonwealth has made to the States out of money it has received from

taxation at no cost. This is an entirely different matter from borrowing on the market, here the sum of \$95,000,000, which was not raised by loans but is purely and simply revenue, has been lent to the States.

In addition, the loans themselves have to be repaid. For every \$1 of surplus revenue the Commonwealth invests in loans to the States—and it has already invested \$2,200 million in this way—allowing for interest, the States have to pay to the Commonwealth \$2.50. Thus for its initial investment of \$2,200 million, the Commonwealth will get back from the States \$5,500 million—a cool profit of \$3,300 million or 150 per cent. Good business for Canberra, but rather tough on the States.

Much has been said and written in recent times of the way the Commonwealth has used its monopoly of income tax and its financial powers to short change the States—in particular New South Wales and Victoria—on tax reimbursement. The facts are by now fairly well known and understood, and newspaper editorials have spoken of the “unholy muddle” of Commonwealth-State financial relations. Much less is known, however, and less is understood, of how the Commonwealth is progressively using its vast and unbridled financial dominance to turn itself into the old-fashioned money-lender. Slowly yet surely the States are going into pawn to the Commonwealth, which is making vast profits out of its money-lending operations, and is fast crippling the States with its usurious practices. All this, of course, goes under the guise of pure charity—helping the fallen, sustaining the weak. The noble phrase is financial assistance.

It was Alfred Deakin who, at the birth of Federation at the beginning of the century, predicted that the States would find themselves financially bound to the chariot wheels of the Commonwealth. Little did he know how apt his reference to chariot wheels would prove to be—knives and all.

EDUCATION.

The total provision for expenditure on education this year is \$265,163,000.

The Consolidated Revenue Fund will provide an additional \$22,627,000 and, as I have already mentioned, this is an increase of 11·3 per cent. over actual expenditure in 1967–68. It represents one-half of the increase in our total Budget expenditure this year and clearly reflects the top priority which has again been given to education by the Government in its Budget planning.

The total salary bill for teachers and teachers in training in 1968–69 is estimated at \$134,000,000—an increase of \$12,000,000 over actual salary payments last year. The increased provision for salaries covers an increase of 2,360 in the teaching staff and an increase of 850 in the total number of teachers in training. It also includes \$2,700,000 to cover the extra cost of the introduction of equal pay for women teachers in accordance with the 1967 decision of the Teachers Tribunal.

In the primary schools there was an increase of 8,860 in enrolment at the beginning of the school year in 1968 over the figure twelve months earlier. This compares with increases of 9,700 in 1967 and 11,900 in 1966. On the other hand, the number of teachers teaching in the primary schools increased by 930—compared with 460 in 1967 and 250 in 1966. The significant improvement in the staffing position over recent years has

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made possible the introduction of a new and more liberal staffing schedule. The new schedule has been partly implemented this year and will be implemented in full as class-room space and additional teachers become available.

Total school enrolments continue to increase and this year there are 557,000 full-time pupils in our schools—352,000 in primary schools and 205,000 in secondary and technical schools. In addition, the trend continues for more and more of these children to stay at school longer and go on to higher classes. Despite the consequences of this trend, the staffing position in post-primary schools continues to improve.

Whereas the number of pupils in secondary and junior technical schools has increased in 1968 by only 8,000, or 4 per cent., the number of teachers teaching in these schools has increased by 1,360 or 11 per cent. Thus for every additional six pupils there is one additional teacher.

The number of teachers in training in teachers' colleges has reached a record figure of 10,600—equivalent to more than one-third of the number of teachers in the schools at the present time. At the beginning of the 1968 school year, 2,600 teachers commenced teaching in schools after their period of training. Next year the number is expected to rise to 2,900. The three-year course of training for primary teachers which was partly introduced this year will be extended to a greater proportion of the intake into the colleges in 1969.

The total provision for education this year includes \$31,000,000 to match Commonwealth funds being made available to our three universities, the Victoria Institute of Colleges and the nineteen colleges of advanced education. This is an increase of \$5,000,000 or almost 20 per cent. over the corresponding expenditure in 1967–68.

La Trobe University, in its second year, now has more than 1,150 students enrolled, and further rapid development in both buildings and facilities and in student numbers will take place over the next few years.

Provision has been made for a continuation of the assistance to the registered schools system, including non-departmental teachers' training colleges, which was announced in the Budget last year. Total payments this year are estimated at \$2,900,000. In addition, interest subsidies will be approved on the established basis on a further \$2,000,000 being borrowed for building works at registered secondary schools.

HEALTH SERVICES AND HOSPITALS.

The total provision in 1968-69 for health services, including hospitals and mental health, is \$113,700,000 of which \$19,900,000 will be provided from loan funds for expenditure on buildings and equipment. This total provision represents an increase of \$7,800,000 over expenditure last year, and will enable further improvements to be made in the availability and the standards of the whole range of health services provided or supported by the Government.

During 1967-68, 435 additional beds became available in hospitals and in homes for the aged throughout the State. About one-half of these new beds were opened in three institutions—the Greenvale Village for the Aged, Cheltenham Home and Hospital for the Aged and the Queen Elizabeth Home at Ballarat—and they represent a welcome supplement to the existing

facilities for the care of infirm aged and long-term patients, one of the pressing needs in the community at the present time. At the Queen Elizabeth Home at Ballarat further provision was made for the treatment of out-patients by means of day hospital facilities.

During this financial year work will commence on a major rebuilding project at the Alfred Hospital. The Austin Hospital is currently being developed as a component of the Medical School of the University of Melbourne. The building programme in course will continue this year on the main block. Construction of the new clinical science blocks at St. Vincent's and Prince Henry's hospitals will be completed this year as part of the approved teaching hospital programme for the current triennium.

The total amount which will be available this year towards meeting the running costs of public hospitals and institutions assisted by the Hospitals and Charities Commission is \$45,500,000. The State Government is now meeting about one-half of total hospital costs, and inevitably the Budget is faced with a growing burden of hospital expenditure as new beds are provided and diagnostic and therapeutic services are extended and improved.

The Department of Health estimates include provision for an extension of the range of public immunization services, through the subsidized municipal facilities, to cover the immunization of children against measles. Every second year, Victoria experiences an epidemic of measles resulting in some 60,000 children contracting the disease. Of these at least 1 per cent. need hospital care, and in some cases the disease leads to death or serious and sometimes permanent neurological complications. Over 25,000,000 children have been vaccinated against measles in the United States of America and experience has shown a dramatic fall in the incidence of this disease. It is anticipated that the vaccination programme in Victoria will produce similar results.

Expenditure by the Government on home-help schemes and on the establishment and maintenance of elderly citizens' clubs in 1968-69 is estimated at \$1,000,000. These services are of very real value to the community and it now appears likely that the Commonwealth Government will give some financial assistance in these fields which Victoria has been strongly supporting for more than a decade.

There will be further important extensions in the coming year to the range of available mental health services, particularly in country areas. At Hobson Park Hospital, Traralgon, a new nurses' training school, occupational therapy unit, administrative block and store have recently been completed and two new wards will be opened for the accommodation of an additional 88 patients. The facilities at Ambermere, Shepparton, will be expanded from an out-patient clinic to include a regional mental health service with day hospital facilities and accommodation for the residential treatment of 26 in-patients. Extensions will also be made to the out-patients' clinics at Dandenong and Malvern.

Government grants to bush nursing hospitals this year will be increased to \$700,000 and total subsidies towards the establishment and running costs of infant welfare and pre-school centres will be \$3,400,000.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MATTERS.

Last financial year proved to be a severe testing time for primary producers throughout the State, but an assessment of the effects of the drought clearly indicates the important role which improved farming practices have had in reducing the extent of the losses which could otherwise have been suffered.

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In this regard it is necessary to acknowledge the accumulated benefits which the farmer has received over the years from the research and extension services of the Department of Agriculture, and also the timely and effective advice given by the Department on methods of feeding stock in drought conditions. Between November, 1967, and February, 1968, some 6,000 farmers attended schools and demonstrations conducted by the Department of Agriculture on rations and methods of feeding stock in drought conditions. The Department's work in this field was an important factor in helping the farmer to maintain higher stock numbers throughout the drought.

It is of interest to recall that Victoria came out of the 1945-46 drought with some 14,500,000 sheep. This year Victorian farmers have been able to carry about double this number of sheep through a drought which has been much more severe and widespread over our pastoral areas.

Although yields of wheat were well down, sown pastures and the feeding of stock with grains and other supplementary foods enabled stock numbers to be maintained at a figure from which a reasonably rapid return to full production can be expected for most farmers.

During last financial year expenditure on grain and fodder subsidies made available to farmers under the provisions of the Drought Relief Act passed by this Parliament in April, 1968, amounted to \$656,000. In addition, the following amounts were expended during 1967-68 from special drought assistance loans and grants made available by the Commonwealth Government :—

Repayable "carry-on" loans to farmers	\$2,709,000
Freight rebates on the movement of livestock to and from agistment, and of fodder to declared drought areas	2,626,000
Cost of emergency water supplies	259,000
Grants to municipalities and other public bodies for employment-giving works in drought areas ..	2,518,000
Drought-feeding schools, cloud-seeding operations and other expenditure	106,000
A total of	<u>\$8,218,000</u>

As honorable members will be aware the detailed administration of the grain and fodder subsidies payable to farmers under the Drought Relief Act, and the "carry-on" loans and freight rebates made available from Commonwealth drought assistance funds, has been handled for the Government on an agency basis by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. This has placed very heavy pressures on the Commission and its staff, and on behalf of the Government I desire to acknowledge, with appreciation, the way in which this additional work has been performed, and an efficient and vital service given to the farming community when it was facing the many problems arising from serious drought conditions. Wherever one travels throughout the areas of Victoria that were affected by the drought one finds nothing but praise for the officers of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission and the Department of Agriculture.

In its ordinary lending fields, the Commission made loans totalling \$5,250,000 to primary and secondary industries in country areas during the past financial year. This lending included \$1,500,000 for

seasonal assistance to drought-affected borrowers of the Commission who were not eligible for special "carry-on" loans from Commonwealth drought funds.

For 1968-69 the Commission's funds for rural finance lending will receive a further \$1,000,000 allocation from the Loan Fund which, together with repayments from borrowers, will enable the Commission to have a total lending programme of more than \$4,000,000.

For the new financial year seasonal prospects appear to be good. Cereal crops have made an exceptionally good start. The total acreage sown to wheat in 1968 is estimated to be about 10 per cent. above last year's figure, and barley acreage has increased even more. With normal spring rains, and the prospect of harvesting a much higher proportion of the acreage than was possible in the drought year, production of both wheat and barley could well set new records. The dairy industry reacted quickly to the break in the drought, and by the end of May daily milk production from contract farmers had already surpassed the May, 1967, level of production. The level of production during the three months ending July, 1968, has consistently exceeded production for the corresponding period of 1967.

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY.

Loan funds amounting to \$18,600,000 have been allocated for expenditure during the current year on urban and rural water supply, sewerage and drainage works being carried out by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, and the various local authorities operating under the Commission's general supervision.

The serious drought conditions which existed during the past financial year served to highlight the importance of adequate water conservation measures and to confirm the emphasis which has been given to such works over the years in this State.

A substantial portion of the Commission's 1968-69 works programme will be devoted to a continuation of work on projects included in the Government's ten-year dam building programme, now in its fifth year. Nillahcootie dam on the Broken river is now complete and is storing water at full capacity. Construction has commenced on a further storage on the Broken river—known as Lake Mokoan—to conserve surplus river flows for use in the Broken river valley and the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District.

The Tarago reservoir project was also completed recently and is commencing to store water. This reservoir will augment supplies to the Mornington Peninsula and will also serve the new Westernport industrial complex. Work is also proceeding on the new Lake Merrimu project near Bacchus Marsh. When completed this dam will supplement supplies to the Bacchus Marsh and Werribee irrigation districts.

The total amount of water used for irrigation last season was nearly 2,000,000 acre-feet. Despite lower water storage holdings throughout the State as a result of the prolonged dry summer and autumn, severe rationing was necessary only at Bacchus Marsh and Werribee. When it is completed, the Lake Merrimu project will greatly reduce the possibility of this situation occurring in these districts in the future.

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For some time there has been considerable concern by both the authorities and irrigators regarding the increasing level of salinity in the lower reaches of the River Murray. Emergency measures, supported by finance made available by the Commonwealth Government, have recently been put into effect by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Highly saline water from Barr creek, near Kerang, and from Lake Hawthorn, near Mildura, is being diverted to evaporating basins, instead of flowing into the Murray.

Special allocations of loan funds and private borrowing authority have again been provided to facilitate the installation and extension of reticulated water supply and sewerage services in country towns. Last year eighteen towns received a reticulated water supply for the first time, and sewerage schemes were completed in three more towns. Sewerage systems are now in operation in 66 country towns.

HOUSING.

There was further expansion in the level of housing activity in Victoria last year. The number of approvals for new houses and flats at 38,600 was a record and there is every indication that 1968-69 will be a good year for both the home building industry and the prospective home owner.

Co-operative housing societies continue to play an important part in helping families to achieve the goal of home ownership. Last financial year, 63 new societies were formed and additional loan accommodation amounting to \$21,400,000 was available to societies.

It is of interest to note that a growing number of co-operative housing societies have completed the purpose for which they were formed and are now winding up. The first societies in Victoria were registered late in 1945 with an approximate term of 23 years and these societies are now reaching the end of their maximum life. In some cases societies have fulfilled their objective and are winding up ahead of their maximum term. During 1967-68 seven societies were wound up, and a further 21 societies were in the process of being wound up at the end of the financial year.

Since the first society was registered in 1945, and up to 30th June last, a total of 63,258 families had obtained their homes through co-operative housing societies and 2,132 additional homes were under construction.

The Home Finance Trust is continuing to play its part in helping families on lower incomes to own their own homes. To date the Trust has borrowed \$24,000,000 and has made available loans to more than 5,000 families for the purpose of assisting them to achieve the goal of home ownership.

During last financial year the Housing Commission constructed 1,248 dwellings in the metropolitan area and 966 in country towns—a total of 2,214 for the year. This makes a total of 62,020 dwellings constructed to date under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreements and the State housing scheme. An additional 2,095 units were under construction or let to contract at 30th June last.

For the current financial year the Commission will have available \$24,150,000 for expenditure under the provisions of the housing agreement, and a further \$911,000 from the Commonwealth Government for the construction of rental housing for serving members of the defence forces.

It is planned to continue with the higher level of activity in the acquisition and clearance of slum reclamation areas and a total amount of \$3,200,000 will be spent in this way in the current financial year.

The Commission is actively pursuing its policy of promoting the sale of Commission homes on very attractive terms. Last year, 1,808 homes were sold for a total selling price of roundly \$17,500,000. Sales to 30th June last were 26,282 or 42 per cent. of all dwellings constructed by the Commission. Considering that, when the present Government first took office, the number could be counted on the fingers of one hand, that is not a bad performance.

RAILWAYS.

I mentioned earlier that railway traffic last financial year was severely hit by the drought conditions, and railway revenue finished up \$9,100,000 below the estimate. The main items of traffic affected were wheat, oats, barley and superphosphate.

Railway income for 1968-69 is estimated at \$107,300,000—an increase of \$8,500,000 over last year. With a return to more normal seasonal conditions increased earnings are anticipated from wheat and other grains and some recovery is also expected in the level of general goods traffic. The Melbourne-Adelaide line is becoming increasingly busy and a third daily "Jet" express goods train is now frequently necessary to move the tonnage offering.

After providing for the cost of increased wages awards operating in the new financial year and the cost of handling the additional goods traffic expected, total railway expenditure is estimated to increase by \$4,600,000 to \$115,500,000. The shortage in the railway accounts for 1968-69 is therefore shown in the Estimates at \$8,200,000—an improvement of \$3,900,000 on last year's result.

CONCLUSION.

The introduction of a Budget is a time for looking forward. While we must necessarily lead on from the past our interest and concern is for the period ahead, not only for the next twelve months, but also for what needs to be done beyond that precise accounting period.

The past year has had its difficulties, particularly for the man on the land, and those whose activities are linked with him, but on the whole the economy of the State is in a very sound position. Total employment and production have continued to rise and trade and industry can look forward to another good year.

Later in the financial year we will be privileged to witness outstanding milestones in the history of the State—the first utilization of natural gas harnessed from beneath the ocean for industrial and domestic purposes, and the first deliveries of petroleum products from the off-shore drilling rigs.

When we reflect on these things for a moment it is difficult not to be thrilled by the exciting prospects they offer in their train for the further expansion and development of the State. We are living in a time when minerals and mining developments are very much in the news. Victoria is also entering into a new era in the utilization of its natural resources for the use and benefit of its citizens, and indeed for Australia as a whole.

But this is just part of the whole complex of activities which are going on at the present time, calling for newer skills and techniques in business and industry to meet the ever-growing demands of our progress and

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development. In all of this, government has a vital role to play in providing the community services which are so necessary as a basis for growth. These services are not limited to water, power and transport, but extend to the contributions which are necessary from education, community health and basic law and order.

This, to me, is the background of the Budget which is now before the House, and I commend it to honorable members.

Progress was reported.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1967-68.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That a sum not exceeding \$4,802,703 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying services for the year 1967-68 as printed in the Supplementary Estimates.

The Supplementary Estimates for the financial year 1967-68 now before the Committee amount to \$4,802,703. The expenditure covered under the individual items included in these Supplementary Estimates has been brought to account in the result for the year 1967-68 as announced in the Budget speech.

Of the \$4,802,703 included in these Supplementary Estimates, the sum of \$2,455,870 is required under the salary votes of various Departments. An amount of \$1,260,246 is required under Division No. 38 to cover salaries payable to members of the Teaching Service. This amount represents the net additional cost in 1967-68 of the determination made by the Teachers Tribunal in December, 1967, granting equal pay to women teachers. The determination provides for the increased payments to be introduced over three years at an over-all cost of some \$10,500,000. The cost in 1967-68 of the first phase introduced as from 1st January, 1968, was \$1,570,000. This additional cost was offset to a slight degree by an amount of \$310,000 which arose as a result of an original over-estimation in the

Budget for 1967-68 of the provision required for teachers' salaries, and the net additional provision of \$1,260,246 is included in these Supplementary Estimates.

Under two other salary votes, Division No. 29, Police, and Division No. 76, Mental Hygiene, where the supplementary provision is substantial, the respective Departments were successful in recruiting staff to fill vacancies beyond the expectations anticipated in the Budget. It is interesting to observe that last year, in Government circles, it was easier to recruit staff because the incidence of unemployment was higher, on account of the effects of the drought, than during a normal year. The Police Department and other Departments, by recruiting more staff and thus reaching the establishments, caused the original estimate to be exceeded.

Apart from these three cases, which together involve a supplementary provision of \$1,949,933, an additional provision of \$505,937 is required under other salary votes to cover an original under-estimation of the amounts which it was estimated would be required to meet salary payments in 1967-68. However, there were savings amounting to \$392,000 under other salary votes. In the particular divisions where a shortage has occurred, a supplementary provision is necessary, and these have been provided for in the Supplementary Estimates before the Committee.

The Government was also involved in additional wage costs in the Education Department, where a supplementary provision of \$153,263 is required to cover increased pay-

ments to cleaners employed in State schools following an increase in the award as from 6th November, 1967.

A secondary effect on the 1967-68 Budget of these increased salary and wage payments is reflected in the additional pay-roll tax payable to the Commonwealth Government. Pay-roll tax payments met from the Treasury, Division No. 47, exceeded the Budget provision of \$4,360,000 by \$62,188, and it has been necessary to cover the additional payment made to the Commonwealth Government.

Payments in lieu of long service leave entitlement have amounted to \$114,523 in excess of the original Budget provisions, and a supplementary provision has been made in the particular votes where the shortage has occurred. The salary and wage costs, pay-roll tax and payments in lieu of long service leave entitlement to which I have referred are inescapable costs which amount to \$2,785,844. The remaining items included in the Supplementary Estimates amount to \$2,016,859.

Substantial additional expenditure was incurred in two areas in the Budget as a direct result of the drought conditions which persisted into the last quarter of the financial year. First, as a result of the danger of extensive and disastrous fires in the State forests in Victoria, it was necessary for the staff of the Forests Commission engaged on fire-preventive measures to work overtime up to April last, and as a consequence overtime and standby payments to these employees exceeded the original Budget Estimates by \$82,400.

Secondly, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was involved in additional expenditure, mainly for pumping costs, to maintain supplies of water in irrigation and water supply districts. Additional pumping costs were incurred at all irrigation pumping stations. Pumping finished early in April last, and the additional cost for the financial

year amounted to \$13,000. Additional pumping costs amounting to \$94,000 were also incurred in waterworks districts. It was necessary to supplement the gravity system in the Otway district and additional pumping costs at Millewa and Nyah were incurred in providing the Wimmera-Mallee district with water normally available from catchments in the Grampians.

Under the votes providing for the Education Department, a supplementary provision of \$1,013,151 is required to cover payments made in the 1967-68 financial year to nine colleges of advanced education. These colleges are the Bendigo, Caulfield, Footscray, Preston, Yallourn and Swinburne technical colleges, the Ballarat School of Mines and Industries, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and the Gordon Institute of Technology.

Last financial year was the first year in which the costs of the tertiary and non-tertiary sides of the colleges were required to be separated, and information which became available during the year proved that the amount provided in the Budget had been under-estimated. The under-estimation really came about from a miscalculation, and the supplementary provision was required to cover the shortage on the vote.

Under Division No. 82, State Coal Mine, a supplementary provision of \$65,214 is required to cover certain working expenses which exceeded the original Budget provision. An additional provision of \$21,800 was required to meet increased daily earnings of contract miners and an increase in the lump sum payments on account of annual leave and long service leave to employees resigning during the course of the year. In addition, the premium payable to the Insurance Commissioner for workers compensation exceeded by \$37,000 the amount estimated to be necessary. The actual premium amounted to \$92,877.

A supplementary provision is necessary to cover the contribution of \$75,512 to the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund in 1968. This contribution is equivalent to the amount which is paid into Consolidated Revenue, and which is available for the Hospitals and Charities Fund, from totalizators operated at race-meetings held last Anzac Day. This procedure has been followed each year since the operation of the Anzac Day Act 1960, and in effect both the Hospitals and Charities Fund and the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund receive the full benefit of the percentage received from the operations of totalizators

on Anzac Day. The supplementary provision is included under Treasury, Division No. 46.

The items I have mentioned cover the more significant provisions included in the Supplementary Estimates. Each amount included in these Supplementary Estimates has been brought to account in the expenditure for the financial year 1967-68 as detailed in the statement I have presented with the Budget. If any honorable member desires further information, it will be readily made available, as in past years.

Progress was reported.

VOTES ON ACCOUNT.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That a sum not exceeding \$119,678,300 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying the following services for the year 1968-69:—

Division No.	Sum Required for Three Months Ending 31st December, 1968.
	\$
1. Legislative Council—Expenses of Select Committees	750
2. Legislative Assembly—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	46,000
3. Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly House Committee—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	27,500
4. Parliamentary Printing—Printing of Hansard, &c.	40,000
5. Parliamentary Library—Salaries and General Expenses	10,600
6. Parliamentary Debates—Salaries and General Expenses	37,000
7. Governor's Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	25,000
8. Premier's Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	225,000
9. State Film Centre—Salaries and General Expenses	36,000
10. Soil Conservation Authority—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	152,500
11. State Development—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	34,600
12. Agent-General—Salaries and General Expenses	34,500
13. Public Service Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	145,000
14. Audit Office—Salaries and General Expenses	131,000
15. Chief Secretary's Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	202,000
16. Totalizator Administration—Salaries and General Expenses	12,500
17. State Accident Insurance Office—Salaries	135,000
18. State Motor Car Insurance Office—Salaries	156,000
19. Workers' Compensation Board—Salaries	14,550
20. Fisheries and Wildlife—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	200,000
21. Government Shorthand Writer—Salaries and General Expenses	12,000
22. Government Statist—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	112,000
23. Social Welfare Administration and Research and Statistics—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	63,000
24. Family Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	1,010,000
25. Youth Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	480,000
26. Prisons—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	900,000
27. Training—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	36,000
28. Probation and Parole—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services ..	94,000
29. Police—Salaries and General Expenses	6,350,000

Division No.	Sum Required for Three Months Ending 31st December, 1968.
\$	
30. Police Service Board—Salaries and General Expenses	1,700
31. State Library, National Museum and Institute of Applied Science Adminis- tration—Salaries and General Expenses	64,000
32. State Library—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	190,000
33. National Museum—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	39,000
34. Institute of Applied Science—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	23,500
35. National Gallery—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	165,000
36. Immigration—Salaries and General Expenses	21,600
37. Labour and Industry—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	351,000
38. Education—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	44,750,000
39. Teachers' Tribunal—Salaries and General Expenses	12,000
40. Attorney-General—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	650,000
41. Courts Administration—Salaries and General Expenses	681,000
42. Registrar-General and Registrar of Titles—Salaries and General Expenses	397,500
43. Registrar of Companies—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	68,000
44. Rent Control—Salaries and General Expenses	18,200
45. Public Trustee—Salaries and General Expenses	144,200
46. Treasury—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	7,750,000
47. Pay-roll Tax—Payment to Commonwealth Government	1,250,000
48. Tender Board—Salaries and General Expenses	76,500
49. State Superannuation Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	55,000
50. Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies and Home Finance Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	40,000
51. Taxation Office—Salaries and General Expenses	270,000
52. Stamp Duties—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	160,000
53. Government Printer—Salaries and General Expenses	1,000,000
54. Lands and Survey—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	882,000
55. Botanic and Domain Gardens and National Herbarium—Salaries and General Expenses	64,000
56. Public Works—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	1,800,000
57. Ports and Harbors—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	430,000
58. Local Government—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	105,000
59. Weights and Measures—Salaries and General Expenses	49,000
60. Town and Country Planning Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	41,500
61. Mines—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	245,000
62. Explosives—Salaries and General Expenses	26,000
63. Gas Regulation—Salaries	10,500
64. Agriculture Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	411,500
65. Agricultural Education—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	220,000
66. Agriculture—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	348,000
67. Horticulture—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	402,000
68. Animal Health—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	217,500
69. Animal Industry—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	160,000
70. Dairying—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	266,000
71. Extension Services—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	47,700
72. Health Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	6,200,000
73. General Health—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	995,000
74. Tuberculosis—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	950,000
75. Maternal and Child Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	1,130,000
76. Mental Hygiene—Salaries and General Expenses	5,420,000
77. Ministry of Fuel and Power—Salaries and General Expenses	12,600
78. Railway Construction Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	24,500
79. Ministry of Transport—Salaries and General Expenses	8,400
80. Forests Commission—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	861,400
81. State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	3,000,000
82. State Coal Mine—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	200,000
83. Railways—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services	26,250,000
Total ..	119,678,300

The period for which Supply has been granted expires at the end of this month and pending the passing of the Appropriation Act further Supply is necessary to cover payments falling due after that date.

The Supply schedule now before the House covers the months of October, November and December, 1968. The amount provided in the schedule is \$119,678,300. This is the amount required to cover payments falling due under departmental votes during the ensuing three months.

The divisions contained in the Supply schedule correspond with the Estimates of Expenditure which have been presented with the Budget, and the sums listed in the schedule under each division represent the amounts necessary to cover payments falling due in the three months ending on 31st December next. Provision has been made to cover the payment of salaries and wages falling due on the three pay days which occur on 3rd, 17th and 31st October, 1968. On these dates the normal fortnightly payment of salaries and wages will be made to employees in all Departments other than the Railway Department. The normal fortnightly payments of salaries and wages payable to the staff of the Railway Department in October fall on the 10th and 24th October.

Provision has also been made for the payment to the Insurance Commissioner of the annual premium in respect of the policy of workers compensation insurance covering governmental employees other than those employed by the Forests Commission, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the Railway Department. The amount required to cover this premium, which will be paid in December next, is \$1,800,000.

The Government has arranged for the annual payment of \$20 for each secondary pupil and \$10 for each primary pupil attending registered schools on 1st August of each year and payable in accordance with the provisions of the Educational Grants

Act 1967 to be paid to the school authorities in two instalments. The first instalment is payable in April and the second instalment in October of each year. Provision has been made in the Supply schedule for the payment in October next of the second instalment for 1968. This payment will amount to approximately \$1,350,000.

Late in August last, the Government announced that the State Coal Mine at Wonthaggi would close at the end of this year. The amount of Supply provided under Division No. 82, State Coal Mine, anticipates the closing of the mine by 31st December next.

These matters cover the more significant individual items which arise this financial year during the period of the three months ending on 31st December next, and for which provision is required to be made in this Supply Bill. Full details of the items of expenditure under each division are contained in the Estimates of Expenditure for the current financial year. However, if any further information is required, I shall be pleased to supply it in the course of the debate.

Honorable members will appreciate that Supply must be passed by this Committee next week, so that it can be transmitted to another place by the following week. If honorable members so desire, the Government is willing to allow two sitting days for completion of the Supply debate.

Progress was reported.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The purpose of this Bill is to repeal sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Agricultural Education Act 1958, following the expiration on 30th June last of the period in respect of which annual

financial allocations were made under the Act to the University of Melbourne and the Department of Agriculture.

Section 3 of the Act provided for an annual payment of \$100,000 to the University of Melbourne to be applied for the purposes of agricultural education and research in agricultural science. The moneys so received were required to be paid into and kept in a separate fund by the council of the university, and expenditure from that fund had to be authorized by a special committee appointed for that purpose. These annual payments were conditional on the university maintaining a school of agricultural science including a faculty on which at least one-half of the members—at present eight out of sixteen—had to be nominated by the Governor in Council. The further conditions specified were that the staff of the school would report to the Minister the result of any investigation into agricultural matters which he required, that approved courses of work done at agricultural colleges would be recognized for the purpose of fulfilling conditions for obtaining university degrees in agricultural science, and that the university would provide as determined by the Minister free places admitting to full courses for degrees in agricultural science.

Under section 4 an annual sum of \$13,000 was provided for the purpose of carrying on investigations and educational work in relation to irrigation. The Governor in Council was empowered to allocate this money and, over the years, it has been apportioned between the Division of Agriculture, the Division of Horticulture and the Victorian Plant Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture for investigational and educational projects relating to irrigation. Section 5 of the Act authorizes the engagement by special contract of persons holding degrees of the University of Melbourne in agricultural science to be officers of the Department of Agriculture, the

Education Department and the Water Supply Department. The periods of engagement and salaries of such persons are to be determined by the Governor in Council.

The provisions of the above-mentioned sections are substantially the same as those contained in the original Act of 1919, except for the financial allocations, which have been reviewed and increased over the years. The 1919 legislation was enacted following the report of a Cabinet committee appointed to consider the question of agricultural education in this State. The committee reported that the establishment of a school of agriculture in the University of Melbourne on a proper basis was the first and most important step to place agricultural education in Victoria on a sound basis. The committee recommended that finance should be provided for this purpose, that the Government should undertake to employ a proportion of the graduates in appropriate Departments, and that finance should be made available for the furtherance of investigational and educational work in irrigation.

All of these recommendations were given effect to in the 1919 Act, and, as a result of this Act and the financial assistance provided in the various continuation Acts over the intervening period, the School of Agriculture was established and flourished. As foreshadowed by the Cabinet committee which proposed the original legislation, the school has provided the means of training agricultural specialists, and over the years has produced a steady flow of graduates who have made a significant contribution to the primary industries of this State and, indeed, throughout the Commonwealth.

However, with the School of Agriculture established on a sound basis, it is considered that the special provisions made in the original Act to provide for its establishment, and continued over the years to ensure

its satisfactory maintenance and development, are no longer required. The amount originally provided in the Act met the full costs of the School of Agriculture, but in recent years the allocation by way of the Act has supplemented the larger amount made available to the school by the university from its general grant. After discussion with the Treasury, it is considered that the amount formerly allocated under the Act could more appropriately be included in the university's general grant, and arrangements have been made accordingly.

A similar situation obtains concerning the allocation for investigational and educational work in irrigation. The finance for this purpose provided under the Act has been supplemented by funds derived from vote allocations of the Department of Agriculture. Arrangements have been made with the Treasury for the relevant votes to be augmented as an alternative means of providing the finance previously allocated under the Act.

It is considered that the various matters which were specified in the Act as conditions for the annual payments to the university, and which I have already referred to, should no longer operate. The Faculty of Agriculture is the only faculty at the University of Melbourne on which a proportion of members are nominated by the Governor in Council. With the removal of this restriction, the council of the university will be able to reconstitute the faculty on a more widely representative basis as in all other faculties, such as the Faculty of Veterinary Science. In view of the excellent co-operation which exists between the Department of Agriculture and the university, these requirements in the Act are no longer considered necessary.

With the introduction of the Department of Agriculture's cadetship scheme for graduate courses of training, the allocation of free places for which provision is made in the Act is no longer required.

Finally, the authority for engagement of graduates in agricultural science by special contract has not been used for many years by the three Departments to which it applies. The original provision was included in the Act as a means of Government assistance by way of assured employment to those who undertook the course at the School of Agriculture. Ample avenues of employment are now available to these graduates in both Government Departments and private enterprise. Furthermore, the recruitment of professional staff to Departments is properly the function of the Public Service Board under the Public Service Act. With the repeal of these three sections of the Agricultural Education Act, the only operative provisions remaining are those which relate to the existing graduate cadetship scheme. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. STONEHAM (Midlands), the debate was adjourned.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That the debate be adjourned for one week.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla).—If necessary, will the Minister of Lands agree to an adjournment for two weeks?

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I do not regard the Bill as being particularly urgent and if the honorable member is not ready to proceed at the expiration of one week an extension of time will be granted.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned until Wednesday, September 25.

COUNTY COURT (JURISDICTION) BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is quite amply expressed in the long title, namely, to abolish Courts of General Sessions

of the Peace and to vest the jurisdiction thereof in the County Court. As I shall explain later, this Bill is based upon a report by a representative committee, presided over by Mr. Justice Smith of the Supreme Court of Victoria, which recommended that Courts of General Sessions be abolished and their jurisdiction vested in the County Court.

To assist honorable members to understand the Bill, I shall explain the historical nature of the term, "General Sessions". Courts of General Sessions are of considerable antiquity, having come into being in the fourteenth century with the creation of the office of justice of the peace, and I ask honorable members to bear in mind, for the purposes of the Bill, that they were conceived as courts for justices of the peace and that justices have in fact sat in general sessions in England for centuries.

In his great treatise, *A History of English Law*, Third Edition, Volume 1, at page 285, Professor Holdsworth gives a short account of the role of the justices and their courts in simple terms. He says—

We have seen that justices specially commissioned by the Crown had introduced all over the country the newer remedies and the more effective procedures of the courts of common law. The same device was used to reform the police system and the petty criminal jurisdiction of the older courts. They, too, were first controlled and then supplanted by persons specially commissioned by the Crown who came to be called the Justices of the Peace. Successive statutes added to their duties and made them, in time, the rulers of the country.

A little later, under a sub-heading relating to courts held by the justices of the peace, Professor Holdsworth says—

These courts fall into two main classes :

- (i) The Courts of Quarter or General Sessions; and
- (ii) The Petty Sessions.

The courts of quarter sessions for the whole county have always been held four times a year at times prescribed by statute. At times other than those fixed by statute courts of general sessions can be held. The methods and procedures of these courts

followed the pattern usual in the fourteenth century. Like the sheriff's tourns, the general Eyre, and, to some extent, the courts held by the Judges of assize, they were more than mere judicial courts. A jury was summoned, a general charge as to matters into which the jury enquire was given by one of the justices, the jury then made their presentments, and, on these presentments, indictments were drawn up and the persons indicted were tried. By means of this process of presentment and indictment, the quarter sessions, like the other older courts, not only tried criminal cases, but also supervised the whole administration of local government . . . The jurisdiction of quarter sessions was very wide. It extended nominally to all crimes except treason, subject to the proviso that cases of difficulty must be sent to the assizes. During the eighteenth century the custom sprang up of always sending to the assizes cases which might be capitally punished. It was thus an indirect effect of the old law as to capital punishment that it narrowed the power of quarter sessions. In 1842 it was enacted that over treason, murder, felony punishable on a first conviction with penal servitude for life and certain other specified offences, the quarter sessions should have no jurisdiction. It possesses also an appellate jurisdiction from petty sessions where such a right has been given by statute.

For Australia the Imperial Act 4 Geo. IV., chapter 96, section 19, provided that Courts of General or Quarter Sessions were to be held in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land and their dependencies and clothed the courts with—

Power and authority to take cognisance of all matters and things cognizable in Courts of General or Quarter Sessions in England so far as the circumstances and condition of the said Colony shall require and admit.

After separation from New South Wales, the Justices of the Peace Statute 1865 was the first Victorian Act on the matter. Part II. with respect to Courts of General Sessions followed very closely the provisions of the 1842 Act—5 and 6 Vict. chapter 38—referred to by Professor Holdsworth as reciting all the limitations upon General Sessions jurisdiction. The current provisions of Part VII. of the Justices Act 1958 quite clearly reflect the provisions of the 1865 Act with a lesser number of limitations—nine instead of sixteen—on the competence of the court. The Bill

proposes to remove more of the limitations for reasons which will be explained under the clauses.

Honorable members should note that section 185 requires that there shall be a Court of General Sessions for each bailiwick throughout the State and that under section 191 the powers of the court are conferred upon a chairman of General Sessions with or without one or more justices of the peace. I emphasize that the present practice is for every Judge of the County Court to be also appointed a chairman of General Sessions and as such to sit alone in General Sessions without any justices of the peace.

In 1963 a committee appointed by the Attorney-General to investigate various aspects of the administration of justice in Victoria turned its attention to Courts of General Sessions. The committee was under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Smith, with representatives from the County Court bench, the magistracy, the Law Department, the Law Institute, and the bar, and it produced a short report that may profitably be quoted in support of the proposals in the Bill, which basically seeks to give effect to the committee's recommendations. A part of the report stated—

The present distinction between the County Court exercising civil jurisdiction and the Court of General Sessions exercising largely criminal jurisdiction is artificial in practice. The distinction between the two courts requires that their sittings (for the same day in the same town) must be separately gazetted, their jurors must be separately summoned, the course separately opened and adjourned. While the one Judge is sitting without leaving the bench it is common for him in the courts of half a day to observe the formalities of opening the County Court, adjourning it again and so on. All of this is productive of unnecessary formality, delay and expense in the administration of justice. The distinction reflects only the historical origins of the Court of General Sessions, namely, justices sitting in Quarter Sessions in England. Doubtless in Victoria the legal theory is that the court is a court of all the justices of a particular bailiwick sitting in sessions together and presided over by a chairman appointed by the Governor in Council. In Victoria it has never been the practice, so

far as the committee has been able to ascertain, for justices of the peace to sit in General Sessions or Quarter Sessions so that in practice the Court of General Sessions is composed of a County Court Judge sitting as chairman of a court of which he is the sole sitting member.

On the principal ground that justices of the peace have never generally or consistently constituted the court in Victoria and for the avoidance of duplication the Government feels that the jurisdiction of General Sessions should properly be transferred to the County Court. A further factor is that the Government also proposes to abolish bailiwicks to which Courts of General Sessions are tied. A Bill for this purpose has already been introduced and if passed it will be a further factor necessitating the transfer of the General Sessions jurisdiction to the County Court.

Clause 1 is the usual citation and commencement clause. The basic scheme of the Bill is to repeal Part VII. of the Justices Act 1958 which makes provision for the establishment of Courts of General Sessions and to transfer those provisions to the County Court. In general terms clause 2 adds to the statement of the jurisdiction of the County Court in section 4 of the County Court Act a reference to the criminal jurisdiction proposed to be conferred by the Bill.

Clause 3 contains a number of transitory provisions designed to facilitate the transfer of criminal jurisdiction from General Sessions to the County Court. All places and times appointed for holding General Sessions are deemed places and times for holding the County Court, business pending in General Sessions is diverted to the County Court, and County Court officers are enabled to keep and to certify General Sessions records. By the proposed new section 5B reference in other Acts to Courts of General Sessions, chairman of General Sessions and the like are converted to references to the County Court, Judge of the County Court, and so on.

Sub-section (2) of section 7 of the County Court Act has always posed a minor problem in requiring notice to be posted at the court-house of the actual sitting days of the court. This was practicable when court sittings, particularly in the country, lasted only a few days and the duration of the sittings could be fairly accurately estimated. Nowadays, however, the only certain factor is the commencing date of a sitting. Clause 4 therefore proposes that only the commencing date need be publicised and that in the *Government Gazette* rather than on the notice board at the court-house.

The additional allowance payable under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the County Court Act to the chairman of County Court Judges now stands at \$600. That figure has existed since 1960. In the meantime the number of Judges has increased with a consequent greater responsibility for the chairman of the County Court Judges. Having regard to the ever-increasing duties of the chairman, which are added to by this Bill, the Government proposes by clause 5 that the additional allowance should be raised to \$1,500.

Clause 6 adds new sub-section (4) to section 23 of the principal Act to provide that the bailiff at Melbourne may from time to time in writing appoint to assist him any person for the time being licensed under the Private Agents Act 1966 as a process server. At places other than Melbourne the County Court bailiff is usually a member of the Police Force, as also are his assistants. They perform this work in addition to normal police duties, although they are entitled to receive fees for acting. The bailiff at Melbourne may be said to be a private person inasmuch as he is not a police officer or a public servant. He is appointed by the Governor in Council under sub-section (1) of section 23. Under sub-section (3) provision is made that a bailiff may appoint a member of the Police Force to assist him.

Mr. G. O. Reid.

For many years the bailiff of Melbourne has had assistants who are not members of the Police Force despite the absence of any provision for appointment from outside the Force. The assistants have been quite competent and responsible. The proposed new sub-section would ratify the existing practice and enable the bailiff at Melbourne to appoint a licensed process server as his assistant.

Clause 7 inserts a new Division in the County Court Act to confer criminal jurisdiction on the County Court. The proposed new section 36A gives wider jurisdiction to the County Court than section 191 of the Justices Act at present confers on Courts of General Sessions. This has been accomplished by omitting some of the limitations currently applicable, namely—

- (a) composing, printing or publishing blasphemous, seditious or defamatory libels ;
- (b) offences under subdivisions (17) and (18) of Division 2 of Part I. of the Crimes Act 1958 relating to certain frauds by agents, bankers, trustees, partners and others ; and
- (c) offences by corporate bodies.

The principal reason for the omissions is that the court will no longer be a "justices" court in the sense that justices may sit, but must be constituted by a Judge alone. With a Judge sitting, there is much less need to reserve cases to the Supreme Court than if justices commonly sat with a presiding Judge. The present paragraph (vi) in section 191 is re-expressed to avoid what has always been an awkward double-negative construction. Honorable members will recall that the amending Justices Bill passed during the last Parliamentary session was designed to remove one of the anomalies created by that section. The proposed new sub-section (2) of section 191 clothes the County Court in its criminal

jurisdiction with the same powers in relation to criminal cases as the Supreme Court.

Section 141 of the Justices Act 1958, as amended by this Bill, will confer upon the County Court the appeal function that General Sessions now has from Courts of Petty Sessions and justices. In keeping with the structure of the County Court Act, the proposed new section 53A, as contained in clause 8, recites the nature of the appellate functions of the court.

Clauses 9 and 10, together with the schedule, encompass all the amendments that are known to be consequential upon the abolition of General Sessions and the transfer of criminal jurisdiction to the County Court. In any event, clause 3 makes these amendments in a general way, but it is felt desirable to make as many direct corrections as possible. Clause 11 preserves the pension rights of chairmen of General Sessions who were not also Judges of the County Court. There are at present no Judges holding office only as chairmen of General Sessions.

The amendments to section 359 of the Crimes Act, as contained in paragraph (v) of the schedule, will allow a County Court Judge to advance or postpone the trial of cases in the County Court. As the section stands, this power is reserved to the Supreme Court. The Government feels that each court should be in the position of being able to manage all its own business. The remainder of the amendments in the schedule are consequential upon the change of courts and need no explanation. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, September 25.

INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS (PETROL SERVICE STATIONS) BILL.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to exclude petrol service stations from the storage provisions of the Inflammable Liquids Act 1966. This Act provides for the regulation of bulk storages of 10,000 gallons or more of inflammable liquid and for the licensing of such storages. Petrol and kerosene come within the definition of inflammable liquid. Storages at petrol service stations are already subject to regulations made under the Petrol Pumps Act which, although concerned primarily with the licensing of petrol pumps, also enables the making of regulations with respect to the construction and maintenance of storage tanks from which motor spirit is supplied to petrol pumps. The operation of the Petrol Pumps Act is not restricted to tanks of any particular capacity. In addition, there are also in existence regulations made by the Governor in Council under section 696 of the Local Government Act relating to the storage of petroleum. For storages at petrol service stations, these two sets of regulations are considered to be adequate, particularly as the storages are underground.

In the Inflammable Liquids Act 1963 which, incidentally, never became operative and which was repealed by the Inflammable Liquids Act 1966, the expression "bulk storage" was defined to mean—

any storage (other than a petrol filling station) under the one occupancy where inflammable liquid of a quantity of ten thousand gallons or more is kept or stored

or is intended to be kept or stored whether in tanks or otherwise and includes any land occupied for or in connexion with such bulk storage.

When the 1966 legislation was enacted, the definition of "bulk storage" was substantially the same, but the words "other than a petrol filling station" were omitted. Accordingly, all petrol service stations at which 10,000 or more gallons of petroleum are stored now come within the definition of "bulk storage" and are subject to the Inflammable Liquids Act 1966. This was never intended and has undesirable consequences. When the present Inflammable Liquids Act was drafted, it was considered that it would not apply to petrol service stations and the regulations made pursuant to the Act prescribed a number of things including distributing depots comprising a number of above ground tanks, a drum storage and a filling platform, which were properly pertinent to bulk storages but were inappropriate to service stations.

Some of the regulations relating to bulk storages which have no proper application to petrol service stations are regulation 221, which requires the display of large warning "danger" notices; regulation 224, which excludes persons who have matches on their person; regulation 225, which forbids smoking; and regulation 226, which excludes persons under the age of eighteen years.

Other regulations not properly applicable are regulations 207, 208 and 212 which deal with safety distances between bulk storages, protected works, and filling platforms. A higher standard for tank construction is required under the Inflammable Liquids Act than is required under the Petrol Pumps Act.

Further, regulation 501 specifies an annual fee of \$20 for a bulk storage where the quantity stored is 10,000 gallons or more. This means that a petrol service station

with a storage capacity of 10,000 gallons or more is subject to an annual fee of \$20, but no fee is payable for a service station with a capacity of less than 10,000 gallons. As things stand, it is possible that some service stations would be subject to regulations made under the Petrol Pumps Act whilst others in the same street, because they have 10,000 gallons or more in storage, would be subject to the Inflammable Liquids Regulations.

This is a most unsatisfactory situation and it is necessary that the position be clarified and that petrol service stations be excluded from the storage provisions of the Inflammable Liquids Act, as originally intended. The Bill does this by defining "petrol service station" in clause 2 and then by clause 3 excluding "the storage of inflammable liquid at or under any petrol service station". I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. WILKES (Northcote), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, September 25.

MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS (EGG AND EGG PULP MARKETING BOARD) BILL.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Division 2—sections 36 to 48—of the Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958 contains provisions which relate specifically to the Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing Board. The provisions relating to the holding of polls for the election of producers' representatives on the Board are contained in section 38. This section empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a polling day and the electoral areas

from which the representatives are to be returned. It specifies that only those producers who own 250 adult female domesticated fowls on a date appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and have, during the twelve months immediately preceding that date, delivered to the Board at least 3,000 dozen eggs, shall be entitled to vote.

Section 38 further empowers the Minister to appoint this eligibility date by notice published in the *Government Gazette*, and specifies that it shall be not more than three months prior to the date fixed as polling day. This latter requirement causes the Board administrative difficulties in the preparation of a roll of producers possessing the basic voting qualifications in sufficient time for lodgment with the returning officer by the required date—two months prior to polling day.

The Board's difficulties in meeting the time factor stem from the prescribed requirement that copies of the producers roll must be exhibited in the electoral areas for a period of fourteen days, and a further fourteen days allowed for the lodgment of objections or applications for enrolment. In addition, sufficient time must be allowed to enable the returning officer to have the roll printed and exhibited, effect additions and deletions following the receipt of applications and objections, finalize the roll and dispatch ballot papers by the prescribed date, namely, fourteen days prior to polling day. Investigations have shown that completion of all of these processes necessitates a minimum period of two months, so that there is no alternative but to require the roll of producers to be submitted to the returning officer not later than two months prior to polling day.

In view of the current provision in the Act specifying that the eligibility date shall be not more than

three months prior to polling day, this means that the Board has, at the most, one month to prepare and submit the required list. In this connexion, the Board has pointed out that, as accounts sales from agents and accounting returns from producer agents are not received until fourteen days after the close of each four-weekly accounting period, the collating and processing of all the records of producers in the electoral areas necessary to establish eligibility to vote cannot be finalized within the time available for preparation and submission of the roll of producers.

The Board has requested, therefore, that the period within which the eligibility date is to be appointed be extended from three months to five months prior to polling day. Adoption of this proposal would mean that, in the case of a normal election for which the Act specifies that the polling day is to be in the month of May, the eligibility date would be appointed to coincide with the end of the Board's four-weekly accounting period closing in January. This arrangement would conform with all accounting and statistical recording in the Board's computer operation, and would allow adequate time for the Board to fulfil its obligations with regard to the preparation and submission of the list of producers qualified to vote on the basis of ownership of fowls and delivery of eggs.

This Bill gives effect to the Board's proposal. The next election for a producers' representative on the Board is not due until 1970, but it is desired to proceed now with the amending legislation in case the need for an extraordinary election should arise. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, September 25.

ABOLITION OF BAILIWICKS BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 10) on the motion of Mr. G. O. Reid (Attorney-General) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—In his second-reading explanatory speech the Attorney-General referred to the historical basis for the division of Victoria into bailiwicks. An examination of the Bill reveals that its principal purpose is given effect in clause 2, which provides that Victoria shall cease to be divided into bailiwicks.

Historically, Victoria was divided into bailiwicks and justices of the peace who were appointed by the Governor in Council had jurisdiction only in relation to matters within the bailiwicks in which they were appointed. No doubt honorable members have noticed that at the bottom of affidavits sworn in Melbourne the words "Before a justice of the peace in and for the central bailiwick" appear, and if a justice holds every bailiwick, words to that effect appear on the affidavit. As is provided in clause 4 of the measure now before the House, the abolition of bailiwicks will result in justices of the peace being empowered to keep the peace anywhere in Victoria. This will increase the responsibilities of justices. For example, if a justice of the peace from Melbourne travelled to Mildura, he could be called upon to adjudicate on a matter there.

The Bill makes a welcome reform of the law, and I cannot see any objection to the proposal. The Opposition believes that the Attorney-General has fully explained this measure, and commends it to the House.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Shepparton).—The Country Party supports the proposed legislation. It is surprising that such a common-sense

measure, which simplifies the administration of the law, has not been introduced before. Under the provisions of this Bill, matters which, till now, have been required to be heard in a Court of Petty Sessions at the place in which the cause of action occurred, may be heard in any court. In addition, justices of the peace will be enabled to continue in office after changing their address. Appointment as a justice of the peace is an honour, and it seems ludicrous that when a justice of the peace changes his address he should be deprived of that honour. I commend the measure before the House, and trust that it will be the forerunner of other improvements in the administration of the law in this State.

Mr. SUTTON (Albert Park).—The Minister's speech was enlightening on two subjects which honorable members who are not members of the legal profession, and perhaps even some of these latter, should be glad to be informed about, namely, the history of bailiwicks and their relation to the administration of justice in Victoria, and the roles of justices of the peace under a system which has no place for bailiwicks.

It seems to me that the Bill will issue in a law which will be as much academic as utilitarian. By this I mean that only a small percentage of justices will be affected by removal of geographical barriers to the exercise of their authority in courts, for only a small percentage carry out the duties of honorary magistrates.

A glance at the Register of Justices of the Peace—a very interesting and valuable compilation—points to the conclusion that too often in the past recommendations for appointments have been made on the grounds of

friendship or party ties, with sheer unconcern for the needs of the community.

I understand that one of the conditions of appointment now is that the applicant or the recommended person undertake to make himself available for duties in Courts of Petty Sessions as well as for acting as an authorized witness of signatures to legal and other such documents.

I hope that the abolition of bailiwicks will be followed by the abolition of whatever elements of an unsatisfactory procedure for the appointment of justices remain. The Minister and his Department deserve credit for reforms of the procedure which they have already made.

Mr. WHEELER (Essendon).—The provisions of the Bill now before the House will correct an unnecessary, anomalous situation which has been maintained in this State for very many years. In the past, if a justice of the peace moved to another part of the State many conditions had to be fulfilled if he wished to retain his appointment. It was necessary for a recommendation, endorsed by the member of the Legislative Assembly representing the area concerned, to be made to the Attorney-General.

A situation which gravely disturbs me is that when a justice of the peace is appointed he is asked whether he is prepared to carry out court duty and invariably he agrees to do so, but in very many cases I feel that his answer is insincere. This situation is highlighted by the fact that recently I was informed that there are approximately twenty justices on the register in the Glenroy district, but at times the court has to apply to Coburg to obtain a sufficient number of justices in order to function. As the honorable member for Shepparton said, the position of justice of the peace is an honorary and valuable one which

is held in high esteem in the community. I am sure that the provisions of the Bill will rectify the situation to which I have referred.

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne).—The point referred to by the honorable member for Essendon is not specifically dealt with in the Bill, but I think his remarks should be taken into consideration by the Attorney-General. The electorate I represent probably contains more justices of the peace than any other electorate; the lists consists of a number of pages. There is a justice of the peace in nearly every building. I was appointed a justice of the peace about ten years ago only because people continually came to me in my capacity as a member of Parliament under the impression that I was also a justice of the peace. Sometimes I spent up to half an hour trying to contact a justice to whom I could send such people. In the building in which my office is located there is more than one justice, but apparently it is almost impossible to contact them. Therefore, my wife, who is also a justice of the peace, and I are called upon to give our services in this capacity on numerous occasions. I think members of the Police Force should be asked to give an indication to the Law Department of the number of times they have unsuccessfully tried to contact some justices of the peace.

I live in close proximity to the Flemington police station and the police have told me that there are only a couple of justices in the area, apart from my wife and myself, who can be readily contacted. Yet, in recent years when I have sponsored people prepared to accept the responsibilities of a justice and sit on the bench, I have been told by

officials of the Law Department that inquiries have shown that there are already sufficient justices in the area. I suppose these officers examine the list and come to the conclusion that no more justices are required. Therefore, people who are prepared to act in this capacity are not appointed because there are too many existing justices who are not prepared to act.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg).—I support the Bill, and should like to make a few comments in view of the observations made by the honorable members for Essendon and Melbourne concerning the activities of justices of the peace. In perusing the Supplementary Estimates I noticed under the Attorney-General's Department an amount of \$8,496 for travelling and subsistence allowances. One of the purposes of this Bill is to abolish a long-standing anomaly. Broadly speaking, under its provisions a justice of the peace will have power to act throughout the State and not only within the boundaries of a bailiwick. In the circumstances a justice of the peace may be required to travel greater distances than he does at present in performing his duties. A justice will be at the beck and call, not only of people within a certain bailiwick, but also of people throughout the State. Therefore, I should like the Attorney-General to consider assisting justices monetarily by paying them a travelling allowance to compensate them for expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. This would assist men and women who devote their time to this work and do so at their own expense. I hope the Attorney-General will give consideration to this aspect, bearing in mind the value of the work carried out by honorary justices for the benefit of the community.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—I shall relate my remarks in a general way to the age aspect referred to in the Bill, which provides that any person over the age of 65 years shall not be

appointed a justice of the peace. However, it is further provided that a mayor or president of a municipality shall not be debarred from being appointed by virtue of age. The point I want to make is that if a person over the age of 65 years is precluded from being appointed a justice of the peace, there should be no exceptions and the age limit should also apply to mayors and presidents of municipalities and to members of the Executive Council. In other words, the age limit should also apply to people in special categories.

I also direct the attention of the House to the fact that there is no reference in the Bill to a minimum age at which a justice of the peace may be appointed. I am aware that, as a rule of thumb, 35 years is generally regarded as the minimum age because, generally speaking, that is the minimum age applicable to the appointment of stipendiary magistrates. However, discretion must be exercised because some persons under the age of 35 years have been appointed justices in this State, not merely because they hold special office. I believe it would be proper to provide in the legislation a minimum age for appointment. I suggest that the minimum age of 35 years should apply also to persons who are appointed justices of the peace by virtue of holding office as the mayor of a city or the president of a shire. Whilst holding one of these offices a person under 35 years of age may have sat on the bench, and it seems anomalous that twelve months after ceasing to hold this office he no longer has the ability or the qualifications to act as a justice.

In my opinion this would be an opportune time to rectify this anomaly. I direct the attention of the Attorney-General to the case of

Councillor Webb, a former mayor and councillor of the City of Keilor, who was a justice of the peace by virtue of his office, but, because he was only 33 or 34 years of age, after he relinquished that office it was not possible to appoint him permanently as a justice. Such action tends to reflect on the integrity of a business man in the community, because some people are unaware that he cannot be appointed a justice because of his age. If the Bill cannot be amended in this respect at this stage or in another place, I suggest that consideration be given to the introduction of a further amending Bill so that this matter may be resolved.

Mr. BILLING (Heatherton).—At the risk of being classified as a frustrated justice of the peace, I should like to make a few comments on the Bill. Until my election to this Assembly I spent a considerable number of years as a justice of the peace and acted as the chairman of justices in a couple of Courts of Petty Sessions. It appears to me that whenever the subject of justices of the peace is referred to in the legislature, some sort of attention is drawn to this body of men and women who, over a number of years, have given considerable and valuable service in Courts of Petty Sessions. Some comments are laudatory; others are critical. In making criticisms, we seem to lose sight of the fact that the system has evolved over centuries and, like people, no system can be perfect. I remind the honorable member for Essendon that when a justice of the peace in his area is not available, it might be because he is rendering some honorary service elsewhere.

Mr. WILKES.—That is right; there are Liberal justices and Labor justices.

Mr. BILLING.—That is so. My experience is that whether a justice is appointed on the recommendation of a Liberal, a Labor or a Country Party member of Parliament, his independence is not affected.

All honorable members should support this Bill. It will allow a more flexible arrangement of the duties of justices, who will be able to operate anywhere in Victoria. Sometimes it is not possible for a person to locate a justice of the peace at a particular time. However, Victoria is very fortunate to have these men and women who perform their duties in an honorary capacity, particularly members of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices. Most justices in this State are worthy of the confidence which honorable members have shown in them in the past. The Government deserves commendation for introducing this Bill which will have the effect of making the services of justices of the peace more readily available to those who want them.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown).—No doubt the Attorney-General is disappointed that, after his excellent second-reading speech dealing with the historical aspect of bailiwicks and the reasons for dispensing with them, this debate has degenerated into a discussion of the merits of justices of the peace. I took the liberty of asking the honorable gentleman whether the Bill would remove restrictions on their operations, and he said that it would. I suggest that the areas in which justices may operate should be retained. If specific areas of jurisdiction are dispensed with, the way will be open for excessive numbers of justices to be appointed in particular districts.

Many honorable members will have heard me relate that, when I first became a member of this House, I asked for a list of the justices of the peace in my electorate and subsequently found that most of those on the list had passed to the Great Beyond. Those still living included many who despised decorations but

fell over backwards to become justices. This points to one of the greatest problems relating to justices. Whenever someone wants to climb the social ladder, the first thing he does is to run to his local member and ask to be appointed a justice. The Law Department did not know about the deaths of justices of peace on the list supplied to me; it had no record of them.

Questions I asked in my early days in this House, and remarks I made during Budget and Address-in-Reply debates, generated a desire among members occupying Government benches to have a register of justices of the peace produced. Ultimately, the Government arranged for one to be compiled, and on numerous occasions I have congratulated it for doing so. A register should have been produced much earlier. No register can be kept up to date at all times, but the list of justices of the peace is kept current so far as possible.

The register is of great help to members of Parliament, but it reveals a defect in the system. Apparently, there are more criminals in Brighton, Toorak, Malvern, Balwyn, Kew, and such places, than there are in the industrial suburbs. There are more justices there than anywhere else to sign forms, bail criminals from gaol, or to sit on the bench. The publication *The Justice of the Peace* regularly records new appointments in those suburbs but, whenever the Minister is asked to appoint one more justice in an industrial suburb to help deal with the problems there, his invariable reply, as the honorable member for Melbourne has said, is that there are already enough in the area.

I realize that there are defects in any system, but I hope that the Government will see that the wastage in the number of justices occurs in areas which already have more than are necessary and that new appointments are made in areas where more

Mr. Floyd.

justices are needed. It has been said that sometimes a justice of the peace cannot be located. No matter how conscientious he is or how assiduously he performs his duties, no justice can be available for 24 hours every day.

Mr. BILLING.—Have you ever tried to find a member of Parliament?

Mr. FLOYD.—Before 1955 they did not even live in their own areas. That is why they could not be found. The honorable member for Heather-ton has the stupid idea—

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The honorable member is straying to another subject.

Mr. FLOYD.—I was provoked, Mr. Speaker; apparently the honorable member for Heather-ton has the strange idea that a member of Parliament not only has to look after the community but is supposed to be a messenger boy as well, and take notice of every ratbag who knocks on his door at any time of the day or night.

Mr. STEPHEN.—You would not say that in Toorak.

Mr. FLOYD.—I can say it in the area I represent; I have a margin there. I have my share of ratbags, too.

Mr. MEAGHER.—That will appear in the local press.

Mr. FLOYD.—I do not mind if it does. The Government should consolidate its good work regarding the register of justices. It should overcome the imbalance of the location of justices throughout the metropolitan area by ensuring that fewer are appointed in suburbs where there is a surfeit and more are appointed in areas where an extra two or three would mean that one could be found in an emergency. Furthermore, a register of commissioners for taking affidavits should be

prepared because members of Parliament and residents do not know where they live. For all one knows, a dozen commissioners might reside in the same street. Although commissioners do not have letters appearing after their names, there is a social attribute in the appointment.

Mr. G. O. REID.—The question of compiling a register of commissioners is being examined.

Mr. FLOYD.—The legal aspects raised by the Attorney-General in regard to bailiwicks are above the heads of most honorable members. Whilst bailiwicks might have been of value some years ago and modern trends probably justify their abolition, I suggest that the Attorney-General should consider retaining justices of the peace on a municipal, district, regional, or electorate basis. If this were done, the need to travel long distances from one area to another and to incur travelling expenses to obtain the services of a justice would be eliminated.

I ask the Government to reconsider the elimination of boundaries in relation to the jurisdiction of justices so that they may be appointed in a particular area. Regard should be had to the population of the areas that are allocated, so that too many justices are not appointed in one particular district. Otherwise, dozens of justices of the peace will be appointed in one area for social purposes, and residents in areas in which an insufficient number have been appointed will be unable to obtain assistance because justices will not travel to their localities.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

The sitting was suspended at 6.34 p.m. until 8.4 p.m.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2, providing for the abolition of bailiwicks.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I express my appreciation of the co-operation of members of all parties in supporting this Bill. I also express my appreciation of the constructive comments made by honorable members on the question of justices of the peace generally. Their remarks relate to this Bill, although its main purpose is to abolish the archaic system of bailiwicks.

It is refreshing to know that so much interest is taken in this subject. Several members who have spoken to this measure have been justices and possess an intimate knowledge of the system that is in operation. The honorable members who submitted the views of the Opposition and the Country Party are members of the legal profession. I do not think answers to the comments made by honorable members can be found by amending this Bill, but rather that they can be obtained by an investigation of the methods by which justices are appointed.

In his Speech at the opening of Parliament, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor stated that the Government intended to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the Justices Act generally. My departmental officers and I will investigate the suggestions made by honorable members before that Bill is introduced.

I appreciate the praise the honorable member for Williamstown has bestowed on the Government for

bringing down legislation in 1966 dealing with the registration of justices. I cannot claim any personal credit for this measure, because it was introduced during the term of office of my predecessor by the Assistant Attorney-General, who is now the Minister of Transport. That legislation marked a step forward on this subject.

I assure the honorable member for Williamstown that the Government is considering the introduction of a measure relating to the registration of commissioners for taking affidavits, which should be of advantage in the appointment of justices generally. I shall examine the honorable member's comments on the subject when a Bill is introduced to amend the Justices Act.

The clause was agreed to, as was clause 3.

Clause 4 was verbally amended were the remaining clauses and the and, as amended, was adopted, as schedule.

The Bill was reported to the House with amendments, and passed through its remaining stages.

FOOTSCRAY (RECREATION GROUND) LANDS BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 10) on the motion of Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North).—The Opposition does not oppose this Bill because it is a further step in the development of the Footscray recreation reserve, which is more commonly known as the Footscray football and cricket ground. The

ground is situated adjacent to the West Footscray railway station and Geelong-road. The main purpose of the Bill is to allow the municipality of Footscray, as the committee of management for the reserve, to grant long-term leases up to a period of 21 years to the resident sporting clubs of that particular area.

According to the First Schedule to the Bill the Footscray reserve consists of approximately 14 acres and, for well over a century, it has served the community of Footscray for recreational purposes. When one thinks of this reserve the Footscray Football Club, which is affiliated with the Victorian Football League, comes to mind, but it should be remembered that the Footscray Cricket Club, which is affiliated with the Victorian Cricket Association, and the Footscray Harriers' Club also have their headquarters at that reserve. These three sporting clubs have their individual club-rooms in a limited area of 1 acre 4 perches within the reserve, as detailed in the Second Schedule. Visitors to the Footscray reserve may recall that this is a limited area underneath the main grandstand situated on the western side of the ground. Because the municipality is to be permitted to grant long-term leases to the three clubs in question, the clubs now may look forward to the future with confidence in so far as developmental programmes are concerned.

The Bill also empowers the municipality to finance any future improvements required by the clubs, if approved by the council. The three clubs may be financed up to a maximum of \$150,000 on an aggregate basis, which means that they must split up the \$150,000 if they so desire. In the immediate future the Foot-

scray Football Club intends to use part of this loan money. The football club has already drawn up ambitious plans to develop a licensed social club at the ground. Yesterday, I visited the ground and was shown over the site by the secretary of the club, Mr. Bill Dunstan, who pointed out that the building will be situated to the north of the present stand, between the old stand and a new stand now being constructed. The new stand will be one of the most magnificent in Victoria and people who visit the Footscray ground in the future will be amazed at the transformation. The new stand will accommodate 3,000 people, whereas the existing stand has accommodation for only 1,500. The new stand is not situated within the area defined in the Second Schedule to the Bill, but it is to be named the E. J. Whitten stand after one of the greatest players not only of the Footscray Football Club, but also of the Victorian Football League.

I understand that, before granting a liquor licence, the Licensing Court must be satisfied that the particular club applying for a licence has a lease. Under this Bill, it will be possible for the Footscray Football Club to obtain a lease. This is not the first occasion on which a Bill of this kind has been passed by Parliament. I think the first of such measures was the Kardinia Park Lands Bill of 1955, as a result of which a magnificent social club building was established at the Geelong Football Club's ground at Kardinia Park. I am sure that the Minister, who has inspected the building in recent months, will agree that the passing of that measure was certainly beneficial to the Geelong Football Club, and that this Bill will similarly

benefit the Footscray club. The Minister's predecessor in office attended the opening of the Geelong club-rooms and he and any other honorable member will be welcome if he cares to visit the Geelong Football Social Club because it has no barriers on political, religious or any other grounds.

I know that the Footscray Football Club will eventually be a very successful club; I believe it may look forward to the future with bright prospects, although the club's record on the field has not been one of great success. Since it has been in the Victorian Football League, the Footscray club has won one premiership—in 1954. At least, in two weeks' time the club will be able to say that it defeated the 1968 Victorian Football League premiership team by fifteen goals, which will be another feather in the Footscray club's cap!

This Bill has the full backing of all those associated with the Footscray community. I have conferred with the town clerk of Footscray, who assures me that his council fully supports the passage of this Bill. Naturally, I have conferred with and been advised in the matter by the honorable member for Footscray who, unfortunately, is in hospital. Although he cannot be present to-night, the honorable member—who so capably and energetically represents this area—wishes the Bill a speedy passage and feels sure that it will be of benefit to the people of Footscray.

As I said earlier, members of the Opposition do not oppose the Bill; we wish it a speedy passage and trust that it will have beneficial results for the three individual clubs concerned and the Footscray City Council.

Mr. COCHRANE (Gippsland West).—Members of the Country Party wholeheartedly support this measure. My Leader regretted that he

had to leave for home earlier to-night. He was particularly keen to support this Bill because on one occasion he was a prospective player for the Footscray Football Club, but unfortunately he did not make the grade. The recreation ground at Footscray, situated close to the West Footscray railway station, has been a venue for sporting activities for many years and holds a warm spot in the hearts of the sporting fraternity throughout the State.

In my view the proposal contained in the Bill has great merit and could be implemented in many parts of the State in connexion with recreation reserves, so that small areas could be put aside on which sporting organizations could erect their own clubrooms and have some security of tenure. In this case provision is being made for the leasing of small areas of land so that certain sporting bodies in Footscray can erect their own premises. The Footscray Football Club is in the process of erecting a modern building incorporating clubrooms, and so forth, and, as the honorable member for Geelong North pointed out, the new pavilion will bear the name of "Mr. Football", Mr. E. J. Whitten. Unfortunately, this year, this player missed by one game the honour of playing his 300th game, but everyone will be happy if, when Mr. Whitten does play his 300th game, his name appears on that pavilion. Members of the Country Party have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE TRUSTEES (POWERS) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 10) on the motion of Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East).—The Opposition does not intend to oppose this Bill. After a gratuity was granted to the late Mr. Walter Peeler, V.C., B.E.M., upon his retirement after 30 years' service as a commissioner at the Shrine of Remembrance, the Auditor-General pointed out that it was doubtful whether the trustees had power to make such a payment. The measure now before the House validates the action taken by the trustees.

All honorable members are aware of the splendid service rendered by the late Walter Peeler to the Shrine trustees, as well as his service in the first world war. Walter Peeler was a contemporary and a very close friend of the former honorable member for Preston, Mr. Bill Ruthven, V.C., who was a member of the Opposition for approximately ten years. They were both winners of the Victoria Cross, and both travelled to England for the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As the Minister said during his second-reading explanatory speech, the provisions of this measure will enable the trustees in the future to grant gratuities to employees with long service. That provision accords with the view of the Opposition that all employees should be entitled to a gratuity in one form or another after a certain period of service.

This is a worth-while amendment, which the Opposition wholeheartedly supports.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura).—The Country Party supports the Bill. It might be said that there is room for criticism of validating legislation, but I am certain that all honorable members are in favour of this measure. The Auditor-General raised a doubt about the power of the Shrine trustees to make a gratuity payment, and although legal opinion was obtained the doubt remains. It is not certain that the action of the trustees was beyond their powers under the

Act, but the provisions of the Bill will protect the trustees in the future and validate their action in relation to Mr. Peeler.

On making inquiries from Colonel Kemsley, one of the Shrine trustees, I was informed that a similar situation is not likely to arise in the future because the trustees now employ members of the Corps of Commissioners which has its own welfare fund. The proposed legislation will allow the Shrine trustees to make *ex gratia* payments to particular employees should the need for such payments arise in future, and removes any doubt that the trustees may have exceeded their powers under the Act. The Country Party wholeheartedly supports the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

MELBOURNE SAILORS' HOME (POWERS OF TRUSTEES) BILL.

The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill was read.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I have examined this Bill, and am of opinion that it is a private Bill.

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—I move—

That all the private Bill Standing Orders be dispensed with, and that this Bill be treated as a public Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. As honorable members may recall, Parliament in the year 1964 enacted legislation to enable land and buildings which comprised the Melbourne Sailors' Home to be sold. This was done because the home was no longer being used for the purposes for which it was established.

The Melbourne Sailors' Home Act 1964 which enabled this to be done also empowered the trustees to apply the proceeds from the disposal of the property and all other moneys held by them in trust for such purposes as in their opinion were most likely to promote the welfare of sailors.

Originally, the land upon which the home was established was granted to certain trustees subject to the condition that the land, together with such buildings thereon, should at all times be maintained for use as a sailors' home. This condition has been maintained in the various changes of site and occupancy which have taken place over the years with respect to the home.

Accordingly, section 3 of the Melbourne Sailors' Home Act 1964 provided that the trustees were authorized and empowered to apply their funds for such purposes as are in their opinion most likely to promote the welfare of sailors who operate out of ports in Victoria or who from time to time visit ports in Victoria and as are approved by the Governor in Council.

The trustees of the home have now sold the property to the Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners and are in possession of trust funds of approximately \$83,000. The trustees of the Melbourne Sailors' Home are also trustees of the Victorian Ship Wreck Relief Society Fund. According to the auditors' report this society at 31st December, 1967, had \$22,609.07 accumulated in the fund.

Subsequent to the passing of the Melbourne Sailors' Home Act of 1964 and in accordance with section 3 thereof, the trustees sought the approval of the Governor in Council to allocate portion of their funds to various organizations. The opinion of the Crown Solicitor was that it was clearly beyond doubt that application of trust funds to two of the recommended organizations was not authorized by section 3.

Since then I have conferred with the chairman of the trustees and with one of his fellow trustees. As a result the trustees have now agreed that—

- (a) payment be made of \$45,000 to the Missions to Seamen (Victoria) and of \$17,500 to the Stella Maris Club;
- (b) an allocation of \$17,500 be made to the Seamen's Union of Australia to be held in a trust fund and that the fund be administered by three trustees, two of whom shall be selected from a panel of names submitted by the Seamen's Union of Australia; and
- (c) the balance of the \$83,000 be paid into another trust fund to be administered by three trustees one of whom shall be the shipping master of the port of Melbourne.

The Bill which honorable members now have before them gives effect to that agreement. Clause 2 substitutes a new section for section 3 of the Melbourne Sailors' Home Act 1964. The new section requires and empowers the trustees of the Melbourne Sailors' Home to pay all moneys held in trust by them for the purposes of the home to the Public Trustee as custodian of those funds.

Clause 3 adds eight new sections, numbered from 4 to 11, to the principal Act. Section 4 requires the Public Trustee to establish two trust accounts to be known as the Sailors Welfare No. 1 Account and the Sailors Welfare No. 2 Account. Section 5 requires the Public Trustee to make the specified payments of \$45,000 and \$17,500, respectively, to the Missions to Seamen (Victoria) and the Stella Maris Club and to credit the sum of \$17,500 to the Sailors Welfare No. 1 Account.

Mr. Manson.

Section 9 constitutes the Seamen's Welfare Trust Committee, consisting of three persons, and empowers the Chief Secretary to appoint the members of that committee, two of whom shall be selected from a panel of three names submitted by the Seamen's Union of Australia. The chairman of the committee is to be appointed by the Chief Secretary.

It shall be the function of that committee from time to time to determine the most appropriate means of promoting the welfare of sailors who operate out of ports in Victoria or who from time to time visit ports in Victoria. The committee also has power to direct the Public Trustee to apply any part of the capital or income of the No. 1 account for such purposes of promoting the welfare of sailors and for no other purpose.

Section 5 also requires the Public Trustee to pay the balance of \$83,000—approximately \$3,000—into the Sailors Welfare No. 2 Account. Section 6 requires the trustees of the Victorian Ship Wreck Relief Society to pay all moneys held by them in trust for the objects of the society to the Public Trustee who shall also credit those moneys to the Sailors Welfare No. 2 Account.

Section 10 constitutes the Seamen's Welfare Advisory Council consisting of three members. The Chief Secretary is empowered to appoint those three members, one of whom shall be the shipping master of the port of Melbourne. The chairman of the council will be appointed by the Chief Secretary.

The function of the council shall be from time to time to advise the Minister of appropriate means of applying any part of the capital or income in the Sailors Welfare No. 2

Account for the purposes of promoting the welfare of sailors who operate out of ports in Victoria or who from time to time visit ports in Victoria. The Public Trustee is required to apply out of that No. 2 account such sums as the Chief Secretary may direct.

Section 11 provides that the term of appointment of members of the trust committee and the advisory council shall not exceed three years as the Chief Secretary determines and that a quorum shall consist of not fewer than two members. The remainder of section 11 contains the usual provisions relating to procedures of the trust committee and the advisory council.

Section 7 provides that a receipt from the Public Trustee shall be a good and sufficient discharge to the trustees of the Melbourne Sailors' Home and the trustees of the Victorian Ship Wreck Relief Society for trust funds paid to the Public Trustee. Section 8 provides a similar discharge to the Public Trustees for funds paid to the Missions to Seamen (Victoria) and the Stella Maris Club. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne), the debate was adjourned.

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—I move—

That the debate be adjourned until Wednesday next.

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne).—In my opinion the debate on this Bill should be adjourned for at least two weeks.

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development) (*By leave*).—If the honorable member for Melbourne is not ready to proceed with the debate

next Wednesday, I give him an assurance that a further adjournment will be granted. A member of his own party is one of the trustees concerned and he has conferred with the Government on the Bill and is happy with its provisions.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—The Government has already made arrangements for Supply to be considered on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, so the Minister could quite easily agree to an adjournment of two weeks.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—If I may intervene on the question of time, I point out that I suggested to the Minister of State Development that this Bill should be disposed of within a week because a Labor member of another place wanted the matter concluded quickly. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and the honorable member for Melbourne, that they agree to an adjournment for one week. The Government will give an undertaking that if the Opposition wants more time to consider the Bill that will be arranged.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) (*By leave*).—Mr. Speaker, we could not resist the Chief Secretary.

The motion was agreed to, and the debate was adjourned until Wednesday, September 25.

ADJOURNMENT.

Sir ARTHUR RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at half-past Three o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 8.54 p.m. until Tuesday, September 24.