

The honorable member for Moonee Ponds raised the question of the advertising of high-powered motor cycles. I will discuss that with the Chief Secretary. Action which was taken some weeks ago in relation to a certain line of high-powered motor cars was effective. Their production seemed to come to a full stop. Something on similar lines may be effective with motor cycles. It is true that there is a long death and injury roll of young people using these high-powered motor cycles.

The honorable member for Greensborough asked a question about the portability of pensions. I have nothing to add to the answer I gave him. It is not a straight-forward problem. There are many complications, only one of which is that relating to the interchangeability of people in companies which, more and more, are operating interstate. Although we do not depart from the principle, it would be a far better scheme if it were adopted on an Australia-wide basis rather than by one State. This is one of the problems which is being examined.

The honorable member for Coburg referred to a question he asked of the Minister of Health. The Minister is indisposed tonight but I shall ask him to communicate with the honorable member. I gather from what the honorable member said that he is dissatisfied with the sheaf of correspondence he has managed to acquire. If he wants a further answer to his question, I shall ask the Minister of Health to communicate with him.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—On the problem of the honorable member for Coburg, I will see, from the point of view of operations of the House, that the undoubted rights and privileges of the honorable member are well looked after.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.6 p.m., until Tuesday, September 19.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, September 19, 1972.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett) took the chair at 4.55 p.m., and read the prayer.

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.

LOSSES FROM SUBURBAN PASSENGER OPERATIONS.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North-Western Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) What was the total loss incurred by railway passenger operations on the suburban lines in each of the financial years 1967-68 to 1971-72?

(b) What percentage of railway losses did these amounts account for in each of those financial years?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is statistical 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:—

The commissioners inform me that the necessary analysis of sectional operating results for 1971-72 is still being carried out.

The most recent calculations made by the commissioners for the four preceding years were as follows:—

Year	Loss on suburban passengers and parcels	Percentage of total losses incurred
	\$	%
1967-68 ..	5,120,000	40.3
1968-69 ..	5,944,000	39.9
1969-70 ..	5,921,000	43.9
1970-71 ..	8,782,000	41.2

The above figures exclude interest, and depreciation for which no provision was made in the working expenses.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

What losses were incurred by the Railways Commissioners on metropolitan railway passenger services for the year ended 30th June, 1972?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

The commissioners inform me that operating results for 1971-72 have not yet been analysed into the various classes of service.

The latest such analysis available is for 1970-71, in which year the loss incurred on suburban passenger traffic (excluding interest, and depreciation not provided for in the working expenses) was \$8.782 million.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

ACCIDENTS : ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) How many people have been injured in car accidents in the years 1969, 1970 and 1971, respectively?

(b) In accidents involving death and injury, what percentage could be attributed to alcohol consumption?

The Hon A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

(a) 1969	..	..	..	23,821
1970	..	..	..	23,727
1971	..	..	..	21,371

(b) As the honorable member will appreciate, it is not possible to obtain accurate figures on the involvement of alcohol in road accidents involving death and injury.

However, a survey undertaken on behalf of the Consultative Council on Road Accident Mortality indicates that alcohol is a particularly important factor in road accident casualties.

This survey, which was of 200 randomly selected fatal single vehicle accidents, found that—

“As with most road accidents, high blood alcohol levels occur in a very significant proportion of drivers in single vehicle accidents, about 50 per cent overall being affected. In many cases high blood alcohol and high speed occur together producing a fatal combination”.

An investigation by Dr. Hossack, Consultative Surgeon to the Coroner, confirms the high involvement of alcohol in road fatalities.

Of 500 autopsies on road accident victims performed by Dr. Hossack between June, 1970, and July, 1971, 55 per cent of the 235 drivers examined had ingested alcohol while approximately 50 per cent had blood alcohol levels greater than 100 mgms per ml (.10 per cent) which is double the legal limit. The investigation also revealed that passengers killed had similar blood alcohol levels to drivers killed.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT ACT.

INTEREST RATES.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

What action is being taken by the Government to relieve the interest burden of soldier settlers who took outside employment prior to the enactment of the Soldier Settlement (Amendment) Act 1972?

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answer is—

During the passage of the Soldier Settlement (Amendment) Bill through the House the Minister in charge of the legislation gave an undertaking that he would keep the matter under review in the light of his experience in the administration of the amending legislation when it had been operative for some time. The matter is receiving consideration within the terms of that undertaking.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY TEACHERS' COLLEGES.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

Further to question No. 14 asked in this House on 14th March, 1972, what has been done regarding the requirement that students from technical schools must complete seven years of secondary education before being eligible to enter primary teachers' colleges?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

Consideration is being given to an amendment to the relevant regulations covering the course for Diploma of Teaching, Primary, and to the academic requirements for entry to the course. An early decision is expected.

PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

Does the Government intend to improve the formula for the appointment of librarians in primary schools; if not, why?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

Teacher librarians are appointed only to schools with central libraries. The provision of subsidy assistance to erect central libraries has been extended from schools with a net enrolment of 330 pupils to schools with a net enrolment of 225 pupils. Teacher librarians, as and when trained and available, will be appointed to schools with central libraries with enrolments between 225 and 330 pupils. In addition, an additional librarian is being appointed to each school with a central library and an enrolment of 900 or more pupils.

SECONDARY TEACHERS: RECRUITMENT FROM OVERSEAS.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

In respect of the Broadmeadows, Buckley Park, Brunswick, Brunswick Girls, Essendon, Fawkner, Glenroy, Hadfield, Lalor, North Fitzroy, Oak Park, Princes Hill, Strathmore, Thomastown, University, and Upfield high schools—

(a) What was the actual shortage of teachers as at 31st July, 1972?

(b) How many teachers recruited from overseas countries and recently arrived in Victoria have—(i) been allocated duties; and (ii) actually taken up teaching duties?

(c) What subjects are they qualified to teach?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The Education Department has requested that Mr. Tripovich repeat the question on the first day of sitting next week. I think the honorable member will agree that a tremendous amount of research and detail will be necessary to provide the answer.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province) (By leave).—I put the question on the Notice Paper last week so that the department would have a week in which to provide the answer. I do not believe that so much research should be necessary with a project which has just been completed.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

(a) How many secondary school teachers have been recruited from overseas countries to date in the current recruiting programme, indicating the countries they were recruited from?

(b) How many have arrived and taken up teaching duties in each of the months January, 1972, to date?

(c) How many have—(i) failed to keep their agreement; and (ii) resigned following service with the Education Department?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

(a) The "current recruiting programme" in the question has been defined as the Victorian teacher selection programme as it has operated in the twelve months from last August. It does not include overseas recruits obtained by personal representation at the Education Department nor teachers recruited before last August. The figures are then as follows:—

From—United States of America ..	488
Canada	219
United Kingdom	131
Total	838

(b) Arrivals in 1972.

—	United States of America	Canada	United Kingdom
January ..	72	25	..
February ..	..	..	..
March ..	..	..	..
April ..	..	..	..
May ..	95	..	..
June ..	..	..	..
July ..	..	..	..
August ..	210	148	116

(c) Of the above total number 15 (or 1.8 per cent) have resigned before completing the full period of service to which they had agreed.

MOOROOPNA HIGH SCHOOL.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE (Northern Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

In respect of the new Mooroopna High School—

(a) Have selective tenders been finalized for the permanent construction of proposed blocks C and F; if so, will these blocks be completed before the opening of the 1973 school year?

(b) Does the Education Department intend to install more portable class-rooms on the site for the 1973 school year; if so, will these include a home economics portable and a new-type science portable?

(c) Will provision be made for additional staff-room accommodation in 1973; if so, how?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

(a) Tenders for the construction of blocks C and F at Mooroopna High School are at present under consideration. The completion time stated in the contract documents is six months, so occupation is not anticipated until the end of term 1, 1973.

(b) Yes. Additional portable class-rooms will be provided but the number and types have not yet been determined.

(c) There is already a portable building on site for use for administration of the school and it is not intended to provide additional staff accommodation for 1973.

WARRANTYTE LAND.

SALE.

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

Will he lay on the table of the Library all files and documents relating to land situated off Pound Road, Warrandyte, purported to be sold by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Croxford to Hooker Rex Estates?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

The land situate off Pound Road, Warrandyte, formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Croxford, was zoned Residential C in the initial planning scheme of the Board of Works exhibited in 1954 and that zoning has continued unchanged.

Land within a Residential C zone is intended to be subdivided into residential allotments and the only approvals necessary are those of the municipal council. The development of the land does not in any way require a planning permit from the Board of Works.

Mr. and Mrs. Croxford acquired the greater portions of the land in 1955 and the remainder in 1965. After some earlier sales, the balance of the land held was sold by them under a terms contract of sale in July, 1971.

There have been the normal references to the Board of Works by the municipal council of subdivisional plans. In December, 1971, some five months after the sale of the land, the Warrandyte Environment League sought

rezoning of all land south of the Yarra River at Warrandyte, including the subject land, for Residential D purposes. The municipal council has now advised that it does not support the request of the Warrandyte Environment League and such request is contrary to the policies applied since the inception of the scheme in 1954.

The relevant Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works files have been laid on the table of the Library.

LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

POWERS OF CHAIRMAN.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

(a) What power has the Chairman of the Land Conservation Council over matters referred to him, such as new roads?

(b) Has the chairman power to make recommendations to the Government concerning any area prior to the study of such area by the council?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a) The function of the Land Conservation Council is to make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the use of public land in order to provide for the balanced use of land in Victoria. Recommendations as to land use should be made only after a complete investigation of the area concerned. On occasions, the council has indicated that no decision should be taken on certain matters until a full investigation has been carried out. The council holds the view that new coastal roads fall in the category where no action should be taken until a study has been made of the area concerned. The chairman of the council has expressed these views.

(b) The chairman has no power to make recommendations as to the use of land prior to a study of the area concerned.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION.

BUCKLAND RIVER STORAGE.

The Hon. A. K. BRADBURY (North-Eastern Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

Has the Government accepted the Public Works Committee's recommendation to build a water storage on the Buckland River; if so—(i) what action has been taken; and (ii) when is it proposed to build such storage?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

Yes.

(i) The State Government has applied to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance under the national water resources development programme. Site investigations have been continued for the purpose of finalizing the design.

(ii) No date can be fixed until funds become available.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES COMMISSION.

ALLOCATIONS FROM CAPITAL FUNDS.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

What allocations were made from capital funds of the Hospitals and Charities Commission for major projects in the years 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

Allocations made from capital funds of the Hospitals and Charities Commission for major projects were—

\$

1968-69—10,877,841

1969-70—12,828,070

1970-71—11,842,400

The total capital funds allocations in these years were—

\$

1968-69—12,723,000

1969-70—14,823,000

1970-71—13,443,500

FOOTSCRAY AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL: BUILDING EXTENSIONS.

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

(a) What proposals are envisaged for the extension of the Footscray and District Hospital to overcome the acute bed situation which exists at the hospital, and in the related services?

(b) What actions are proposed for a new out-patients' department?

(c) When will such work be commenced?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a), (b) and (c) Sketch plans were approved on 11th September, 1972, for building development estimated to cost \$1.9 million and including the following:—

Basement: Extension to medical records, staff toilets and change-rooms.

Ground Floor: Outpatients department, casualty clinics, casualty theatre, recovery areas and pharmacy.

First Floor: Surgical and medical clinics.

Second Floor: Ante-natal clinics, occupational therapy and physiotherapy departments.

Provision is being made in the documents for the structure to be capable of taking a further two floors later so that this wing will match the height of the existing hospital.

Working drawings are now being prepared and, subject to funds being available, construction should commence in 1973.

The next stage proposed after completion of the casualty department includes extensions to the north side of the present hospital to provide additional beds estimated to cost \$2.5 million. Some modification of the engineering services will be necessary also.

The commission recently approved of the working drawings and specifications for the east ward toilet blocks which are now out to tender. This work is estimated to cost \$77,200.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

EXPENDITURE.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) In each of the years 1970-71 and 1971-72, how much has been spent by the Country Roads Board in metropolitan and country areas, respectively?

(b) Will expenditure in the metropolitan area be increased; if so, at what rate?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

Year	Within the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Area*		Outside the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Area	
	\$		\$	
1970-71	..	28,346,000	..	51,213,000
1971-72	..	29,335,000	..	51,784,000

* This area includes much rural land. The above figures include expenditure by the Country Roads Board from the Roads (Special Projects) Fund.

(b) The expenditure in both metropolitan and country areas will increase progressively.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

UNITS CONSTRUCTED: OCCUPANTS.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

(a) What total number of units (house and flat) have been constructed by the Housing Commission since its inception?

(b) What is the estimated total number of persons occupying units?

(c) What number of units are occupied by—(i) pensioners; (ii) rebated rental families; (iii) purchase families; and (iv) tenant families?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a) Houses 57,372

Flats 15,449

Total 72,821

(b) 300,000.

(c) (i) 8,413

(ii) 425

(iii) 33,413

(iv) 30,995 (includes 425 given under (ii) above).

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

FOR COBDEN.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

What is the Government's intention regarding the provision of an ambulance for Cobden?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

The Hospitals and Charities Commission and the South Western District Ambulance Service, which is responsible for the ambulance region in which Cobden is situated, have studied statistics of ambulance usage in the area over a period of eighteen months to 30th June, 1972. They considered also the services available—a full-time ambulance station at Camperdown only 9 miles away on a good sealed road, and another full-time station at Terang 16 miles away.

There is a bush nursing hospital at Cobden and a public hospital at Camperdown.

The commission believes there are more urgent needs at present in other parts of Victoria, but I have requested it to review the Cobden ambulance proposal from time to time as the need arises.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ALTONA NORTH POLICE STATION.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) When will work start on the Altona North police station?

(b) What is envisaged in regard to the station's operation, and what area is it proposed to serve?

(c) Will the station's operation be affected by the recent decision to enlarge the Sunshine and St. Albans police areas?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

(a) This project, which provides for a police district headquarters complex including a 24-hour police station, has been designated by the Treasury as "schematic design" in the police works and services programme for 1972-73. However, the Chief Secretary has requested the Public Works Department to expedite the preparation of a detailed estimate with a view to having the work commenced as soon as possible.

(b) The police station will provide a 24-hour coverage of the municipality of Altona.

(c) No.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

MERCURY CONTENT OF FISH: REHABILITATION OF INDUSTRY.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

(a) Will the Government increase the permissible mercury content in fish to 1 part per million for school shark?

(b) What action (such as research into all types of fishing) is the Government taking to rehabilitate the fishing industry?

(c) What provisions are being made to compensate shark fishermen?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a) As the Premier has already announced, the Government will abide by the standard maintained by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Earlier this month, the public health committee of the council reaffirmed the present maximum mercury content level of 0.5 parts per million.

However, new submissions will be made to the council by the Government for an increase in the level to 1 part per million.

(b) I assume the honorable member is referring to that part of the fishing industry dependent upon the taking of shark and I

point out that the Government has agreed to assist such fishermen to diversify by low interest loans from the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission.

Officers of the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch and gear and technical officers from the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry are, at present, consulting with fishermen and representatives of the fishing industry to develop plans for the development of existing and potential fisheries to the advantage of displaced fishermen.

(c) This is receiving consideration.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE
BRANCH: VISITS TO KINDERGARTENS.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

(a) Why have visits to kindergartens by area supervisors from the Maternal and Child Welfare Branch of the Department of Health been curtailed?

(b) As some kindergartens have not had a visit from a supervisor for well over twelve months, when will regular visits resume?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a) It has been necessary to curtail the number of visits to individual kindergartens by kindergarten supervisors because of increases in the numbers of supervised kindergartens without corresponding increases in the number of supervisors.

During the preceding ten years the total number of subsidized pre-school centres has increased from 556 to 852. In addition to the average increase of 30 centres a year the Presbyterian Kindergarten Council has ceased to be responsible for the supervision of its kindergartens and consequently the full supervision of another 30 kindergartens has been added to the work load of the Department of Health. Only one extra supervisor position has been created during that time. The number of visits per centre varies. It has become necessary to give priority for additional visits to centres where committees, children or teachers have special difficulties.

(b) One area had particular difficulty because its supervisor was on extended sick leave and was finally superannuated and other supervisors employed in the department had no time available to take over her work. Regular visits to all pre-school centres will resume but without a substantial increase in the number of kindergarten supervision staff it will not be possible to re-establish the number of visits per kindergarten given many years ago.

MELBOURNE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS
TRAINING COLLEGE: STUDENTS
LIVING ALLOWANCES.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

What steps does the Government intend to take to provide all students at the Melbourne Kindergarten Teachers College with a living allowance equivalent in value to the studentships available to all State primary and secondary student teachers?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

Each year requests are submitted to the Treasury by the Department of Health for appropriate increases in all types of bursaries payable through the Department of Health.

In preparing the Budget, the Government allocates funds bearing in mind the comparative needs of the various persons and organizations concerned. Although there are vacancies for students at the Kindergarten Teachers Training College there is no appreciable shortage of persons accepted by the Department of Health as qualified to conduct kindergartens.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE BRANCH.

HELMETED HONEYEATER.

The Hon. V. T. HAUSER (Boronia Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

Is the Minister for Conservation aware that experts believe that a rare species of bird known as a helmeted honeyeater (*meliphaga cassidix*) (which is found in a declared fauna reserve covering some 412 acres along the Cockatoo, Woori Yallock and Sheep Station creeks) is in danger of becoming extinct; if so, in order to protect this rare species of bird, of which a maximum number of 250 is considered to exist, is the Minister prepared to—(i) fence the declared fauna reserve to prevent cattle grazing and trampling down the ground cover, thus allowing growth to occur; and (ii) have the areas replanted with manna gums, swamp gums and tea-trees to provide the necessary food supply and ground cover for nesting, etc.?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

I am informed by my colleague, the Minister for Conservation, that he is aware of the situation regarding the helmeted honeyeater in the Yellingbo area and, indeed, that the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch has been

closely associated with efforts to ascertain the population of the species and with projects aimed at conserving the species.

As the honorable member will be aware, the Yellingbo State Faunal Reserve has a lengthy boundary and the high cost of surveying and fencing has precluded the enclosure of the reserve.

In the circumstances, the branch, in conjunction with the Bird Observers Club has concentrated on making local landholders aware of the existence of the species and its low population and encouraging landholders not to further clear lowland areas along the creek and to promote natural vegetation in the area.

The efforts of the branch and the club have been met with some success with landholders.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT.

PROCLAMATION.

For the Hon. R. W. MAY (Gippsland Province), the Hon. A. R. Mansell asked the Minister of Housing—

When will the inoperative sections of the Environment Protection Act 1970 be proclaimed?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

In December, 1972.

CHILDREN.

CRUELTY BY PARENTS.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

(a) How many children have died as a result of ill-treatment by parents or *de facto* parents over the past two years, stating what injuries or complaints caused the death of these children?

(b) How many parents or *de facto* parents have been charged in connection with ill-treatment or neglect, and what were they charged with?

(c) How many of those charged were subsequently convicted, and what was the penalty in each case?

(d) How many children have been treated in hospitals for ill-treatment or neglect, stating—(i) the hospitals where they were treated; and (ii) the extent of injuries or neglect?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a) (b) (c) and (d)

There is no central point yet established for the centralized recording of all such instances coming to notice in the various hospitals and courts to make this information available at this time.

A system for the purpose will be set up as part of the survey now directed by the Government to be undertaken by the Health, Social Welfare, and Chief Secretary's departments, in conjunction with the Royal Children's Hospital. Expenditure of \$17,000 has been approved for this survey, which will examine in depth the incidence and causes of ill-treatment of children, as well as measures for prevention.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The Hon. D. E. KENT (Gippsland Province) (By leave).—I wish to make a personal explanation. Last week during Mr. McDonald's speech on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, in my attempt to assist I interjected, "Do you support the tree pull scheme?" An error was made in the reporting of my interjection, and it is recorded in the latest proof copy of *Hansard* as, "Do you support the Trades Hall gang?" The tape recording has been checked, and it has verified that I said, "the tree pull scheme." As every honorable member knows, I would not make a statement such as that recorded in *Hansard*. I wished to make that explanation for the record.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing), was read a first time.

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS (PERSONAL INJURIES) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), was read a first time.

ALBERT PARK LAND BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), was read a first time.

MONTROSE LAND BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), was read a first time.

YARRAVILLE (RECREATION GROUND) LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), was read a first time.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION (SPECIAL PROJECTS) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization), was read a first time.

SUPPLY (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), was read a first time.

WRONGS BILL.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision for extending the period within which actions in respect of wrongful acts or neglect causing death may be brought, to amend Parts III. and IV. of the Wrongs Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

YARRA VALLEY (PROHIBITION OF HIGHWAYS) BILL.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision with respect to the preservation of the Yarra Valley by prohibiting the construction of streets and roads along the River Yarra.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

REPORT OF BOARD OF INQUIRY.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government) presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor, the report of the Board of Inquiry into Local Government Finance in Victoria.

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

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

That the report of the Board of Inquiry into Local Government Finance in Victoria be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

The motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The following papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the table by the Clerk:—

Country Roads Act 1958—

Western Freeway Gordon Section (Animals) By-law 1972 (S.R. No. 254).

Western Freeway Gordon Section (Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Agricultural Machinery) By-law 1972 (S.R. No. 255).

Education Act 1958—Resumption of land at Keilor and Northcote—Certificates of the Minister of Education (two papers).

Friendly Societies and Benefit Associations—Report of the Government Statist for the year 1969-70.

Labour and Industry Act 1958—Labour and Industry (Tractor Safety) Regulations 1972 (S.R. No. 251).

Marketable Securities Act 1970—Marketable Securities (Further Authorized Trustee Corporations) Regulations 1972 (S.R. No. 252).

National Museum—Report of the Council for the year 1971-72.

Public Service Act 1958—Public Service (Public Service Board) Regulations—Regulations amended (Nos. 286 to 291) (six papers).

Railways Act 1958—Victorian Railways Commissioners Amendment to Regulation No. 66, Clause 131 (S.R. No. 253).

State Savings Bank—Reports, statements, returns, etc., for the year 1971-72.

Town and Country Planning Act 1961—

City of Knox Planning Scheme 1965—
Amendment No. 82, 1970.

City of Mildura Planning Scheme—
Amendment No. 4, 1972.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES BILL.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This small Bill contains six amendments of some importance. Two of the amendments relate to the bankruptcy of a member of a co-operative housing society, two are designed to facilitate the management of older societies, and the other two proposals affect the future operations of societies.

Section 7 of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that any person who is not under the age of sixteen years shall be eligible to be a member of a co-operative housing society, and that a member over the age of eighteen years may borrow from a society. In that context, a person is viewed as an individual.

Where a member of a society becomes bankrupt, his assets, including his shares in the society, vest in the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy or other trustee of his estate under Commonwealth bankruptcy law. In a number of cases in recent years, the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy has requested a society to register him as the owner of the shares or interest of a bankrupt member. However, this is not permitted under the Act even though the shares may be vested in the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy in equity. Some years ago, a similar difficulty arose in relation to executors and administrators of estates of deceased members and the Act was amended to overcome the problem.

Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill, which should be read together, suitably amend sections 7 and 24, respectively, to enable the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy to become the holder of the shares or interest of a bankrupt member until he is in a position to

transfer the shares to an eligible person, or until the shares are withdrawn or transferred in accordance with the Act and the rules of the society. It is pointed out that, although the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy will be the registered holder of shares which, of course, carry certain rights of membership, it is not intended or desired that he be permitted to vote at meetings or become a director of the society.

Clause 4 seeks to amend, in two respects, section 48 of the Act which provides that—

the business and operations of a society shall be managed and controlled by a board of directors.

Sub-section (7) fixes the minimum number of directors at five and sub-section (8) provides that meetings of the board—

shall be held at least once every two calendar months.

Owing to premature discharges of mortgages given by members in respect of advances granted, many of the older and smaller societies are now in the position of having only 8 to 10 members, including 5 directors who, in the majority of cases, are not borrowing members but, rather, could be classed as “professional” directors of co-operative housing societies. Some of the older societies are now experiencing great difficulty in replacing members who, for some reason or another, cease to be directors. This is particularly evident in the larger groups where a person could be a director of ten or even twenty societies.

If, for example, such a director died and a replacement had to be found, the incoming director who, naturally, was a member of only one society in the group, would be required to pay back dues in respect of one share in each society of which he is to be a member and director. Depending on the time the societies concerned have been in operation, the new director could be required to pay amounts which, in

the aggregate, vary between \$200 and \$750. It will be appreciated that, in the circumstances, a replacement is not readily found. Therefore, sub-clause (1) of clause 4 proposes that, in certain circumstances, the registrar may authorize a society to carry on business with a minimum of three directors.

As already indicated, the board of directors of a society is required to meet at least once every two calendar months. This is rather ludicrous in the case of a society with only five or six borrowing members and when, in fact, the society has become little more than a collecting agency. The amendment proposed in sub-clause (2) of clause 4, which is in line with a similar provision in the Co-operation Act, is considered to be warranted and most certainly will assist societies' administrations generally.

Sub-section (1) of section 75 of the Act provides that, in respect of guarantees given pursuant to section 73, the liability of the Treasurer of Victoria shall not exceed \$200 million. That limit was fixed by amending Act No. 7264 which was assented to in November, 1966. At 30th June, 1972, the total amount of guarantees subsisting was \$199·674 million, leaving a balance of only \$326,000 available for new guarantees, with applications on hand exceeding that amount. The need for an increase is therefore apparent.

The long-term loans obtained by societies from institutions and guaranteed by the Government at 30th June, 1972, had been raised from the following sources:—

	\$ million
State Savings Bank of Victoria	39·851
Commonwealth Bank- ing Corporation ..	91·580
Private trading and savings banks ..	50·003
Insurance and assur- ance companies ..	12·940

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	\$
Friendly societies ..	0·800
Government instru- mentalities ..	2·350
Miscellaneous ..	2·150
	199·674

It will be appreciated that increasing the guarantees limit will not in itself provide more finance for societies. The money still has to be raised and, in recent years, this has become an onerous and increasingly difficult task.

In addition to the institutional finance, there is the money made available during the past sixteen years from the Home Builders Accounts. Of course, as this money is actually provided by the Government, it is not included in the guarantee figures. To 30th June last, \$180,894,225 had been advanced from the accounts while, under the new arrangements negotiated with the Commonwealth last year, a further amount of \$11,654,250 will be provided during the current financial year, making a total of \$192,548,475. There are now 1,429 societies, of which 580 have been financed from the Home Builders Accounts. The purpose of the amendment contained in clause 5 is simply to increase, to \$220 million, the aggregate liability which the Treasurer may incur under guarantees.

Under section 76 of the Act, the Treasurer of Victoria may indemnify a society against so much of a loss sustained by the society in respect of an advance as is directly attributable to the fact that the amount of advance, reduced by the value of the share capital of the member, exceeds 80 per centum of the value of the security. Sub-section (1) of section 77 of the Act currently limits the aggregate liability which the Treasurer may incur under such indemnities to \$2 million.

Indemnities subsisting at 30th June, 1972, totalled 3,593 and the aggregate liability in respect of those

indemnities was \$1,997,606. It is necessary, therefore, to extend the amount of the liability which the Treasurer may incur, to enable societies to continue to make high percentage advances.

It is interesting to note that, since the inception of co-operative housing in this State, 8,115 advances, or more than 10 per cent of all advances approved by societies, have been indemnified by the Government. A remarkable feature of the scheme is that, during the 27 years of its operation, the Government has been required to pay out only \$1,067 in respect of claims made under such indemnities. Clause 6 provides for an increase in the liability which the Treasurer may incur under indemnities to \$3 million. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS (PERSONAL INJURIES) BILL.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Most honorable members are aware that the time limit within which action for personal injury can be brought is three years from the date on which the cause of action arises. Basically, this is a sound rule to avoid the possibility of legal proceedings dragging on indefinitely, but it does work a particular injustice in limited circumstances. For example, there are cases where a worker may have been exposed to a deleterious process over a long period and that process occasions a gradual development of a disease which manifests itself perhaps as late as twenty years after the first exposure to the process. As the law now stands, the worker would be precluded from taking any action against his employer to recover damages, the cause of action would

be held to have occurred at a time long since passed and outside the period allowed for action.

This issue was referred to the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee, which agreed that this anomaly and injustice to workers ought certainly to be removed. However, in the course of its studies, the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee decided that any amendment should go further and, in respect of personal injury claims generally, the time limit should be relaxed to enable proceedings to be instituted within a year after the material facts became known to the injured party.

That, in fact, is what the Bill does. It implements the report of the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee and enables action, which would otherwise be statute barred because of the lapse of time since the cause of action initially occurred, to be instituted within one year after the cause becomes known to the injured party.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE.—Does the injured party have to apply to the court for this?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—No. There is a power in the court to extend the period for a further year provided that application is made within that year. This Bill is retrospective in its operation. I appreciate that retrospectivity is not a matter which this Parliament normally treats lightly. However, in this case, it clearly is essential that the Bill should operate to relieve problems occasioned at the present time for injured parties who would otherwise have no redress at law.

I have with me copies of the several reports of the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee and I lay them on the table for the information of honorable members. I commend the Bill, including its retrospective provisions, to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

WRONGS BILL.

The Hon A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to give effect to recommendations contained in reports adopted by the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee. As will be seen from the Bill, there are two distinct groups of amendments. One group of amendments affects section 20 of the Act, which deals with the limitation of actions brought in respect of any wrongful act, neglect or default causing death. The other group of amendments affects section 24 of the Act, which deals generally with the rights of tort-feasors, namely persons who commit a wrong not being exclusively a breach of contract, to recover contribution from each other.

The provisions of the Bill which affect section 20 of the Act implement recommendations in reports dated 8th December, 1970, and 22nd February, 1972, adopted by the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee. The reports deal with proposed legislation in respect of actions for damages resulting from the death of a person, where the deceased did not know, and could not have known, of the material facts more than a year before his death. In this sense, the measure is complementary to the Bill which I previously explained to the House.

The amendments of section 24 of the Act that are contained in the Bill implement recommendations in a report dated 24th June, 1970, adopted by the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee. These amendments, which were found to raise considerable difficulties, are designed to remove anomalies in the limitations imposed on defendants as to the time within which they are entitled to give notice of contribution to co-defendants or join a tort-feasor as a third party.

I do not propose to deal with the clauses in detail unless honorable members so desire. Clearly, the explanation which I gave about

the last Bill covers the first matter to which I have referred on this measure. On the subject of joining tort-feasors, proceedings to join tort-feasors as co-defendants may be commenced within any time twelve months after the writ in the original action was served. That principle is clearly self-evident. If an action is taken close to the existing time limit of three years and the writ is served a little after the expiration of three years, and the defendant joins a co-defendant or third party, he may now be debarred by law from doing so. The provisions of this Bill will ensure that the defendant will have a year in which to take this action. The two Bills I have explained to the House are companion measures. I have circulated detailed comments on the clauses and copies of the reports of the Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee are available. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

ALBERT PARK LAND BILL.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It relates to the South Melbourne Cricket Ground and the St. Kilda Cricket Ground which are both located in the Crown reserve known as Albert Park. Albert Park was permanently reserved in 1876 as a site for a public park. The reserve has been placed under the control of a committee of management consisting of twelve members, six of whom are Government representatives, with three representatives of each of the councils of the two municipal districts in which the reserve is situated.

The history of the cricket grounds goes back much further than the permanent reservation in 1876. The St. Kilda Cricket Club was first given authority to enter into possession of

a defined area in 1856, and the South Melbourne Cricket Club was granted occupancy of its site in 1862. The grounds are presently occupied by the respective cricket clubs under agreements from the committee of management. In the case of each ground the cricket club and the football club concerned are to combine to form a corporate body.

Extensive improvements are proposed to be made to the grounds and facilities, and the corporate bodies will need to raise finance to effect the works. In the circumstances, it is considered that the occupations ought to be put on a proper basis by seeking the necessary authority to empower the committee of management to grant leases of the grounds, and that is the purpose of the Bill.

Honorable members will recall that in recent years similar action has been taken in respect of certain other grounds on Crown reserves occupied by district cricket clubs and Victorian Football League clubs.

Clause 1 of the Bill cites the short title. Clause 2 provides, firstly, that the lands shown in the plans in the schedule may be leased by the committee of management for the purposes of sport or recreation or social activities or purposes connected therewith; secondly, that any lease shall be subject to approval by the Governor in Council, be subject to such covenants as the committee thinks fit, and for a term not exceeding 21 years; thirdly, that the lease rentals shall be applied to the maintenance of the balance of the reserve; and fourthly, the usual provision that no liability shall attach to the Crown. The schedule includes the plans of the two grounds.

Honorable members will agree that this is a trend in the right direction with cricket clubs and football clubs occupying these grounds jointly. They can work together and in the interests of those people who use these grounds. This will prove of great benefit in the years ahead. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

MONTROSE LAND BILL.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to close that part of Henry Street at Montrose which abuts the Montrose Primary School site. It is proposed that the land comprised therein be reserved as an addition to the existing State school reserve. The school reserve, which lies on the south-east side of the part of Henry Street to be closed, contains 2 acres and was temporarily reserved in 1879.

The Minister of Education has purchased about 2 acres of freehold land on the opposite side of the part of Henry Street concerned. The road closing is sought by the Education Department in the interest of the safety of the school children, to consolidate the school lands for the proper and efficient use of the property, and at the same time provide additional playing area. The council of the Shire of Lillydale has consented to the road being closed, provided that pedestrian access is allowed to continue. The Education Department has accepted the council's condition.

The Country Roads Board, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the Gas and Fuel Corporation and the State Electricity Commission have all agreed to the road closing. The State Electricity Commission has services in the road and the Education Department has also agreed to protect the commission's interests.

Clause 1 of the Bill cites the short title. Clause 2 provides that the land forming the part of Henry Street shall cease to be a road. It may then be reserved as an addition to the existing school reserve. Clause 3

is the usual provision that no liability shall attach to the Crown. The schedule shows by hatching the part of Henry Street the subject of the Bill. I know this area well. I have no doubt that all concerned will derive immense benefit from the inclusion of the road in the school area and the linking of the other part of the Education Department land with the existing site. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. H. A. THOMAS, (Melbourne West Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

SUPPLY (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER) BILL.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill covers supply for the three months of October, November, and December next. In the autumn sessional period supply was granted for the months of July, August, and September. The Supply now sought is necessary to meet payments from 1st October next. For that reason it is necessary for it to be passed before that date.

Mr. President, there are one or two things which I ought to say at the outset about the Supply schedule which has been distributed, and in this connection I seek your leave to refer to procedures in another place.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—Does the Council grant leave to the Minister?

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

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The Supply schedule, which totals \$222·703 million, includes provisions for the three new Ministries which have been created. These are—in the order in which they come in the Supply

schedule—the Ministry of the Arts, the Ministry of Youth and Recreation and the Ministry of Conservation.

These Ministries come in the Supply schedule under new division numbers which did not appear in the Supply schedule for the months of July, August and September. The new divisions correspond with those which are shown in the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1972–73 which were tabled with the Budget last week in another place.

Supply was taken for July to September under other division numbers for some of the functions which will be grouped in the new Ministries. For example, Division 152—National Gallery—appeared under Division 205 in the July–September Supply schedule. In this case, and in the case of divisions 154, 273, 437, 439, 441 and 443, the amount included in this Supply schedule is the requirement not only for the months of October, November, and December, but also includes the amounts voted by the Committee of Supply under the relevant division numbers for the July–September period. To adjust for this situation it was necessary for a number of the earlier votes to be rescinded, a procedure required to put the votes of the Committee of Supply in order in conformity with the new division numbers.

When it comes to the Supply Bill, it will be seen that the amount to be appropriated, \$221·712 million, is less than the total of the Supply schedule. The difference—\$991,000—is the amount of July–September Supply already voted and appropriated in Act No. 8292, but then rescinded, and now voted by the Committee of Supply in the present Supply schedule under the new divisions.

These are matters concerning procedures in another place and reference to them is required only to explain the difference between the amount in the Supply schedule and the amount in the Supply Bill. For present purposes the relevant figure is the amount

of the Supply Bill—\$221·712 million—which is the amount of Supply for which legislative authority is now sought.

Apart from the fact that unusual procedural matters arise out of the regrouping of some existing functions under the new Ministries, there are no unusual features about the Supply schedule. The sum sought is the estimate of requirements until the Appropriation Act is passed towards the end of the sessional period. I commend the Bill to the House.

I suggest that it might be convenient for the House to debate this measure tomorrow, which will allow honorable members almost a full day, subject to the approval of the House, to deal with Supply. Next week honorable members could proceed with the Address-in-Reply debate and other items which are now listed on the Notice Paper.

On the motion of the Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION (SPECIAL PROJECTS) BILL.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Its purpose is to enable the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, with the consent of the Governor in Council, to assist a wider range of bodies with developmental projects outside Victoria. Although the present Act enables the commission, with the consent of the Governor in Council, to enter into an agreement with a developmental agency to carry out developmental works in any country, state or territory outside Victoria, it does not provide for the commission to make arrangements to assist in manning or servicing developmental

works undertaken by any other body under an agreement with a developmental agency.

A case in point is a recent request from the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation for the commission to assist the corporation by providing specialized staff for a project on the Seraju River basin in Indonesia. Finance for this project will be provided by the Australian Government under the provisions of the Colombo Plan.

The Bill will enable the commission to meet such requests. At the same time, the opportunity has been taken of amending section 2 of the principal Act to broaden the definition of development works to include design and planning.

Clause 2 of the Bill accordingly extends the definition of developmental works. Clause 3 extends the range of bodies specified in section 3 of the principal Act which the commission may assist with developmental works, by including any body which is carrying out developmental works on behalf of a Government or developmental agency. Clause 4 is a consequential amendment following the amendment contained in clause 3. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. A. W. Knight, for the Hon. D. E. KENT (Gippsland Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

YARRA VALLEY (PROHIBITION OF HIGHWAYS) BILL.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time. The ancient Romans were resolved to smash Carthage. A simple-minded stranger might be pardoned for thinking that the Government had the same homicidal tendencies towards the defenceless Yarra River. Conservation is a belated advertisement for a line of goodness that has been permanently discontinued. The policy of the Government on the river

can be expressed in the sentence, "Wherever the Yarra was the motor car is." Beautiful parks have been invaded, trees cut down as though they were infested with the sirex wasp, and lands uprooted with the devastation that ordinarily accompanies a vast battle. And for what, may we ask? So that Melbourne may become a vast parking lot with the suburbs the spokes of a horrible motor-cade.

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON.—What about the railway line up the centre?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—Which railway line is that?

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON.—You must be referring to the Eastern Freeway?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—Yes, I am referring to the Eastern Freeway.

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON.—Did you not know about the railway up the centre?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—I have not seen any evidence of a railway yet. I should have preferred the railway to be constructed first, and then the Government might have had second thoughts about the motor car. In Britain the accent from one end of the country to the other is on improved train services. It is now a sheer delight to travel in a train in Britain. An improved public transport system is the answer to the motor car.

Sadly, the Yarra and its beautiful valley is Melbourne's only natural feature. I am not referring to your beloved Dandenongs, Mr. President, but the entrance to the city proper. In planning the future of the river, the Government should be as careful as a nudist crossing a barbed wire fence. At page 29 of its draft environment protection policy No. W-29 on the Yarra River and tributaries, the Environment Protection Authority states—

Warrandyte to Dights Falls.

This segment of the Yarra River once flowed through a green belt which preserves the natural environment along the banks.

A large part of this area is being altered by the civil engineering works for the Eastern Freeway, and natural river environments have been destroyed.

The silt load in the Yarra is a major problem and is due in part to land disturbance in subdivision and farming. The works for the Eastern Freeway are causing a massive increase in silt load in the river.

In this area the Government has only one fault; it is insufferable. Much of the damage regrettably is irreversible. The Bill proposes a simple, practical remedy. It cannot undo the damage already committed—I only wish it could—but it will prevent damage by those planning further destruction. I emphasize the word "planning".

I must apologize for the form in which this simple Bill is presented to the House. I also wish to thank certain people for their readiness to help in preparing the Bill at short notice. This occurred because we were not sure whether the House would meet tomorrow, and in those circumstances the Leader of the House gave me leave to introduce the Bill tonight. For that reason, the Bill is not in a printed form.

The Bill contains three clauses and its object is expressed in clause 2, which provides, *inter alia*—

Notwithstanding anything in any other Act or anything done under any other Act—

(a) no street or road shall be made laid out or constructed within 400 metres of the River Yarra at any point upstream of Princes Bridge;

Regrettably, nothing can be done about the physical works which have already been put in train. These works extend as far as Kew and the devastation there is beyond imagination. I do not know why it is necessary to go so close to the river; but there it is.

The Hon. W. M. CAMPBELL.—Last year Mr. Galbally told us that the freeway was passing through the middle of parklands. Now the honorable member says that it is running along the edge of the river.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—It is doing both. It runs through the middle of Yarra Bend Park adjacent

to Collingwood. The devastation is there for all to see. It crosses the river in an easterly direction and runs very close to Greenacres golf course and the river on the western side.

The Hon. W. M. CAMPBELL.—Where would you locate a freeway—through residential areas?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—If there is one place not to locate a freeway it is alongside the only river we have and through a green belt.

The Hon. W. M. CAMPBELL.—But where would you put it?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—If time permits, I shall tell the honorable member where I would put it. As you will understand, Mr. President, clause 3 makes provision for people who own land adjacent to the river. It would be unthinkable if this Bill were to remove their access to it. It will be seen that the necessary provision is contained in clause 3 to enable the council to afford access to the proposed subdivision.

The House will observe that the prohibition commences at Princes Bridge upstream for the whole length of the river. I hope to introduce a further complementary measure. It is unthinkable to wish to widen Alexandra Avenue and invade, or threaten, the gardens and, further east, the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens, which are of unhappy memory to the Government.

It might be thought that no Government would attempt that but, as Mr. Campbell has reminded me, last year the Government smashed through the national park at Yarra Bend and made no apology for doing so. However, the House will understand that we live in a law-abiding community and that nobody can break the law except members of the Government and Government instrumentalities. I think it is also necessary to introduce legislation to protect the Maribyrnong River.

Last century, "Hands off the parks" was a cry that led to no alienation of parklands for a time;

but the Government can conquer everything. "Hands off the river" can still be an effectual programme. I believe the motor car must be conquered and subdued. It is a twentieth century phenomenon which will be replaced in the next 25 years by something far less clumsy and dangerous.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—We are still living in the twentieth century.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—Yes, and many more are dying in it. If the freeways are allowed to go as the Government intends them to go the damage done to the Yarra Valley will be irreversible. The motor car must be conquered, and I am sure that that will happen in the fullness of time, if we are patient. Is it necessary for every person to come to the city at 60 miles an hour? That was not done in the last century, when people were much happier. By the year 2000 the motor car will be as out of date as a bullock driver's oath.

I know that I have prickled the Government and that it is said that one should never insult an alligator until one has crossed the river, and, therefore, that I should adopt a more conciliatory attitude and endeavour to persuade the Government to accept this Bill by the arts of flattery—arts which, at times, I am prepared to practise. The answer to my would-be critics is this: I have tried it.

In 1960 I introduced the Cultural and Recreational Lands Bill to preserve parks and recreational areas. It was denounced by the Government; as always, it was said that it was badly drawn and that there was no need for it. "After all", it was said, "golf clubs are the playgrounds of the rich, and their interests must be protected." An example of this is the Yarra Bend golf course where the charge for a round of golf is still only 60 cents. Three years later the Government adopted the measure and, as I understand it, in some quarters it even claimed credit for it.

Should the Government reject this measure, it can only be described as an ecological Rasputin saying one thing—namely, that it is in favour of conservation, saving the Yarra Valley, environment protection, and so on—and doing another thing.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Where would you locate the freeways?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—If the Government is determined to destroy the Yarra River, let it be barrelled in and the land built on. Provision could be made for Totalizator Agency Board branches at intervals of say, every 200 yards, also Tattersall consultations, Tattsлото and fruit machines, and we could also build prisons.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—Mr. Galbally, I presume those matters are not included in the Bill?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—No, Sir, but the Government has warmly asked me for suggestions. Prisons could be built for the vagrants and Melbourne's homeless who now sleep underneath the arches of our bridges. The motor car has led to the introduction of on-the-spot fines. With a little imagination we could have on-the-spot prisons. I commend the Bill to the House.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Mr. Galbally has not told us where he would locate the freeway.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—The Minister and I have seen the devastation at Arthur's Seat. It beggars description. I would not build a freeway of the kind that is now envisaged anywhere, let alone on top of a railway line where some of them ought to have been built.

On the motion of the Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

The sitting was suspended at 6.30 p.m. until 8.50 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of the Hon. V. T. Hauser (Boronia Province) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

The Hon. R. W. MAY (Gippsland Province).—When the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply was last under consideration by the House, I discussed the presence of mercury in the environment and in foodstuffs and its consequent and drastic effects. I mentioned some of the forms in which mercury is found. Honorable members are well aware that mercury has had a devastating effect on the fishing industry. The Government placed a ban on the sale of school shark more than 41 inches long. The legal minimum length for school shark is 36 inches. That means that the only shark which can now be marketed must be between 36 and 41 inches.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—It is a mighty size!

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—If Mr. Nicol was depending on this industry for his livelihood and was limited to a 5-in. margin either way, he would think he was cut pretty short! A fisherman is permitted to market a shark measuring 28 inches with the head and tail removed; that is accepted as a 41-in. shark.

The limit on the size of shark which can be marketed has had far-reaching effects on the livelihood of persons engaged in the shark fishing industry. The fishermen and I believe that the Minister of Health was more or less forced into taking the stand which he took. He acted on a report from Mr. McCloskey, the Chief Health Officer. I have a copy of this interesting document. However, it leaves unanswered many of the questions one would want answered if one were engaged in the hazardous fishing industry. I have not been able to ascertain the method

used in Victoria for determining the mercury content in shark. I have communications from overseas which set out the different methods used for this purpose. Two main methods are used—the flame absorption method and the neutron activation method. At the University of Illinois in the United States of America, by the flame absorption test, which is the quickest and cheapest, variations of 50 per cent may be obtained in readings taken from one shark. It would be reassuring if honorable members were informed which method was used in Victoria to determine mercury content.

Earlier today my colleague, Mr. Mitchell, asked the Minister of Housing—

Will the Government increase the permissible mercury content in fish to 1.0 parts per million for school shark?

The answer was—

As the Premier has already announced, the Government will abide by the standard maintained by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Earlier this month, the public health committee of the council reaffirmed the present maximum mercury content level of 0.5 parts per million. However, new submissions will be made to the council by the Government for an increase in the level to 1 part per million.

Therefore, the Government has in mind making an approach and presenting a case to the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD.—Perhaps it should have started earlier.

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—I intended to make that point. In view of the fact that the Government has had this report for so long and in view of the reported concern of three other States—South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania—I should have thought the Government, in collaboration with the other States, would have made a joint submission at that stage.

In his report, Mr. McCloskey states—

On the 10th April, 1972, a conference was called with officers of this department and the Fisheries and Wildlife Department

to plan a comprehensive and detailed study of mercury levels in the three major varieties of shark No delays were experienced in the actual analysis of specimens in the laboratories but again a further delay was experienced in the analysing of results due to a break down in the public service computer.

The programme has not been finalized as yet

It was originally intended to collect samples from seven different ports from which shark fishermen operate. This procedure would not prove anything because I have been informed by fishermen from Port Fairy right around to Port Albert and Lakes Entrance that when the ban was imposed they were fishing in only one area, off the north-west coast of Tasmania. The picking out at the market of fish consigned from the various ports means nothing unless one is made aware of the waters from which the fish have come.

Research throughout the world has established that fish do absorb mercury in the form of methyl mercury which is poisonous to man. Organic or liquid mercury, in the main, is not injurious to man. It is interesting to examine the changes which occur in the character of mercury. Research has shown that where sewage is allowed to enter the sea it creates a bacteria which transforms the character and structure of mercury into methyl mercury. Mercury is used in the production of chlorine, plastics, caustic soda, paper, paint, fur felt, floor polish and filters used in air conditioning plants.

The Hon. V. T. HAUSER.—Are any of the overseas buyers of fish present in the gallery tonight?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—I should have thought that as a member of the Government party and on behalf of Victorian fishermen Mr. Hauser would have interested himself in what is transpiring through tests carried out in other parts of the world. Overseas it has been found necessary, as a safeguard, to recycle effluent from industries which use mercury in their manufacturing process. Members of

the Country Party consider that the fishing industry will be lost to this State unless the Government takes the initiative and follows what has been done overseas in the treatment of effluent which is discharged into the sea. If this is not done, a valuable source of food will be lost for all time.

I was heartened at the reply which I received today in answer to this question—

When will the inoperative sections of the Environment Protection Act 1970 be proclaimed?

The answer was—

In December, 1972.

I hope one of the first actions taken by the Environment Protection Authority will be to ensure that effluent which now enters the sea is recycled.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Is Mr. May suggesting that the mercury found in flake is due to effluent discharges?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—I suggest that Mr. Hamilton should obtain some of the papers from the universities and study them. He will find that their findings are that the quality of fish caught in the St. Clair River and in the lakes system of America was adversely affected by effluent discharged into the river system. According to the report which I read, the Dow chemical company was discharging a considerable quantity of mercury into the stream.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—No one questions that, but apparently they came to the conclusion that mercury in flake in Australian waters occurs naturally.

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—I am pleased to hear the honorable member say that. If there was some hesitancy in the past to take steps in this matter we would want to attribute it to something.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Mr. May is disputing it?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—The honorable member will have his opportunity of speaking in due course. The shark were gathered from six ports. So far as I have been able to ascertain, no recordings of mercury levels from individual ports have been released, but an average figure covering all tests has been released without any indication of the waters from which the fish come. In fact, my contact with the fishing industry leads me to believe that the fish could have come from the same waters.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Where?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—Off the north-west coast of Tasmania in close proximity to the paper industry and other industries. I notice that Tasmania was concerned about the embargo on the sale of shark in Victoria and it was said, "If Victoria thought it could assist the situation by allowing traditional shark fishermen to go fishing for crayfish, Tasmania would have some say as to what happened in Tasmanian waters."

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE.—Can crayfish absorb mercury?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—If something is not done, ultimately it will not be restricted to sharks.

The Hon. H. R. WARD.—Why does not the honorable member name the companies which are pouring mercury into the sea?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—When the honorable member speaks on this subject I shall be interested to listen to him. I was interested to read in the press of an interview with Professor Hirotsugu Shiraki, Professor of Neuropathology in the Institute of Brain Research at Tokyo University's School of Medicine, who stated that in Japan mercury was registered by the examination of the human hair taken from the head of a person. He said—

These things were not known here. Banning at the present stage by law is going too far, I think. It's something like smoking. You should be careful.

Professor Shiraki went on to say that the ordinary Japanese had levels of 6.5 parts per million of mercury in his blood—between 10 and 80 per cent of this figure was methyl mercury. He felt that, perhaps, we had been a little too rash and in too much of a hurry in banning the sale of these fish on our market.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—The honorable member is advocating that there should not be a ban?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—A big meeting was called at San Remo some little time ago. Although the meeting was called to present the case of the fishermen, the somewhat unusual procedure was adopted of having a chairman from Melbourne.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Who was he?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—It was Mr. Brereton, of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. He was an able and capable chairman and deserved full marks for the way in which he steered the meeting. Afterwards I learned that I was not supposed to be present at the meeting.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—Why not?

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—There was one other member of Parliament present, a Government supporter. The interesting point arose when I asked how the chairman came to be present. He said he was there at the suggestion of the Chief Secretary. I wanted to know why Dr. Kurth, the representative of the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch, was present and he too said that he was there at the suggestion of the Chief Secretary. I pointed out that for some reason the Department of Health was not represented at the meeting. However, I was intrigued by the words of Dr. Kurth of the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch, who said—

Australia is the only country amongst developed countries of the world where fishing is carried on by the owner-operator. The only place where this was done was in undeveloped countries.

Of course, this made some of the fishermen wonder whether in the long term there would be a move to hand over the fishing industry as we now know it to trawling companies. The thought was rather disquieting. Members of the Country Party feel that control must be exercised at the point of origin to stop the discharge of harmful mercury waste into the sea.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—As I have already pointed out, this mercury content in sharks has been proved to occur naturally.

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—I recommend that the honorable member should read the report of the inquiry into the poisoning of the people at Minamata Bay, in Japan. I also recommend that he read the findings of an inquiry carried out in Sweden on this matter, also reports of investigations carried out in the United States of America and Canada. In Canada it was found that the problem was not restricted to fish but was also found in birds including pheasants, the shooting of which had to be stopped. The mercury got into the pheasants and into water birds through seed treated with mercurial fungicides. Toxic mercury must be replaced by less toxic substitutes.

This week reference was made in the press to the dumping at sea, with Government approval, of poisonous residues from manufacturing processes.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—Order! This discourse on fish and shark has continued for quite some time. I point out that there was no reference to this subject in the Governor's Speech. I appreciate that in the past I have allowed some latitude in the Address-in-Reply debate along these lines.

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—Mr. President, I understand that the Governor's Speech contained proposals for environmental protection to improve the quality of life, as pointed out by interjection by Mr. Elliot. I do not wish to see the

quality of life deteriorate in any way by the human frame taking in poisons which could be destructive.

The PRESIDENT.—I accept the honorable member's very broad interpretation.

The Hon. R. W. MAY.—I agree that there is not sufficient information on which to gauge how great is the threat to human beings, but if such a threat does exist the Government should establish realistic standards of control. I should be interested to hear a forthright statement from the Government on the toxic level for mercury in the human body.

Today I was heartened to learn that shark reached 45 cents a lb. on the Melbourne market. A consignment which is in the freezer will be on its way to Japan the day after tomorrow. Because of the interest taken by the Country Party in this matter, I am able to acquaint the House of this plan.

I have received a considerable amount of correspondence about pollution—no doubt other honorable members may have received the same correspondence. It included a copy of what is known as the *Black and White Book*. I have checked the signatures on the letters with the electoral roll and have found that in each case they are the names of electors in the Gippsland Province. I now have several of these books and am in a position to give them away. I am heartened to know that the public is showing an awareness of this problem. The point made in the correspondence is that the writers have been definitely encouraged by the Chief Secretary's statement that he proposes to bring the standard of literature and films in this State back to what the correspondents refer to as that of "the Rylah era". I have drawn attention to road signs and on-the-spot fines. I feel that in the interests of good public relations there ought to be more cohesion and co-ordination between the Police Department and the Country Roads Board on the question of road traffic signs.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province).—I join tonight in the debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply and say how pleased I was that the Governor was able to be with us once again. I feel this man has done much for Victoria. The pleasant way he travels around the countryside—and he does go to the country—is good and country people appreciate what he is doing for Victoria.

I wish to speak about the ten points mentioned by the Governor to assist decentralization. At the outset, I emphasize that the announcement of a ten-point programme on decentralization represents an admission of defeat by the Government for its actions in the past. Apparently what has been done in the past seventeen years has been a complete failure and the Government has decided to announce the ten points in question. The fact is it has to do something different. Honorable members who consider the western part of Victoria—particularly the Wimmera, the Mallee and the Corangamite areas—will realize that those districts lost more than 8,000 people in five years. This indicates what the Government has been doing. The Government now proposes to initiate a ten-point programme and I am prepared to co-operate and work with the new Minister for State Development and Decentralization in this regard. I do not blame his predecessor—now the Minister of Housing—for his failure, because it was a failure by the Government. It is of no use blaming one man when the Government as a whole should be blamed and, unless the Government provides enough funds for the new Minister, there will be no improvement. An examination of the Budget reveals that there is not much in it for the new Minister either, but that is another matter.

The Hon. H. R. WARD.—There are more people living outside the metropolitan area than in the whole of South Australia.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I am discussing Victorian matters, not South Australian. I am concerned with Victoria and it would be a good idea if members on the Government side of the House displayed some interest in this State.

Honorable members interjecting.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—At this juncture I recommend to Mr. Mitchell that he should ignore all interjections from either side of the House.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—Thank you, Mr. President, but you know me, and it is mighty hard for me to ignore interjections of this type which, after all, are pretty direct statements made to me. The aspect that worries me most is that from year to year more regions are designated and more committees are appointed. This has been done for almost a century. Every time something is wanted a committee is formed. Salaries are paid to the members of the committees but what do we get from them? The only way to bring about decentralization is to see that it is more profitable for industry to be in the country than in Melbourne. It is really a simple matter for industry to move from the city to the country. A committee does not have to decide that, because a businessman looks for profit. If a businessman is setting up a business the first question he considers is the amount of profit that will be derived from it. If businesses established in the country will not be profitable decentralization will not occur. It breaks my heart to see men work as they have in the past. In Portland, the businessmen have worked very hard, but what have they obtained? They suffered a lot of disappointment and they have just about had it.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—They have had a lot of success and you should not knock them.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I am not knocking them, but I will quote from the *Portland Observer and Guardian* of 13th September, 1972—

The chairman of Portland Development Committee, Mr. Reub Halliday, believes positive results for decentralization must be seen within two years.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—Has he any political affiliations?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—Mr. Halliday has affiliations with the Government; that is true.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—He has been saying that for seventeen years.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—Yes, calling for action all this time. These people have come to the end of their tether. The article proceeds—

This is only a very short period when all is considered—but if we don't see action by then, we may as well close up shop, he said.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—He has not stated that there will be no development.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—No, but what he says is that if it does not happen within two years, they might as well close up shop. What Mr. Halliday said is quite true and I support his statement. The fact is that they have been left to struggle on their own. It is of no use blaming the Minister; it is the Government's responsibility and it has admitted that by setting out these ten points to aid decentralization in the Governor's Speech. In the past the Government has failed and it is now trying to do something before it is too late.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—Why do you not blame the Minister?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I believe in blaming the whole lot and not just one person.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—Order! I am having difficulty in hearing Mr. Mitchell because of the interjections and I ask that they cease.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I have not been attacking the former Minister for State Development, but

now that he is in the Chamber I might do so. I mentioned before that I have not been able to find in the Budget where the money will come from. I am hopeful that the new Minister will be able to do something about it. The Hamilton City Council has worked hard under difficult circumstances to have industry established in the area and it has met with some success which has not been due to action taken by the Government. Yesterday, I endeavoured to obtain houses for the area but I found out that they are not listed. In his Speech, the Governor said—

First priority will be given by the Housing Commission to housing needs in country centres, especially the needs of new or existing industries.

Houses are wanted now but all the Housing Commission will state is that the needs will be examined. If that means anything, funds should be made available so that houses can be constructed in that area. The Housing Commission has done a wonderful job but the list of places in which houses have been constructed by the commission includes as country areas Fern Tree Gully, Geelong, Hampton Park, Hastings and many others, including Mornington, where 100 houses have been built. The Country Party does not call those rural and that is the difference of opinion.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—Where does the city finish and the country start?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—For decentralization purposes let us start beyond a 50-mile radius from the General Post Office, Melbourne.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—You say the cut-off point is 50 miles from the General Post Office and the country starts from there. What about 49½ miles?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—Members of the Country Party want areas other than the city developed and therefore we refer to a 50-mile radius.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—Outside a 50-mile radius is the country?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—Yes, I am prepared to make it 50 miles. I am sorry that the Minister of Housing was not in the House a while ago when I made the point that if the Government wants decentralization it must make it profitable for people to go out of the city. There are many ways of achieving this. Government supporters have been talking about pay-roll tax concessions. Another way is to tax those residing in the metropolitan area. The Government can put added taxes on them because of the pollutants that they put into the water. There are numerous ways in which the Government can raise funds to assist decentralization. I say it straight to the Government that it has failed to promote decentralization over the past seventeen years.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—Portland has achieved a lot in the past three years; Mr. Mitchell must agree with that.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—The honorable gentleman should not forget that the Government annexed a part of the Portland shire to make up that increase. That is the way in which the increase was achieved. I know because I live in the area. Cresco Fertilizers Ltd. started there, as did the wool stores, but this did not result from the actions of the committee; it came because of the support of the farmers. I subscribed money to get these firms established. The farmers did it themselves and the Government should make no mistake about that. If the people want decentralization, by all means let them do something for it but do not leave everything to the people living in the country.

As the subject of conservation has been raised, I take it that all honorable members have seen the report

prepared by the Land Conservation Council of Victoria on the south-western study area which I regard as the history book of the Portland and Glenelg shires. When the Land Conservation Bill was being debated, on 17th November, 1970, in speaking against the Bill I said—

I cannot see how this Bill will allow any development to take place in Victoria. Those comments are reported at page 1882 of volume 300 of *Hansard*. I hope all honorable members have received the report of the council because it is interesting. If honorable members read the history of the area and understood what takes place in the district, they would ask the question, "What is being done for development?" The report states at page 68—

Unfortunately a road has recently been constructed along the edge of the salt marsh, and disturbance of the vegetation will probably result from this.

This is a reference to a small area of about 12 acres of salt marsh. It is unfortunate that a road has been built. The people of Port Fairy want a road constructed through Crown land. The money is available to construct a scenic road into Port Fairy along the coast but because more land has to be acquired, for which these people have the responsibility, the residents in that area may have to wait perhaps five years. The Government may not be able to tell me quickly, but this is 1972, we are sliding into 1973 and it is now two years since the relevant legislation was passed but the road has not been constructed and residents may have to wait longer before it is made. A Government should govern and should be able to decide to build a road without having to seek the permission of a committee.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Mr. Mitchell would be the first to grizzle if the Government did that.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I would not if progress was involved. I am opposed to procrastination and the doing of nothing. If the Ministers

were asked if they were happy with this situation, many of them would shake their heads. I should not like to be a Minister and be placed in a position where I could not authorize the construction of a road. As a result of this policy there is a delay in the construction of a road at Port Fairy despite the fact that the money is available and the road is urgently needed. The fact that I have to raise this matter in the House should cause the Ministers to hang their heads in shame. They should be ashamed that this is happening to people who live in country areas.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—Mr. Mitchell's colleagues prevented a road from being built at Kentbruck Heath a couple of years ago.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—That is not right. I know that the Country Party has been blamed for this but the fact is that members of the Country Party voted against the construction of roads in the Little Desert. The Government was responsible for withdrawing the allocation for the roads at Kentbruck Heath.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—The Country Party was responsible for the roads at Kentbruck Heath not being constructed.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—If Mr. Gross reads the motion that was moved in this House he will realize that the sum of \$120,000 was withdrawn for roads in the Little Desert and no reference was made to Kentbruck Heath until the Government withdrew the allocation.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—Mr. Mitchell was on the committee which inquired into the development of the Little Desert.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I believe in development and it is a pity that others do not believe in it. However, I am opposed to developing sandhills. If I put Mr. Hamilton on to a sand block he would die of starvation. The Government would have made a mess of the Little Desert if it had proceeded with that scheme. I am a practical farmer and I know

the difference between sandhills and good country. I shall proceed to discuss the report and I shall quote what it has to say about some land in the Shire of Portland. In this regard the report states—

The costs of development will vary according to the size and density of the trees. An average estimate for the total cost of development of a farm unit on this land would be up to \$180 per acre (not including livestock).

That statement is not true and I make that comment as a developer. I will develop any country for \$180 an acre and be happy to do it. Statements of this nature in reports are misleading and prevent any further development in the area. The Government should take no notice of statements of that type in a report. The Government should also investigate what is happening with the 7,000 acres at Palpara which the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission is developing. The report states that the project has been a technical success but the broad economic and social aspects of the development are uncertain. Statements like that spell the end to further development. The only other comment I have to make on this matter is that if the Government proposes to allow the council to proceed in its present way Victoria will not be developed. Therefore, the Government will have to do something. It is of no use having development like this delayed by Ministers, Governments and the people in the area. If the Government wants to stay in office it will have to remove the influence of the Land Conservation Council in country areas, otherwise the Government will not be in office for long.

I now propose to relate my remarks to the fishing industry because that industry is important to the province that I represent. In addition to refusing to build a road at Port Fairy the Government has seriously disadvantaged fishermen in the area. The promulgation of the regulation relating to the taking of shark has spelt the end of the fishing industry and the fishermen were given no warning

of this. They were building boats right up to the day the regulation was promulgated. No honorable member can cite one case of a person in Australia who has died from mercury poisoning.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD.—It would be necessary to eat 80 lb. of flake a year.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—If a few warnings had been issued, similar to those relating to tobacco and alcohol, that might have been a good start. The Government did not stop the growing of tobacco, and that product kills more people than mercury does. The Government is not worried about people dying on the roads as a result of the consumption of alcohol. The Government could take plenty of action to alleviate that problem. However, it clamped down on the fishermen and has seriously disadvantaged not only the fishermen in Port Fairy but also the stores and all of the town by its action. The Government could have pursued many lines of action. It could have conducted investigations into markets overseas and into the use of other types of fish, but it decided to play politics.

The Hon. O. G. JENKINS.—What is Mr. Mitchell doing?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I am not playing politics. I am pleading for some people in my province. Members of the Country Party do not get involved in this type of political activity. We know that is not the way in which to treat our people. The Government has placed the people of Port Fairy and Portland at a disadvantage. The people of Portland are not as badly affected because there are other industries in that town. I am hoping the Government will now act in a common-sense way and not merely say that it is sympathetic towards these people. The Premier continually says that he is sympathetic towards them but no honorable member won his wife with sympathy. If the Government wants

to win anything for an industry it has to do something more than offer it sympathy.

It is of no use the Government saying that it will try to help these people when it is not trying to help them. There are many things the Government could be doing for these people that it has so far failed to do. In fact, these things should have been done before the axe was brought down. The Government should have investigated the position thoroughly and not just looked at the political gain that was in it. The Government will lose in the long run because it played politics. I know why the Government acted as it did. The Labor Party was trying to make political capital out of the situation and the Government decided to try to gain the advantage. The Government tried to throw the ball back at the feet of the Labor Party. If the Government had consulted the fishermen, this would not have happened. I have been consulting the fishermen all the time and they are concerned about the position.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—What does Mr. Mitchell think the Labor Party was doing?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I do not know. Mr. Holding was playing with fire when he was talking about the mercury content of shark. His comments were thrown back at him and the Liberal Party tried to make political capital out of it. Members of the Country Party want to help the fishermen, but the Government and the Labor Party have put the fishermen at Port Fairy into a mess.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—Where is there political capital in this?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I do not think I have to explain that to the Minister. I have got my message across. I shall now relate my remarks to the rural reconstruction scheme, which has caused me a great deal of concern. I have worked closely with the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission on this scheme. Firstly, I shall refer to the case of Mr. and

Mrs. Pahl, of Langkoop. The Government has gone astray in trying to determine whether some people can carry on a farm as a viable unit. I have already put this to the commission and I am now putting it to the Government. I started as a farmer with nothing. When did I become viable as a farmer? Frequently it is possible to help people if the reasons why they are in trouble are known.

It is not right to say that nothing can be done to help them because their rate of debt is too high. I refer to the case of Mr. and Mrs. Pahl because two years before the drought Mr. Pahl, senior, died and his widow died two years later. So two lots of probate duty were imposed. Admittedly the amount levied on the widow's estate was not as large as the amount levied on Mr. Pahl, senior's, estate. Then Victoria suffered a drought and the valuation of land in the area decreased by at least 30 per cent. In a short period of time, mainly as the result of Government action through the imposition of probate duty, the son and daughter-in-law were in trouble. However, this lady was determined and I admire her for her determination. She took the car out of the garage and converted the garage into a bakehouse. This shows how determined some people are to succeed.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD.—And to survive.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—Yes, both. This lady will build that business up until it is making a profit of about \$5,000 a year.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—What is she making?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—She is making cakes and selling them to the local shops. She is doing a good job. However, her efforts in this regard are not taken into account. If people are determined and are prepared to really fight for their existence, how can the Government say that they are not viable? I could quote other cases of young people who started out in life with very little money.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—What were the assets in this case?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—They are not worth very much at present.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—What was the valuation of the assets?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—After the drought these people ended up with practically nothing.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Would it be right to say that the assets were valued at \$74,000.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—That could be roughly correct.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—And the liabilities were \$58,800?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—That would be somewhere near it. I told the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission that I intended to raise this matter in Parliament, so the Minister would have been informed about it. I have no objection to that. The fact is that these people are now building up a good baking business and they will get out of their difficulties. The Minister of Agriculture knows how hard young people who start off with practically nothing have to battle. I know how hard I had to battle. In the case to which I refer the Government intends to throw these people off their land despite the fact that they have the ability to survive and get back on top. I do not think these people should be thrown off their land and that is why I am raising this matter tonight.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—A person has to come back.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I have been coming back with this case for some time, and no one in this State is more determined than I am when I start something.

There is another problem in my province in the township of Simpson, and I want to direct the Government's attention to it. The Government has seen me fight hard to keep the township of Simpson in one piece and

not divided as it is at present. The Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Ltd. has had to build a store 1 mile out of the town. Simpson is a little town which is trying to develop but the Government would not allow the co-operative to obtain land on which to build a store in the town. Simpson is one of the few places where the Government controls the land. All honorable members should give some thought to this. The Liberal Party Government boasts that it stands for free enterprise but it forced the co-operative to build its store 1 mile out of the town. There is a little store in the town and a big one outside it. How ridiculous can the Government get?

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—How many houses are situated in the town?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—I have not counted them but it is a growing place which is situated in the Heytesbury settlement. The town should develop and grow but Government action has caused a stupid situation whereby a firm has had to construct a store 1 mile outside the town. In 100 years the store might link up with the town, but the Government should hang its head in shame over this matter.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—How did the firm get land outside the town?

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL.—The company had to buy the land privately. I always seem to encounter difficulties when I attempt to address the House and to place facts before honorable members. Perhaps it is a good thing that whenever I speak, honorable members do not go to sleep.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN (North-Western Province).— I reaffirm my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. Once again, I compliment His Excellency, Sir Rohan Delacombe, and Lady Delacombe on the wonderful way in which they carry out their duties in the State. It would be fair to say that I should like to be able to share Mr. Mitchell's enthusiasm

but not his interjections. It is this sort of enthusiasm which we in country areas have used to stimulate the sort of development that we require.

Before referring to State development and certain other subjects, I wish to refer to forces which in this day and age are attempting to destroy the democratic processes of Government in this State, in Australia, and in other parts of the world. I make it clear that members of the Country Party and I will fight as hard as we can to ensure that the democratic processes of government continue to stand up against these forces.

A fine example of government in operation can be seen in this House in the way in which honorable members debate subjects for the benefit of the people of the State. The critics and those who are sceptical about the operation of Parliament ought to visit this Chamber and see and hear for themselves how a democratic Parliament can operate. This does not mean that faults do not exist or that improvements cannot be effected. However, the basis on which to build a great State exists.

It has taken 50 years of enthusiasm by the Country Party and perhaps a longer period of enthusiasm by country people to convince the Government that something needed to be done about decentralization. I compliment the Government on its late recognition of the need; it is an encouraging start. By the same token, it is an indictment of the Government that it has taken so long to lay down a plan for decentralization in Victoria, and to take steps to encourage development in rural Victoria. I ask the Government why it has waited so long and until the population growth in Melbourne has become unmanageable as have other associated problems? The Government should have learned the lessons which were apparent in other countries. Anybody who took an

interest in development trends overseas could have seen what was needed in this State and should have started not in 1972 but 20 or 30 years ago.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—What other countries would Mr. Dunn cite?

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—In London moves have been made to overcome the problems associated with population growth, industrial expansion and pollution control. It is unnecessary for Victoria to wait for other countries to take steps to improve their standards; the Government should be able to look at the problems associated with centralization and try to correct them before they become serious.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—What has London done? All of the satellite towns have joined up with the main metropolitan area of London and that is a bad trend.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—I do not deny that.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—But Mr. Dunn cited London as an example of what the Victorian Government should have done.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—I did not cite it as an example of what the Government should have done here; I am citing London and other countries as examples of where centralization has occurred and created problems. The Victorian Government should have been able to foresee these things and should have taken the necessary steps to ensure that a similar situation did not occur in this State. The question now is how far the ten-point plan which the Minister for State Development and Decentralization has announced will go towards achieving its real purpose. I trust that the people of Victoria will recognize the part played by the Country Party over a long period of time in urging decentralization.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—The Country Party might be all right locally, but nationally it is hand in glove with the conservative Liberal Party Government.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—For a long time, we in this State have tried to achieve balanced development in Victoria and I think the efforts of the forebears of the Country Party in this regard should be recognized. It has taken a long time to convince the Government, but at last the message has got through.

I am enthusiastic about State development as undoubtedly is the new Minister for State Development and Decentralization. I am a little sorry for the honorable gentleman in that he has been given a responsibility which gives country people new hope but, as Mr. Mitchell has said, the Government has not backed the new Minister as much as it could have with finance.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—That does not line up with what Mr. Dunn was reported in the press to have said, namely that the Government should give a rebate on pay-roll tax—that that would be the greatest thing for the Government to do. The Government did it within six days.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—That is only a small start. Many other measures need to be introduced as incentives to attract industry to the country. Honorable members have been told that \$2.3 million will be made available to the Department of State Development and Decentralization.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—That has nothing to do with decentralization; it is merely the running of the department.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—This represents an increase of \$1.067 million over last year, which is not a large increase if the department is to carry out the sort of measures which members of the Country Party want. It appears that the Minister is saying that the additional allocation of finance in the Budget is for staff and administration.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—Building a large bureaucracy does not necessarily mean that decentralization will take place.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—The Country Party does not want a bureaucracy; it wants decentralization moves. The Government's proposed plan on decentralization includes the implementation of regional decentralization. I suggest to the Minister that regional centralization should not take place because the transfer of services to a regional capital would cause certain towns to go out of existence. I concede that every town in Victoria cannot have a university and perhaps cannot have a secondary industry. However, many towns are dying because governmental services such as stock inspectors, court houses and so on are being transferred to the regional capital.

If it is proposed to have development on a regional basis, probably this is fair enough and the Government may be able to encourage one centre to develop and to attract industry. However, the small country towns should not be forgotten. I could take honorable members to many small towns which have been virtually killed by the development of a large centre. I issue that note of warning to the Minister for State Development and Decentralization. Some honorable members do not seem to regard regional centralization as a real problem associated with the development of Victoria, but I suggest that it is creating much ill-feeling amongst the residents of the smaller towns which are affected. The Government must lead the way and it is encouraging to know that it intends to take steps to transfer some of the departmental services into country areas. It would be possible to establish homes for wards of the State in country Victoria because it is a perfect environment for them.

Transport is extremely important to the whole of the State. On occasions, the State Government has offered the Victorian Railways to the Federal Government but this seems to be a defeatist attitude. Often in this House, honorable members have said that the State must

retain its rights, and sometimes complaints have been made that the Commonwealth Government is encroaching too much into State affairs; that it should allow the State more responsibilities in a certain field. The State Government has a responsibility for transport and if the railways are showing a loss, the Government should not unload them on to the Commonwealth; it should look at the problems besetting the railways and try to solve them.

This year the railways' deficit will be \$37 million, which is a lot of money. Undoubtedly, the situation cannot be allowed to continue and changes will be necessary. The type of changes to be effected concerns many people and many country municipalities. I certainly hope that the result will not be to leave country people without services or leave the metropolitan area serviced by roads, freeways and the motor car. Country people are often blamed for the large losses incurred on country rail operations, and the small amount of revenue derived from these operations.

I have taken out figures—some of which were supplied to me in answers to questions asked in this House—concerning railway income and railway losses in the country and metropolitan areas. The railways face a tremendous problem. This was shown in the 1972 *Victorian Year Book* which published certain figures relating to railway costs. For instance, in 1965-66 the revenue per mile gained by the railways throughout Victoria was \$23,765; in 1969-70 it was \$25,193—an increase of only \$1,428. However, costs per mile amounted to \$24,112 in 1965-66 and \$28,431 in 1969-70. In other words, costs per mile increased by \$4,319 compared with an increase of \$1,428 in revenue. Results such as these have led to the large deficits disclosed in the railway accounts for this year.

It is interesting to note that grain freights provided a large proportion of railway income. For example,

wheat freights in the 1970-71 financial year accounted for 23·02 per cent of railway freight income—almost one-quarter—and 13·47 per cent of total railway income.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—They were peak periods, were they not?

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—Not necessarily.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Over the three years prior to that they were not as high.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—Not quite, but there was a drought and also the introduction of wheat quotas. It is evident from the figures relating to grain freights and grain movements that country people, particularly in the grain-growing areas, are paying their way in freight costs. I consider that freight costs are too high and are unfair to the wheat industry. Members of the Country Party have been making that assertion for years, but last year the Government increased the freight on barley and oats at a time when it was desirable that farmers' costs should be kept to a minimum.

In the year 1967-68, 40·3 per cent of the railway losses was incurred in the metropolitan area, and in 1970-71 it was 41·2 per cent. Therefore, the position is not as is stated in reports and many press releases that country services are letting the railways down. As I said, about 40 per cent of the losses incurred result from metropolitan operations.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD.—Do you think a few of those services should be closed down to save money?

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—I am saying that various reports have suggested alterations to country services, and perhaps some of these will be necessary, but I should like to see a similar report on metropolitan services. The whole railway set-up

should be examined and the country should not be divorced from the city. In the reports of the Railways Commissioners the railway structure is taken as a whole, and the same principle should be followed in this regard. Prior to the implementation of measures based on the report on country services the people should have an opportunity of examining the profitability of metropolitan operations.

The decision to close any railway line or to abolish any passenger service will be taken seriously by country people. Admittedly, in certain cases changes may have to be made, and country people are prepared to look at the situation objectively. However, it is not in the best interests of the State to leave towns and communities without transport services. If that is done, it will strike the first and worst blow against the development of those towns.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—That has never been suggested anywhere, has it?

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—It has been suggested that certain lines should be closed and certain passenger services withdrawn.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—But people will be given an alternative.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—The people should be given an opportunity of expressing themselves and a proper inquiry should be undertaken. If an alternative is provided in the form of bus transport, the country town concerned must have the security that that service will continue into the future; otherwise, it could be withdrawn, as air services have been pulled out, and leave a town high and dry without any service.

I now wish to mention several matters on the subject of education. Firstly, I am pleased that composite fees will be phased out in Victoria. It probably would not be a good

move if all parental interest in schools was phased out because in the area that I represent a school is regarded as the centre of the town.

Certain country high schools are concerned at the large turnover in staff each year. At many schools most of the staff are almost straight out of college. The turnover in staff has an adverse effect on the operation of the schools. Difficulty is encountered in obtaining senior teachers and senior assistants. Some high schools do not seem to be able to attract and retain adequate numbers of senior staff. In the future it may be necessary for the Government to find some means of providing an incentive—financial or other—which will attract senior teachers to country high schools and ensure that they remain for a period.

I am somewhat disappointed that the portfolios of water supply and public works have been combined because the administration of the Water Commission is tremendously important to the people of Victoria, not only to irrigators that it serves. I hope the Minister will in the future, as he has in the past, carry out his duties to the irrigators of Victoria.

I now wish to mention a matter with which Mr. Gross and other members are familiar; that is, the evergreen subject of roll bars on tractors. Recently honorable members probably received a copy of the regulations under the Labour and Industry Act prescribing roll bars and safety cabins on certain tractors throughout the State. From 1st October, 1974, it will be necessary to have roll bars or safety cabins fitted to all tractors manufactured or imported into Victoria on or after that date, and from 1st October, 1982, roll bars or safety cabins must be fitted to all tractors in the State. Certain exemptions are provided as to size. The question has been asked why people do not want safety

cabins and roll bars on tractors. Admittedly, they may be necessary in certain areas, but the Government has pursued the policy of prescribing their fitting throughout the State, even in the flat areas of Victoria. I wish to quote from the *Wimmera Mail-Times* of 15th September, 1972, an article by Mr. A. G. Pietsch, who is a member of the Victorian Farmers Union machinery committee. He pointed out that of the 40 people who died in Victorian tractor accidents in 1970 and 1971, only three were in the cereal-growing areas. He also said—

Nearly all fatalities had been in Victoria's hill country or in circumstances where the terrain had no influence on the accident.

Of the 40 tractor fatalities, only 20 were farm fatalities.

Of the 20 farm fatalities only 12 had been caused by a rolling tractor.

Of the 12 rolling-tractor fatalities, only 3 had occurred in cereal work.

Mr. Pietsch is somewhat of an authority on these matters.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—Were those three lives worth saving?

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—Admittedly, but a farmer could fit a roll bar and safety cabin to his tractor tomorrow if he wished to save his life. That point should not be overlooked. Mr. Pietsch went on to say—

Anti-roll bars—a basic four-post design without windscreen or canopy—would add more than \$200 to the cost of a tractor.

A safety cabin, an alternative to roll bars, would cost up to \$640 for tractors in the under-8,000-lb. gross weight range.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—I have had them fitted to three tractors at an average cost of \$213—roll bars plus canopies!

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—That is interesting.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—Has Mr. Dunn a copy of the new regulations?

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—I have it here.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—They have been superseded.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—I heard that there may have been a change, although I have not seen a copy. I hope that is the result of certain representations made by the Country Party.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—No, by the Liberal Party.

The Hon. B. P. DUNN.—Mr. Gross should not forget that the Government brought in these regulations in the first place. After a long period of examination, members of the Country Party wanted to ensure that exemptions were provided for farmers in the flat areas. As prescribed, the regulations did not provide exemptions on the sort of broad basis that we desired. I shall be interested to see a copy of the new regulations to which Mr. Gross referred.

No doubt I shall have an opportunity of speaking in other debates on other matters concerning the State's operations. In closing, I hope the efforts which the Government intends to make in the field of decentralization throughout the State will be backed with the necessary finance and that it will be able to encourage the sort of development for which members of the Country Party have been fighting over a long period.

On the motion of the Hon. H. R. WARD (South-Eastern Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

SUMMER TIME BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. Murray Byrne (Minister for State Development and Decentralization), for the Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), was read a first time.

The House adjourned at 10.21 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, September 19, 1972.

The **SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie)** took the chair at 4.3 p.m., and read the prayer.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated:—

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ST. JOHNSTON REPORT: IMPLEMENTATION.

(Question No. 10)

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many additional recommendations in the report of Colonel Sir Eric St. Johnston on the Police Force concerning the Criminal Investigation Branch have been implemented since 22nd March, 1972?

2. How many have been deferred and for what reason?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

1. As indicated to the honorable member on 22nd March last, nineteen recommendations relating to the Criminal Investigation Branch were made by Colonel Sir Eric St. Johnston in his report on the Police Force.

Of these, eight have been, or are in the course of being implemented, five are being actively considered, three have been deferred for the present and three have been rejected.

2. No recommendations have been deferred since 22nd March, 1972.

STAFFING OF POLICE STATIONS IN NORTHERN SUBURBS.

(Question No. 27)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether, in view of predicted increases in the strength of the Police Force, he will direct that more police personnel be

stationed at Essendon, Moonee Ponds, and Ascot Vale police stations, respectively, in the immediate future?

2. Which police stations in the electoral districts of Moonee Ponds, Essendon, Deer Park and Broadmeadows, respectively, can expect additional police?

3. Whether any survey, apart from the report of Colonel Sir Eric St. Johnston, has been made as to how many additional police are required in the above-mentioned electoral districts; if so, what was the result of such survey?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

1, 2 and 3. A number of surveys have been undertaken of police services to the areas referred to by the honorable member. These surveys were made in conjunction with planning for the reorganization of metropolitan police districts following Colonel Sir Eric St. Johnston's report on the Police Force.

As a consequence of these surveys, a new district, known as the Sunshine district, was formed, and the former Bourke district, now known as the Moonee Ponds district, was restructured on 4th September last with the implementation of stage 2 of the metropolitan police districts plan.

This has resulted in an over-all effective increase of 87 in the number of police in the Sunshine and Moonee Ponds districts.

Within the electoral districts referred to by the honorable member, additional police have been appointed to the following police stations:—

(a) Essendon electoral district
Glenroy—strength increased by one chief inspector and two constables.

(b) Deer Park electoral district
Avondale Heights—six officers and ten members appointed to man the headquarters of the new Sunshine district and a further six uniform members appointed to the police station staff.

Another two chief inspectors and a detective chief inspector have been appointed to the Sunshine district and a detective and two uniform members have been appointed to the Sunshine police station whose sub-district includes part of the electoral district of Deer Park.

(c) Broadmeadows electoral district

Broadmeadows—strength increased by two uniform members and two detectives.

Thomastown—strength increased by three detectives.

(d) Moonee Ponds electoral district

Nil.

To further improve police services to these areas, a Crime Car Squad has been stationed at Sunshine to serve the new Sunshine district. The strength of the squad is 1 senior sergeant, 10 sergeants and 15 senior constables or constables.

Moreover, while Ascot Vale does not operate as a uniform police station, it will continue to be used by the Crime Car Squad operating in the Moonee Ponds district. The area to be patrolled by this squad has been considerably reduced to allow concentrated attention to be given to it.

The appointment of additional manpower, together with the reorganization of policing arrangements following the implementation of stage 2 of the metropolitan police district's plan, will greatly improve police supervision, but I can assure the honorable member that the Chief Commissioner of Police will keep the needs of the areas under constant review and, should the need for additional services arise, that appropriate action will be taken.

MOTOR VEHICLES: TESTING OF SPEEDOMETERS.

(Question No. 70)

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether speedometers on police motor cars and motor cycles, respectively, are tested for accuracy before the car or cycle is put into service; if so, what is the method of testing; if not, when they are tested or at what mileage they receive their first test?

2. Whether a complete log has been kept of the checks taken on all speedometers on police cars and motor cycles; if so, whether it has been found in some instances that the differential from accuracy has varied by as much as 6 miles per hour slow or 6 miles per hour fast on certain makes of motor-cycles or cars?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).
The answer is—

1. Yes. The speedometer head is removed from the instrument panel and the head calibrated by the actual manufacturer to 1,000 revolutions per minute which equals 60 miles per hour. The speedometer cable

driving gear is checked by a cable counter over a measured mile, requiring 1,000 cable turns in one measured mile. If cable revolutions are not correct the driven gear is corrected by reducing or adding the correct gear.

2. Yes. The speedometers of some police cars and motor cycles have been found, on initial delivery of the vehicles from the dealers, to have been from 5 to 8 miles per hour fast. The speedometers are, however, adjusted before the vehicles are used on police service.

DRINKING DRIVERS.

(Question No. 144)

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many persons have been apprehended for driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .05 per cent since the introduction of the present law?

2. How many persons were apprehended for driving under the influence of alcohol in this period?

3. How many persons were subsequently gaoled on being convicted for driving without a licence, after having had their licences cancelled for this offence?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).
—The answer is—

1. 37,188 (to 31st August, 1972).

2. 10,871 (to 31st August, 1972).

3. The information requested is not readily available as statistics of this nature are not kept. To obtain this information, would necessitate a physical search of several thousand briefs relating to all types of traffic offences.

LIBRARY SERVICES.

SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS.

(Question No. 28)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Treasurer—

Which persons and/or organizations have made representations to the Government in the past twelve months to have library subsidies and grants increased, particularly for the metropolitan area?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

have made representations to the Government within the past twelve months for an increase in library subsidies and grants:—

Name	On behalf of—
The Hon. R. W. Garrett, M.L.C. ..	City of Box Hill.
The Hon. Sir Gilbert Chandler, M.L.C. ..	City of Ringwood.
The Hon. V. O. Dickie, M.L.C. ..	Shire of Ballarat.
The Hon. Murray Byrne, M.L.C. ..	City of Ballarat, City of Ararat and the Ararat Regional Library.
The Hon. B. P. Dunn, M.L.C. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
The Hon. W. G. Fry, M.L.C. ..	City of Brighton and the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
The Hon. K. S. Gross, M.L.C. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
The Hon. R. M. Hamilton, M.L.C. ..	The Mordialloc-Chelsea Regional Library.
The Hon. C. A. M. Hider, M.L.C. ..	City of Brighton.
The Hon. C. A. Mitchell, M.L.C. ..	Shire of Mount Rouse.
The Hon. Haddon Storey, M.L.C. ..	City of Box Hill.
The Hon. J. M. Tripovich, M.L.C. ..	Moonee Valley Regional Library.
The Hon. Sir George Reid, Q.C., M.P. ..	City of Box Hill.
The Hon. J. C. M. Balfour, M.P. ..	City of Moe and the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
The Hon. J. F. Rossiter, M.P. ..	City of Sandringham and City of Brighton.
Mr. D. G. I. Amos, M.P. ..	Shire of Mirboo.
Mr. N. A. W. Billing, M.P. ..	Dandenong Valley Regional Library and the Mordialloc-Chelsea Regional Library.
Mr. H. W. Birrell, M.P. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
Mr. D. Bornstein, M.P. ..	The Moonee Valley Regional Library.
Mr. E. J. Curnow, M.P. ..	Shire of Charlton.
Mr. B. J. Dixon, M.P. ..	City of Brighton and the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
The Hon. V. J. Doube, M.P. ..	City of South Melbourne and the Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
Mr. C. T. Edmunds, M.P. ..	The Moonee Valley Regional Library.
Mr. A. T. Evans, M.P. ..	Shire of Ballarat.
Mr. B. J. Evans, M.P. ..	The East Gippsland Regional Library.
Mr. R. W. Fell, M. P. ..	Shire of Diamond Valley and metropolitan public libraries generally.
Mr. G. P. Hayes, M.P. ..	City of Knox and the Eastern Metropolitan Library.
Mr. W. J. Lewis, M.P. ..	Shire of Mount Rouse.
Mr. A. A. C. Lind, M. P. ..	City of Springvale and the Dandenong Valley Regional Library.
The Hon. J. W. Manson, M.P. ..	City of Ringwood.
Mr. P. Ross-Edwards, M.P. ..	The Goulburn Valley Regional Library and country libraries generally.
Mr. A. V. Smith, M.P. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
Mr. W. F. Stephen, M.P. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
Mr. R. N. Stokes, M.P. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
Mr. T. C. Trewin, M.P. ..	The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.

Name	On behalf of—
Mr. K. H. Wheeler, M.P.	 The Moonee Valley Regional Library.
Mr. M. S. Whiting, M.P.	 Country libraries.
Mr. F. N. Wilkes, M.P.	 City of Northcote and the City of Collingwood.
Mr. J. T. Wilton, M.P.	 The Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
	Shire of Ararat.
	Shire of Bairnsdale.
	City of Hamilton.
	City of Keilor.
	Shire of Tambo.
	Caulfield-Malvern Regional Library.
	Dandenong Valley Regional Library.
	East Gippsland Regional Library.
	Heidelberg Regional Library.
	Library Promotion Committee of Victoria.
	Mordialloc-Chelsea Regional Library.
	Wimmera Regional Library.

PROBATION AND PAROLE DIVISION.

HONORARY PROBATION OFFICERS.

(Question No. 29)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister for Social Welfare—

1. How many honorary probation officers reside in the City of Essendon, what are

their names and addresses, when each was appointed and for how long?

2. What qualifications are required for appointment as honorary probation officer?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister for Social Welfare).—The answer is—

1. Fifteen honorary probation officers reside in this area and details are contained in the following table. Appointments are made in general terms and no specific period is described—

Name	Address	Appointed
Ascot Vale 3022		
Cousins, Henry W.	.. 117 Charles Street, Ascot Vale	.. 8th February, 1966
Essendon 3040		
Blott, Brenda T.	.. 3 Leven Street, Essendon	.. 26th November, 1968
Grills, David J.	.. 406 Buckley Street, Essendon	.. 27th June, 1972
Hardiman, Edward B.	.. 5 Nicholson Street, Essendon	.. 15th June, 1960
Risstrom, Rev. D. W.	.. 70 Richardson Street, Essendon	.. Early 1960s
Hogan, John R.	.. 14 Diamond Street, West Essendon	.. 29th June, 1971
Dickie, Rev. A. M.	.. 151 Roberts Street, Essendon	.. Crown Law appointment
Glenbervie, see Essendon.		
Moonee Ponds 3039		
Finch, Edward W.	.. 48 Salisbury Street, Moonee Ponds	.. 26th August, 1969
Readwin, Kenneth	.. 26 Wilson Street, Moonee Ponds	.. 15th August, 1972
Deasey, R. H.	.. 760 Mt. Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds	.. 1st July, 1969
North Essendon 3041		
Gallagher, Rev. Eugene	.. 2 The Crossway, Strathmore	.. 23rd March, 1971
Holloway, Rev. Charles	.. 24 Williamson Avenue, Strathmore	.. 10th May, 1966
Kneebone, William H.	.. 24 Lind Street, Strathmore	.. 26th August, 1969
Wills, Nancy Valerie	.. 64 Carnarvon Road, Strathmore	.. 15th February, 1972
Potter, Rev. Robert	.. 130 Keilor Road, North Essendon	.. 21st January, 1969

2. No formal qualifications are required, but introductory training is available at the Institute of Training, the Children's Court, Melbourne, and regional centres. Appointees are expected to be of good repute, to be actively interested in assisting offenders towards rehabilitation, and to have ability to obtain co-operation and to counsel appropriately.

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.

GEE LONG—MELBOURNE LINE : PASSENGER SERVICE: DUPLICATION.

(Question No. 37)

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

1. How many passenger trains operated from Geelong to Melbourne in each of the

past ten weeks, indicating how many arrived at Spencer Street station—(a) on time; and (b) late?

2. What period of time each late train was behind schedule, what were the reasons for late arrival in each case, and what action has or will be taken to overcome or minimise further late arrivals?

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

During the ten weeks ended 2nd September (except the week ended 26th August when there was a one-day industrial stoppage) 78 trains operated from Geelong to Melbourne each week, a total of 767 trains.

(a) 504 trains ran on time.

(b) 263 were late as follows:—

Under three minutes	40 occasions
3–5 minutes	106 occasions
6–10 minutes	85 occasions
11–15 minutes	21 occasions
16–20 occasions	6 occasions
21–30 minutes	4 occasions
Over 30 minutes	1 occasion

Most delays were due to speed restrictions along the line because of—

Construction work on an extra track and bridge renewals in the Footscray, South Kensington and North Melbourne areas;

Interference from suburban trains running late because of staff difficulties.

Other delays were caused by point and signal failures, locomotive defects and industrial trouble.

The effects of interference from construction has ceased and on 28th August time-keeping improved.

The commissioners have assured me they are doing everything they can to overcome the staff and operational difficulties.

(Question No. 118)

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

1. When it is planned to complete duplication of the Geelong to Melbourne rail line?

2. What distance of duplication work has been completed on the line in each of the past twenty years?

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

1. As soon as funds are available.

2. Duplication work commenced in 1958. Work was completed and brought into service on the following sections during:—

1959—3½ miles between North Geelong and Corio.

1965—2½ miles between Rock Loop and Laverton.

1967—3½ miles between Newport South and Rock Loop.

1968—6½ miles between Laverton and Werribee.

1970—9½ miles between Werribee and Little River.

MELBOURNE UNDERGROUND RAIL LOOP.

(Question No. 151)

Mr. FELL (Greensborough) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether investigations have been made into the effect of—(a) the cost escalation of the Melbourne underground rail loop project; (b) the likely failure, according to Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works figures of the City of Melbourne and inner suburban employment to reach the figure predicted by the Metropolitan Transportation Committee in justification of the project; and (c) the recent staggering of public service and other private employment working hours to relieve the public transport peak; if so—(i) what was the result of the investigations; (ii) what justification there is for continuing with the project; and (iii) what are the revised cash benefit ratios for the project?

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

The matters mentioned have been considered and I supply the honorable member with the following information:—

The cost of construction of the loop was increased during a period when wage costs rose by almost 50 per cent.

The construction of the Melbourne underground rail loop is proceeding as an essential project to improve transport services in Melbourne.

The loop is a key section of the metropolitan transportation plan which is being currently re-examined to reduce the impact of the planned freeway network and upgrade public transport to attract people away from motor cars.

ADMINISTRATION.

(Question No. 153)

Mr. FELL (Greensborough) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. What action is being taken to correct the administrative deficiencies in the Railway Department which were referred to in the report of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Land Transport System.

2. Whether similar deficiencies exist in both the operational and planning aspects?

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

The report of the Board of Inquiry into Land Transport in Victoria made a number of recommendations concerning

improvement in the efficiency in many aspects of the Victorian Railways and the land transport system.

I expect legislation to be brought before the Parliament this session to convert the corporate structure of the railways to a type more appropriate to a commercial undertaking of the size and complexity of the railways.

Sir Henry Bland has been retained by the Government to investigate matters concerning the carriage of wool, bulk grains, and petroleum products.

The commissioners have received and are acting upon recommendations made by management consultants who examined the Commercial Branch and they have established a cost research unit employing traffic staff, economists and engineers.

An investigation is being undertaken by the commissioners to enable greater efficiency in relation to the carriage of traffic in small consignments.

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY.

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN CORIO.

(Question No. 50)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Chief Secretary—

When a decision can be expected regarding proposed safety improvements at and in the vicinity of the Princes Highway and Purnell Road intersection at Corio?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

I am advised by my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, that reconstruction work, including modification of the existing traffic islands, will be carried out by the Country Roads Board at this intersection during the current financial year and will allow for the erection of traffic signals.

SAFETY OF GEELONG WEST AND NORTH GEELONG INTERSECTIONS.

(Question No. 51)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Chief Secretary—

What steps, if any, are being taken to improve the traffic safety factor at the Minerva Road and Autumn Street, Geelong West, and the Melbourne Road and Mackay Street, North Geelong, intersections?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

The Minerva Road and Autumn Street intersection is on the boundary of the City of Newtown and the City of Geelong West. No representations have been received by the Road Safety and Traffic Authority from

either council concerning a need to improve safety at this location and in the circumstances, I have asked the chairman to seek the advice of the respective councils on this matter.

With regard to the Melbourne Road and Mackay Street intersection, I am advised by my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, that current reconstruction work being undertaken by the Country Roads Board on the Princes Highway southerly from Separation Street includes the provision of a median with an opening at Mackay Street. The council is at present reconstructing Mackay Street.

(Question No. 52)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What procedure is in operation to improve the safety factor for traffic at the intersection of Pakington Street and the recently-constructed Telegraph bridge at Geelong West?

2. When it is expected safety measures for this intersection will be carried out?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

I am advised by my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, that—

1. The Country Roads Board proposes to provide dual carriageways on the Midland Highway westerly from Telegraph bridge.

2. It is expected that work will commence on the construction of the dual carriageways in 1973-74. The date of commencement will depend on the progress made with the acquisition of property for this project.

SAFETY OF HERNE HILL INTERSECTION.

(Question No. 54)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether he will investigate the need for improved safety measures at the Church Street and Minerva Road intersection which is adjacent to the Herne Hill Primary School?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

Yes, I have asked the Road Safety and Traffic Authority to confer with Corio Shire Council and advise me on this matter.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT GEELONG WEST INTERSECTION.

(Question No. 55)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether an investigation is being made into the need to convert the present flashing light signals at the intersection of

Shannon Avenue and Church Street, Geelong West, to the normal "stop-go" system; if so, when a decision can be expected?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).

—The answer is—

Yes. At present the Road Safety and Traffic Authority is examining additional data provided recently by the Corio Shire Council and an early decision is expected on the proposal.

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD.

FUNDS FOR RACECOURSE DEVELOPMENT.

(Question No. 74)

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands) asked the Minister for Youth and Recreation—

In respect of Totalizator Agency Board funds paid to racecourses and greyhound grounds development funds—

1. Which clubs, receiving such funds are established on—(a) Crown land; and (b) land vested in a municipality?

2. At which of these grounds such clubs share joint use with other sporting bodies and who are those other bodies?

3. What rental is paid by other users to the respective ground management committees?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister for Youth and Recreation).—The answer is—

1. (a) CROWN LAND.

Race clubs.

Apsley Racing Club.
Ararat Turf Club.
Avoca Shire Turf Club.
Benalla Racing Club.
Bendigo Jockey Club.
Burrumbeet Park and Wimmera Racing Club.
Camperdown Turf Club.
Casterton Racing Club.
Chiltern Racing Club.
Colac Turf Club.
Coleraine Racing Club.
Cranbourne Turf Club.
Donald and District Jockey Club.
Echuca Racing Club.
Geelong Racing Club.
Tatura Turf Club.
Great Western Race Club.
Hamilton Racing Club.
Hanging Rock Racing Club.
Horsham District Racing Club.
Kaniva Racing Club.
Kerang Turf Club.
Kilmore Turf Club.
Kyneton District Racing Club.
Manangatang Racing Club.
Mansfield District Racing Club.
Mildura Racing Club.
Moe Racing Club.

Mortlake Racing Club.
Mt. Wycheproof and District Race Club.

Murtoa Race Club.

Nhill Race Club.

Penshurst and District Racing Club.

Quambatook Racing Club.

St. Arnaud Turf Club.

Sale Turf Club.

Seymour Racing Club.

South Gippsland Racing Club.

Stawell Amateur Turf Club.

Swan Hill Jockey Club.

Terang Racing Club.

Towong Turf Club.

Traralgon Racing Club.

Victoria Amateur Turf Club (Caulfield).

Wangaratta Turf Club.

Warracknabeal Turf Club.

Warrnambool Racing Club.

Watchem-Birchip Racing Club.

Werribee Racing Club.

Wodonga Turf Club.

Woodend Race Club.

Trotting clubs.

Ararat and District Trotting Club.

Ballarat and District Trotting Club.

Boort Trotting Club.

Charlton Trotting Club.

Cobram and District Trotting Club.

Cranbourne Trotting Club.

Geelong Trotting Club.

Kilmore Trotting Club.

Maryborough Trotting Club.

Nyah District Trotting Club.

Ouyen Trotting Club.

St. Arnaud and District Trotting Club.

Stawell Trotting Club.

Sunraysia Trotting Club.

Wangaratta Trotting Club.

Warragul and District Trotting Club.

Wedderburn and District Trotting Club.

Wimmera Trotting Club.

Greyhound clubs.

Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association.

Geelong Greyhound Racing Club.

Warragul Greyhound Racing Club.

Sale and District Greyhound Racing Club.

1. (b).

Hanging Rock Racing Club.
Horsham and District Racing Club.

Mildura Racing Club.

Moe Racing Club.

Mt. Wycheproof and District Race Club.

Traralgon Racing Club.

Ballarat and District Trotting Club.

Charlton Trotting Club.

Warragul and District Trotting Club.

Wedderburn and District Trotting Club.

2. There is no readily available complete record of the names of the bodies sharing the facilities with these clubs. The records of the Racecourses Licences Board and the Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board indicate that the activities named are conducted on the racecourses and greyhound grounds hereunder.

RACECOURSE (Galloping).

Ararat	..	Gun clubs.
Benalla	..	Plumpton coursing pony clubs.
Bendigo	..	Polo cross, cross country running, cricket, golf.
Camperdown	..	Plumpton coursing.
Chiltern	..	Murray Valley Hunt Club (amateur).
Colac	..	Gun clubs, light harness club.
Cranbourne	..	Football, cricket, trotting, tennis, bowls, athletics, basketball, girl guides, little athletics.
Donald	..	Pony club.
Geelong	..	Plumpton coursing.
Tatura	..	Plumpton coursing, gun club (pistol club).
Kerang	..	Football, cricket, annual show, trotting training track.
Kilmore	..	Show society (A. and P.) pony club, gymkhana, rodeo, football training, Friesands society, hospital carnival.
Manangatang	..	Motor sports.
Mildura	..	Picnic facilities.
Moe	..	Football, cricket, hockey, basketball, pigeon club, pony club, polo cross, croquet.
Mt. Wycheproof	..	Golf, tennis, football, cricket.
Penshurst	..	Plumpton coursing, golf.
Quambatook	..	Golf, football, cricket.
Seymour	..	Pony club, school outings, football training.
Stony Creek	..	Football, cricket, pony club.
Stawell	..	Sheep society show.
Swan Hill	..	Golf.
Towong	..	Pony club, polo cross.
Traralgon	..	Baseball (proposed trotting training, greyhound racing).
Warrnambool	..	Scouts, pony club.
Watchem	..	Football, cricket, CFA demonstrations.
Werribee	..	Golf.
Wodonga	..	Annual show.
Woodend	..	Football, cricket, pony club.

(Trotting).

Boort	..	Football, cricket, show society, young farmers, schools activities.
Charlton	..	Football, cricket.
Cobram	..	Show society.
Cranbourne	..	See above.
Kilmore	..	See above.
Maryborough	..	Gun club, local fetes, gymkhanas (four a year).
Nyah	..	Football, cricket.
Ouyen	..	Football.
St. Arnaud	..	Show society (tennis, schools).
Stawell	..	Show society (drive-in patrons).
Sunraysia	..	Football, cricket.
Warragul	..	Football, cricket, cycling, greyhound racing, basketball.
Wedderburn	..	Football, cricket, schools activities.
Wimmera	..	Show society.

Greyhound Racing Grounds.

Olympic Park	..	Rugby.
Geelong	..	Trots.
Warragul	..	See trotting.
Sale	..	Show society.

3. There is no record in the department of the rental paid to ground management committees by other users.

OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION.

ESTABLISHMENT IN VICTORIA.

(Question No. 75)

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara) asked the Premier—

Whether he has received any communication from the Minister for Shipping and Transport concerning the possible establishment of an Omega navigation station in Victoria; if so—(a) what are the details of the communication; and (b) whether any areas mentioned as sites were to be investigated and, in that event, what are these sites?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

No. The Prime Minister wrote to the former Premier early this year seeking the Government's concurrence in the conduct of field tests in northern Victoria which would assist in the choice of the most suitable site for an Omega Station. Similar tests were made in other States.

The Government gave its concurrence and sites north of Wedderburn and near Kerang were investigated by officers of the Department of Shipping and Transport in consultation with State authorities.

Recent press reports indicate that a site near Boort may be chosen for the Omega installation.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

PROPERTY IN REYNARD STREET,
PASCOE VALE SOUTH.

(Question No. 110)

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will ascertain and inform the House, whether the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works acquired the property at 380 Reynard Street, Pascoe Vale South, for road purposes; if so—(a) who previously owned the property; (b) under what authority such premises were acquired; and (c) whether such premises are to be demolished and, in that event, when and for what purposes the premises will be used in the interim?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The Minister for Local Government has supplied the following answer:—

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works has not acquired the property at No. 380 Reynard Street, Pascoe Vale South for road purposes. The property is in a residential 'C' zone and is not subject to any existing or proposed reservation in the planning scheme. The property is a shop owned and occupied by A. H. McKenzie.

MERRI CREEK: CONTROL AND
SUPERVISION: POLLUTION.

(Question No. 113)

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. Whether the waters of the Merri Creek are under the control and supervision of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works; if so, what legal proceedings in respect of the pollution of its waters have been instituted by the board against persons or companies, indicating the person or company?

2. Whether the Minister has caused inquiries to be made into the legal responsibility of cleansing the Coburg lake, a portion of the Merri Creek; if so, what was the result of such inquiries?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

1. The Merri Creek is under the management and control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The board has not instituted legal proceedings against any persons or company with respect to polluted discharge to Merri Creek.

2. The Minister has caused inquiries to be made into the legal responsibility of cleansing the Coburg lake. Legal advice has been received by both the board and the Coburg City Council to the effect that neither is legally responsible. However, the board has made an offer to the council which has not yet been accepted or rejected, that, if the council is prepared to clean up the lake bed back to the original contours, the board would then accept responsibility for the future operation and maintenance of the lake including bed and walls, leaving the parklands surrounding the lake under the control and responsibility of the council. Implementation of this arrangement would be subject to appropriate action to enable the lake to be vested in the board.

If agreement is not reached without delay, the recent strengthening of the Environment Protection Act will enable the Environment Protection Authority to prescribe the measures to be undertaken and the financial responsibility therefor.

REVENUE FROM RATES AND SERVICES:
RATEPAYERS.

(Question No. 116)

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will ascertain and inform the House, what total revenue was derived by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works from rates and services in the last financial year and what was the number of ratepayers?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

The total revenue derived by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works from rates and services in 1971-72 was \$76,156,367.

The number of ratepayers was 753,210.

METROPOLITAN RATES: PAYMENT BY
PERSONS IN NECESSITOUS CIRCUM-
STANCES.

(Question No. 123)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Whether, in view of the continuing increases in the metropolitan drainage and river improvement rate, the metropolitan general sewerage rate, the water rate, and the metropolitan improvement rate creating a burden on pensioners and other low income earners in the community, the Government has examined the need to provide persons in necessitous circumstances with the opportunity to make these taxes a charge on their property; if not, why?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

The metropolitan drainage and river improvement rate has remained constant since 1st July, 1970, the metropolitan improvement rate has remained constant since 1st July, 1967 and no alteration has been made in the metropolitan general sewerage rate or the water rate since 1st July, 1971.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works agrees to defer payment of rates on applications by ratepayers occupying their own homes and who are in necessitous circumstances. The deferred rates are free of interest until either the demise of the owner, the property is sold or otherwise the ratepayer permanently ceases to occupy the property when all outstanding rates are required to be paid.

In addition, if the ratepayer in necessitous circumstances so requests, the Board is prepared to accept payment of rates by

instalments and even part of the rates if the ratepayer does not desire to have the whole rate deferred.

EMPLOYMENT OF WELDERS.

(Question No. 136)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will ascertain and inform the House, whether the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works employs tradesmen welders on a contract basis; if so, what are the terms of the contract of employment?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The Minister for Local Government has supplied the following answer:—

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works employs tradesmen welders on a contract basis and the terms of the contract of employment are as follows:—

RATES.

1. Ordinary time rate	—	\$4.62/hr.	} 2nd August, 1971
Penalty (Time and a half) rate	—	5.55/hr.	
Double time (double time) rate	—	6.50/hr.	
Shift work rate	—	10 per cent. loading on ordinary rate.	
Compressed air Allowance—			
	0–5 lbs. p.s.i.	\$0.20/hr.	
	Over 5–10 lbs. p.s.i.	\$0.25/hr.	
	Over 10–15 lbs. p.s.i.	\$0.50/hr.	
	Over 15–25 lbs. p.s.i.	\$1.00/hr.	
	Over 25 lbs. p.s.i.	\$1.75/hr.	
2. Travelling time rate	Radius from contractors base		
(Payable one way only)	Up to 10 miles	\$2.00	
	11 miles to 20 miles	\$4.00	
	21 miles to 30 miles	\$6.00	

3. Minimum period of hire—three hours. CONDITIONS.

Shift work (a) Shift work rate is payable only for afternoon and night shifts and this rate is not cumulative with other rates except compressed air allowance.

(b) if the shifts do not continue for five successive afternoons or nights then time-and-a-half rate is payable.

Overtime (a) Overtime rates are payable for all work in excess of eight hours and for all Saturday work.

(b) Except for shift-workers, overtime rates are payable for all work outside the

hours of 7 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

(c) Overtime rates are:—
Time and a half for first four hours; double time thereafter until the completion of the overtime work.

Sunday or

Holiday Work (a) Double time rate is payable.

(b) Holidays are as provided by the metal trades award which are the same as for the A.W.U. award except that Melbourne Cup Day is not a holiday under the metal trades award.

Materials

Contractor to supply all materials including electrodes unless otherwise specified.

AMENDED PLANNING SCHEMES.

(Question No. 178)

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Whether the Minister is aware that—(a) the development of land proposed to be re-zoned under the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works scheme, amendment No. 21, is frozen, and that no permits can be granted in respect thereof; and (b) in respect of land affected by amendment No. 3, permits can be granted and appeals made to the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal; if so—(i) what is the reason for this different treatment of landowners affected by these two amendments; and (ii) what steps are being taken to overcome this discrimination?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

Amendment No. 21 to the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme proposes amendments to that part of the planning area to which the approved Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme applies and until such time as any amendments to such scheme are approved by the Governor in Council, the development of any land within that area is subject to the provisions of the existing approved scheme.

Amendment No. 3 to the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme proposes to extend that scheme over an area referred to as the "extension area" and to which an approved planning scheme prepared by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works has never applied. In conjunction with the exhibition of amendment No. 3 on 1st December, 1971, interim development orders over the "extension area" were made by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and approved by the Governor in Council. Under the provisions of these orders development of the land in the area to which they apply may be permitted or, subject to the grant of a permit, carried out in accordance with the provisions of amendment No. 3.

With a view to providing greater flexibility in respect of the land in amendment 21, action is now being taken to revoke the existing planning scheme in respect of certain areas affected by that amendment and to place them also under interim development order control.

(Question No. 180)

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. Whether the Minister is aware of the uncertainty which exists amongst landowners, developers and many other sectors

of the community as to the manner in which the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works administers interim development orders arising from the board's amending planning scheme?

2. Whether any firm policy guidelines have been adopted to avoid inconsistencies of administration and to assist the public under the scheme; if so—(a) what are those guidelines; and (b) why have they not been publicized; if not, why, and whether the Minister will take action to establish appropriate guidelines?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

1. When amending planning schemes are as significant and comprehensive as those placed on exhibition in December, 1971, and interim development control is introduced, there must inevitably be some uncertainty in the initial stages and particularly until all interested people acquaint themselves with the new proposals.

2. In an endeavour to assist the public and publicize the scheme,

(i) A printed *Guide to the Melbourne Interim Development Orders* was produced and has been freely available to interested members of the public.

(ii) At the various public seminars on the planning schemes early this year it was repeatedly stated that the intention was to operate the interim development orders to preserve as far as possible the opportunities for amending scheme No. 3 to come into effect, but that the administration would be flexible and would have regard to previous physical or contractual commitments.

(iii) After a period of operation of the interim development orders the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works at the request of the Minister formulated a more detailed transitional policy in the light of its experience. In May, 1972, this was made available to the public and copies were handed out on request over the public counters at the board's offices.

(iv) That policy has been reviewed in a series of interdepartmental conferences convened and chaired by the Minister, the object of which was to lay down clear guidelines which would properly protect both planning objectives and private rights. The text of the revised policy was agreed to between the Minister and the chairman of the board on 1st September, and was adopted by the board's planning committee last week, and by the full board this day, and is set out hereunder. There has been no delay in publishing it.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Amending Planning Schemes Nos. 3 and 21.

PLANNING POLICIES FOR THE MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN INTERIM DEVELOPMENT ORDERS EXTENSION AREA.

1. Amending Planning Scheme No. 21 applies only to the area of the existing approved Metropolitan Planning Scheme and the provisions of that scheme continue to apply until No. 21 is processed and gazetted.

2. Amending Planning Scheme No. 3 applies to the "Extension Area" and covers the following municipalities or parts thereof outside the Metropolitan Planning Scheme:—

Berwick.
Bulla.
Cranbourne.
Croydon.
Eltham.
Frankston.
Healesville.
Knox.
Lillydale.
Melton.
Sherbrooke.
Werribee.
Whittlesea.

This area is covered by two interim development orders (IDO's) which came into force on 1st December, 1971. The "commencement date", referred to later, for most of the area is 1st December, 1971, but in the case of Whittlesea it is 23rd April, 1969, and in the case of Berwick it is 11th August, 1971, as previous IDO's existed. These IDO's give control of subdivision and development with the objective of preserving the opportunities to implement the proposals in Amending Planning Scheme No. 3 while it is being considered and finalized.

It is obvious that a form of control cannot be introduced without some problems and, after considering a number of applications the board has developed a transitional policy which is being applied to applications in the "Extension Area".

The purpose of this policy statement is to assist the public by setting out as clearly as possible general guidelines regarding the administration of the IDO's. Every endeavour will be made to implement the policy with flexibility and with due regard to differing circumstances and to cases of individual hardship. As indicated the policy is "transitional" only and may need modification in the light of experience.

3. POLICY.

This "transitional policy" applies to the interim development order control over both the subdivision and the use of the land comprised in Amending Planning Scheme No. 3 and, as controls relating to these two differing aspects are not necessarily directly related they need to be considered separately.

A. SUBDIVISION OF LAND.

(1) Any plans of subdivision submitted to either the council or the board after the "commencement date" will be dealt with in accordance with the board's IDO and its requirements, subject to the policy set out under servicing requirements.

(2) Any plan of subdivision sealed by the council prior to the commencement date requires no further permit for subdivision.

(3) All plans of subdivision not complying with minimum requirements for proposed zones set out in Amending Planning Scheme No. 3 (other than in respect to land of 2 acres or less in a local authority development zone) submitted to council but not sealed prior to the commencement date require a permit from the board and the following policy will apply:—

(a) In Whittlesea and Berwick permits for subdivision will be granted where under its previous orders the board has either granted a permit and that permit had lapsed or had indicated in writing that no permit was required.

(b) Where previous council approval had been given to a proposed plan of subdivision before the commencement date, the board will consider the application having regard to—

The location of the land and catchment boundaries;
The proposed zoning in Amending Planning Scheme No. 3;
Any approved council planning schemes;
Any council comment;
The degree of commitment by the applicant.

The circumstances can vary substantially in applying these criteria but the policy will be to grant permits:—

(i) In non-urban zones where the subdivision is for two lots and is for the purpose of cutting off a house lot from a large holding or the provision of a house lot for a member of the family and in similar circumstances.

(ii) In non-urban zones where the proposed lots comply with the requirements of or under an approved council planning scheme or interim development order and the owner had entered into contractual commitments in respect of roads, drains, sewers or other works required for the proposed subdivision.

(iii) Where at the commencement date a subdivision lodged with the council for sealing had progressed to the stage where:—

(a) All the requirements of section 569B of the Local Government Act had been satisfactorily complied with but the plan had not in fact been sealed or;

(b) Consents under section 569B of the Local Government Act were required from statutory authorities but had not been received and are subsequently received.

(iv) In urban zones where all services can be provided; and subject to the provisions of all services.

(v) In urban zones where all services cannot be provided but where firm contractual commitments to carry out works in connection with the subdivision had been entered into prior to the commencement date.

(vi) Where the board is satisfied that substantial hardship could be caused by a refusal or permit.

Note.—Even in the circumstances outlined above, however, additional conditions to comply with the board's servicing requirements may be imposed where reasonably practicable of implementation and public interest so demands.

B. USE OF LAND.

Any use of land lawfully established before the commencement date may continue without any further permit being required. Where a permit for the use of land granted under a previous board interim development order was still in force at the commencement date, that permit continues to operate and no further permit is required.

Where a permit to use land had been granted under a council planning scheme or interim development order but the use had not been established or commenced prior to the commencement date, reference should be made to the proposed zone in which the land is situated and to the table to clause 7 of the proposed ordinance to ascertain the requirements of that zone and to establish whether a permit is required under the board's interim development order.

The most common inquiry is whether or not a detached house may be erected on a particular lot of land and the position is as follows:—

(1) In Non-urban zones.

(i) Where the lot complies with the minimum size prescribed for the proposed zone, no permit is required for a detached house;

(ii) Where (i) above does not apply a permit is required and the following policy will be adopted:—

(a) Where the lot accords with or was established pursuant to an approved council planning scheme or pursuant to a determination of the Governor in Council the Minister or the Town Planning Appeals Tri-

bunal or a board interim development order, a permit will be granted.

(b) In all other cases of applications for detached houses on established allotments, the board will pay regard to rights existing as at the commencement date; but in determining the matter the board must however take into consideration—

The primary purpose for which the land is zoned.

The orderly and proper planning of the zone.

The preservation of the amenity of the neighbourhood.

The preservation of the natural environment.

Reasonable servicing requirements in the circumstances.

Whether the allotment was created pursuant to planning procedures under the Town and Country Planning Act.

Whether the land comprised a separate "tenement" at the commencement date.

The long term public interest.

Note: A tenement is an ownership of property at that date and may be one lot or a number of lots adjoining each other.

(2) In Urban Zones.

(i) Existing lots in reserved living zones will have permits granted for detached houses but connection to water supply and electricity services will be required and connection to sewerage will also be required where reasonably practicable.

(ii) In local authority development zones, permits for the use of land for detached houses or for other purposes are not required from the board, but the municipal planning scheme must be complied with.

C. SERVICING REQUIREMENTS.

These can be applied either as a condition of a permit for the subdivision of land or, in the case of an established subdivision, as a condition on a permit for the use of land. Normally the board requires the availability of water and electricity for urban subdivision or development.

The provision of sewerage also is now a firm board policy, but presents a more difficult problem and although the approved interim development order states

that a permit shall not be granted for subdivision into allotments of less than 2 acres without all services, it is clear that during the transitional period this requirement cannot be applied to the full extent.

The following policy will be applied depending on whether the proposed subdivision is within an area controlled by a sewerage authority or not:—

(1) *Land within Sewerage Authority Areas* (subject to consultation with the sewerage authority)—

(a) If sewerage either by connection to a sewerage main or by the establishment of a treatment plant is or can be agreed with the applicant to be made available within 6 months, then a permit will be issued subject to the provision of sewerage and other appropriate services;

(b) If the sewerage authority advised that sewerage by connection to a sewerage main or the provision of a treatment plant cannot be made available, then a permit will normally be refused, subject to the following exceptions—

(i) where the land the subject of the application is within an area which has been substantially developed without sewerage and such land represents a remaining pocket, the application may be approved without a sewerage condition;

(ii) where the application is for a subdivision to provide lots which together do not total more than 2 acres, a permit may be approved but the applicant will be notified that any permit for the balance of the land will be subject to the provision of sewerage and all other services;

(iii) a subdivision to provide for the excision of a single allotment from a larger area, or to enable existing buildings or developments to have their own allotments may be approved without sewerage condition.

(c) *Reserved living zone.*

The policy will be to refuse applications for permits for subdivision within these zones until provision can be made for water supply, sewerage and other appropriate services.

(2) *Land which is outside the boundary of a Sewerage Authority.*

(a) Land within a local authority development zone (2 acres or more).

(i) Where the land is situated within an area where the municipal scheme permits development without any servicing requirements the application will be approved.

(ii) Where the municipal scheme requires that the land shall not be developed without the servicing requirements the application will be refused.

(b) Land within a reserved living zone.

All applications for subdivision will normally be refused until water, sewerage and other appropriate services can be provided.

NOTE:

Where under the above policy it is practicable to provide sewerage to a proposed development and a permit would normally issue subject to a sewerage requirement, a permit will nevertheless be refused unless an agreement has been reached between the applicant and the appropriate authority for the provision of sewerage.

13th September, 1972.

SEWERED AND UNSEWERED PREMISES IN NORTHCOTE.

(Question No. 227)

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. What is the reason for the delay in linking sewerage to factory premises in the north-east area of the City of Northcote?

2. How many unsewered—(a) houses; (b) factories; (c) shops; (d) offices; and (e) other premises there are in the City of Northcote?

3. How many factory employees are forced to use sanitary pan services at their place of employment in the City of Northcote, indicating—(a) the type of industry carried out in these factories; and (b) whether any of these factories are handling food; if so, what type of food?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

1. The unsewered area in the north-east of the City of Northcote in the vicinity of Sparks Avenue, Clarendon Street, Turner Street and Mansfield Street has remained unsewered due to the fact that the allocation of loan funds has been inadequate to meet the total requirement for works.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works has included the construction of this remaining area on the current year's works programme. It is expected that tenders will be invited for construction of the sewers about March, 1973.

2. Apart from one or two isolated houses, all the unsewered properties in the municipality are included in the above area. At

the last house count the number of un-sewered properties were as follows:—

- 28 factories,
- 3 houses,
- 36 vacant allotments.

3. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works has no statistics on this matter and the inquiry should be directed to the City of Northcote.

BOAT LAUNCHING RAMPS.

CONSTRUCTION AT DROMANA: FEES:
BAYSIDE RAMPS.

(Question No. 112)

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister for Conservation—

1. Who constructed the boat launching ramp at Dromana and who is responsible for its maintenance?

2. Whether Dromana Ski Club members and other persons, respectively, are charged a fee for using the ramp; if so—(a) what are the respective charges; (b) under what powers the charge is made; and (c) who is the collecting authority?

3. What charges are levied upon club members and other persons, respectively, for the use of boat launching ramps at Williamstown, St. Kilda, Brighton and at other bayside localities?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation).—The answer is—

According to information available to the Port Phillip Authority the answers are—

1. The ramp was constructed and is maintained by the Dromana Water Ski Club.

2. Yes.

(a) Members \$10 a year.
Others 80c a day.

(b) By agreement with the Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management.

(c) Dromana Water Ski Club.

Location	Members	Others
Williamstown ..	Nil	Nil
St. Kilda ..	\$30 a season	\$2 a day
Brighton ..	\$3 a season	75c a day
Carrum ..	\$20 a season	\$1 a day
Safety Beach ..	\$5 a season	50c a day
Parson's Marina ..	\$25 a season	\$1 a day

MUNICIPALITIES.

METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD:
CONTRIBUTIONS BY BRUNSWICK AND
COBURG.

(Question No. 114)

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What amounts were levied against the cities of Brunswick and Coburg, respectively, as contributions to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in the last financial year?

2. What respective amounts are payable by these municipalities this financial year?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).

—The answer is—

The details sought by the honorable member are set out in the following table:—

	1971-72	1972-73 (assessment)
	\$	\$
City of Brunswick	70,397.48	85,937.88
City of Coburg	93,246.56	111,421.56

CITY OF MELBOURNE: WARD
BOUNDARIES: VOTING RIGHTS.

(Question No. 152)

Mr. JONES (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Whether the Minister will examine the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Act 1938 with a view to bringing down legislation to provide a more equitable distribution of ward boundaries of the City of Melbourne and to introduce the principle of "one man one value"?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

The present provision for resubdivision of the municipal districts of municipalities (including the City of Melbourne) is contained in Part II of the Local Government Act 1958. The council of a municipality may submit to the Minister an application under seal setting out a proposal for resubdivision. Alternatively not less than one tenth of the persons whose names are inscribed on the municipal roll in respect of property in the municipal district may submit to the Governor in Council a request for resubdivision. The proposal set out in the request must be carried at a poll of persons enrolled on the municipal roll and, in the case of the City of Melbourne, the consent of the council is necessary. When the procedure prescribed for an application

or a request (as the case may be) has been complied with, the Governor in Council may make an Order resubdividing the municipal district.

If the Melbourne City Council or the requisite number of ratepayers take the appropriate action, resubdivision of the municipal district of Melbourne can be effected. A reasonable degree of equality of representation as between wards would be expected in any scheme submitted.

BUILDING SURVEYORS.

(Question No. 169)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Which municipalities have appointed building surveyors since June, 1965, indicating whether such appointments were for full-time duties or combined with some other municipal appointment?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The Minister for Local Government has supplied the following answer:—

This information was supplied to the honorable member by letter dated 17th April, 1972, in reply to the question previously asked.

The list is now set out hereunder with alterations where any known changes have since been made.

Full-time	Combined with other duties
Cities	
Altona	Castlemaine
Bendigo	Colac
Doncaster and Templestowe	Collingwood
Geelong	Essendon
Hawthorn	Footscray
Heidelberg	Hamilton
Kew	Horsham
Nunawading	Knox
Prahran	Maryborough
Richmond	Moe
Ringwood	Newtown
Springvale	Northcote
	Port Melbourne
	Sale
	Shepparton
	Swan Hill
	Wangaratta
Towns	
	Bairnsdale
	Camperdown
	Stawell
Boroughs	
	Eaglehawk
	Kerang
	Koroit
	Wonthaggi
	Sebastopol

Full-time.	Combined with other duties
Shires	
Diamond Valley	Alexandra
Lillydale	Arapiles
Melton	Avon
Shepparton	Avoca
Whittlesea	Bacchus Marsh
Woorayl	Beechworth
	Benalla
	Bet Bet
	Birchip
	Bright
	Bungaree
	Chiltern
	Cohuna
	Colac
	Cranbourne
	Creswick
	Daylesford and Glenlyon
	Deakin
	Donald
	East Loddon
	Gordon
	Goulburn
	Grenville
	Hampden
	Healesville
	Heytesbury
	Kaniva
	Karkaroc
	Kerang
	Kilmore
	Korumburra
	Kowree
	Maldon
	Mildura
	Minhamite
	Mirboo
	Morwell
	Mt. Rouse
	McIvor
	Nathalia
	Newham and Woodend
	Numurkah
	Orbost
	Otway
	Oxley
	Ripon
	Rosedale
	Rutherglen
	Sherbrooke
	South Barwon
	Strathfieldsaye
	Talbot and Clunes
	Towong
	Traralgon
	Violet Town
	Walpeup
	Wannon
	Waranga
	Warrnambool
	Wimmera
	Winchelsea
	Yackandandah
	Yea

LIBRARY SUBSIDIES AND EXPENDITURE.

(Question No. 170)

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Chief Secretary—

What were the respective sums paid to each of the metropolitan municipalities by way of library subsidies in the last financial year and what respective amounts of council contributions were paid by such municipalities for library purposes?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).
—The answer is—

Municipal library subsidies 1971-72.			
Municipality	Estimated council contribution 1971-72	The net subsidy payable	
	\$	\$	
Altona City	62,400	12,000	
Box Hill City	41,756	23,040	
Brighton City	67,283	16,360	
Broadmeadows City ..	77,120	39,900	
Brunswick City	30,960	20,720	
Camberwell City	217,540	40,300	
Caulfield City	161,116	32,000	
Chelsea City	10,760	10,760	
Coburg City	46,974	27,520	
Collingwood City	16,597	8,220	
Dandenong City	15,080	15,080	
Diamond Valley Shire ..	24,400	13,240	
Doncaster and Templestowe City	40,150	23,180	
Essendon City	47,120	23,660	
Footscray City	24,790	23,780	
Frankston City	66,700	22,420	
Hawthorn City	57,090	15,080	
Heidelberg City	55,120	28,480	
Keilor City	46,137	21,420	
Kew City	31,852	13,300	
Malvern City	106,914	21,100	
Melbourne City	136,200	30,960	
Moorabbin City	132,160	45,740	
Mordialloc City	30,702	12,580	
Northcote City	43,050	23,520	
Nunawading City	268,838	36,260	
Oakleigh City	113,240	23,440	
Port Melbourne City ..	34,742	4,900	
Prahran City	82,883	23,520	
Preston City	61,185	38,060	
Richmond City	12,600	12,440	
Ringwood City	55,600	13,900	
Sandringham City	53,782	14,800	
St. Kilda City	55,530	25,240	
South Melbourne City ..	73,850	11,420	
Springvale City	30,780	20,520	
Sunshine City	124,133	31,520	
Waverley City	160,440	36,820	
Williamstown City	31,940	12,420	

PAYMENT OF RATES BY PENSIONERS.
(Question No. 171)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. Whether the cities of Coburg, Broadmeadows, Williamstown, Footscray and Brunswick defer or remit, partly or wholly, rates on properties owned by pensioners; if so, whether they charge interest on the deferred rates?

2. Whether the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works charges interest on rates deferred on properties owned by pensioners?

3. Whether the Minister is aware of the recent legislation passed in New South Wales to assist pensioners with rate contributions; if so, what assistance is available?

4. Whether the Government is prepared to amend the Local Government Act 1958 to—(a) provide similar assistance to pensioners in Victoria; and (b) provide for the

abolition of the section which enables municipalities to charge interest on rates that have been deferred?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

1. The City of Broadmeadows, according to circumstances, either remits or defers, wholly or in part, rates payable by pensioners, and does not charge interest.

The City of Brunswick will remit rates in part or defer wholly or in part, according to circumstances, but charges interest of 6 per cent on deferments.

The cities of Williamstown and Footscray defer rates wholly and do not charge interest. They do not remit, either wholly or in part.

2. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works does not charge interest on rates deferred on properties owned by pensioners.

3. Yes. The most recent provision in New South Wales is that the Government will reimburse the council for remission of 50 per cent of the rate otherwise payable by a full pensioner. The council may levy less than 50 per cent of the normal rate if it so chooses.

4. This is a matter of policy to be considered by the Government in conjunction with the report of the Board of Inquiry into Local Government Finance. It is estimated that the cost to the Victorian Government of implementing the honorable member's proposal would be approximately \$9 million in a full year. No budgetary provision exists for this.

CONTRIBUTION FOR BOOM BARRIER INSTALLATIONS.

(Question No. 188)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Transport—

On what dates the cities of Frankston, Mordialloc, Prahran, Preston, Keilor, Brunswick, Coburg and Williamstown, and the shires of Werribee, Diamond Valley and Corio, respectively, first signified their intention not to participate in the Government's scheme requiring municipalities to meet one-third of the cost of each boom barrier installation?

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

I refer the honorable member to my letter to him on 11th May, 1972, in which the answer to this question was given.

The only change since then is that enquiries have been made of the railways by the City of Prahran regarding the provision of boom barriers at Union Road, Windsor.

PAY-ROLL TAX.

PAYMENTS BY GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES.

(Question No. 115)

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Treasurer—

What amounts of pay-roll tax were paid last financial year by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, respectively?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

The total amounts of pay-roll tax paid in the 1971–72 financial year to State and Commonwealth Governments were—

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	\$ 1,230,006
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board	288,836

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

PRINCES HIGHWAY: OVERPASSES AT LARA AND AVALON.

(Question No. 120)

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. What is the approximate total cost for the construction of road overpasses on the Princes Highway at Lara and at Avalon?

2. Which authorities have contributed towards meeting such costs and what were the respective amounts?

3. What is the estimated daily number of vehicles crossing such overpasses in the initial stages?

4. When such overpasses will be operative?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

1. Lara overpass—\$430,000; Avalon overpass—estimated to cost \$440,000.

2. The Country Roads Board—100 per cent.

3. Lara overpass—590 vehicles; Avalon overpass—600–700 vehicles (when overpass completed and in use).

4. The Lara overpass was opened on 16th March, 1972. The Avalon overpass is expected to be opened to traffic in December, 1973.

LOWER YARRA CROSSING AUTHORITY.

COST OF REPAIRING BRIDGE.

(Question No. 125)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

What action has been taken, or will be taken by the Lower Yarra Crossing Authority to recover the costs of repairing and replacing the collapsed sections of the West Gate Bridge in order to relieve the public from excessive toll charges?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

A satisfactory insurance settlement has been obtained.

MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL.

PLAN FOR RESIDENTIAL AREA.

(Question No. 127)

Mr. JONES (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Whether the Minister has read the recent report commissioned by the Melbourne City Council and prepared by the firm of Loder and Bayly on a projected plan for the residential area of Melbourne; if so—(a) what action, if any, the Government proposes taking on this subject; and (b) whether he will arrange for copies of the report to be made available to the Parliamentary representatives for the area concerned?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

(a) and (b) No. The report was entirely commissioned by, and is the property of, the Melbourne City Council, which has not at this stage released it.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

CHILDREN EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE AT STATE SCHOOLS.

(Question No. 128)

Mr. JONES (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Education—

1. Whether, pursuant to his powers under section 53 (3) (c) of the Education Act 1958, he has issued any general orders excusing children from attendance at State schools; if so, whether any such orders are current and, in that event—(a) what are their terms; (b) when they were made; and (c) how and when they were published?

2. How many children are currently excused from attendance at State schools by his particular order and what criteria are used to determine whether a particular order shall be issued?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

1. No general order has been issued excusing children from attendance at State schools.

2. The number of children excused from attendance at a traditional type primary school is very small indeed. In some instances, e.g. as a result of uncontrollable behaviour or psychiatric disturbance a case may be referred to the Psychology and Guidance Branch for examination and recommendation for placement in a more appropriate school situation.

Pupils of secondary schools under the age of fifteen years may be excused from attending a State school on the recommendation of the division concerned; the decision to excuse attendance in such cases being one for the Department of Social Welfare. Reasons for such actions are varied and each individual case is considered on its merits.

NEW SCHOOL RESIDENCE FOR WATCHEM.

(Question No. 177)

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara) asked the Minister of Education—

1. When tenders will be called for the erection of a new house for the school principal at Watchem?

2. What is the estimated cost of the project?

3. What is the planned number of squares of the house?

4. Whether the size of the house is any less than houses to be built by the Teacher Housing Authority at any other location throughout Victoria; if so, why?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

1. Tenders are currently being called and will close at 12 noon, 3rd October, 1972.

2. As the authority is in the process of calling tenders, details of the estimated cost cannot be released at this stage.

3. Area of house—12.00 squares.
Area of porches—1.28 squares.

4. For the classification of the position of principal at Watchem, the size of the residence to be provided is the same as that allocated to other principals of schools with the same classification where a priority for the erection of new housing exists.

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

(Question No. 203)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Education—

In respect of teachers being engaged by the Education Department, what is the current policy in respect of previous experience in determining the commencing annual salary of such teachers?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

The commencing annual salaries of teachers being employed by the Primary Schools Division is laid down by the Teachers Tribunal Regulations as follows:—

“7. Recognition of Previous Service.

(a) The commencing salary of a member who possesses either certificate A or certificate B shall be determined in accordance with qualifications as provided by this Regulation, and within the appropriate range shall be increased by one increment for each year of approved teaching experience, other than the first.

(b) (i) A member who possesses certificate C and has had at least four years' approved teaching experience shall commence on salary sub-division 3.

(ii) A member who has had at least one year's approved teacher training and four years' approved teaching experience shall commence on salary sub-division 2.

(c) For the purpose of this clause the term “approved teaching experience” shall be interpreted on the basis of completed years of relevant full-time teaching experience subsequent to the completion of the qualifications referred to in sub-clauses (a) and (b) respectively.

(d) In special cases the Tribunal on the recommendation of the Director-General may approve credit for experience other than that set out in this clause.”

Certificate “C” is the equivalent of a course of approved teacher-training of less than three years.

Certificate “B” is the equivalent of a course of approved teacher-training of three years.

Certificate “A” is the equivalent of a course of approved teacher-training of at least four years.

In staffing secondary schools the award allows the department to look only at experience which teachers have got after they qualified themselves for a particular pay scale.

The experience prior to such full qualification for that pay scale is assessed by the Teachers Tribunal.

SCIENCE BLOCKS AND LIBRARIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

(Question No. 204)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Education—

Which State high and technical schools are not expected to have—(a) science blocks; and (b) libraries, established with Commonwealth funds, at the commencement of the 1973 school year?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

(a) Science blocks.

The following high schools are not expected to have science blocks established with Commonwealth funds at the commencement of the 1973 school year:—

Altona, Ararat, Bayswater, Beaufort, Bendigo, Bendigo G, Birchip, Blackburn S, Boort, Braybrook, Broadford, Brunswick G, Casterton, Castlemaine, Charlton, Coburg, Cohuna, Collingwood, Dandenong G, Daylesford T, Derrinallum, Dimboola M, Donald, Drouin, Eaglehawk, Euroa, Flemington G, Geelong, Golden Square, Hawkesdale, Heidelberg G, Heywood, J. H. Boyd, Kaniva, Koo-wee-rup, Kyabram, Lake Bolac, Lakeside, Lalor, La Trobe, MacRobertson G, Malvern G, Maroondah, Matthew Flinders G, Merbein, Mildura, Mirboo N, Moe, Monbulk, Monterey, Moorabbin, Mortlake, Mount Waverley, Myrtleford, Nathalia, Neerim S, Newborough, Northcote, Numurkah, Oberon, Orbost, Parkdale, Pascoe Vale G, Preston E, Rainbow, Richmond G, Robinvale, Rochester, Rutherglen, St. Arnaud, Seymour, Shepparton, Shepparton G, Springvale, Stawell, Sunshine W, Terang, Thornbury, Timboon, Trafalgar, Upper Yarra, Vermont, Warracknabeal, Warragul, Wattle Park, Wedderburn, Westall, Williamstown G, Wodonga, Yallourn, Yarram, Yarrawonga, Yea.

The above list does not include the schools where such projects are under construction and the new schools where the science blocks will be provided from State loan funds.

The following technical schools are not expected to have received aid from Commonwealth funds for science blocks at the commencement of the 1973 school year:—

Bairnsdale, Balcombe A.A.S., Ballam Park, Ballarat S. of M., Batman Automotive Sch., Bendigo I.O.T., Box Hill T.C., Brighton, Broadmeadows, Broadmeadows West, Brunswick, Castlemaine T.C., Caulfield I.O.T., Cobden, Coburg, Collingwood T.C., Dandenong, Daylesford, Echuca, Emily McP. Coll., Footscray I.O.T., Frankston, Geelong, Gippsland I.O.A.E., Gordon I.O.T., Hamilton, Huntingdale, Jordanville, Kangaroo Flat, Knox, Lilydale, Maryborough T.C., Melb. Sch. Hair., Melb. Sch. Paint., Melb. Coll. Print., Melb. Coll. Textiles, Monterey,

Moorabbin, Prahran C.O.T., Prahran T.S., Richmond T.C., R.M.I.T., Sandringham, Shepparton Sth., Sunshine Nth., Swinburne C.O.T., Swinburne T.S., Templestowe, Vic. Railways T.C., Warrnambool I.O.A.E., Warrnambool Nth., Wm. Angliss C.C. & F.S., Wodonga, Wonthaggi.

(b) Libraries.

The following high schools are not expected to have libraries established with Commonwealth funds at the commencement of the 1973 school year:—

Alexandra, Altona, Altona North, Ararat, Ashwood, Avondale Heights, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat Girls, Balmoral, Balwyn, Banyule, Bayswater, Beaufort, Beaumaris, Beechworth, Belmont, Benalla, Bendigo, Bendigo Girls, Bentleigh, Birchip, Blackburn, Blackburn South, Bonbeach, Boort, Boronia, Box Hill (Boys), Braybrook, Brighton, Broadford, Broadmeadows, Brunswick, Brunswick Girls, Buckley Park, Burwood, Canterbury Girls, Casterton, Castlemaine, Caulfield, Chadstone, Chandler, Charlton, Cheltenham, Cobram, Coburg, Cohuna, Colac, Collingwood, Corryong, Croydon, Dandenong, Dandenong Girls, Daylesford, Derrinallum, Dimboola, Donald, Donvale, Doveton, Drouin, Eaglehawk, Echuca, Edenhope, Eltham, Essendon, Euroa, Fitzroy, Fitzroy Girls, Flemington, Flemington Girls, Footscray, Footscray Girls, Foster, Geelong, Geelong North, Golden Square, Greythorn, Hamilton, Hampton, Hawkesdale, Healesville, Heidelberg, Heidelberg Girls, Heywood, Highett, Hopetoun, Horsham, Huntingdale, Hurstbridge, J.H. Boyd, Kaniva, Karingal, Kerang, Kew, Koonung, Koo-wee-rup, Korumburra, Kyabram, Kyneton, Lake Bolac, Lakeside, Lalor, La Trobe, Leongatha, Lyndale, Macleod, Maffra, Malvern Girls, Mansfield, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Maryborough, Melbourne (Boys), Mentone Girls, Merbein, Merrilands, Mildura, Mirboo North, Moe, Monash, Monbulk, Monterey, Moorabbin, Moorleigh, Mooroonpa, Mordialloc-Chelsea, Moreland, Mortlake, Morwell, Mount Beauty, Mount Waverley, Murrayville, Murrumbidgee, Murtoa, Myrtleford, Nathalia, Neerim South, Newborough, Newlands, Nhill, Noble Park, Norlane, Northcote (Boys), Norwood, Numurkah, Oakleigh, Oberon, Orbost, Ouyen, Paisley, Pakenham, Parkdale, Pascoe Vale Girls, Portland, Prahran, Preston East, Preston Girls, Queenscliff, Rainbow, Red Cliffs, Reservoir, Richmond, Richmond Girls, Ringwood, Robinvale, Rochester, Rosebud, Rushworth, Rutherglen, St. Albans, St. Arnaud, Sea Lake, Seymour, Shepparton, Shepparton Girls, Springvale, Stawell, Sunbury, Sunshine, Sunshine West, Swan Hill, Tallangatta, Terang, Thornbury, Timboon, Trafalgar, Traralgon, University, Upfield, Upper Yarra, Upwey, Vermont, Wangaratta, Warracknabeal, Warragul, Warrnambool, Wattle Park, Wedderburn, Werribee, Westall, Williamstown, Williamstown Girls, Wodonga, Wonthaggi, Yallourn, Yarram, Yarrawonga, Yea.

The following technical schools are not expected to have received aid from Commonwealth funds at the commencement of the 1973 school year:—

Altona Nth., Ararat, Aspendale, Bairnsdale, Balcombe, Ballam Park, Ballarat S. of M., Ballarat Nth., Batman Automotive Sch., Benalla, Bendigo I.O.T., Blackburn, Box Hill T.C., Brighton, Broadmeadows, Broadmeadows West, Brunswick, Burwood, Castlemaine T.C., Caulfield I.O.T., Caulfield T.S., Clayton, Cobden, Coburg, Colac, Collingwood, Corio, Dandenong, Daylesford T. & H.S. Doveton, Doveton Nth., Dromana, Echuca, Emily McP. Coll., Ferntree Gully, Footscray I.O.T., Frankston, Geelong, Geelong East, Geelong West, Gippsland I.O.A.E., Gordon I.O.T., Hamilton, Heidelberg, Horsham, Huntingdale, Jordanville, Kangaroo Flat, Knox, Lilydale, Macleod, Maryborough, Melb. Sch. Hair., Melb. Sch. Paint., Melb. Coll. Print., Melb. Coll. Textiles, Mildura, Monterey, Moorabbin, Mooroolbark, Morwell, Niddrie, Noble Park, Portland, Prahran C.O.T., Prahran T.S., Preston I.O.T., Preston T.S., Preston East, Richmond T.C., Ringwood, R.M.I.T., Sale, Sandringham, Sebastopol, Shepparton T.C., Shepparton Sth., St. Albans, Stawell, Sunshine Nth, Swan Hill, Swinburne C.O.T., Swinburne T.S., Syndal, Templestowe, Tottenham, Traralgon, Vic. Railways T.C. Warragul, Warrnambool I.O.A.E., Warrnambool Nth., Watsonia, Wm. Angliss C.C. & F.S., Williamstown, Wodonga, Wonthaggi, Yallourn.

ST. ALBANS HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Question No. 208)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Education—

When the site works associated with the recently completed buildings at the St.

1 and 2.

Guidance officers:

Category	Authorized strength	Actual strength	Unfilled vacancies
Guidance officers (professional roll)	31	29	2
Guidance officers (classified)	No limit	37	..
Guidance officers, temporary, full time	No limit	11	..
Guidance officers, part time	No limit	13	..

3. The "actual strength" of guidance officers shown above is made up as follows:—

In training:	1st Year	16
	2nd Year	14
	3rd Year	9
Fully qualified:		51

4.

Guidance Officer Category	Lectureship : Uni or CAE	Transfer to another Branch	Reason for leaving staff Reverted to teaching	Overseas or Interstate	Family reasons	Total
Professional ..	1	1	..	1	..	3
Classified ..	1	..	2	2	..	5
Temporary ..	..	..	1	2	3	6
Totals ..	2	1	3	5	3	14

Albans Heights Primary School will be commenced?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

It is anticipated that site works in the vicinity of the recently erected class-rooms at St. Albans Heights Primary School will be commenced on 16th October, 1972.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND GUIDANCE OFFICERS.

(Question No. 210)

Mr. LIND (Dandenong) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What is the authorized strength of school medical officers and guidance officers, respectively, in the Education Department and what is the actual strength?

2. How many vacancies remain unfilled in each category?

3. How many guidance officers are in training at present?

4. How many guidance officers have left the service during this year, indicating the reasons in each case?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

School medical officers are employed in the Department of Health and not in the Education Department. The Department of Health advises that the authorized strength of the school medical officers is one director, two superintending medical officers, three superintending medical officers on special duties and 39 school medical officers. The actual strength is 34 at present. There are eleven vacancies some of which are in the process of being filled.

AGED PERSONS.

BEDS IN INSTITUTIONS.

(Question No. 130)

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Preston) asked the Minister of Health —

In view of the large number of elderly people awaiting beds in Government institutions, what provision has been made by the Hospitals and Charities Commission to cater for elderly citizens on reaching 80 years of age and unable to care for themselves?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

The following accommodation was available for elderly people in Victoria at 30th June, 1971:—

Special hospitals for the aged, benevolent homes and geriatric units	4,578
Hostels for the aged and other institutions	7,650
	12,228

In addition, the number of elderly people in private hospital and nursing home beds was . . . 4,393

Of these 120 are receiving financial assistance from the commission towards their hospital fees pending their admission to geriatric institutions.

Final figures for 1971–72 are not yet available but the Hospitals and Charities Commission estimates additional accommodation has been provided for 500 people.

In addition, building construction is proceeding or about to commence to provide accommodation in the present financial year for 360 people and other proposals are being considered.

The commission has promoted the development of other supportive services including—

district nursing services;
day hospitals—thirteen in operation with a further fifteen in various planning stages.

No special provision is made for elderly people of any particular age. Physical condition, irrespective of age, indicates the provisions required.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

FATALITIES AND INJURIES INVOLVING LIFTS, CRANES AND HOISTS.

(Question No. 133)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

How many accidents involving lifts, cranes and hoists have occurred since December, 1970, indicating the number of fatalities and persons injured?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

Since 1st January, 1971, there have been 421 accidents reported to the Chief Inspector of Lifts and Cranes. As a result of these accidents 32 persons have been killed and 366 injured.

APPRENTICES.

TRAINING BY OIL REFINERIES.

(Question No. 134)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

How many apprentices employed by the Shell and British Petroleum oil refineries and Petroleum Refineries (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. are currently in training in accordance with the provisions of the Apprenticeship Act 1958?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

Shell Refining (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. (Corio Refinery)—eleven.

Petroleum Refineries (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. (Altona Refinery)—three.

No apprentices are employed at the British Petroleum Refinery, Crib Point. It is understood that all maintenance work at this refinery is done by contractors.

EMPLOYMENT BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES: COMMONWEALTH SUBSIDIES.

(Question No. 147)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

Whether representations have been made to ensure that the Commonwealth subsidy for employment of apprentices in Government departments and instrumentalities is available to these departments on the same basis as private industry?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

Such representations have been made and, I understand, have been accepted by the Commonwealth Government.

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT.

PROCLAMATION: DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES.

(Question No. 135)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. On what dates the various provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 1972 were proclaimed?

2. What controls existed in respect of door-to-door sales prior to proclamation?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

1. The provisions of the Act came into operation on 1st July, 1972, except for Divisions 2 and 3 of Part II. and Division 2 of Part III., which came into operation on 13th July, 1972.

2. The provisions of the Door to Door (Sales) Act 1963 applied until 1st July, 1972.

STATE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

ACTUARIAL INVESTIGATION.

(Question No. 137)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Treasurer—

1. When it is expected that the Government will announce the result of the actuarial investigation into the State Superannuation Fund?

2. Whether, in view of the fact that this investigation will only cover the period to 30th June, 1971, the Government will consider the provision of a scheme based on automatic annual adjustments tied to the increase in the cost of living?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

1. The actuarial investigation into the stability of the State Superannuation Fund as at 30th June, 1971, has as yet not been completed. The actuary has been requested by the Government to make his report available as soon as possible.

2. As I indicated in the Budget speech the Government has decided on a new approach to pension supplementation and legislation will be introduced to adjust pensions on the basis of cost of living changes between 30th June, 1967, and 30th June, 1972. Details of the Government's proposal will be given to the House when the necessary legislation is introduced.

HOSPITALS SUPERANNUATION FUND.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

(Question No. 150)

Mr. FELL (Greensborough) asked the Minister of Health—

1. Which persons are eligible to join the Hospitals Superannuation Fund?

2. Whether hospital employees in other group assurance or superannuation schemes, presently being run by the hospitals, are eligible to transfer to the fund; if so—(a) from what date they were eligible to transfer; (b) what is the reason for delays in

transferring employees to the fund; and (c) what action will be taken to speed up transfers?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

1. Full-time employees, other than trainee nurses, of participating institutions who have not attained the age of 65 and who have been in the continuous employment of an institution for at least six months, are eligible to join the fund.

Participating institutions comprise public hospitals, ambulance services and certain other health and charitable organizations which have been admitted to the fund as participating institutions.

2. Hospital employees in other group assurance or superannuation schemes operated by institutions are eligible to transfer to the fund provided that the institution by which they are employed elected to transfer its superannuation scheme to the administration of the Hospitals Superannuation Board within three months from 1st December, 1970, in the case of institutions which were participating institutions at that date, or three months from the date of joining the fund, in the case of institutions which joined after 1st December, 1970.

A number of institutions have elected to transfer their schemes and the transfer of individual employees has been finalized. Some delay occurred in two cases pending the finalization of arrangements between the institution concerned and the board. In one case, arrangements for transfer have been finalized and employees have been transferred while, in the other, it is expected that employees will transfer in the near future.

No action to speed up the transfer is necessary.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

SUGGESTED SINGLE AUTHORITY.

(Question No. 154)

Mr. FELL (Greensborough) asked the Minister of Transport—

What consideration has been given to bringing all public transport under the one authority to facilitate the most economic and appropriate use of the public transport resources?

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

This matter is continually under consideration by me and officers of the Ministry of Transport. There are many aspects to be taken into account, and it is not yet clear that efficiencies would be achieved by bringing all public transport under one operating authority.

TREASURY. COMMONWEALTH GRANTS.

(Question No. 149)

Mr. FELL (Greensborough) asked the Treasurer—

What total Commonwealth grants were made to Victoria in each financial year since 1965–66, and what amounts were allocated each year as special purpose grants?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

	\$'000						
	1965–66	1966–67	1967–68	1968–69	1969–70	1970–71	1971–72
Total Commonwealth grants	244,991	271,104	315,777	339,627	388,681	478,853	502,193
Special purpose grants (included in total Commonwealth grants)							
Financial agreement—							
Interest on State debts	4,254	4,254	4,254	4,254	4,254	4,254	4,254
Universities	8,071	9,211	10,991	12,108	13,960	16,238	18,586
Colleges of advanced education		1,302	2,788	3,195	4,837	6,191	7,341
Independent schools					3,952	7,832	9,655
Research grants	331	607	770	675	864	954	1,177
Tuberculosis hospitals	3,019	3,293	3,306	3,288	3,176	3,039	3,170
Blood transfusion services	144	276	176	193	225	251	269
Housekeeper services	8	8	8	8			
Home-care services							137
Deserted wives					101	1,112	1,970
Housing grants							1,005
Aboriginal advancement				18	121	81	116
Road safety practices	20	23	23	23	23	30	30
Non-metropolitan unemployment relief							6,075
Natural disaster payments	40		5,291	6,000	277	43	
Agricultural extension services	298	508	667	986	1,027	1,194	1,364
Minor agricultural research					13	2	16
Bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication					37	577	700
Special Purpose Grants (included in Total Commonwealth Grants)							
	(b) Grants of a Capital nature						
	\$'000						
	1965–66	1966–67	1967–68	1968–69	1969–70	1970–71	1971–72
Universities	4,425	5,250	6,173	7,072	4,495	5,990	6,669
Colleges of advanced education		911	2,677	2,350	2,891	4,902	5,580
Teachers' colleges			500	1,600	3,250	1,250	2,750
Pre-school teachers' colleges				21	2	1	
Science laboratories	2,799	2,799	3,553	3,055	4,037	3,546	3,368
Technical training	336	3,050	5,091	1,550	3,000	3,912	1,500
School libraries				500	2,225	3,199	2,519
Capital grants for Government schools							1,700
Mental health institutions	1,567	1,192	1,382	1,200	947	798	828
Tuberculosis hospitals	169	110	10	175	327	151	119
Senior citizens' centres							11
Dwellings for age pensioners					200	1,929	2,243
Aboriginal advancement				207	226	286	284
Disposal of ships' garbage					120	4	130
Natural disaster payments			2,709	3,000	93		
Softwood forestry			300	500	480	815	
Water resources investigations	80	77	131	159	163	420	422
King River dam				15	1,385	2,000	212
Salinity reduction			600	800	170	25	22
Commonwealth aid roads	27,508	29,443	31,286	33,113	38,160	43,460	49,820

BUILDING INDUSTRY.

REGISTRATION OF BUILDERS.

(Question No. 155)

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Whether the Minister has given consideration to the registration of builders in a manner similar to Western Australia and South Australia, to ensure the highest standards of building competency, technical ability and financial stability and to protect home builders; if not, what are the present safeguards against shoddy construction and financial exploitation?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

The Minister for Local Government has given consideration to the registration of builders and has studied the legislation now operating in other States. In Victoria, the Housing Industry Association has commenced a scheme of voluntary registration which, it is understood, is growing rapidly.

It has been decided to wait and see what proportion of builders do register before further considering any legislation to require compulsory registration.

MINISTRY OF STATE DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR METROPOLITAN REGIONS.

(Question No. 156)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Premier—

Whether it is the Government's intention to exclude metropolitan regions from the responsibility of the Minister for State Development and Decentralization; if so, why?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

No.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.

DECENTRALIZATION AND REGIONALIZATION.

(Question No. 157)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Premier—

1. Which Government departments and instrumentalities, respectively, are functioning on a basis of—(a) decentralization; and (b) regionalization?

2. In respect of regional operation—(a) what are the regional boundaries for each department and instrumentality; (b) what steps the Government has taken to co-ordinate and rationalize these regions; and (c) what steps the Government has taken to co-ordinate and rationalize these regions with those operated by the Commonwealth Government and municipal authorities?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

All departments and instrumentalities are functioning to some extent on either a decentralized or regionalized basis.

The regional boundaries for each department and instrumentality are different in most cases and could best be examined by reference to plans held in my department. The Government has asked for a report to be submitted through the State Planning Council recommending boundaries which can be used for future co-ordination and rationalization of departmental administrative regions. In preparing this report discussions are being held with appropriate Commonwealth agencies such as the Postmaster-General's Department and due consideration is being given to municipal boundaries.

COLLUSIVE PRACTICES ACT.

COMPLAINTS OF BREACHES.

(Question No. 167)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Attorney-General—

1. How many complaints of breaches of the Collusive Practices Act 1965 have been made by Government departments, semi-government organizations, and other organizations, respectively, during each year since the Act came into operation?

2. How many of these complaints from each source lead to—(a) warnings; and (b) prosecutions, indicating the number of successful and unsuccessful prosecutions?

3. Whether more than one complaint has been received from any body; if so, from which bodies and how many in each case?

4. Whether the complaints related to a particular area of supply of goods and/or services; if so, which area?

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

This question is identical with question No. 1335 asked by the honorable member towards the end of the last session of Parliament, when I advised him that the information was being obtained but that collation would take some time. I undertook to advise the honorable member as soon as possible. The information, which is somewhat lengthy, was supplied to the honorable member in a letter dated 29th June, 1972, and the position has not changed since that date.

RAFFLES.

MAXIMUM PRIZE VALUE.

(Question No. 168)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Attorney-General—

1. When the maximum prize value of \$3,250 which can be granted by promoters of a local raffle conducted for charitable purposes was fixed?

2. If he will ascertain and inform the House of the maximum value of prizes that may be granted by promoters conducting lawful raffles in the other Australian States?

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

This question seeks information identical with that sought in question No. 1320 asked by the honorable member towards the end of the last session of Parliament. At that time I answered the first part of the question and undertook to obtain the information sought in the second part of the question from other States and to advise the honorable member. This I did in a letter dated 12th May, 1972. I am not aware of any change in the position since that date.

MINES DEPARTMENT.

EXPLORATION LICENCES IN GRAMPIANS AREA.

(Question No. 172)

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas) asked the Minister of Mines—

Whether exploration licences have been issued for the Grampians area; if so—(a) who are the holders of licences; (b) what area of land each licence covers and in which shire; (c) what is the nature of work being carried out; (d) how long each licence is operative and what minerals are covered; and (e) what assurances, if any, were given that the area will not be defaced?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister of Mines).—The answer is—

Yes, exploration licence No. 398 covering part of the south-west segment of the subject area was granted on 30th August, 1972.

(a) The licensee is Noranda Australia Ltd.

(b) The licence covers an area of approximately 200 square miles and forms part of the shires of Dundas and Ararat.

(c) Exploratory operations are restricted to geophysical, geological and geochemical surveying, and drilling.

(d) The licence was granted for a term of two years and covers the following minerals:—

Antimony, copper, lead, molybdenum, nickel, phosphate, silver, tin, titanium, zinc, zirconium and gold.

(e) With modern techniques mineral surveys can involve little or no significant disturbance of the environment, but as a safeguard it is a condition of all exploration licences that the land be restored as nearly as possible to its former condition.

A security is held by the department against due observance of the conditions and restrictions of the licence and/or any reclamation of disturbed areas.

DENTISTS.

SHORTAGE IN COUNTRY TOWNS.

(Question No. 174)

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara) asked the Minister of Health—

1. What steps have been taken to overcome the lack of dentists in country towns?

2. Whether a mobile dental service has been considered; if so, what are the results of the investigations; if not, why?

3. Whether consideration has been given to guaranteeing a minimum income for country dentists similar to that offered to doctors?

4. Whether he will assist the town of Charlton in its efforts to obtain a dentist; if so, what assistance will be provided?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

Apart from providing funds for the training of dentists through the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Melbourne no special steps have been taken to overcome any shortage of dentists in country towns.

Such a shortage is not caused only by economic conditions, other contributing factors being the unwillingness of professional people to take up residence in country towns, difficulties of education for young families, &c.

The Department of Health, within the limits imposed by its inability to recruit sufficient dentists, provides for the dental care of a number of young school children attending schools more than twenty miles from a dentist in private practice.

Before considering what assistance might be given to the town of Charlton, it would be necessary to know what efforts the people of that town have made to help themselves.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION.

IRRIGATION WATER FOR NORTH-WEST BOORT AREA.

(Question No. 175)

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

Whether the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission has received correspondence from an organization known as the North-West Boort Water Users League; if so, whether consideration will be given to their aims of extension of irrigation water into this area either now or when Woolshed Lake storage is completed?

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

Yes, the application is with respect to an area of approximately 50 square miles north-west of Boort. Some of the land concerned is within the Normanville and West Loddon Waterworks Districts while the balance is outside any constituted district.

The lands have no history of irrigation and would require the allocation of between 10,000 and 15,000 acre-feet based on the current water right formula if they were to be irrigated.

The storages and channels supplying the Boort area are already fully committed and because of the high cost of supply estimated at about \$3 million, the area would receive a low priority even if water were available.

The construction of the Woolshed Swamp scheme would not permit any expansion of irrigation in the Boort area but would only ensure greater safety of supply to established irrigators. Having regard to the foregoing facts, the provision of irrigation to the lands in question could not be contemplated.

WHEAT INDUSTRY.

VICTORIAN QUOTAS : DELIVERIES TO STORAGES : WHEAT STORED.

(Question No. 176)

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara) asked the Minister for Conservation, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. What was the gross wheat quota allotted to Victoria in each year and for season 1972-73 since wheat quotas were introduced?

2. What were the gross wheat deliveries to the Grain Elevators Board in each such year and what deliveries are expected for the 1972-73 season?

3. What is the total quantity of wheat in Grain Elevators Board storages in Victoria at the present time, indicating the quantities held in the silos at Dunolly and Murtoa, respectively?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Agriculture is—

1. The gross wheat quota allotted to Victoria in each year since the introduction of wheat quotas was—

1969-70—65,000,000 bushels

1970-71—52,000,000 bushels

1971-72—57,000,000 bushels

1972-73—67,000,000 bushels

2. The gross wheat deliveries to the Grain Elevators Board were—

1969-70—85,807,509 bushels

1970-71—32,738,400 bushels

1971-72—64,158,482 bushels

An accurate estimate for season 1972-73 is not possible at this time but, based on the present condition of the wheat crop and assuming that a normal amount of rain falls during September and October, the deliveries could reach 50 million bushels.

3. The total quantity of wheat held in Grain Elevators Board storages in Victoria at 15th September, 1972, was 28,849,018 bushels. At that date the quantity held in the silo at Dunolly was 609,777 bushels and in the Murtoa silo the quantity held was 783,484 bushels.

TOWN PLANNING APPEALS TRIBUNAL.

DELAYS IN HEARING APPEALS.

(Question No. 179)

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

Whether the Minister is aware of the long delays in hearing appeals by the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal; if so, whether any action will be taken in the immediate future to overcome these delays?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The Minister for Local Government has supplied the following answer:—

Yes. Two tribunals have operated for some time on a part-time basis in place of the original one. From 1st October next both tribunals will become full time.

DEAF CHILDREN.

COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTION OF ORAL EDUCATION.

(Question No. 183)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Education—

With respect to the Victorian Committee for the Promotion of Oral Education of the Deaf—

1. If he will ascertain and inform the House—(a) who the members of the committee are and when they were appointed; (b) who the office-bearers are and whether they receive an annual honorarium; if so, what the respective amounts are; and (c) where the schools are conducted, indicating in respect of each—(i) the number of teachers and students, respectively; and (ii) the date of annual inspection by the District Inspector of Schools during each of the past five years?

2. Whether he will lay copies of the committee's balance-sheet for the past five financial years on the table of the Library?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

1. (a), (b) and 2.

The Education Department has no copies of recent annual reports and balance sheets of the Victorian Committee for Promotion of Oral Education of the Deaf, nor documents relating to members of committee or office bearers.

1. (c), (i) and (ii).

Ewing House School for Deaf Children, Ballarat, established in 1951 by the Victorian committee, has been conducted wholly as a State school since 1958, and is not a committee establishment.

It has eight teachers and a principal and 36 students. Inspection of the school by the district inspector has been carried out during the past five years on the following dates:—

22nd April, 1968.
10th December, 1968.
29th May, 1969.
19th November, 1969.
25th September, 1970.
25th November, 1970.
1st October, 1971.
29th October, 1971.
12th May, 1972.

McDonald House School for Deaf Children, Bendigo is not a school in terms of the Education Act and is conducted by the Bendigo Committee for Promotion of Oral Education of the Deaf.

ROYAL DENTAL HOSPITAL.

DENTURES FOR PENSIONERS :
TREATMENT OF COUNTRY RESIDENTS.

(Question No. 184)

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas) asked the Minister of Health—

1. What action, if any, is being taken to minimize the delay at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne in supplying dentures to pensioners?

2. Whether he is aware that country pensioners have to travel to Melbourne for free dental treatment and have to wait until 1973 for an appointment?

3. Whether it is intended to extend dental services to country centres; if not, why?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne was established primarily to provide "material" for the training of dental students and cannot be expected to provide dental care for every person in need of such care in this State.

The provision of dental care for pensioners should be a function of the Commonwealth Government which already provides a medical service for pensioners.

Nevertheless the Hospitals and Charities Commission has been asked to examine the cost of providing a denture service in country base hospitals for pensioners and persons of similar restricted means. The provision of such a service will depend upon whether the necessary funds can be made available.

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KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS COLLEGE.

STUDENTS' LIVING ALLOWANCE.

(Question No. 185)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister of Health—

Whether, in view of insufficient numbers of students attending the Kindergarten Teachers College because of the small living allowance provided by the Department of Health, he will ensure that this allowance is raised for the start of the next school year to the same level as is provided for primary and secondary student teachers?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

Each year requests are submitted to the Treasury for appropriate increases in all types of bursaries and subsidies payable by the Department of Health and the Government allocates funds bearing in mind the comparative needs of the various bodies concerned. The amounts allocated are announced when the Budget is brought down.

There is no real shortage of persons qualified for appointment to direct kindergartens.

SHOP TRADING HOURS.

RETAIL PET SHOPS.

(Question No. 187)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. What are the legal trading hours of retail pet shops, other than those solely selling fish and birds, and aquarium shops engaged in the retail sale of livestock, feed, equipment, including pumps, machinery, stopwatches, muzzles, etc?

2. Whether there is a general practice of seven day per week trading in this field?

3. Whether representations have been made to him for a clear statement on the legal trading hours for pet shops and action to enforce or amend these trading hours; if so, by whom and with what result?

4. Whether the advertised trading hours of 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. 7 days per week of the "Grey Hound Centre" at 15 Fernwood Avenue, East Ringwood, appearing in the *Sporting Globe* of Wednesday, 30th August, 1972, comply with the Labour and Industry Act 1958; if not, what action is proposed in this and other similar instances of seven day per week trading as advertised in the classified columns of the Age newspaper.

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

1. In the Fifth Schedule to the Labour and Industry Act are set out those classes of shops whose trading hours are not regulated in any way. Included in these are "shops for the sale of aviary and cage birds" and "shops for the sale of aquarium fish". In accordance with paragraph (p) of section 192 (1) of the Act, a shop is characterized by the classes of goods sold therein and therefore the classes of goods that may be sold in a "shop for the sale of aquarium fish" without requiring that shop to be closed at any time are those that are normally sold in shops of that kind. "Pet shops" in which additional classes of goods are sold are required to be closed on Saturdays from 1 p.m. and all day on Sundays.

2. I am not aware that it is a general practice for "pet shops" to open seven days per week.

3. Such representations have been received from the Victorian Pet Shop Owners Association and from Exotic Products Pty. Ltd. These inquirers have been advised of the department's views as to what the law is (having regard to the fact that interpretation of the law is a function of the courts) and have been informed that any specific complaints about alleged breaches of the law will be investigated.

4. An inspection has been made of the shop concerned and the matter is now under consideration.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE: GRADUATES.

(Question No. 189)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Education—

If he will ascertain and inform the House—

1. How many persons graduated from the Department of Social Studies at the University of Melbourne in each of the years 1968 to 1971 inclusive?

2. What was the dispersement of the above-mentioned graduates?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education) The answer is—

We have requested the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne to supply the required information. The honorable member will be advised by letter when details come to hand.

ACCIDENT VICTIMS.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

(Question No. 198)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether accident victims are frequently placed in acute financial difficulties due to delays in settling or bringing accident cases to trial?

2. Whether the Government has investigated the proposition of the New Zealand Royal Commission that the community should accept responsibility for the maintenance of income of every adult accident victim prevented from earning income; if so, what action is contemplated in this regard?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

1. I assume the honorable member is referring to road accidents and, of course, I am aware that there are instances where road accident victims do suffer financial difficulties pending the settlement of cases.

2. In June, 1969, the Government established a committee under the chairmanship of the Government Statist to review this problem and, specifically to examine the possibility of reducing the time lag in the settlement of claims and the costs of litigation in relation to motor car insurance.

During the course of its deliberations, the committee examined a number of proposals including those of the New Zealand Royal Commission of Inquiry into Compensation for Personal Injury.

As a result of one of the committee's recommendations, agreement was reached with authorized insurers that, with certain exceptions, up to 80 per cent of fees would be met for hospital treatment or services to persons for injuries caused by or arising out of the use of a motor vehicle on or after 1st March, 1971. These payments are irrespective of any common law rights for treatment, or services given in Victoria to residents of this State by public hospitals, private hospitals, homes for the aged (hospital section), benevolent homes (hospital section), nursing service and ambulance service.

In addition to this, Cabinet last May approved in principle of the institution of a supplementary "no-fault" compensation scheme and a committee was subsequently appointed to investigate and recommend details of a feasible plan. Full consideration will be given to the recommendations of this committee as soon as its report has been received.

HOSPITAL BENEFITS ASSOCIATION.

MANAGEMENT: MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

(Question No. 199)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Attorney-General—

Whether he received correspondence dated 24th February, 1972, from certain contributors to the Hospital Benefits Association detailing—(a) alleged irregularities in the conduct of the 1971 annual meeting of Hospital Benefits Association contributors; (b) possible breaches of the association's licence; and (c) objections to proposed amendments to its memorandum and articles of association; if so, whether he indicated on 9th March, 1972, that he would examine all matters and advise the contributors in due course of his views and possible course of action; and, in that event, what action has been taken since that date in respect of the above-mentioned complaints?

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—The answer is—

I did receive a letter dated 24th February, 1972, from three contributors to the Hospital Benefits Association and, on 9th March, 1972, I advised the persons concerned that I would have examined the matters referred to in their letter.

A preliminary examination of the matters raised indicated that a number of the matters did not, in fact, involve suggestions of breaches of the provisions of the Companies Act 1961. It is not within my functions to have these complaints examined and it may be that the complainants would have to take legal action to clarify the issues involved.

As yet, it has not been possible to undertake a detailed examination of the complaints which suggest breaches of the Companies Act. This is because of the heavy pressures of work which are being experienced by the Investigation Section of the Companies Office. The section has under investigation or awaiting investigation many matters arising under the provisions of the Companies Act and the Securities Industry Act.

The investigation in respect of the complaints made by the three contributors to the Hospital Benefits Association will be completed as soon as practicable. I might say that action is being taken to increase the staff of the Investigation Section of the Companies Office to the extent immediately possible, having regard to the need for training of newly appointed officers. Another problem is the likely difficulty in recruiting additional officers who are required to be qualified accountants. There is a shortage of qualified accountants in the Public Service at the present time and some offices

on the establishment of my department which require such qualifications have been vacant for lengthy periods. I understand that the Public Service Board is giving consideration to means of overcoming the problem.

(Question No. 200)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Attorney-General—

Whether he has approved an amended new memorandum and articles of association submitted by the executive committee of the Hospital Benefits Association following the doubt expressed by the Crown Law Department of the appropriateness of some provisions of the association's original application; if so—(a) when such approval was granted; (b) what amended alterations were proposed by the association, indicating to what extent they were approved; and (c) whether a new memorandum and articles of association have been incorporated?

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—The answer is—

No. The proposed new memorandum and articles are under examination and there has been correspondence with the solicitors for the association in relation to the documents.

LAKE TYERS ABORIGINAL TRUST. SHARES.

(Question No. 205)

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs—

Whether any members of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust offered shares in the trust to the Government; if so, how many and what action has been or is to be taken regarding such offers?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is—

Yes, four members have offered their shares to the Government, and the matter is under consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Aboriginal Lands Act 1970.

EAST GIPPSLAND DROUGHT. DROUGHT LOANS: FODDER AND TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES.

(Question No. 207)

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Premier—

1. How many applications have been received from people in East Gippsland for drought loans, how many have been rejected, and what is the total amount of loans approved to date?

2. What is the cost to date of—(a) fodder subsidies; and (b) freight subsidies on the transport of livestock by road?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

1. Of the 151 applications received, 95 loans have been approved totalling \$293,000, 17 applications have been declined or withdrawn and the balance of 39 are at present receiving attention or awaiting receipt of further information from applicants.

2. (a) \$24,457 has been paid to primary producers as subsidies on fodder already fed to livestock, whilst the subsidies involved in purchases of fodder authorized to date by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission but where claims for payment will not be made until the fodder has been actually fed to livestock, will amount to a further \$29,058.00.

(b) Of the 613 cases where road movement of livestock has been approved by the commission, an amount of \$43,450 has been paid out in 395 cases and payment will be made in a further 218 cases when the required statutory declarations as to movement have been received.

AUTOMATION.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: MEETINGS: RECOMMENDATIONS.

(Question No. 209)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. On how many occasions the Advisory Committee on Automation has met?

2. Who is the present chairman of the committee?

3. When the last meeting of the committee was held?

4. What recommendations have been made by the committee to deal with the effects of automation?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer is—

1. There have been three meetings of the committee.

2. The Minister of Labour and Industry is *ex officio* chairman.

3. The last meeting was held on 10th February, 1969. The arrangement then made was that the committee would meet again upon a request from any member, supported by an assertion that there had been a disadvantage caused to some person or in some area as the result of the automation of some process, but no such request has since been made.

4. The measures that may need to be taken to deal with the effects of automation, such as finding new avenues of employment and providing retraining to replace redundant skills, are matters within the administration of the Commonwealth Government, which has provided facilities for these purposes after consultation with employers' associations and trade unions through the National Labour Advisory Committee.

The Victorian committee was not constituted for the purpose of making recommendations to anyone and has not done so; it was established at the request of the Trades Hall Council to provide a channel of communication, particularly to provide an avenue through which the trade union movement could approach the Government whenever problems arising from automation became evident to it.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

EAST PRESTON LAND.

(Question No. 212)

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Preston) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

What was the outcome of protracted negotiations carried out by the Housing Commission in relation to land situated at the corner of Water Road and Gower Street, East Preston?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

There has been no protracted negotiation carried out by the Housing Commission in relation to the former migrant hostel site in Water Road, East Preston. The commission has agreed in principle to sell this area to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The commission is about to regain possession of this land from the Commonwealth which will then allow it to be sold to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works as an extension of the existing adjoining depot.

ACCOMMODATION WAITING LISTS: ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.

(Question No. 216)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. How many eligible applicants were on the Housing Commission's waiting lists for—(a) metropolitan; and (b) country accommodation as at 30th June, 1972, indicating how many were aged single females, aged single males, aged couples, non-aged childless couples, families without a male head,

families without a female head, couples with dependent children, and pensioners (not already included in earlier categories), respectively?

2. Whether there were any other types of household on the commission's lists; if so, what types?

3. What are the trend rates of growth or decline in the number of metropolitan applications received from each of the groups referred to in part 1 of this question?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).

—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. The waiting lists of the commission are divided into categories which identify the type of accommodation required. As at 30th June, 1972, the number of applications in such categories were as follows:—

	Metropolitan	Country
Lone persons (1-bed)	896	1,034
Low rental (2-bed) ..	271	297
Childless couples ..	512	194
2-bedroom ..	1,832	1,156
3-bedroom ..	5,189	1,668
Large families ..	422	192

Additional information as regards categories is contained in answer to question No. 222.

2. All applications are included in the above figures.

3. Variations in demand are illustrated in figures for the four years prior to 30th June, 1972—

	Metropolitan			
	As at 30th June, 1969	As at 30th June, 1970	As at 30th June, 1971	As at 30th June, 1972
Lone persons	2,338	2,156	1,258	896
Low rental ..	191	300	185	271
Childless couples ..	347	420	590	512
2-bedroom ..	2,803	3,010	2,579	1,831
3-bedroom ..	4,324	6,606	6,110	5,189
Large families ..	489	664	628	422

ESTIMATED DEMAND FOR HOUSING: DELETION OF NAMES FROM WAITING LISTS.

(Question No. 217)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. Whether the Housing Commission has prepared estimates of the likely demand for its houses and flats in the next five or ten years; if so, what are the estimates?

2. What procedures the commission adopts to cull from its waiting lists people who are no longer in need of accommodation?

3. How many applicants have had their names removed from the commission's waiting lists in each year since 1967-68 and for what reasons the applications were cancelled?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).

—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

The following figures relating to intake of applications since 1967-68 reveal a continuous if variable demand for accommodation:—

1967-68 ..	5,238	Metropolitan	4,856	Country
1968-69 ..	4,964	Metropolitan	4,776	Country
1969-70 ..	6,942	Metropolitan	5,753	Country
1970-71 ..	6,771	Metropolitan	5,839	Country
1971-72 ..	5,833	Metropolitan	5,660	Country

2. Applications are subject to progressive screening processes with a view to establishing true demand and eliminating those cases where the assistance of the commission is no longer required.

3. Total cancellations since 1967-68 have been as follows:—

1967-68 ..	2,311
1968-69 ..	5,221
1969-70 ..	3,061
1970-71 ..	7,252
1971-72 ..	6,433

The main reason for cancellations is failure on the part of applicants to reaffirm their interest in obtaining homes. Many other applicants are found to be ineligible upon investigation or to have made private arrangements.

ACCOMMODATION VACANCIES: DURATION AND TERMINATION OF TENANCIES.

(Question No. 218)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. How many vacancies have occurred in Housing Commission metropolitan—(a) high-rise flats; (b) walk-up flats; and (c) rented houses, respectively, in each of the financial years from 1968-69 to 1971-72?

2. What was the average length of metropolitan tenancy in—(a) high-rise flats; (b) walk-up flats; and (c) rented houses?

3. What were the reasons people left the commission's rental units?

4. How many commission tenants have vacated—(a) high-rise flats; (b) walk-up flats; and (c) rental houses, respectively, owing the commission in excess of \$50 in each of the financial years from 1968-69 to 1971-72?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. Total number of vacancies in metropolitan estates of the commission were as follows:—

1968-69	1,498
1969-70	1,824
1970-71	1,970
1971-72	2,215

Details of categories making up these totals are not available.

2. Average lengths of tenancies in metropolitan estates were—

High-rise flats	2.9 years
Walk-up flats	5.3 years
Houses	13.5 years

3. Reasons given for vacating—

Left the State.
 Purchased H.C.V. homes.
 Purchased private homes.
 Transferred to other Housing Commission, Victoria, units.
 Transferred to private accommodation.
 Ill-health.
 Tenants deceased.
 Arrears.

4. Vacated tenants owing in excess of \$50—

1968-69	780
1969-70	815
1970-71	860
1971-72	940

NOTICES TO QUIT.

(Question No. 219)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

How many notices to quit were issued by the Housing Commission in each of the years 1968-69 to 1971-72 inclusive?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
5,325	5,442	6,389	5,850
Evicted—			
11	17	28	19

UNITS AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL.

(Question No. 220)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. How many new or vacant—(a) 2-bedroom houses; (b) 3-bedroom houses; (c) 4-bedroom houses; (d) 2-bedroom flats; and (e) 3-bedroom flats, became available for rental in metropolitan and country areas, respectively, in each of the years 1964, 1967 and 1971?

2. How many units were vacant in the metropolitan area at 30th June, 1972?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. Units of 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom and larger types available for rental in the years 1964, 1967 and 1971, were as follows:—

		Houses				Flats
Metropolitan						
1964	2-bedroom	No figures available				
	3-bedroom and over	No figures available				
1967	2-bedroom	27	..	..	..	348
	3-bedroom and over	230	..	..	..	229
1971	2-bedroom	30	..	..	..	826
	3-bedroom and over	252	..	..	..	495
Country						
1964	2-bedroom	No figures available			..	..
	3-bedroom	No figures available	..	..	..	..
1967	2-bedroom	528	..	..	..	5
	3-bedroom and over	1,060	..	..	..	..
1971	2-bedroom	542	..	..	..	1
	3-bedroom and over	1,232	..	..	..	..

2. 116 units.

ALLOCATION OF ACCOMMODATION: PRIORITIES.

(Question No. 221)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. On what basis houses, walk-up and high-rise flats, respectively, are allocated?

2. Whether people who request accommodation in a specific area obtain priority for units in that area ahead of those who have been on the waiting list for a longer period?

3. Whether any provision is made for cases of urgent need?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. Applications are dealt with in order of date of lodgement having regard to the type of accommodation required.

2. The only occasions where preference for locally built flats is given to local applicants are in relation to agreements made with municipalities which have assisted in schemes for pensioner flats.

3. Apart from priority given to applications affected by the operation of section 68 of the Housing Act, the commission is prepared to examine the circumstances of any case of exceptional difficulty with a view to determining whether or not the extension of priority is justified.

RENTAL REBATES.

(Question No. 222)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

What was the cost of rental rebates in 1971–72 and what were the main categories of tenants receiving such rebates during the year?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

Rental rebates cost \$1,890,410 in 1971–72. Categories of tenants paying rebated rentals during the year were—

Category	Number 30th June, 1971	Number 30th June, 1972
Civilian pensioners:		
Aged single ..	3,442	4,062
Aged married couples ..	996	1,050
Widow ..	907	922
Invalid ..	664	720
T.B. ..	4	2
Repatriation pensioner:		
War service ..	296	274

Category	Number 30th June, 1971	Number 30th June, 1972
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Social services:		
Unemployment and sickness benefit ..	168	180
Deserted wives ..	1,030	1,207
Workers compensation ..	24	23
Superannuation ..	28	18
Low earnings ..	317	188
Total	7,876	8,646

FRANK WILKES COURT, FAIRFIELD.

(Question No. 223)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. What is the economic rental of flats for the aged in Frank Wilkes Court, Fairfield?

2. Whether all the occupants are pensioners or of pensionable age?

3. What rents are paid by pensioner occupants of those flats?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

1. \$10.15 per week.

2. Yes.

3. If on a full aged pension without additional income—\$2.90 per week.

RESEARCH STAFF.

(Question No. 224)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

How many research staff are employed by the Housing Commission and what are their qualifications?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

Thirty commission officers are engaged partially on research duties. Qualifications held by these officers are in the fields of architecture, civil engineering, public administration and accounting.

VACANT LAND: COUNTRY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME: OUTER METROPOLITAN ESTATES.

(Question No. 228)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. How many acres of vacant land the Housing Commission has purchased in the

metropolitan area of Melbourne (including the Shire of Werribee) in each of the years since 1958-59?

2. What were the locations of the commission's major broadacre vacant sites at the end of the financial year 1971-72?

3. How many acres of vacant land were owned by the commission at 30th June, 1972, in country areas and where the major part of the land was located?

4. What considerations determine the location of units to be built in the country?

5. In what ways the commission's country construction programme is part of an integrated Government policy of decentralization?

6. How much vacant land the commission plans to buy in the metropolitan area during the next fifteen years?

7. Whether the commission and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works have conferred on which of the proposed growth corridors, if any, will be given priority by the commission in its construction programme?

8. What policy of land purchase in the Melbourne area the commission is following in the period preceding adoption of the board's plan?

9. Whether the commission owns land in the Melbourne metropolitan area which is outside the proposed growth corridors; if so, how many acres?

10. At what gross residential density the commission is planning to develop new outer metropolitan estates?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. The commission has purchased vacant land in the metropolitan area (including Werribee) as set out hereunder—

1958-59 Macleod 5 acre. Frankston (Forest estate) 296 acres.

1959-60 Essendon 7½ acres subsequently sold to Education Department.

1960-61 Werribee 800 acres.

1961-62 Newport 8 acres.

1962-63 Macleod 10 acres. Frankston 184.5 acres.

1963-64 Macleod 2.5 acres, Werribee 25 acres, Laverton 208.5 acres.

1964-65 Sunshine 309 acres.

1965-66 Macleod .75 acre.

1966-67 Nil.

1967-68 Nil.

1968-69 Nil.

1969-70 Dandenong 37.5 acres.

1971-72 Paisley 138 acres. Hampton Park 56 acres.

In addition, some 550 acres of land partly servicing the metropolitan area were purchased at Narre Warren during the year 1970-71.

2. The commission's major holdings of broadacres in the metropolitan area at the end of the financial year 1971-72 were at—

Broadmeadows.

Werribee.

Sunshine.

Macleod.

Paisley.

Hampton Park, Dandenong.

Narre Warren.

3. At 30th June, 1972, the commission owned 5,696 acres of vacant land in country areas. Major holdings are located at—

Geelong, Werribee, Ballarat, Wodonga, Shepparton, Churchill, Moe, Traralgon, Morwell, Sale, Bendigo, Echuca, Hamilton, Hastings, Horsham, Mornington.

4. The commission in determining the location of units to be built in country areas has regard to the demand known to the commission.

5. Forty-five per cent of the commission's development takes place in country areas with special consideration being given to nominated decentralized industries.

6. It is estimated on the basis of the present rate of house construction that 4,500 acres should be purchased in the next fifteen years.

7. The commission has conferred with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works on the availability of land for commission use in the corridors.

8. The commission, as in the past, has a forward land buying policy to ensure that adequate provision is made for the commission's future needs.

9. The commission does not own any land in the metropolitan area outside the growth areas.

10. The residential density proposed for new outer metropolitan estates is mainly the normal villa densities with some consideration given to some medium density housing where appropriate.

SLUM CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT.

(Question No. 229)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. How many areas of Melbourne, of half an acre or more, the Housing Commission is currently investigating with a view to slum clearance or redevelopment, indicating in what local government areas these are located and what is the acreage involved in each area?

2. What is the commission's projected expenditure for the next five years on—(a) compulsory acquisition for demolition; and (b) redevelopment of compulsorily acquired areas?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

1. The only area currently being investigated with a view to slum clearance or redevelopment is an area of 6 acres known as Church Street area, Richmond.

2. (a) The projected expenditure on compulsory acquisition for demolition is \$7,000,000 over the next two and a half years which will provide for acquisition of all current slum reclamation projects.

(b) Redevelopment of compulsorily acquired areas is estimated at \$22,000,000.

PURCHASE OF HOUSES AND FLATS: INNER CITY AREAS.

(Question No. 230)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. What is the Housing Commission's policy with regard to the purchase, by private treaty, of houses and flats as a means of increasing the range of accommodation which the commission can offer—(a) relocates from slum clearance areas; and (b) households on its waiting lists?

2. What costs and benefits the commission takes into account when it is drawing up plans for the development of inner city areas?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. The commission's present stock of houses provide a comprehensive range of accommodation except that it has been

necessary to purchase some 1-bedroom accommodation for the needs of elderly persons in some special locations.

2. The commission takes into account all known costs and benefits that can be quantified when planning for the development of inner city areas.

ATHERTON STREET, FITZROY, ESTATE.

(Question No. 231)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

What was the average cost per flat, including land, construction and all other costs, of units in the Atherton Street, Fitzroy, housing estate?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

	2-bedroom units	3-bedroom units
	\$	\$
Land and development	1,109	1,220
Building costs	11,266	13,510
Total cost per flat in block 4 ..	12,375	14,730

LAND, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR COSTS.

(Question No. 232)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

What is the current estimated—(a) land cost; (b) construction cost; and (c) maintenance and repair costs per annum, of—(i) a 3-bedroom high-rise unit on compulsorily acquired land; (ii) a 3-bedroom two storey 'piggyback maisonette' unit on compulsorily acquired land; (iii) a 3-bedroom brick veneer home at Broadmeadows rented to its occupants; (iv) a lone person unit in a high-rise block on compulsorily acquired land; and (v) a lone person unit in a single storey complex on land purchased in the middle suburbs?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

	(a) Land cost	(b) Construction cost	(c) Maintenance cost
	\$	\$	\$
(1) 2-bedroom high-rise unit on compulsorily acquired land	1,220	13,510	60 + \$30 for lift maintenance, electricity consumption, fire service and public liability risk insurance.
* (2) 3-bedroom, 2-story "piggy-back maisonette" on compulsorily acquired land.	1,534	11,020	95
(3) 3-bedroom brick veneer home at Broadmeadows rented to its occupant.	2,250	9,320	95
(4) Lone person unit in a high rise block on compulsorily acquired land	695	5,992	35 + \$16 for lift maintenance, electricity consumption, fire service and public liability risk insurance.
(5) Lone-person unit on a single story complex on land purchased in middle suburbs	884 (development only as land was donated)	5,400	35

*None of such units have been constructed for some time as the latest was Noone Street, Clifton Hill, in 1969.

BROOKS CRESCENT, NORTH FITZROY, RECLAMATION AREA.

(Question No. 233)

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. What is the total amount which the Housing Commission has outlaid to date for purchase of homes in the Brooks Crescent area, North Fitzroy, what is the cost of the interest on the money outlaid and at what rate is an interest cost being imputed?

2. Whether the Minister has seen a report by the Fitzroy Residents' Association which claims that a survey conducted by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects found that the area was one of sound housing and could be brought up to a satisfactory standard by the expenditure of \$540,000 on repairs and limited redevelopment?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Minister of Housing has supplied the following answer:—

1. The total amount outlaid to date for purchase of homes in the Brooks Crescent area, North Fitzroy, is \$754,680.00. There is no interest cost charged to the commission.

2. Yes.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS BOARD.

TRAM TRACKS IN ST. GEORGES ROAD, NORTHCOTE.

(Question No. 225)

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether it is the intention of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board to re-locate the tram tracks in St. Georges Road, Northcote; if so, where, how and when they will be relocated and at what cost?

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

The Tramways Board desires to relocate the tram tracks in St. Georges Road, Northcote, and is discussing with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works the feasibility of relocating some existing water mains to provide space for a tramway within the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works pipeline reserve in the centre of the road.

Until investigations are completed it is not possible to determine a programme for the work or the cost.

PRESTON AND NORTHCOTE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL.

CAPITAL WORKS.

(Question No. 226)

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Health—

1. What amounts of money will be made available for capital works at the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital this financial year and when?

2. What are the approved works for which additional amounts will be made available?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

1. The amount of \$150,000 has been allocated from Government funds for capital works at the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital during the financial year 1972-73.

Works in progress involve increasing the capacity of air-conditioning plant and improving casualty and kitchen areas—at a cost of \$58,400.

Works for which tenders are being invited include an intensive care nursery and a child-minding centre.

2. Plans for extension of residential accommodation for additional resident medical officers are now being considered.

In addition, the Hospitals and Charities Commission is currently discussing with the hospital further developmental plans which will be followed by a substantial increase in beds and expansion of supporting departments and services.

Progress in these respects will be related to the rate of completion of detailed planning and the programme of staged construction geared to the capital funds available at the time.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

FUNDS ALLOCATED TO HOSPITALS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—Can the Treasurer inform the House whether the amounts to be paid to the Alfred Hospital for extensions and to the Royal Melbourne Hospital for the establishment of a renal unit, as outlined in the Budget speech, are the same as those outlined by the former Treasurer after additional funds were made available from Canberra approximately twelve months ago?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—An answer to that question would require a check of the figures,

and I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to put his question on the Notice Paper.

COUNTRY DENTAL CLINICS.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands).—Following the announcement by the Minister of Health in the country edition of the *Age* today that dental clinics are to be established in two country areas, will the Minister give an undertaking, in accordance with an agreement he made with me some six months ago, that one of these centres shall be at Bendigo?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—I am not in a position to give such an undertaking this afternoon, but I hope I shall be able to make a further announcement next week.

LEAD-FREE PETROL.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—Has the Minister for Conservation had his attention drawn to an article in today's *Sun News-Pictorial* stating that the University of Tasmania has produced a lead-free standard petrol, and will the honorable gentleman arrange to have the claim investigated to ascertain whether Victorian standards can be improved?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation).—The article has not been drawn to my attention, nor have I read it. I will do so and will refer the matter to the Environment Protection Authority for a report.

USTASHI.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—Is it the view of the Chief Secretary that since the matter was last raised in this House—

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! I think the question is asking for an opinion.

Mr. HOLDING.—No, Sir, it is not. Perhaps if you listen to the question, you might then consider it. In 1964 a request was made in this House inviting the Chief Secretary to carry out an investigation into the activities of an organization known as the

Croatian Liberation Movement and members of the Ustashi, and an inquiry took place. Is it the view of the Chief Secretary since that inquiry and since a number of arrests have been made (a) that there is no organization known as the Ustashi in Victoria, and (b) that members of this organization have not been involved in serious breaches of the law of this State?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—I have no view about whether such an organization exists at the moment. I have asked for a copy of the report referred to by the Leader of the Opposition so that I may study it. All I know about the situation at the moment is that the police have been directed to make every effort to uncover violence and terrorism of any type and that already four arrests have been made in Victoria for possession of this sort of equipment.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—Further to my last question, is it not a fact that one of the arrests followed information given by a Croatian named Marjan Jurjevic and that as a result of that information being made available to the Victorian police, people were arrested for being in possession of explosive substances?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—I am aware that arrests were made but I am not familiar with the events leading up to the arrests. If the Leader of the Opposition would like details, I shall obtain them for him.

SUBURBAN TRAIN CANCELLATIONS.

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn).—Further to an answer given by the Minister of Transport last week concerning the cancellation of peak-hour suburban trains, can the honorable gentleman indicate whether there has been an improvement in the situation during the past week?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—This has been a continuing problem for much longer than it should have been. About two weeks

ago there was a spectacular improvement after I called a meeting of the unions. The situation deteriorated a little towards the end of last week, but today I received information from the Chairman of the Railways Commissioners, Mr. Brown, that he is pleased that the position is now corrected and that, for a variety of reasons which I need not go into now, the railways are hopeful that the good position will continue. There were no cancellations of suburban trains during peak periods yesterday and this morning, and the chairman assured me that this is likely to continue. In addition, extra trains will be running to the Royal Show starting on Thursday and he assures me that ample guards, and more particularly drivers, will be available to cover the situation.

USTASHA.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I direct a question to the Premier and Treasurer because of his administration as Chief Secretary during the period referred to in my question directed to the Chief Secretary earlier today. The Chief Secretary has not yet had an opportunity of acquainting himself with the report that I referred to. In view of the fact that the previous remarks were made when the Premier was Chief Secretary, does the Premier and Treasurer state that it is his view (a) that there is no organization known as the Ustasha operating in Victoria, and (b) that certain—

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! It is asking for an opinion.

Mr. HOLDING.—I shall rephrase the question. Does the Premier state that when he was Chief Secretary, in which period a number of persons were arrested and charged with being in possession of explosive substances, information was given to his department by Mr. Marjan Jurjevic and allegations were made that persons in possession of explosive substances were members of an organization known as the Ustasha and/or

the Croatian Liberation Movement? Is it a fact that, on the basis of those arrests, there is evidence that in this State there exists an organization known as the Croatian Liberation Movement and the Ustasha?

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—That is very long for a question without notice.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I will attempt to be brief, Mr. Speaker. It is a fact that four men were arrested and charged with possession of explosives as a result of information given by Mr. Jurjevic which in turn, according to him, had come from a member of the Croatian group in this community. So far as I am aware, the only information that the police have is that there are Croatian liberation groups, or people interested in the freedom of Croatia, in this community. Whether they belong to anything called the Ustasha has not been established, so far as I am aware; nor, indeed, has it been established what Ustasha really stands for. However, there is no question that there are some extremists in the community who seek Croatian liberation, as they put it, and who are prepared to use violence to demonstrate their views.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—In view of the Premier's answer, I ask whether the honorable gentleman will be so kind as to transmit his reply to the Federal Attorney-General, who has publicly alleged that Mr. Jurjevic has made allegations which were not proved; and in view of the fact that this Victorian citizen has given evidence to the Victoria Police which has led to the arrest of a number of citizens—

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—The question should be asked and no speeches made.

Mr. HOLDING.—I ask that the same standards should apply to Ministers when they give answers, Sir.

The SPEAKER.—The question should be asked.

Mr. HOLDING.—In view of the Premier's answer, will the honorable gentleman publicly correct the statements of the Federal Attorney-General that Mr. Jurjevic has never given any evidence which has led to the arrest of any person and indicate to the Federal Attorney-General that Mr. Jurjevic's actions have led to the arrest of certain persons charged with very serious breaches of the Victorian law?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I am not aware of any statement of that sort by the Federal Attorney-General, but I point out that there is a full interchange of information between the Victoria Police, other State police forces and the Commonwealth police.

ESCAPE FROM PENTRIDGE GAOL.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg).—Can the Minister for Social Welfare advise the House of the results of inquiries which have been made into the recent escape of a prisoner from Pentridge Gaol and of the methods which are being adopted to prevent a repetition?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister for Social Welfare).—It is a matter of great concern that people can escape from Pentridge, and it is hoped that there will be no recurrence. Recently a new security officer has been appointed, and his task will be to tighten security at Pentridge in an effort to overcome any laxity in security which may exist at present.

ESSENDON AIRPORT.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the Country Party).—I address my question to the Premier. Will the Victorian Government give its support to a campaign mounted by the Victorian Municipal Airport Operators to retain Essendon as an airport in Melbourne?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I must say that the "campaign", as it is termed by the Leader of the Country Party, has not so far reached me, or, so far as I am aware, any member of the Government. I am not aware on what ground it is based,

or why this campaign should be mounted. However, if the honorable member submits details to me, I shall certainly see that they are considered.

NEW TRAMS.

Mr. HAYES (Scoresby).—Can the Minister of Transport inform the House over what period it is expected that the 100 new trams will be placed into service?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—This matter will depend on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board accepting tenders which it is now calling. The rate at which delivery can be effected will be an important aspect of the tenders, as will the availability of finance. Deliveries will probably be made over a period of about two years. I am trying to inform the honorable member how I see the position because finally this will be worked out as a result of the tenders which are being called and which are coming from throughout the world.

NURSES (GENERAL NURSES) REGULATIONS 1972.

Mr. JONES (Melbourne).—Can the Minister of Health inform the House why the Nurses (General Nurses) Regulations 1972, which were promised some time ago, have not been gazetted; can he account for the delay; and can he inform the House when these regulations are likely to be gazetted?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer to the first section of the honorable member's three-pronged question is that the regulations have not been gazetted because the Government is not yet in a position to put them through Treasury. I hope that within the next short period of time the whole matter will be cleared up, that the regulations will be gazetted and that the nurses' new curriculum can be financed and implemented after examination by the Treasury.

INQUIRY INTO CHILD CRUELTY.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—Can the Chief Secretary inform the House why Dr. Dora Bialestock was not considered for the inquiry into cruelty to children despite the fact that she was responsible for recommending to the Government, by means of an excellent report, what action should be taken some two or three years ago?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The Cabinet decision to set up this inquiry also placed the responsibility for the inquiry in the hands of the Minister of Health.

REGISTRATION OF OATS PRODUCERS.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballaarat South).—Will the Minister for Conservation, who represents the Minister of Agriculture in this House, ask the Minister of Agriculture to request the Oats Marketing Board to extend until 30th September the time available for the registration of persons as producers of oats?

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister for Conservation).—I believe this question arises from the fact that approximately 2,000 oats growers failed to register within the prescribed period. It would appear to me to be a most unfortunate situation if a poll were to be taken in these circumstances. The Minister of Agriculture has discussed the matter with me and has informed me that he is now giving urgent consideration to it.

INQUIRY INTO CHILD CRUELTY.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I ask the Minister of Health: Why is it that Dr. Dora Bialestock has been overlooked in the inquiry into cruelty to children in spite of the fact that she was responsible for conducting the previous inquiry?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The person concerned has not been overlooked. The decision was made yesterday. An announcement was made that a consultant pediatrician and a research sociologist would be the people concerned

in this inquiry. It may well be that Dr. Dora Bialestock comes within both of these categories. At present the matter is being examined with a view to finding the proper person.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas).—I direct a question to the Treasurer. Why was it stated in the Governor's Speech that housing for country industries and in country towns would be given first priority when no extra allocation has been provided to the Housing Commission? This being so, how is it proposed to finance housing to help decentralized industry?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—What was intended to be conveyed was that in allocating funds available to it the Housing Commission would give priority to the requirements and needs of housing in country centres.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS.—No extra money?

Mr. HAMER.—No extra money, but the commission would make its allocations in a different order; in other words, it would organize the priorities.

SCHOOL COMPOSITE FEES.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong).—With the demise of composite fees as announced last week, will the Minister of Education circularize head teachers indicating to them the precise bounds of those items which are now going to be done away with? The reason I ask the question is that apparently in my city booksellers and suppliers of material have forwarded their lists to the principals and the principals wish to finalize the lists and do not know where they stand.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—It is intended to circularize all school principals giving details of the new system. Any telephone calls they care to make to solve the problem mentioned by the honorable member should be directed to the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Moore.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—In view of the Government's decision to abolish composite fees, is it the intention of the Minister of Education to extend that principle to cover the abolition of composite fees in secondary and primary teachers' colleges? If so, does the Government intend to reimburse the money that students have paid in composite fees this year in view of the fact—

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! The question is rather long.

Mr. HOLDING.—There are three parts to the question, Mr. Speaker, if you would let me finish—

The SPEAKER.—Order! I remind the Leader of the Opposition that it is possible for him to ask three questions but it is far better at question time not to ask three questions at once.

Mr. HOLDING.—With great respect, Sir, it would be a little better if I could finish my question, which is in three parts.

The SPEAKER.—Order! The Leader of the Opposition knows that at question time oral questions ought to be short. They should not be read. I repeat, they should not be read, and they should be short. It is far better at question time if the question is short and the answer is short.

Mr. HOLDING.—I agree about the answer. I shall put the question in two parts, if I may. In view of the Government's decision to abolish composite fees, (1) will that decision extend to the abolition of composite fees in primary and secondary teacher's colleges; and (2), in view of the fact that some students in these colleges were threatened with suspension unless they paid these fees, will these students have their fees reimbursed?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—It is not intended that the lifting of school composite fees should apply to students in teachers'

colleges. We are anxious to help the parents of children who have found payment of the fees a burden, but student teachers are paid an allowance in Victoria which is higher, so far as I can ascertain, than that paid anywhere else in the world, and the relatively small fee payable by teachers' college students is not regarded as a burden.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds).—Has the Premier noted reports that the Government intends to reorganize the "Housing Department?" If these reports are correct, will the honorable gentleman explain where and what is the "Housing Department" which is to be reorganized?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I have not seen the reports to which the honorable member for Moonee Ponds is referring. What I said last night was that for the first time, there would be a Ministry of Housing—there is no Ministry now—and that the Housing Commission would be providing, within itself, a department to deal with certain specific needs of specific groups of people, and I gave details.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—Has the Minister of Health received submissions from the Institute of Health Surveyors on proposals by the Parliamentary Meat Industry Committee to transfer the responsibility for meat inspection to the Department of Agriculture? If so, has that submission met with a Government decision to act on this recommendation?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—I have received submissions from that body, but I cannot understand the purport of the second part of the question, whether it was Government policy that would be affected or the policy of the Institute of Health Surveyors.

EMERGENCY WELFARE PAYMENTS.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell).—In view of the delay in the payment of social service unemployment benefits after application is made, will the Minister for Social Welfare ensure that provision is made for heavy demands on State emergency welfare funds in the Latrobe Valley in the light of the fact that 1,000 men were dismissed from a Yallourn works project two weeks ago?

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Minister for Social Welfare).—I suspect that the reason for the dismissal of the 1,000 men from the Yallourn project was primarily of their own making. It is difficult for my Department to be sympathetic under these conditions. However, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services might be involved in making unemployment payments to these men. I do not know; I should not like to express an opinion on that.

There are two forms of emergency grants. One comes from the Commonwealth department and would take effect for those who ultimately become eligible for permanent Commonwealth benefits. The other source of assistance is through the State Social Welfare Department. It applies in needy cases where there is a likelihood of a breakdown of a family, and therefore of the children coming into care. If there are individual circumstances where the family is likely to break down and the children come into care, the departmental office in the Latrobe Valley would give urgent attention to those cases. I am not aware of any delay in the processing of cases by my department.

If there are voluntary organizations in the Latrobe Valley whose resources are being strained beyond their normal expectations and they apply to the department, on the same basis as other voluntary organizations apply, for emergency assistance, they will be given favourable consideration.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—In view of the answer by the Minister of Health to my previous question, that he has received a submission from the Institute of Health Surveyors, will the honorable gentleman indicate whether the Government still proposes to transfer the responsibility for meat inspection to the Department of Agriculture, as indicated in the Governor's Speech?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is, "No."

SUPERANNUATION PORTABILITY.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray).—Can the Premier and Treasurer briefly indicate what progress has been made in implementing the scheme to ensure portability of superannuation benefits announced so loudly and well by his predecessor?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I believe I answered a similar question from a member of the Opposition only last week. The present position is that draft legislation has been prepared. It has been widely circulated and a number of objections, have been received. These comments are being considered. It is clear that a scheme such as this presents considerable difficulties. As I commented last week in the House, these difficulties are particularly apparent in cases where an employer has an operation which extends over more than one State and where there is an interchange of people serving part of their time with a company or firm or organization in one State and another part of it in another State. For all of these reasons the scheme is still subject to a great deal of examination.

CONCRETE RAILWAY SLEEPERS.

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland).—Is it a fact that the Victorian Railways are examining the possibility of using concrete sleepers; if so, what arrangements have been made to

employ the men cutting sleepers in the country areas who will be put out of work?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—If the Railways Commissioners are considering this matter they have not discussed it with me, but I have no doubt that it would have been considered at some stage in the past because this would be in the minds of the people concerned with the operation of the railways. I certainly do not think they have been applying their minds to it as being likely in the immediate future. If it was considered and the sleeper cutters lost their jobs, I suppose someone would have to help to make the concrete sleepers and maybe they would have those jobs.

SCHOOL COMPOSITE FEES.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—Will the Minister of Health inform the House whether the provision made in the Budget for the deletion of composite fees will be extended to students at the Melbourne Kindergarten Teachers College, especially those who are not in receipt of bursaries?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—This is not a matter for the Department of Health administration.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—Can I redirect that question to the Minister of Education?

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—If he be responsible.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is, "No". The Melbourne Kindergarten Teachers College is basically a private organization and the fees it charges is a matter for its own administration.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—Has the Premier and Treasurer had an opportunity of examining the proposal I submitted to him on the motion for the adjournment of the House on 5th September when I

requested that funds be made available to the Conservation Council of Victoria to enable it to edit a report which it had submitted to the Western Port Regional Planning Authority so that the report can be published in book form for the general public?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I am having the matter examined. I am not able to inform the honorable member what the cost would be. This is one of the matters to be determined before considering whether funds can be provided, but I undertake to give an answer next week.

PAPERS.

The following papers, pursuant to the directions of several Acts of Parliament, were laid upon the table by the Clerk:—

Education Act 1958—Resumption of land at Keilor and Northcote—Certificate of the Minister of Education (two papers).

National Museum of Victoria Council—Report for the year 1971-72.

Public Service Act 1958—Public Service (Public Service Board) Regulations—Nos. 286-291 (six papers).

State Savings Bank of Victoria—Report, Statements, Returns, etc., for the year 1971-72—Ordered to be printed.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts:—

Country Roads Act 1958 Nos. 254, 255.

Labour and Industry Act 1958 No. 251.

Marketable Securities Act 1970 No. 252.

Railways Act 1958 No. 253.

Town and Country Planning Act 1961—

City of Knox Planning Scheme, 1965, Amendment No. 82, 1970.

City of Mildura Planning Scheme, Amendment No. 4, 1972.

SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of a Bill to amend the Superannuation Act 1958, the Pensions Supplementation Act 1966 and the Police Regulation Act 1958, to provide additional powers for the Superannuation Board and for other purposes.

A resolution in accordance with the recommendation was passed in Committee and adopted by the House.

On the motion of **Mr. HAMER** (Premier and Treasurer), the Bill was brought in and read a first time.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That a chair be provided on the floor of the House for His Excellency Mr. Naka Funada, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Japan.

This Parliament is honoured by the visit of a Japanese Parliamentary delegation of which His Excellency is the leader. He has been a member of the Japanese Diet for more than 40 years. From time to time when we have had visits from distinguished overseas members of Parliament, heads of Government and presiding officers this course has been taken as a mark of respect and in their honour.

The motion was agreed to.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND SOLICITOR-GENERAL BILL.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Its purpose is to re-enact the Solicitor-General Act 1958 with amendments and to make provision for the performance of certain functions of the Attorney-General by another Minister. The Bill involves only two substantive changes in the law, and I will deal with them when commenting on the relevant clauses of the Bill.

Clause 1 contains the usual citation provision. Clause 2 repeals the existing legislation in relation to the Solicitor-General, and contains a saving provision in the usual form. Clause 3 contains the first of the substantive changes to which I have referred. As honorable members will be aware, the effect of section 19 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 is to enable a Minister of the Crown to act on behalf of the Minister specified in an Act of Parliament, whether

the Act refers to "the Minister" or to the title of his Ministerial office. The section also deems the expression "law officer" to include a Minister acting for or on behalf of the Attorney-General, as well as the Attorney-General. A similar provision relating to the expression "law officer" is contained in section 17 of the Acts Interpretation Act.

However, the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 provides no assistance in relation to powers and duties of the Attorney-General derived solely from the common law, such as the granting of a fiat in respect of a relator action or the performance of functions in relation to charitable trusts. As matters stand, if the Attorney-General is not available there is no other Minister empowered to exercise or perform his common law powers or duties.

As honorable members will appreciate, it is sometimes necessary in circumstances of some urgency for the Attorney-General to grant a fiat; it may be that an injunction is being urgently sought. Clause 3 of the Bill, therefore, enables a Minister acting for or on behalf of the Attorney-General to exercise or perform those powers or duties.

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 re-enact sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Solicitor-General Act 1958 with one substantive amendment, which is contained in paragraph (a) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4. Paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section 3 of the 1958 Act provides that the Solicitor-General shall be paid such salary and allowances as are determined by the Governor in Council. However, for the past twenty years it has been accepted that the salary and allowance of the Solicitor-General should be identical with those of a puisne judge of the Supreme Court. In these circumstances it is desirable to make express provision for the salary and allowances of the Solicitor-General to be the same as are for the time being payable to a puisne judge of

the Supreme Court, and paragraph (a) of sub-clause (3) of clause 4 of the Bill has that purpose.

Clause 7 repeals the portion of section 19 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 relating to the expression "law officer", to which I have already referred. Prior to the enactment of the Solicitor-General Act 1951 there was a need for interpretation provisions in relation to "law officer" and the Attorney-General in sections 16 and 18 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1928, which correspond with sections 17 and 19 of the 1958 Act. Up to that time the Solicitor-General had been a Minister of the Crown and a law officer. In consequence, the general provision of the old section 18, which deemed a reference to a Minister by the title of his office to include a Minister acting on his behalf, specifically excluded Ministers who were law officers, because the Solicitor-General was able to act in the absence of the Attorney-General. The section also deemed a reference to the Attorney-General by the title of his office to include the Solicitor-General.

When the office of Solicitor-General ceased to be Ministerial, verbal amendments of sections 16 and 18 of the 1928 Act were made by sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Solicitor-General Act 1951. However, apparently it was overlooked that the amendment of section 18 in relation to a law officer duplicated a similar provision in section 16. Clause 7, therefore, proposes the repeal of the redundant provisions of section 19 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958. 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 Tuesday, September 26.

SUPREME COURT (JUDGES) BILL.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. It is now about five years since the Supreme Court Act 1958 was amended by the Supreme Court (Judges) Act 1967 to increase the number of judges of the court from fifteen to seventeen. As was said at that time, the Government has always been loath to increase the number of judges beyond the minimum necessary to ensure the due despatch of the court's business, because it has always been anxious to see the high standard of the court preserved.

The amending legislation in 1967 effected an increase from fifteen to seventeen in the number of judges, and also made provision for the appointment, upon certificate of the Chief Justice, of a County Court judge as an acting judge of the Supreme Court for a period not exceeding six months. Use has been made of that provision on thirteen occasions and during 1968 one acting judge was appointed for three and a half months and two acting judges for four months. During 1969, an acting judge was appointed for one month and two acting judges were also appointed for one month. In the same year, in view of the completion of the new County Court building and the consequential availability of accommodation in the Supreme Court building, where the County Court judges had formerly been accommodated, two additional judges of the Supreme Court were appointed.

During the next two years the Chief Justice found it necessary to seek the appointment of an acting judge of the Supreme Court only in respect of two periods, for two months in 1970 and, because of the appointment of Mr. Justice Barber to the Royal Commission investigating the West Gate Bridge disaster, for five months in 1971. However, during 1971 the pressure of business

of the Supreme Court increased and it became necessary to appoint one acting judge for one and a half months and two acting judges for eight and a half months. In addition to the heavy civil jury lists of the court, the congestion in the divorce lists has increased. Representations have been made by the Law Institute of Victoria for the appointment of additional judges to ease the congestion and the report for 1971 of the judges of the Supreme Court, tabled in this Parliament, acknowledges that additional appointments are desirable, subject to the provision of appropriate accommodation.

The Chief Justice has conferred with the Attorney-General as to the number of additional judges required to expedite the despatch of the business of the Supreme Court, and it has been decided to increase the number of judges to 21. It is interesting to note that in New South Wales the number of judges effectively available in the Supreme Court is 34, after deducting one temporary appointment in anticipation of an impending retirement and one judge assigned on a full-time basis to the New South Wales Law Reform Commission. In relation to the estimated population of New South Wales as at 1st April, 1972, the number of 34 judges produced a ratio of judges to population of 1 : 137,078. In Victoria, in relation to the estimated population on the same date, the proposed number of 21 Supreme Court judges will produce the ratio of 1 : 168,947.

The matter of permanent additions to Supreme Court accommodation has been under investigation for some time both by the Treasury and the State Accommodation Committee. The judges of the Supreme Court submitted a proposal for major additions to the east wing of the Supreme Court building, but the Government sees difficulties and disadvantages in implementing the proposal. It is believed the best solution of the accommodation problem is the redevelopment of land adjoining the Supreme Court. It is

obvious that the completion of any major project will occupy some years, and the Government has under consideration the leasing of accommodation to enable the appointment of additional judges to proceed.

I might say that consideration of the proposal for leasing accommodation is at an advanced stage and it is hoped to complete preliminary arrangements in the near future. The Government is fully conscious of the difficulties which arose some years ago about leased Supreme Court accommodation, and will take steps to ensure that similar difficulties will not arise on this occasion. 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 Tuesday, September 26.

MILDURA IRRIGATION AND WATER TRUSTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill was read.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Water Supply).—I did not have the opportunity earlier of welcoming you back to the chair, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know that with you acting as Deputy Speaker the House will be well controlled, and I welcome you back. I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The purpose of the Bill is to enable the Mildura Urban Water Trust to conduct a poll of its ratepayers to determine whether its water supply should be fluoridated. Provision is also included in the Bill for the trust to request the Mildura City Council and the Mildura Shire Council to conduct such a poll on its behalf.

The amendment was requested by the Mildura Urban Water Trust and is similar to an amendment to the Water Act made last year.

I know of no proposal by the Mildura Urban Water Trust to conduct a poll on fluoridation now or in the immediate future. This measure simply provides the Mildura Urban Water Trust, which is covered by the Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act, with the same authority to conduct a poll, if it so desires, as was given to some 160 waterworks trusts throughout Victoria when Parliament passed the Water (Amendment) Bill in the last session. I commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands).—I should like to say, following the Minister's oration earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it is a great pity that you were unable to receive a gold medal! I move—

That the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Water Supply).—I point out that this is a machinery measure and that this House agreed to a similar amendment to the Water Act. The provisions of the Bill will extend to the Mildura Urban Water Trust benefits which are already enjoyed by other waterworks trusts and which have been the subject of similar Bills passed by Parliament. In view of that, would the Opposition and the Country Party agree to proceed with the Bill now instead of the debate being adjourned?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Sir Edgar Tanner).—I prefer to know what is the wish of the House before ruling on this matter.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands) (By leave).—The Opposition desires the debate to be adjourned for one week.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura).—I, too, prefer—in fact I insist—that the debate be adjourned for a week. Although the Minister believes that this measure is similar to a previous one introduced in this Parliament, it is not unknown for odd mistakes to occur in prepared legislation. For that reason I wish to examine the provisions of this Bill.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Water Supply) (By leave).—Since becoming a Minister I have never failed to bow to the wishes of the Opposition or the Country Party.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate was agreed to.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

SUMMER TIME BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of Mr. Meagher (Chief Secretary) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir).—The Bill now before the House is last year's Daylight Saving Bill under a new title. The Daylight Saving Bill was debated on 6th October, 1971.

The question uppermost in the minds of the people whom I represent is whether rising a little earlier in summer is of benefit or not. I do not think our experience of daylight saving has changed the attitude of most people. The Opposition believes that most people favour this proposed legislation.

The honorable member for Lowan will indicate the attitude of people in his electorate following their experience of daylight saving. My observations are that problems affecting young children were predictable as were some other social problems that were bound to arise. On balance, the judgment of members of the Labor Party is that the majority of people benefit, and because of that we do not oppose the measure.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura).—The Minister has stated that this is a very simple measure, and I remind the House that the same expression was used when the Daylight Saving Bill was debated last year. On the contrary, my party believes that this is a very important measure to many people throughout Victoria. Although it is important to some because it

affects their recreation, it is important to others because it affects their living.

The people whom the Country Party represents, and those who are represented by members of other parties in country electorates, are very much opposed to the permanent implementation of this proposed legislation. Any number of cases have been made out to demonstrate that it presents more difficulties than it is worth. I am prepared to say that, as in the case of the 35-hour week, this State is not yet able to afford the luxury of daylight saving.

Mr. FELL.—What are the objections?

Mr. WHITING.—They are many and varied, and I am sure the honorable member for Greensborough would have had plenty of time, if he read country newspapers anyway, to learn of them. The major objection is the difficulty experienced by parents in both the city and country in getting their children to bed early enough at night when there is still a considerable amount of daylight remaining.

I do not believe the problem was fully tested last year. The summer was a comparatively mild, and I consider that only under severe temperature conditions will the full impact of the extra hour of daylight be felt.

Some of the problems are related to Commonwealth matters, to television programmes on the Australian Broadcasting Commission channels and, to a lesser degree, on commercial stations in country areas. This matter affects people who are vitally interested in the news of the day and who, because of their occupation—I refer in particular to primary producers—work longer to take advantage of every minute of daylight. As a result, when the 7 p.m. news bulletin and other current affairs programmes are shown, they are still carrying out their daily work. Unless these programmes are put back for one hour, these persons will not be able to keep abreast of

daily news events and current affairs which are of considerable interest to them.

I regret that the Premier is not now present in the Chamber. I am most disappointed and unhappy that the previous Premier indicated that last year's legislation was to operate only for a trial period, but no efforts were made by the Government of Victoria during that period to measure the effect of the trial. The only results of the trial apart from personal experience were those published in the results of numerous Gallup polls or other public opinion polls conducted by private individuals or newspapers.

Mr. FELL.—They were all in favour of it.

Mr. WHITING.—In contrast to what the honorable member for Greensborough has said I have in my possession the results of two polls which were conducted—

Mr. FELL.—In the bush?

Mr. WHITING.—Yes, in the bush—in Albury, for instance. If the honorable member wishes to refer to Albury or the Goulburn Valley as “the bush” that is all right with me. Referring to a poll conducted in the Albury area, the *Albury Border Morning Mail* of 13th March of this year, under the heading “Daylight saving—you voted No”, stated “Only 27 per cent said it should stay”. That indicates that daylight saving has not gained universal acceptance by any means; in fact, a poll conducted by the Morgan organization and published in the *Australian Gallup Polls* in December, 1971, indicated that although a majority of people in Victoria favoured daylight saving for a four-month period, a very much smaller percentage of people in other States—particularly Queensland and Western Australia—were in favour of it. The difference was so noticeable that it has been said that the Gallup poll embraces too few people in each State for close accuracy and that the following votes for daylight saving are

probably near what a referendum would show:—Tasmanian 86 per cent, Victoria 78 per cent, South Australia 75 per cent, New South Wales 69 per cent, Western Australia 49 per cent and Queensland 41 per cent. Admittedly, these are estimations only, but I agree that the Gallup poll does obtain the opinion of too few people for accuracy.

Other members of my party and I believe that the only legitimate way in which a proper opinion can be obtained is by means of a referendum which should be held in conjunction with the Federal elections, and I now demand that the Premier should arrange with the Federal Government to conduct such a referendum. That does not seem to be an unreasonable request.

Mr. WILKES.—You will have to convince your colleagues in Queensland.

Mr. WHITING.—I believe the Queensland Government would be pleased to have a referendum in conjunction with the elections. It is the only sensible way in which the views of all members of the community who are of voting age can be ascertained.

Another significant point to be noted is that in public opinion polls by far the greatest majority of people who vote for daylight saving are those in the sixteen to twenty age group. They are a little away from their more responsible years, and they appreciate the extra hour of daylight for recreational purposes. In the *Sun News-Pictorial* of 11th November, 1971, an article on daylight saving stated—

Of young people, daylight saving was favoured by 77 per cent of those between 16 and 29 and by 73 per cent of those from 30 to 49.

It is obvious that as the age grouping is increased the popularity of daylight saving is diminished, and I believe this is of considerable significance. Honorable members of the other two political parties who, like myself, represent country areas would have received correspondence from various

organizations within their electorates asking that this proposal should be not proceeded with, and I should be interested to hear their comments during the debate.

An interesting point that arose from letters that I received indicated that the Government was somewhat at a loss to know how it would cope with some of the problems that were raised. On behalf of the school committee of the Mildura South Primary School I wrote to the Minister of Education seeking clarification of a reported statement by the Premier that he would look into the possibility of schools commencing at 10 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. when daylight saving was implemented. The reply I received from the Minister, dated 22nd August, 1972, read—

I refer to your representations on behalf of the Mildura South Primary School committee regarding school hours during the daylight saving period.

The department has no knowledge of any suggestion to commence school at a later time.

Obviously there is confusion in the minds of two Ministers and it would appear that this point has not been clarified.

The case for the permanent implementation of daylight saving in this State has not been made convincingly. The Australian Gallup poll of January, 1971, made an interesting comment under the heading "Public wants daylight saving". It stated that the figure of 70 per cent of people wanting daylight saving in Victoria was the biggest vote for daylight saving recorded by the Gallup poll since 1942, when 69 per cent said they were satisfied with it. The poll report continued—

By 1944, however, support had dwindled until opinion was evenly divided.

In 1945-46 opinion turned against having daylight saving, but since then a favourable majority has grown fairly steadily until the 1942 level of 69 per cent has been almost regained.

I predict that within three or four years the public of Victoria will be sick of daylight saving and will want to revert to the present situation.

Mr. Whiting.

Mr. WHEELER.—The Government will meet their demands.

Mr. WHITING.—Maybe this Government will, but another Government may not. In fairness to all concerned, the Premier should immediately put in train machinery to hold a referendum on daylight saving in conjunction with the Federal elections. The honorable gentleman's colleagues in other States, whether or not they favour daylight saving, could not disagree that this would be the fairest way in which to obtain a true assessment of public opinion on this vexed question.

Mr. BROAD (Swan Hill).—I support the Deputy Leader of the Country Party in opposing the Bill. If daylight saving is introduced in Victoria on a permanent basis I may not again have an opportunity of opposing it. Therefore, I now express as strongly as I can my continuing opposition to daylight saving and I shall give my reasons for doing so.

In a country such as Australia, with thirteen to fifteen hours of summer daylight, there is no need for daylight saving. It was different when daylight saving was first introduced in England. According to the *Children's Encyclopaedia*, the purpose of Mr. William Willet, who first conceived the idea of daylight saving, was to bring working hours of the day within the compass of daylight to avoid the necessity for men working needlessly in the dark. It was a splendid idea for England, but in this country there are several hours of summer daylight before and after each day's work.

Daylight saving also lowers the efficiency of practically every farming operation, particularly harvest operations. Farm products still make up more than 50 per cent of our exports and to lower permanently the efficiency of this industry during the most important season of the year is a serious matter.

There must also be taken into account the added difficulties of providing schooling for country children under daylight saving conditions, when there will be long, tiring trips home from school at the hottest time of the day. Moreover, there is the impossibility of getting children to sleep at a reasonable hour in full daylight. Certainly daylight saving is a wearisome period for country children. This added burden lowers the efficiency of the average farm family unit at a time when there is difficulty in maintaining the rural population. The clamour to arrest the drift of people to the cities is becoming louder and it is folly to adopt a policy that makes farming operations less efficient and more difficult.

What does the country gain in exchange? Will daylight saving add to the health, wealth and happiness of anyone? I do not believe it will. Too frequently daylight saving encourages people to stay up longer at night and to rise tired the next day unready for a fair day's work, which in turn lowers the efficiency of city-based industries.

With the indebtedness of the State standing at over \$3,000 million and rising at approximately \$130 million each year, almost one-sixth of the State's income is required to meet interest and sinking fund charges. I would cheerfully support any measure that would add to the production of this State, increase its efficiency, or raise in any way the standard of the health and well-being of the people. However, I am strongly convinced that now is not the time to introduce a measure designed only to increase people's opportunities for leisure and pleasure.

Mr. BURGIN (Polwarth).—I have never been convinced that daylight saving is necessary in Victoria. I realize that the majority of people favour it, but it is a poor situation when a measure that proposes to increase the leisure time of those people will affect the working time of a minority in the community.

Honorable members will know the many reasons why country people are opposed to daylight saving.

Mr. WILTON.—What are they?

Mr. BURGIN.—I shall tell the honorable member.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! The honorable member should address the Chair.

Mr. BURGIN.—In the shearing industry, which operates at that, period of the year, an eight-hour day is worked. Usually there is enough shed room to hold the sheep for the normal period of damp weather in the morning until dry sheep can be handled. If shearing begins an hour earlier shearers in most southern areas must knock off for about an hour at about 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. waiting for the sheep to dry.

In the wheat industry the farmer determines by the sun, not by the clock, when the crop is ready for stripping. The storage for the evening strip must be increased because when work is started one hour later than normal it is necessary to work an hour longer. Much the same situation applies in the dairying industry. For young mothers with young children there is considerable hardship, especially in country areas where the children often travel by bus long distances to school.

Turning from the farming community, I hope that daylight saving does not cause trade unionists to ask for more money under their awards so that they may enjoy more leisure in the evening. I defy any man to take out his family in the evening and not spend money. This is a problem that may have to be faced. Or will the wife be left at home to look after the children while the husband goes out for extra recreation?

As a member representing a country electorate, I have stated my objections to the Bill, but doubtless this measure will be passed by the House because the majority of the people in the State favour daylight saving and country people are in a minority.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—In supporting the Bill I shall comment on the case put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Country Party and the honorable members for Swan Hill and Polwarth. The Deputy Leader of the Country Party has stated that country people will suffer because it will not be convenient for them to view certain television programmes. I submit to the House that is just a red herring drawn across the trail by the Deputy Leader of the Country Party. Farm work has changed dramatically over the past 30 to 40 years.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—The honorable member would not know.

Mr. WILTON.—I was reared in one of the most productive wheat-growing districts of Victoria and I have had a 45-year association with that district. I can remember the day when the wheat farmer worked from daylight to dark and the only reason he knocked off was that he could not see where he was going—to stop his horse from trampling on him he had to stop work until the next day. That is how the industry worked in those days. Today when the wheat farmer starts to strip his wheat he continues day and night until he is finished.

He knocks off only when the silos are full and he cannot store any more wheat. Then he takes his trucks to the railway yards and parks there in line for two days waiting his turn to deliver his wheat. The time he starts and finishes wheat stripping is controlled by the availability of storage. As soon as the crop is ready to strip the farmer starts his machinery and continues day and night. This procedure goes on every year and has been going on for years. The trouble with the Leader of the Country Party is that he finds himself in a straight jacket with a bowyang period policy and he does not know how to get out of it. The policy of his party is so far behind the times that he has to

persist with this attitude. Members of the Country Party are talking rubbish.

The honorable member for Swan Hill mentioned the wheat industry. The honorable member should know something about it because he is a wheat grower, but I should like him to explain how daylight saving will affect him when he is stripping his wheat crop. Will the fact that the local shop will open an hour earlier and close an hour earlier affect the honorable member when he is stripping his wheat? How will that affect the honorable member when he is shearing his sheep? That is what other honorable members and I should like to know. The honorable member for Polwarth was concerned with the difficulties confronting mothers getting their children to sleep. The honorable member also talked about children travelling home from school in the hottest part of the day. I should have thought that children would welcome the opportunity of getting out of school an hour earlier and getting home in the heat of the day. Anyway, there is hardly an area in the State that is not served with an efficient school bus service.

Mr. WHITING.—Forty miles?

Mr. WILTON.—I know many school children who live within 30 miles of the General Post Office in Melbourne who leave home in the dark and return home in the dark during the winter months. It happens in the Kinglake West area and I repeatedly brought this problem to the notice of the Minister of Education when that area was in my electorate. The Deputy Leader of the Country Party talked about rural people not being able to watch certain television programmes. There are thousands of people in the metropolitan area in a similar situation. Shiftworkers who work morning, afternoon and night shifts have to readjust their social life to fit in with

their working conditions. This is a way of life and is not an insurmountable problem.

There are any number of people living in country towns and cities who would welcome having an extra hour of daylight in the evening. I am thinking of shopkeepers and shop assistants and people who work on farms. Not every person who lives in a rural area is a farmer; employees make up a significant section of the rural community. No doubt the Leader of the Country Party will advise honorable members of the figures derived from polls and referenda that have been conducted, but I suggest to the honorable member that if he wants to be fair and honest he should inform honorable members of the question that was put to the people when they were asked to vote "yes" or "no". Honorable members know that in conducting a Gallup poll or taking a census of public opinion, the result depends largely on the way in which the question is phrased.

I support daylight saving because it will enable people in this State to make intelligent use of the daylight hours and I believe it is reasonable to make an adjustment at certain times of the year so that an extra hour of daylight is available in the evening to the community, which can then use the extra leisure time as it wishes. I cannot accept the arguments put forward by members of the Country Party that the proposal will harm the rural industries in this State. I have never heard such rubbish as the suggestion that people will be walking off their farms. People did not walk off their farms last year because of daylight saving. I concede that the dairying industry may have problems because of the need to milk cows. In the wheat industry and the wool industry, I do not agree that an extra hour of daylight in the evening is going to affect any farmer stripping his crop or shearing his sheep.

The honorable member for Polwarth talked about holding space for sheep to overcome the problem of wet sheep during shearing. That is a problem that the wool industry has had to live with since its inception. Nobody can guarantee an owner that once he starts shearing there will be a continuous supply of dry sheep. There will be periods during shearing when wet conditions will prevail. There is a tremendous variation in the periods when shearing is performed and it is largely a matter of individual choice when a farmer will shear. This period usually extends over months.

The wheat farmer is governed by the climatic conditions and must strip his wheat when it ripens or whenever the other cereal he is growing is ready to be harvested. Farmers must strip their crops at a particular time of the year and they have no choice, but my experience has been that with the mechanization of this industry, the crop is stripped in a matter of weeks, whereas when I was a lad going to school, because of the methods used, it took months. The wheat farmer took anything up to four months from the time he started to strip until he finished his harvest but nowadays it is only a matter of weeks, in the area I have been associated with, and he is finished and off down to Portland with his caravan to his week-end house to spend the remainder of the summer months.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—When a Bill similar to this measure was being debated last year, I made the point that one's views on daylight saving seemed to be largely affected by geographical considerations more than anything else. I pointed out that daylight saving was supported most in those areas more removed from the equator and was strenuously opposed by those people living in the northern latitudes of Australia. The argument I put on that occasion has been borne out because it is quite apparent that support for daylight saving is at its highest in Tasmania and is at its

lowest in Queensland. It is also fair to say that as one travels north in Victoria one finds more opposition to daylight saving.

As the bulk of the population of Victoria is centered in the metropolitan area, obviously the bulk of the support for daylight saving is formed there. In Bairnsdale, a poll was conducted by the local newspaper which resulted in almost an even division of opinion. That was only to be expected and did not surprise me in the least as I thought that would be the result from a coastal area where the weather conditions are cooler during the summer months. I believe the greatest effect is felt by people who live in the hotter parts of the State and of the Commonwealth. The wishes of those people ought to be given some consideration when honorable members are debating a measure of this nature.

Mr. CURNOW.—Hear, hear!

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—I am interested to hear the honorable member for Kara Kara endorsing my sentiments. I wonder how he will vote seeing that he has been challenging Government supporters on how they are going to vote. Climatic conditions have a greater influence than any other factor on the acceptance or rejection of daylight saving, whether it be primary industry or any other industry that is affected. Fortunately, when daylight saving was on trial last year the summer was mild. I venture to suggest that if Melbourne suffered one of its periodic heat waves, when temperatures are well up into the nineties — I will let honorable members work out for themselves the Celsius equivalent — and when the temperature does not fall during the latter part of the day and the hot humid conditions continue throughout the night, the people of Melbourne would revise their opinions on daylight saving because this is a deciding factor.

It is interesting to note that the *Border Morning Mail*, a newspaper circulating in the Albury district, in conjunction with the North Albury Apex Club, conducted a daylight saving poll amongst its readers. The housewives living in the area returned the largest vote of any community group. The urban housewife, representing a typical community cross-section, voted against daylight saving — admittedly only by a very small margin — as did housewives in country areas. Honorable members are overlooking the views of a big and important section of the community, the housewives, and these views should be considered before the statement is made that the ordinary person does support and agree with the introduction of daylight saving. In his second-reading speech the Minister provides the grounds for doubt whether daylight saving is a sound and acceptable proposition in Victoria. The honorable gentleman made these comments—

The Government is aware that there are individuals and groups of persons in the community who will find some disadvantages attendant upon the introduction of summer time and the views and objections of these persons are being examined.

Why were not those views and objections examined and taken into account before the Bill was introduced, instead of introducing the Bill and then seeing what could be done about those difficulties? The honorable gentleman continued —

The Government believes these can be fairly met and a special effort is being made to make adjustments; for example, alteration of school hours, changes in wheat silo delivery hours, and so forth.

I am sure every housewife will be interested to know the changes proposed in school hours. Are school hours to be changed on a general basis and will all children in the State start school at 10 a.m., or is it proposed that schools in some areas will start at 10 a.m. and schools in other areas at 9 a.m.? If the hours of starting vary from area to area

a housewife living in the vicinity of an area boundary may be seriously inconvenienced. One of her children may attend a school which starts at 9 a.m. and others may attend a school which starts at 10 a.m. Honorable members have a right to know what the Government proposes to do before they approve of this Bill.

The provisions of the Bill will have a vital effect on some parts of the State but honorable members have been given a nebulous statement by the Chief Secretary that the Government will give consideration to the variation of school hours. The honorable gentleman should have put forward his ideas on the types of variations which will be put into effect. Will they apply generally or will they be localized? Every housewife in Victoria has a right to know this before the Bill is passed by Parliament. It is a poor commentary on the Government that it has introduced such ill-considered legislation without taking its major implications into account. The Bill ought to be set aside and the debate adjourned for some time. I suggest the debate should be adjourned for six months but in the absence of an adjournment of that duration honorable members are entitled to some adjournment until the Chief Secretary and the Minister of Education can make a firm and considered statement to the House on what they propose to do about varying school hours. The statement made by the Chief Secretary in his second-reading speech condemns the legislation.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong).—Geelong is a type of composite area without a great deal of rural interests — a subject about which members of the Country Party have spoken. In conversations that I have had with members of the Geelong community with wide-ranging interests and from the results of polls that have been taken throughout the State I have come to the conclusion that three out of four Victorians approve of

daylight saving. The support in the Geelong area would be approximately the same.

Mr. CURNOW.—What about the other quarter? Did the honorable member forget about them?

The SPEAKER (Sir **Vernon Christie**).—Order! I invite the honorable member for Kara Kara to cease interjecting but if he does interject he ought to do it in reasonable terms.

Mr. BIRRELL.—Generally speaking the consensus in Victoria would be the consensus in Geelong. I have had lengthy discussions on this subject with various groups in Geelong over a period of twelve months, and particularly over the past three or four months, which is since the people have had the experience of one period of daylight saving, and it is my opinion that three out of four of the residents of Geelong are in favour of daylight saving. Therefore, there is a substantial majority in favour of the Bill. I do not think I need say any more. The Government is acting in the best interests of the State and has the support of the majority of the people of Victoria in those actions.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands).—I support the Bill and the Opposition's arguments on it, but I direct the attention of the House to the views expressed by the Laanecoorie Branch of the Victorian Farmers Union. Members of that branch have asked me to express their opposition to this measure and I do so out of deference to them because I represent them. However, the views expressed by the Laanecoorie Branch of the Victorian Farmers Union do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the people of my electorate. Most of the people in the 2,600 square miles of the Midlands electorate are very much in favour of this legislation, and I support it.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the Country Party).—This Bill will in effect make daylight saving permanent in Victoria for four months

of the year. When daylight saving was introduced as a trial last year the Government stated that it was a trial and that it would examine the merits of the scheme later. After having had daylight saving on a trial basis there should have been a poll of the people to get their opinions, but no poll was held. I suggest that a poll should be conducted in conjunction with the State elections which are to be held in April or May of next year.

The majority of people who live in the country do not want daylight saving, but the majority of residents of the Melbourne metropolitan area do want it. Because two-thirds of Victoria's population live in Melbourne and only one-third live in the country, it is probable that in a State-wide poll the majority will be in favour of daylight saving. Despite this the Government owes it to the majority of country people who oppose daylight saving to hold a poll.

Many polls have been conducted in country areas. Honorable members heard the honorable member for Gippsland East refer to a poll which was conducted by the *Border Morning Mail*. Another poll was held in Shepparton by the *Shepparton News*. Approximately 1,200 people voted in this poll, which is a fair sample of the population of the area. An interesting feature of the poll was that a majority — admittedly it was only a small majority—of the people living in the urban area voted against daylight saving. Only two sections of the community were in favour of daylight saving and one of those sections consisted mainly of factory workers. The final result of the poll was 882 votes against daylight saving, 240 votes in favour of it, and 150 votes were set aside for various reasons.

An interesting point is that, as is usual in this type of debate when a matter that affects country people comes up for consideration, the voice of country people is the Country Party's voice. When members of the Country Party speak on

this subject many interjections are made from the back benches on both sides of the House. I give full credit to the honorable member for Polwarth. He will vote with the Government for the Bill but he has stated in the House that in so doing he will be going against the wishes of his electorate. It has been made perfectly clear that the people in electorates represented by members of the Country Party do not want daylight saving. The same position applies in the electorates of Kara Kara, Portland and Dundas, but I am sure the members representing those electorates will not participate in the debate. Until those electorates are represented by members of the Country Party the views of the people living in those areas will not be heard in this House.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—Honorable members have heard an unusual speech from the Leader of the Country Party, who suggested that a poll ought to be conducted in conjunction with the next State elections to determine whether or not the people of Victoria favour the introduction of daylight saving. The Deputy Leader of the Country Party said that a referendum on the subject ought to be conducted during the next Federal elections. There appears to be a division in the ranks of the Country Party on when the referendum should be held or on how it should be held. Therefore, honorable members can only assume that members of the Country Party have not undertaken sufficient research into the subject.

Ministers of all States met and decided to introduce daylight saving nationally. There was one exception and that was Queensland. If one examined what happened in Queensland — irrespective of the argument put forward by the honorable member for Gippsland East — one would realize that the reasons for the indifference of the backward Country Party Government of Queensland to daylight saving was a matter of

political expediency. That political expediency centred on the demands of the Liberal Party in Queensland, which is in coalition with the Country Party, for the destruction of the greater Brisbane City Council. Editorials in newspapers circulating in Queensland gave that reason for the Queensland Government's opposition to daylight saving. The newspapers in Queensland were conducting polls at the time, but I do not know the results of those polls. Suffice to say that many people in Brisbane appreciate daylight saving but because of the stupidity of the Country Party in Queensland there will be a farcial situation in that State.

If this Bill is defeated, and members of the Country Party in Victoria want it defeated, the same farcical and stupid situation will apply in Victoria. People who leave Melbourne by aeroplane at 7 a.m. to travel to Brisbane will arrive in Sydney at 7 a.m. and they will arrive in Brisbane at 9 a.m. It would not be possible to conduct business properly under those conditions. There would be time differentials in the three eastern States in addition to the time differentials which apply to the western States, and that would lead to an impossible situation. Daylight saving has been accepted generally by a majority of people in the Commonwealth.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—The honorable member does not know that.

Mr. WILKES.—I know that the opposition to daylight saving has never been as vociferous as the opposition to other matters of Government policy which affect the people. A referendum is not necessary to determine whether daylight saving ought to be accepted for the very good reason that the cost of the referendum would be out of all proportion to the problem.

Mr. WHITING.—The honorable member would give away the rights of everybody.

Mr. WILKES.—The Country Party believes in that philosophy only in certain circumstances. Members of that party certainly do not believe in that philosophy as it applies to one vote one value. They are prepared to vote for trees. When it comes to achieving uniformity in the interests of the nation, members of the Country Party raise their voices in protest. The uniform introduction of daylight saving is essential. It was not introduced in Western Australia last year but it will be introduced in that State this year because the Government of Western Australia became aware of the problems that were created by the time differential. Victoria should fall into line with the other States and disregard the backward Government of Queensland. It should introduce daylight saving in the interests of the majority of people who benefited from its introduction last year and undoubtedly will again benefit this year.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla).—The proposal contained in the Bill will have a certain significance for everyone, depending upon his way of life. To me it is immaterial except that many people in different areas and from different walks of life have expressed sentiments concerning the proposed introduction of daylight saving every year. During the second world war, daylight saving was introduced as part of our war effort, but no significant benefits resulted.

Perhaps honorable members should compare our way of life with that in other parts of the world. Australians are fortunate to live in a wonderful land and never to have had occasion to determine their way of life other than by what has been given to us by the Almighty, in that the sun rises in the east to enlighten the day and sets in the west to close the day. We have been able to carry on our way of life and to develop the country in a way that benefits us and our country.

It is significant that England follows the practice of two hours' daylight saving during the summer time. Throughout the winter, an English working man goes to work in the dark and returns home in the dark and there is no reason why the British Government should not introduce daylight saving to enable the citizens to enjoy the wonderful long summer evenings. Currently, my daughter is enjoying these conditions. I ask honorable members whether our climatic conditions and way of life approximate those in England. Australia has a democracy which has been handed down from the Mother Country, but I should like honorable members to reflect upon how our physical conditions compare with English conditions. I believe the differences are so marked that comparison is unnecessary. England should have daylight saving to enable the people to enjoy the hours of summer sunlight because they have so little during the winter.

The representations which I have received indicate that daylight saving serves some people very well but creates hardships for others. Clearly daylight saving will be introduced throughout Australia with the exception of Queensland, but honorable members should not hesitate to indicate the adverse affects that its introduction will have on certain sections of the populace. Some of my constituents feel that they will be served by daylight saving. Others who send their children to school perhaps 30 or 40 miles by bus have complained to me that their children were exhausted by the end of last summer. I suppose they will learn to live with it. Country people often have put up with hardships to satisfy the needs of other sections of the community, and they are prepared to continue to do so whether for daylight saving or for some other reason.

People who have complained to me about the effects of daylight saving would consider that I was not doing my job as their representative if I did not tell Parliament about their

Mr. Trewin.

feelings. Members of the Country Party recognize the hardships suffered by certain sections of the community last year when daylight saving was introduced for a trial period. Undoubtedly, the honorable member for Kara Kara will appreciate this.

Over the years the silos have been kept open to suit the way of life followed by the grain growers of the State. When daylight saving was practised during the second world war, the silos were opened at 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. to help the war effort. Last year the Grain Elevators Board recognized the hardships imposed upon the grain growers, and the hours during which silos received grain were altered. The Education Department should consider the representations made on behalf of people whose children's health will be badly affected by daylight saving and stagger school hours so that country people can receive some consideration.

I have received representations from country hotelkeepers. Licensees of hotels which are licensed to serve liquor between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. will find that the majority of their customers will arrive at about closing time. An eight-hour day does not operate on a farm. When harvesting is in progress the farmer works from daylight to dusk and into the hours of darkness. Without daylight saving, work would finish at about 9 p.m. and the farmer could go into town for a couple of drinks with some of his farmer friends and have a chat. With the introduction of daylight saving, it will be 10 p.m. before the farmer will be free to go for a drink. Country people are prepared to accept the hardships imposed by daylight saving but the Chief Secretary should graciously agree to license some hotels in country areas to dispense liquor from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The farming community would be grateful for a gesture of this sort.

Victorians follow different ways of life, and I regret that daylight saving is to become a permanent feature. If it is decided to return to the old

system, it will be necessary to repeal this legislation. Then honorable members will be able to examine the record to see who spoke for and against the proposal.

With our magnificent climate and our long hours of sunshine during both summer and winter, it seems hardly necessary to introduce daylight saving to improve our way of life. If our city friends are to derive some benefits from the scheme, good luck to them, and country people will support them. However, members of the Country Party feel that now and then country people should raise their voices in protest at some of the things that they are asked to accept. Admittedly, my constituents are divided on this matter but my personal opinion is that the introduction of daylight saving every year is not a step forward.

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Preston).—As the representative of a metropolitan electorate, I think I can say that the vast majority of my constituents derived great benefit from the temporary introduction of daylight saving last year. Those honorable members who have an interest in sport will remember that the golf courses were crowded and that many “wage slaves” were able to go with their families to swimming pools and beaches. It was interesting to see families out in the city streets enjoying the pleasant evenings. The desirability of daylight saving has been heightened by the Government’s introduction of late Friday night shopping because families are able to do their shopping mostly in daylight, and that is preferred by those who need to use the large shopping complexes in Melbourne.

I am surprised that the opponents of daylight saving did not use other methods. They have all been rather negative in their approach. Daylight saving has a marked effect on the finances of the State Electricity Commission in that a vast majority of the community save money because of the lower consumption of electricity. Undoubtedly,

if the commission institutes a new system of charges, it will take this into account.

During normal summer week-ends, most honorable members will have observed that a city person returns home from the beaches at about 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. whereas last year the families were able to enjoy the beaches until 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. That is desirable for most families. City people should not be deprived of this experience merely because of a request for a referendum. Many references have been made to referenda, and most honorable members know that it is only the rusty door hinge that has not been oiled which is heard.

One hears little from people in the country areas who actually support daylight saving. The vast majority of the people, even in the country, are wage earners, and I should think they would be happy to have the extra hour at night with their families, as people do in the metropolitan area. They swim in the rivers and the municipal swimming pools, and they also play golf and use other amenities. To deprive persons who work for wages of the right to enjoy the benefits of daylight saving, which will cost next to nothing, would be a restrictive policy which I could never support.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas).—I did not intend to take part in this debate, but members of the Country Party have been speaking with the object of gaining political ground in country areas. I represent a totally rural electorate but I have received only two letters from people objecting to the introduction of daylight saving. Last year I raised with the Minister of Agriculture the difficulty faced by wheat farmers because it is impossible to harvest wheat early in the morning when the moisture content is high. This problem was taken up with the Grain Elevators Board and was solved—I assume following the representations of myself and others. Such situations will always arise, but people will make

the necessary adjustments. The only problem in the country areas is the Country Party, whose members want to "stir" and try to make some political gain.

It has been mentioned that school children will be adversely affected. I consider that putting the clock forward one hour will be of assistance to the children. The Country Party raised the question of the effect of daylight saving on the shearing industry. Some years ago I was shearing in Western Australia where the clocks were advanced an hour so that people could avoid working in the heat. I do not consider that West Australians are fools and I believe they knew what they were doing; they have had daylight saving for many years because theirs is a hot State. In the areas around Derby and Broome daylight saving was an advantage, and I cannot see why it should not be in Victoria. It will be of assistance to young children who catch school buses.

Mr. WHITING.—Why not let it remain on a voluntary basis?

Mr. E. W. LEWIS.—I do not know how the Deputy Leader of the Country Party can suggest one system for one section of the community and a different system for another. There would be complete confusion, such as there is in Queensland under Country Party leadership. I should like to learn what the former honorable member for Lowan thinks about this proposal; he seems to have deserted the Country Party, as I am sure many other people will desert it because of its continual efforts to make political gains.

I do not wish to say any more. I consider that daylight saving is in the interests of Victorians generally and that it will enable people to use their time to better advantage. I support the Bill. The difficulties which have been raised by members of the Country Party are mainly imaginary, and those that are not can be adjusted without difficulty.

Mr. R. S. L. McDONALD (Rodney).—The honorable member for Dundas said that he had received two letters from persons objecting to daylight saving, but he did not read them although members would be interested in their contents. I realize that daylight saving will be introduced, because the Government has the numbers, but I question whether it is in the interests of country people who for many years have made a great contribution to the welfare of this State. Admittedly, daylight saving was introduced initially as a war-time measure, but this country is not now at war. It should not be reintroduced at present because when it applied previously the State Electricity Commission lost revenue. A by-election will be held before daylight saving is introduced. It might be found that electricity charges will be increased. Who will be responsible for those increases?

Mr. FORDHAM.—The Country Party!

Mr. R. S. L. McDONALD.—No. The philosophy of the Labor Party is that the Country Party is to blame for everything that happens in Victoria. I should say that the honorable member for Kara Kara, who is interjecting, has received more letters objecting to daylight saving than has the honorable member for Dundas. Now when one sees school children on the roads at 7.30 a.m. one realizes that following the introduction of daylight saving they will be going to school at 6.30 a.m. No effort is being made to assist these children in their schooling.

One of the drawbacks of daylight saving is that some children have to be put to bed while it is still daylight. We can look forward to having daylight saving, but some adjustment must be made to assist children. Public servants, of their own volition, now start work at 8.15 a.m. so that hours of work are staggered. Will they commence work at 7.15 a.m. under daylight saving? By interjection, the honorable member for Bendigo informs me that he has not

had any letters dealing with daylight saving. That is remarkable, because I have received letters only from people who have been critical of the proposal. The only way to satisfy everyone is to hold a referendum, and I support the remarks of the Deputy Leader of the Country Party.

The sitting was suspended at 6.24 p.m. until 7.58 p.m.

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland).—I shall briefly refer to daylight saving because I want to express the displeasure of a couple of councils in my electorate which have made a protest at the introduction of this measure. I have also received a couple of letters of protest from individuals, but apart from these I have received no other protest. The 1,100 workers at Borthwick's meat works have made no objection to the proposal and I imagine that they will be only too anxious to get down to the sea for a swim and thus obtain some benefit from the additional hour of leisure time.

Mr. WHITING.—Which councils protested?

Mr. W. J. LEWIS.—That is for the honorable member to find out. In the main, the people concerned in my electorate are from the northern district and they, too, will enjoy the extra hour of daylight in the evening. My daughter, who lives on a farm, has two small children. I have heard other honorable members express the view that daylight saving has an adverse effect on small children. My daughter's children board a bus to attend school—one of them did so during the period of daylight saving last year, and there was no noticeable deterioration in her health. Certainly she was a little tired at night, but she appeared to like daylight saving.

I have not observed any cows with alarm clocks fixed around their necks, or sheep with pocket watches attached to them, and it would seem that daylight saving has not affected any animals. It has been said that it will adversely affect the dairying industry; however, I have received

no complaints from people engaged in that industry and therefore am led to believe that they are willing to accept daylight saving.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2, relating to standard time and summer time.

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—During their remarks members of the Country Party suggested that there should be a referendum on whether daylight saving should be introduced in Victoria. My personal feeling on this is that in a democracy referenda are appropriate when an important matter of principle is being applied—when it is proposed that there should be some change in the basic philosophies or processes of the State. This Bill establishes no new principle; it merely changes the degree of a principle already accepted.

Prior to the introduction of this measure into Parliament this State already had daylight saving. In fact, when eastern standard time was adopted 22 minutes were taken off the time of this State and therefore we have had daylight saving to that extent for many years. This Bill merely proposes a change in degree of an accepted principle and therefore is not an appropriate subject for a referendum.

Parliament, as representative of the people of the State, should make up its mind. In helping it to do so it is significant that the Leader of the Country Party, when advocating a referendum, expressed the view that the introduction of daylight saving would be carried at a referendum. Therefore I suggest to honorable members that it appears to be the view of the majority of members of Parliament, including those who oppose this measure, that if a referendum were held the majority of people would vote for daylight saving. In the circumstances, Parliament is entitled to

adopt the principle that the majority view should prevail but that it should at the same time do what it can to respect the minority view.

I draw attention to my second-reading speech in which I pointed out that the Government recognized that certain groups of people in the community may suffer some disadvantage as a result of the introduction of this measure. I then expressed the intention of the Government to do what it could to assist those groups in overcoming the difficulties. Members of the Country Party have made a number of suggestions on what those difficulties might be. I invite them individually and collectively to come to the Government with some description of any difficulties that occur and ask for the co-operation of the Government in overcoming them. I assure them that that co-operation will be forthcoming.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir).—This debate was entirely predictable. A similar debate occurred at this time last year. One could be forgiven for feeling that the sentiments expressed by the Country Party indicate that, for that party, it is not time now, it was not time then, and, in fact, it never will be time for daylight saving to be introduced. It is not time for the Country Party in respect to a measure which is very limited in its social implications, but members of the Country Party have attempted to link the concept of daylight saving with the concept of a shorter working week. I shall not canvass the argument for a shorter working week to meet the present employment situation in this country.

The facts of the matter are that daylight saving has been of great benefit to large numbers of people who work in our society. For a party which proclaims itself to be a subscriber to the principle of majority rule and other democratic principles, the Country Party's opposition to this measure is strange. The Country Party is the majority party

in the only Government in the Commonwealth to oppose the Commonwealth-wide implementation of daylight saving. When one looks at the methods by which that party holds office and realizes that it is on the basis of receiving 19 per cent of the vote in the State elections in Queensland, and also realizes that the total vote polled by the Government parties in that State was far less than the vote polled by the Australian Labor Party in those elections, one can be forgiven for thinking that the plea for democratic principles and a referendum and all that goes with them are hollow. The Country Party has long outlived its usefulness in the State sphere and it has also outlived its usefulness in the Commonwealth sphere.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wheeler).—Order! I suggest that the honorable member for Reservoir should return to the Bill before the Committee and not continue to refer to the rights and wrongs of the Country Party. The Bill before the Committee deals with daylight saving.

Mr. SIMMONDS.—The position of the Country Party on this issue reflects its attitude to most other issues and its approach to social questions generally.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura).—The explanation of the Minister in reply to comments made during the second-reading debate, particularly those of the honorable member for Gippsland East, was hard to follow. My colleague pointed out that, in his explanatory second-reading speech, the Minister clearly stated that the Government believed that the disadvantages could be fairly met and that a special effort was being made to make adjustments. The Minister went on to give, as examples, alterations of school hours, changes to wheat silo delivery hours, and so on. Now the Minister says that if there are any disadvantages the members of the Country Party will have to go crawling to the Government, point them out, and ask what the Government is

going to do about them. I do not understand how the Minister can say that a special effort is being made to make adjustments.

It must be obvious to anyone who has been a member of this House for as long as the Minister what some of the disadvantages will be. One could expect that the Minister would already have some proposals to meet them. But the Minister has given no indication of what will be done; he says that members of the Country Party will have to go to him and ask him to consider any disadvantages. They will receive the same sort of consideration as the municipal councils and individuals who wrote to the Premier or who made representations through their members of Parliament. They were told that their comments would be taken into account when the decision was made. Apparently they did not count for much because the decision was made against the protests which were raised.

It appears that the honorable member for Reservoir believes that a minority should not be allowed to put a point of view and that, if it does, it should not be allowed to put it strongly. The honorable member seemed to think that a minority must sit back and take what is handed out to it. To me, that was the greatest negation of Labor Party philosophy I have heard any honorable member make in this House.

The Minister pointed out that there is already a certain amount of daylight saving built into the system of measuring time in Victoria because standard time is based on a particular meridian of longitude. One might ask what is the situation in the western areas of the State. If there is half an hour of daylight saving built into the system in Melbourne, there must be an hour built in for the western part of the State. With the introduction of summer time, clock time in the western part of the State will be two hours ahead of sun time.

Mr. GINIFER.—It is a bonus for them.

Mr. WHITING.—Members of the Country Party do not believe that it is a bonus; it is a penalty. People in country areas suffer so many penalties—as the honorable member for Benalla pointed out—that life is becoming almost unbearable. However, I am sure that the Minister for Fuel and Power will agree with me that the city would be the worst place that anyone could shift to. The point the Country Party makes is that a large number of people in country areas are opposed to daylight saving. As I said in my second-reading speech, what happened when daylight saving was introduced in the war years will happen again; support for daylight saving will dwindle away and we will see the repeal of this measure before five years are out.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong).—Democracy is becoming cockeyed in this State. On this measure, we have 65 honorable members in agreement and there are to be only four months of summer time. There are eight members of the corner party, but there will be eight months without summer time. So the whole system is weighted in favour of the Country Party. Why they are cutting up rough on this issue, I cannot understand.

The clause was agreed to.

Clause 3 (Advance of time).

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara).—I must make clear to the Committee the views of my electorate on the introduction of daylight saving. Of the many representations which have been made to me on the subject, all have favoured the view that time should be left as it is. My electorate is opposed to the re-introduction of daylight saving.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Wheeler).—Order! I find it difficult to relate the remarks of the honorable member for Kara Kara to clause 3. The honorable member would have been better served if he had

taken the opportunity to speak on clause 2. However, if he relates his remarks to clause 3, I shall hear him.

Mr. CURNOW.—With due respect, Mr. Acting Chairman, clause 3 is the clause which actually introduces daylight saving. Sub-clause (1) provides—

From the hour of two o'clock in the morning of the last Sunday in October in each year until the hour of two o'clock in the following, summer time shall, throughout the State, be one hour in advance of standard time and shall be observed accordingly.

I am speaking on this period of time.

Sub-clause (2) states—

In this section the expression “the hour of two o'clock in the morning” means the hour as determined by standard time.

It is the actual time that the Committee is debating and this is the crux of the Bill. The people in my electorate have spoken to me, sent me letters and, in some cases, telegrams, saying that they do not want this period of time brought in. The Government has shown a grave disregard for a section of the community—not a large section but an influential and strong section of the community.

Some weeks ago when the Premier was then Chief Secretary, I forwarded to him a list of sixteen organizations and individuals who had written to me opposing the reintroduction of daylight saving. As yet I have received no reply to those representations. In his second-reading speech, the Chief Secretary stated that the views and objections of these people are being examined. That is a poor statement to make when the principle has almost been reintroduced—in fact, it is almost a foregone conclusion. On 9th October, 1971, as reported at page 1114 of *Hansard*, the Deputy Leader of the Country Party quoted the text of a letter received by him from the Acting Premier, then the Chief Secretary. The letter states, *inter alia*—

... daylight saving will be for a trial period only and further consultation will take place next year to assess the over-all effect on the community.

I should like to know whether this assessment has taken place, and, if so, what were the results? Can the Chief Secretary supply this information to honorable members? So far the honorable gentleman has said nothing.

It is not correct to say that people and animals can adjust to daylight saving. As has been correctly pointed out, children leaving home for school at 7 o'clock daylight saving time would in effect be leaving home at 6 o'clock. The parents would have to rise early to see the children off to school and once they have departed the man of the house would have to sit around and wait quite a period of time before he could do any work because it would really be only 6 o'clock and he could not strip his crops because they would still have dew on them. If he wanted to milk his cows, he would have to wait for them because the cows know the time and they would not have wandered up from the bottom of the paddock. To lend some weight to my contention that cows know the time and have rather distinctive behaviour patterns, I quote from page 10 of a book titled *Animal Behaviour* written by Harry Frauca—

... instinctive behaviour patterns will show a high degree of constancy among all the individuals of a species, because these individuals share a high proportion of genes and the behaviour patterns resulting from these genes should therefore also be very similar. And thirdly, it should be difficult or impossible to modify instinctive behaviour patterns because to do so we would have to alter the very genes themselves.

Therefore, if the cows normally wander from the paddock to the milking shed at 7 o'clock, with daylight saving time they will not arrive until 8 o'clock and the whole pattern of country behaviour will therefore be thrown right out of gear. Not only will the cows and sheep be affected by daylight saving. As the honorable member for Benalla pointed out, hotels will be affected because of the added hour of daylight at the wrong end of the day. The farmer or the country person will turn up at the hotel later than

usual and the publican will have to abuse and break the law by having to serve such persons after hours.

It is interesting to note that I received representations on this question from the Boort branch of the Country Party. It was flattering to me because obviously that branch considered the local member was of excellent character and one who could represent them well. A person who catches a train at Mildura to travel to Melbourne will be affected by daylight saving as will those who join the train at intermediate stations. At present, the train passes through Maryborough at about 5 o'clock in the morning, but with daylight saving it will arrive an hour earlier. Everyone falls into a pattern and sleeps for a certain number of hours—in other words, his sleeping habits become regular—but once the clocks are altered, it could lead to his missing the train. Last year the problem concerning delays at silos was overcome to a certain extent, but the altered hours still stopped the farmer from starting at his normal time.

Another section of the community affected will be the shop assistants who work in milk bars which must stay open for an increased number of hours. These shop assistants will be required to work longer hours but they will receive nothing extra for these altered daylight saving hours. The whole principle has not been fully investigated even though the Chief Secretary said that he was looking at the objections of certain sections of the community. Obviously, the honorable gentleman must believe the community is naïve enough to accept that statement. If he intends to examine objections, he should hold the Bill over until he does so. I believe the Bill will adversely affect an important section of the community in Victoria.

The clause was agreed to.

Clause 4, (Constitution of expressions of time in Acts).

Mr. JONES (Melbourne).—I want to raise a point with the Chief Secretary about the operation of this clause. It is not absolutely clear from a reading of the provision whether it is intended to completely set aside section 80 of the Supreme Court Act. There would appear to be an area of ambiguity which I hope the honorable gentleman can resolve. If one reads the essential words in clause 4, they are “notwithstanding any enactment, where any time is prescribed, that time shall be held to be summer time unless the contrary is expressed, provided or stipulated in that enactment”. The first part of section 80 of the Supreme Court Act provides—

On and from the first day of February One thousand eight hundred and ninety-five the mean time of the one hundred and fiftieth meridian of longitude east of Greenwich in England shall be deemed and is hereby declared to have been and to be standard time throughout Victoria.

So far there is no problem. The second part of the section provides—

Whenever any expression of time occurs in any Act Order in Council rule regulation or by-law or deed or in any instrument whatsoever and whenever the doing or not doing anything at a certain time of day or night or during a certain part of the day or night has an effect in law, such time shall unless it is otherwise specifically stated be held on and from the date aforesaid to have been and to be standard time throughout Victoria as declared by this section.

It is easier to see the way in which ambiguities could arise. One could take an example of the type of ambiguity which would be dear to the hearts of honorable members. Supposing that a man decided to nominate for a House of Representatives seat during a Federal election period when “summer time” was in operation, and it was declared that nominations were to close at 12 noon but there was no proviso to say that it was 12 noon summer time or 12 noon eastern standard time. Of course, it would be summer time once this Bill was enacted or if it had been under the provisions of the Daylight Saving Act of last year.

Supposing that at 12.30 p.m. "summer time" a person put in his nomination form and it was rejected. He says that clause 5 of this Bill appears to save section 80 of the Supreme Court Act and that it is only 11.30 a.m. eastern standard time. It would be realistic to presume that people would be continually referring as a matter of practice to specific modes of time, for example, that this House would meet at 4 p.m. "summer time". Presumably, honorable members would be told that the House would meet at 4 p.m. *simpliciter*, with no qualification and that this would be a normal practice with ordinary routine acts of life. As one looks further at the provisions of the Bill—I could deal with another aspect when I come to clause 5—it is not completely clear that section 80 of the Supreme Court Act is, for the purpose of summer time, completely excluded from operation. It appears to me that section 80 and clause 4 of this Bill are equal and opposite provisions; they go either way. Those two provisions are charging off in opposite directions; there seems to be some area of ambiguity which I suspect only the Minister can help us to resolve.

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—Far be it from me to match my erudition in law with that of the honorable member for Melbourne, but I think I can claim a mild acquaintance with plain English. This Bill sets out to provide that during a certain period of the year the time by which we regulate our affairs will be what is described in the Bill—for want of a better term—as summer time, and clause 3 provides what that period will be. Clause 4 then provides, *inter alia*—

Notwithstanding anything in any enactment, regulation, by-law proclamation, Order in Council, order or notice. . . .

It then provides that the time shall be that which is expressed in this Bill unless a particular counter provision is made in another enactment.

In other words, the standard will be the time provided in this Bill unless, in a particular situation, there is another enactment or proviso of some sort that would have a particular purpose to be related entirely to standard time or natural time according to meridian. Clause 5 provides, *inter alia*—

Except as expressly provided in this act the provisions of section 80 the Supreme Court Act 1958 are not affected by this Act.

It is a peculiar way of putting it but I should imagine the honorable member for Melbourne would have a better understanding than I have of how legal men arrived at that expression. It appears to me it means that unless there is a specific situation relative to the Supreme Court Act which would make the provisions of this Bill inoperative, the Supreme Court Act would be construed as being in accordance with the provisions of this Bill. To me, there is no ambiguity.

I have no doubt that if argument arises before the Supreme Court, members of the legal profession—the Attorney-General on the Government side of the House and the honorable member for Melbourne on the Opposition side of the House—could occupy the time of the court for weeks. I believe the matter is clear; I could not possibly imagine any argument arising and I have no doubt that people generally in Victoria and in other States would have no doubt that the time by which they conduct their affairs is that laid down by the provisions of this Bill.

The clause was agreed to.

Clause 5 (Savings).

Mr. JONES (Melbourne).—I thank the Chief Secretary for his remarks. I do not hold out any great enthusiasm for legal drafting as against plain and simple drafting. I should have thought that if the Minister had drafted the particular clause himself, the ambiguity which we both hope will be avoided would have been avoided.

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

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

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Fund for the purposes of a Bill to make provision with respect to the costs and expenses of the proposed Constitutional Convention and with respect to payment of allowances to the delegates of the Victorian Parliament to that convention.

A resolution in accordance with the recommendation was passed in Committee and adopted by the House.

On the motion of Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General), the Bill was brought in and read a first time.

SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The basic purpose of this Bill is to implement the updating of superannuation pensions in accordance with the principles outlined in the Budget speech. At the same time the opportunity is being taken of making certain amendments to the Superannuation Act itself, and I will explain these in due course. Firstly, I want to deal with the updating of pensions.

As explained in the Budget speech, the proposal is to adjust pensions on the basis of the cost-of-living changes between 30th June, 1967, and 30th June, 1972. Pensions which commenced on or before 30th June, 1967, will receive an increase of 20 per cent as from 1st December next. Pensions which commenced after 30th June, 1967, and before 1st June, 1972, will receive

pro rata increases. The increase will taper off by one-third of 1 per cent for each whole month the pension commenced after 30th June, 1967.

The figure of 20 per cent represents the increase in the consumer price index for Melbourne between June, 1967, and June, 1972. The actual figure was 19.9 per cent but for purposes of the legislation it is rounded off at 20 per cent. The tapering off by one-third of 1 per cent for each whole month the pension commenced after 30th June, 1967, derives from the fact that there are 60 months in the period June, 1967, to June, 1972, and 20 divided by 60 gives a fraction of one-third.

The foregoing principles, which apply to pensions under the Superannuation Act, will also apply to retired police receiving pensions from the Police Pensions Fund. Pensions to police widows under the Police Regulation Act are fixed according to rank and provision is made to update these pensions. In these cases the increase will be $11\frac{2}{3}$ per cent, this increase being based on the number of months at $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent a month since the last adjustment of these pensions in January, 1970. As on previous occasions, special provision is made for a small group of six police widows who receive a special widow's pension under the Police Regulation Act, their husbands having died as a result of injuries received in the course of duty.

The provisions of the Bill relating to the updating of pensions are to be found in clauses 8, 9 and 10. In line with the Budget speech, the Bill provides that one-half of the cost of the proposed updating of pensions will be met from the Consolidated Fund, and the other half will come from the Pensions Supplementation Fund.

It may be useful if I refer briefly to previous provisions which have been made by the Parliament for the

updating of superannuation pensions, and enlarge a little on the difference between the method now proposed in the Bill and the methods adopted on previous occasions.

As I indicated in the Budget speech, there have been no fewer than nine adjustments to pension entitlements under the Superannuation Act since 1948. The earlier adjustments, in general, either increased the value of certain units, or made *ad hoc* increases in lower level pensions.

In 1965 the whole question of the method of future adjustments to superannuation pensions was referred by the Government to a committee of officers for advice. The report of that committee was tabled in the House by the Treasurer on 8th December, 1965, and the Treasurer made a statement at that time on the recommendations of the committee, and the principles inherent in the recommendations which would govern future adjustments. The Treasurer's statement is on record in *Hansard*.

Following that statement by the Treasurer, legislation was introduced in 1966 to adjust pensions on the basis which had been adopted a little earlier by the Commonwealth Government, and which was recommended by the committee of advice. The cost of the increases then granted was met from the surplus in the Superannuation Fund. The basis adopted was what became known as the "notional salary" method of adjustment.

In 1970 pensions were adjusted on a somewhat similar basis, pensions being updated to accord with salary changes to June, 1967. On that occasion average salary increases were used, rather than specific salaries for specific positions, to streamline administration.

Although the Government indicated in 1965 that the principles of adjustment on the general basis of notional salary changes, with the

cost being charged to the surplus in the Superannuation Fund, would be adopted on future valuations of the Superannuation Fund, on this occasion the Government has reviewed what was then said.

In the first place, adjustment of pensions on the "notional salary" method is complex, and, as the Commonwealth Treasurer indicated in his 1971 Budget speech, experience has shown that it generates anomalies and inequities between pensioners. Furthermore, there is always a time lag involved, and it is difficult for the person receiving a pension to understand why this should be so. For example, the adjustment in 1970 applied only to pensions which commenced prior to July, 1967, and took into account salary changes to that date only.

On this occasion, therefore, the Government is proposing an adjustment of pensions which reflects the change in the consumer price index up to 30th June, 1972, either from 30th June, 1967, for pensions in force at that date, or from the date of commencement of a pension if the pension commenced after 30th June, 1967. Furthermore, the percentage increases now proposed apply to the whole of the pension, and not to 5-7ths of the pension as on the last two occasions. This is essentially a simple method of adjustment; it is readily understood, and in the Government's view it is an equitable adjustment.

We have not waited on the actuarial report on the condition of the Superannuation Fund. However, we have had preliminary advice from the Actuary that a further surplus will be disclosed. Having regard to that advice, but having in mind the total cost involved, the Bill proposes, as foreshadowed in the Budget speech, that one-half of the cost will be met from the surplus in the Superannuation Fund and one-half from the Consolidated Fund. The total cost will be of the order of \$5 million in a full year.

In addition to the provisions which I have outlined for the updating of pensions, the opportunity is being taken of making certain amendments to the Superannuation Act, and I want now to refer briefly to these amendments.

Clause 2 of the Bill gives to the Superannuation Board a power to acquire land and to erect buildings subject to the consent of the Treasurer. This is a power which the Superannuation Board does not now have, but it is a power which the Government believes it ought to have. No specific proposals are at present in mind, but as a general proposition it can be said that judicious investment in land and buildings is a desirable form of investment for a superannuation fund. The Superannuation Board has proposed to the Government that it should have this power, and the Government has agreed.

Clause 3 relates to what are known as table D units under the Superannuation Act. These units are available to contributors, subject to age considerations, when their normal superannuation contributions exceed 12 per cent of salary. The contributions paid for them, and the Superannuation Fund share of the benefit in relation to them, is one-quarter of that for normal units of pension under the Superannuation Act. However, the amount of pension paid from the Consolidated Fund is the same for table D units as for normal units.

Table D units become available from age 55 next birthday for contributors on both the age 65 schedule and the age 60 schedule. For contributors on the age 65 schedule, this means that table D units become available ten years before retirement. The proposal in the Bill is to make them available ten years before retirement also for contributors on the age 60 schedule. This provision will be of particular advantage to members of the Police Force who are contributors to the

Superannuation Fund because all such police contribute on the age 60 schedule.

The Bill provides for a 50 per cent increase in children's benefits under both the Superannuation Act and the Police Regulation Act. In addition, it extends these benefits in the case of full-time students to age 25 instead of age 21 under the existing legislation. This extension is in line with the age for full-time student concessions under the Income Tax Act.

Clause 5 makes two changes in the existing provisions relating to lump-sum options under the Superannuation Act. For female contributors, it extends to them the right which applies to male contributors to convert up to 30 per cent of their pension to a lump sum. For males, it extends to persons who retire before age 65 the right which already applies to female contributors to receive a lump sum representing the cash equivalent of a reduction in pension from the date of retirement, instead of from age 65.

In addition to the provisions which I have referred to, and which constitute the basic pension updating provisions and amendments to the Superannuation Act, there are two other provisions in the Bill. Some years ago a provision was made to enable certain members of the Governor's staff to come under the Superannuation Act. The provision then made has been found to be defective, and clause 6 remedies the defect.

At present the Superannuation Act provides a power to the Superannuation Board to require departments to supply it with information necessary for periodical actuarial valuations of the Superannuation Fund. This is a narrow power, and clause 7 replaces it with a general power to enable the Superannuation Board to call on departments to provide any essential information for the purposes of the administration of the superannuation scheme.

As indicated in the Budget speech it is intended that the pension increases provided for in this Bill should operate from 1st December next, that being the commencing date of the first pension pay period in December. Some 21,000 pensions will be increased.

Considerable work will be involved for the staff of the Superannuation Board. I trust, therefore, that the House will agree to a speedy passage of the Bill. I commend it to the House.

On the motion of Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 10.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of Mr. Guy (Gisborne) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

Mr. TRETHEWEY (Bendigo).—I express the loyalty of the constituents of my electorate to Her Majesty the Queen. Their loyalty has never been in doubt. It is interesting to recall that Her Majesty ascended to the Throne on 6th February, 1952, so that she has been the Queen of our Commonwealth for a little more than twenty years. Her Majesty married Prince Philip on 20th November, 1947, so that on 20th November next they will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary, which is a milestone in their lives and in the history of the Commonwealth.

His Excellency Sir Rohan Delacombe became Governor of Victoria on 8th May, 1963, so he has served the State for a little longer than nine years. As I understand His Excellency is in his last term as Governor, on behalf of my constituents I congratulate Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe on the wonderful work that

they have done in Victoria and particularly throughout country areas; they have both visited country centres regularly and have enjoyed associating with country people.

I congratulate the honorable member for Gisborne on his remarks when moving the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech and also the honorable member for Mitcham for her remarks in seconding the motion. I have no doubt that the electors in those two electorates will be justly proud of their representatives and the manner in which they proposed and seconded the motion.

His Excellency referred to that terrible word "decentralization". Everybody must get sick and tired of hearing the word bandied about at all times. It is regrettable that some other word or phrase cannot be found, such as "balanced country development", thus avoiding the use of the word "decentralization". However, I suppose we have to live with it.

It was interesting to receive from the newly-appointed Minister for State Development and Decentralization a copy of the Government's ten-point policy on decentralization, particularly that part concerning the division of Victoria into decentralization regions. The transfer of officers of departments to strategic centres will provide easier access for residents in those areas. How often have honorable members brought to a Minister in Melbourne complaints from a constituent? With decentralized branches of departments in strategic positions throughout the State, it will be much easier for honorable members and their constituents to make representations. I was delighted to learn from His Excellency's Speech that in addition to subsidies for transport and other services for country industries there is to be reduction in pay-roll tax. This will certainly assist country industries. Strong representations should be made to the Common-

wealth Government to reduce the postal and telephone charges payable by country people and to exempt newly-established country industries from the payment of income tax for five years. Those measures would provide an incentive for industry to remain in the country and to compete with their metropolitan counterparts.

There can be no argument that country people are the backbone of Victoria. They create the new wealth of the country by growing wheat, wool and other primary produce, and in so doing contribute to the welfare of people in the city. In this regard I commend the Country Party for the part it is playing in serving the interests of country areas.

The site for a fourth university in Victoria has been the subject of a good deal of discussion. I congratulate the honorable member for Midlands who, in the autumn sessional period, urged that this university should be located in a country centre. He was successful and it is pleasing to know that the Government has decided to select a site at either Ballarat, Bendigo or Geelong. I believe there is a good chance of the university being located in Bendigo because of that city's advantageous geographical position and because the committee appointed by the Bendigo City Council has visited areas north of Bendigo, including the Riverina and Wangaratta, where it received excellent co-operation, and was informed that the people there wished the university to be sited at Bendigo.

I was disturbed to read in the *Bendigo Advertiser* of 16th September that the secretary of the Victorian Universities Admissions Committee had stated that 2,500 students would be unable to gain admission to a university or a college of advanced education this year. That demonstrates beyond any doubt that a fourth university in Victoria is essential.

I was also disturbed to read in the same newspaper, in its issue of 18th September, that Mr. McMullen, the president of the Victoria Institute of Colleges Staff Association Council, opposed the location of a university in the country and believed that students would have to be brought to it from the four corners of the State if it was to be filled. I remind Mr. McMullen and the people of Melbourne that country towns have supplied students to universities in the metropolis. My two sons had to leave home to study at the University of Melbourne. If there had been a university in the country, my sons could have remained at home while being educated. To suggest that it will be necessary to bring students from the four corners of the State is incorrect.

It is interesting to learn that it is proposed to start the erection of a regional diagnostic centre in Bendigo at a cost of about \$1.3 million. This centre will be of invaluable assistance to the farming community north of Bendigo and will fill a long-felt want in that area. Its establishment will benefit not only people in the country north of Bendigo, but also the people of Bendigo itself.

Recently the Government announced that natural gas would be in Bendigo in June, 1973, an announcement which was greeted with delight by the people of my electorate. I inquired about the route of the transmission lines and was informed that they would commence from the Melbourne ring main and run to Ballan, Ballarat and eventually to the gas reception centre at Golden Square. That is a long way. The line will cost \$6.5 million, but when natural gas is supplied to Ballarat, Daylesford and Bendigo, charges for it should be comparable with those which obtain in Melbourne and this should encourage growth of the economy of those areas.

My constituents consider that the electorate has immense tourist potential, and I was pleased to learn from the Minister for Local Government that for tourist purposes it is proposed to retain a tramline and run trams from the Central Deborah gold mine through the main street of the city to the Chinese joss-house. This is expected to be an important attraction for city visitors. I am informed that during the past nine months 35,000 people have visited the mine, and I am sure that that number will increase as time goes by.

It is proposed to build a larger complex at the joss house site to house the famous Bendigo dragons and other Chinese relics. Honorable members will be aware that in the early days the Chinese played an important part in mining in the area. The proposal to retain tram services will enable people to travel from the mine to the centre of the city, where they can see other interesting features, and then to the Chinese joss-house. I am sure it will prove to be an important tourist attraction, and that people will visit Ballarat and Sovereign Hill, then travel to Bendigo, Echuca and Swan Hill. They will thus be able to traverse a large area of the State which contains many tourist attractions.

Mr. TREWIN.—What about Benalla?

Mr. TRETHERWEY.—Benalla is a large city which attracts a considerable number of tourists who travel to Sydney. I believe it also has something to offer to the community.

Conservation of the environment is a matter which is frequently raised and which, quite correctly, is receiving attention from the Government. In Bendigo the Whipstick area contains the famous Bendigo wax flowers and other flora as well as fauna. It is the wish of the Whipstick committee that this area should be reserved in perpetuity so that it can be enjoyed by future generations, especially in spring time.

I was interested to hear the views of the honorable member for Melbourne, particularly those about the permissive society. On this subject, I commend the Chief Secretary for his efforts to curtail the publication of pornography which is prevalent in Victoria. I hope that, as a result of his efforts and those of members of this Parliament, Victoria will become a good clean State and that the people will be worthy to live in it. In conclusion, I say to the residents of Victoria I hope that in the future they will live in peace, love, and harmony.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas).—I endorse the words of the honorable member for Bendigo in congratulating the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply. I also congratulate the honorable member for Melbourne who, in his maiden speech, enlightened the House on many aspects of the needs of the community. That is far more than many other honorable members have done. It was odd that Government supporters interjected during the honorable member's maiden speech. Apparently, they feared that his knowledge would show them up in some way. I commend the honorable member for emphasizing the needs of human society. It is to those needs that our efforts should be directed.

I congratulate the Government for adopting two policies of the Labor Party. Apparently the Government has been so embarrassed that it felt it must introduce pay-roll tax concessions for decentralized industry. It is heartening for a member of the Opposition to realize that by exercising persistence he can embarrass the Government into introducing legislation which is necessary for the well-being of the State. The Government has also adopted the Labor Party policy of appointing an ombudsman who, I understand, will operate in the near future.

However, the so-called "new look" Government is not altogether new in its outlook. In the electorate I represent, the same old Liberal Party is putting up the same old candidate in the next State elections. He is probably one of the people most against anti-pollutionists and conservationists in the history of Victoria. The party of the "new look" Government is endorsing "old look" members of Parliament.

During the short period I have been a member of Parliament, there have been some definite achievements in the electorate of Dundas. At one stage I thought I sounded like a broken record because I was making the same complaints after being here for some time, while the Government did nothing. However, some of the things I have been talking about and on which I have been pressing for Government action have been done. I am glad of that and perhaps I should congratulate the Government on doing them.

Mr. WHITING.—It is a nice note to go out on.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS.—I should like to be as sure of some other things as I am of retaining the seat of Dundas.

Mr. STEPHEN.—The main thing is to be generous when you leave.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS.—I shall not be relying on Democratic Labor Party preferences, as will the honorable member for Ballarat South. During my period as a member of this House, the Government has opened two departmental offices in Stawell, one for the State Electricity Commission and one for the Forests Commission. There have been many improvements to the Stawell High School which were badly needed. An assembly hall costing \$100,000 has been built. A basketball stadium costing about the same sum has been erected. A geriatric ward, also costing about \$100,000, has been opened at the hospital. These are all

essential facilities for human beings living in the area which was much neglected by previous representatives of the electorate. Tenders have been called for a football club-room to cost about \$64,000. Again, this is a community need; it is not something for a few people.

Mr. REESE.—Is this being provided by the expenditure of Government money?

Mr. E. W. LEWIS.—It is not all Government money. The sum of \$34,000 has been provided by the Government from rural unemployment relief funds and the remainder by the Stawell Town Council, the football club and the athletic club. I congratulate them on their efforts in raising money, which is not easy in a community where there is unemployment and job opportunities are scarce. However, a community effort raised sufficient funds for this project. There is an area of neglect causing unemployment in country areas, but I shall speak about that later.

The Government has approved of the creation of a village as a tourist attraction at Stawell. This has my support and good wishes but how successful it will be remains to be seen. These things have been achieved since I became the member for Dundas and they are far more than was achieved when Dundas was represented by a member of the Government.

At Stawell, a new wing is needed at the high school and a day centre is needed at the hospital. I hope these will be forthcoming in the near future. These projects will be undertaken only because the Government is embarrassed as the needs have been so great for so long. The greatest need is at the Pleasant Creek Special School. The Assistant Minister of Education and I inspected the school recently. The Assistant Minister said that there were grey areas of responsibility for special schools. There is buck-passing between the Education Department and the Mental Health Authority and the Government should not

be proud of this. The Social Welfare Department is also involved but not as much as the other two departments.

It is unfortunate that special schools are necessary, but the need for them is great. At the Pleasant Creek Special School there are not only children but also teenagers and older people who require special treatment. The teachers at the school are dedicated to their task although they work in appalling conditions. For a number of years, two extra rooms have been needed. An answer to a question I asked earlier this year led me to believe that those two rooms would be built but, because of buck-passing within the Government, they have not been. I ask the Government to give special attention to the needs of this school, which provides for the intellectually handicapped.

The Government should clear up the grey areas of responsibility so that they are either black or white, particularly in order to help the children at this school. It is a live-in school. There are ten beds which could be utilized if the school could cope with more children but, quite rightly, attendance is limited to 132 children. The school could be extended with two extra rooms and I again ask the Government to see that these rooms are built. The school has had a number of successes and recently it has trained teenage people to a sufficiently high standard to hold down jobs in the local woollen mill.

The first responsibility of Government departments to handicapped and disabled people is to train them to take a useful part in the life of the community. It is not the purpose of a department merely to prolong their lives; it is to help them to lead useful lives which will benefit the community as a whole. The need for the training of these people

Mr. E. W. Lewis.

is great. There is also a need for a workshop in the area and the Government should establish it.

A number of honorable members have spoken of tourism. The honorable member for Bendigo said that it was heartening that the Minister for Local Government had decided to keep certain trams running in Bendigo. Only last year there was a disagreement on this question between the Government and the Opposition. The Government wanted to get rid of the trams and the Labor Party wanted them kept in operation. The trams are to be kept operating in a limited way as a tourist attraction.

In moving the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply, the honorable member for Gisborne spoke about the wonderful electorate he represents and referred to the airport at Tullamarine as the tourist gateway to Victoria. In following his former profession, I am sure that the honorable member often landed at Tullamarine and, if he was observant, which I sometimes doubt, he would have seen the quarries there which are not something of which Victoria can be proud. Any quarry is an eyesore from the air, and the quarries at Tullamarine are one of the biggest eyesores which visitors to Victoria could see.

Mr. WHITING.—They are necessary.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS.—Of course quarries are necessary, but it is not necessary that they should be next to an international airport. If the quarries were there first, the international airport should have been located somewhere else, if it was to be the tourist gateway to Victoria.

What is this "new look" Government doing? The Minister of Water Supply has offered to sell water to municipalities at \$2.35 an acre-foot. The Shire of Arapiles, which is in the electorate of Dundas, would like to

fill Lake Natimuk with water but, at \$2.35 an acre-foot, that would cost \$13,000. Where does the Minister of Water Supply expect the municipality or the foreshore committee to find that sum of money? It could be argued that these lakes are not filled now because the headwaters have been held back. That is not entirely true, but it is partly true. Municipalities or people trying to promote tourism in various areas should not have to buy water which would have come to them in the natural course of events.

During the first week of the sessional period, I asked a question on the subject of the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism. I have not yet received a reply and I register my protest at this lack of courtesy. This is at a time when there is a record supply of water in the Grampians storages. If water is to be sold, it is proof that there is ample water available.

For six years, the Balmoral High School has been sharing the facilities of the Balmoral Consolidated School. Over the years, I have asked many questions of the Minister of Education relating to the building of the Balmoral High School and I have received the same old reply that contracts are being let, plans are being drawn up and so on. I ask the honorable gentleman seriously to consider this matter and not duck-shove further plans for the school.

I was pleased to hear the comments of the Minister of Education that he proposed to combine high and technical schools in country areas. In some of these centres it is not necessary to provide a strictly high school education or a strictly technical school education. This move is desirable. Members of the Opposition look at the State as a whole—unlike the members of the Country Party, who look only to one section of the State; once farmers they are farmers forever. Today, 20 per cent of the

young people in my electorate finish up in the metropolitan area. I cannot afford to adopt the attitude that there is only one section in the State. I deplore the action of the Government in carving up the metropolitan area with freeways and neglecting decentralization.

Country towns have an important role to play in decentralization. I should be ashamed of the Government if it did not implement some of the promises that were made in His Excellency's Speech. I refer particularly to preference for housing in country areas. His Excellency said —

First priority will be given by the Housing Commission to housing needs in country centres, especially the needs of new and existing industries.

I support that principle but I cannot support the Government when it does not back that statement with sufficient money for the purpose. The Treasurer said that no more money would be made available but a reallocation of funds would be made from the city to the country. Although that is something, the Government should not be proud of the over-all picture. Housing should be provided in country areas before it is needed so that people can be attracted to the areas. A policy should be adopted which could be likened to the Federal immigration policy under which temporary accommodation is offered to migrants and then when they get a job they move to their own homes.

A number of hard-working committees — I instance the Hamilton Industrial Committee in this context — can attract industry to the country. I will not mention the industry concerned, but it has a work force of 500 or 600 people. These people would not move to the Hamilton area because accommodation was not available. When this situation arises a decentralization policy does not exist. Further, a ceiling of \$80 a week is

placed on the sum that a person can earn before he is disqualified from being eligible for a Housing Commission home. I realize that the commission waives that provision for some key personnel. The Government cannot expect people to move from Melbourne to Hamilton if they have nowhere to live. There is no chance of industry establishing in the area unless accommodation is found. There is truth in the old saying that in this world one must have food and shelter. The food comes from the ability to work and the job provides the opportunity for shelter, which is the home. Because of this lazy and incompetent Government there is no shelter in Hamilton.

The honorable member for Melbourne has said that when the Prime Minister speaks in the short term it is for five minutes, and that when he speaks in the long term it is for twenty minutes. That could be said equally of this Government. I could relate the present situation to the old saying: Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? The Government should show some initiative and provide housing. If it did, the City of Hamilton could find the jobs — in this case, the eggs.

A pressing need exists for decentralization. I have lived in Hamilton for only ten years but people who have lived there longer have informed me that in 1932 the population was 10,000. It is still 10,000 in 1972. An atmosphere of confidence pervades the town but if the Government's present attitude continues and adequate housing is not provided for industry a damper will be thrown on the enthusiasm of the town. Adequate housing should be provided not only for Hamilton but for every other major centre. We do not want a new-look Government with old policies. The Liberal Party has endorsed old members of Parliament with old ideas. In 1955, 65 per cent

of the Victorian population resided in Melbourne. Today the proportion has risen to 71 per cent. The Minister of Housing should again examine the situation of country accommodation and the Premier and Treasurer should consider making further allocations of money. Members of the Opposition—I hope with the support of the Country Party—will continue to criticize the Government until this end is achieved.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong).—The motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech gives honorable members an opportunity of pledging their loyalty and that of their constituents to the Crown, which in the case of the constituents of the electorate of Geelong is 99 per cent.

The Governor's Speech is an improvement on Speeches of recent years because it goes into more detail in setting out the policies of the Government for the ensuing twelve months. I refer to the regionalization of social welfare activities because, last Friday, three members of the Government party visited a decentralized social welfare centre in Geelong. This is an excellent idea.

I also refer to public transport and I note the number of minor improvements on the Melbourne-Geelong railway line in which I am interested. Some better-type carriages have been placed in service and two modern rail-motors are to run on this line. These are straws in the wind.

My main objective tonight is to speak on the contentious subject of decentralization, which is of interest in my electorate. A large part of the Governor's Speech deals specifically with this subject.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—It was not too specific.

Mr. BIRRELL.—No, but it was specific enough for me to comment on it. I am not commenting in a

very positive manner because Geelong is in a grey area. No one says whether Geelong is to be a decentralized area. It is neither city nor country. I believe the new policies are viable, desirable and must be implemented. Therefore, I am not being contentious on the matter conveyed in the Governor's Speech, but the local situation in Geelong is peculiar.

Honorable members interjecting.

Mr. BIRRELL. — An honorable member on my right says that Geelong is part of the metropolitan area. This is the problem; some say this, some say that. I contend that Geelong is an independent city outside the metropolis. One almost thinks Geelong should be declared an independent republican town with the honorable member for Melbourne as its president. He would fit in very nicely. There are in evidence today policies of ambivalence and compromise—one might almost call it a dichotomy—and a bloody headache to the local member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Sir Edgar Tanner).—Order! I ask the honorable member to withdraw that remark.

Mr. BIRRELL.—It is a headache to the local member. I apologize, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Order! That word is most unparliamentary. I ask the honorable member to withdraw it.

Mr. BIRRELL.—I withdraw the word entirely and I apologize to the Chair. Geelong cannot say whether it is country or city; no one knows where it lies. We know it is located on Corio Bay, but that is all. In 1967 when drought relief was provided in Victoria, Geelong was considered to be city and no relief was provided in the area. This year it is included in rural relief. Until two weeks ago, Geelong was regarded as metropolitan for apprenticeship purposes. Two weeks ago the following statement was made

from Canberra by the Assistant Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr. Street, who, incidentally, comes from the Geelong area:—

I am particularly pleased that Geelong will no longer suffer the disability of being considered as part of the metropolitan area.

The Minister was speaking in relation to apprenticeships. The people of Geelong want to have a designation one way or the other so that they will know where they stand.

Mr. BORNSTEIN.—Whose fault is that? Does the honorable member think it has something to do with the lack of co-ordination between Government departments?

Mr. BIRRELL.—I should like to know whose fault it is. Generally, Geelong is considered to be country. In relation to the grants that are available to municipalities for libraries and all the panoply of assistance, Geelong is rated as a country area. When grants for art galleries are allocated, Geelong receives the country art gallery grant. Tourist grants are allocated on a country scale, and so on. As the honorable member for Geelong North is aware, Geelong gets the worst of all worlds because odours from the sewerage farm at Werribee blow over Geelong and nothing can be done to get rid of that metropolitan influence. Geelong suffers a degree of disability in three particular areas.

In 1943 subsidies on capital works for water trusts were brought into existence. At that time for some reason Geelong was left out and, with rising interest rates, it has continued to be left out during the intervening 29 years. Geelong is considered to be metropolitan for water subsidies. I do not know how this was justified in the first place, but obviously no retribution of any sort has been made. Geelong is still considered to be metropolitan on that score. A similar situation applies to decentralization. There is no decentralized industry in Geelong or

in the region of Geelong. Prior to 1963, when the Commercial Goods Vehicles Act came into existence, the Government established the Distribution of Population Committee. The committee drew a 50-mile radius around Melbourne inside of which there was to be no decentralization policy. However, I want to put certain information hot on the line, so to speak. Two members of the committee had interests within the 50-mile radius within which a number of towns were declared to be exempted. Those towns were within the electorates of the two members of the committee. In other words, the committee was nothing more than a racket. It was an all-party Parliamentary committee.

When the line was drawn 50 miles around Melbourne, all towns with some industrial potential, except Geelong, were included. Bacchus Marsh and the whole lot were included as decentralized cities. Incidentally, Geelong was farther away from Melbourne than the towns that were exempted. Bacchus Marsh is 30 miles from Melbourne and Geelong is 46. What is the explanation? Geelong has this inherent inability to cut into decentralization benefits, whatever they may be. Some people claim that the benefits are not much.

Mr. GINIFER.—Which committee was this?

Mr. BIRRELL.—The Distribution of Population Committee in which the former Leader of the Labor Party was prominent.

Mr. GINIFER.—Is the honorable member suggesting that the committee was a racket?

Mr. BIRRELL.—I am just saying that in these major areas Geelong appears to be out on a limb. No one seems to be able to describe it as city or country, decentralized or non-decentralized.

Mr. GINIFER.—In other words, it is nondescript.

Mr. BIRRELL.—Yes, but, peculiarly, Geelong is the one area in Victoria which can effectively be decentralized and take Melbourne on at its own game. In other words, Geelong could be a competitor. In terms of electoral boundaries, I am an urban fellow—I am even considered to be a city fellow—and I am unhappy about it. Similarly, the honorable member for Geelong North has an urban classification. This may be due to circumstances, but we would certainly like some clarification.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—Is not the Government to blame?

Mr. BIRRELL.—It may be. When the Bland report was recently compiled, the same little bubbles rose to the surface. Geelong was informed that it could have wider rights of operation with as-of-right transport licences, and so on. However, when certain goods are to be carried throughout the State, they must be transported by rail. This applies to the bulk of the transport between Geelong and Melbourne; it includes bulk cement, wire from Rylands, car bodies, aluminium ingots, and so on. Obviously, they were all highlighted as being products from Geelong. The rest of the State would hardly be affected because it could be assisted by decentralization policies, from which Geelong cannot benefit.

The sooner the Government, as a Government, and not a Ministry as a Ministry, or a department as a department, lays down a uniform policy for the Geelong area, the happier we will be. We will know where we stand. At the moment the position is a hotchpotch. With regard to decentralization, Geelong is in a very grey area. I should like Geelong's position to be written out in either black or white.

On the motion of Mr. WILKES (Northcote), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

ADJOURNMENT.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: TRANSFER OF TEACHER—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE: DAYS OF SITTING—POLICE DEPARTMENT: INCREASED SUPERVISION AT EAST KEILOR—CHIEF SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT: CONTROL OF TRAIL MOTOR CYCLE DRIVING—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: LABELLING OF CLOTHING: RETRAINING OF DISPLACED WORKERS—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: USE OF COMMON-WEALTH ACCOMMODATION FOR GERIATRIC PATIENTS—LAW DEPARTMENT: RESPONSIBILITY OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—MORDIALLOC CREEK: POLLUTION—SWIMMING POOLS: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until tomorrow, at half-past Three o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell).—I wish to raise a matter concerning the activities of the Minister of Education. Recently representations were made by the school committee of the Glen-garry West Primary School on behalf of a school teacher who had been asked by the Education Department to transfer to another school. After the matter was processed by the Education Department, an answer was supplied to the effect that the department regretted that a favourable decision could not be given and that the school teacher concerned would have to move on. The school committee then approached me as the local member and asked me to take up this matter on its behalf. At that time honorable members were informed that the responsibility for primary education was to rest with the Assistant Minister of Education. The matter was duly raised with the Assistant Minister's administrative staff and the Minister was requested to give favourable consideration to a review

of this decision, because the teacher concerned was undertaking his final year of studies at the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education and, as he had only twelve months to go, a favourable decision could have a marked influence on his career. It was felt that if he was transferred to another locality, this could very well mean the end of his studies at the institute and the end of any furtherance of his career in that area.

In view of this, I ask the Minister responsible for the administration of this section of the Education Department to review this decision and consider the points raised in my previous representations.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I ask the Minister of Education to inform the House of the Government's intention with regard to meetings of Parliament on Thursdays so that members representing country electorates may make appropriate arrangements.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—I direct the attention of the Chief Secretary to the need for more adequate police supervision within the Avondale Heights—East Keilor section of my electorate. In so doing, I desire to cite an example of this need. Voluntary organizations have been attempting to provide adequate social gatherings for young people in that area but, unfortunately, on a number of occasions the gatherings have been disrupted.

This problem has been brought to my attention by the Avondale Heights—East Keilor Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia which, in a letter to me, has written that when it has organized dances and social functions at the East Keilor Community Centre it has notified the Essendon and Avondale Heights police stations but those stations have insufficient staff to enable a reasonable coverage of the functions to be provided or to make one or two visits to them each evening. Because of this there have been

most unsavoury disturbances at these gatherings and it has made it difficult for people who are attempting to assist youth in the area to do so. One paragraph of the letter reads—

A week before our dance, we notified the Essendon and Avondale Heights police stations who informed us they would try to call in if in the area. Seven volunteer adult males were on door duty in an endeavour to maintain law and order, but despite this, it was necessary to call the police three times inside forty five minutes. No police cars were in the area, and almost an hour passed before some detectives cars arrived on the scene. By this time some of our members had been roughly handled in an attempt to keep the peace.

I hope that as a result of any future rationalization of the Police Department within the western suburbs, this new and rapidly developing section of my electorate will be able to receive more attention and supervision from the Police Force.

Mr. TREWIN (Benalla).—I direct the attention of the Chief Secretary to a situation which has developed in the past twelve to eighteen months, around the shores of Lake Eildon particularly in the Shire of Mansfield. In that area a new sport, known as trail bike riding, is being actively followed. The country in that shire is hilly, and is apparently considered to be most suitable for this sport.

The people with trail bikes come from the metropolitan areas. Upon inquiry it has been found that none of the bikes are owned by people living in the shire. Transport to the hills surrounding Lake Eildon is by road or by boat, and the trail bike riders do not seek permission to enter private property. They simply drive in by car or sail boats to the shore of the lake and then disembark.

An increasing number of people are taking part in this activity, and the landholders in the area are concerned that on many occasions gates have been left open. As yet, no real damage has been done, but a great deal of concern has been expressed about the effect that this sport might

have when it is being carried on in the dry period which is to be expected within six to eight weeks. The landholders consider that some type of restriction must be imposed on the people who are participating in this practice.

It is thought that the bikes should be registered, and I believe this will probably be done. Since this is a matter of grave concern to landholders, it is contended that certain restrictions should be imposed concerning the days on which those involved can enter certain areas and that they must obtain permission before entering private property. This new and hazardous sport should be regulated in such a way that private landholders will receive more consideration than they do now.

Fire brigades in the area are concerned that, unless restrictions are placed on this sport, the fire hazard which naturally exists in the area will be increased and serious problem could arise in the next period of fire danger.

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland).—I direct the Government's attention to false labelling of clothing. Recently a garment brought to me was labelled "100 per cent wool" but had another label under it which said "75 per cent orlon". Honorable members are aware that wool is by far the best fabric obtainable because it is hard to burn. A synthetic garment which is labelled "all wool" could be very dangerous to children because it would not have the protection against fire that one would expect from reading the label. It is essential that garments should be correctly labelled so that buyers may be sure of the material in them.

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir).—I draw to the attention of the Minister of Labour and Industry a press statement by an employer organization yesterday that some 260,000 workers in Australia are facing unemployment as a result of technological changes. I ask the Minister to consider utilizing the services of the

Advisory Committee on Automation which was established under his chairmanship to advise the honorable gentleman on questions of automation. I ask the Minister to have the committee immediately investigate the problem of workers who have been or will be displaced because of changes in technology. I point out that the committee has met on only three occasions since it was established in 1968, its last meeting having been held on 10th February, 1969.

In the Commonwealth sphere, a survey in November of last year disclosed that 2,070 workers in the industries surveyed had been displaced. Of that number, the Commonwealth considered 57 applications for retraining. It rejected 33, and approved 6 of them, 11 others were withdrawn and 7 were still under consideration; so that from 57 applications out of 2,070 displaced employees only 6 were approved for the Commonwealth retraining scheme. If the State is to do anything about the unemployment crisis, the Minister should reconstitute the committee and keep it in operation.

Mr. FELL (Greensborough).—I direct the attention of the Minister of Health, the Minister of Housing and the Premier to problems associated with the provision of geriatric facilities. All honorable members are aware of the delays which are involved in attempting to obtain specialist type of accommodation and, as I have informed the House previously, there is a vast amount of new migrant accommodation at Wiltona migrant hostel which is closing down. It is a fully-equipped, multi-million dollar project with special dining-room facilities for the accommodation of migrants. It is not being used for that purpose. It contains no fewer than 124 flats which are standing idle. They are fully furnished but they are not being used. The Maribyrnong hostel and the Midway hostel are vacant at the present time.

I asked the Minister of Housing on 27th April of this year what action could be taken to have this special accommodation transferred to the State for emergency housing of families, for Darby and Joan units or for geriatric patients. On 10th May I received a courteous reply from the Minister which stated that an investigation had been made and it was found not desirable to use facilities of the Camp Pell type.

That is understandable, but I am now speaking of buildings of the latest design which are air-conditioned and centrally heated. I ask the Premier to intercede in this matter, because I believe that, in conjunction with the Commonwealth, efforts must be made to stop this enormous waste of millions of dollars of public money. The buildings will not be used for migrant accommodation, at least in the near future, and they would provide suitable accommodation for people who cannot obtain it. I ask that the Premier investigate this matter with the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Health with a view to ascertaining what can be done to stop this colossal waste.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—I wish to draw to the attention of the Attorney-General a problem which confronted one of my constituents—a widow living in Bairnsdale—whose twenty-year old son was recently fined \$50 for an offence; and when he failed to pay this sum he was committed to Pentridge Gaol. The mother was not notified until about twenty minutes before the lad was taken from the City Watchhouse. As she lives so far from Melbourne, it was difficult, in the circumstances, for her to do much, but she endeavoured to get in touch with a number of justices of the peace with the object of paying the fine and having her son released. When she failed to do so she was obliged to travel 170 miles to Melbourne.

The incident involving the lad took place on the night of Saturday, 10th June. After arriving in Melbourne in company with her nephew the mother contacted 24 justices of the peace before she found one who would take the necessary action to have her son released from gaol. This was five days after the lad's committal to prison.

Naturally the woman was very disturbed by this incident, which raised the question of the responsibilities of justices to respond to requests for assistance under circumstances such as these. I ask the Attorney-General whether he will indicate the responsibility of a justice of the peace in these circumstances. It seems unreasonable that it should have been necessary for 24 justices, plus a further six who were telephoned from Bairnsdale—that would not be inexpensive—to be contacted before one of them would take the necessary action.

If required, I can provide the names and telephone numbers of some of the justices of the peace who were contacted by this woman. An important principle is involved, particularly as it relates to parents of children who live in the city. If unfortunately children get into difficulties such as I have outlined there should be a more ready access to the proper procedures.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray).—I refer to an alleged offer to dredge the Mordialloc Creek in conjunction with recent operations for the laying of the ethane gas pipeline. On 12th September, I asked the Minister for Fuel and Power —

Can the Minister for Fuel and Power confirm that the Government accepted an offer by the Esso-Hematite group—made in conjunction with the application to build the ethane gas pipeline—to dredge the Mordialloc Creek? If the Government accepted that offer, can the honorable gentleman explain why the work has not been done, especially taking into account that the dredge which would have undertaken the project has now been shifted from the area?

The Minister replied —

No such offer was made to the Government.

Certain information on this matter has been brought to my attention. A press release by the secretary of the Ministry of Fuel and Power on 24th June, 1971, states in part —

Mr. Court advised of two environment improvement projects to be undertaken when the pipeline is laid.

1. The laying of a string of artificial reefs across the bed of the bay to attract marine life back to the "ecologically dead" areas.
2. Removal of the sandbank at the mouth of the Mordialloc Creek, the cause of pollution for some years.

It is possible to carry out these particular projects simply because the right sort of specialist equipment would be available in the right place at the right time.

That release was reported in the daily press on 25th June, 1971, and a lengthy article in the *Australian Financial Review* of 28th June, 1971, stated, *inter alia*—

In addition to offering the "bonus" of the artificial reef, Esso-B.H.P. has also promised to clear the sandbar at the mouth of the Mordialloc Creek and remove rubbish and sludge from the lower creek which is now heavily polluted.

That was confirmed in a letter dated 12th July, 1971, from Mr. Court, the secretary to the town clerk of the City of Mordialloc. Mr. Court stated —

With reference to the press report announcing the dredging of the Mordialloc Creek, I desire to inform you that the prime contractors for the project, Ingram Contractors Australia Limited, have indicated to the Government that because of their specialised equipment being available, they will be prepared to carry out this work in conjunction with the laying of the line.

In view of the significance of this offer and the enormous publicity and benefit the contractors received when the magnanimous gesture was made, it seemed that they would be required to honour the offer and that the work should be undertaken, especially taking into account the problem of the Mordialloc Creek. I hope the Government will now examine this offer and determine what steps can be taken to follow it through.

Mr. DIXON (St. Kilda).—I direct the attention of the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government to the number of drownings that have occurred in private swimming pools. About nineteen of these drownings have occurred in Victoria this year, and only six of the victims were adults. Urgent action should be taken to ensure that more protective measures around swimming pools are taken.

I am aware that the Minister is having prepared a report on the use of private swimming pools and that consideration has been given to safety factors such as fences and gates. I should like to put forward two suggestions which I hope may be incorporated in the report. The first is that an alarm system should be installed in the pools. This was suggested by the President of the Elwood Lifesaving Club, Mr. Jack Conabere, who should be consulted, because he can advise on safety precautions.

The second suggestion is that a net should be placed over the pool when the pool is not in use.

I trust that the Minister will take these suggestions into account, make the report available as soon as possible, and enforce regulations which will ensure that deaths by drowning in private swimming pools will be minimized.

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—I will draw to the attention of the Minister for Local Government the matter raised by the honorable member for St. Kilda.

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—On a number of occasions the honorable member for Greensborough has referred to a proposal that Commonwealth hostels should be used by the Housing Commission as emergency housing establishments. The honorable member quoted a letter written by me when I was Minister of Housing in which I rejected the proposal on the grounds, *inter alia*, that the Government did not want to establish a

new Camp Pell. In fairness, the honorable member should have mentioned the remainder of that letter which, from memory, pointed out, firstly, that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to hand over the hostels because it might have other needs for them; and, secondly, that because of the nature of the establishments they could be used only in an institutional way rather than for private housing. What I feared was that institutions would be created for underprivileged people rather than giving them decent individual housing, and I much prefer the latter proposition.

When I was Minister of Housing I endeavoured whenever an emergency arose to go to extreme lengths to ensure that people were put not into emergency accommodation but into a permanent home, and I should much prefer that this policy should be continued. I suggest that there may be a purpose for which the hostels could be used but it would be for some sort of institutional arrangement. I therefore reject the idea of their use for emergency housing.

Another aspect of emergency housing is that if ten houses are held in stock the first ten emergencies will eliminate the stock. The only way in which to deal with an emergency is to take whatever administrative action is necessary at the time to help a family. That is the only practical way in which to look at the matter.

Mr. FELL.—What about Darby and Joan accommodation?

Mr. MEAGHER.—The provision of Darby and Joan pensioner accommodation is proceeding apace and is being accelerated. It is specialized subsidized accommodation provided for pensioners. It is not in the same category as emergency accommodation to which I think the honorable member was referring when he first raised this matter.

The honorable member for Benalla expressed concern about damage done by trail bikes in country areas.

Legislation to control these machines and other similar vehicles is being prepared, and in conjunction with that legislation certain regulations will be promulgated by the various departments concerned. I assure the honorable member that the matter will be adequately dealt with.

The honorable member for Deer Park is concerned about interference with certain youth groups in his area by gangs of louts, and has asked for more police protection. I shall be grateful if the honorable member will provide me with details of where these incidents have occurred so that proper action can be taken.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—The honorable member for Gippsland East raised a matter concerning a mother who was endeavouring to obtain bail for her son serving a sentence in gaol. I ask the honorable member to supply me in writing with details of the case so that I can fully investigate it. It is a matter which I shall discuss with the Minister for Social Welfare and inquire whether facilities have been approved for persons to obtain bail at various prison establishments instead of having to seek out justices.

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister without Portfolio).—During the absence from Victoria of the Minister of Education I have handled a number of matters among which I suspect is the matter alluded to by the honorable member for Morwell. There are approximately 50 cases similar to that which has been cited where it has been found necessary to put teachers in other placements in the department. The position generally is that these teachers are receiving quite a high salary, but their classified position is quite low.

It is felt by the department that they should have a position in the department which is commensurate with their salary and responsibility. Therefore, the department is unable to vary the circumstances and precedent that has been established for

fear that it will involve more than 50 teachers in a similar position. The department views the situation with a great deal of understanding. It appreciates the difficulty that confronts the teachers when they are placed in another position.

I can only add that in many cases drawn to the department's attention in the interim period when correspondence has been forwarded many teachers have successfully applied for positions and it would be impossible for the Education Department to undo the placements that have been granted on the teachers' own applications. I am not certain in this instance that the teacher has been granted a placement in the normal range of applications.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The Deputy Leader of the Opposition sought information on behalf of members, particularly country members, about Thursday sittings of the House during the next two weeks. It is not intended that the House should sit on Thursday this week, and as the following Thursday is Show Day it seems reasonable that the House should not sit on that day.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—In dealing with the matter raised by the honorable member for Footscray, I repeat the answer which I supplied to his question without notice last week; namely, that I have no knowledge of an offer being made to the Government by Esso-B.H.P. to clear Mordialloc Creek. I must admit that last year I was overseas from 23rd June to about 15th August and I should be pleased if the honorable member would provide me with copies of the correspondence which he has mentioned this evening.

One other matter that he mentioned was the establishment of a reef in Port Phillip Bay by Esso-B.H.P. during construction of the ethane pipeline. I understand that this is a matter between the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch and the contractors, and if agreement can be

reached between those parties the reef will be constructed. I cannot inform the honorable member any further. I will be quite happy to make full inquiries and should be pleased if the honorable member would provide copies of the correspondence from which he has quoted.

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland).—I want to know whether there is a Minister who is able to give an answer to my query about the labelling of garments.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The labelling of garments is a matter for the Minister of Labour and Industry, and I will draw it to his attention.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.23 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, September 20, 1972.

The **PRESIDENT** (the **Hon. R. W. Garrett**) took the chair at 4.25 p.m., and read the prayer.

STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND OTHER RUBBISH.

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

(a) What sections of the progress report of the State Development Committee on the disposal and/or destruction of garbage and other rubbish have been put into effect?

(b) What further actions are proposed in respect of recommendations in the report?

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I must apologize to the honorable member for not having the answer available. I have taken up the matter with the Premier's Department and I expected an answer today. I will ensure that the

Premier's Department is again contacted in a few minutes with a view to obtaining a reply. This has been going on for too long and I agree with Mr. Knight that it is about time an answer was received from the Premier's Department.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

VAGRANCY AND CONSORTING CONVICTIONS.

The **Hon. J. W. GALBALLY** (Melbourne North Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) How many persons were convicted of vagrancy and consorting, respectively, in the year ended 31st December, 1971?

(b) How many persons convicted of an offence of vagrancy and consorting, respectively, were sentenced to a term of imprisonment in 1971?

The **Hon. A. J. HUNT** (Minister for Local Government).—I am in a position similar to that of the Leader of the House. An answer to the question has not yet been supplied to me, but I shall follow the matter up.

WESTERNPORT.

PROPOSED JET AIRPORT.

The **Hon. D. E. KENT** (Gippsland Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

Is it proposed to establish a jet airport in the Westernport region within the next fifteen years; if so, when will a definite statement be made on a proposed site?

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answer is—

Investigations *re* the location of a second airport for Melbourne are being carried out by the State Planning Council and these include sites within the Westernport region. It is not possible at this stage to indicate when the investigations will be completed.

TURF RESEARCH AND ADVISORY INSTITUTE.

ESTABLISHMENT.

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

Has an earth research organization been established by the Government; if so (i) when; (ii) what is the basis of its operation; (iii) how will the body be financed; and (iv) what people will have recourse to same?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—On reading the question, I am wondering whether the honorable member knows that it is in fact World Earth Week, which concerns the environment. Some confusion has arisen whether the question relates to World Earth Week or to the earth so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture) (*By leave*).—I am wondering whether the honorable member means the proposed Turf Research and Advisory Institute, which is currently under consideration, and the proposed activities of the Turf Research and Advisory Service concerning bowling clubs and similar bodies.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) (*By leave*).—There appears to be some confusion in the ranks of the Government as to which Minister should provide the answer. The Leader of the House is correct in asserting that the question relates to his administration and I ask that the question be repeated on the next day of meeting.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—I can provide a verbal answer now.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—I hope it is in writing.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture) (*By leave*).—The answer will appear in *Hansard*. Apparently the question relates to the proposed Turf Research and Advisory Institute. I suggest that the honorable member should be more careful in framing his questions. If he had done so on this occasion he would have received an answer from the Department of Agriculture. First of all the subject is turf research, not earth research.

For some years, there has been a desire by the Royal Victorian Bowls Association, with which the honorable member is familiar, golf clubs, racing clubs and similar bodies representing sports which use turf, for the establishment of a Turf Research and Advisory Institute. The Govern-

ment has agreed to make available some \$77,000 to establish the Turf Research and Advisory Institute at the vegetable research station at Frankston. The institute will be established on an area of about 10 acres and will involve additional expenditure of \$15,000 a year over and above the \$20,000 a year that the Department of Agriculture is already spending on this form of research and advisory services.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—In other words, \$35,000 a year?

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—An amount of \$35,000 for the first year; the \$20,000 that the Department of Agriculture is putting into the scheme will be continued each year. This is over and above the establishment cost of \$77,000. For the first year, the additional cost will be some \$15,000, for the second year, approximately \$20,000 and for the third year, by which time the institute should be fully operative, the additional amount will be about \$26,000.

The bowling association, the golf association, the Victoria Amateur Turf Club, the Victoria Racing Club, the Melbourne City Council and, I believe, other municipalities throughout the State will be utilizing the service and will have access to it. I believe it will be one of the outstanding institutes of its kind in Australia.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

COPIES OF REPORT OF BOARD OF INQUIRY.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

In view of the fact that the report of the Board of Inquiry into Local Government Finance was based on evidence of which 75 per cent was submitted by the representatives of local councils throughout Victoria, will he inform honorable members why councils did not receive more than one copy of the report?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer is—

Command papers are printed under the authority of the Parliament or of either House thereof, and at the cost of Parliament,

and are available to honorable members free of charge in numbers allocated at the time pursuant to the authority of the relevant presiding officer, and to all others interested at a price assessed in accordance with the cost of printing. In this instance the Local Government Department, from funds provided for the board of inquiry, took the unusual step of arranging for sufficient multilithed copies in order to make one immediately available to every municipality forthwith upon presentation of the report to the House.

I believe that action was appreciated by the municipalities.

Further copies can be made available by honorable members from their limited allocations, or purchased by municipalities or the public at the price of \$1.70 each. The honorable member will appreciate that the Parliament necessarily has a limited vote for printing, and that the officers of each House are constrained by the provision which Parliament itself makes for the purpose.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS (Melbourne West Province) (By leave).—Is there a limit to the number of copies that honorable members can obtain?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—The answer made that clear.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS.—The Minister did not make the position of councils clear.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS: LONG SERVICE LEAVE.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Housing, for the Minister of Health—

What provision is made for long service leave payments to kindergarten teachers who are subsidized by the Government?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

None. The subsidy provided is one equivalent only to the amount of salary to which the kindergartner employed in conducting the kindergarten is entitled under the appropriate wages board determination.

BURIAL AT SEA.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Housing, for the Minister of Health—

What is the procedure concerning a request for burial at sea?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The Minister of Health has supplied the following answer:—

Burial of bodies within territorial waters controlled by the State of Victoria is not permitted. All burials in Victoria must take place in a public cemetery in the terms of the Cemeteries Act 1958 or in a private burial ground with the approval of the Commission of Public Health.

However, if it was desired to arrange for a body to be buried in waters outside of the control of the Victorian Government arrangements would have to be made for the necessary clearances to be issued by a coroner and by the Commonwealth authorities. These prohibitions would not apply to the strewing of cremated remains.

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CLOSURE OF WONTHAGGI PLANT.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

Is it proposed to close the Cyclone Forgings Pty. Ltd. plant at Wonthaggi; if so—(i) when will this take effect; (ii) what actions have been taken by the Government to keep this industry operating; and (iii) how many employees will be affected by the closure of these works?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—I have no knowledge that Cyclone Forgings Pty. Ltd. intends to close down its operations at Wonthaggi. I do know that my department has offered generous assistance for the company to extend its works at Wonthaggi. I also know that the company is in the midst of industrial disputes and that these may very well influence the company in deciding whether or not to extend its operations at Wonthaggi.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

STRENGTH OF FORCE.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister for Local Government, for the Chief Secretary—

(a) What is the present strength of the Victoria Police Force, indicating the number of males and females, respectively?

(b) How many new recruits were admitted in the years 1969, 1970 and 1971, respectively, and how many members have retired, resigned, or been dismissed in the same period?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer supplied by the Chief Secretary is—

(a) Present strength is 5,357 comprising 5,203 male members and 154 female members.

(b)	1969	1970	1971
New recruits ..	276	319	521
Retirements ..	64	84	75
Resignations ..	186	168	109
Dismissals ..	4	5	8

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

GLENORMISTON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE: FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) What allocation has been made to Glenormiston Agricultural College from State grants for technical training for the 1971-74 triennium?

(b) Has this allocation been made available to the Department of Agriculture; if not, why?

(c) What allocation was made to Glenormiston Agricultural College from the Commonwealth library grant to secondary schools for each of the years 1971 and 1972?

(d) Has this allocation been made available to the Department of Agriculture; if not, why?

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The answer is—

(a) \$83,740.

(b) The allocation has not yet been made available to the Department of Agriculture. However, the Education Department is seeking approval from the Commonwealth Government for the proposed works and it is expected that following this approval the finance will be made available.

(c) A lump sum payment of \$250 plus \$120 per annum.

(d) The Education Department is now arranging for the allocated funds to be made available to the Department of Agriculture.

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CLOSURE OF FOOTSCRAY WORKS.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

Further to question No. 9 asked in this House on 19th April, 1972, will W. Angliss and Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. close down their Footscray works after their works are in operation at Truganina; if not, what sections of their Footscray works will operate?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

The company informed me that its present thinking is to phase in Truganina and phase out its Footscray operations. This will be progressive and firm dates are not available.

OMEGA NAVIGATION AID STATION.

ESTABLISHMENT IN VICTORIA.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture, for the Premier—

(a) Is the Government aware of the announcement by the Federal Minister for Shipping and Transport that the search for a site for the Omega navigation aid station has been narrowed to two general areas—the area near Boort, Victoria, and the area between Kerang, Victoria, and Deniliquin, New South Wales?

(b) Can the Government initiate any action to ensure that the station is sited in Victoria?

(c) Is the Government aware of any opposition to this proposal from organizations or persons in Victoria?

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—The Premier and Treasurer has furnished the following answer:—

(a) Yes.

(b) The final decision as to the location of the Omega navigation aid station will be based on the results of the consultations being undertaken by officers of the Department of Shipping and Transport and State authorities. The Government has indicated that it would welcome the siting of the station in Victoria as an aid to decentralization.

(c) No.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

LALOR HIGH SCHOOL: SCIENCE BLOCK: PORTABLE CLASS-ROOMS.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization, for the Minister of Education—

(a) When is it anticipated that tenders will be called for a Commonwealth science block at the Lalor High School, and when is it envisaged that this necessary educational facility will be completed?

(b) As it is expected that the enrolment at Lalor High School will be in the vicinity of 1,200 for the commencement of the 1973 school year, how many extra portable class-rooms can be expected?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

(a) It is anticipated that tenders will be invited during the second half of this financial year and the building should be ready for occupation at the start of the 1974 school year.

(b) At this stage Lalor High School is listed for three extra portable class-rooms. When actual enrolments are known this number could be subject to review.

ECHUCA TECHNICAL SCHOOL: SITE.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization, for the Minister of Education—

Has a decision been made to transfer the Echuca Technical School to a new site at Echuca South; if so, when is it anticipated that the first stage of the project will be commenced?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

Yes. The project occupies a position on the Technical Schools Division's total building programme but it is not possible to indicate at present when the first stage will be commenced.

WERRIBEE HIGH SCHOOL.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) asked the

Minister for State Development and Decentralization, for the Minister of Education—

(a) What works are proposed to be carried out at the Werribee High School?

(b) When will tenders be called for such works?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

(a) Four additional class-rooms, additional storage accommodation, staff and administration improvements, two-room science block, and extensions to the library and boys' and girls' toilets.

(b) A contract for this work was let on 29th August, 1972, to Hosie Constructions.

DECENTRALIZATION.

FINANCE FOR COUNTRY HOUSING.

The Hon. C. A. MITCHELL (Western Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

When will funds be available to enable implementation of item 8 in the Government's ten-point plan to encourage decentralization?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—The answer is—

The Housing Commission's programme will be reviewed in the next few months in the light of the Government's recently announced policies.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS BOARD.

FOOTSCRAY-MELBOURNE BUS SERVICE: CARRIAGE OF PRAMS.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province) asked the Minister for Local Government, for the Minister of Transport—

(a) Why does the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board refuse to take prams on their buses from Footscray to Melbourne?

(b) Will provision be made for alteration of this procedure; if not, why?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Transport is—

(a) The board permits small type baby carriages to be carried on its buses from Footscray to Melbourne during off-peak hours provided that they are closely folded and placed under the seat of the bus.

(b) The board has no plan to vary the present arrangement. Because of the confined space available, prams and unfolded baby carriages cannot be accommodated without seriously inconveniencing other passengers.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

HOMES FOR LARGE FAMILIES.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister of Housing—

(a) How many families with five or more children, whose applications for Housing

(b) Allocations of homes on rental basis to "large family" applicants in metropolitan and country areas were:

		1969-70		1970-71		1971-72	
		New units	Vacated units	New units	Vacated units	New units	Vacated units
Metropolitan	..	Nil	143	Nil	223	Nil	229
Country..	..	24	104	46	116	23	86

LAW DEPARTMENT.

CHARGES OF BEING DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister for Local Government, for the Attorney-General—

(a) How many persons (male and female, respectively) were convicted of the charge drunk and disorderly in each of the years 1969, 1970 and 1971?

(b) How many persons (male and female, respectively) convicted of that charge were sentenced to a term of imprisonment in each of those years?

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—The Attorney-General has supplied the following answer:—

The Attorney-General has advised that there are no collated statistics available to him in respect of the matters raised by the honorable member. In order to obtain the information required to answer the

Commission homes have priority, remained unsatisfied as at 1st January, 1972, 1st July, 1972 and at the present date, indicating whether metropolitan or country?

(b) How many homes suitable for this type of tenant became available and were allocated in each of the financial years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 from—(i) new constructions; and (ii) previously vacated premises—indicating the areas concerned?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—

(a) Outstanding applications involving families of five or more children were as at:

		1st January, 1972	1st July, 1972	20th September, 1972
Metropolitan	..	545	422	436
Country	..	177	192	181

question it would be necessary to obtain returns from each of the Magistrates Courts, which exceed 200 in number. In these circumstances, the Attorney-General suggests that the honorable member discuss the matter with him.

It may well be that a random survey of a few courts—perhaps at the City Court—would give the honorable member the information he desires.

FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE BRANCH.

RESERVATION ON GUNBOWER ISLAND.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province) asked the Minister of Housing, for the Minister for Conservation—

Has a decision been reached by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey and the Forests Commission in connection with the reservation of land, on the Gunbower Island at Koondrook, for a fauna and flora park?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Conservation is—

The land is mainly within permanent forest and it is understood the Forests Commission wrote to Kerang Shire Council on 21st August, 1972, explaining conditions of use of the area for the desired purpose but no reply has yet been received.

MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.

FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS: TEHAN HOUSE, ECHUCA.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province) asked the Minister of Housing, for the Minister of Health—

(a) What finance was allocated to the Mental Health Authority, in the 1971-72 Budget, for the construction of day-training centres for mentally retarded children?

(b) What was the final expenditure?

(c) What is the allocation for this purpose in 1972-73?

(d) Is it anticipated that finance will be available for the Tehan House project in Echuca, in 1972-73?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Housing).—The Minister of Health has supplied the following answers:—

(a) Original allocation \$500,000. Increased in May to \$600,000.

(b) \$586,041.

(c) \$550,000.

(d) No. Appears as No. 21 on priority list. Funds will probably be available in 1973-74.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—Before continuing with the business of the House I should like to extend a very warm welcome to Sir Frederick Bennett and delegates to the First Australian Parliamentary Seminar. To our friends from South East Asia and the Pacific area I should like to say that we are delighted to have you with us.

Session 1972.—15

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I sympathize with members of this House who—I believe now for the nineteenth time—have been a captive audience, and I acknowledge their courtesy in listening to me speak on the subject of capital punishment over these many years. It does present a difficulty to the House. It also presents a difficulty to me because I must think of new arguments. Therefore deficiencies in my second-reading speech on this subject are becoming more apparent as time goes by. However, let me say that my dislike and loathing of capital punishment have not lessened with the years, but have increased.

As the House also probably knows, I detest all forms of physical violence, whether I regard it as against the moral law, whether it is the violence of a drunken parent bashing a little innocent child or whether it be that of some cowardly footballer running down his opponent. Let us always have vigorous footballers, but the cowardly footballer is never a brave one. Let us have brave footballers, but let us not have thuggery.

I abhor all forms of physical violence, which includes the actions of a so-called gentleman driving his sports car along the road regardless of the safety of anyone else. I dislike all forms of violence to man or beast. That is why I have never become accustomed to the spectacle of circus animals which are trained to look ridiculous, such as the elephant that is trained to stand on a small object for the edification of the crowd. Nothing can convince me that if the elephant does not do it some form of cruelty is applied by the trainer.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—It is done with a piece of sugar!

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—I wish the Minister would give me a piece of sugar! I detest the ancient

sport of bull fighting. According to Hemingway it is justified because it is a great art. No doubt the toreador is a brave man, but he can elect not to fight—the bull cannot; he is going to be killed anyway, like the brave horse that is sometimes disembowelled for the edification of the mob.

Violence begets violence, and the second form of violence is always worse than the first. The murderer has committed a foul crime but I believe the State commits a worse crime when it hangs the offender. If I could be satisfied that anywhere in the world the taking of the life of a murderer would save someone else's life, that would be an excellent argument, but nowhere in the world has it been established.

Australia offers an excellent target for an examination. In Queensland there has not been capital punishment since about 1914, and in New South Wales not since 1945. The figures do not vary in those States any more than in Victoria. We are a homogeneous people. If New South Wales can do without capital punishment, why cannot Victoria? That great country, Great Britain, has given so much to the system of justice and to Parliamentary government throughout the world. With all her problems, if she can do without capital punishment, why cannot we? If the United States of America, with all her problems, can do without capital punishment, why cannot Victoria? In the 1930s the United States of America used to execute some 150 negroes a year. Now, because of a ruling of the Supreme Court, that country has turned its face against capital punishment.

In Victoria certainly capital punishment is seldom used, but it is still on the statute-book ready for use. That is why I have always endeavoured to bring a Bill designed to abolish capital punishment before the House when there has been no emotional crisis sparked off by someone having been selected by the Government for the gallows. I stress "by the Government", because it is not done by the courts, where it ought to be left if

capital punishment is to survive in our system of criminal justice.

No other feature of the law has played as powerful a part in the shaping of criminal procedure as the existence of the death penalty. Most of the safeguards that surround the prisoner on trial today and before he comes to trial had their origins in Great Britain in the wholesome fear of putting a man to death, perhaps for the theft of a few shillings. Expression of that fear is given by jurors even today, in this State, sometimes in the face of the most convincing evidence in trials possibly involving the death sentence. They strain their consciences and say, "No, we are not satisfied". It will be seen that standards of care of the prisoner and fairness to him deteriorate steadily with a descent down the scale of gravity in cases being tried. Murder is at the highest level, and in murder trials the safeguards are properly and carefully explained by the judge. At the bottom of the scale the magistrate says, "The police say you were drunk last night. Were you? Fined \$2".

It has been said to me that I am not doing my case justice by bringing this Bill forward in times in which unprecedented violence is occurring throughout the world. For example, there is the situation in Uganda, a country which has attained independence and now has a black ruler who is pleading with the rest of the world for equality among nations and the fellowship of man, but who sees a need to send out of the country under some claim of right people not of his own colour. Then there is the terrible situation which occurred at Munich where some guerrillas in the dead of night stole in on some unsuspecting athletes. There is also the terrible situation in Northern Ireland where nobody has been able to come up with a solution and there is violence everywhere. However, it has always been thus. If honorable members look at the history of the United States of America, they will see that it is largely a history of assassinations of Presidents and it is said today

that a man much admired by the populace is frightened to stand for the highest office in his country because he is fearful of being assassinated and following his brothers to the grave.

Leaving aside the Western World, what has been the history of Russia? It has embraced murder, violence and terror. The last Czar was murdered by the incoming Government which promised liberty and fraternity for all. Not only the Czar but also his wife and children were murdered. What has been the history of that wonderful country France. There was a cry for liberty and freedom and fraternity but what did the people get—that incarnation of modern evil, Napoleon, who sent countless scores of people to death in the snows of Russia during his military campaign. Towards the end of the last century there were many villains doing exactly the same thing as the bomb throwers are doing today. Apparently they did it then with little regard for their own safety or consequences, just as people are doing today.

Violence has not changed. We have only a growing list of victims. Violence by the State has never accomplished anything. No country in the world has conducted more experiments than Britain and there, after centuries of the most cruel list of hangings which denies description, there was a change. The estimate of hangings at the time of Henry VIII. runs into many tens of thousands a year. One hundred and fifty years ago in this country there scarcely passed a day without some poor wretch expiring on the gallows. The dreadful story has been depicted by the late Sir John Barry at Norfolk Island. He provided details of the wholesale executions carried out there.

Then there is the history of the British Navy. You, Mr President, are aware of that. Then honorable members ask why I stand up here every year and present this Bill to the House knowing before I start that I am going to be defeated in my endeavours. As

long as my party permits me to do it and as long as I am in this Chamber, I shall raise it because I know in my heart that capital punishment does no good whatsoever and only degrades the populace.

I read in tonight's *Herald* a report that a member in the West Australian Parliament who is a doctor said that he was in favour of capital punishment. That is his right. The honorable member said that he would put a drug pedlar to death. I believe that drug peddling is a most vicious crime, depriving the victim of both mind and body. Such a person should be given swift and salutary punishment, but I am certainly not in favour of taking his life or that of anyone else. It is said that murder is a most horrible crime and I have always believed that. However, there are other crimes which by their effect, have just as disastrous consequences. Honorable members have seen some examples in the community in recent years of wholesale financial conspiracies whereby people have lost everything which they possessed. It is true it cannot be said that their deaths were the direct result of the loss of their money, but I believe in some instances early death followed the realization that their money and possessions had been stolen from them. The justification of hanging is and has always been a simple act of vengeance—the murderer killed, therefore let him pay for it with his life. A simple, understandable statement.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Do you still apply your argument to treason committed in times of war?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—No. I believe treason in time of war justifies the taking of life because war is the defence of a person's homeland and he is justified in taking life to protect that. I put that example on a different footing altogether because the community is entitled to protect itself in times of war. That is how I regard treason. Happily, I do not think we have had

a case of treason in this country. If I may say in passing, the Leader of the House asked me that question some years ago and I gave him the same answer, as I understand it.

It really comes back to the saying: An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth; a life for a life; but we do not practise that. Let me say one or two general things about murderers. I regard the poisoner as the worst type of murderer because he usually commits the offence in the home against someone whom he should love, his wife. He poisons her slowly, over a period, under the guise of giving her medicine. I need not repeat it but it has been said that that is one of the worst types of murder. Most murders are the result of poverty and the resultant consequences occur mostly where people are living in hovels, where passions rise and a sudden blow or shooting takes place.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Probably with an element of “grog” attached.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—Exactly—not always but quite often. I have heard of occasions when a father comes home from the hotel after having too much to drink and there is a sudden argument or affray and, so help me God, the easiest thing to get in those sort of homes is a shot-gun. It is always somewhere in the wardrobe with ammunition to boot and to shoot.

Only the other day I was studying a report on the number of people who had died from head wounds after taking alcohol. Alcohol expands some of the veins and often a sudden or slight blow around the facial area can cause and has caused death. A good deal of research into this problem has been carried out in Great Britain. Someone gets hurt in a hotel after a simple argument and after lying down dies and nobody quite understands why. Research has been carried out on this subject but what is not generally recognized is that the vast majority of murders are carried out by mad

people. The madder they are the more dangerous they are to the community. The recent killings in America bear that out. The diaries of the man who shot Governor Wallace and the gentleman, if I may use that description of him for want of a better term, who shot at and killed Robert Kennedy are examples. People say that it would be better for those people to be executed because they cannot help themselves and the word “hygienic” is often used in this context. A Royal Commission in Great Britain felt this was quite a dangerous move. For the benefit of honorable members. I shall read a short passage from the report of the Royal Commission in Great Britain in 1949–1953, which states at paragraph 278—

Recently, however, the suggestion has sometimes been made that the insane murderer shall be punished equally with the sane, or that, although he ought not to be executed as a punishment, he should be painlessly exterminated as a measure of social hygiene. This argument is in each case the same—that his continued existence will be of no benefit to himself, and that he will be not only a useless burden, but also a potential danger to the community, since there is always a risk that he may escape and commit another crime. Such doctrines have been preached and practised in National Socialist Germany, but they are repugnant to the moral traditions of Western civilisation and we are confident that they would be unhesitatingly rejected by the great majority of the population of this country. We assume the continuance of the ancient and humane principle that has long formed part of our common law.

I do not propose to weary the House with any further examination of the arguments in favour of the abolition of the death penalty. The people who espouse the death penalty are never supported by the great thinkers of the world who have found the time and the energy to express in writing their opinions on capital punishment. On one occasion, Dostoevski was sentenced to be hanged in company with a number of other people. The sentence was imposed on him, not because of the crime that he had committed—it was a non-violent political crime—but because the spectacle of Dostoevski was offensive to those who

ruled Russia. The condemned prisoners were standing on a cart with ropes around their necks. Apparently the cart was to be driven away leaving them suspended in the air. Someone rushed up and said that they had been reprieved. One of the reprieved men went mad on the spot. Dostoevski wrote that he always suffered nightmares after this incident. He never got over the experience. Dickens, the great social reformist, spoke of the dreadful crime of hanging someone in the name of justice. Thackeray, the English novelist, and French writers, also wrote in a similar vein on the subject.

I freely acknowledge that my speech on this occasion is poor because I did not think it was right that I should advance all the arguments that I have endeavoured to espouse over the years. Victoria has a new Ministry. Is it too much to hope that the Government, in common with nearly every other civilized country in the world, will at least consent to having the death penalty examined? To my knowledge, the paraphernalia which surrounds the death penalty in Victoria has never been examined. If the death penalty is to be retained, are these procedures inimical to the best interests of justice? In this community it is easy to get an examination of football pools, further Tattersall consultations, and so on, but nothing is more important to the administration of justice than the examination of the death penalty. I plead with the Government to at least have the matter examined. I presume that this Bill will suffer the fate of the eighteen similar Bills which preceded it, but is it asking too much in our so-called open society to have the death penalty examined by the Government?

On the motion of the Hon. G. J. NICOL (Monash Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, September 27.

YARRAVILLE (RECREATION GROUND) LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The Yarraville (Recreation Ground) Lands Act 1967, No. 7613 authorized the corporation of the City of Footscray, as the committee of management, to grant leases of a certain portion of the Yarraville recreation ground for the purposes of club rooms. The portion comprised an area of 20 perches fronting Anderson Street as shown on the plan in the First Schedule to the Act.

At that time it was proposed that the Yarraville Football Club, which is affiliated with the Victorian Football Association and which uses the ground, would erect club rooms for its purposes on the site. However, no lease of the land has been granted by the municipality.

The Footscray City Council has now stated that although the site was previously regarded as being suitable, and plans and estimates were prepared by the football club, it is considered that the financing of a new project on the area is beyond the club's resources.

For this reason the council and the club have agreed that club rooms be established by remodelling part of the area under the existing grandstand on the ground. The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to this agreement. Clause 1 cites the short title and names the Yarraville (Recreation Ground) Lands Act 1967 as the principal Act. Clause 2 makes the necessary amendments of the principal Act to provide that the corporation may lease the new site which contains 22 perches.

The schedule contains the plan which will become the plan in the First Schedule to the principal Act. The cross-hatched area of 22 perches incorporates the northern half of the existing grandstand plus an area 60 feet in length to the north on which extensions to the grandstand are proposed at some future date.

Doubtless, honorable members who represent the area are aware of the background to this proposed legislation, which is the desire to put the Yarraville Football Club on a better basis than it is at present in the interests of the people who use the club facilities. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. M. Walton, for the Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

SUMMER TIME BILL.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to introduce on a permanent basis a daylight saving period of one hour throughout Victoria during each summer from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in March. As honorable members are aware, daylight saving was in operation last year and early this year on a trial basis.

When explaining the Daylight Saving Bill in 1971 the then Minister of Public Works informed the House that consultations by the responsible State and Federal Ministers would take place after February, 1972, to assess the over-all effect of daylight saving on the community and the desirability of its continuance in subsequent years.

That consultation took place in Sydney in July last when it was agreed by all States and the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland excepted, that standard time should be advanced by one hour during the summer months. This decision recognized the strong majority of public opinion in favour of daylight saving—78 per cent in Victoria and as high as 86 per cent in Tasmania where daylight saving has been operating for several years. These figures have been

taken from the results of a Gallup poll published on 24th February, 1972.

The Bill before the House has been prepared in accordance with the principles agreed upon by the conference of Ministers and will ensure that the period of summer time to be observed in Victoria will be uniform with other States and the Commonwealth.

The Bill provides for the observance of summer time throughout Victoria on a continuing basis from year to year, declares summer time to be one hour in advance of standard time and specifies the period during which summer time will be observed to be from 2 o'clock in the morning on the last Sunday in October in each year until 2 o'clock in the morning on the first Sunday in the following March.

The Bill provides further, that any prescribed, specified or stipulated time at which or during which any Act, matter or thing is required, permitted or forbidden by any Act, regulation, by-law, rule, proclamation, Order in Council or other instrument shall, during the relevant period, be determined by reference to summer time unless the contrary is expressed, provided or stipulated.

The provisions of section 80 of the Supreme Court Act 1958, declaring the mean time of the 150th meridian of longitude east of Greenwich to be standard time throughout Victoria, are saved and standard time is retained for the purposes of astronomy, meteorology and navigation or the construction of any document or mentioning or referring to a point of time in connection with any of those purposes.

The Government is aware that there are individuals and groups of persons in the community who will find some disadvantages attendant upon the introduction of summer time and the views and objections of these persons are being examined. The Government believes that these problems can be fairly met and a special effort is being made to make adjustments—for example, alteration of school hours in

the western segment of the State and changes in wheat silo delivery hours, and so on.

I assure the House that every opportunity will be taken to make these adjustments wherever appropriate. In view of the advantages which accrued to the community at large from the introduction of daylight saving last year, and its acceptance by the community, I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. M. WALTON (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

SUPPLY (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from the previous day) on the motion of Sir Gilbert Chandler (Minister of Agriculture) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province). — The Supply Bill before the House authorizes the provision of \$222.703 million to be applied to Government services for the three months ending 31st December, 1972, to enable the Government to finance its works projects and policy generally.

The Bill includes provision for three new Ministries, namely, the Ministry of the Arts for which the financial provision is \$380,000, the Ministry of Youth and Recreation with a provision of \$142,000, and the Ministry of Conservation with a provision of \$178,000. These provisions are only estimates of the requirements for the next three months and do not indicate, I sincerely hope, the ultimate expenditure and costs of the three new Ministries. Understandably, the provision under the Supply Bill is relatively small because the departments are just being established.

The Labor Party wishes the three new Ministries well. It has advocated their establishment for some time and

in fact included this action in its election policy at the last State election. If the Labor Party had been elected to office on that occasion, the Ministries would be in existence now.

From a study of the Supply schedule, it is difficult to ascertain what the provisions mean other than the allocation of money. When compared with the Supply Bill introduced into the House at this time last year, the current Bill involves an expenditure of many additional millions of dollars. It is only by referring to the Estimates of the Receipts and Payments of the Consolidated Fund for the year ending 30th June, 1973, that honorable members can find out exactly what the figures in the Supply schedule refer to and whether the additional allocations merely cover increases in wages and salaries.

Under social welfare administration and research and statistics the provision in the Supply schedule of \$1.05 million is \$798,200 in excess of the allocation last year. The increased provision immediately excites one's imagination as to what is happening in the Social Welfare Department. The amount of money spent last year on social welfare administration and research and statistics was \$577,204 whereas the estimated expenditure this year is \$826,900. I invite honorable members to consider what we are getting for this additional provision. Instead of 64 officers in the Administrative Division, there will be 68, which is an additional four; there will be an increase in the number of social workers classes 4–5, from 14 to 21; the number of training officers class 2 will be increased from 1 to 3 and in the Technical and General Division, there will be 87 officers instead of 78. If the additional money is analysed in terms of what it will buy, it will be seen that the increased provision will do little more than meet increased wages and salaries.

The Government emphasizes the proportion of Budget allocations being spent on education. Under education, the Supply schedule provides \$86.5 million for salaries, general

expenses and other services, which is an increase of \$12.8 million over last year's provision. The Estimates reveal that the estimated expenditure on education this year will increase from \$199.434 million to \$241.705 million. This money will provide an additional 193 technical and general division officers. This, together with salary increases to the existing staff and the employment of the additional officers, will account for \$674,000. In the Teaching Service, there will be an additional 3,105 teachers, who are most welcome, and the net increase in expenditure on the administration of the Teaching Service will be \$56 million. Beyond actual manpower, the additional allocation will provide little.

I do not criticize the Government for employing additional teachers. I wish that double the number of teachers could be employed. Undoubtedly the teacher training programme would have been repeated if the Labor Party had been elected to office at the last State election. I am merely comparing the expenditure on education last year with the estimate for this year, and in terms of manpower the increase is not great.

An important new Ministry which is being set up by the Government is the Ministry of Conservation. Last year, Government expenditure on the Environment Protection Authority for salaries and allowances amounted to \$92,562. Many debates have ensued in this Chamber on what we ought to do to conserve and protect the ecology, wildlife, national parks and so on. Under this Supply schedule, the amount of \$187,000 has been set aside for salaries, general expenses and other services of the Ministry of Conservation; \$500,000 for the Environment Protection Authority, and \$497,000 for the Soil Conservation Authority, which is an increase of \$271,000. For the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch the provision is \$894,000—an increase of \$465,300—and the new Land Conservation Council has a financial provision of

\$100,000. The Environment Protection Authority still has one chairman and two members, one class A officer and one class B officer, but instead of three administrative officers the number will now be nineteen—an additional sixteen officers. Moreover, there will be two additional draftsmen, 25 additional scientific officers and 69 additional Technical and General Division officers. The establishment of the authority is necessary and I hope that before long it will be fully functioning and doing something to protect the environment of Victoria.

The estimated expenditure of the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch on salaries and allowances will increase from \$790,870 to \$854,300. Most of this additional allocation will be devoted to the employment of temporary assistance. I sincerely trust that this assistance will not prove detrimental to the permanent officers of the branch, who I hope will be performing the major portion of the activities of the Ministry of Conservation.

For public works, the additional expenditure on salaries and allowances this year will be \$462,000. When the increase is measured against the actual manpower bought, we find that it provides for one additional class B administrative officer and five additional officers in the Technical and General Division. Therefore, for the additional expenditure of \$462,000, in actual manpower the department will be obtaining only six more officers.

Owing to the good graces of the former Minister of Public Works, as the Labor Party's shadow Minister in this field, I have had the privilege of getting to know the department. I am a little concerned about the position in the Public Works Department where in 1971 many public servants in the department were disadvantaged. The services of a number of professional officers were dispensed with and, according to this year's Estimates, none of them will

be replaced. The estimated additional expenditure this year on public works under the Supply schedule is \$691,000. I make these comparisons to show that figures do not lie but liars can figure. I do not say that in criticism of the Government. I merely point out that it is not good enough to make a statement referring to the broad front of Government administration and say that the Government will spend \$X million more on education this year than it did last year, and so much more on conservation. It would be better if this propaganda were put on the basis of what would be purchased by the money.

I sincerely trust that Supply will do those things that the Government wants it to do in implementing its policies. The Labor Party will have more to say on where it feels that money could be more wisely spent, but that will be done during the debates on other Bills at a later stage. My party supports the Supply Bill.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE (North-Eastern Province).—Members of the Country Party do not intend to say a great deal about the Supply Bill because several other Bills which have an important bearing on Supply will come forward, as Mr. Tripovich has said, and it is during the debate on those Bills that comments will be made on the reconstruction of the various departments. Of course, one cannot allow a Bill which authorizes the spending of over \$220 million to pass without some comment. I hope that my criticisms are taken in the spirit in which they are made because it is the responsibility of all to try to achieve stability of progress and to see that the State remains solvent and is well managed.

As honorable members know, I have been away from the State for a couple of weeks with a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation, and the Budget was brought down during that period. However, I heard the Governor's Speech on the opening of Parliament. His Excellency spoke about certain changes which would be made and of progress which would be made in

particular areas. I listened with interest to that Speech and I was disappointed at what I read in the press about the Budget. The Budget speech did not appear to be as enthusiastic about the development of the State as the Governor's Speech I arrived in Melbourne only at 1 p.m. today and I have not been able to become fully conversant with the situation. The development promised in the Governor's Speech may occur, but honorable members will have to see what is provided in the Bills which deal with development of the State before they can assess the result.

As a member of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation, one learns a lot about other countries and how they manage their affairs. One also learns how they are dependent on one another and particularly of the inter-relationship of the islands in the Pacific and New Zealand and Australia. I had the opportunity of discussing many of the financial problems which face all of us. When one spends six or seven days in Canberra, listens to Parliament there and meets Ministers and members, one realizes that they live in a little world of their own and are not very much concerned at what is happening in the States or in other countries. They might give the States a kind smile. I think the situation was well summed up by Mr. Reece, Premier of Tasmania, while I was speaking to him at Parliament House in Hobart. I asked him how Tasmania was getting on and he said, "Of course, there are no problems that a little finance would not solve." That comment applies to this State.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—And to individuals as well.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—It does not matter where one is, if a little finance is available, there will be progress. We all know that the progress of the State depends on finance but it also depends on developmental planning and its implementation. Victoria has had seventeen years of Liberal Party Government without planning and now it starts a new era with a new

Premier. The new Premier and his Cabinet have decided that there should be some alteration in the present planning system. I have wondered why this has not been put into effect long ago. However, let us look not back but forward to some form of developmental planning and construction which can be implemented over a period of, say, four or five years.

I hope the proposals put forward by the Premier will be brought to fruition and that the State as a whole will be developed instead of, as in the past, only the city of Melbourne. On returning to Melbourne by air, one realizes the extent to which the city is growing. One sees the developers' plans set out on the ground. On the north-eastern perimeter of Melbourne there are many acres of land on which roads have been constructed. The land is waiting for somebody with money to build houses or for some unwary person to buy a block of land.

We have in this House the new Minister for State Development and Decentralization and the new Minister of Housing. As the new Minister of Housing was previously the Minister for State Development, he should know the housing needs of country areas. I hope he turns the clock back some 20 or 30 years to the time when something was being done to provide housing in the country. The Minister for Local Government deals with the municipalities which form one of the great constructing authorities of the State. They could do with a kind smile in relation to the development of their areas.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—And town planning, too.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—With what is happening in relation to town planning and development today, I am afraid that we may have an octopus which will completely choke the municipalities and the State. At present, the planners in Melbourne are allowed to run riot.

When an officer from Melbourne goes to a country town and tells the local shire council and the citizens that a shopping centre shall go into one place and not in another, we have reached a farcical situation. But that is being done. The Minister should not talk about town and country planning. I would reduce the powers which the planning authorities have over municipalities which have brought in development orders.

All honorable members thought it was intended that municipalities would be able to plan and co-ordinate their own areas. Instead, officers from the back rooms in Melbourne are telling country municipalities that housing will not be developed in one place but another, that shopping will not be developed where the municipality wants it, but somewhere else.

I shall cite two cases to illustrate my point. One occurred outside the province I represent. A bad decision was reversed because sufficient pressure was brought to bear. The other occurred in my home town. The highway through the town has been reconstructed and a farcical decision has been made. The planner has said that the shopping centre must be in a situation where a shopping centre could not be developed. No matter how forcibly the officer says that the shopping centre shall be in that location, nobody will develop shopping there. But the officer will not allow any alteration to the plan. Those are my views on town and country planning. The situation should be thoroughly examined.

A new Ministry of State Development and Decentralization has been created. To the uninitiated, of whom I am one, it is hard to see how any great development can be carried out unless sufficient finance is made available for the purpose. There were great plans about what would be done in the Melbourne metropolitan area. From memory, I think about \$2,000 million was to be spent on roads, freeways, overpasses, and so on. But

the Government is talking about providing a couple of million dollars for State development.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—That is only the cost of the department.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—Until the money is provided, one can deal only with what one has been told. The Minister may know from the Treasurer that he will receive \$10 million or \$20 million. The Minister has always been keen and he is the greatest publicity merchant in the Government. I am sure that if he knew that he was to receive \$10 million tomorrow, he would have announced that. He has made similar announcements in the past. I give him full marks for doing so, but we have heard no announcement in this case. The couple of million dollars which are to be made available will not put one more person into the country areas of Victoria. Money must be made available if there is to be a flow of population from the city to the country.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—Do you think that the rebate of pay-roll tax will help? Your party thinks it will.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—It would make a contribution to solving the problem if it was applied in the way that the Country Party advocates, that is, to all industries outside the metropolitan area. I will develop that for the benefit of the Minister.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—Surely it is a step in the right direction; you must give the Government some credit.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—I will give the Minister the reasons for what I have said if he will allow me to do so. If there is to be a pay-roll tax rebate for an industry which is decentralized, as the Government has said it will be, and the rebate is not allowed for other industries in the same area, that will disadvantage the industries which set up in the country using their own money. The rebate will be dealt with in the same way as land tax, which was taken off rural

land but kept on land in towns in the country. This is a great burden upon a group which, in the main, is financing people who are getting the concession. In the areas where the drought is so evident, who has kept the primary producer on the land? In many cases it is the local businessman who is extending credit to the primary producers. Let us not hoodwink ourselves. The Government should look at these complex problems. When the Government considers taking the concession from one section of industry in the country and leaving it with another, it is wrong because equal opportunity is not provided. Equal contributions should be made to decentralization.

When the Minister of Housing was Minister for State Development, he carried out a door knock in an attempt to persuade industries to leave Melbourne. Whether that method would induce many industries to go to the country remains to be seen. Now that the honorable gentleman has been given the portfolio of Minister of Housing I hope he will endeavour to have the policies of the Housing Commission revert to those existing in the 1950s, so that instead of building skyscrapers around the city of Melbourne the commission will provide more homes in the country. More houses are needed in every country town in Victoria. If they were provided they would be filled by workers in the existing industries in those towns. In Wangaratta, which is the home town of my colleague, Mr. Bradbury, there is a waiting list of 70 or 80 applicants for Housing Commission homes but a paltry dozen houses a year have been allocated. An applicant in Shepparton must wait two years before he can obtain a house. Most of the applicants despair before their applications come to fruition. The waiting list at Wodonga contains the names of 70 or 80 applicants. A person has no chance of getting a house in Wodonga unless he is in a special category; if he has a large family the commission may stretch a point.

The opportunity now exists for the Housing Commission to reverse its policy of building more homes in the metropolitan area and to provide more homes for industry in country areas. Large industries situated in country towns would be able to employ 30, 40 or 50 more people. Dozens of small industries which now employ ten or twenty people could add another three or four employees if houses were available. The average country firm is striving to obtain accommodation for its employees. That is the challenge which I hope the Minister of Housing will meet because the provision of more homes in country areas will make a great contribution to decentralization. Possibly, \$10 million will be made available to the Minister for State Development and Decentralization and he may be able to assist those industries and spend the money in the right direction.

Within Victoria, two factors could be of great assistance to country areas, namely, tourism and grants from the Local Government Department. I am concerned at what will happen to those two sections of finance. The Minister for Tourism sent a circular to a municipality in my province asking that a large number of applications be reviewed. The projects are now listed in priority for six years hence. I do not know whether it would be legal for any Government to commit itself to a programme six years hence and to grant applications covering the life of two Parliaments. Is Victoria going to mortgage its future so that no one within the normal term of office of a member of this House will ever see an application granted?

I have received a letter from a council within my province and a letter from the Director of Tourism in reply to a request for consideration. One application was made in June, 1968, for a project which was estimated to cost \$7,500. The cost has now increased to \$12,000. If that application is current for a further six years the cost could rise to \$17,000. Honorable

members will be aware that, in country areas, almost all community projects are under-written by local service clubs. If I were the president of the Rotary Club, the Apex Club or the Lions Club in an area in which a project was suggested, and I knew that I would have to wait six years before it could be brought to fruition I would wonder whether it was worth while starting. This is what is happening in Victorian country towns today. A delay of four years occurs before grants from the Local Government Department can be applied to certain projects. Surely some way can be found to lessen the delay and consequently avoid added costs to municipal projects.

I ask the Government to consider replanning and to examine five aspects. Firstly, I hope the Minister for State Development and Decentralization will be able to tell the House how much money he can get from the Treasury and whether his department will be enabled to function with the assistance of an allocation of \$10 million. Unless the honorable gentleman obtains at least this sum his efforts will be to no avail. Secondly, I hope the Minister of Housing will inform the House of his plans to reverse the present policy of the Housing Commission of concentrating the building programme in the metropolitan area and thus enable more homes to be built in the country. This is of paramount importance.

Thirdly, I should like the Minister for Tourism to explain why his department has written to municipalities suggesting that, in some way, they might change their priorities. This is unfair because some people paid their share of certain projects six years ago and they should now expect to get some benefit from the fall-out. The honorable gentleman is asking a municipality to say, "You were No. 1, but you might now be No. 6." That is completely wrong. People who were enthusiastic and who raised money will be disappointed at the death-knock.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—I did not send the letter.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—It originated from the Ministry of Tourism.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—Who signed it?

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—The Director of Tourism who acts under the jurisdiction of the Minister.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—I must disclaim responsibility; it was not sent by me.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—It was dated 8th August. Is the honorable gentleman hoping to carry out this policy?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—Mr. Swinburne is looking at me and talking about this letter. I had nothing to do with it.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—I am glad to hear that. I hope the Minister for State Development and Decentralization will review the matter and so inform the House on the next day of meeting. Fourthly, I hope the Minister for Local Government will examine the problems of grants allocated from within his department and do something for the difficult financial structure of the municipalities. Finally, since he gave me a nice lead earlier, the Minister might look at the Town and Country Planning Board to ensure that it will be a little less than a dictator.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2 (Issue and application of \$221,712,000).

The CHAIRMAN (the Hon. G. J. Nicol).—Order! I propose calling the items in groups and headings, such as "Parliament", "Premier" and so on. I warn honorable members that when any group has been completed, it will not be possible to revert to a discussion on an item in that group.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province).—I refer to the Police Department, which is within the jurisdiction of the Chief Secretary. I believe restrictions should be imposed to prevent young people from purchasing high-powered motor cars capable of extremely high speeds when, in many cases, they have just obtained a licence and are unable to exercise adequate control of the vehicle. I believe this is responsible for much of the carnage on our highways and by-ways.

If a boy of eighteen has money of his own, or his parents are affluent, there is nothing to prevent him from visiting a showroom and purchasing the fastest car available, even though he is a probationary driver, and it is high time the Government took positive steps to ensure that a limit is placed on the horsepower of vehicles which can be purchased by young drivers.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—A probationary driver is not permitted to drive at more than 50 miles an hour.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—He is still more lethal in a high-powered car than in a low-powered one. I think the honorable member should look after the monkey that he referred to some time ago.

Inexperienced young people should be prevented from purchasing cars of extremely high power. They are responsible for much of the carnage on our roads. I should like to hear whether Mr. Gross is in favour of the road toll. I assure him that the Labor Party is not.

The Hon. K. S. GROSS.—A boy cannot gain a licence until he is eighteen.

The CHAIRMAN (the Hon. G. J. Nicol).—I request honorable members not to conduct a private argument across the Chair.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—I am astounded at the ignorance of Mr. Gross.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think the honorable member tends to become a little personal.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—I am astounded at the ignorance of honorable members on the other side of the House about the problem of the heavy road toll in this State. On any country road, one can observe young, and old, probationary drivers travelling at excessive speeds, and this would not be so prevalent if only cars of limited power were available to them.

The Hon. V. T. HAUSER.—Have a peanut.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—Mr. Hauser should look after the Geelong Gas Company as he did so ably in the past.

The Hon. V. T. HAUSER (Boronia Province).—I ask for a withdrawal of that remark, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (the Hon. G. J. Nicol).—I am sure Mr. Knight said that in the heat of the moment and will withdraw it.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—I shall withdraw, Mr. Chairman if Mr. Hauser will also withdraw his remark.

The CHAIRMAN.—No attention was drawn to the statemer of the honorable member. I think an unqualified withdrawal will meet the case.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—With great reluctance I withdraw the remark. With all due deference, I remind Mr. Hauser that if the cap fits sometimes he has to wear it.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is not the custom in this Chamber for members to indulge in personalities. I suggest that Mr. Knight could confine his remarks to the subject which is being discussed.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—I believe many inexperienced young people believe themselves to be much more capable drivers than they are. They believe they are a Stirling Moss or a Jack Brabham, especially when

leaving car racing meetings at, say, Sandown Park, Phillip Island or Calder, and in so doing they make a marked contribution to the carnage which is taking place on our roads. Representations have been made to the Government concerning this problem, and the Government should closely examine it.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON.—I think it is the relationship of horsepower to weight, together with other factors.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—Yes, brake horsepower has a big bearing when it is related to the build of the car. The cars I have in mind are lethal weapons if they are in the wrong hands. Mr. Hamilton is familiar with the way in which Army drivers are trained. There is a system of graded licences, and I think such a system should be adopted in relation to all drivers.

The Hon. H. R. WARD (South-Eastern Province).—I refer to a matter which affects the Chief Secretary's Department, the Ministry of Youth and Recreation and the Ministry of Conservation. It relates to the use of mini-bikes. I understand that the Chief Secretary is considering the registration of various vehicles, and I ask the honorable gentleman to discuss with other departments, or perhaps with local government bodies, the possibility of setting aside areas in which youngsters can use their mini-bikes for recreational purposes. I know it is thought that the mini-bikes should be registered, and perhaps consideration could be given to that question, but I point out that at present young people have no space in which to enjoy their activities and to let off steam.

Before proceeding with the wholesale registration of these vehicles, I suggest that the Chief Secretary should ascertain whether areas of land can be set aside for use by owners of mini-bikes. I do not think there is any fear that they will damage the environment; it will

merely mean that they can enjoy themselves without causing trouble as they may do in suburban areas. It is difficult to pursue this type of activity in built-up urban suburbs.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province).—I refer to workers compensation, a field in which the Government has done very little to assist workers who have been injured and who for years have been waiting to appear before the Workers Compensation Board to have their cases heard and obtain justice.

The small amount of \$12,000 has been set aside to enable three officers to carry out duties in the interests of people who have been waiting for a very long time for justice to be done. The Minister should examine this question and arrange for the hearing of cases which have been waiting for so long. The workers concerned should not be deprived of their rights in this way.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province).—I refer to the Ministry of Youth and Recreation and make a plea to the Government on behalf of the West Footscray branch of the Young Men's Christian Association which is in financial difficulty. That organization has done marvellous work for youth in the Footscray area, and I hope the Government will see its way clear to make a financial contribution to the branch to enable it to overcome the building problems with which it is currently confronted. The Young Men's Christian Association in this State does a magnificent job, as it does throughout the Commonwealth and in overseas countries, and the West Footscray branch—and, indeed, all branches—are worthy of financial assistance.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Has the honorable member applied for assistance?

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—Representations have been made, and I trust that in future the Government will recognize that this fine organization thoroughly deserves generous financial assistance.

The sitting was suspended at 6.30 p.m. until 8.2 p.m.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province).—Last week, in my contribution to the debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, I referred to several important matters of philosophy affecting education. I now wish to mention one or two matters which are more mundane. The first is that in primary and secondary schools throughout Victoria there are many temporary class-rooms which are for emergency accommodation. Unfortunately, the Education Department apparently has adopted a policy whereby, because these buildings are considered to be of a temporary nature, it does not provide them with suitable cooling or ventilation facilities. It has been brought to my notice by parents and students at Echuca High School that during the summer months the portable class-rooms become quite hot and on a genuine summer day are unbearable for both children and staff. I ask the Leader of the House to bring this matter to the attention of both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Public Works. This is a serious matter for the staff and pupils who have to attend classes in portable class-rooms, in northern Victoria at least, where the summer temperatures can be high.

The other matter I wish to raise is of somewhat similar vein. At Rochester, the municipality has just completed a comprehensive and extensive sewerage scheme. The primary school and secondary school toilet facilities cannot be connected to the town sewerage system because of lack of finance. On a recent occasion, the whole population of the secondary school was sent home for the afternoon because the septic system had broken down. This system could easily be connected to the town sewerage system. I consider that this situation should be examined and the necessary finance found. I appreciate that there are great demands on the Education Department from all parts of the State, but I repeat that this is a

serious matter, which I hope the Minister of Agriculture will bring to the notice of the Minister of Education.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province).—I wish to raise several problems relating to education. The first is the need for a secondary school in the Melton district. The children from this area have to travel into the area represented by the Minister of Housing, who has done nothing to assist in the provision of a secondary school at Melton. I also point out that there is no technical school at Werribee. With the emphasis on advanced education for children, it behoves the Government to make higher education facilities available in these areas. It is hardly necessary for me to point out how the population of Melton has increased.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—Who represents Melton?

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—It is in my province. The Minister passes through it every day, but he would not know where the high school is.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—Does Mr. Knight know where the land for the kindergarten is?

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—I recall that the Minister visited the kindergarten once as Minister of Health; that is the last occasion on which I saw him there.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE.—Did not the Government build a beautiful kindergarten at Melton?

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—With finance provided by the Minister's Liberal cohorts. However, the Government has failed to establish a high school in the area with the result that children have to travel into the electorate represented by the Minister of Housing. I do not know how much it costs the Government to transport students from Melton to Bacchus Marsh and also to Sunshine Technical School. I am sure the Minister will agree that the population in this area is increasing rapidly, and that a secondary school should be provided.

I have made repeated representations for a technical school to be constructed between Werribee and Laver-ton. In these days of advancing technology, children should be able to undertake technical education. At present students from Werribee have to travel to technical schools at Tottenham, Altona or Williamstown. Much is said about the growth and development of technology; the Government should put its policies into practice and establish a technical school in the Laverton area so that children in the western suburbs may obtain the education which they deserve and which their parents desire for them.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province).—According to the figures submitted, the increased allocation for all activities of the Attorney-General's Department amounts to about \$1.2 million. The administrative section of the department has had few additional appointments. I am concerned at the period of time which prisoners who are unable to obtain bail have to spend in the remand section at Pentridge Gaol. On many occasions, prisoners are locked up for 5, 6 or 7 months because the Government since it has been in office has not seen fit to appoint sufficient judges to expedite the hearing of cases.

I notice that last year one extra B class officer was appointed to the department, and only one additional County Court judge, although I saw an announcement in today's press that a further four Supreme Court judges may be appointed. The report did not state when this will occur. Only one extra associate has been appointed for the County Court. This situation is not good enough. As I have said previously, on occasions prisoners who have been locked up for periods of from five to seven months are found not guilty. The Government should take action in the interests of prisoners who cannot obtain bail. Possibly insufficient money is allocated for this purpose.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—Did Mr. Eddy see the announcement in today's press?

The Hon. R. J. EDDY.—If the Minister had been listening, he would have heard me say that I read it, and I also said that I did not know whether the appointments would be made this year or next year or whether sufficient money had been allocated.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—The announcement referred to the appointment of four Supreme Court judges. Mr. Eddy mentioned County Court judges.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY.—Many of the prisoners kept in the remand section at Pentridge without bail appear before County Court judges, not Supreme Court judges. The Government should appoint additional County Court judges in the interests of these prisoners and also of female prisoners so that the hearing of cases may be expedited. If these persons were found not guilty, they could be released much sooner. I ask the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that action is taken to appoint additional County Court judges.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS (Melbourne West Province).—There are many deficiencies in the community. For example, there are shortcomings in education, hospitals and the services which accompany hospitals, road transport and particularly the railways, and there is an ever-increasing interest being taken in pollution. Recently we were informed that the Yarra River can be cleaned up at tremendous expense—probably at a cost of millions of dollars. As part of the plan for cleaning up the environment surely, first and foremost, the people's requirements are water, drainage and sewerage. Much has been said about providing these services in the metropolitan area—in fact, there has been more talk than action.

In recent times much information has been disseminated through the community about the causes of pollution and people are becoming aware of the fearful results of sheer neglect and failure to provide the normal basic requirements for sewerage. In the western suburbs, which area I represent, there is a marked lack of water, drainage and sewerage facilities. In certain areas only 4 miles from the General Post Office no sewerage facilities are available. Six or 8 miles from the city, mothers are rearing families with no town reticulated water supply at hand. Their water supply is provided by rain caught from the roofs of the houses, yet Melbourne is considered to be a modern city! One's first reaction, perhaps, is to blame the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works for the lack of the essential facilities, but the board can do only the work its funds will allow.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY.—The board should not build freeways.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS.—So long as the freeways do not go through the Collingwood football ground it will be all right! The board can carry out only the work for which the funds are provided and the Government must provide the necessary money. I do not wish to denigrate the Government, but twelve months ago the water supply at Werribee was a disgrace. Fortunately for Werribee, a by-election was held at about that time and eight days before the election the Shire of Werribee received an advance from the Government, but the Government did not inform the members of this Parliament who represented the area.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—As soon as I received the information I conveyed it to the honorable member.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS.—I read about it first in the local newspaper. Anyway, Mr. Guy won the by-election! A further complaint relates to the Cherry estate, in Laverton East riding, which is zoned for

noxious trades. Building is taking place on the estate but factories built there have no drainage and the drainage from them runs over the paddocks. I understand that the firm of W. Angliss and Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. is moving to the area, although no drainage has been provided. I also understand from the local council that the Government will provide \$600,000 for drainage facilities for this company, but why did the Government wait until W. Angliss and Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. came into the area? This proves that the Government can find money when it is wanted for a particular purpose. I trust that the Government will do the same for areas in the western suburbs requiring these facilities.

Earlier I asked a question in this Chamber in regard to records of surveys for the development of manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries. Apparently no research or surveys have been undertaken, but the Government has stated that it believes in decentralization and co-operation with local councils. The truth is that this Government provides through its instrumentalities many necessary services in areas up to 30 miles east and south-east from Melbourne where there are no Labor Parliamentary representatives.

The lifeblood of this nation is provided through facilities such as water, drainage and sewerage. Surely the Board of Works would prefer balanced development and to provide services, such as water, sewerage and drainage only a short distance west from Melbourne than providing such services in localities many more miles from the city. I have no doubt that this Government, through the former Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, placed great pressure on the Federal Government to provide additional funds for all kinds of public works, but evidently not sufficient pressure was applied. The Board of Works possesses all the technology, physical resources and manpower it needs to carry out the works to which I have referred which would supply the

western suburbs with water, drainage and sewerage and help to overcome pollution of the environment. All it lacks is a sufficiency of funds with which to do the work.

Almost 2·5 million people reside within the area serviced by the Board of Works and by the end of this century it is estimated that this number will be doubled. This means that the board has to provide services each year for a population increase equivalent to the population of Ballarat, and every ten years for a population increase equivalent to the population of Adelaide. To supply these minimum standards during the next five years, the board will have to spend approximately \$450 million, made up by \$280 million on sewerage, \$148 million on water and approximately \$17 million on drainage. This would mean an expenditure of about \$90 million a year.

Last year the Board of Works spent \$70 million, which means that at least \$20 million a year will be required over and above its normal allocation. I have some thoughts on the question of money. When there is a national emergency, such as a war, untold millions of dollars can be quickly found for the purpose of destroying the enemy, but when it comes to providing for the people's basic needs the absence of money seems to stand in the way.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT.—Of course it does in every field of life.

The Hon. H. A. THOMAS.—The Minister for Local Government should wait a moment. If there is a national emergency, such as a war, untold millions of dollars and the best brains in the world can be found in an endeavour to develop ways in which mankind can be destroyed. Money is made in a mint. I can understand that the absence of physical resources can prevent the Board of Works from proceeding with the kind of projects to which I have referred, or that projects could be impeded because of flood, fire or famine. However, money is made in a mint and I am sure that the mint does not change very much.

The Victorian Government must pressurize the McMahon Government a little harder. However, there is a small brightening in the sky for the people of Victoria and of Australia. The public will be voting before the end of the year and my personal judgment is that after the election there will be a Labor Government in Canberra which will mean that the Victorian Government will be approaching Mr. Gough Whitlam for increased assistance. In its approach the Victorian Government will have the full support of the Labor Party in this Chamber. The Victorian Government should endeavour to obtain sufficient funds to provide sewerage, water and drainage for the residents of Victoria because water is the lifeblood of the nation and the other facilities are equally important. I have a message for the people of Victoria and of Australia, namely, that in a little time a Labor Government will be in office in Canberra and not to worry because finance will be provided for the Victorian Government to carry out all the works that are necessary for the life of the community.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province).—I bring to the notice of honorable members a problem associated with the lack of hospital facilities in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Although I appreciate what has been done in the past and what is to be done in the future, with extensions being made to the Footscray and District Hospital, I suggest that the Government should plan ahead to cater further for the needs of the residents in the western suburbs. The need will become more intensified with the spread of the metropolitan area. The Sunshine City Council has tentatively offered the Government land for the construction of another hospital to cater for the residents in the fringe areas. Land was originally set aside for this purpose alongside the Sunshine High School in Ballarat

Road, but the Hospitals and Charities Commission considered that the area was too small for a general purpose hospital. To overcome the land shortage, the Sunshine City Council is prepared to make available land which it will re-zone so that a general hospital can be constructed. Recently the daily newspapers conducted a campaign highlighting the chaotic conditions appertaining at the Footscray and District Hospital.

The Hon. H. R. WARD.—Quite an amount of money has been spent there already.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—Yes, but not as much as has been spent in the south-eastern suburbs, mainly for political purposes. Another general purpose hospital is required to cater for the major industrial areas in the district. The reason for the present lack of hospital facilities is that the Government has not carried out any forward planning. The Footscray and District Hospital has some of the best surgeons and nursing staff in Australia and on the nursing side the record speaks for itself.

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE.—What about the Williamstown and District Hospital.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—The record of that hospital is also good. One of the relatives of the Minister for State Development and Decentralization, who is a past president of the committee running the hospital, can testify to that. The Williamstown hospital is one of the main hospitals in the western suburbs. In addition to the women's maternity section, there is also a tonsillectomy and appendectomy section located in the hospital, but a further general purpose hospital is required to cater for the needs of residents in the immediate area. The Sunshine City Council has now generously offered additional land to the Government. I hope the Government will accept the offer and use the land for the construction of an urgently needed general purpose hospital.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Has Mr. Knight spoken to the Minister of Health about the need for a further hospital?

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT.—Yes, it was taken up with the Minister of Housing when he was Minister of Health, just after his portfolio was changed. The honorable gentleman was informed of the need for further hospitals. In view of the fact that the Sunshine City Council is prepared to re-zone an area of land on its border so that a hospital can be constructed, I hope the Government will act immediately so that people living in those areas will be covered and have a general purpose hospital available which will cater for their needs. The area is growing, especially in the north-west around Keilor and Gisborne, and further hospital accommodation is needed urgently.

The Hon. H. R. WARD (South-Eastern Province).—I must confess I have some sympathy with the views expressed by Mr. Knight. I want to raise a couple of matters which I have previously brought to the notice of the Minister of Health, the first being the growth of the Frankston and District Community Hospital. The aspect that I shall bring to the notice of honorable members will also be discussed at the annual meeting of the hospital which is being held tonight. I was informed today by the president of the hospital committee that in the past few weeks 39 patients had been refused admittance because no beds were available. The hospital, which has a capacity of 150 beds, has an average daily bed occupancy of 143·3 patients. These figures appear in the annual report.

According to the figures of the Hospitals and Charities Commission there is a need in Frankston for a hospital with 320 beds, so at present the hospital is 170 beds short. There is no doubt that the existence of this hospital is very important as it provides services for the whole of the Mornington Peninsula. At present action is being taken to obtain additional land

adjacent to the existing hospital. However, the immediate need is to increase the number of beds at the hospital. I discussed the problem with Dr. Akeroyd this morning and I asked him whether, as a doctor, he turned away in-patients from that hospital, and he informed me that every avenue was explored to find accommodation for patients who were referred to the hospital by doctors in the Frankston area. The hospital committee should be given the green light immediately to provide the necessary extensions to the Frankston hospital now that it has raised by public subscription sufficient money to cover the amount to be provided by the Hospitals and Charities Commission.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—How much has been raised?

The Hon H. R. WARD.—The committee has raised nearly \$200,000. The second matter relates to the Peninsula Ambulance Service, which has a helicopter used by the ambulance service stationed at Tyabb. It is aptly named *The Angel of Mercy*. Every municipality on the Mornington Peninsula, from Mor-dialloc to West Gippsland, has supported the establishment and continued service of the peninsula ambulance helicopter service, which can operate within a radius of 100 miles of Frankston. The Peninsula Ambulance Service requires an amount in excess of \$60,000 each year to maintain this service. A survey of costs reveals that it is no dearer to maintain this helicopter ambulance service than it is to maintain an ordinary road ambulance service.

Between Mount Eliza and the major Melbourne hospitals a road ambulance has to traverse some 35 miles of suburban roads in built-up areas, and it is utterly ridiculous that an ambulance should be forced to race at high speeds through heavy traffic to convey a seriously injured patient to a Melbourne hospital. Recently the Melbourne City Council made a

stupid decision when it attempted to debar the helicopter from landing close to the major hospitals. The decision was made without consulting the Peninsula Ambulance Service and apparently the Hospitals and Charities Commission agreed with the decision. The Melbourne City Council even had the audacity to suggest that the helicopter should land at Essendon or Tullamarine and that a road vehicle should be provided to continue the journey into Melbourne.

It is generally believed, in fact it is confirmed, that the service is essential. It is used only for serious cases and it is the responsibility of the doctor to decide whether a case is serious or not. I appeal to the Minister of Health and the Hospitals and Charities Commission to support this helicopter ambulance service. The service was provided on the peninsula before a similar service was established in any other part of the world and because people on the peninsula thought of the idea and put the scheme into operation first, it has been refused assistance. Now the Hospitals and Charities Commission has sent an officer overseas to investigate a scheme which has been modelled on the peninsula air ambulance service. I hope those connected with the Peninsula Ambulance Service will receive support for the continuance of this important air ambulance service.

A further point I wish to raise concerns the pre-school investigation which has been under way for some time. The report will be handed down shortly and it is hoped that decisions will then be made to provide assistance to pre-school centres. It is well known that the Victorian pre-school system is the best in Australia—it is better than the system provided by the Commonwealth Government. Nevertheless, more money is required for the establishment of additional pre-school centres. The pre-school system is a necessary facility for the working mother and is of benefit to

the Education Department. The sooner more money is provided for the pre-school system and scholarships granted to girls to enable them to be trained for kindergarten and pre-school work so that these trained persons can take over as kindergarten directors, the sooner there will be a much better pre-school service. Another problem facing the pre-school system is the need for assistants. The Government provides support in the form of money to cover the cost of the director, but any other assistance required within the pre-school system must be provided by the parents. In the South-Eastern Province, and no doubt in other country areas, the community cannot afford to provide the necessary money. On behalf of the Carrum, Pearcedale and other pre-school centres and of the people who have written to me on the subject, I appeal to the Government to provide this extra money and arrange that the scholarship system for kindergarten trainees be at least equivalent to the studentships which are provided by the Education Department.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY (Doutta Galla Province).—I support the remarks of the two previous speakers that hospitals should be provided by the Government in various municipalities throughout Victoria. We who represent the people in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, wish to impress on the responsible Minister and the Government that a proposal to provide a hospital in the northern suburbs should be examined. The nearest hospital to the people who reside in the vicinity of Broadmeadows, Fawkner and Craigieburn is the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Broadmeadows is a fast-growing area with a large population. The Government has seen fit to redevelop Craigieburn as a residential area. Many people reside in this district. The northern suburbs, which are expanding rapidly in the direction of Wallan, are thickly populated, and there is no hospital between the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Seymour.

The Hon. F. J. GRANTER.—There is a hospital at Kilmore.

The Hon. R. J. EDDY.—There is a maternity hospital at Essendon, too, but that does not assist the people in the northern suburbs. The Government must closely examine the position in the northern suburbs of Melbourne which extend to Tullamarine and as far as Bulla. The closest hospital to the people who reside in Thomastown, Lalor and Epping, which has a large residential population of 30,000, is the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital. If a hospital were to be built on the other side of the Broadmeadows electorate, the people in that area would be able to reach it much more quickly than they could travel to the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital. I urge the Minister to suggest to the Minister of Health that the Government should closely examine the proposal to provide a hospital in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province).—At the request of Mr. Merrifield, who was then Minister of Public Works, the Cain Labor Government of 1945–47 approved plans for a hospital or promised a hospital to the city of Essendon. Due mainly to the beneficence of the Thomas family, approximately a quarter of a million pounds was raised. The Government changed and the money was not used. The Government's policy has always been that the Royal Melbourne Hospital shall service the northern area. On occasions the former Minister of Health, Mr. Dickie, argued that the Royal Melbourne Hospital was capable of serving the whole northern area, that people in the various outlying districts were only half-an-hour away from the hospital by ambulance, and that therefore, there was no need for the development of a new hospital at Essendon.

I support Mr. Eddy's remarks. The Preston and Northcote Community Hospital has written its name in the annals of plastic surgery. The finest plastic surgeon in Victoria has functioned at the hospital over a period

of years. It is essential for a hospital to be developed at Essendon on the land which is now available, and further development is possible by virtue of the houses which have been purchased by the Essendon and District Hospital Committee. I pay tribute to the committee which held its annual meeting last night. Unfortunately, Mr. Eddy and I were unable to attend as we were in the House. So far little assistance has been received from the Government.

The residents of Essendon have been allowed to build a maternity hospital out of the money which has been raised. What Mr. Eddy said is correct—the land and the room for development are there. It is all right to say that patients can be taken to the Royal Melbourne Hospital where they will receive the best of attention and that one can catch a tram from almost anywhere in the northern areas to the hospital because it is situated near a junction. Parking is difficult for those who wish to visit their friends. At this stage the Government should examine the development of what is now the maternity hospital at Essendon. We live for the day when this hospital will be developed into a general hospital equal to or comparable with the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital. If the Government considers that a hospital should be developed in Broadmeadows, the people of Essendon will not quarrel with that, but at this stage no agreement has been reached for the development of a general hospital in the northern suburbs.

Honorable members are familiar with the Government's policy and with the policy of the Hospitals and Charities Commission. The former Minister of Health—now the Minister of Housing—will recall the days of Mr. McVilly when the policy was to put hospitals all over the place. General nursing and training hospitals are required in limited numbers with greater emphasis on servicing hospitals where people can visit their sick relatives. I believe the greatest development

towards proper hospitalization is based on the development of a nursing service similar to the Royal District Nursing Service, which enables patients to be treated urgently in hospital but as soon as possible to be transported to their own homes where they can be serviced by the visits of a district nurse. They are much happier and the hospital bed situation is greatly relieved.

I commend Mr. Eddy's comments to the Government and ask that the facilities available at the Essendon and District Hospital be examined with the view of developing the hospital into a general hospital.

I wish to comment on state development and decentralization. I am delighted to see that provision is made in the Estimates for a contribution of \$265,000 to the Victoria Promotion Trust Fund and that a similar contribution was made last year. In addition to the contribution that was made to the fund last year, I notice on page 214 of the Estimates a reference to a further contribution of \$30,000. The Victoria Promotion Trust Fund has been nothing less than a publicity stunt for the Government. The money has been handed over to the Victoria Promotion Committee to be spent by that body. So long as the Treasurer is satisfied how the money is spent no one cares. The committee has had more than \$1.5 million. Last year it received \$295,000, and this year it is to receive \$265,000. No report has been presented on what has been done with a cent of this money. For ten years in this House I have asked for the reason. Does Sir Maurice Nathan receive this money because he is a friend of the former Premier and has formed a little company which he has extended to promote the Government overseas? Is it right that a firm of industrialists which wishes to come to Australia has to come through this organization of industrialists? The Department of State Development and Decentralization has been allocated less money than the amount given to the Victoria Promotion Committee

over the past ten years. Is the Government sincere on the subject of decentralization? I have raised this matter many times. I say to the new Minister for State Development and Decentralization that I am pleased to see this money being allocated through this fund and not through the fund of the Treasurer. I believe that a properly constituted committee functioning under the Minister for State Development could have done all that has been achieved by the Victoria Promotion Committee. At the end of the period, I hope a report will be available on what has been done with the money.

I now wish to comment briefly on transport. The Ministry of Transport consists of a staff of five, including a director, a class A officer, administrative, a class B officer, administrative, and two Technical and General Division officers. Last year the cost of the Ministry was \$54,977. This year the cost is expected to be \$61,200. Why cannot the Government allocate to the department a transportation planning expert, or if necessary, two or three transportation planning experts? In the development of any area, undoubtedly the first form of transport required is buses, because the overhead of providing fixed-rail transport to newly-developing areas is too costly. This department should plan future transport requirements. When the Ministry of Transport was established I commented that I was pleased because it co-ordinated the activities of the fixed-rail trams and trains, and also co-ordinated private enterprise buses as well as railway buses. If I became Minister of Transport my first action would be to appoint at least two or three experts on transport to investigate how the transport system could be improved in the outer fast-growing areas and even the inner suburbs for that matter, and advise the Minister.

Some limit ought to be placed on the issuing of bus licences. Admittedly, a bus proprietor should be

given some monopoly of operation initially to service a route, particularly if he has to purchase new buses. At least, the proprietor ought to be able to cover his investment. However, the issue of a licence for a particular route should not be given for the rest of the proprietor's life, because if at some later stage the Government wanted to extend its own transport system into the area it should not be necessary to compensate the private bus operator for the loss of his licence. You, Mr. President, will remember that when the Government took over the Doncaster bus routes, \$1.3 million was paid in compensation.

If experts were appointed to advise the Minister on the most suitable form of transport for an area, the system would be improved. Undoubtedly, private buses would be necessary in the initial stages but, as a route develops, there is no better or faster system than fixed rail transport. Without question, this type of transport is coming back overseas. I shall deal with that subject more extensively during the Address-in-Reply debate.

The Government should establish a transport planning section within the Ministry of Transport, not associated with the railways, tramways or private bus operators. I commend these thoughts to the Government.

The Hon. A. W. KNIGHT (Melbourne West Province).—I refer to the problem confronting mothers with young children in prams who wish to travel from the western suburbs to the city by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board buses. At present, these mothers are deprived of the opportunity of taking their prams on the buses beyond Footscray. It ill-behoves the Government transport system to prevent mothers from travelling into town for shopping or to conduct other business in the commercial area of the city. Mothers should have this opportunity during off-peak periods.

The doors of some of the buses need widening to enable mothers to

get their prams inside. I do not want to deal with the environmental problem at this stage because the House will hear quite a lot about it during the Address-in-Reply debate. Recently, I was privileged to travel overseas and see the rapid transport systems operating in certain overseas cities. There is an urgent need for the establishment of a rapid transport system into the western suburbs.

I appeal to the Minister of Transport to have the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board repeal the regulations so that mothers may travel into the city with young children in prams during off-peak periods. On many occasions Government supporters have spoken about the need to develop the commercial centre of Melbourne and now a Government instrumentality is preventing mothers from bringing their children into the city on the tramways buses.

As a former railway employee, I realize that the Victorian Railways have a regulation which empowers a train guard to refuse to allow mothers to bring prams onto a train, but rarely does this happen. I ask the Minister of Transport to look into the situation.

I now refer to railways. Only the other day, I read that the famous American actor, William Boyd, who played the part of Hopalong Cassidy, had died. However, the era of Hopalong Cassidy is not dead in the western suburbs with the wagon trains rattling down to Altona. Admittedly, following repeated requests from my colleague in another place and myself for an updating of the wagon trains running to Altona and to St. Albans, the railways have updated the cars to the old red wagons. However, that is not good enough.

Some time ago, the Public Works Committee recommended that the railway line to Altona should be extended to Westona. On many occasions I have referred to the dwindling railway finances and requested that the Altona line be extended so that

the residents of Westona would have an adequate transport system. I realize the problems at Kensington concerning the construction of a twin line with the viaduct in the area. Works are to be carried out in the future on the Kensington viaduct to enable additional services to be provided for the western suburbs.

I trust that the Railways Commissioners will consider extending the St. Albans line to Sydenham to enable the residents of that area to use a rapid transport system. My colleague, Mr. Thomas, comes from Deer Park and on repeated occasions I have requested that the Deer Park line be electrified. The Minister for State Development and Decentralization, having travelled from Ballarat through the province which I represent, will realize the need for electrification and duplication of the track to the highly developed housing area at Deer Park.

Earlier this evening, I spoke about road traffic, the carnage on the roads, the problems of pollution and hospitalization. An extension of the railways system, to use overseas terminology, into a rapid transport system should be undertaken in the Deer Park area. Once again, I plead with the Minister of Transport for the extension and electrification of the Deer Park line. Even if electrification cannot be taken as far as Deer Park, I ask that the railway line into the area be duplicated. Sufficient land is available for the construction of a dual track and the ballast on the present track will permit this work to be undertaken.

At St. Albans, there is a dual track and I ask that it be extended 1 mile farther to Sydenham so that the residents of this high-density housing area may have a rapid transport system. An improvement in the railway system will help to stop the carnage on the roads and alleviate the problems of pollution.

I trust that the wagon trains will be taken off the Altona line and that the residents will be able to use the

blue carriages or the new air-conditioned carriages instead of their being available exclusively in the salubrious suburbs east of Melbourne.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—As is usual with a Supply Bill, the debate has been wide and varied. The introduction of Supply enables honorable members to ventilate their problems, grievances and complaints. After listening to the debate, one would need to be the archangel Gabriel to reply to each of the criticisms and requests.

The new Premier and Treasurer, Mr. Hamer, has introduced his first Budget and, regardless of the criticisms that have been aired this evening, it is a well-balanced Budget. Whilst nobody can get exactly what he wants in this world, and certainly not in politics, the Budget has been well received by all sections of the community. It is all very well to introduce a Budget and to indicate the course of activities that the Government will be involved in, but it is during the next twelve months or two years when matters associated with the Budget are carried into effect that the criticisms will be made for good or for bad. The total over-all Budget embraces an amount of \$1.362 million, representing an increase of \$151 million over last year. Honorable members will appreciate that this is a tremendous increase.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—Nearly the whole of the increase will go on wages and expenses.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—I want to deal with that aspect as it relates to education because Mr. Tripovich commented upon it. Some \$498 million has been allocated to education, which is an increase of \$74.3 million on last year. Of this increase, approximately \$40 million will meet additional salary awards and practically half of the amount is for wage increases not this year, but last financial year.

Mr. Tripovich contended that the over-all benefit was not as great as it should be. In fairness, I point out that some 2,500 additional teachers

will be employed this financial year over and above meeting higher salary awards. This is not a bad performance in education.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—I said 3,105 additional teachers.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—I do not think it is quite as high as that.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—According to the Estimates, the additional provision is \$56 million.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Approximately 44·8 per cent of the total Budget allocation is being used on education and that is an increase of 1·4 per cent on last year.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—Most of the money is for salary increases; that is the point I make.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—But the Government can obtain only a certain amount of money. Mr. Tripovich has not come up with one suggestion tonight on how it can obtain more finance. Certainly he made many suggestions on how more money could be spent.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—The new Treasurer has found much more money than the old Treasurer admitted he had.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—The “shadow Treasurer” has not suggested where additional finance could come from to meet all the demands made by Mr. Tripovich tonight. Of the money allocated by the Budget, \$192 million goes to hospitals. That is some \$15 million more than last year’s allocation. Of that \$192 million, the running costs of hospitals, altogether apart from capital works and so on, will take some \$95·8 million. I could do with more money for agriculture, and many other departments could use more money.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—Your department received more than \$1·5 million extra.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—But, on Mr. Tripovich’s own admission, a lot of that money will be taken up by salary increases. Many departments

want additional finance but the persistent demand in the community for better educational services causes such a high percentage of the total Budget allocation to be spent on education that other departments are feeling the pinch. Mr. Tripovich mentioned transport. True it is that millions of dollars must be spent on public transport. The railway system in this State—especially the railway stations—leaves much to be desired. Often there is a demand for highways, for better roads, and so on, but there is not a general public demand for a better railway system.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—The trend overseas is for fixed rail transport.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—That might be so, but the political pressures here are not for better railway services. People speak about better public transport occasionally, but there is no powerful influence demanding better public transport from any Government in any part of Australia. That demand will come. I believe there will be a new era of better public transport to carry the existing population and the future population.

As I have indicated, the comments on Supply have been many and varied. It is all right for honorable members to air a particular subject in which they are interested in this Chamber to try to obtain a little publicity through the press. These speeches are analysed and they are sent to the departments for comment. But, when an honorable member has a strong case, he should go straight to the Minister concerned, pursue it through him, and continue to pursue it through him.

The Hon. J. M. TRIOVICH.—I have not had much response from the Treasurer on the Victoria Promotion Committee. He will not even acknowledge questions on notice.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—I wonder whether Mr. Tripovich has seen the Treasurer.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—I have, and the honorable gentleman has said that he is satisfied with the way it is functioning.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Does Mr. Tripovich know anything about the Victoria Promotion Committee? Has he been in London and seen the work it is doing?

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—All I want is a report on the work it is doing. Surely I do not have to go to London to get that. The committee has received \$1.5 million and not one cent has been accounted for.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—I simply asked whether Mr. Tripovich had any experience in London of what the committee is doing.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—No.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—It would be an eye-opener for Mr. Tripovich if he could see that work done in London. His party should send him overseas soon.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—I would be quite satisfied if the Ministry of State Development and Decentralization was allowed to function as a Ministry of State Development and was not superseded by a private enterprise committee watching industries come here, a lot, at times, in their own interests.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Mr. Tripovich is making an insinuation.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—Some members have quite a lot of shares in those companies.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—Mr. Tripovich is putting a sinister interpretation on it. I would not go along with that or be associated with it.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province).—Mr. Chairman, I raise a point of order. Please do not let me be misunderstood. I am not suggesting that any of these people have partaken of any money wrongly.

The CHAIRMAN (the Hon. G. J. Nicol).—That is not a point of order.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—An insinuation was made by the Minister. I want to explain.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is not a point of order. It is a personal explanation.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—If I may continue, I shall make a personal explanation. I do not want the Minister to put me in a position where I am alleging that any of these people have done anything which could be the result of criminal action. But I want to say this, that when every industry is fed through their supervision or their encouragement or their advice, they have an advantage.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—Mr. Tripovich can put any construction on what he said in his own way. I was under the impression that he did say that certain people on the Victoria Promotion Committee had shares in companies which could be affected by being encouraged to come to this country.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—One is chairman of a company.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER.—That is a sinister interpretation and I do not want to be associated with it. As usual, I will take up the matters that have been raised during this debate with the Premier's Department where all of the complaints are analysed and forwarded to the various departments for comment. Having had some experience in politics, may I say that, where there is a case for the development or the extension of railways of hospitals and so on, the honorable members concerned ought to go to the appropriate Minister and pursue the matter with him and persistently pursue it.

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

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

RINGWOOD (RECREATION RESERVE) LAND BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett).—I have examined this Bill and in my opinion it is a private Bill.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—In another place this Bill was also ruled to be private Bill, but was treated as a public Bill. I propose that the same procedure should be followed in this House. Therefore, I move—

That this Bill be dealt with as a public Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), the Bill was read a first time.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), was read a first time.

RINGWOOD (RECREATION RESERVE) LAND BILL.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The recreation reserve to which the Bill relates comprises an area of 8 acres and 3 perches situated at Oban and Wonga roads in the City of Ringwood. It has been placed under the control of the corporation of the City of Ringwood as a committee of management.

The reserved land was previously freehold land vested in the municipality but was transferred to the Crown by virtue of the provisions of the Ringwood and Warrandyte Lands Act 1967. Briefly, that Act provided for an area of about 10 acres of Crown land bounded by Whitehorse Road, Braeside Avenue and Mines Road at Ringwood, reserved as a site for public park and public recreation, to be re-served as a site for a civic centre. To replace such

recreational land the Act provided for the freehold land held by the municipality to be transferred to the Crown for appropriate reservation under the Land Act.

At the time of transfer to the Crown, the land at Oban and Wonga roads was developed for recreation with a brick scout hall occupied by the 6th Ringwood Scout Group located in the south-west corner of the land. The Ringwood City Council has recently informed the Lands Department that the occupation by the scout group was the subject of a lease granted by the municipality to the Boy Scouts Association of Australia, Victorian Branch, for a term of seven years from 1st January, 1965. This fact was not made known to the department when it dealt with the 1967 enactment.

The council and the association are desirous that the scout group should enjoy security of tenure by authorizing the municipality to grant further leases to the association. The clauses carry into effect the principles that I have enunciated and I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. M. WALTON (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Before proceeding with the subject-matter of this Bill, I should like to express the appreciation of the House to the Government Printer for the speedy way in which the Bill was printed for presentation to the House.

Almost two years ago certain amendments were made to the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act which represented great advances in procedures relating to the registration of children born out of

wedlock. Provision was made to enable the father of such a child to be registered but only with the consent of the mother. Just as a woman can falsely claim that a man is the father of a child, it is possible for a man mistakenly or falsely to claim to be the father. These provisions are reenacted and supplemented in this Bill, which enables the consent of the mother to be dispensed with; for example, if she is dead. A mother may die in childbirth, and when this occurs the father or the man who claims to be the father could register himself under this measure as the father of the child notwithstanding the absence of the mother's consent.

Other exemptions are provided in the Bill—for example, if the mother cannot be found, or if she is physically or mentally not in a condition in which she is able to say yea or nay, or if the Registrar believes there are good and sufficient reasons for dispensing with the consent of the mother. These provisions are further extended. It was possible under the previous law to register the father, but there was no provision for the subsequent addition of his name to the birth certificate of the child. It may be that, for one reason or another, a man doubted his paternity but subsequently became satisfied with it. It is obviously desirable that when both the mother and the father give their consent, the father's name can subsequently be added to the register of births, and the Bill so provides.

In the light of this provision it is also thought to be desirable to add a further safeguard. If an allegation is made that a man is the father, or even if the man acknowledges that he is the father, he is not required to supply information to the registrar. The reasons for this are obvious. To require him to supply this information could form the foundation for a paternity suit and would, in effect, offend against the rule that no person should be called upon to incriminate himself—although that is not precisely the same rule, it is analogous.

The Bill contains other minor changes that enable the addition of

Christian names on the register on the application of the guardian of the child. In the first instance, many children are registered only under their surnames. When the time for registration expires the parents, or the mother, if the child was born out of wedlock, may not have decided on a name or names for the child, who may subsequently pass to the guardianship of another. In those circumstances, upon application the guardian will be able to have Christian names added to the register. A further small amendment creates an additional section to follow section 16 of the principal Act which provides that, where a person is registered as the father, the father's surname shall be the surname of the child. Where this is not so, the child's surname shall be that of the mother. For a long time that has been deemed to be the law, but it has not been expressly stated by statute. That defect will be cured and will regularize the past practice. Other minor amendments constitute a rearrangement of section 11 of the principal Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (CONJOINT ELECTIONS) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government), was read a first time.

The Hon. A. J. HUNT (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It enables a conjoint election to be held next year for both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. Under the Bill the election must be held within a period of three months immediately prior to 14th July, 1973, which is the date upon which the terms of members of the

Legislative Council who are about to retire conclude. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of the Hon. J. M. Tripovich (Doutta Galla Province), for the Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

ADJOURNMENT.

Sir GILBERT CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—

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

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.42 p.m., until Tuesday, September 26.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, September 20, 1972.

The **SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie)** took the chair at 4.4 p.m., and read the prayer.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

The following answers to questions on notice were circulated:—

MOTOR VEHICLES.

COMPULSORY WEARING OF SEAT BELTS.

(Question No. 16)

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many motorists have been charged with failure to wear seat belts?

2. What action the Government has taken to ensure that all passengers in private motor vehicles are required to wear seat belts and/or that all passenger vehicles are fitted with seat belts?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

1. 5,153.

2. The following is a summary of the legislative measures which have been taken to require the fitting and wearing of seat belts:—

- (a) A motor car first registered on or after 1st January, 1969, must be fitted with lap sash seat belts of a type approved by the Chief Commissioner of Police and anchored at three points for the use of the driver and any passenger seated adjacent to the side of the motor car and beside the driver or on the same seat as the driver.
- (b) Any motor car manufactured after 1st January, 1971, is required to be fitted with lap sash seat belts of an approved type and fitted as in (a) above for all seating positions in the motor car.
- (c) When any second-hand motor car manufactured since 1951 is transferred from one person to another a roadworthiness certificate cannot be issued unless the motor car is fitted with seat belts for the driver and a passenger seated beside the driver. Such belts may be lap, lap and sash, or full harness and must be of a type approved by the Chief Commissioner of Police. There is a further restriction on second-hand motor cars manufactured after 1st January, 1969. In such cases the seat belts must be of the lap and sash type and anchored at three points.
- (d) Any person riding in a motor car to which safety belts have been fitted must, while that car is in motion, wear such safety belts properly adjusted and fastened.

THEFTS.

(Question No. 214)

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether a high percentage of cars stolen over the past twelve months were taken by persons in the age group of sixteen to seventeen years; if so, what was the percentage of vehicles taken by such persons in this age group in relation to the total number of vehicles stolen?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

The statistics sought by the honorable member are not available.

However, in the twelve months ended 31st August, 1972, 1,383 offenders in the age group sixteen to seventeen years were apprehended by police for the theft of a total of 2,209 vehicles.

During the same period, 12,553 vehicles were reported to police as stolen.

WORKERS COMPENSATION.

WORKERS RECEIVING WEEKLY PAYMENTS: COMPENSATION ENTITLEMENTS.

(Question No. 46)

Mr. SIMMONDS (Reservoir) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. How many Victorian workers are currently receiving weekly payments under the Workers Compensation Act 1958 with a maximum entitlement of—(a) \$26 per week with three or more dependants; (b) \$31 per week with three or more dependants; and (c) \$43 per week with three or more dependants?

2. What measures he proposes taking to ensure that workers injured prior to the recent amendments to the Workers Compensation Act 1958 receive just and adequate compensation entitlements?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer is—

1. This type of information cannot be extracted from the statistics provided by the Government Statist by companies transacting workers compensation business.

Consequently I regret that I am unable to assist the honorable member.

2. The Workers Compensation Act 1972 which increased rates of compensation payable to workers and their dependants under the Workers Compensation Act 1958 came into operation by royal assent on 9th May, 1972. The new rates only apply to injuries received on and after that date.

It is essential that any proposal to apply the new rates retrospectively needs to be closely examined because it is one which affects contracts which in the past have been entered into between employers and approved insurers to indemnify the employer against a specified statutory liability and for which premiums commensurate with that liability have been charged and this is being done.

MUNICIPALITIES.

METROPOLITAN RATING.

(Question No. 108)

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of Transport, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will ascertain and inform the House, in respect of municipal rating for the year ended 30th September, 1971, what was—(a) the total net annual value; (b) the total revenue derived from rates; and (c) the total number of ratepayers, in the Melbourne and Metropolitan planning area and the remainder of the State, respectively?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Local Government is—

The information is available only in respect of the municipal rating year ending 30th September, 1970. No later information has yet been collated, whilst the total number of ratepayers shown is the total number of assessments returned.

(a) \$562,833,650 in the Melbourne and metropolitan planning area.

\$266,350,350 in the remainder of the State.

(b) \$66,804,548 in the Melbourne and metropolitan planning area.

\$34,746,452 in the remainder of the State.

(c) 912,738 in the Melbourne and metropolitan planning area.

528,980 in the remainder of the State.

TRAFFIC SCHOOLS.

FUTURE: USE BY SCHOOLS AT GEELONG.

(Question No. 140)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether the Government has made any decision on the future of traffic schools?

2. Whether he will ascertain and inform the House which schools have used the Geelong traffic school from May, 1972, to the present time?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary). The answer is—

1. A survey and evaluation of the effectiveness of children's traffic schools in road safety training together with their organization, management and training programme is being undertaken by the Road Safety and Traffic Authority.

Consideration will be given to Government support of a fully co-ordinated development of such centres when these aspects have been fully investigated.

2. The following schools have used the Geelong traffic school from May, 1972:—

St. Joseph's School
 Christ the King School
 St. Mary's Primary School
 The Hermitage (Church of England Girls School)
 St. Margaret's School
 St. Mary's Girls School
 St. John's School
 Morongo Presbyterian Girls School
 St. Bernard's School (Belmont)
 Herne Hill Pre-school Centre.

TRANSPORT.

HAULAGE OF GOODS BETWEEN
 BALLARAT AND MELBOURNE.

(Question No. 182)

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballarat South) asked the Minister of Transport—

What tonnage of goods was carried by road and rail, respectively, between Ballarat and the metropolitan area in each of the past five years?

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

The statistics relating to the tonnage of goods carried by road are not compiled.

I am advised by the railways that the information in respect of the tonnage on rail for 1971-72 is not yet available and that prior to 1969-70, the information is not readily available.

If the honorable member so requests I will be able to supply the data to him in writing later.

Information made available by the railways on the tonnage of goods carried between Ballarat and the metropolitan area is—

1969-70	143,132 tons.
1970-71	155,980 tons.

TOURISM.

SWIMMING POOL FOR HALL'S GAP.

(Question No. 186)

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas) asked the Minister without Portfolio, for the Minister for Tourism—

1. Whether the Minister is aware of the difficulty that the residents of the area of Hall's Gap in the Shire of Stawell are having in raising finance to meet the cost of the proposed swimming pool?

2. Whether, as the pool will be used for tourist purposes, he will consider making a special grant for its construction?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister without Portfolio).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Tourism is—

1. Yes.

2. No. Swimming pools are not eligible for subsidy or grant from the Tourist Fund.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

SOCIAL WORKERS.

(Question No. 190)

Mr. BORNSTEIN (Brunswick East) asked the Premier—

How many social worker positions in the Public Service are filled by unqualified persons on temporary appointments, specifying which departments?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is—

Four unqualified persons are temporarily employed as welfare officers against vacant offices of probation and parole officer in the Social Welfare Department.

EAST GIPPSLAND DROUGHT.

FODDER: STOCK ON AGISTMENT:
 SUBSIDIES.

(Question No. 206)

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. What amount of fodder has been transported to East Gippsland under the present drought relief scheme and what is the estimated cost of the subsidy?

2. What stock has been transported by rail from East Gippsland for drought agistment and what is the estimated cost of the subsidy?

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

Statistics relating to the tonnage of fodder carried by road are not completed.

I am informed that the amount of fodder and stock carried by the railways for stations east of Traralgon between 17th September, 1971, and 14th September, 1972, and the cost of subsidy has been—

1. Fodder—57,000 tons; subsidy \$304,826.

2. Stock—9,000 sheep and 16,000 cattle; subsidy \$17,036.

ELECTORAL.

ENROLMENTS IN ELECTORATES AND PROVINCES.

(Question No. 234)

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine) asked the Chief Secretary—

What is the last recorded enrolment in each electoral district of the Legislative Assembly and each electoral province of the Legislative Council, respectively?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).

—The answer is—

The following tables set out the enrolments in each electoral province and each electoral district as at 30th June, 1972:—

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Enrolment as at 30th June, 1972.

Province	Number enrolled
Ballaarat	60,188
Bendigo	63,648
Boronia	170,589
Doutta Galla	132,979
East Yarra	120,351
Gippsland	86,657
Higinbotham	123,556
Melbourne	108,778
Melbourne North	110,266
Melbourne West	138,835
Monash	123,879
Northern	60,605
North-Eastern	55,832
North-Western	47,000
South-Eastern	165,762
South-Western	99,454
Templestowe	162,075
Western	60,212
Total enrolment	1,890,666

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Enrolment as at 30th June, 1972.

District	Number enrolled
Albert Park	21,533
Ballaarat North	24,216
Ballaarat South	23,050
Balwyn	27,054
Bellarine	27,667
Benalla	18,473
Benambra	19,292
Bendigo	23,921
Bennettswood	27,879
Bentleigh	26,367
Box Hill	41,088
Brighton	23,991
Broadmeadows	41,912
Brunswick East	22,752
Brunswick West	22,758
Camberwell	24,419
Caulfield	27,285
Coburg	22,119
Dandenong	37,020
Deer Park	42,615
Dromana	25,702
Dundas	18,022
Essendon	26,753
Evelyn	22,648
Footscray	23,533
Frankston	41,751
Geelong	23,524
Geelong North	25,656
Gippsland East	19,550
Gippsland South	20,271
Gippsland West	19,066
Gisborne	29,036
Glenhuntly	27,547
Glen Iris	24,458
Greensborough	41,003
Hampden	17,689
Hawthorn	25,089
Heatherton	36,764
Ivanhoe	26,510
Kara Kara	16,406
Kew	25,375
Lowan	18,235
Malvern	25,940
Melbourne	24,137
Mentone	27,756
Midlands	23,059
Mildura	18,707
Mitcham	30,050
Monbulk	32,311
Moonee Ponds	24,749
Moorabbin	27,898

District	Number enrolled
Morwell	24,316
Murray Valley	20,172
Narracan	22,520
Northcote	23,443
Oakleigh	24,694
Polwarth	18,279
Portland	18,556
Prahran	24,756
Preston	23,621
Reservoir	27,374
Richmond	20,238
Ringwood	35,884
Rodney	19,501
St. Kilda	26,234
Sandringham	25,519
Scoresby	50,662
Shepparton	20,851
Sunshine	25,366
Swan Hill	18,651
Syndal	37,733
Warrnambool	19,294
Williamstown	28,396
Total enrolment	1,890,666

FISH.

MERCURY CONTENT : TESTS.

(Question No. 235)

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Minister of Health—

1. What precise method has been used in Victoria in recent tests to ascertain the mercury level in fish?

2. How many tests were taken?

3. From which precise locations the fish were taken?

4. Whether an attempt will be made to carry out further tests with a view to determining if there are areas of water unaffected by methyl mercury?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

1. The method used varied slightly between the laboratories involved in the study, but basically in all laboratories, the tests consisted of a digestion and ashing process followed by estimation of the mercury level in an atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

2. Samples were obtained from 480 different sharks involving an analysis of 960 specimens.

3. The Fisheries and Wildlife Branch arranged for the collection of shark from fishermen operating from the following six ports:—Adelaide, Stanley, Portland, San Remo, Lakes Entrance and Hobart.

4. All results of tests are not yet to hand, but a detailed analysis of the results is planned with a view to determining any significant differences in the methyl mercury level in sharks caught from different areas. In addition, the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch has planned a large-scale survey into school shark which will include tests to determine the methyl mercury content in sharks in different areas and in the food chain of the shark in different areas.

SALE OF FLAKE BY FISHMONGERS.

(Question No. 259)

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds) asked the Minister of Health—

In respect of fishmongers selling flake containing in excess of .5 parts per million of mercury—

1. What action has been taken in respect of the action of the health inspector of the City of Essendon in charging V. Stathopoulos, of 323A Keilor Road, Essendon, with selling flake containing an excess of mercury?

2. What action is proposed by the Government on an overall community basis to meet the problem of mercury residues in shark and what advice the Department of Health is offering to health inspectors and fishmongers to ensure co-operation and compliance with the provisions of the Health Act 1958?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer is—

1. I understand that this prosecution will not proceed.

2. The Government has banned the taking of all school shark with a greater over-all length of 41 inches.

The Department of Health is advising health inspectors, fishmongers and fish wholesalers that when purchasing supplies of flake each purchaser should obtain a warranty to the effect that the mercury content of the flake being purchased by him is within the limits laid down under the Health Act 1958 and the regulations thereunder.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**SCHOOL PRINCIPALS: APPLICATIONS BY SPECIAL CLASS WOMEN TEACHERS.**

(Question No. 236)

Mr. DOUBE (Albert Park) asked the Minister of Education—

What were the comparative rates of approval amongst applicants who were qualified special class women teachers in

1 and 2.

the Primary Schools Division and who sought approval to become principals in each of the five divisional areas in Victoria?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

The following figures show the numbers of women who sought and those that gained approval to become principals in each of the five divisions :—

Division	Sought approval	Approved
Southern	3	3
Eastern	13	11
Western	7	1
Northern	12	12
South-eastern	14	10

PSYCHOLOGY AND GUIDANCE BRANCH.

(Question No. 260)

Mr. JONES (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Education—

In respect of his answer to question No. 4 asked on 9th December, 1969, concerning the Psychology and Guidance Branch of the Education Department—

1. What is the present establishment of this branch?

2. How many vacancies there are at present?

3. How many officers have resigned since December, 1969?

4. What are the principal reasons for the resignation of officers?

5. What is the present state of the waiting list of children referred for counselling?

6. Whether the branch is able to provide guidance services for pupils needing advice on vocational matters?

7. Whether it is the custom of the branch to refer urgent cases to private organizations for treatment?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

Category	Authorized strength	Actual strength	Unfilled vacancies
Guidance officers, professional roll	31	29	2
Guidance officers, classified	No limit	37	..
Guidance officers, temporary, full time	No limit	11	..
Guidance officers, temporary, part time	No limit	13	..
Social workers, professional roll	5	4	1
Social workers, classified	No limit	4	..
Social workers, temporary, full time	No limit	9	..
Social workers, temporary, part time	No limit	9	..
Total		116	3

3. Losses of guidance officers and social workers 1st January, 1970, to 12th September, 1972—Total 56.

4.

Reasons	Number
Other professional employ- ment	13
Transfer to another branch ..	2
Reverted to teaching position ..	8
Overseas or interstate ..	17
Family reasons	16
Total	56

5. Only those cases referred by schools which can be dealt with promptly are accepted.

6. Vocational matters are referred to the Department of Labour and National Service which provides vocational information and vocational guidance.

7. The custom is to accept urgent cases. Information on other related community facilities, both public and private, is given on request.

BUDGET EXPENDITURE: COMMONWEALTH LOAN FUNDS.

(Question No. 276)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Education—

1. What percentage of funds allocated in the Budget for expenditure in State education during 1972–73 consists of loan funds repayable to the Commonwealth Government?

2. What is the rate of interest chargeable to the State?

3. What is the total interest bill repayable from State education grants to the Commonwealth Government at the present time?

4. What arrangements are being made to meet these commitments?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

This information will take some time to prepare. I shall advise the honorable member by letter as soon as the information is available.

EDUCATION.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: EXPENDITURE: PUPILS.

(Question No. 237)

Mr. DIXON (St. Kilda) asked the Minister of Education—

In respect of the financial year 1971–72—

1. What was the State expenditure in respect of—(a) universities and colleges of advanced education; (b) teacher training;

(c) State primary and secondary schools, respectively; (d) technical schools; and (e) registered schools?

2. What was the State expenditure on State primary and secondary schools, respectively, for—(a) capital costs; (b) teachers' salaries; (c) maintenance; (d) transportation; and (e) other costs?

3. How many—(a) primary pupils; and (b) secondary pupils, attended State schools and what was the education cost per pupil, respectively?

4. What items of expenditure are included in estimating cost per pupil?

5. What was the State expenditure on registered schools in respect of—(a) *per capita* grants; (b) scholarships; (c) subsidy on interest on building loans; (d) transportation; (e) grants in respect of teachers' colleges; and (f) other costs?

6. How many pupils attended registered—(a) primary; and (b) secondary schools, and what is the estimated cost of teaching these pupils at the *per capita* cost of teaching State primary and secondary pupils, respectively?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

This information will take some time to prepare. I shall advise the honorable member by letter as soon as the information is available.

Per Capita COSTS: ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF ADVANCED EDUCATION.

(Question No. 280)

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Education—

In respect of *per capita* cost of State education—

1. What are the latest figures of the cost of—(a) primary; (b) secondary; (c) technical; and (d) special education, including cost for schools in homes and institutions, and cost of services such as curriculum and research?

2. What State assistance is given to private schools in relation to—(a) *per capita* grants; (b) technical education facilities; (c) homes and institutions; and (d) any other facilities?

3. What total amounts are devoted to colleges of advanced education and whether these are included in the total amount spent on State education as quoted from time to time?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answer is—

1. The latest figures available are that in 1970–71 the *per capita* State cost (recurrent and capital) of primary and secondary education in State schools was \$329.4

and \$578 respectively. *Per capita* costs of technical education have not been ascertained. The cost of special education and special services is included in the over-all figure on which *per capita* costs are based.

2. *Per capita* grants of \$40 are paid by the State for each pupil at primary and secondary level in approved non-government schools. The Government has accepted the proposal of the Commonwealth Government that the Commonwealth and the State should share equally in making *per capita* grants equal to 40 per cent of the assessed cost of educating a child in a Government school. One-half of the increased commitment which this involves will be paid from the start of the 1973 school year, and the balance from the beginning of 1974.

The State assists non-Government schools by an interest subsidy of up to 5 per cent on approved classes of loans for the provision of secondary school buildings.

Pupils of non-Government schools have equal opportunity with pupils of State schools to gain departmental scholarships, and generally share in the same conveyance benefits as are open to State school pupils.

Certain of the benefits provided by the Education Department's special services for handicapped children are available to pupils of registered schools and the school medical and dental services of the Department of Health are also available.

Limited numbers of registered school pupils are admitted by regulation to State school cookery and woodwork centres without payment of fee, and correspondence tuition from the State correspondence school is available to registered school pupils in appropriate cases.

3. For 1972-73 the total amount of State funds to be devoted to colleges of advanced education is estimated at \$35 million and this item is included in the total amount spent on State education as quoted from time to time.

HOUSING COMMISSION.

ACCOMMODATION IN KARA KARA ELECTORATE.

(Question No. 263)

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

1. What municipalities in the electoral district of Kara Kara have, in the last twelve months, asked the Housing Commission for additional lone-person flats to be built, indicating the municipalities concerned and the proposed location of the flats?

2. How many applications for occupation of this type of unit are held by the Housing Commission indicating the number for each town in such municipalities?

3. When the Housing Commission will be building lone-person units in these towns?

4. What towns in the electoral district of Kara Kara have Housing Commission homes indicating—(a) the number in each town; and (b) the number of applicants on the waiting list for each town?

5. Whether any municipality has asked for additional homes to be established in any of the towns; if so, what towns, indicating the number of homes requested and when they will be built?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

1. Shire of Gordon—97 Godfrey Street, Boort.
Shire of Charlton—Halliday Street, Charlton.
Shire of Korong—Corner North and Sullivan streets, Inglewood.
City of Maryborough—Alma Street, Maryborough.

2. Current applications for lone-person flats are recorded for the following towns within the electorate of Kara Kara:—

Maryborough 14	..	Charlton	12
Wedderburn 1	..	Inglewood	10
Avoca 7	..	Boort	10

Avoca—four units under construction.

3. Building programmes for the remaining towns will be determined having regard to local demand, eligibility of applicants and availability of finance.

4. Existing estates within the electoral district of Kara Kara comprise the following:—

	(a)		(b)
	Houses	Flats	Current family applications
Maryborough ..	138	11	16
St. Arnaud ..	31	10	3
Donald ..	8	..	17
Charlton ..	16	..	2
Wedderburn ..	6	..	2
Inglewood ..	6	..	1
Dunolly ..	6	..	..
Avoca ..	9	..	..
Boort ..	4	..	3

5. Donald—number of homes not specified. The building programme will be determined having regard to local demand eligibility of applicants and availability of finance.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME FOR LATROBE VALLEY.

(Question No. 273)

Mr. AMOS (Morwell) asked the Chief Secretary, for the Minister of Housing—

What Housing Commission flat and house development, respectively, is planned for the Latrobe Valley area during the next twelve months?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Housing is—

The commission's 1972-73 building programme provides for the letting to contract of the following units before 30th June, 1973:—

Morwell ..	12 lone-person flats
Churchill ..	10 villas
Moe ..	6 villas
Morwell ..	7 villas
Sale ..	51 villas
Trafalgar ..	3 villas
Warragul ..	6 villas

TOURIST FUND.

ESTABLISHMENT: EXPENDITURE: PROJECTS ASSISTED.

(Question No. 274)

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg) asked the Minister without Portfolio, for the Minister for Tourism—

1. In what year the Tourist Fund was established?

2. What total amount has been allocated from the fund to assist tourism since that date?

3. What projects have received assistance from the fund, indicating the year and the location?

Mr. SCANLAN (Minister without Portfolio).—The answer supplied by the Minister for Tourism is—

1. The Tourist Fund was established by the Tourist Act 1957 No. 6155, which came into operation on 12th June 1958.

2. An amount of \$5,075,721 has been allocated from the Tourist Fund for grants and subsidies for developmental works to assist tourism since that date.

3. There have been approximately 1,100 separate allocations from the Tourist Fund since its establishment. Due to the amount of detail involved I will arrange for the schedules of works to be made available for inspection by the honorable member for Coburg.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

NURSES (GENERAL NURSES) REGULATIONS 1972.

Mr. JONES (Melbourne).—I direct my question to the Treasurer: As the Minister of Health passed the buck to the Treasurer yesterday—

The **SPEAKER** (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! The honorable member for Melbourne is in the Parliament of Victoria, in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. JONES.—As the Minister of Health shifted the responsibility to the Treasurer yesterday, could the Treasurer advise when he will give financial approval to the Minister so that he can have the Nurses (General Nurses) 1972 Regulations gazetted?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I understood the Minister of Health to say that the financial aspect of bringing in the new nursing curriculum has still to be fully considered. That is the position, and I expect the Minister of Health to be able to submit the financial considerations involved before long and consideration will then be given to them.

WATER SUPPLY FOR DIGGERS REST.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands).—Will the Minister of Water Supply advise me what progress has been made with the water supply for the new development at Diggers Rest, and whether the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission intends to supply water from Melton, Merrimu or Rosslyne reservoirs for this purpose?

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Water Supply).—Water supply to Diggers Rest, Bulla and Oaklands Junction will come from the Rosslyne reservoir. This will depend not so much on the availability of funds for the pipeline but on the availability of water. It is expected that the plug will be put into the Rosslyne reservoir in May next year and, given reasonable winter and spring rains, the reservoir could be filled before the summer. Then depending upon the ensured supply to the fast growing area of Sunbury, consideration will be given for supply work to Diggers Rest, Bulla and Oaklands Junction under the loan works programme for 1974-75.

BURNING OF RAILWAY CARRIAGES AT COBURG.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg).—Can the Minister of Transport inform the House of the result of the inquiry carried out by the Victorian Railways

into the burning of railway carriages at the Coburg railway siding recently?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—I have not been informed of the result of the inquiry which the railways would have made into that matter, but I will be happy to ascertain whether a conclusion has been reached and, if so, I shall convey it to the honorable member.

ACCOMMODATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn).—Can the Minister of Education indicate the current position concerning accommodation for primary school children in Victorian schools?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—In the post-war years there were many large primary school classes, some of between 70 and 80 children, but over the past decade there has been a marked reduction in the size of classes and excessive over-crowding is largely a thing of the past. For example, at the beginning of the 1960s only 50 per cent of primary school classes had fewer than 38 children. Today more than 80 per cent of classes have fewer than 38 pupils and more than 99 per cent have fewer than 42.

At the beginning of the 1960s the average class size for Victorian primary schools was 40. Today it has dropped to 32.5, which honorable members will agree is a very marked improvement. This average applies only to the larger primary schools—those of class 2 rating and above—and excludes the small one- and two-teacher schools.

PAYMENT OF HONORARIES AT HOSPITALS.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds).—I ask the Minister of Health what stage has been reached in the negotiations with respect to the paying of honorary doctors for attending public hospitals, and I particularly refer to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The stage has been reached where the Minister of Health is discussing these matters with the Premier and Treasurer.

TRANSPORT.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell).—Will the Minister of Transport inform me what discussions he has had with his colleagues in the Government about upgrading transport facilities, particularly railway transport facilities, to country areas in view of the interest recently shown by the Government in decentralization and regionalization?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—I am always interested in any possibility of improving the total transport services of this State, and that does not mean rail services only.

The most immediate need for improvement in rail services has been within the metropolitan area but I am glad to say that some improvement, within the limited resources of the Victorian Railways, has been made in country areas. At least two new rail cars which, unfortunately, are having more teething troubles than they should have had, are operating between Portland and Ararat. That gives some indication of the desire of the transport authorities generally, and certainly of the Government and myself, to improve facilities.

If Governments generally are to espouse the cause of decentralization completely, it will be the Commonwealth Government which can contribute most, simply because of the unfortunate arrangements for public finance in Australia. I should be delighted if the Commonwealth Government, as part of its programme, would consider and act upon a report, which I know it has, from the Bureau of Transport Economics which recommends that money should be spent both on urban public transport and on country public transport.

DRILLING AT CASHMORE.

Mr. W. J. LEWIS (Portland).—Is the Minister of Mines aware that two large drilling rigs are in the Cashmore area near Portland? In view of the size of the rigs, I ask whether they are drilling for water or oil.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister of Mines).—The Mines Department has its two largest rigs in the area mentioned by the honorable member for Portland. They are drilling for water. In some respects, they are drilling fairly deeply. I understand that one has drilled to a depth of about 1,500 feet. This is part of the groundwater survey which will be a continuing operation in the State.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

Mr. CRELLIN (Sandringham).—Can the Minister of Public Works inform the House whether any action has been taken to appoint a new Chairman of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, following the death of Mr. Victor Swanson?

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Public Works).—The late Mr. Victor Swanson died a week ago today, after an illness lasting twelve months. If I may have your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I should like to pay tribute to Mr. Swanson, who was for ten years Chairman of the Melbourne Harbor Trust. Before that he was Chief Engineer of Ports and Harbors. For 23 years he was an engineer with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, and he was resident engineer at Eildon while the reservoir there was being constructed.

Advertisements have appeared in the *Age* and the *Australian*, and in other sections of the press throughout Australia. A similar advertisement will appear in the press throughout Australia next Saturday. The applications will close on Monday, 9th October, and when the applications have been considered, a recommendation will be made for the appointment of the new chairman.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! I should have said earlier that the Minister for Conservation has been good enough to tell me that he is detained in the country on State business and will not be here for question time.

PUBLIC HOSPITAL FOR BROADMEADOWS.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—As the Minister of Health is enjoying meaningful dialogue with the Premier and Treasurer at the moment, will the honorable gentleman raise with the Premier the question of the construction of a public hospital for the City of Broadmeadows, which has a population in excess of 100,000 souls?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The meaningful dialogue which continues between the Premier and Treasurer and the Minister of Health is not just an occasion for a temporary relaxation in good relations between the Premier and the Minister of Health. The recent Budget proposals show that the Premier is not only having a meaningful dialogue with the Minister of Health but having meaningful dialogue with the rest of the State concerning health matters. He has shown by his approach that the quality of life in this State now has meaning. I will discuss with him and with the Hospitals and Charities Commission the whole question of hospital proposals for the western suburbs.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Gippsland West).—Will the Treasurer give consideration to making funds available to the fishing industry to correct the distortions which have appeared in the "Labor Squeaks Column" in today's *Sun News-Pictorial*?

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! I am afraid I did not hear the last phrase?

Mr. MACLELLAN.—The last phrase was: "in today's *Sun News-Pictorial*."

The **SPEAKER**.—Order ! Is the honorable member asking the Premier to comment on a newspaper cutting? I will ask the honorable member to repeat the question.

Mr. **MACLELLAN**.—Will the Treasurer make funds available to the fishing industry to correct the distortions in the "Labor Squeaks Column" in today's *Sun News-Pictorial*?

The **SPEAKER**.—Order ! I consider the question facetious.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO V.F.L. PARK.

Mr. **TREZISE** (Geelong North).—I ask the Minister for Transport: Now that the Victorian Football League finals have been played at V.F.L. Park, Waverley—

Honorable members interjecting.

The **SPEAKER** (Sir **Vernon Christie**).—Order ! I ask the honorable member for Syndal to cease interjecting. I remind honorable members that question time cannot be question time with continual interjections. The honorable member for Geelong North.

Mr. **TREZISE**.—As the Victorian Football League finals have been played at V.F.L. Park, Waverley, and, as predicted, there was a considerable deal of inconvenience experienced by patrons with long delays in getting out of the ground by private motor vehicle after the match, what plans, if any, are in hand to improve the public transport facilities to and from the ground, and when will they be carried out?

Mr. **WILCOX** (Minister of Transport).—This is an interesting and topical question. I paid my first visit to V.F.L. Park last week and I will not forget the experience. The match was quite a heart stopper. Therefore, I have some personal knowledge of the traffic conditions existing at the football ground both before and after the match. There is no doubt that there is considerable traffic congestion in the vicinity of V.F.L. Park when there is a substantial

crowd in attendance. That is understandable, because the ground was established by the Victorian Football League—it was entitled to do that—knowing the situation so far as traffic facilities were concerned.

In due course—I hope the sooner the better—a railway line will be constructed from Huntingdale to Fern Tree Gully that will pass Monash University and V.F.L. Park, Waverley. When that happens the facilities that are obviously required for any sort of stadium worthy of the name will be available. In the meantime, the pre-eminent position of the Melbourne Cricket Ground is clear to anyone who studies transport matters. I had the traffic figures on my desk this morning in relation to the crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last Saturday. Within 40 minutes of the conclusion of the game the public transport facilities removed more than 45 per cent of the crowd of 91,000 people.

GEELONG-MELBOURNE HIGHWAY.

Mr. **AUREL SMITH** (Bellarine).—I direct my question to the Minister of Transport, who represents the Minister for Local Government. Can the honorable gentleman advise me when the two additional traffic lanes on the Geelong to Melbourne highway will be made available for general traffic use? The Country Roads Board has already carried out extensive preliminary works on this section.

Mr. **WILCOX** (Minister of Transport).—I should have to seek advice from my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, to give a precise answer. Last week, I made inquiries about the highway to Geelong because I was seeking figures about its capacity. I then ascertained that site works, bridge works and culvert construction were being carried out with a view to increasing the capacity of the highway by converting it from a two-lane highway each way to a three-lane highway. Although work

is being done, I do not know when it is likely to be completed. I will ascertain the position and inform the honorable member.

GROUNDWATER RESEARCH.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura).—Can the Minister of Mines inform me whether a sum of money has been made available by the Federal Government for research into groundwater in Victoria? If so, how much and where does the division between the honorable gentleman's jurisdiction and that of the Minister of Water Supply occur with respect to the issue of groundwater licences and supervision?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister of Mines).—A sum of money is made available by the Federal Government to the State Government for groundwater research. Off the cuff, I cannot inform the honorable member of the particular programme but a groundwater committee meets and determines what that programme will be. An application for a licence to drill comes before the Mines Department. If the water is for irrigation purposes, it is then a matter for the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. A report is furnished to the Mines Department, which acts accordingly.

PAY-ROLL TAX CONCESSIONS.

Mr. E. W. LEWIS (Dundas).—Will the Treasurer inform the House what type of industries in country areas will receive pay-roll tax concessions?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer to the question will become apparent when the legislation on this matter is presented to the House.

SALE OF PETS.

Mr. KIRKWOOD (Preston).—Will the Minister of Health consider proposing legislation to force sellers of pups and kittens to supply a certificate of good health at the time of sale?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—Will the honorable member translate that question?

METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOLS.

Mr. FORDHAM (Footscray).—Can the Minister of Education explain to the House why special treatment is given to University High School, Melbourne High School and MacRobertson's Girls High School for recruiting at form III. level with the resultant breakdown in the concept of community schools and the development of an *élite* set of schools?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—These schools would be the last to describe themselves as *élite* schools. Through the years they have been fed by students who have completed the first and second forms in central schools in suburbs immediately south, east and north of Melbourne. In past decades these schools have contributed more than their share of outstanding citizens to Victoria and Australia—for example, the Minister of Health and the honorable member sitting next to the honorable member for Footscray. These schools have built up a splendid academic reputation and, understandably, the people associated with them, both the staff and school councils, are anxious that the present selection methods should be retained in some form. However, it will be recalled that last year the entry from the immediate surrounding area for University High School was considerably broadened. It should be stressed that the method of selection of pupils for these three schools was recommended by the High Schools Principals Association some four years ago. This association represents all high schools in Victoria. Later this year the method of entry will once again be reviewed.

RICHMOND DAY HOSPITAL.

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn).—Is the Minister of Health aware of an application by the Richmond Day Hospital for a subsidy towards its new building project? Will the Minister also

undertake to discuss this application with the Hospitals and Charities Commission to ensure that the subsidy made available to this hospital is commensurate with its importance in the area?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer to both questions is, "Yes".

CRANE DRIVERS.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—In view of the fact that last year some 150 men were injured and seventeen men were killed in crane accidents, what steps does the Minister of Labour and Industry propose to take to implement the legislation passed by Parliament in 1970 requiring crane drivers to have a certificate of competence?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The recruitment of suitable people for the issue of certificates for crane operations is now under way. The next step is to gain accommodation for them. Later this week information will be available on where the accommodation will be. I have already had discussions with the trade union representatives and with people in the industry, and the legislation will be implemented as soon as possible.

WATER COMMISSION BUILDING AT CASTLEMAINE.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands).—Will the Minister of Water Supply advise the House whether he has made any representations to the Minister for State Development and Decentralization following the abandonment by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission of the comparatively new office building in Castlemaine? What is the future of the building, and has the Government any plans to use it?

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Water Supply).—I will pursue this matter with the Minister for State Development and Decentralization.

RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—In view of the considerable pressure being generated at Richmond High School by an intake of pupils from Hawthorn, can the Minister of Education inform the House of the steps, if any, which are being taken by his department to establish a high school in the Hawthorn area?

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The latest figures from feeder primary schools in the area are being studied following the August survey. A possible solution to the problem which the department has in mind is to erect a high school on the quarry site in Auburn Road. This would have the effect of reducing the intake from the Hawthorn area, and thus relieving the pressure on Richmond High School.

SHARK FISHING INDUSTRY.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—Can the Premier inform the House what action is to be taken to compensate and rehabilitate the shark fishing industry in this State; if so, what proposals are envisaged by the Government?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—I expect to be in a position to inform the honorable member on that subject within a week. As he will be aware, a number of discussions have taken place between the fishing industry and representatives of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission, the Ministry of State Development and Decentralization and the Treasury, and reports from those bodies are being collated. A policy statement will be produced within approximately one week.

ROAD ACCIDENTS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—Will the Chief Secretary advise the House whether the Government intends to adopt the recommendation of the Road Trauma Committee that persons involved in road accidents should be tested to determine their blood alcohol content?

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—I propose to examine the report of the committee in detail so that I will know exactly what is proposed.

MORWELL COURT HOUSE.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell).—In view of the Attorney-General's replies to my recent representations concerning the need for alteration and additions to the Morwell court house, can the honorable gentleman inform me what discussions have taken place between himself and the Treasury concerning the provision of finance?

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—I suggest that the honorable member should place his question on the Notice Paper.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT FOR GIPPSLAND FARMERS.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—Has the Premier received any representations seeking the imposition of a part-time employment scheme to help the drought affected areas of East Gippsland; if not, will the honorable gentleman examine the question and consider suggesting to the Commonwealth Government that the rural employment scheme should be extended to provide part-time employment for farmers who are unable to accept full-time employment because of the work that has to be done on their properties?

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—Yes, I have had representations through the Minister of Lands on the subject. The basis of the representations was that there are some farmers, especially in the drought areas of East Gippsland, who, although still working their farms, are not able to make a sufficient living from them. I have made submissions to the Commonwealth Government, which has applied the conditions to its rural employment grants, suggesting that they might be modified to enable us to make employment available to these people. I am awaiting an answer.

DANGER OF X-RAY UNITS.

Mr. DOUBE (Albert Park).—Has the attention of the Minister of Health been drawn to reports which appear to indicate that there is a greater danger from radiation from portable X-ray units than from fixed X-ray units; if so, what action if any, does the honorable gentleman intend to take?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health).—The answer to the first part is, "No". That is to say, my attention has not been drawn to such a situation. If it had been, I would discredit, disown or reject the words "if any" which were contained in the honorable member's question. If there were any action which needed to be taken, the Department of Health would take it following an examination of the reports.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—I should say, on behalf of honorable members, that this is a day of pleasure to the members of this House in welcoming the delegates to the first Australian Parliamentary Seminar, to which have come our friends and brother members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from as far apart as Britain, the north, Malaya, and so forth, and across the Pacific. They have been very welcome, and it is a very great day for this House.

MENTAL HEALTH (ADMISSIONS) BILL.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Mental Health Act 1959 in relation to the admission of patients to psychiatric hospitals, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

OPTICIANS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Health) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend section 14 of the Opticians Registration Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

SANDRINGHAM (BEACH OVAL) LAND BILL.

For Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Lands), Mr. Balfour (Minister for Fuel and Power) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to authorize the grant of leases of certain land in the City of Sandringham.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ANSETT TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE.

REPORT: IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—
I move—

That this House concurs with the recommendation of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the takeover scheme proposed by Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. in relation to Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. that an examination of the relationship of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to the transport industry in Victoria should be undertaken by a Select Committee of this House.

It will be recalled that in April of this year the Government decided that the Parliament of Victoria should concern itself with a proposal which had been made public by Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. to acquire control of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. As a result of that decision, the Government presented to Parliament legislation which, on being enacted, brought about the appointment of a Select Committee of this House. That committee met, and, in the process of attempting to discharge its responsibilities to the House, it commenced some preliminary investigations.

At a very early stage in the investigations the committee was advised by letter, signed by Sir Peter Abeles, Managing Director of Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd., that the proposed takeover, which was the instrument which caused the establishment of the committee, no longer existed. There was a certain amount of press coverage on this point, and I do not propose to go into any great detail on that score because honorable members will be sufficiently aware of what occurred and the sort of speculation which arose in the community why Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. rather suddenly decided not to proceed with its previously-announced intention of acquiring control of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd.

However, one result of the inquiry was that the committee received from representatives of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. evidence submitted by Mr. T. H. Moss, a solicitor, who was accompanied by directors of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. They set out for the benefit of the committee an agreement which had been reached between Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. and Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. Broadly, the agreement stated that Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. would provide a seat on the board of directors for Sir Peter Abeles, Managing Director of Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd., and in return Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. was prepared to give an undertaking that it would not attempt to acquire any more shares in Ansett Transport Industries Ltd.; in other words, it would not attempt to increase its holding beyond the 23.5 per cent which it held at that time. The agreement also embodied a proposal that Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. would agree to change its articles of association. This is the crux of the whole matter. The changing of the articles of association was to bring about a situation whereby shareholders' voting rights would be restricted to 10 per cent of the shares regardless of the number of shares they held.

At this point the committee became concerned at its position and the authority that it had under its terms of reference to examine this proposal because the witness expressed a firm view on a third point that, in the event of this agreement not coming into existence for some reason or other, the Government should legislate so that there would be a limit of 10 per cent on the voting rights of shareholders in Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. regardless of the number of shares they held.

Sir GEORGE REID.—That is not a recommendation of the committee.

Mr. WILTON.—That is so.

Mr. JONA.—Who were the witnesses?

Mr. WILTON.—The witnesses were Mr. T. H. Moss and the directors of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd.

Mr. EDMUNDS.—Reg himself?

Mr. WILTON.—No, the Chairman of Directors of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. was not present on this occasion, but his co-directors were. The directors expressed a firm desire to restrict the voting rights of shareholders to a limit of 10 per cent of the shares of the company, regardless of the number of shares held. At present, only one shareholder has more than 10 per cent of the shares, and that is Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—They do not have more than 10 per cent. They bought more than 10 per cent, but they do not have 10 per cent.

Mr. WILTON.—Apparently the Leader of the Country Party wants to make an issue of the fact that a shareholder has acquired 23 per cent of the shares or, in other words, 11,461,746 shares. If he wants to indulge in semantics on whether that means they have 23 per cent of control of the company, or whether they only own that number of shares, he will have the opportunity to do so.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—The shares are not registered; that is the whole point.

Mr. WILTON.—I do not know for how long the Leader of the Country Party or the Government is prepared to allow this sort of situation to remain. It is in limbo until somebody can find a solution. One problem with the whole proposal was the role that the Stock Exchange of Melbourne and the Australian Associated Stock Exchanges would play with regard to the changing of the articles of association. The press reports of the time are relevant. For instance, in the *Australian Financial Review* of 1st May, 1972, there is an article by Mr. John Gilmour which states—

The Stock Exchange of Melbourne will not support the Ansett Transport Industry Ltd. plea for a 10 per cent limit on shareholdings unless it is dictated by Government.

Exchange Chairman and Ansett Director Sir Cecil Looker made this clear on Friday in an interview with the *Financial Review*.

The stock exchange was saying to Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. that it would not agree to its proposal to change its articles of association to restrict the voting rights of shareholders because that would cut across a basic policy of the stock exchanges of Australia. It also said, however, that if the company could talk the Government into legislating to bring about a situation whereby, by law, the voting right of shareholders were restricted, then it would, of course, be forced to accept the proposal because it must obey the laws of the State.

In the *Melbourne Age* of 11th July, 1972, there is an article by a Mr. Garry Oliver on the proposal which had been submitted by Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to the Stock Exchange of Melbourne, and also to the Parliamentary committee, involving a change in the articles of association. Of course, this aroused the interest of the business world. Many companies were vitally interested in

the reaction of the stock exchange to the proposal. The article by Mr. Oliver states—

One prominent businessman said last night that, if the stock exchange approved the restriction of voting rights his company would be the “first in the queue” to follow Ansett’s example.

And he said the queue was likely to be “a very long one.” The present spate of takeover activity on local stock exchanges had worried the boards of many prominent industrial companies.

That is understandable. If a law restricting the voting rights of shareholders was enacted, it would mean many more peaceful nights for members of boards of directors and particularly for the chairmen of boards of companies under threat of takeovers.

Sir GEORGE REID.—Does the honorable member advocate general legislation on those lines?

Mr. WILTON.—No, I make it perfectly clear that I am not advocating that legislation be enacted to bring about that situation.

Sir GEORGE REID.—Does the honorable member want a special Bill limited to Ansett Transport Industries Ltd.?

Mr. WILTON.—No, I do not want that either. Obviously, because of the scanty examination that the Select Committee was able to give to the proposed takeover of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and the lack of knowledge that the committee had of the over-all operations of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd., the role it plays in the economy of Victoria, and particularly the role it plays in the transport industry of the State, it would be ludicrous at this stage for anyone to advocate the enactment of that sort of legislation. I again direct the attention of the Attorney-General to the wording of the motion. It provides—

That this House concurs with the recommendation of the Select Committee. . . .

Clause 9 of the report of the committee states—

Your committee is of the opinion that an examination of the principals proposed by A.T.I. in its submission and embodied in the

agreement between the companies would extend the nature of the inquiry considerably beyond the terms of reference given to it by the House.

That was the first problem facing the committee. Prominent features of the proposals presented to the committee by Australian Transport Industries Ltd. were the restriction of voting rights of shareholders which embodied a change in the articles of association of the company and the agreement that Sir Peter Abeles take a seat on the board of directors, which would bring into direct association two of the largest private transport organizations in this country at the highest possible level. That is significant to me. There was also the agreement given by Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. that it would not seek to acquire any larger number of shares than it already held.

Mr. WHITING.—Is that good or bad?

Mr. WILTON.—I do not know. There has not been a sufficient investigation. That is the very point I am making and it is the very point the committee made. The purpose of my motion is to persuade this House to express an opinion. After all, the Government decided to drag this matter into the political arena in the first place. It requested the Parliament to enact legislation to enable an investigation to be carried out. The Parliament acceded to the request of the Government. Surely the Parliament—as well as the Government—now has some responsibility to express an opinion on the recommendation of its own committee. Clause 10 of the report states—

A further written submission dated 3rd August, 1972, was received from A.T.I. requesting that the Parliament enact legislation to ensure a restriction on voting rights of shareholders in A.T.I. (see Appendix B). However, this matter appeared to be outside the terms of reference of your committee and evidence was not called on this aspect.

Your committee recommends that a more detailed examination should be made and a committee with wider terms of reference be appointed for this purpose in the next Session.

That reference to "next session" means this session. The Attorney-General knows, because of his great experience in this House, that the day Parliament was prorogued prior to the commencement of this session, that committee went out of business. It had no legal authority to act on behalf of the Parliament.

Sir GEORGE REID.—The Government took special measures to get the report before the House.

Mr. WILTON.—That is true. But I come back to the point that the main consideration which concerned the committee was its terms of reference. On examination of the legislation which established the committee, no honorable member could help but agree that the committee had difficulties in determining how far it could go.

Mr. WILCOX.—There are difficulties about your motives, too.

Mr. WILTON.—I understand the Minister of Transport having difficulties; he has difficulties about everything.

Mr. WILCOX.—You will have far more, too.

Mr. WILTON.—I have no fear about the difficulties I will have. The only fear I have is that what happened in the past will happen again and, because of the inactivity of the Government and its inability to grasp the situation, there will be a ridiculous sort of development in which these people will be left out on a limb with nobody being prepared to take any action on the issue. It is obvious that the stock exchange will not wear the proposals which have been put up. The stock exchange has spelled out quite firmly that, if Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. wants this sort of arrangement by which its articles of association are changed to limit the voting rights of shareholders, it will have to persuade the Parliament to enact legislation. I do not know whether the Minister of Transport supports that proposal. Is he in agreement with the suggestion that the voting rights

of a shareholder in a public company should be restricted? The Stock Exchange of Melbourne made it clear that that cuts across a basic policy. So did the Australian Associated Stock Exchanges. The organization has a secretariat in Canberra and its president, Mr. McAlister, has also spelt out quite clearly that he and his association would be very much opposed to this sort of policy. However, that does not necessarily mean that this Parliament must accede to the policies of the stock exchanges.

Sir GEORGE REID.—Does the honorable member support legislation restricting voting rights?

Mr. WILTON.—No. At this point, I am not advocating legislation to restrict voting rights. What I am advocating is that the Parliament should concur with the recommendations of its own committee—that alone, and nothing else. I will strenuously oppose any attempt by the Attorney-General to read into my remarks that I mean anything but that. My motion is that the House concurs with the recommendation of its Select Committee. I repeat the recommendation of the committee—

Your committee recommends that a more detailed examination should be made and a committee with wider terms of reference be appointed for this purpose in the next Session.

Sir GEORGE REID.—That is in the context of a recommendation on legislation.

Mr. WILTON.—No, I do not accept that interpretation, and I do not believe there is one member of the committee who would support the Attorney-General on that. The honorable gentleman may want to try to get from me an admission that I am prepared to support the introduction of legislation which would bring about a restriction on the voting rights of shareholders. I make it quite clear that I would not support such legislation. The Opposition is prepared to support a further investigation of the operations of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to determine its role in the

economy of Victoria and the Victorian transport industry. That was the premise on which the Government brought this matter before Parliament in the first place. The then Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, said that because of the importance of the role of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. in the Victorian economy and its position in the Victorian transport industry it was his view and that of the Government that this Parliament should concern itself with the proposed takeover.

From that aspect there arose the question of the restriction of voting rights of shareholders and the conflict that now exists between the Stock Exchange of Melbourne and the Associated Stock Exchanges of Australia and the company concerned. The committee decided that a much more detailed examination should be made. Therefore I support the committee's recommendations. It would be impossible at this stage for anyone to justify the enactment of legislation of the type referred to by the Attorney-General.

Sir GEORGE REID.—The honorable member wants the committee to examine its feasibility?

Mr. WILTON.—An investigation should be made under the widest possible terms of reference. This will enable a committee to make a complete and thorough examination of the role that Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. plays in the Victorian economy and transport industries.

Sir GEORGE REID.—It would include that aspect?

Mr. WILTON.—Yes, but it should not be a narrow investigation. All matters should be examined broadly. For those reasons, I hope the House will agree to my motion. Parliament has a responsibility to express an opinion on a report presented by a committee that it has appointed. It would not be proper for a report to be tabled in Parliament and no further action to be taken.

I do not want to prejudice the issue or attempt to establish guidelines at present. The committee should have the widest possible terms of reference and it should not be restricted to whether or not legislation should be enacted to restrict the voting rights of the shareholders of this company.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—I have listened with interest to the remarks of the honorable member for Broadmeadows. The attitude of the House to this report is important. Firstly, I wish briefly to refer to the report of the Select Committee and to its terms. The report was tabled in this Chamber on the first day of this sessional period. It is comparatively brief. The House should know the effect of the report.

Paragraph 1 is purely formal and it sets out the basis of the committee's appointment. Paragraph 2 refers to the Bill known as the Select Committee (Ansett Transport Industries) Bill which was enacted as Act No. 8258. The former Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, originally moved for the setting up of a Select Committee to inquire into this matter and I introduced the Bill to the House. Paragraph 3 recites that at the first meeting of the committee on 10th May, it was resolved that information be sought from each of the companies concerning the proposed takeover offer. These requests were transmitted to the companies on 12th May.

Paragraph 4 recites that Sir Peter Abeles on behalf of Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. indicated by letter of 26th May that there was no proposed offer in existence because, as honorable members will recall, when the legislation was enacted the proposed takeover by Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. was not immediately proceeded with.

Paragraph 5 of the report recites at some length—I do not propose to go into the details of the matter—certain information received by the Ansett transport group advising the

committee of the details of the proposed takeover and the sequence of events leading up to the proposal. The attendance of certain witnesses is referred to in paragraph 6. The witnesses referred to in the report were representatives of the Ansett interests. Paragraph 7 refers to a joint statement tendered to the committee on behalf of both companies. In this context it is important to bear in mind the chronology of the events, from the setting up of this committee.

The Select Committee was established on a motion moved on 26th April in a relevant Bill passed by this House. The effect was to prevent any form of exercise of voting rights to implement a takeover of the Ansett company pending the report of the Select Committee. The offer of Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. was withdrawn because legislation was proposed to be enacted. Nevertheless, it was considered that the Bill should proceed because there was always the possibility that the negotiations might be renewed. At its first meeting, the committee had some doubts whether it should proceed with its deliberations and it invited me to give evidence. I did so on 1st June, and my views were along the lines that the committee's proceedings should continue at least for some time while it examined the respective statements of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. At a later stage the Solicitor-General and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel also gave evidence. The two companies entered into further negotiations. The proposals which were outlined by the honorable member for Broadmeadows were made between the two companies and certain agreement was reached which proposed the giving of a seat on the board of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to one of the representatives of Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. The joint statement was tendered and forms part of paragraph 7 of the committee's report. Mr. T. H. Moss,

solicitor, tendered the following joint statement to the committee on behalf of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd.—

Agreement in principle has been reached between the Directors of Ansett Transport Industries Limited (A.T.I.) and Thomas Nationwide Transport Limited (T.N.T.) as follows:—

1. Subject to the approval of the Commonwealth Postmaster General, A.T.I. will register in the name of T.N.T. the 11,461,746 shares acquired by T.N.T. from W. R. Carpenter Holdings Limited and Boral interests.
2. A special resolution amending the Articles of Association of A.T.I. (To be supported by both T.N.T. and the Directors of A.T.I.) will be submitted to an Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of A.T.I. to amend the Articles of Association of A.T.I.
3. Sir Peter Abeles will be appointed a Director of A.T.I. after the adoption of the said special resolution.
4. T.N.T. has agreed to limit its shareholding in A.T.I. to 23.5 per cent unless otherwise agreed by T.N.T. and the Chairman of A.T.I.
5. A statement similar to this Statement will be furnished to the Secretary of the Melbourne Stock Exchange as soon as practicable.

It is pointed out that the proposed amendment to the Articles will affect only any shareholder holding more than 10 per cent of the ordinary shares in A.T.I. and therefore under existing circumstances T.N.T. is the only shareholder whose voting rights will be affected by the proposed amendment to the Articles of Association of A.T.I.

Paragraph 8 of the report then stated—

In the light of the information obtained from the Companies your Committee concludes that the proposed offer by T.N.T. to acquire the remainder of the issued share capital in A.T.I., which offer was withdrawn on 27th April, 1972, will not now be renewed.

The report of the Select Committee recites the facts to the present time and the issue then arose whether the Ansett company could obtain the consent of the Stock Exchange of Melbourne to the proposed amendment of its articles. The Stock Exchange of Melbourne indicated that it was not prepared to consent to the amendment of the articles. An approach was then made to me by the Ansett company to explore

whether special legislation should be passed which would, in effect, override the ruling of the stock exchange. Subsequently, the company intimated that it would not proceed with that request for legislation, but indicated that it would see if agreement could be reached and then submit this arrangement to the committee. I was approached about this matter, and I took the view that the Government had no right to direct the committee on the subject. The company then proceeded to put this proposition to the committee.

I now refer to two of the final paragraphs in the report. Paragraph 9, which has been referred to by the honorable member for Broadmeadows, states—

Your Committee is of the opinion that an examination of the principles proposed by A.T.I. in its submission and embodied in the agreement between the companies would extend the nature of the inquiry considerably beyond the terms of reference given to it by the House.

I point out that members of the House, apart from members of the committee, are at a disadvantage in debating this matter, because the submission by Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. is very detailed and was not printed with the report which is available to honorable members. Honorable members can inspect the evidence, but Ansett's submission is available only to members of the committee, and I should think that before judgment is passed in this matter appropriate arrangements might be made by the Clerk to have the comprehensive submission on which paragraph 9 is based made available to honorable members for deliberation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Sir Edgar Tanner).—I inform the House that copies of this submission are available in the Papers Room. It was tabled with the report. I also advise the House that it is a public document.

Sir GEORGE REID.—I think I am correct in saying that honorable members did not receive the submission with the report. I under-

stand that the Clerk has taken steps to make it available in anticipation of this debate. I am grateful to the officers of the House, particularly the Clerk, for doing so. It is a fifteen-page submission which honorable members should have an opportunity of studying before debating the matter.

As framed by the honorable member for Broadmeadows, the motion is obscure, although in his speech the honorable member has made points which I assume following speakers will confirm in supporting his call for the appointment of a committee to examine the relationship of Ansett to the transport industry in this State. Paragraph 10 of the committee's report stated, *inter alia*—

A further written submission dated 3rd August, 1972, was received from A.T.I. requesting that the Parliament enact legislation to ensure a restriction on voting rights of shareholders in A.T.I. (see Appendix B). However, this matter appeared to be outside the terms of reference of your Committee and evidence was not called on this aspect.

From the honorable member's remarks in moving this motion I understand that he desires a committee to be constituted to conduct a wide inquiry which should include an examination of the voting rights.

Another matter which vitally affects the motion is a Ministerial statement made by Senator R. C. Cotton, Minister for Civil Aviation, on 29th August last concerning civil aviation policy. I believe the date on which this statement was made—29th August—is significant, because although this report was tabled in the House on or about 5th or 6th September, at that stage the committee would not have had time to consider Senator Cotton's statement.

I believe honorable members should study this, particularly in the context of the statements made by the honorable member for Broadmeadows on the wide question of a consideration of Ansett Transport

Industries Ltd. in relation to transport generally. Certain matters mentioned in Senator Cotton's speech are of importance.

Mr. WILTON.—Will the Attorney-General table a copy of the Ministerial statement?

Sir GEORGE REID.—It is reported in Commonwealth *Hansard*. I have extra copies of it which I will make available.

Although the Government gives full weight to the observations of the honorable member for Broadmeadows, it is of the opinion that, in view of the desirability of a study of this lengthy submission and of Senator Cotton's statement, it would be prudent at some stage to adjourn this debate.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I find that anything which emanates from the Federal Parliament is of some interest, but what we are talking about are the sovereign rights of this Parliament. Although we may be impressed by statements made by Senator Cotton, once this Parliament has taken a decision, for good or ill, on our sovereign rights, I do not believe we should concede an automatic restriction of those rights as a result of a statement made by a Federal Minister.

I invite honorable members to consider the situation in which the House finds itself. The basis upon which the House decided to institute an inquiry into the attempted takeover of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. is, I think, fully understood by all honorable members. It was in simple terms—

...having regard to its importance to the economy of the State of Victoria and in particular to transport services in Victoria and whether it is desirable in the public interest that there should be any action by the Parliament or the Government of Victoria in relation to the proposed takeover scheme.

That was the basis upon which this Parliament decided that it would maintain a very important principle

that is traditional in this House—it is certainly important for the Government. As a matter of philosophy, the Government has traditionally regarded free interchange in the market as sacrosanct, although the Opposition has never shared that view.

If it had not been for the way in which the relevant Bill was drafted, the committee would have had full power to examine all aspects of the matter. But if one studies the history of this proposition, one will recall that some members on the Government side of the House took the view from the moment the debate began that this Parliament had no right to interfere in the market. That is a legitimate position to adopt, but it was not the decision of the House. The House decided, for good or for ill, that Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. was critical to the operation of transport services in this State; indeed, that was also Sir Reginald Ansett's view. As a result, Parliament decided that it was necessary for an inquiry to be conducted.

After the inquiry had begun, the offer was withdrawn, but, if it had wanted to expend taxpayers' money, it was still open to the committee to hold an exhaustive inquiry into an offer that no longer existed. In that regard the committee acted wisely. However, there was a statutory limitation, and that was the view of the committee in the light of the subsequent events. This involved Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and the company which was involved in the takeover offer coming to some sort of agreement. This is where the crunch issue is for this Parliament.

The Opposition takes the view that the Parliament is either in or out of this field. The business community is entitled to expect certainty from the Parliament. The Parliament can leave all of the transactions alone and adopt the view which has been adopted by some honorable members, namely, that

they are not the prerogative of Parliament. That view is not shared by the Opposition. There is however, one thing that this Parliament should never be involved in. Parliament should never be at the beck and call of certain business gentlemen in the community who, when in trouble, call on the Government to have a Select Committee appointed and then, because they are able to make their own private deals in back rooms and board rooms, say, "Thank you very much, gentlemen, for your intervention, but we no longer need the attention of a Parliamentary committee".

The difficulty which confronts the Government and the Attorney-General is related to the integrity of this Parliament as an institution. Let us assume that the board of the takeover company had been able to persuade Sir Reginald Ansett that, if it paid him enough, it was in his interests to retire and it would continue to operate the business.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—That is not a fair statement.

Mr. HOLDING.—I did not say that that is the situation. I simply invited members to assume something because I am putting a theoretical point.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—It is a reflection.

Mr. HOLDING.—No reflection is intended, as the honorable member knows. Let us assume that directors of those two companies made an arrangement which was completely satisfactory to themselves. Would that arrangement exclude an investigation by this Parliament once the Parliament itself had made a decision that it regarded Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. as being critical to the operation of transport activities in this State? That is the point.

What is the situation that has emerged? As has been pointed out by the honorable member for Broadmeadows, the proposal put to the committee — which honorable mem-

bers can examine — is unacceptable to the Stock Exchange of Melbourne. The Stock Exchange of Melbourne—quite rightly in my view — said that it was not going to have one set of rules for Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and another set for everybody else who had to deal on the stock exchange.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—It has had in the past — for trustees companies.

Mr. HOLDING.—I will allow the Leader of the Country Party to make his own apology for the business interests for whom he regards himself as being able to speak. The Leader of the Country Party is a businessman acting under the guise of leading a farmers' party.

Mr. WHITING.—And a very good one.

Mr. HOLDING.—I have never doubted that for a moment.

Mr. WILTSHIRE.—You are a capitalist.

Mr. HOLDING.—I wish I were! The important point is that this Parliament cannot afford to find itself in a situation where it has a set of double standards. It is coming dangerously close to that in this situation. The Stock Exchange of Melbourne has taken a view on this matter.

The premise upon which this Parliament operated when it came to consider this takeover proposal was that the whole nature of the operation of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. was such that it was critical to the over-all economy of Victoria, and that any takeover bid had to be subject to the investigation of a particular committee. Because of what was largely a limitation in drafting, it was not possible for the committee entrusted with this task to carry out its function. Since that committee was established, another committee was given the function of inquiring into all takeovers, so it is not a question of establishing a new committee; a committee already exists the personnel of which is

largely the same as that of the committee which was set up as a result of a decision of this Parliament.

I now come to what I believe is the essence of the motion moved by the honorable member for Broadmeadows. For the Attorney-General and the Government to say that this matter should not now be referred to a committee—

Sir GEORGE REID.—We are not saying that.

Mr. HOLDING.—With great respect to the Attorney-General, he will not know — nor will any other members — anything further about this proposal by reading the document to which he referred, because I understand that yet a further agreement has been arrived at between the board of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and the company which made the takeover bid, and that particular agreement is not before the committee.

Sir GEORGE REID.—It is not before the House.

Mr. HOLDING.—That is so.

Sir GEORGE REID.—I think we should have these documents.

Mr. HOLDING.—The Attorney-General is now suggesting presumably that it is necessary for each individual honorable member to consider the scope of yet a further private agreement between the directors of the two companies concerned to ascertain whether the takeover committee established by this Parliament should review the whole operation.

This Parliament cannot have it both ways. If Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. was of the size, scope and operation which this Parliament decided it was and that therefore any takeover operation which could affect the operation of the company should be subject to examination by the committee, nothing has occurred since which has changed that position. The scope of the inquiry which was about to be embarked upon by the Ansett takeover committee was

an enormous undertaking. It is utter rubbish to suggest that any honorable member who is not a member of a Select Committee could possibly devote sufficient time to examine individually the scope, the operation and the complexity of the Ansett system of companies and to work his way through the economic import of the latest agreement which has been reached by the directors. That is the reality. No matter what documents were placed before the House, no one member as an individual has the resources to embark upon the sort of examination which would enable him to come back to this House and say, "From my private examination, this is all right." That is why, in the first instance, Parliament decided to refer this proposal to a committee of this House.

I believe the only honorable course that can now be taken by the House is to refer this whole matter — lock, stock and barrel — to the committee which now exists to examine takeovers. I make that suggestion because that is its function. To involve ourselves in any other course would lay this Parliament open to the charge that honorable members allowed themselves to be caught up in a set of manipulations which made Parliament a vehicle for Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to prevent a particular takeover bid. Either this Parliament intervened in this issue as a matter of principle, or it did not. If it did not, let us acknowledge the fact and stop pretending that as a Parliament we are concerned with takeovers.

At least there was integrity in the position adopted by certain honorable members. The honorable member for Evelyn, as a member of the Government party, expressed the view that this House has no right to interfere with the free exchange of the market. That is not a view with which members of the Opposition disagree, but at least in view of the *laissez-faire* philosophy of the honorable member, it is a position of

integrity and honesty. The last position we should allow ourselves to get into is the situation where we are "in" and then, because a group of directors behind closed doors make all sorts of deals and come up with an agreement, we are "out". The Labor Party will not be a party to that sort of operation. Either there was a case for intervention and investigation or there was not, and that situation still stands.

I conclude on this statement by way of general comment. The Attorney-General virtually exercises his discretion and determines whether a takeover committee will examine certain takeovers and will not examine others. That situation is thoroughly undesirable.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—How can every takeover be investigated?

Mr. HOLDING.—I say to the businessman who leads the farmers in this community up the garden path—

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—I do not lead the farmers — I lead the Country Party.

Mr. HOLDING.—I bow to his knowledge of country affairs.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! The Leader of the Country Party.

Mr. HOLDING.—I bow to the knowledge of business affairs of the businessman who is the Leader of the Country Party. Either this Parliament gets out of this whole field and the principle expressed by the honorable member for Evelyn is conceded, or it lays down as a simple exercise in law the basis upon which it will intervene.

One thing the business community is entitled to have from this Parliament is certainty. It is entitled to be informed that, if it goes in for certain transactions, it can expect an investigation. I still fail to see the real difference between the proposed takeover which was made in respect of the Kiwi company and the operation under discussion. Parliament

decided to investigate the Ansett takeover bid. It set up the takeovers committee to consider the takeover bid for Frozen Food Industries of Australia Ltd. Within a matter of months when there was a takeover bid for the Kiwi company, honorable members were informed that the case was different.

With great respect to the honorable gentleman, no Attorney-General should be in the position to say to the business community, "I will investigate some takeovers and will not investigate others." I suggest that the Attorney-General has himself set certain principles. Those principles either should be mandatory and operate in such a way that there is no discretion within the Attorney-General's Department or within the Attorney-General himself, or they should not be.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—Who is going to decide?

Mr. HOLDING.—The Parliament decides as a matter of simple statutory interpretation. If a company which is completely foreign-owned wishes to takeover wholly a Victorian company, one can say that that is a case for investigation.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—Every time?

Mr. HOLDING.—Every time. Either that is done or Parliament gets out and adopts the position of the honorable member for Evelyn.

The SPEAKER.—Order! The honorable member is debating the wide subject.

Mr. HOLDING.—I will come back to the very narrow proposition before the House. Honorable members can labour over the documents as the honorable member for Broadmeadows, members of the committee and I have done. When they do so they will find that there is another document which they do not have but which they ought to have. Even when they do that they will be in no position to make a judgment because of the

scope and nature of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. What will be conceded if this matter is not referred for inquiry to a committee already established is that this Parliament has allowed itself to get into a position where it says that the nature of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. is such—

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—The honorable member agreed to it.

Mr. HOLDING.—That is right, but we are not prepared to crawl away from it as the honorable member seems to be doing. Once having taken that position we can carry out an investigation and refer it to a Select Committee to make a report to this House. The committee can submit interim reports and operate in the way a committee ought to operate. In this case the Government established a Select Committee, which had the effect of preventing a takeover offer, because once the committee was formed the offer was withdrawn. That situation having arisen, the matter was left to the gentlemen behind closed doors to make an agreement, and they came out saying, "We no longer need the Parliament of Victoria. Our business objectives have been achieved".

That is an impossible position for any Parliament. Parliament embarked upon a particular course and the Opposition supported the proposal for reasons of principle and public policy. Those matters of principle and public policy still stand and the only way in which this Parliament can vindicate itself is to continue as a matter of course. To adopt any other position is to put members of this Parliament and the Government in a situation where we will be accused—and not unjustly—of allowing ourselves as an institution to be manipulated by the Ansett group.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Leader of the Country Party).—The honorable member for Broadmeadows raised a most important issue which can be divided into two headings. The first point is that the immediate

problem facing the Ansett organization is one about which many honorable members are not well informed, and perhaps no one is informed officially, because I presume that, like myself, most honorable members depend on the daily newspapers for their knowledge of the present position. As I understand it, the first point on which both Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. reached agreement was the voting rights concerning a certain purchase of shares—

Mr. WILKES.—An agreement that cannot be put into operation.

Mr. ROSS - EDWARDS.—They reached agreement between themselves but the Stock Exchange of Melbourne, for its own good reasons, refused to accept that agreement. Therefore there is the unusual and unsatisfactory situation in which a big parcel of shares is virtually in limbo. No one has voting rights for them and they have not been registered by the Ansett organization. For obvious reasons, this unsatisfactory state of affairs cannot continue.

The second point concerns the principle for which the Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the matter, which was to delve into the role of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd., as a public utility, in the transport system of Victoria. This is an important matter to be investigated because an offer such as that made by Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. could be repeated. It could well be that the issue presently existing between the Thomas and Ansett groups could be resolved and some agreement reached to settle it; but we would then face another problem and, if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition observes his usual patience, he will hear of it. The fundamental point is that if a takeover offer comes which could alter the virtual control of the major part of the transport activities of this State it will be a serious matter to be considered by this Parliament

and should be further investigated. This was a recommendation made by the Ansett Transport Industries Committee, of which I was a member, and I reiterate my support for that proposition.

It is obvious that honorable members of this House, with the possible exception of those members of the Ansett Transport Industries Committee and a small number of other members—I think the Leader of the Opposition would agree with me—are not well informed on the problems which have been highlighted by the motion put forward by the honorable member for Broadmeadows. I support a firm inquiry into this matter, but suggest that an adjournment—it need not be lengthy—would be wise. The Country Party will certainly accept the assurance of the Attorney-General that the matter could be adjourned, but I should hope that after the adjournment the honorable gentleman would be prepared to state where the Ansett and Thomas groups at present stand. However unpleasant it would be to the Leader of the Opposition, we would have to talk about it. I suggest that a reasonably short adjournment is desirable, but I question the wisdom of the Company Take-overs Committee inquiring into the relationship of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to transport in Victoria.

If the issue of Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. is put aside, there is not really a takeover problem at present. Members of my party would like to know whether, if a takeover bid is made in the future, this Parliament should interfere. The duty of the Company Take-overs Committee, of which I am privileged to be a member, is to investigate a particular takeover bid. Guidelines have been set and it is the responsibility of the Attorney-General, if he feels a particular bid falls within those guidelines, to refer it to the committee. If the Opposition considers that the guidelines are too narrow or should be altered, that would be a matter to be debated in this House.

Mr. Ross-Edwards.

Many honorable members have looked at the guidelines and have varying opinions about them. The guidelines will have to be interpreted by someone who, doubtless, will be the Attorney-General. Perhaps in the future it will be someone else, but the decision will have to be made by a particular person and, in my view, to say it will be automatic is to be completely unrealistic. Therefore, with respect, I suggest that the debate be adjourned for a short period and that if the Government sets up a committee to inquire into the relationship between Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. and the transport industry in Victoria it should be a committee other than the Company Take-overs Committee.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—The purpose and reasons for the establishment of the Ansett Transport Industries Committee are well known to honorable members. The honorable member for Broadmeadows is asking that, because there have been three takeover propositions since the Ansett Transport Industries Committee made a recommendation to this Parliament that appear not to be operating in the best interests of the public of Victoria, the matters should be referred to an existing committee—not a new committee.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—That is not what the Leader of the Opposition said.

Mr. WILKES.—If the honorable member wishes to talk about the reasons why the Government set up two committees I shall be pleased to debate the matter with him. If I do not get an opportunity of doing so now, I shall certainly refer to the matter during the debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. The Government has been caught not with double standards but with treble standards on the issue of takeovers. The Government was caught when it first set up the committee. Before it knew where it was it found that its own supporters were amazed that a private enterprise Government

should have the temerity to interfere in any way with private enterprise. The reasons why the Government did so are well known and I shall not canvass them, but they were entirely different from the reasons why the Opposition supported the Bill. The case of the Opposition was made abundantly clear when my Leader indicated that he wanted an investigation of the Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. takeover—it was because of the commercial immorality which had existed in this State during the past ten years and which had gone untouched by this Government.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—I think the honorable member is getting away from the subject.

Mr. WILKES.—The Opposition's reasons for supporting the Bill were very different from those of the Government. The Opposition believed that if protection was to be afforded to the people of Victoria the Bill should be supported but that point can be developed in another debate. Suffice it to say that the committee submitted a clear recommendation in specific terms. The report of the Select Committee stated—

Your committee recommends that a more detailed examination should be made and a committee with wider terms of reference be appointed for this purpose in the next session.

I do not cross swords with any other honorable member except to say that already the Government has appointed a committee to carry out what the Ansett Transport Industries Committee could not do, namely, investigate company takeovers outside that of the attempted Ansett takeover. I should have thought that that committee would have had sufficient power and scope to be able to do what the Ansett Transport Industries Committee recommended to this Parliament but, of course, that committee failed dismally because the Attorney-General and the Premier did not have the intestinal fortitude

to refer to the committee other takeover bids that should have been referred to it. Even the Prime Minister referred to the matter.

How can the Opposition be expected to accept the credibility of the Government in this matter when nothing else has taken place and the Government, on the Attorney-General's suggestion, wants time in which to consider how it can avoid getting out of referring this matter for further investigation? The reasons the matter should be further referred for investigation have been clearly outlined by the Leader of the Opposition, who referred to two other propositions which, since the committee made its report, have been considered behind closed door, to which the committee has not had access.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—The Ansett Transport Industries Committee is no longer in existence.

Mr. WILKES.—That is so, but there is the Company Takeovers Committee, to which the Attorney-General has the right to refer these matters. The honorable member for Broadmeadows was a member of the committee and was alert to the tactic that the Government wanted to sweep this report under the door. On 3rd May, 1972, when debating the Parliamentary Committees (Take-overs Offers) Bill, the Attorney-General said —

This Bill is not intended to inhibit takeovers or to vary the law regulating takeovers in the interests of the shareholders of the companies involved. It is intended to enable the overriding public interest to be effectively considered by a joint committee of this Parliament. I commend the Bill to the House.

After the Attorney-General had made that clear statement to the House, surely the honorable gentleman can see that now, on the recommendation of his own committee and in the public interest, he ought to take further positive action on what has resulted from the attempted takeover. If honorable members consider this matter carefully they

will realize that in the first place Sir Reginald Ansett did not want Thomas Nationwide Transport Ltd. to take over his company and he expressed those sentiments. The reasons why he did not want the takeover to take place at that time are not necessarily the reasons that have been put forward now in the fresh proposition, and it is for this reason that Opposition members believe the Government and the Attorney-General should immediately advise the House that they are prepared to refer this matter to the existing takeovers committee. If the Attorney-General believes that committee is not competent, let him say so and appoint, as has been suggested, a further committee to do the job.

That is all that has been asked of the Attorney-General but he persists in wanting an adjournment of the debate. Why does the honorable gentleman want an adjournment? The facts are before the House. Honorable members may have been interested to hear the Attorney-General read the recommendations of the committee, but they had already read them. The important fact is that there have been changes. The Select Committee went out of business simply because the Ansett takeover bid was withdrawn, but since then there have been new facets of the takeover which should be investigated. If the Government is to justify establishment of a committee for any reason, it ought to allow the committee that has been appointed to clear the matter up, and honorable members on the Opposition side of the House are asking the Government to do just that. In the event of the Government not doing that, obviously it leaves itself open to criticism for operating under what is commonly known as double standards.

Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS.—Triple standards.

Mr. Wilkes.

Mr. WILKES.—I will inform the Leader of the Country Party about triple standards in another debate — I am trying to confine my remarks to this debate. I cannot understand why the Attorney-General is so reluctant to do what has been suggested. What is there to hide? An all-party committee was appointed and indeed the Government had the majority of members on that committee. Surely the honorable gentleman is not afraid of that committee. He should be confident that the members of that committee are able to investigate the matter and do what it has been suggested should be done. If the Attorney-General continues to resist the proposal put forward by the honorable member for Broadmeadows, I can understand the people of Victoria accepting the common view that the Government set up this Ansett committee because its arms were pushed up behind its back in the first place.

In the interests of this Parliament it is the Government's clear responsibility to dispel that notion that has permeated the minds of some people in the community and is now permeating the minds of some supporters of the Government. The only way in which the Government can do that honorably is to accept the suggestion made by the honorable member for Broadmeadows. If I were to make a personal comment, I should say that the honorable member for Broadmeadows is letting the Government off the hook, so to speak, by his motion, but he has moved the motion in the public interest rather than in a bid to gain political capital. I suggest to the Attorney-General that he does not persist with the proposition to adjourn the debate on this motion to give him time to find a way out of his dilemma.

The honorable gentleman's case rested on the fact that there was another document which was not tabled in the House with the report but which was available in the Papers Room. That document was a

submission by Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. to the Select Committee. Honorable members have had an opportunity of looking at the submission made by Ansett Transport Industries Ltd., but that does not alter the fact that the Stock Exchange of Melbourne refused to accept the proposition put forward by Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. The Government and the Attorney-General want honorable members to examine something that is not acceptable to the Stock Exchange of Melbourne, and if that is the case the Government should put something more substantial before the House.

The document has been rejected by the Stock Exchange of Melbourne but the Government wants honorable members to read it and ignore the suggestion put forward by the honorable member for Broadmeadows. That is the stupidity of the argument. I suggest to the Attorney-General that he should desist from his suggestion to adjourn the debate on the motion but should give the House an assurance that he will continue with the appointment of a committee now and allow the House to get on with its business.

Mr. STOKES (Evelyn).—The Bill to appoint a Select Committee to investigate some takeovers in the State was rushed through Parliament. At the time I was one who suggested that more thought should be given to it and I also indicated that it would not work. I am speaking tonight for two reasons. The Leader of the Opposition said that this Parliament was not sure—

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Chirstie).—Order! I do think the honorable member is criticizing the procedures of the House and is therefore out of order. I ask the honorable member to keep within the terms of the motion.

Mr. STOKES.—There are two reasons for my participating in the debate. The first is to repeat the statement I made that Parliament

should not burden itself by investigating deals between companies engaged in a particular industry. I have previously said that it was unwise and impracticable for this Parliament to try to discover the detailed ramifications of business organizations throughout Victoria and that it would be an infringement on the rights of private enterprise.

The Leader of the Opposition stated that Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. had an important bearing on the transport system in Victoria and because of this the company should be protected. He commenced his argument by stating that he had support for that statement from Sir Reginald Ansett. Sir Reginald Ansett might have thought that about his own company but there was no evidence produced during the debate to refute the suggestion that if someone else took over the company the same services would not be provided or would not be equal to or better than the services already provided.

The reason given for the introduction of the Bill was that it was necessary to protect the employment of thousands of people residing in Victoria, but there was no evidence that this protection was necessary. I pointed out that if a Select Committee was appointed it was not correct that it should investigate some takeovers but that not all of them should be subject to investigation, and I still adhere to that belief. Over the years the management of a company can change; every stock exchange transaction changes ownership in business and this is a form of takeover.

A further reason I gave to the House on a previous occasion was that the takeover of Ansett Transport Industries Ltd. would not necessarily have a big effect on the economy of only one State because general transport affected Australia as a whole. Ansett's business was not confined solely to Victoria; it extended

beyond the borders of the State. So it is a Commonwealth matter. I believe Parliament was wrong in what it did on that occasion.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! The honorable member knows that under Standing Orders it is out of order to criticize a previous decision of this House.

Mr. STOKES.—I agree with you, Mr. Speaker, but I was just repeating what I had previously said. I feel that Parliament should not have taken the action it did because once the committee commences investigations into a company it can investigate all aspects of the business. The Leader of the Opposition represents a Socialist party, and if it became the Government it would be able to investigate all details of management of all business in Victoria and this would become a tremendous burden on private industry. I strongly recommend against a committee for investigating all companies. I suggest to the Government that it should move to repeal the legislation so that the complications which have arisen will not continue.

Mr. A. W. TAYLOR (Balwyn).—I move—

That the debate be now adjourned.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—On a point of order, I ask the Attorney-General until what date he suggests the debate should be adjourned.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—I suggest an adjournment until 10th October. It should not be later than 10th October. I move—

That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 10.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—The Opposition is not opposing an adjournment until 10th October on the clear understanding that the debate will be resumed on that date. The Attorney-General has given me that assurance and I accept it. In effect, it is a fortnight's adjournment.

The motion was agreed to, and it was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 10.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL.

Sir GEORGE REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This short Bill is in a form well known to most honorable members, but it relates to an important and historic matter—the convention of delegates from all the Parliaments of Australia, which is to be held in Albury next year, to review the Australian Constitution.

The Bill authorizes the payment of an attendance fee to delegates for each attendance at a meeting of delegates and the payment of appropriate travelling expenses. The rate of attendance fee is the same as for Parliamentary committees. The Bill also makes an appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of the amounts necessary to meet the costs of the convention. These amounts are not to exceed \$50,000 in any financial year. Lastly, it makes perfectly clear that the acceptance of these payments by members of the Parliament will not operate to disqualify them as members.

For the information of honorable members I should like to report on the progress of the preparations for the convention. Firstly, the Commonwealth Government has indicated that it is prepared to bear one-half of the costs incurred in staging the convention. The States have agreed to distribute the remaining 50 per cent between them on a population basis. This means that Victoria will be responsible for approximately 14 per cent of the costs of the staging of the convention.

Secondly, there has already been a meeting of the Victorian delegation at which the preparations for the convention were reviewed and it was decided to seek submissions from local government and other interested bodies so that the submissions could be considered by the delegates before the convention.

Thirdly, the Victorian delegation has selected the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to represent it at a meeting of representatives of the various delegations which is to be held in Adelaide on 5th and 6th October next. At that meeting it is expected that final arrangements for the Albury meeting will be made.

The Government believes that the work of the Constitutional Convention is of the utmost importance and is confident that it will be supported by every member of this Parliament. 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 27.

The sitting was suspended at 6.20 p.m. until 8.4 p.m.

RINGWOOD (RECREATION RESERVE) LAND BILL.

The Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the motion for the second reading of this Bill was read.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—On examining this Bill, I am of opinion that it is a private Bill.

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—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.

The debate (adjourned from September 5) on the motion of Mr. Borthwick (Minister of Lands) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—The Opposition offers no objection to the measure which regularizes a situation existing in the City of Ringwood concerning the Scouts Association of Australia, Victorian Branch, and the lease of a hall established for some time on land which came to the Crown as the

result of an arrangement between the Government and the City of Ringwood. The usual safeguards concerning covenants, restrictions and so on requiring the approval of the Governor in Council appear in the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

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

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 13) on the motion of Mr. Meagher (Chief Secretary) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—This small Bill is important to the illegitimate child. All honorable members know of the strange legal concept that an illegitimate child has no father, with the result that most children in this situation are registered by the mother and not by the father. An illegitimate child has no rights whatever against the father. I understand that the honorable member for Mitcham felt that the child would be helped somewhat to overcome this stigma attaching to his birth if there were some legal authority for the birth of the child to be registered under the name of the father.

To some extent, the measure preserves the old common law fiction that the child has no father, because proposed sub-section (2) of section 13 provides—

Nothing in sub-section (1) should be taken as requiring the father of an illegitimate child to give any information concerning the birth of the illegitimate child.

Although, under the common law, the child has no rights whatever against the father, under the statute law there is a right in the mother to maintain proceedings against the actual father for maintenance during the period of two months prior to

the child's birth, for the confinement charges and maintenance afterwards for the child if she can prove who the father was.

I have no doubt that the honorable member for Mitcham desired to alleviate the unfortunate situation of this class of child and that her efforts have resulted in the drafting of sub-section (1) of proposed new section 25, which states—

No person shall be registered as the father of an illegitimate child unless the several particulars required by section 13 to be given are given by—

(a) both the mother and the father ; or

(b) the father with the consent in writing of the mother.

Sub-section (2) of the proposed new section empowers the Government Statist to dispense with the consent required by paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) if he is satisfied by declaration or otherwise that the mother of the child is dead, that the mother of the child cannot after reasonable inquiry be found, and so on. Section 13 sets out the particulars necessary to be given in relation to any child.

The unfortunate aspect of this subject is that many mothers of these children are unable to catch the fugitive father. It is said that the majority of fathers of this type of child are merchant seamen and in those circumstances it is extremely difficult for the mother to bring proceedings against the father, although the statute gives the mother that power.

I should like to quote a short passage from page 22 of *The Unmarried Mother and her Child* by Virginia Wimperis, M.A. (Cantab.). It states—

A child normally looks to its father for financial support, but how far can an illegitimate child do so? In a country where perhaps about one man in every twenty-five is a 'natural' father, this is an important question.

Even today English law is based on what Johan Castberg, the Norwegian social reformer, described in 1915 as 'the outrageous and unnatural fiction that the illegitimate child has only a mother'. Thus except for a

few specific purposes, a natural son has no legal kinship to his father—or with any other child of his mother—

and so on. There are no rights of succession. In law, these unfortunate children are in an unfavourable position. I hope the honorable member for Mitcham will pursue this matter further with the view of ensuring that the natural father has a greater obligation to the child than he has at present. At least, as a result of the amendments made by the Bill, the name of the father of the child can be registered as the surname, instead of that of the mother. For those reasons, the Labor Party supports the Bill.

Mr. BROAD (Swan Hill).—The Country Party approves of this measure. The House last debated a measure relating to births, deaths and marriages in 1970. Since then certain weaknesses in the legislation have become evident, and certain avenues of possible improvement have become open to us. The increasing number of illegitimate births—in particular, the increasing number of births where the parentage is not known—makes it extremely difficult for exact and intelligent registration to be made. One forms the impression that although many may approve of the idea of the permissive society as something which enlarges life's opportunities for extended pleasure and fulfilment, this improvement does not extend to the children of that permissive society, many of whom start life under a severe disadvantage.

Some never see their father, as the honorable member for Brunswick West movingly told the House. For some there is no home to which their mother can take them. Some, as the measure indicates, scarcely know what their name is. Unfortunately this Bill does not and cannot wholly correct this sorry state of affairs. But it will somewhat mitigate the handicaps of these children and assist those who are endeavouring—often with a large

measure of success—to prepare these children for a normal happy life.

One of the main points of this measure which concerns the registration of birth of illegitimate children is contained in clause 6, which inserts a new section after section 25 of the principal Act. Where additional knowledge comes to hand about the father of the child after an illegitimate child has been registered, the Government Statist may—with the consent of the mother—record this information on the birth certificate. However, the statist may, at his discretion, as provided in proposed new section 25, contained in clause 5 of the Bill, dispense with the mother's consent if the mother is dead, lost or mentally unbalanced. Two further principles are important. They are mentioned in clause 3, which provides—

After section 16 of the principal Act there shall be inserted the following section:—

“16A. (1) Where a person is registered as the father of a child the surname of the child in the register of births shall be the same as the surname of the father.

(2) Where no person is registered as the father of the child the surname of the child in the register of births shall be the same as the surname of the mother.”

I pay tribute to those who, because of their deep interest, have given time and thought to ironing out these difficulties. I hope the Bill will improve the position for both administrators and the children concerned.

Mrs. GOBLE (Mitcham).—I express my gratification that this measure has been introduced into the Parliament, and my appreciation to the Chief Secretary for awarding me part of the credit for its introduction. There is no way in the world that a Parliament can legislate to force people to accept their responsibilities if they are not prepared to do so, particularly in the case of the father of an illegitimate child. But Parliament can legislate to remove some of the disadvantages which the illegitimate child suffers. That is what this measure sets out to do

and, up to a point, what it achieves. I agree with the honorable member for Brunswick West that more might be done in later measures. Previously, in suggesting that steps might be taken for this measure to be introduced, I mentioned the advisability of drafting a measure which would enable illegitimate children to inherit by right. At present illegitimate children have no rights in the father's estate if he dies intestate. An illegitimate child has rights in the mother's estate if he or she is the only child. If there are other, legitimate children, the illegitimate child is denied any part of the mother's estate if she dies intestate. It is not fair to deprive children of their natural rights when they are not responsible for the situation which has arisen.

I am pleased that this measure goes as far as it does but I urge that we go even further.

Mr. SUGGETT (Bentleigh).—I congratulate the Government.

Mr. WILKES.—Give yourself a pat on the back.

Mr. SUGGETT.—If the Opposition had any decency, it, too, would congratulate the Government, but I fear that is too much to expect. I hope it will not be misconstrued if I speak of the Opposition in one breath and refer to illegitimacy in the next. That is purely coincidental; there is no connection whatsoever.

In the past there has been a slur or stigma on the illegitimate child. The Bible says that the sins of the parents shall be visited on the children. I am afraid I cannot quote the date of the publication or give the author. The Bill refers to section 17 of the principal Act, sub-section (1) of which provides, *inter alia*—

If any child whose birth has been registered under this Act without a first or christian name has any such name given to it after the registration, or if any additional first name or christian name is given to a child to whom a first name or christian name was

given at the time when its birth was registered, the parents of the child, at any time within one year after the date of the original registration of the birth, may in writing request the Government Statist to register the name so given and the Government Statist shall register the name accordingly.

The word "Christian" occurs quite often and I suggest that this section should be amended to read "given name". Australia is a Christian country but there are countries in the world which are not recognized as being Christian. There are people in the community who do not claim to be Christians. It would be more realistic to use the term "given name". This is a relevant point and the Act should be amended to read "given or first name" of the child. I trust that the Government will consider that suggestion.

Apart from that, this measure is a realistic approach to a social problem and it is one on which the Government should be congratulated. Illegitimacy is part of our permissive society. We cannot condemn or condone it, but we must ensure that the results of permissiveness shall not be visited on the offspring.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Gippsland West).—I join with the honorable member for Mitcham in welcoming this Bill and the changes it introduces. I support her suggestions that these changes should be taken further. One part of the Bill which concerns me is clause 6. It is not usual, in a second-reading debate, to address one's mind to a particular clause, but the area of my dissatisfaction is important. Any alteration to be made to the registration of an illegitimate birth will be made in the margin of the register. When a father's name is added to the registration, it will be added only in the margin and the date on which that alteration is made is to be added to the surname, and the alteration is to be signed by the father.

It is unsatisfactory that a child who has the misfortune to be born illegitimate, or to be in a position

where his birth registration is treated as illegitimate, should have to carry this record with him throughout his life whenever a full birth certificate is required. It does not appear on an extract of birth entry. Honorable members will be familiar with the circumstances where an extract of birth entry is not satisfactory and where a full birth certificate is required. These may be job applications or insurance matters.

It is unnecessary to inflict on the child the embarrassment of an amendment being made in the margin, and the date of the amendment, whenever a full birth certificate is needed. I should be happy if the Chief Secretary would undertake to review this matter before the transmission of this Bill from this House to another place, with a view to ensuring that there is no administrative requirement for an amendment to be made in the margin rather than to have a fresh certificate issued showing no indication of the alteration, so that the child whose parents have acknowledged the birth should be in no worse position than children born in wedlock. The mere accident of time of registration should not be there to haunt the child. I am sure that the honorable member for Mitcham would be satisfied with nothing less than that a child should be left without a slur, which is, after all, merely a fault or an accident of the parents. The parents, not the child, should carry the responsibility and the burden.

It surprises me that this approach has not been suggested by members of the Opposition. One can only regret that it has not been taken up. I hope to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition support me.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I commend the honorable member for Brunswick West on his observations on this Bill and also the honorable member for Mitcham for the sincere interest she has shown in this problem. One would have thought that

in proposed legislation of this type the Government would consider removing from the statute the words "legitimate" and "illegitimate". By so doing it would remove the stigma that should not be carried by a child, whether it be born in or out of wedlock. Whether or not the father acknowledges responsibility the fact is that the stigma remains. It would have been a worth-while social step to remove that stigma.

It is common knowledge in the world today that young people decide to use standards best known to themselves in deciding whether or not to enter into wedlock. A child born out of wedlock should not be stigmatized or considered to be any less a citizen than a child born in wedlock. Legal problems are associated with this Act but they are not insurmountable. From a purely social point of view the stigma could be better removed and equality retained if the word "illegitimate" were removed from the statute. I commend that approach to the Government for its serious consideration. I agree with the honorable member for Mitcham in her hope that the Government may seriously consider this aspect.

Because of changing times, the standards that apply today may not have applied in your day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or in mine. Perhaps we do not approve of some of the standards accepted today. The fact is that they are accepted by certain members of the community; but that acceptance should not in any way stigmatize a child because it is born out of wedlock. I appeal to the Government to remove this stigma as soon as possible.

Mr. McLAREN (Bennettswood).— I wish to comment on two aspects. Firstly, records of births, deaths and marriages are of historical importance. In future, a need will exist, because of the huge accumulation of information that is available, for records of the Government Statist to be computerized so that it will

be readily available. If one wished to get "a line" on a particular family, ready reference would be available.

I bring to the notice of the Chief Secretary the possibility that because of rising fees for extracts of entries of births, deaths and marriages, people concerned with historical research and records, particularly those who do work on the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* should be given some concession in the searches that are made for this purpose. I compliment the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the ready assistance he has given to these people.

Secondly, I commend the remarks made by previous speakers and compliment them for looking at this matter as a social problem and on their interest in ensuring that children born out of wedlock should not be placed under any restriction. I applaud the statement of the honorable member for Gippsland West that steps should be taken to ensure that children should not be stigmatized.

It is interesting to note the social forces working in this direction and the fact that the Government has proposed this legislation is an indication of the recognition by society as a whole of the changing forces in society. I suggest that there are two bases upon which these changes are taking place. One is the increased social acceptability of illegitimacy, at least for the unwed mother. The more permissive atmosphere in our society is balanced out by the recognition of the place of the unwed mother and particularly to the child born out of wedlock. A further factor is the increased activity of the newly-vigorous police Abortion Squad.

I commend to the study of honorable members an article by Max Suich published in the *Australian Financial Review* of 21st January of this year, under the heading, "As community standards alter the illegitimacy rate rises." The author makes

a comparison State by State of the ex-nuptial births as a percentage of the total births. He shows that for Australia as a whole in 1969-70 the figure for these births was 8·30, but in the first half of 1970-71—the latest figures available—it had increased to 9·03. In Victoria, the figure had increased from 6·05 to 6·59. It is interesting to note that the largest increase was in the Northern Territory where, for obvious reasons, the figure rose from 16·23 to 18·40.

I refer to an article in the *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, volume 7, number 2 of 1972, written by Benjamin Schlesinger, a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Toronto, who is at present a visiting lecturer at the Department of Social Work, University of Western Australia. He indicated that the single-parent family in Australia was a subject that needed a great deal of review because of the changes that were taking place in society, such as I have shown. He quoted from the study and report on poverty in Melbourne by Professor Henderson, published in 1970. He showed that the biggest risks are the families without fathers. This is one of the subjects that we as a society must face up to in future to ensure that the children are looked after.

I am concerned with all aspects of this matter because I am a foster parent of a child that comes within this risk category. I recognize the enormous difficulties which children experience in the community because of the risk that they face. I also refer to the study by Shanmugan and Wood published in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology*, volume 6, number 1, dated April, 1970. The subject was "Unwed mothers: A study of 100 girls in Melbourne, Victoria". The authors showed that, in an examination of 100 cases of unwed mothers in a Melbourne hospital in 1968, 70 of the girls were under the age of

21 years. Only sixteen girls intended to keep the baby, and eventually fourteen did so. The emphasis of this Parliament and of our society should be to attempt to keep the mother and the child together. In that atmosphere there exists the greatest possibility of the baby being accepted in society and of becoming a normal person within the community. I believe the Bill accepts the situation I have just outlined.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2 (Amendment of No. 6564 section 13).

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—I thank honorable members for their support and I propose to make some brief comments in reply to their contributions to the debate. The honorable member for Mitcham hoped for an extension of this proposed legislation to safeguard the inheritance of illegitimate children of assets which might come from the estate of the parents. I appreciate the motive behind what has been said and the thought that the rights of these children should be preserved, and I realize that complex problems could be involved in determining the proper inheritance, but this is probably more easily said than done. The matter will be examined to determine whether anything can be done along the lines suggested.

The honorable member for Gippsland West expressed the thought that putting the particulars of the father when they are disclosed later than the date of birth in the margin could become a permanent record to the effect that the father was not known at the time of birth. I appreciate that thought, and I think it is good, but, again, other than by making annotations in the margin,

there may be difficult problems involved in altering a register of this nature at a subsequent date. I shall examine the proposition and decide whether it is possible to do anything about it.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, again with high motives, suggested that the words "legitimate" and "illegitimate" might be deleted from the Act. I support the honorable member's intentions, but the problem is that whilst the Act does in fact differentiate between a legitimate and an illegitimate child, the only way to remove those words would be by substituting two other words having the same meaning. I cannot see any practical way in which this could be achieved. If it were possible to meet all of the other questions which have been raised, possibly it would be feasible to remove those words from the Act. It is the differentiation which makes use of the words "legitimate" and "illegitimate" necessary. For those reasons, I cannot promise very much in that field unless the Act is completely rewritten.

For what it is worth, I have given honorable members as much comfort as I can. To sum up, I agree that it is most unreasonable for any child to be stigmatized by knowledge of the fact that its parents did not meet the conventions of the day. It is not the child's fault, and I should be happy to do anything by way of legislation that could remove that stigma; but whether that is possible is a moot point. I conclude by saying that I completely support the sentiments expressed, but I express doubts about the practicality of putting them into legislative form.

The clause was agreed to, as was clause 3.

Clause 4 (Amendment of No. 6564 s. 17).

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—I point out to the honorable member for Bentleigh that the matter about which he complained concerning clause 4 is already provided for in section 17 of the principal Act. The honorable member was protesting that a non-Christian should not have to fill in a form or refer to a Christian name, but sub-section (1) of section 17 of the principal Act provides, *inter alia* —

...or if any additional first name or Christian name is given to a child to whom a first name or Christian name was given at the time when its birth was registered...

It is obvious that the honorable member for Bentleigh has not read that section.

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.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT (CONJOINT ELECTIONS) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 5) on the motion of Mr. Meagher (Chief Secretary) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—This Bill is comparatively small but it is important in its effect. It simply amends The Constitution Act Amendment Act to provide that the election of members of the Legislative Council will take place conjointly with the election of members of the Legislative Assembly. The reasons for this decision are outlined in the Minister's second-reading speech, in which he points out, that, to date, conjoint elections have in fact saved the taxpayers of Victoria in the vicinity of \$900,000. It is also pointed out that passage of this Bill by the Parliament will save taxpayers the sum of \$350,000.

When considering conjoint elections, I suppose members of all parties approach the question from

the not very commendable standpoint of asking themselves, "Is this to our political advantage, or not?" Perhaps it is a matter which can be argued, but the attitude of members of the Opposition to this is that if savings of this size can be effected, they ought to be effected and, for that reason, we do not oppose this measure.

Of course, if the Government is concerned with the need to save funds, it could save a great deal more than the \$350,000 that it has mentioned by abolishing the Legislative Council; because if one looks at the reality of that institution one cannot seriously pretend that it operates as a House of review in this State.

Mr. WILKES.—It is an anachronism.

Mr. HOLDING.—I adopt the comment of my colleague. It is an historical anachronism, which stems from a time when in Victoria there was a difference in the rights of citizens and when property was regarded as being the basis on which a man was entitled to exercise a vote. Theoretically, it was seen as an institution whose function was to temper some of the wilder decisions that might have emanated from the Legislative Assembly.

What in fact has been the role of the Legislative Council in recent years? It has simply been a pale reflection of the debates which have taken place in this House and, quite frankly, the money that is expended in keeping those gentlemen on their red velvet seats is an expense that taxpayers in this State can no longer afford. At a stage when the Government is anxious to conserve funds, it is not to its credit to perpetuate this political anachronism.

Every honorable member knows the facts of political life. I cannot recall a single occasion since I have been a member of this institution when Liberal Party members in the

Legislative Council have voted differently from the way in which their colleagues in the Legislative Assembly have voted, and I concede that the same is true of members of the Country Party and members of the Labor Party.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—That is not true.

Mr. HOLDING.—From time to time there may have been exceptions by individual members, but they probably were exercises more in political expedience than principle. Every honorable member knows that early in the week all political parties have a party meeting at which attitudes to proposed legislation are decided.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Sir Edgar Tanner).—I think the Leader of the Opposition should relate his arguments to the principal subject of the Bill, namely, whether or not there should be conjoint elections.

Mr. HOLDING.—Yes, Sir, and my argument is that if the Legislative Council were abolished there would be no need for conjoint elections.

I do not propose to delay the House. I simply point out that what occurs every week is that all parties have party meetings. In some other States members of the Legislative Council do not meet with their colleagues of the Assembly, but that is not the practice in this Parliament when decisions are made at party meetings. All members are aware of and understand the strictures of party discipline and realize that they are bound by decisions which are taken at party meetings.

There are occasions — indeed, we have had them in this House — on which an individual member has been unhappy with the decision made by his party and has spoken against it, although I have yet to see an occasion on which a member has voted against a majority decision of his party. I have noticed that they absent themselves on occasions. That is the

reality of the practice which has been followed in this institution over many years. If that is the reality, when honorable members have before them a Bill designed to save the funds of the taxpayers, on what basis is this myth perpetuated that there is some mystique in the red-velveted Chamber across the hall—another place—which entitles its members, having sat in a party room and having deliberated with their colleagues, when a Bill such as this reaches that place, to decide suddenly to act as a House of review. That is palpable political nonsense, and every member of this House knows it.

Mr. STEPHEN.—A lot of leaders come from that House.

Mr. HOLDING.—I realize that there has been a dearth of leadership in the Liberal Party and that it has been necessary to bring a few down from another place, but that is an internal problem which confronts the Liberal Party. It would be unseemly for me to comment on it, and I do not propose to do so.

Another point I wish to make goes to the nature of this institution as an institution. I am not going to elaborate on what I regard as a grave affront to the whole operation of political democracy, that is, the existing political gerrymander, because that would be out of order. Assuming there exists a political system which entitles people to vote for a Government of their choice and they cast a majority vote for a particular party and its policies, the people are entitled to take the view that a Government that has been elected is bound by its policies and should be able to act entirely unencumbered, without the sort of nonsense that goes on in another place when it refers to itself as operating as a House of review.

I do not want to put the honorable gentlemen who are members of another place out of a job—not overnight, anyway—but the time has come when this Parliament and all political parties must look at the operation of political institutions in this State. I have issued this warning before, and I issue it again. Throughout the Western World the whole system of Parliamentary government as an institution is under attack. There has probably never before been a time in the history of the community when there have been so many pressures operating within the society, so many changes occurring. When those changes occur as rapidly as they are, we must have Parliamentary institutions which are capable of meeting those changes in society and reflecting them. I always feel there is something grossly inadequate when some of the real issues being debated in the community are not also debated in this Chamber.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! Although the subject being discussed by the Leader of the Opposition may be important, it is really not the subject before the House, which is whether the elections shall be held together and under what conditions. It is a question not of the relation between the Houses or their functions but conjoint—a dreadful word—elections.

Mr. HOLDING.—I shall not expand on that proposition. I shall simply say that this Parliament, when thinking about elections, has continually to consider the role of the Parliamentary institution. The point I was making before you entered the Chamber, Mr. Speaker, was that although the Government asserts that it proposes the holding of conjoint elections because of the considerable saving of taxpayers' money which can be effected, it can effect an even greater saving by abolishing the Legislative Council,

The SPEAKER — Order! That would be out of order.

Mr. HOLDING.—I commend the thoughts which I have already expressed. I shall abide by your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and hope that you will allow the same latitude to succeeding speakers as I have obtained.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—A Bill of this type seems to appear in this House every three years prior to the advent of a general election for the Legislative Assembly. I have spoken on similar legislation previously and have not changed my views on this question over the years. It is tragic for the democratic system which we have grown to appreciate and understand that this sort of procedure is being accepted by this Government. One of the essential elements of the British Parliamentary system has been to protect the rights of the minority. This proposal is having the effect of destroying the opportunity for a minority point of view to be registered in this place because under the system of conjoint elections the smaller parties are faced with the great expense of fighting election campaigns, often running candidates where they do not really want to do so, simply for the purpose of having a combined ticket. It also makes it difficult for independent persons to be elected to this place because they have not a combined ticket.

I challenge the approach of the Leader of the Opposition to the Parliamentary system because in my view the electors should be asked at election time to vote for an individual member, not for a party. The elector votes for a person in many cases on the basis of his political affiliations, and I do not disagree with that proposition, for a moment. But the basic intent of the British system was for groups of people in electorates throughout the country to elect members to a Parliament.

Once elected, those members got together, sorted out their affiliations and formed a Government. That is briefly the historical background to our Parliamentary system. The system which is adopted in Victoria at present, judging by the reactions of Opposition members on the back benches, means that in some instances we are not getting a good type of member in this place because they certainly do not believe in giving minorities the opportunity of expressing their views in this Chamber.

The question I pose is: How valuable is the vote to individuals? Is the \$350,000 which it is alleged will be saved by conjoint elections a waste of money? Is it a waste of money to give people an opportunity of expressing their opinion through the ballot-box? In the vestibule of this building an inscription on the floor states—

Where there is no counsel the people fall but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

That is a wise statement which warrants a great deal of thought.

If conjoint elections are continued it will ultimately mean the end of the bicameral system in this State because it is illogical to believe in a bicameral system and also in conjoint elections. I can accept the logic of the Opposition's point of view on this question. At least it is consistent. Its members state that they do not believe in the bicameral system and therefore they support conjoint elections. I cannot understand the Government's attitude when it asserts that it supports the bicameral system and supports this proposition for conjoint elections which I am certain will ultimately mean the end of the bicameral system in Victoria.

I realize that the die is cast on this question because the two major parties in the State are intent on carrying on with this procedure. No doubt there will have to be some unusual intervention in the political

arena—not unprecedented in years gone by—to bring about a dissolution of the Lower House prior to the end of the three-year term. This is a sound protection. It is preferable to have such a system than, say, the American system under which a Government is elected for a set term of office and regardless of how it performs it remains in power for that period. At least under our system, particularly under the bicameral system, if the circumstances demand, a Government may be put out of office before its term expires and the people given an opportunity of expressing their opinions once again.

The fact that the Leader of the Opposition likes to have two bob each way was demonstrated when he commented that in his experience no member of the Legislative Council had ever voted in a different manner from that of his party colleagues in the Legislative Assembly. That is an incorrect assertion. When that was pointed out to him he was ungracious enough to say that if it had been done it must have been for political expediency. Where is the logic, reason and common sense in his approach?

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—Order! I do not think the debate should be taken as widely as that.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—I should not have taken it so wide if the Leader of the Opposition had confined his remarks to the subject-matter of the Bill which I consider is an important issue. The Leader of the Opposition should do a little more homework before he makes allegations. The Country Party is opposed to this Bill for the reasons I have stated. It is unfortunate, and the people of Victoria will live to regret this procedure if it is continued in the future.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong).—With less loquaciousness than the previous two speakers I shall make a

few brief comments. I have a theory that the fewer elections held the better. When more than a certain minimum number of elections are held, say, in a decade, the more interest people take in those which are held. In other words, the number of elections in excess of a certain minimum denigrates the lot. I do not know where I can obtain any support for this assertion and cannot quote figures, but it is true. There have been occasions when elections have quickly followed on other elections. I am not referring particularly to State elections, but on occasions municipal elections have quickly followed on other elections and the interest shown in the latter elections has been less than that shown in the first.

The whole democratic process is improved by holding elections less frequently. Separate elections for each House might mean that there would be an election held in June for the Lower House and one held in July, or August, for the Upper House. What would this achieve? If there were different rolls operating for each House it could be conceivable that an election policy for the Upper House would be different from that for the Lower House, and there would be some justification for saying that a completely different group in the community with a restricted franchise could receive a separate electoral approach; but that is not occurring at present. The same body of people will vote for the Upper House as for the Lower House and for that reason conjoint elections seem to make sense.

In the Commonwealth electoral system one sees a parallel for the point I have been discussing. The election for the Senate is removed from that of the House of Representatives by a longer period than is envisaged for the two Houses in this State and there is a marked difference in the voting procedure. Is this a good or bad procedure?

Mr. GINIFER.—It all depends which side one is on.

Mr. BIRRELL.—That is so. Obviously one party benefits under the Commonwealth Senate voting system. Is this vast change in voting patterns—it is quite noticeable in the Federal sphere—good for democracy? I do not believe it is good that there is this marked difference because it would appear that the psychology of these types of elections comes into the category of a mass by-election and I am never happy to see by-election results a few weeks after a general election as they often give completely different results. I have a feeling that they are not a real test of public opinion. Therefore the conjoint elections as held in Victoria appear to be sensible and reasonable.

The costs of elections should be the last consideration. I deplore the emphasis placed on costs and it should be recorded that the costs of Parliament over the past 50 years—and possibly longer than that—have been reduced steadily in relation to the total costs of government. Therefore honorable members should not denigrate themselves to the point of trying to make this matter a financial decision rather than a democratic and Parliamentary decision. Even if honorable members were to receive salary increases next week—this will not occur of course—it would not affect my view. In fact the costs of Parliament are relatively low when taken as a proportion of the total costs of Government. The system of elections operating today appears to be the fairest and most effective that can be devised.

The motion was agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: LAND AT TULLAMARINE: SUPERANNUATION PAYMENTS TO MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS: BALLAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL—COUNTRY ROADS BOARD: PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT NIDDRIE—HEALTH STUDIOS AND MASSAGE PARLORS: REGISTRATION—VICTORIAN RAILWAYS: LEVEL CROSSINGS—CHILDREN'S PROTECTION SOCIETY: GOVERNMENT GRANTS.

Mr. MEAGHER (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.

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—I should like the Chief Secretary to draw to the attention of the Minister of Education a matter with which I have been concerned. I have received from the Secretary of the Education Department a notification of the type which, I think, all honorable members receive when the department acquires land for educational purposes. I refer to a portion of land in my electorate in the Tullamarine area.

On 11th August, 1972, I wrote to Mr. Scully, Secretary of the Education Department, seeking details of the land and an indication of when the department may be in a position to put something on the land. I do not propose to go into the details of the letter, but I should appreciate it if the Minister would look into the matter to see if the letter has gone astray in the rather copious files of the Education Department.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—I wish to bring to the attention of the House and the Minister of Public Works the pedestrian bridge which has been constructed and is now in

operation in Keilor Road servicing the Niddrie High School and Niddrie Primary School. This problem has been brought to my attention by parents of children attending the schools. The parents are questioning why the bridge was built as high as it is, and are comparing it to a lower level bridge servicing the Braybrook Primary School. The parents believe that because of the height of the bridge, strong gusts of wind blow persons from one side railing to the other side of the bridge, and fears have arisen in the minds of some parents that injuries could be suffered by the children.

I should like the Minister to examine this problem and if the Country Roads Board and the people responsible for the construction of the bridge are satisfied that it is safe I should like them to give an assurance to the parents of the children to dispel any doubts in their minds. If the bridge is structurally sound—as we hope it is—perhaps something might be done to the sides of the bridge to provide further protection from the wind, thus preventing gusts of wind blowing children from one side of the bridge to the other.

Mr. JONES (Melbourne).—I wish to draw to the attention of the House and to the Government the discrimination against married women in the Married Women's Superannuation Fund Act. This is particularly applicable to married women teachers. As the Premier has recently introduced a Bill proposing changes to the Superannuation Act, this might be an appropriate time to bring the matter to the honorable gentleman's attention.

The honorable member for Gippsland East has raised this matter on a number of occasions under the "Old Order", but it might be an appropriate time to raise it again. In the case of the lady mentioned by the

honorable member for Gippsland East—a permanent teacher in the Education Department who married at a fairly advanced stage of her life—the situation was that on retirement she found that she was entitled only to a lump sum of \$16,000. If this sum had been invested at the rate of 7 per cent per annum it would have brought her an annuity of \$1,120, which, supposing she lived for ten years, would have provided a total amount of \$11,200. If she died, of course, her estate posthumously would have benefited by \$16,000. If she had been a single woman and continued until retirement as a single woman and had then lived for ten years she might have been entitled to as much as \$136.50 a week, which would amount to \$7,098 a year. Over a ten-year period this would have amounted to \$70,980.

It is extraordinary that sub-section (1) of section 36 of the Superannuation Act refers to three kinds of disqualification—discharge, dismissal or "being a female officer, marries". It is true that normally speaking married women can rely on the support of husbands but husbands die or disappear and it seems unfair—

Mr. ROSSITER.—What is all this about?

Mr. JONES.—As the former Premier with his characteristic unerring sensitivity replied in a letter to the honorable member for Albert Park dated 10th April, 1972—

It would indeed be unrealistic to say that a woman supported by her husband has as much need for superannuation cover as a woman dependent upon her own resources. Despite the trend of married women in employment, the obligation of a husband to support his wife and family is still enforceable and is a situation which cannot be disregarded.

What an inducement to the officers of the Education Department when they are recruiting women to say "If

you remain unmarried you are all right, but if you marry you will suffer by losing your superannuation. But you have the consolation of seeking maintenance from the courts”.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds).—I draw to the attention of the Chief Secretary an allegation that has been made to me that some health studios and massage parlours are now extending their activities to include other nefarious types of occupation which they are now advertising openly in the columns of the daily newspapers. I direct the attention of the Chief Secretary to the *Melbourne Truth* of Saturday, 16th September, where in one of the advertisements it is stated—

Why go elsewhere! Lowest rates in town for sauna and massage. Photo section for beginners.

I do not know why it is necessary for a massage parlour to have a photographic section. It would seem to me that this is an inducement for other activities. This could be a matter that the Chief Secretary should investigate in his efforts to clean up this city. It could be an advertisement for a degrading type of activity. There are other types of advertisements in a similar vein. Another advertisement in the same newspaper states—

Now open. Massage and photographic centre.

I will not indicate specifically where these various places are, but they are in an electorate represented by one of the members of a bayside beach area. The same edition of the newspaper advertises another service which the Chief Secretary ought to investigate. This advertisement states—

Lonely businessman, 39, would like to meet lady 20-35, must be affectionate and fun loving.

The SPEAKER (Sir Vernon Christie).—There should really only be one subject raised. I presume that this is the same subject?

Mr. EDMUNDS.—Yes. As the Chief Secretary claims to be taking another look at protecting the citizens of Victoria from unsavoury literature, I suggest that he also look at some of these advertisements. I do not go to fun parlours or massage parlours and I do not advertise for fun-loving girls, but it would appear that this is a nefarious activity and the Chief Secretary should get some of his officers to investigate the operations of these health studios and consider whether they should be registered to ensure some degree of control or supervision over their activities. The honorable gentleman should also determine whether they are falsely advertising.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I bring to the attention of the Minister of Education correspondence which I have received and which he may have received concerning the plight of children attending the Ballam Park Primary School in the Frankston district. Is the honorable gentleman aware of the tremendous increase in enrolments at this school since August, 1970, when there were 250 pupils attending the school, whereas there are now an additional 151 pupils which represents an increase in excess of 50 per cent. It is felt, in the representations made to me, that the Education Department has not given anything like adequate attention to the needs of pupils attending this school or shown concern for the need to construct more class-rooms to cater for the needs of what is clearly a rapidly developing and expanding community. The school committee has told the department what is needed. I ask the Minister of Education to have inquiries made into this problem and, in view of the growth that is taking place in the area, not only to ensure that permanent class-rooms will be made available to deal with the

current need but also to provide extra permanent class-rooms to cope with the needs of a community which clearly has a substantial growth rate.

Mr. FELL (Greensborough).—I direct the attention of the House and of the Minister of Transport to a problem which I believe can be quite easily solved. It concerns a situation which prevails where railway level crossings cross main arterial roads. Many millions of dollars have been spent on such roads as Lower Plenty Road, Rosanna, which has recently been constructed to a full width of 46 feet, but the Victorian Railways, either through lack of liaison or unavailability of finance to cope with the problem, have provided only a level crossing two lanes wide with a plain electronic warning device instead of a boom crossing.

What is the use of continually constructing roads to the full four-lane width when persons using those roads come to obstacles such as railway crossings where there is not only the problem of the crossing itself but the fact that it is not of full width? Honorable members know and the Minister will agree that a grade separated crossing should be provided. However, I will put that aspect aside for the moment so that the issue is not confused. Why does the Minister not take action through his department to ensure that where roads under the jurisdiction of the Country Roads Board cross railway lines, the railway crossing is constructed to the full width of the road?

Mr. WILCOX.—Is this a Country Roads Board project?

Mr. FELL.—The only roads I am referring to are those which are classified as main roads by the Country Roads Board. The board did not do the work but it is up to the Victorian Railways to have the level crossing the same width as the road.

I ask the Minister to look into this matter because by taking action to meet simple problems like this that arise he can gain a bit of public prestige.

Mr. DOUBE (Albert Park).—Recently I raised with the Treasurer a problem confronting the Children's Protection Society and the Treasurer said that he would examine this problem and give consideration to the possibility of providing this organization with a grant. I should like the Treasurer to understand that at least two years ago in this House I pointed out that this organization was doing a very important job in the community by examining cases of cruelty to children and particularly by housing children who were temporarily in a hazardous situation owing to a breakdown in the family. I also pointed out that it was one of the few organizations which did not receive some sort of assistance from the Government to assist it in running its office and to help towards paying some of its rents. I pointed out that it had to depend almost entirely on charitable funds.

As this organization is used by the Police Force and the Social Welfare Department, and as it investigates reported cases of cruelty and helps children while the family is gathering its resources, will the Treasurer delay no longer, have discussions with the organization and give urgent consideration to making it a grant so that it can carry on its good work?

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—As the honorable member for Greensborough did not identify the location to which he referred very well I should be grateful if he would be kind enough to write to me and let me know what municipality is involved and also the level crossing he is referring to. If he does that I shall be happy to follow

up the matter. It is just as well I did ascertain from him through an interjection that it was not the Country Roads Board that was involved, because I should like to inform the honorable member that the Country Roads Board and the Victorian Railways do a great deal of grade separation work together throughout the State. The relations between the two departments are excellent and if all instrumentalities worked as happily together as the Country Roads Board and the Victorian Railways there would be fewer problems. The matter raised by the honorable member concerns a municipality and I am sorry if there was not the liaison that there should have been. This may have been because the municipality did not have the necessary experience. If the honorable member will forward a letter to me containing the relevant information, I shall examine it and determine what can be done.

Mr. DUNSTAN (Minister of Public Works).—The honorable member for Deer Park raised a number of matters concerning the pedestrian crossing over the Calder Highway serving the Niddrie High School and the Niddrie Primary School. He was concerned with the height of the crossing, its structural soundness and whether the type of handrail is suitable for the children who use this crossing. I understand that pedestrian crossings over highways come within the jurisdiction of the Country Roads Board and perhaps the municipality concerned. I have taken a note of the honorable member's remarks and I will take up this matter with the Minister for Local Government and ask that honorable gentleman to reply direct to the honorable member.

Mr. HAMER (Premier and Treasurer).—The matter raised by the honorable member for Albert Park concerning the Children's Protection

Society is being investigated by the Treasury at my request, and I shall be able to give the honorable member an answer next week.

Mr. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The first matter relating to education was raised by the honorable member for Broadmeadows, who referred to land acquisition at Tullamarine in the letter he sent to the secretary of the department, Mr. Scully, on 11th August. I shall be pleased to have the reply expedited.

The honorable member for Melbourne spoke of the superannuation rights of married women. I know the case he referred to particularly well. The woman to whom he referred is an extremely capable teacher and administrator and has given loyal service to the Education Department. Until 1957 married women teachers had no rights whatever as permanent teachers. At that time a substantial advance was made in that married women were given the right to remain in permanent employment in the department. The next main step forward was taken in 1969, when a special married women's superannuation fund was created with the accent on the rights and interests of married women, who generally tend to retire at an earlier age than men. Perhaps that scheme did not benefit those who intended to spend a lifetime in the service, such as the teacher to whom the honorable member referred and I shall be happy to examine the system further in the light of that case and others similar to it.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to expansion at Ballam Park Primary School. Over the past couple of weeks I have been discussing the large population expansion in that area with the Chief Secretary, the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Ward, M.L.C., who are the Parliamentary representatives of that area,

and Mr. Streader, the staff inspector. I intend to take suitable remedial action.

Mr. MEAGHER (Chief Secretary).—The honorable member for Moonee Ponds has drawn attention to dark doings in health studios and massage parlours. I assume from the text of the honorable member's remarks that what he seeks is for him and me to conduct a joint exploration into these murky depths which undoubtedly would lead us unerringly to the truth of the matter.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.46 p.m., until Tuesday, September 26.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, September 26, 1972.

The **PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Garrett)** took the chair at 4.48 p.m., and read the prayer.

(a)

School	Staffing as based on tribunal regulations		Staffing as based on department's "target"	
	As at 31st July, 1972	As at 26th Sept., 1972	As at 31st July, 1972	As at 26th Sept., 1972
Broadmeadows	5.0 over	7.0 over	1.8 under	.2 over
Buckley Park	7.6 over	7.6 over	.7 under	.7 under
Brunswick	7.7 over	7.7 over	.2 under	.8 over
Brunswick Girls	3.2 over	4.4 over	.3 over	1.5 over
Essendon	5.2 over	9.2 over	2.6 under	1.4 over
Fawkner	1.1 over	6.1 over	5.7 under	.7 over
Glenroy	3.6 over	7.6 over	3.8 under	.2 over
Hadfield	5.2 over	7.2 over	3.0 under	1.0 under
Lalor	3.6 over	6.6 over	4.4 under	1.4 under
Fitzroy	5.3 over	10.3 over	1.2 under	4.8 over
Oak Park	4.0 over	7.0 over	2.6 under	.4 over
Princes Hill	7.5 over	9.5 over	.5 under	1.5 over
Strathmore	6.3 over	8.5 over	2.4 under	.6 over
Thomastown	2.0 over	2.0 over	1.5 over	1.5 over
University	11.8 over	15.8 over	3.5 over	7.5 over
Upfield	5.2 over	7.2 over	1.1 under	.9 over

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SECONDARY TEACHERS: RECRUITMENT FROM OVERSEAS.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister for State Development and Decentralization—

In respect of the Broadmeadows, Buckley Park, Brunswick, Brunswick Girls, Essendon, Fawkner, Glenroy, Hadfield, Lalor, North Fitzroy, Oak Park, Princes Hill, Strathmore, Thomastown, University, and Upfield high schools—

(a) What was the actual shortage of teachers as at 31st July, 1972?

(b) How many teachers recruited from overseas countries and recently arrived in Victoria have—(i) been allocated duties; and (ii) actually taken up teaching duties?

(c) What subjects are they qualified to teach?

The Hon. MURRAY BYRNE (Minister for State Development and Decentralization).—As the answer contains detailed statistics and other information, 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:—