The Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor
Lieutenant-General the Honorable Sir Edmund Francis Herring, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.

The Ministry
(At the Opening of the Session)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premier, and Treasurer</td>
<td>The Hon. Sir Henry Bolte, K.C.M.G., M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Secretary</td>
<td>A. G. Rylah, C.M.G., E.D., M.P.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister of Agriculture</td>
<td>G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of Education</td>
<td>L. H. S. Thompson, M.L.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attorney-General, and Minister of Immigration</td>
<td>M. V. Porter, M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of Public Works</td>
<td>E. R. Meagher, M.B.E., E.D., M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of Housing, and Minister of Forests</td>
<td>R. J. Hamer, E.D., M.L.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister for Local Government</td>
<td>J. C. M. Balfour, M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister for Fuel and Power, and Minister of Mines</td>
<td>J. F. Rossett, M.P.</td>
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<td>V. F. Wilcox, M.P.</td>
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<td>V. O. Dickie, M.L.C.</td>
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<td>Minister of Health</td>
<td>J. W. Manson, M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of State Development</td>
<td>Sir William McDonald, M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of Lands, Minister of Soldier Settlement, and Minister for Conservation</td>
<td>W. A. Borthwick, M.P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minister of Water Supply</td>
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Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet: Mr. J. A. Rafferty, M.P.

(From December 5, 1967)

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Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet: Mr. J. A. Rafferty, M.P.
# List of Members of Parliament

## Forty-fourth Parliament—First Session (1967-68)

### Legislative Council

**[Before the periodical elections held on April 29, 1967.]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Province</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradbury, A. K.</td>
<td>North-Eastern</td>
<td>Hamer, R. J., E.D.</td>
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<td>Gross, K. S.</td>
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**President:** The Hon. R. W. Mack (Died, February 12, 1968); The Hon. R. W. Garrett (From February 20, 1968).

**Chairman of Committees:** The Hon. R. W. Garrett (Until February 20, 1968); The Hon. G. J. Nicol (From February 20, 1968).

**Temporary Chairman of Committees:** The Honorables A. K. Bradbury, T. H. Grigg, and Archibald Todd.

**[After the periodical elections held on April 29, 1967.]**

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* Died, February 12, 1968. † Elected, April 6, 1968.

**President:** The Hon. Sir Ronald Mack (Died, February 12, 1968); The Hon. R. W. Garrett (From February 20, 1968).

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**Temporary Chairman of Committees:** The Honorables A. K. Bradbury, G. J. Nicol, G. W. Thom, and Archibald Todd.

§ Until February 20, 1968. † From November 21, 1967.
## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

<table>
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<td>Balfour, J. C. M.</td>
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**Speaker:** The Hon. Vernon Christie.

**Chairman of Committees:** Mr. L. S. Reid.

**Temporary Chairmen of Committees:** Mr. Clarey, Mr. Dunstan, Mr. A. T. Evans, Mr. Fennessy, Mr. J. D. MacDonald, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Suggett, Mr. E. S. Tanner, Mr. Trewhin, Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Whiting, and Mr. Wiltshire.

**Leader of the Liberal Party:** The Hon. SIR HENRY BOLTE, K.C.M.G.

**Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party:** The Hon. A. G. Rylah.

**Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. A. C. Holding.

**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. F. N. Wilkes.

**Leader of the Country Party:** The Hon. G. C. Moss.

**Deputy Leader of the Country Party:** Mr. B. J. Evans.

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**Heads of Parliamentary Departments.**

*Assembly—Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly:* Mr. J. A. Robertson. (Retired, March 26, 1968.)

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (from March 27, 1968): Mr. A. R. B. McDonnell.

*Council—Clerk of the Parliaments* (from March 27, 1968), and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr. L. G. McDonald.

*Hansard—Chief Reporter:* Mr. A. A. Burns.

*Library—Librarian:* Mr. L. E. Parkes.
The Forty-fourth Victorian Parliament was opened this day by Commission. The Commissioner appointed by His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria for this purpose was the Honorable Sir Henry Arthur Winneke, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

At 11.4 a.m. the Clerk read the following: —

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, &c., &c., &c.

I, the Governor of the State of Victoria in the Commonwealth of Australia, do by this my Proclamation fix Tuesday, the sixteenth day of May, 1967, as the time for the commencement and holding of the First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament of Victoria, for the despatch of business, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, in the Parliament Houses, situate in Spring-street, in the City of Melbourne: And the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are hereby required to give their attendance at the said time and place accordingly.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State of Victoria aforesaid, at Melbourne, this second day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven, and in the sixteenth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

(L.S.) ROHAN DELACOMBE.

By His Excellency’s Command,
HENRY BOLTE,
Premier.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

The Commissioner immediately afterwards entered the Chamber, and was conducted by the Usher of the Black Rod to the chair.
The Commissioner directed that the attendance of the members of the Legislative Assembly be requested.

The members of the Legislative Assembly appeared at the Bar.

The COMMISSIONER (Sir Henry Winneke).—Mr. President and honorable members of the Legislative Council: Members of the Legislative Assembly: His Excellency the Governor, not thinking fit to be present in person, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue, under the Seal of the State, constituting me his Commissioner to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in this Parliament. This will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read by the Clerk.

The Letters Patent authorizing the Commissioner to open Parliament were read by the Clerk.

The COMMISSIONER (Sir Henry Winneke).—Mr. President and honorable members of the Legislative Council: Members of the Legislative Assembly: I have it in command from His Excellency to let you know that, later this day, His Excellency will declare to you in person, in this place, the causes of his calling this Parliament together; and, members of the Legislative Assembly, as it is necessary before you proceed to the despatch of business that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be chosen, His Excellency requests that you, in your Chamber, will proceed to the choice of a proper person to be Speaker.

The members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber, and the Commissioner withdrew.

The President (the Hon. R. W. Mack) took the chair at 11.16 a.m., and read the prayer.

The sitting was suspended at 11.17 a.m., until 2.30 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Usher of the Black Rod announced the approach of His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency entered the Chamber attended by his suite.

The Legislative Assembly, with their Speaker, attended in response to His Excellency's summons.

His Excellency addressed the following Speech to both Houses of Parliament:

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

I have called you together at the earliest opportunity for this the first session of the Forty-fourth Parliament of Victoria in order that you may consider public business which requires your attention.

It is appropriate that we should record at this time references to some of the conditions prevailing at the commencement of a new Parliament.

Rain is urgently needed throughout the State to replenish water supplies, to provide winter feed for stock, and to prepare land for the sowing of cereal crops. Naturally, this situation is a cause of concern.

Cloud seeding operations have been commenced, and both the Department of Agriculture and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission have plans for a continuing programme during the present season. Legislation relating to this activity will be submitted to you by the Government during this session.
My advisers are convinced that, with the massive fuel and power resources available in Victoria, the industrial development of the State is assured.

A pilot plant to manufacture char from briquettes is to be established in the Latrobe Valley. This plant could well be the forerunner of another substantial industry in that area.

There are healthy indications of a rapid expansion of the use of natural gas when it becomes available early in 1969. The development of associated industries is already evident, and the planning of utility services required is in hand.

My Government, in its continued efforts to raise the social, economic and physical standards of the Aboriginal people of Victoria, has evolved a plan ranging over housing, employment and education, which it is convinced will make true equality a reality.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

A Supply Bill to make provision for the services of the first three months of the financial year 1967-68, and Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the current financial year will be presented to you immediately.

It is proposed that, when Supply has been granted, the Parliament should adjourn until the normal Budget session. At that time detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1967-68 will be submitted to you, as well as any necessary further Supplementary Estimates for the current financial year.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

In the field of education the Government will proceed immediately with the preparation of amending legislation to give effect to the policy it announced concerning the Victoria Institute of Colleges and the colleges affiliated with it.

During the last Parliament legislation was enacted to enable a start to be made on the vast development programme required to exploit the offshore petroleum discoveries. It is anticipated that later this year legislation complementary to that being submitted to the Commonwealth and other State Parliaments will be introduced in this Parliament. This legislation, when enacted, will provide an up-to-date mining code to regulate offshore exploration and production, and extend all other appropriate laws to the offshore area. The result of the Commonwealth-State legislation will be to give the maximum legal efficacy to the law.

Legislation relating to the establishment of centres for the reception and treatment of alcoholics will be introduced.

High priority will be given to legislation to permit the baking of bread at week-ends.

A Bill to adjust the basis of pensions of widows of deceased State Government officers and employees will also be submitted to you.

Other Bills to be introduced will provide for a re-enactment of the law relating to the selection of juries,
the amendment of the Stamps Act to provide exemption from stamp duties on leasehold agreements between country municipal councils and approved decentralized industries, and the amendment of the law relating to intestacy.

It is with regret that I must place on record the death of the Honorable B. D. Snider, the Honorable T. Hayes, the Honorable E. L. Kiernan and the Honorable Sir John Lienhop, all of whom served the State as members of Parliament, and the latter three as Ministers of the Crown. Sir John Lienhop also served as Agent-General for Victoria in London.

In formally opening this Parliament, I pray that the guidance of Almighty God may attend upon your deliberations.

Copies of the Speech were handed by the Governor’s Private Secretary to the President and the Speaker.

His Excellency and suite withdrew, and members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

The sitting was suspended at 2.47 p.m. until 4.51 p.m.

THE MINISTRY.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture) (By leave).—I wish to inform the House of the following changes in the Ministry:—

The Hon. L. H. S. Thompson, M.L.C., Minister of Education.
The Hon. G. O. Reid, M.P., Attorney-General; and Minister of Immigration.
The Hon. E. R. Meagher, M.B.E., E.D., M.P., Minister of Housing; and Minister of Forests.
The Hon. J. C. M. Balfour, M.P., Minister for Fuel and Power; and Minister of Mines.
The Hon. J. F. Rossiter, M.P., Minister of Labour and Industry.
The Hon. V. F. Wilcox, M.P., Minister of Transport.
Sir William McDonald, M.P., Minister of Lands; Minister of Soldier Settlement; and Minister for Conservation.
The Hon. W. A. Borthwick, M.P., Minister of Water Supply.

FIREARMS (PROHIBITED PERSONS) BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—In order to preserve the privileges of this House, and in accordance with the Standing Orders, I move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend section 31 of the Firearms Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.
The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable D. G. Elliot, H. M. Hamilton, H. A. Hewson, R. W. May, and Archibald Todd be members of the House Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable the President, M. A. Clarke, A. J. Hunt, Samuel Merrifield and J. M. Walton be members of the Joint Committee to manage the Library.

The motion was agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable the President, A. K. Bradbury, Murray Byrne, S. E. Gleeson, H. A. Hewson, A. W. Knight, A. R. Mansell and Archibald Todd be members of the Printing Committee; three to be the quorum.

The motion was agreed to.
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable the President, Murray Byrne, Sir Percy Byrnes, J. W. Galbally, W. R. Garrett, F. J. Granter, K. S. Gross, Samuel Merrifield and I. A. Swinburne be members of the Select Committee on the Standing Orders of the House; three to be the quorum.

The motion was agreed to.

STATUTE LAW REVISION COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable M. A. Clarke, R. W. May, G. J. Nicol, G. W. Thom, Archibald Todd and J. M. Tripovich be members of the Statute Law Revision Committee, and that the said committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

The motion was agreed to.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable K. S. Gross, H. A. Hewson and G. J. O'Connell be members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee, and that the said committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

The motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable A. K. Bradbury and W. M. Campbell be appointed members of the Public Works Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable A. W. Knight and A. R. Mansell be appointed members of the State Development Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

DRAINAGE COMMITTEE.

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

That, contingent upon the enactment, this session, of legislation for the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly to inquire into and report upon certain questions relating to the drainage of land and for other purposes, the following members of this House be appointed members of the committee:—

The Honorables I. R. Cathie, F. J. Granter and I. A. Swinburne.

The motion was agreed to.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

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

That the Honorable William Raymond Garrett be Chairman of Committees of the Council.

There is no need for me to indicate to the House the very high regard that we all have for the honorable member. The fact that Mr. Garrett has missed only one sitting since he was first appointed to the position of Chairman of Committees indicates the interest that he takes in the proceedings of this House. I am sure all honorable members agree that Mr. Garrett has given excellent service to the Council.

The motion was agreed to.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Mack) laid on the table his warrant nominating the Honorables A. K. Bradbury, T. H. Grigg, and Archibald Todd to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees whenever requested to do so by the Chairman of Committees or whenever the Chairman of Committees is absent.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Mack).—I have to report that His Excellency the Governor attended the House this day and was pleased
to make a Speech, of which, for
greater accuracy, I have obtained a
copy.

As the Speech is printed, I take it
that honorable members do not
desire that I should read it to them.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON
(Higinbotham Province).—I move—

That the Council agree to the following
Address to His Excellency the Governor in
reply to His Excellency's opening Speech:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Council of Victoria,
in Parliament assembled, beg to express our
loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and
to thank Your Excellency for the
gracious
Speech
which you have been pleased to
address to Parliament.

As the junior member of this
House, it is my privilege to move this
motion for the adoption of an
Address-in-Reply to the
Speech
of
His Excellency, and I am conscious
of the fact that this is a very great
 honour to me personally and to the
electors of the Higinbotham Province
of which I am a representative. This
is no mere formal motion, but a very
real expression of two sentiments.

The motion first expresses loyalty
to the Crown. It is right that, at the
beginning of a new Parliament, we
should re-affirm our loyalty. In this
age of rapid intercontinental trans­
port, Her Majesty the Queen and
members of the Royal Family have
been able to visit us in Victoria and
have become known to us. With
this closer contact, the re-affirmation
of loyalty becomes a much more real
and personal sentiment in which I
am sure every member of this
Council will join.

The second part of the motion
thanks His Excellency for his
gracious Speech. Before discussing
one or two particular points from his
address, I should like to refer to Sir
Rohan and Lady Delacombe. In
addition to their many talents, they
have brought to their high office a
warm, personal touch of kindhearted­
ness which has assured them a
special place in the hearts of
all Victorians. I trust they will con­
tinue to enjoy good health and a long
and happy term of office in Victoria.

His Excellency referred to the
massive fuel and power resources in
Victoria, and the industrial expansion
which undoubtedly will grow from
their development. The historian,
Geoffrey Serle, has called the 1850's
the "Golden Age," and that, indeed,
it was, particularly in Victoria, for
that era was the period of greatest
growth and development in our
history. I believe we are now
entering a period of growth and
development which could prove to
be a new golden age, based on black
gold, which oil is sometimes called.
New industries have already been
announced, and many others are
being planned. These will all con­
tribute to our continued growth and
prosperity. The mineral discoveries
of the 1850's resulted in this State
becoming the most prosperous of the
Australian Colonies, and I have no
doubt that the new mineral dis­
coversies will ensure not only that
Victoria will continue to prosper, but
that our growth will continue at the
fastest rate in the Commonwealth.

This expected growth imposes an
obligation on the State to provide the
many services which are essential
for new and developing industries,
such as adequate transport and com­
munications, housing, water, port
facilities, and all the other services
which industry and commerce rightly
expect the State to provide. The
need for these was recognized in His
Excellency's Speech when he men­
tioned that planning for them was in
hand.

In the present financial situation,
I wonder whether Victoria has the
funds to provide all these necessary
services on the scale required. We are
all too painfully aware that the
greater part of our finance comes
from the Commonwealth Treasury,
and that, under the system of uniform
taxation operating since the second
world war, the various States have
lost their financial independence. It
has been said that he who controls the purse strings controls the Government, and this is only too true.

Although our national Constitution provides for a federal system of government, the financial dominance of the Commonwealth has resulted in the loss of a large measure of the sovereignty of the individual States and the increasing intrusion of the Commonwealth into matters previously regarded as essentially State responsibilities. Of immediate concern is the question whether the State's financial resources are sufficient to provide essential services on the scale required for our growth. I do not believe they are. I am confident that, by sound planning and good management, the bare essentials will be provided, but I fear that such urgent requirements as the construction of an underground railway, which is necessary to meet metropolitan transport needs, will have to be deferred.

Yet, it is to be noted that, over and above its needs for current expenditure and its needs for capital works, the Commonwealth Government has budgeted for the sum of $375,000,000 in revenue. This revenue, surplus to all requirements, it plans to tuck quietly away into reserves, in an account described by one Federal member as "a way of getting rid of our surplus." In a mere ten years, a sum of almost $2,000,000,000 has been quietly placed in that reserve account. I look at that account with some envy and, indeed, some greed, when I think of the needs of this State for development, for education, for transport, and for other purposes.

It is relevant that a $1 rise in the basic wage imposes an added burden on our State Budget of $6,000,000, but that, under the present reimbursement formula, Victoria would receive only $3,000,000 by way of compensation from the Commonwealth. It is important to realize that it has been estimated that, for each $1 rise in the basic wage, the Commonwealth would collect additional tax amounting to $9,000,000 from Victoria.

These facts alone justify a call for a re-appraisal of the financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the States. It is my belief that an independent authority should be appointed to investigate the way in which some degree of financial independence can be restored to the member States of the Commonwealth.

His Excellency also referred to education, and to the proposal to introduce legislation relating to the Victoria Institute of Colleges. I welcome the proposed legislation as I believe that the greatest gap in our Victorian education system is in the field of technical education. Our growing industrial and commercial expansion will require an ever increasing number of technologists of all grades, and I believe that the Institute of Colleges is a positive step towards meeting this requirement.

This is the first occasion on which I have addressed the Council, and I am fully conscious of the fact that, with my election, I have undertaken very great responsibilities. I follow the late Baron Snider as a representative of the Higinbotham Province and, although he occupied the seat for only a short time, he achieved a great deal and made a positive contribution to the affairs of this Parliament. Prior to his election, the province was represented by the late Sir Arthur Warner, a man of untiring energy and great ability, who made an enormous contribution to the Government of this State. My predecessors have set me an extremely high standard to follow.

In looking for some statement of my duties and responsibilities, I came across a speech by that great British Parliamentarian of the eighteenth century, Edmund Burke, relating to the allegiance of a member of Parliament. In referring to the relationship between the Parliamentary representative and his constituents, he said—

Their wishes ought to have great weight with him, their opinion high respect, their business unremitting attention; it is his duty
to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions to theirs, and above all, ever, and in all cases, to prefer their interests to his own.

He then went on to say—

Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different hostile interests which interests each must maintain as an agent and an advocate against other agents and advocates, but Parliament is a deliberative Assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole, where not local purposes, not local prejudices, ought to guide, but the general good resulting from the general reason of the whole.

If I can serve my constituents and this Parliament as well as my predecessors have done and, at the same time, reconcile those two apparently conflicting views, then I shall be satisfied that I have done my duty. I have great pleasure in moving the motion.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL (Monash Province).—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion so ably moved by my newest colleague, the Honorable Murray Hamilton. Again, I reiterate my personal loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate Mr. Hamilton upon his maiden speech which, I believe, more than maintains the standard of debating in this House. I am certain that, in the future, all honorable members will look forward to some most constructive, interesting and valuable contributions from him.

Like Mr. Hamilton, I was impressed by the Government's proposal, as enunciated in His Excellency's Speech, to introduce amending legislation relating to the Victoria Institute of Colleges. The Government intends to give the colleges affiliated with the Institute a much greater degree of autonomy than they now enjoy. Possibly, the time has never been more opportune than at present for a proposal of this nature. The increasing and, indeed, urgent need for a greater degree and a higher standard of education in the technological field has never been felt to such an extent as it is being felt to-day. Probably the greatest problem confronting not only this Parlia-

ment but also the Parliaments of the world is what is commonly called the age of automation. In the past, inadequate attention has been given to the tremendous development which is taking place in so far as automation is concerned. It is with a sense of some urgency that I speak on this subject. The prospect of increasing automation is undoubtedly frightening many people, probably because it is by no means adequately understood.

The age of automation is, in many respects, a continuation of the period during the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth century when the industrial revolution took place. It is worth examining what occurred during that period. The industrial revolution was viewed by many people in much the same light as we view automation to-day. I believe that automation is an inevitable extension of the age of the industrial revolution with the tremendous mechanization that it produced. Notwithstanding the fears of the people at the time the industrial revolution was taking place, it brought with it tremendous social changes and many benefits to the people. I invite honorable members to examine that aspect of the industrial revolution which abolished the ghastly practice of child slave labour and ultimately permitted the children to devote far more time to education. As the years passed, both people and Governments became more and more aware of the benefits of greater education. This awareness resulted in the present situation which is that, in most countries of the world at any rate, the attendance at school of children up to a specified age is compulsory.

One of the greatest benefits from the industrial revolution might be said to be the gain in time because, since that period, the working week of the average person has been reduced from 60 or 80 hours to the now generally accepted 40 hours. The average school leaving age has been raised from something like ten
years of age to fifteen years of age, which is fairly general throughout Australia. Although the school leaving age is set at a minimum of fifteen years, the majority of young people are continuing their education for some years after reaching that age.

Paid holidays have now become the rule rather than the exception. Long service leave is now an accepted social service benefit. The age of retirement has been substantially reduced. I suppose the average retiring age these days is about 65 years. Even in the home, various mechanical devices and aids have reduced the work of the housewife by about 50 per cent. All these benefits of the age of mechanization can be appraised, and the future age of automation can be judged on that basis.

I believe—I hope there is a growing belief as people study its effects—that automation is going to be as beneficial to mankind as was the period following the industrial revolution. I wish to examine briefly what is generally known as automation. Many people fear that we are reaching the stage when the machine will become the master of man. In my view, the machine is becoming an extension of man. Not many years ago, if one wanted to see objects at a distance one used a telescope, the range of which was fairly limited. To-day, man's sight has been extended almost world-wide through radar and television. It is now possible, by watching television, to see what is happening in countries thousands of miles away. Likewise, the machine is extending man's hearing; one can hear the reproduction of sounds which are at that moment being made thousands of miles away. So, in many ways, the machine is merely an extension of man's own capacities. If we appreciate that point, perhaps we shall have less fear of the development of machines, which has been so remarkable over the past ten or twenty years.

It is interesting to examine the likely effects of the automation age. Through the growth and increased use of mechanization, far fewer employees in primary industries are now producing far more than was believed possible previously.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—That is partly due to the work of scientists.

Sir PERCY BYRNES.—The Australian primary producers are more efficient than those of any other primary producing country.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—That is so. The situation is largely due to the growing use and efficiency of machines and also, as Mr. Swinburne pointed out, to the efforts of scientists in producing superphosphate and other artificial manures, improved strains of wheat, and so on. It has been estimated by top American economists that in the ten years from 1941 to 1950 the real gross national product of the United States of America increased fivefold compared with the real gross national product of the ten-year period 1891 to 1900. Whilst over the periods I mentioned the gross national product increased five times, the population only doubled. Therefore, the total man-hours required to produce the fivefold increase in the gross national product increased by only 80 per cent. That is the situation which Victoria faces to-day.

It has also been estimated by top American economists that in 25 years' time only one in every ten of the present labour force will be required to produce the quantity of goods which is now being produced. There is no reason to doubt these economists, and therefore a study should now be made of the effect of automation on labour.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—Our party has been doing that for the past ten years.
The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—If the Labor Party has been studying this problem for the past ten years, it is a pity that it has not come up with some concrete suggestions—other than the heads of its members—long before this.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—The Australian Council of Trade Unions Automation Committee made several recommendations to the Government, which it has accepted. However, you would not know anything about that.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—That may be so.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Mack).—Order! I will not allow this subject to be discussed between one member and another. Mr. Nicol will address the Chair and refrain from joining in a cross-Chamber discussion.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—I have not heard a great deal from Opposition members on this subject. Probably, the real key to acceptance of automation and its effects is in education. We should not look ahead only two or three years, but should examine the situation on the basis of what might occur 25 or 50 years hence. It is incumbent on this generation to lay the foundation for the successful introduction of automation in Australia. The efforts of automation will mainly be felt, not by us, but by our children and their children.

Sir PERCY BYRNES.—Containerization will be here in two years, and much thought will have to be given to that problem between now and 1970.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—I am speaking more in terms of automation than containerization. In the next quarter of a century, there will undoubtedly be a tremendous increase in the amount of free time enjoyed by everybody in the community.

The Hon. SAMUEL MERRIFIELD.—More recreation grounds will be required.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—I agree. There will be much more free time for the individual to use as he thinks fit. This could bring great benefit, but it could also bring grave dangers unless the individual knows how to use his increased leisure time effectively. All honorable members know of men who have retired at 60 or 65 years of age. In many cases people who cease working at that age do not know what to do with themselves. These people simply rust away. I believe one can rust away more quickly than one can wear out. These are the tragedies that our generation now faces. These tragedies can be prevented by means of education and guidance. I trust that the Australian Council of Trade Unions Automation Committee will play its full part in this programme. However, there is the even greater and more immediate problem of retraining the many unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Serious thought should be given to this aspect.

Sir PERCY BYRNES.—The more serious aspect is how to obtain the skilled men to do all this.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—That is so. Basically, in the automation process, computors are being used, and this is only the beginning of the computer age.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE.—There is not a sufficient number of trained programmers to operate the computors.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL.—For once I agree with Mr. Cathie. There is now much emphasis on the urgent need for training programmers to operate these machines. We should look 25 years ahead and begin now to lay the foundation for the conditions that will operate in the automation age, which will produce tremendous repercussions. Undoubtedly, there will be a vast increase in the wealth of the world, and one of the problems will be the distribution of this tremendous increase in wealth.
Sir Percy Byrnes.—Do you believe in socialism?

The Hon. G. J. Nicol.—I do not. It may be that we should seriously reconsider some of our social attitudes, and this may not be a matter for government. Some people believe that with the increased growth of automation, government should centralize authority and impose more and more controls. Thinking along those lines, one conjures up a ghastly picture, somewhat as outlined in Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four or in Huxley's Brave New World. None of us would like to think of our descendants living as envisaged by those authors.

Socialism is not the solution, nor is centralized authority with more and more controls. The solution may be the awakening of a greater social conscience in the community. It may be that much of industry will be carried on by large monopolies. Industry may even be carried on with profit as a very minor motive and production regarded as a national duty.

Nowadays, there is a growing tendency for people to stress technological education without stressing equally the need for a sound education of technologists in the humanities. The primary aim should be to achieve a general breadth of education, together with a sense of social and human responsibility.

The Hon. Samuel Merrifield.—People must act upon it.

The Hon. G. J. Nicol.—Certainly. This will emphasize the problem of finance, outlined by Mr. Hamilton, because pressures will increase for more teachers with higher standards. Even more importantly, people must reconsider the manner in which children are educated. Perhaps sufficient attention has not been given to this subject of late.

I hope that, when the Government constitutes the proposed committee to study automation, it will do so on a broad basis. The committee will not only have to inform the Government of problems to be faced but must also fairly and factually inform and educate the people of developments in this sphere. Unless people understand these problems, there is little hope of automation being dealt with successfully.

The Hon. J. W. Galbally (Melbourne North Province).—I move—
That the debate be now adjourned.

By leave, I should like to congratulate Mr. Hamilton upon his maiden speech. It is not an easy speech to make, but the House will agree that Mr. Hamilton came through with flying colours. He expressed sentiments of great wisdom, combined with a touch of humility that did not lack appeal.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate was agreed to.

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

The sitting was suspended at 5.46 p.m. until 8.35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT.

Business of the House: Hour of Meeting.

The Hon. G. L. Chandler (Minister of Agriculture).—Mr. President, as the arrival of the measures which were expected before the suspension of the sitting is uncertain, and in order to meet the convenience of members who will be attending committee meetings to-morrow morning, I have no alternative than to move that the House adjourn until 2.15 p.m., to-morrow. Accordingly I move—

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at a quarter-past Two o'clock.

The Hon. J. W. Galbally (Melbourne North Province).—I appreciate the sympathy of the Minister for the convenience of members and, generally speaking, the Labor Party agrees with what he has said. However, I do not think Parliament should ever be at the disposition of
committees; the position should be the reverse. Primarily, we meet as a Parliament, and Parliamentary business should come first. If any inconvenience is to be caused, it should be to the committees, the members of which are paid an attendance fee in addition to their Parliamentary salary. I have often thought that the convenience of members who sit on committees has been weighted on Parliament too long.

The time of 2.15 p.m. is an odd hour at which to meet. I suggest an earlier time, perhaps 10 or 11 a.m. However, I am in the hands of the House. This House should not say that it will not sit to-morrow morning because several members are sitting on committees, for attendance at which they are paid a fee.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—I appreciate what Mr. Galbally has said, and I know that members living in the city have their businesses to attend to. However, many country members want to get away by 4 p.m. to-morrow and I thought it would be possible for the House to meet at 2 p.m. I am not very concerned about committee meetings, but many country members have made appointments with Departments for to-morrow morning. If it is not inconveniencing members to meet at 2 p.m., this time would suit the Country Party members better than 11 a.m.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Mack).—The motion before the Chair is—

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at a quarter-past Two o'clock.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—Is that motion by leave?

The PRESIDENT.—It is not necessary for the motion to be by leave because there are no sessional orders. If the Minister wants to alter the time, he may withdraw the motion and move for the meeting of the House at another time.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 8.39 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.
Tuesday, May 16, 1967.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMISSION.

Proceedings commenced at 11.5 a.m. by the Clerk reading his Excellency the Governor's Proclamation convoking Parliament.

The Usher of the Black Rod appeared at the Bar, and intimated that the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to open Parliament (the Honorable Sir Henry Winneke) requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Chamber of the Legislative Council to hear the Commission read for the commencement and holding of this present session of Parliament.

Honorable members accompanied by the chief officers of the House, proceeded at once to the Chamber of the Legislative Council.

On the return of members to the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly, the Honorable Sir Henry Winneke entered the Chamber and was conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the chair.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The Commission (dated the 16th May, 1967) appointing the Honorable Sir Henry Winneke to administer the oath of allegiance to members of the Legislative Assembly was read by the Clerk.

The Clerk announced that he had received 73 writs issued by His Excellency the Governor for the
Swearing in [16 MAY, 1967.] of Members.

Election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the several districts of the State, with the names of the members duly endorsed thereon as follows:

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<th>District</th>
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<td>Albert Park</td>
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<td>Hayden Wilson Birrell</td>
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<td>Gippsland East</td>
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<td>Ivanhoe</td>
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<td>Mildura</td>
<td>Milton Stanley Whiting</td>
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<td>Mitcham</td>
<td>Mrs. Dorothy Ada Goble</td>
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<td>Monbulk</td>
<td>William Archibald Borthwick</td>
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<td>James Charles Murray Balfour</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>Donald Kelso McKellar</td>
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<td>Prahran</td>
<td>Samuel John Everett Loxton</td>
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<td>Preston</td>
<td>Eugene Cornelius Ring</td>
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<td>Reservoir</td>
<td>Henry Alfred Jenkins</td>
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<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Allan Clyde Holding</td>
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District. Member.
Ringwood. — James Williamson Manson.
Rodney.—Russell Stanley Leslie McDonald.
St. Kilda.—Brian James Dixon.
Sandringham. — Murray Victor Porter.
Scoresby.—Geoffrey Phillip Hayes.
Shepparton.—Peter Ross-Edwards.
Sunshine.—Denis Lovegrove.
Swan Hill.—Harold Victor Stirling.
Syndal.—Raymond John Wiltshire.
Warrnambool.—Ian Winton Smith.
Williamstown. — William Laurence Floyd.

The aforementioned members took and subscribed the oath required by law.

On the completion of the ceremony of swearing members, the Commissioner withdrew.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.
The CLERK.—The House will now proceed to the election of a Speaker.

Mr. SUGGETT (Bentleigh).—I move—

That Vernon Christie, Esquire, do take the chair of this House as Speaker.

I have great pleasure in nominating the honorable member for Ivanhoe for this very high office, because I feel that Mr. Christie is ideally suited, in terms of both experience and temperament, for election. Mr. Christie has been a member of this House since 1955, during which period he has had considerable experience in its proceedings. He has carried out his duties with dignity and decorum, and has at all times displayed strict impartiality and a sense of humour which sometimes has helped to avoid circumstances that could have become somewhat sticky. I am quite sure that, if elected, Mr. Christie will carry out the duties of this high office to the satisfaction of all the members of this House.

Mr. TAYLOR (Balwyn).—Election to the office of Speaker is the highest honour that the House can bestow upon any of its members, and I believe that, because of his experience, Mr. Christie will be a very good appointment to this important position. While officiating as Chairman of Committees, Mr. Christie has proved that he is always impartial in his judgment and fair to members on both sides of the House. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. CHRISTIE (Ivanhoe).—I accept the nomination and wish to express my deep sense of the high honour done me in proposing me for the Chair.

As there was no other nomination, the Clerk declared the honorable member for Ivanhoe duly elected as Speaker, and Mr. Christie was conducted to the chair by the proposer and seconder.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I wish to offer to the members of this House my humble acknowledgment of the great honour that they have been pleased to confer upon me by electing me Speaker.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—Mr. Speaker, as Leader of the Government in the Assembly, may I have the honour of being the first to address you as such. I think your apparent reluctance to occupy the chair was matched only by the enthusiasm of the members to elect you to it. During the twenty years that I have had the honour to be a member of this Parliament, the Victorian Assembly has been fortunate in the Speakers who have occupied the chair of this House. Your predecessors, Sir, included the honorable member for Albert Park, Sir Archie Michaelis, the late Sir George Knox, Sir Thomas Maltby, and for the past twelve years Sir William McDonald. I believe that, when the history of Victoria is written, perhaps in 100 years' time, all these men will be remembered as Speakers of the highest calibre.
Mr. Speaker, you are not taking up your office untried. You have been Chairman of Committees during two Parliaments, and during the last Parliament, because of the absence of the Speaker, you acted in that position for a considerable period. All the members of this House recognize your worth, your ability and your credentials for this high office. On behalf of my party, I give you a hearty welcome to your new position. We look forward to a long period under your control.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform you that I have been elected Leader of the Labor Party. My colleague, the honorable member for Northcote, has been elected Deputy Leader, and my colleague the honorable member for Broadmeadows, party Whip.

On behalf of the Opposition, I, too, wish to convey to you my hearty congratulations on your appointment to this high office. There is no need for me to remind you or any other honorable member that the rights and privileges of Parliament are an integral part of our democratic system. You now embody those prerogatives and privileges which are essential for the proper functioning of democracy. Mr. Speaker, those of your party colleagues who know you well are confident that you possess all the qualities which are necessary for the proper discharge of your duties. Yours is a most difficult and exacting position, which requires wisdom, wit, and humour. We look forward to your term of office as Speaker. I have no doubt that you will be one of the great Speakers of the Parliament of Victoria and that you will do this House great honour.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—Mr. Speaker, I join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing, on behalf of the Country Party, our appreciation of your election as Speaker of this Assembly. In recent years you have acted as Speaker on a number of occasions and, while occupying the position of Chairman of Committees, you displayed understanding and consideration and exercised wise judgment in the conduct of the debates. The Country Party wishes you a happy and successful term of office. I am sure that as a result of your work you will go down in history as one of the outstanding Speakers of the Victorian Parliament.

I wish to inform you, Mr. Speaker, that to-day I was elected Leader of the Country Party. The honorable member for Gippsland East was elected Deputy Leader, and the honorable member for Gippsland West, party Whip.

Sir WILLIAM Mc Donald (Minister of Lands).—Mr. Speaker, I take this early opportunity to congratulate you on becoming Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and to offer you my best wishes for what I hope will be a long term of office. I also thank honorable members for the tremendous support which I received as Speaker of this House over the past twelve years. I do this now because I do not think the forms and procedures of the House provide a former Speaker with such an opportunity. He has to make his own opportunity. I have appreciated the support of the House.

I should like to express my appreciation for the tremendous support that you, Mr. Speaker, afforded to me personally and to the Chair during the period that you were Chairman of Committees and during my absence last year when you acted as Speaker. I believe that during all this time you acquitted yourself more than ordinarily well, and I am sure that you will fill the position of Speaker with full dignity and assurance.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I thank the Premier for his remarks. It is a great comfort to a Speaker to receive such kind words from the Leader of the majority party in the House. I offer my good wishes and congratulations to the Leader of the
Opposition—I may now recognize him as such—and thank him for what he has said. I offer congratulations also to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I recognize, too, the Leader of the Country Party—I thank him for his remarks—and the Deputy Leader of the Country Party. I greatly appreciate the words of the Minister of Lands—I find it rather difficult to get used to that title. The years during which I was Deputy to Sir William McDonald as Speaker were happy ones because we worked as a team. I enjoyed this period, and I appreciate Sir William’s remarks.

I thank the members of this House for giving me the chance to work more closely with them in upholding those very great attributes that are so important—the undoubted rights and privileges of every member of this House in this Parliament assembled. This House has been meeting here and elsewhere for a very long time—it is about one century, one decade and half a year. We have behind us a great tradition of behaviour, and I hope with the help of all honorable members to preserve the forms and the dignity of this place so that it will remain the hub of democracy in the State of Victoria. I am grateful to you.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I have to inform the House that I have already ascertained that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the Speaker in the Library of Parliament House this afternoon at ten minutes past Two o’clock. I should like as many members as possible to accompany Mr. Speaker.

The sitting was suspended at 12.05 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.

THE SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie) took the chair, and read the prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER TO THE GOVERNOR.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I wish to inform the House that this day I presented myself to His Excellency the Governor as the choice of this Assembly, and that His Excellency was pleased to address me in the following terms:—

Mr. Speaker,

I have much pleasure in congratulating you upon your election to the high and distinguished office of Speaker.

The able manner in which you have always discharged the various duties you have undertaken during your long Parliamentary career proves the wisdom of the members of the Legislative Assembly in choosing you as their Speaker.

I have every confidence that you will fulfil the duties of that high and important office by holding fast to its age-old traditions and customs.

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Usher of the Black Rod brought a message from His Excellency the Governor desiring the attendance of honorable members in the Chamber of the Legislative Council.

The House, headed by the Speaker, proceeded to the Council Chamber.

The sitting was suspended at 2.36 p.m. until 4.6 p.m.

COMMISSION TO SWEAR MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie) informed the House that he had received from His Excellency the Governor a commission authorizing him to administer the oath of allegiance to such members as had not already taken and subscribed the same since their election.

THE MINISTRY.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I desire to inform the House of the new Ministry. Ministers in the Assembly are as follows:—


The Hon. A. G. Rylah, C.M.G., E.D., M.P., Chief Secretary, Deputy Premier, and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party.

The Hon. G. O. Reid, M.P., Attorney-General and Minister of Immigration.
The new Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition are young men. This is a young nation, and I believe these two men have great opportunities. Although members of the Liberal Party will do their best to ensure that the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy do not achieve their ambitions, it is up to them to assert their influence in this Parliament and indeed throughout Victoria in the interests of their party, as I am sure they will. All’s fair in politics!

I do not wish my latter remarks to detract in any way from the sincerity of the congratulations that I have expressed to these two honorable members or from our thanks to Clive Stoneham and Dinny Lovegrove for the manner in which they co-operated for many years outside the field of which I have been speaking. The friendships we have made with both Mr. Stoneham and Mr. Lovegrove will, I am sure, be cemented and will continue for many years.

It is hardly necessary for me to refer to the Country Party, because its leadership is unchanged.

Mr. Moss.—Our party has two new members in this Chamber.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I have not had time to become acquainted even with all the new members of my party! I have made this announcement in a spirit of goodwill, and at the same time I welcome the new Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy in their official positions in this Parliament.

BUILDING SOCIETIES (UNSECURED LOANS) BILL.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—In accordance with the usual practice, and in order to preserve the privileges of this House, I move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend section 36 of the Building Societies Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.
GOVERNOR’S SPEECH.
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I have to report that the House this day attended His Excellency the Governor, in the Legislative Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. As the Speech is printed, and copies are in the hands of honorable members, it will not be necessary for me to read it.

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Warrnambool).

—I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I am deeply conscious of the importance of this motion, and of the honour conferred upon me in having the privilege of moving it and thus upon the people of the Warrnambool electorate.

First, the motion expresses loyalty to our Sovereign. Whilst I have no doubt that our loyalty has never been in question, it is right that we should reaffirm our loyalty to our Queen, and so strengthen the ties to our homeland. In so doing, let us be reminded that we are members of the Commonwealth of which Her Majesty is symbolic head.

Secondly, the motion expresses thanks to our Governor for his Speech. I should like, at this stage, to say that Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe have endeared themselves to the people of this State. May they have a long and enjoyable stay with us.

His Excellency mentioned in his Speech the urgent need for rain in Victoria. With rising costs and violent market fluctuations, farmers at present find it difficult to survive. The prospect of the worst season ever is alarming to farmers and must be viewed with concern by all Victorians. It is heartening to learn that the Department of Agriculture is taking action, with cloud-seeding operations, in an attempt to relieve the situation.

The people of this State, encouraged by the discoveries of vast resources of gas and oil, look forward to an era of enormous development and expansion. There is placed upon us all an extra heavy burden of responsibility to develop these resources to the optimum general good.

I have great faith, based on the past record of this Government, that the promises made to the people of this State during the recent election campaign by our Government will, during the life of this Forty-fourth Parliament, all be carried out.

His Excellency mentioned that, in the near future, legislation would come before this Parliament to establish the Victoria Institute of Colleges as an autonomous body; to provide for the establishment of centres for the reception and treatment of alcoholics; and to amend the Stamps Act to provide exemption from stamp duty on leasehold agreements between a country municipal council and an approved decentralized industry.

To the rural community, a highlight of our Government’s election policy was the statement that, over the next three years, the Glenormiston Research Station would be developed into Victoria’s third agricultural college. The need for additional one and two-year courses in farm management and animal husbandry is illustrated by the number of applicants who have been unable to gain admittance to Dookie Agricultural College. In order to meet the rising cost structure in agriculture and to supply the ever-growing local and international food market competitively, the farmer of the future will be a man skilled in the management of farming as a

business. When the proposed Glenormiston Agricultural College becomes a reality, the opportunities that will be available must, in the long term, be of great benefit to Victoria.

As the youngest member of this House, who by normal life expectancy should outlive other members, and who, therefore, must live longer with the effects of present-day Governments, I view with concern the increasing promises made by all parties at election time. Any one of these promises that is carried into effect must cost the taxpayer something; therefore, it is vital that those members of the community who could be described as producers should not, by excessive taxation or restrictions, lose their incentive to produce the optimum. Whilst care must be taken to protect the less fortunate in the community and adequately educate the future generation, everything possible must be done to encourage and foster people who are prepared to make above-average efforts and greater personal sacrifices. Those people contribute immense benefit to the well-being of the community. If the present trend continues, before the end of this century the incentive will be to achieve the minimum and not the maximum of output. By its foresight, wisdom and choice of government, the community must guard itself against any such situations.

As society becomes more affluent, the demand for services will increase. If the competition for labour between the service industries and the industries producing goods forces the price of labour too high, the cost structure of the goods-producing industries will rise. Therefore, there must be a constant examination of this situation to prevent the goods-producing industries from being priced out of the export markets.

Since settlement, Victoria has enjoyed amazing growth. The Forty-fourth Parliament should do nothing to impede this growth; rather, through intelligent, stable and enthusiastic government, it should make a positive contribution to this development. It is with great pleasure that I express loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., and thanks to His Excellency for his most gracious Speech.

Mrs. GOBLE (Mitcham).—I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity of seconding the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. It is an honour not only to me but also to the people of the electorate of Mitcham, whom I represent, and I believe that the women of Victoria will consider it a signal honour, as I am their sole representative in this Parliament. I am delighted to endorse the sentiments of appreciation to Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe, and, through him, of our loyalty and deep respect to our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II., so ably expressed by my colleague, the honorable member for Warrnambool.

I emphasize that I am not merely paying lip-service to the occupant of the Throne. During her reign, Her Majesty has set an example of devotion to duty and acceptance with courage of high responsibility that has never been surpassed in the history of the monarchy. She is an inspiration to all people who have undertaken onerous duties in other spheres, and I therefore pay her homage.

His Excellency referred to Victoria’s potential development of power and industry. The future can be viewed with optimism when the spectacular developments that have taken place since the first session of the Forty-third Parliament are considered. Natural gas was discovered in February, 1965, and a year later the first flow of oil was recorded. When the Barracouta and Marlin fields come into production in the next two years, the BHP and Esso companies will have spent between $100,000,000, and $150,000,000 on
this project. Additional capital investment will be necessary as the markets expand, and a further expenditure will be involved in the field of exploration. The Bass basin and large areas of the offshore section of the Otway basin are being explored. The developing companies will sell natural gas to the distributing agencies at less than one-quarter of the present cost of production of gas, with considerable benefit to industrial and domestic users.

Natural gas has distinct advantages over towns gas. It is lighter than air; it is safe to use; it is non-toxic; and it needs no further handling for reticulation to the premises of the present consumers. It is estimated that complete conversion of the metropolitan area to natural gas will take approximately two years, and that, during the changeover period, no consumer will be without gas for more than two days. The cost of conversion will be borne by the Gas and Fuel Corporation and other distributing companies. It is not an economic proposition to construct pipe-lines to all parts of Victoria, but as the demand in one area or along a route increases, it is planned gradually to expand the reticulation of natural gas.

Large quantities of liquid petroleum gas will be obtained from the Barracouta and Marlin fields; this will benefit consumers of bottled gas, particularly in country areas to where it is not considered practicable to extend the reticulation system.

Throughout the world the discovery of natural gas has resulted in the expansion of existing industries and the considerable development of new industries. It is expected that this pattern will be followed in Victoria; and it is unnecessary to stress the obvious advantages that will flow from such development. In particular the chemical and plastic industries make considerable use of natural gas, which contains a high content of liquid hydro-carbons which are the basis of the manufacture of many products.

Mrs. Goble.

In the past decade there has been an amazing pre-occupation with education throughout the world, and Victoria is playing its part in this direction. Although some adverse criticism of our education system has been expressed, a great deal has been achieved, and the Premier has given his word that education will continue to have top priority.

The Victoria Institute of Colleges was established in 1965 and steps have been taken to make it an autonomous body. Certain colleges which have been under the jurisdiction of the Education Department will be placed under the control of the Institute; colleges which have been council controlled will continue to operate in that way.

The training of teachers has been a matter of major concern. In addition to the steps that have already been taken to overcome the teacher shortage, the Government is committed to two projects for the training of secondary and technical teachers. Although an unprecedented number of young people are now undertaking secondary and tertiary education, with the plans that are in hand it seems likely that in the foreseeable future the staff shortage will be remedied. During the past seven years, there has been a steady decline in the pupil-teacher ratio.

I reiterate that I have great pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. I assure all members of the House that they will have my co-operation in any move that is in the best interests of the State, and that I shall endeavour at all times to serve the electors of Mitcham with zeal and sincerity.

On the motion of Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until next day.
ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The House will now proceed with the appointment of a Chairman of Committees.

Mr. LOXTON (Prahran).—I move—

That Leonard Stanley Reid, Esquire, D.F.C., be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House.

The honorable member was elected to this House in May, 1958, as the representative of the electorate of Dandenong, and members of all parties have found him to be a quiet and unassuming gentleman, dedicated in his beliefs. He saw active service during the second world war in the Royal Australian Air Force and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry over Malta in 1942. As president of an organization known as “For Those Who Have Less,” formed to provide relief in Asia, the honorable member has been instrumental during the past two years in having shipped to India registered livestock for breeding purposes of an estimated value of $160,000. I am confident that he has the qualifications required for the high office of Chairman of Committees, and that he will carry out his duties with dignity and with satisfaction to himself and to all other members of the House.

Mr. E. S. TANNER (Caulfield).—I second the motion that Mr. Leonard Stanley Reid, Distinguished Flying Cross, the honorable member for Dandenong, be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House. Mr. Reid gave excellent service to the House on the several committees on which he has served, and for several years as a Temporary Chairman of Committees. For six years Mr. Reid was a member of the Citizens’ Air Force, and in the recent world war served as a fighter pilot over Europe and in the Middle East. It is because I know that he will carry out the duties of this high office fairly, truly and graciously, and will uphold the dignity and the prestige of the office that I second the motion.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Will the honorable member for Dandenong inform the House whether he will accept the nomination?

Mr. L. S. REID (Dandenong).—I accept the nomination and am deeply conscious of the honour conferred upon me in being nominated for the position of Chairman of Committees.

The SPEAKER.—Is there any further proposal?

I have to announce that the time for submitting nominations has expired. I declare that the honorable member for Dandenong, being the only member nominated for election, has been duly appointed Chairman of Committees of this House.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I congratulate the honorable member for Dandenong. Having known him for twelve years, I can assure the House that, in giving some indication of the calibre of the honorable member, the proposer and the seconder of the motion have not overstated the case.

Mr. SUTTON.—We all endorse the nomination.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I am sure that whenever the honorable member is called upon to give a decision, it will be given in accordance with his approach to life, which is the right one. Even if all members do not agree with him in his decision, it will most certainly be right in his opinion, and I think we shall accept it as being right, too. I look forward to working under the honorable member’s chairmanship during the life of this Parliament.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—On behalf of the Opposition, I extend warmest congratulations to the honorable member for Dandenong. Opposition members may have political differences with
the honorable member, but all will vouch for his sincerity of purpose, absolute integrity and unfailing courtesy. We, too, look forward to his reign as Chairman of Committees. We have every confidence that the virtues of the honorable member will be displayed in this high office. We wish him well and look forward to working under him.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating the honorable member for Dandenong upon his election as Chairman of Committees. The honorable member is one of our finest citizens. He has been a good member of this institution and his experience as a Temporary Chairman of Committees leads us to believe that he will act in his new capacity with mature judgment and satisfaction to all. Members of the Country Party offer the honorable gentleman not only congratulations but also cooperation.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I, too, welcome the appointment of the honorable member for Dandenong as Chairman of Committees. I consider that the House is fortunate in his appointment, and I look forward to a period of office with him as Chairman of Committees.

Mr. L. S. REID (Dandenong).—I should like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the mover and the seconder of my nomination as Chairman of Committees, for the very kind words that have been uttered. I particularly thank the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Country Party for their expressions of encouragement and support. I also wish to thank all members of the House for the trust they have placed in me, and I will endeavour at all times to uphold the dignity of this Chamber and to safeguard the rights and privileges of all members.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie) laid on the table his warrant nominating Mr. Clarey, Mr. Dunstan, Mr. A. T. Evans, Mr. Fennessy, Mr. J. D. McDonald, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Suggett, Mr. E. S. Tanner, Mr. Trewin, Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Whiting and Mr. Wiltshire to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees whenever requested so to do by the Chairman of Committees.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—
That Mr. Cochrane, Mr. R. S. L. McDonald, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Stoneham, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Trezise, and Mr. Wheeler be members of the Committee of Public Accounts; and that the committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, to move from place to place, and to sit on days on which the House does not meet; three to be the quorum.

The motion was agreed to.

STATUTE LAW REVISION COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—
That Mr. Dunstan, Mr. A. T. Evans, Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Lovegrove, Mr. Ross-Edwards, and Mr. Whiting be members of the Statute Law Revision Committee; and that the committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

The motion was agreed to.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—
That Mr. Birrell, Sir Herbert Hyland, and Mr. Turnbull be members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee; and that the committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

The motion was agreed to.
HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That Mr. Divers, Mr. Fennessy, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Trewin be members of the House Committee; and that the committee have leave to sit on days on which the House does not meet.

The motion was agreed to.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Doyle, Mr. B. J. Evans, Mr. A. V. Smith, and Mr. Sutton be members of the Joint Committee to manage the Library; and that the committee have leave to sit on days on which the House does not meet.

The motion was agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Phelan, Mr. Stephen, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Trethewey, Mr. Trezise, and Mr. Whiting be members of the Printing Committee; and that the committee have leave to sit on days on which the House does not meet; three to be the quorum.

The motion was agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dixon, Mr. B. J. Evans, Mr. Holding, Mr. Jona, Mr. Moss, and Mr. Sutton be members of the Standing Orders Committee; and that the committee have leave to sit on days on which the House does not meet; five to be the quorum.

The motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That Mr. Floyd, Mr. Scanlan, Mr. Trewin, and Mr. Wilton be members of the Public Works Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That Mr. Clarey, Mr. Phelan, Mr. E. S. Tanner, and Mr. Wiltshire be members of the State Development Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

DRAINAGE COMMITTEE.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—By leave, I move—

That contingent upon the enactment, this session, of legislation for the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly to inquire into and report upon certain questions relating to the drainage of land and for other purposes, Mr. B. J. Evans, Mr. Fennessy and Mr. Suggett be appointed members of the committee.

I do not think it is necessary for me to give reasons for this motion. The Drainage Committee has not yet completed its report, and unless this motion is passed the actions of the committee will be voided. So, I expect the co-operation of the House in carrying this motion.

The motion was agreed to.

COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), by leave, moved the following motions, which were agreed to:—

That Standing Order No. 273a be suspended so as to allow the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means to be appointed this day.

That this House will, this day, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

That this House will, this day, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

ESTIMATES.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting an Estimate of Expenditure for the months of July, August and September, in the year 1967-68, and recommending an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
FOR YEAR 1966-67.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1966-67, and recommending an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That a sum not exceeding $100,992,900 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying the following services for the year 1967-68:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sum Required for Three Months Ending 30th September, 1967</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Legislative Council—Expenses of Select Committees</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Legislative Assembly—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$38,400</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly House Committee—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Parliamentary Printing—Printing of Hansard, &amp;c.</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Parliament Library—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Parliamentary Debates—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$21,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Governor’s Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Premier’s Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$208,000</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>State Film Centre—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Soil Conservation Authority—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$141,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>State Development—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Agent-General—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Public Service Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$114,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Audit Office—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$127,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Chief Secretary’s Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$135,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Totalizator Administration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$8,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>State Accident Insurance Office—Salaries</td>
<td>$120,900</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>State Motor Car Insurance Office—Salaries</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Board—Salaries</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Fisheries and Wildlife—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Government Shorthand Writer—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Government Statist—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Social Welfare Administration and Research and Statistics—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Family Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Youth Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Prisons—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Training—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Probation and Parole—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Police—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$5,900,000</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Police Service Board—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$1,650</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>State Library, National Gallery, National Museum and Institute of Applied Science Administration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$60,500</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Library Council of Victoria—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$170,300</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>National Gallery—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$55,000</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>National Museum—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$33,600</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Institute of Applied Science—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Immigration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$20,400</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Labour and Industry—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$320,000</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Education—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Teachers’ Tribunal—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Attorney-General—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$610,000</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Courts Administration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$599,000</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Registrar-General and Registrar of Titles—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Registrar of Companies—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$51,500</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>Rent Control—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$16,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Public Trustee—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$128,800</td>
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### Votes on [16 May, 1967.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Treasury—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>3,590,000</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>Pay-roll Tax—Payment to Commonwealth Government</td>
<td>1,075,000</td>
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<td>48.</td>
<td>Tender Board—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>63,500</td>
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<td>49.</td>
<td>State Superannuation Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>42,900</td>
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<td>50.</td>
<td>Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies and Home Finance Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>37,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Taxation Office—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>245,000</td>
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<td>52.</td>
<td>Stamp Duties—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>92,700</td>
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<td>53.</td>
<td>Government Printer—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>Lands and Survey—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>828,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>Botanic and Domain Gardens and National Herbarium—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>60,900</td>
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<td>56.</td>
<td>Public Works—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>1,632,000</td>
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<td>57.</td>
<td>Ports and Harbors—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>383,000</td>
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<td>58.</td>
<td>Local Government—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>86,800</td>
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<td>59.</td>
<td>Weights and Measures—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>46,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>Town and Country Planning Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>Mines—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>Explosives—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>24,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>Gas Regulation—Salaries</td>
<td>10,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>Agriculture Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>390,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>Agricultural Education—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>230,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>Agriculture—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>353,000</td>
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<td>67.</td>
<td>Horticulture—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>375,000</td>
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<td>68.</td>
<td>Animal Health—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>219,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>Animal Industry—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>165,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>Dairying—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>Extension Services—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>56,000</td>
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<td>72.</td>
<td>Health Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>5,675,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>General Health—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>963,000</td>
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<td>74.</td>
<td>Tuberculosis—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>945,500</td>
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<td>75.</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>984,300</td>
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<td>76.</td>
<td>Mental Hygiene—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>984,300</td>
<td></td>
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<td>77.</td>
<td>Ministry of Fuel and Power—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>11,000</td>
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<td>78.</td>
<td>Railway Construction Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>25,000</td>
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<td>79.</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>7,000</td>
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<td>80.</td>
<td>Forests Commission—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>875,000</td>
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<td>81.</td>
<td>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
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<td>82.</td>
<td>State Coal Mine—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<td>83.</td>
<td>Railways—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100,992,900</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The purpose of this Supply Bill is to provide for the expenditure requirements from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the period of three months from July to September next. The annual Appropriation Act, which was passed by Parliament last December, provided the authority for expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue up to 30th June, 1967. As honorable members are aware, it is proposed that after Parliament has granted Supply and has approved the Supplementary Estimates, which will be introduced to-day, both Houses will adjourn until the spring session when the Budget for 1967-68 will be brought in. It is necessary therefore to pass a Supply Bill now covering the first three months of next financial year and so provide for the
The amount included in the resolution which I have moved is $100,992,900. This is the amount estimated to be necessary to meet expenditure requirements under the individual departmental votes for the months of July, August and September, 1967, on the basis of the continuation of existing services. No provision has been made for any additional expenditure which would arise from new policy decisions. These matters must await the introduction of the 1967-68 Budget.

So far as the Budget for the current financial year is concerned, the position is that, while a number of changes have occurred since the Budget was introduced—for example, on the expenditure side there is the general margins decision and certain other wage awards affecting the Public Service, Teaching Service and police, and on the revenue side there is the effect of the supplementary grant to be made available from the Commonwealth as determined at the February Premiers' conference—a review of this year's Budget indicates that, allowing for variations that have occurred, the over-all result will come out within the result which was forecast when the Budget was brought down.

There are no unusual items in the Supply schedule, which follows the usual form, and the sum included under each division is in accordance with the existing pattern of expenditure. As I have said, the Supply schedule does not anticipate any policy matters which must be left until the Budget is introduced.

The introduction of a Supply Bill following an election has become, as it should be, a mere formality, because the future Government is not known until after the election. If the Leader of the Opposition had been in the position of having to frame a Budget, he would have been granted Supply for a sufficient period to enable him to do so. This has become a pattern in the Victorian Parliament, and indeed in all Parliaments, following an election. Supply is granted automatically, the Budget is prepared, and then Parliament becomes really active. Policies are reviewed, criticized, analysed and considered as they are presented. I present and commend the motion to the Committee.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I suggest that progress be reported.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—I should like to know the procedure that is to be followed. I understood that all parties had agreed to the Supply Bill being passed to-night.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The Leader of the Opposition has asked that progress be reported to enable me to introduce the Supplementary Estimates. This will take about five minutes, and I suggest to both the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party that then there should be a short suspension of the sitting and that the House should re-assemble about 6 p.m. This will give the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party a chance to have a quick look at the Supply Bill and the Supplementary Estimates and still leave some time for debate before the suspension of the sitting for dinner.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I move—

That a sum not exceeding $3,757,684 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying services for the year 1966-67, as printed in the Supplementary Estimates.

Sir Henry Bolte.
Despite the size of the Supplementary Estimates document which has been distributed, the appropriation which it covers relates to only three basic items. These are—

1. Wages awards since the Budget was brought down, including the general margins award of January last.

2. Refunds of stamp duty on cheque forms held by banks and rendered obsolete by the introduction of decimal currency.


These payments have been met in the first instance from the Treasurer's Advance under the provisions of the Public Account Act, but it is necessary for a Parliamentary appropriation to be obtained to cover them, and this is the purpose of the Supplementary Estimates.

The amount covered by wages and salary awards affecting the Public Service, teachers and police and including the general margins determination is $3,098,000. For appropriation purposes, it is necessary to have an appropriation spread over each of the individual salary votes in the Estimates, and the Supplementary Estimates give effect to this.

The wages determinations to which I have referred include two general awards made late in 1966. On 31st October last, the Teachers Tribunal brought down a determination relating to payments for qualifications and the rates of salary paid to certain classes of women teachers. It is estimated that this determination will cost $418,000 this financial year. On 3rd November, 1966, the Police Service Board brought down a general award which is estimated to cost $935,000 this financial year.

The other determinations which have been made by the Teachers Tribunal and Public Service Board since the Budget was brought down applied the marginal increases which flowed from the January award of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in the total wages cases of 1966 to the Teaching Service and the Public Service. The cost of these determinations this financial year is $1,625,000.

The determination of the Public Service Board applying the marginal increases to the Public Service was made on 24th February, 1967. Here the Government has again followed the practice adopted under similar circumstances in the past, and provision has been made for the retrospective application of the determination of the Public Service Board to the date appropriate under the terms of the award of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—the 29th January, 1967. The adoption of this practice of applying retrospectivity is of great value to the Public Service Board because it avoids the necessity for the Board to attempt to rush through the determinations. A specific appropriation to cover this retrospective payment is included in the Supplementary Estimates under Division No. 48A.

With the introduction of decimal currency, all State Governments agreed to refund to the banks stamp duty on cheques held in stock by them and printed with a £ sign and rendered obsolete under decimal currency. The Stamps Act provides a time limit within which refunds can be made in respect of documents with prepaid stamp duty, and as some of the cheques fell outside this time limit it is necessary to appropriate funds to cover these refunds. The refunds have been made and charged to the Treasurer's Advance in the meantime. The supplementary provision is made under Division No. 48.3.9 and amounts to $310,000.

During the year it was necessary for the Government Printer to change the location of the bulk paper store. In anticipation of this move, stocks of paper had been allowed to run down over the past two financial years to a level below minimum
working requirements. At the time when the Budget was in course of preparation, the date of transfer to the new store was not known. This took place in November, 1966, and the cost of restoring stocks of paper to minimum working levels has fallen in this financial year. A supplementary provision of $350,000 is made under Division No. 55.2.7 for this purpose.

Progress was reported.

The sitting was suspended at 5.10 p.m. until 5.45 p.m.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE (DRAINAGE) BILL.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Joint Select Committee of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly to inquire into and report upon certain questions relating to the drainage of land, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

In 1965, Parliament set up a Joint Select Committee on Drainage pursuant to the provisions of the Joint Select Committee (Drainage) Act 1965, No. 7316. Broadly, the functions of the committee were to inquire into, and report and make recommendations to the Council and the Assembly, on the question of whether the existing statutory provisions relating to drainage are satisfactory and what changes, if any, should be made. The committee, which was composed of three members from the Legislative Council and three from the Legislative Assembly, was appointed until—

(a) the expiry of the Assembly by effluxion of time; or

(b) the dissolution of either House of Parliament—whichever of those events first happened. The committee conducted meetings and heard evidence until the conclusion of the last Parliament.

In the course of its inquiries, the committee took evidence from a large number of interested parties and visited many areas on inspections of local conditions, but the work upon which it was engaged is by no means complete. Having regard to the complex problems which Parliament asked the committee to resolve, I am not surprised that the committee was not able to complete its work during the term of the last Parliament.

The object of this Bill is to reconstitute the committee with no alteration to the terms of reference or to the composition of the committee, and to make a further provision to allow cognizance to be taken of evidence given to the previous committee. The Bill does not endeavour to take away from this House and the Legislative Council their rights to appoint members of the committee; the composition of the committee by the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly will be as provided in the Bill.

Although much work has been done, much more remains to be done. This Bill merely recreates a committee which was previously appointed by Parliament and which has been carrying on most important work. So that new members can be appointed and the work proceeded with as soon as possible, it is essential that the measure should be dealt with speedily.

Although the Bill may appear to be long and involved, it is merely a restatement of the Act to which I have referred, with the additional provision that the new committee can take into account the evidence taken by the previous committee and the knowledge gained from inspections made by it. I commend the Bill to the House for its immediate consideration.
On the motion of Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until later this day.

**VOTES ON ACCOUNT.**

The House went into Committee of Supply for the further consideration of the motion of Sir Henry Bolte (Premier and Treasurer) that a sum not exceeding $100,992,900 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying services for the year 1967-68.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—With respect to the motion moved by the Premier, the tradition of this Parliament will be observed by the Opposition. The Opposition agrees with the Premier that this is not the occasion for far-ranging debate on matters of Government policy. Such debates may more adequately and properly take place during the Budget session. Therefore, the Opposition will not oppose the granting of Supply at this time.

However, while it will comply with both the spirit and the tradition of the functioning of Parliament, because the Legislative Assembly will not meet again until the Budget session the Opposition would be failing in its duty if it did not take the opportunity to seek certain assurances and explanations from responsible Ministers on urgent and pressing aspects of Government administration.

The first item to be raised will be dealt with in greater depth by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition than by me. It relates to the problems of police administration in Victoria at the present time. Certain recent events concerning individual members of the Police Force and the results of certain inquiries undertaken by a committee of Parliament have caused grave concern in the public mind about the present state of police administration in Victoria.

I readily concede that these matters—some of which are sub judice—must not be pre-judged by honorable members in such a way that the standard of the Police Force will be determined in relation to the dereliction of duty of a few individual members of the Police Force. However, as week after week goes by and individual members of the Police Force are faced with serious charges, the Opposition must ask whether what is happening is individual dereliction of duty or an over-all weakening of police administration in this State.

Mr. RYLAH.—You have no proof of that.

Mr. HOLDING.—Because of the grave concern existing in the public mind, the Opposition invites the Chief Secretary, on behalf of the Government, to assure honorable members that police administration is sound, that the confidence that the public of Victoria rightly had in the very high standards of the Victoria Police Force is still justified, and that the public may continue to have faith in police administration. Some of the details will be canvassed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I should have thought the Chief Secretary would welcome the opportunity to make a statement. That was one of the factors which influenced the Opposition to raise this matter.

The honorable member for Williamstown will canvass certain matters of administration which come under the control of the Minister of Transport. I raise two pressing matters of Government administration concerning problems in education. The first relates to what seemed to be confused and conflicting statements made during the Parliamentary recess, when compared with answers given to questions in the House by the former Minister of Education, in respect of future senior high schools. This is an important and urgent matter. I ask that during the debate some statement be made so that the position may be clarified for the people of Victoria.
During the recess, there was considerable public discussion of the problems of migrant children attending schools in inner metropolitan areas. In simple, common, human terms, the problems relating to those children are still just as urgent and vital as they were then. In schools in my electorate, and in electorates represented by other members of the Opposition, up to 50 per cent. of the pupils are migrants. In some classes, up to 70 per cent. or 80 per cent. of the pupils have just stepped off a boat. Because they have no basis of communication this places an impossible burden on the teachers who are endeavouring to impart some knowledge to these children.

This matter was raised in Parliament during the previous session, and it was raised publicly; the issues were canvassed during the recess. However, I refer to it again because, in simple human terms, the children sitting in the class-rooms are unable to comprehend what they are being told. Therefore, the matter requires urgent and special attention, and I invite a spokesman of the Government to indicate that the Government not only is concerned with this problem but is considering it and is implementing certain steps to resolve it.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—The Country Party supports the granting of Supply of approximately $100,000,000. Earlier to-day the Premier and Treasurer explained the purposes to which the money would be put. The amount provided under Division 29 for the Police Department represents an increase of approximately $500,000 over the allocation for the corresponding period last year.

Mr. WILCOX.—That would be because of increased salaries.

Mr. MOSS.—Yes; it is basically brought about as a result of the salary increases in January. The allocation to the Education Department is approximately $4,000,000 more than that provided for the corresponding period last year. I hope that when the Government settles down it will give serious consideration to the problems associated with the maintenance of schools. The arrangements which the Education Department has with the Public Works Department for carrying out essential maintenance works are causing a great deal of frustration to school committees and leave a great deal to be desired. I refer in particular to the Yarrawonga State School, which was inspected by the Assistant Minister of Education some months ago. Of all the rather modest requests made on that occasion, not one has been attended to and no assurance has been given that the work will be undertaken. At this school, the sick bay is in a draughty corridor in which children place their school bags and wet overcoats. The draught is considerable when a south wind is blowing.

If the Assistant Minister’s responsibilities still cover maintenance work, I hope he will devise a better arrangement between the Education Department and the Public Works Department in an endeavour to have the necessary maintenance work carried out at many schools throughout Victoria, but more particularly in country areas.

The allocation to the Public Works Department is to be increased by about $100,000 over that for the corresponding period last year. It was reported recently that the Minister of Public Works had taken delivery of a new dredge to be operated in Port Phillip Bay.

Mr. WILKES.—It was not named after him.

Mr. MOSS.—I am not sure of the name of the dredge, but it is to operate in Port Phillip Bay. I should like some information from the Minister on what is to happen to the old dredge which is operating in Port Phillip Bay. One can hardly expect that the new dredge will be put into
service other than in Port Phillip Bay because that is as far as this Government can see.

The old dredge could do useful work in several areas on the Victorian coast. I refer in particular to Apollo Bay, which has been sadly neglected by Liberal representation for many years. The fishermen there fear that they will be unable to get back over the bar when they go out fishing. An implement has been working in the area for ten years, but it is actually losing ground and there is more sand on the bar now than there was before this implement was first used. The person in charge of the operations of the dredge got fed up, resigned and took another position. Goodness knows what is happening there at the moment, and I stress that the Government should give further consideration to alleviating the situation that exists at Apollo Bay and other areas.

At this stage, one can hardly expect the Government to announce a new policy in regard to hospital finances. I appreciate that it wants Supply for three months to enable it to draw up a legislative programme for the spring sessional period, and I do not cavil at that. However, many committees of management of hospitals are working under financial difficulties. Hospital managers have told me that if the present trend continues they will have to reduce the services that their hospitals are providing.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—The hospitals have already had another grant.

Mr. FENNESSY.—The Leader of the Country Party should have listened to the excellent programme put forward by Mr. Whitlam in regard to hospitals.

Mr. MOSS.—The committees of management of many hospitals are in an invidious position today and are financially embarrassed.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—You are behind the times; that situation has been corrected.

Mr. MOSS.—I am not behind the times. The Premier and Treasurer should speak to the committees of management of some of these hospitals. Front-bench members of the Government party are talking nonsense. I do not know how long this Government will last. One of the Ministers has already said in this Chamber that the Government is embarrassed by numbers. The Premier was embarrassed by numbers at last week's party meeting when some of the "hacks" did not run true to form. This could be the commencement of what will actually happen. The Democratic Labor Party broke the Labor Party and, by infiltration, it will ruin the Liberal Party. It is only a question of time before this gang will fall to pieces.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I thought this was to be only a formality?

Mr. MOSS.—It was a formality until I was rudely interrupted by the Premier, the Deputy Premier and a few of the jackals behind them. The point I make is that no further provision has been made to relieve the financial burdens of hospitals. It is admitted that the Government intends to wipe off the debts owing by hospital committees throughout Victoria, and there is nothing wrong with that.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—Last week, an additional sum of $1,000,000 was provided to ease the financial burdens of hospital committees.

Mr. MOSS.—I know that. I also know that an amount of $1,000,000 was allocated some months ago. The Premier and Treasurer is a complete knowall, and it is impossible for a member to speak for more than a few minutes before he interjects. The honorable gentleman thinks he is running this Parliament from start to finish. He wants a one-party Parliament.

Mr. RYLAH.—At least, the Government knows where it stands and where the Opposition stands, but it is not too sure where the Country Party stands.
Mr. MOSS. — The honorable gentleman knows nothing.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. L. S. Reid). — There are far too many inter­jections, and I ask the Leader of the Country Party to address the Chair.

Mr. MOSS. — I am surprised at the attitude adopted by the Deputy Premier. He has been Chief Secretary for twelve years, during which time there has been a lamentable deterioration of road safety standards, and a few days ago he decided to call a conference. One expects something better from a Minister who is supposed to have been in charge of the administration of this sphere of activity for the past twelve years. A day or so ago, the Premier admitted that the country areas of Victoria were in a very serious condition.

Mr. RYLAH. — I suppose the Government is to blame for that, too?

Mr. MOSS. — On previous occasions, the Government has claimed credit for good seasons, but I do not suggest that it is the Government's responsibility to make rain, although it is proposed to seed the clouds in an endeavour to cause rain. Possibly, the Government wants to set up some organization that will put the clouds in the sky to enable cloud seeding to take place. However, the Premier stated that he viewed the situation very seriously.

Sir HENRY BOLTE. — Don't you?

Mr. MOSS. — I have been referring to the seriousness of the position for two weeks, but the Premier did not mention the matter until after the election. At the moment, Victoria is experiencing a drought, but the situation could be retrieved if the State received beneficial rain within the next fortnight or three weeks. If this occurs, there can still be a good wheat harvest, but wool production and lambing have already been affected, and this has had a serious effect on the economy of the State. I do not know whether it is necessary to declare drought areas, but I suggest that the Premier should attempt to liberalize the conditions relating to the carriage of fodder. There is reasonable liquidity in the transport of stock.

Sir HENRY BOLTE. — Cheaper rates are applied.

Mr. MOSS. — There is a concession on the transport of stock by rail, but it is necessary to transport starving stock to new pastures as soon as possible. The conditions on fodder transportation should be liberalized as early as possible in order that stock urgently requiring fodder will receive it expeditiously. The Premier should consider liberalizing the conditions imposed by the Transport Regulation Board because the matter is urgent. Transport by rail is slow and farmers should not be forced to use the railways for this purpose.

The Federal Government has announced a programme for the development of water resources in Australia and has stated that, in co­operation with the States, it will provide $50,000,000 over five years. The new Minister of Water Supply should ensure that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission draws up programmes of water storage development over and above its normal programme, because the Federal Government will not subsidize or be associated financially with established programmes.

Sir HENRY BOLTE. — The big Buffalo dam has been submitted for consideration under this scheme.

Mr. MOSS. — That may be so, but what the Federal Government spokes­man said was—

We are proposing to draw up, in collabora­tion with State Governments, a National Water Resources Development programme. We shall invite the State Governments to submit programmes for water conservation works additional to those to be carried out from the States' own financial resources.

We contemplate that the Commonwealth Government would contribute about $50,000,000 over the next five years for water conservation over and above the States' own programmes.
I doubt whether the big Buffalo dam project will qualify for Federal assistance because it is included in the State’s programme. It does not matter whether the State obtains a grant for the big Buffalo dam or some other project, so long as it receives its share of the Commonwealth allocation. The new Minister of Water Supply should ensure that Victoria immediately submits plans for water conservation schemes over and above those contemplated by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission to be carried out from its own resources. Other States are moving on the matter, and I would be sorry to see anything left undone which could result in Victoria not receiving its fair share of this Commonwealth finance.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, upon your elevation to the important position of Chairman of Committees. I wish you well in your work. The Opposition concedes the Premier’s argument that the debate on this Supply Bill, which was introduced earlier in order to provide approximately $200,000,000 to the Government from July until September—and is the entitlement of any Government following an election—is not the appropriate time for honorable members to analyze the results of the election. At an appropriate time, I shall deal with the recent election especially for the benefit of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet, the honorable member for Glenhuntly. The Government has already been granted Supply until 30th June, hence there is no need to deal with this measure hastily. However, before this short sessional period concludes, it will be necessary for Parliament to grant Supply from 30th June until the Treasurer introduces his Budget in September. The Opposition does not oppose the granting of Supply.

My Leader referred to certain disturbing features concerning the activities and administration of the Victoria Police Force. I do not intend to use this debate for the purpose of making political capital. However, the Opposition, with members of the public, is concerned, as also must be the Chief Secretary, at certain incidents—I hope they are isolated incidents—which have occurred, some of which are sub judice at this stage. The Chief Secretary might be prepared to make a statement to Parliament concerning some of the charges that have been laid against members of the Police Force. The honorable gentleman might also indicate whether he considers that the administration of the Force needs tightening up or whether Government control over the Force should be reviewed. In view of the fact that, following this sitting, Parliament will not meet again for at least another three months, the people of Victoria are entitled to know whether the Government and the Parliament are satisfied that everything that should have been done has been done so far as the Police Force is concerned.

In a report tabled in Parliament during the last session, the Committee of Public Accounts made certain references to the administration of the Police Force. Amongst other things, the committee referred to a shortage in the delivery of petrol supplies—some 4,000 gallons of petrol were short-delivered to the Force—the fact that tires on police cars were dangerously unsafe, that facilities at the police stores in St. Kilda-road were inadequate, and that petrol dipstick readings were careless beyond belief. After this report was released, the Assistant Chief Secretary—the Minister of State Development—stated that an inquiry would be made into the findings contained in it. I understand that the Government intended to appoint Mr. Wilby to conduct the relevant inquiry. I should like to know whether the Chief Secretary is prepared to indicate if he is satisfied with the progress made by Mr. Wilby in this regard. Furthermore, I should like to know whether
the honorable gentleman is satisfied with the inquiries that have been made into the raids on agencies of the Totalizator Agency Board in Victoria.

Honorable members must have been distressed to read reports in the morning and evening newspapers that members of the Police Force were charged in connexion with a hold-up at one of the Board's agencies. The newspapers further stated that officers of the Police Department were endeavouring to associate another member of the Force with this hold-up. This is a matter of grave importance. During the last session of Parliament, the Opposition referred to robberies at Totalizator Agency Board agencies. Opposition members are just as concerned as are Government members with the need to provide adequate protection for persons who work for the Totalizator Agency Board.

I understand that the Government made an effort to have a policeman stationed in every branch of the Totalizator Agency Board on Saturdays, but this proved impractical because of the shortage of police. This type of police protection could not be continued without a corresponding reduction in the availability of police for other duties throughout the State, particularly in connexion with the control of road traffic and local matters in the various municipalities. Possibly, it is the responsibility of the Totalizator Agency Board, as it is with other industries, to provide suitable protection for members of the staff at various times. I should like to know whether the Chief Secretary can supply information concerning the type of protection that will be provided for staff in Totalizator Agency Board agencies during the next three months.

During the past few days, honorable members were confronted with another damaging report concerning members of the Police Force. I should like to stress that the Force is held in high esteem, not only by the Government and the Opposition, but also by the people of Victoria.

Mr. RYLAH.—You are doing your best to destroy its reputation.

Mr. WILKES.—The Opposition sincerely desires to assist the good reputation of the Police Force by encouraging the Chief Secretary, if he sees fit to do so, to make a statement indicating whether he is satisfied with the administration of the Police Force. Unfortunately, the honorable gentleman feels that I am reflecting on the integrity of the Force. I prefaced my remarks with the statement that I did not intend to make a political attack on the Government. I should like to know, on behalf of the people whom the Opposition represents, what has been done and what the Government proposes to do so far as the Police Force is concerned.

During the past few days, there appeared in the newspapers a damaging report to the effect that certain policemen had been charged with having looted a transport. But that was not all. The next day, the newspapers contained a report that an amount of money was missing from a police station. If the Chief Secretary feels that my comments are hurting the Police Force, I shall not elaborate on them.

Mr. RYLAH.—The honorable member for Northcote knows that, because the charges relating to the Totalizator Agency Board and the looting of the transport are sub judice, I am unable to reply to his comments.

Mr. WILKES.—I prefaced my remarks by saying that some of the matters to which I would refer were sub judice. I should have thought that the Chief Secretary, with his excellent legal training, would be able to make a statement without infringing the practice observed when matters are sub judice. I am not asking the honorable gentleman to inform the Committee what happened; I am merely suggesting
that he should make a simple explanation as to whether he is satisfied with the situation.

Finally, a recent press report disclosed that two policemen have been charged with conspiracy over the fraudulent issue of more than 100 driving licences to migrants.

Mr. RYLAH.—This matter, too, is sub judice, so you have tied my hands completely on each of the matters raised.

Mr. WILKES.—I accept the Chief Secretary's statement that the matters to which I have referred are sub judice. The honorable gentleman will recall that problems arose previously in relation to the issue of driving licences and were dealt with by the Police Department and the Government. In view of the fact that a similar happening has occurred, I wish to be informed whether any steps have been taken to prevent this sort of thing from recurring. Members of the Opposition desire to preserve the good name of the Police Force.

Mr. RYLAH.—Which you are doing your best to destroy.

Mr. WILKES.—I am not agreeing to or concerning myself with the Chief Secretary's assumption. I am informing the Committee that members of the Opposition wish to preserve the good name and the reputation that the Victoria Police Force has not only in Victoria but throughout the world. I should like the Chief Secretary to advise the Committee in short and simple terms whether he is satisfied with what has occurred and whether steps are being taken to prevent such happenings in the future, particularly in the three months when Parliament will not be in session.

The sitting was suspended at 6.32 p.m. until 7.51 p.m.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South).—Before the suspension of the sitting, the Premier said that an agreement had been made that the Supply debate would be completed by 6.30 p.m. I had no knowledge of any such arrangement, and I asked the Country Party Whip whether he would ascertain how many honorable members were to speak during the debate and whether he knew of any arrangement to finish the debate at that time. I want to make it abundantly clear that if there had been such an agreement to limit the debate, I would have honoured the agreement.

However, it is the duty of honorable members to ask questions concerning matters of importance within their electorates. Their constituents have the right to ask honorable members to bring certain matters to the attention of the Parliament—in fact, that is what we are elected to do. If any honorable member did not carry out this practice, in plain language he would be a billy goat and would not remain in Parliament very long. It is only by giving service to the people that any good can be done for the electorate.

Parliament adjourned on the 16th March, 1967; it was officially opened to-day, and it is proposed that the sitting shall be for one day and that Parliament shall adjourn until the 5th September. If I have any questions of importance concerning my constituents to ask, I can do so only on the 5th September, and I would not receive a reply until some two days later. It is a long time between March and September—nearly six months—for honorable members to have to wait to do an effective job for their constituents. However, I again emphasize that if there had been an agreement to terminate the debate at 6.30 p.m., I would have been prepared to abide by that agreement, and would have endeavoured to deal by correspondence with matters concerning my constituents. Nobody told me that there was a definite arrangement to limit the debate.

Mr. HOLDING.—There was no agreement in those terms.
Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—The Leader of the Opposition agrees with me. I wish to raise a matter concerning the erection of an additional room at the Koonwarra State School, in my electorate. I saw the works in progress and I asked what was being done. I was told that there was need for the additional room, but the local people had to raise so much money towards the cost and pay for the labour or carry out the labour themselves.

Mr. Dixon.—For what purpose is the room to be used?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—Who is making this speech? I will have a shot at you!

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. L. S. Reid).—Order! I will not allow interjections.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I wrote to the Education Department to learn what was the position. It is tragic that the people in a small country town should be required to pay for the additional room.

Mr. Dixon.—For what purpose?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—Mr. Chairman, I direct your attention to the interjections.

The CHAIRMAN.—Order! I again ask the honorable member for St. Kilda to cease interjecting.

Mr. Rylah.—It is a perfectly reasonable question to ask for what purpose the room was built.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I wrote to the Education Department concerning this matter, and I received from Mr. W. A. Crellin, Secretary of the Department, a letter dated 11th May, 1967, which states—

I refer to your letter of the 2nd of May, 1967, regarding the additional room erected at the Koonwarra State School.

This room is being subsidized by the Department, not for use as a standard classroom but as a general purpose room, which may be used for craft work, visual education, storage of library books, physical education, &c.

These are all educational purposes.

Financial assistance is being provided as follows:—

Subsidy of $300 on a $3 for $1 basis, school’s share $100.

Special grant $500 on a $1 for $1 basis, school’s share $500.

I point out that, in order to obtain a room the plans of which have been approved by the Education Department and the construction of which will be supervised by the Public Works Department, the people concerned have been called on to find another $600. I want to know whether this policy is to be continued by the Education Department. This is not a fair arrangement, and any honorable member would object if a similar thing happened in his electorate. I strongly object to this practice, and seek an explanation concerning it.

Mr. Dixon.—Do you agree with the subsidy system?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—The honorable member for St. Kilda hasn’t got the guts to speak in the House.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. L. S. Reid).—Order! I ask the honorable member for St. Kilda not to interject and the honorable member for Gippsland South to address the Chair and ignore interjections.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I ask whether this will apply to all country schools in the future. Will local people have to raise money for similar purposes, as is the case in this instance? Not a word has been said about the labour that the local people are providing. This should be cleared up in the interests of people living in country districts. The local newspaper stated that the standard Public Works Department plans and specifications were being used. The Government is involved "up to its neck," yet these people are required to find money. I realize that I am a super optimist, but I hope to receive a reply concerning this matter.
Last year I raised several matters during the debates on Supply or on the Budget, and although I wrote to one Minister again and again, I did not receive a reply until at least six months had elapsed. Then I obtained a full reply from the honorable gentleman. I see no reason why honorable members should have to wait so long for information. At one time, the late Mr. Jack McGeer of the Premier's Department used to send to the various Departments, with the Premier's compliments, cuttings from Hansard on matters raised by honorable members, requesting them to reply to the honorable member concerned. Apparently this system no longer operates. I seek explanations, not to-night, but within a reasonable period, on the various matters I am raising.

During the last election campaign, what might be called an auction took place concerning the amount of money that would be paid to denominational schools. I should like the Premier and Treasurer to inform me what amount of subsidy per head will be paid to denominational schools, how the disbursements will be made, and whether the subsidies will be available for the whole of the current school year or whether payments will start next year. We have not been told what the Government proposes to do, and I seek the information on behalf of the people in my electorate who have asked me about it. Another question that I have been asked is whether the Government has decided to assist denominational schools by way of subsidy on the same basis as the financial assistance granted to its own schools for the provision of such amenities as assembly halls, canteens, projectors, and other facilities. The people want to know whether it is possible for the Government to do this.

Mr. RYLH.—What is your policy?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I would grant it to them, but I am only one member. I am not the party. The party has to decide on its policy. I would be happy to do it.

Mr. WILCOX.—Is your Leader happy?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I am speaking as an individual member, as I am entitled to do. It is well known that the natural gas that has been discovered off the coast of Gippsland will be brought ashore in my electorate at Longford; the large maintenance works on which millions of dollars are being spent at Barry's Beach near Port Welshpool area are also in my electorate. People are asking me what is the position concerning the pipe-lines and other matters relating to natural gas. I should like to know whether the Victorian Pipelines Commission has arrived at a decision as to the route of the natural gas pipe-line from Longford to the metropolitan area, and, if so, whether the Premier will advise the House concerning the route and when the work will be commenced.

Members of the farming community in the areas concerned are anxious to know whether the pipeline will go through their properties, and the people in the towns are clamouring for the pipes to be routed near their towns in the hope that industries may thus be attracted to them. That is a reasonable outlook. Another question is whether the gas from the Marlin field will be piped to Longford for treatment. We are aware that the gas from the Barracouta field will come ashore at Longford, but the Marlin field is nearer to Lakes Entrance.

Mr. RYLH.—The answer to the question is "Yes". That has been said a number of times.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—Has it been decided yet whether the residuals from the natural gas will be treated in the Longford area or transported to Melbourne? If the latter is the case, will this be done by a second pipe-line or by road in tankers? Both means of conveyance have been mentioned in the area. Another question is whether the Premier promised at Morwell during
the recent election campaign, as stated in the press, that graduated tariffs would apply to Gippsland for natural gas, and that this would mean that natural gas would be cheaper at Sale than elsewhere. If this promise was not made as reported, will the Premier press the Victorian Pipelines Commission to ensure that this will be so.

Mr. RYLAH.—But your party’s policy is uniform tariffs.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I am speaking for myself. I am not speaking for the party. The Chief Secretary is three years behind.

Mr. RYLAH.—What do you want?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I want an answer to the question I have asked. I ask straight out whether the Premier made the statement which appeared in the press.

Mr. RYLAH.—Of course he did.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—That it would be cheaper at Sale than elsewhere?

Mr. RYLAH.—That there will be negotiated tariffs in those areas. Your party’s policy is against that.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—The Chief Secretary should not mind what my party’s policy is. I am speaking as an individual member. The Minister is running for cover.

MR. BALFOUR.—The Premier said that there would be a differential price in Gippsland. I was present at the meeting. The price will be cheaper in Gippsland than in the metropolitan area.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. L. S. Reid).—Order! I will not tolerate any more interjections. I ask the honorable member for Gippsland South to address the Chair. If he wishes to raise any matters, there will be ample opportunity for the Minister concerned or other honorable members to reply.

Mr. RYLAH.—Write a letter. We are trying to help you.

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I would not mind doing that. I am trying to find out whether the press statements were correct. The residents of the district are vitally interested. People living in any city who had the opportunity to buy natural gas cheaper than it could be obtained elsewhere would “rush it” in order to encourage the establishment of industries which could use the cheaper fuel. I am merely asking whether the reported promise was made. I do not say that the Premier made it. By interjection, the Minister for Fuel and Power has stated that the Premier did make that statement, so that point is now clear.

I refer now to a matter which affects the Chief Secretary. The Truth newspaper of 29th April reported that the man known as Mr. “X” had been hounded from the east coast to the west coast of Australia and that he was continually on the run. I am not saying that the statement is correct. All I ask is that the Chief Secretary will inform honorable members of the police version. That is a fair question to ask.

Mr. RYLAH.—When can I make an appointment for Mr. “X” to see you?

Sir HERBERT HYLAND.—I do not care whether Mr. “X” sees me or not. It is of no use the Chief Secretary trying to be funny; it is a serious matter if a man has been hounded in the manner stated in the newspaper. The police version should be given for the information of honorable members.

Finally, I ask the newly appointed Attorney-General to advise me as soon as possible what action the Crown proposes to take against Milleradio. About 150 complaints have been made to the Consumers Protection Council about this organization. I was taken down by it; I am quite honest about the matter and admit that I was very definitely caught.
Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown).—The Opposition has no desire at this stage to embarrass the Government, which has been elected by a minority of the electors in Victoria, nor at this juncture to make an onslaught on its policies. Although members of the Labor Party are not much impressed by the manner in which the Government was returned to office, we acknowledge that it has a slight mandate. Consequently, tonight we are trying to be reasonable—a sentiment foreign to a Government party that has too many members. The Chief Secretary has not answered in a reasonable manner the very reasonable demands that have been made.

Mr. Dixon.—Requests.

Mr. FLOYD.—Very well. The Chief Secretary did not answer the very reasonable requests made for assurances that certain action will be taken during the forthcoming Parliamentary recess. Nothing has been heard from the Government except some screams to the effect that there was an assurance that the proceedings of this House would be completed by dinner time. I do not know how these assurances come about. I do not know whether the Chief Secretary or the Premier meets a member of the Opposition in the passage and says, “How long will you be?”

Mr. RYLAH.—There will not be any more.

Mr. FLOYD.—I am not interested in the Chief Secretary. I am addressing the Chairman.

Mr. RYLAH.—There will not be any more assurances.

Mr. FLOYD.—I am not worrying about the Chief Secretary and his threats. I assure you, Mr. Chairman, that we can look after ourselves. If the Government has any pseudo-ideas about imposing time limits, it will have to apply the guillotine or move the gag.

Mr. RYLAH.—We understand the position.

Mr. FLOYD.—The Opposition realizes that the Government has the numbers to enable it to act as it wishes. The victors have now become the oppressors. Members of my party realize that fact and are prepared to face the position, but we still believe in ethical conduct.

Mr. RYLAH.—There will be no more assurances, undertakings or agreements; the situation is quite clear.

Mr. FLOYD.—Why does the Chief Secretary not address the Chair?

Mr. RYLAH.—Why don’t you?

Mr. FLOYD.—From the beginning of my speech I have addressed the Chair.

Mr. RYLAH.—With your back to it.

Mr. FLOYD.—I have addressed the Chair. If the Chief Secretary wants me to take more time than I intended, I shall do so.

Mr. RYLAH.—Go your hardest!
Mr. FLOYD.—The Chief Secretary should have addressed the Committee before I commenced my speech, but he is a jib—an honorable jib!

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. L. S. Reid).—Order! I will not tolerate interjections. I ask the honorable member for Williamstown to resume his speech.

Mr. FLOYD.—With the flapdoodle that went on to-day, with bands marching up the street and everybody saying everybody else was a wonderful fellow here to-day and that democracy was supreme, we had a sneaking idea that the Government would extend to the Opposition the right to ask the Government—even though it has superior numbers—for assurances regarding some things we fear may take place before Parliament re-assembles. We ask only for assurances—nothing else. We are not even critical; we are going to vote for Supply.

If the Government believes in democracy—and it gave a great display of it to-day—is it not possible that it might extend to the Opposition the privilege of asking for assurances regarding matters about which it is perturbed and about which the Government should be perturbed? Is that wrong? If it is considered wrong, I am sorry.

Parliament will meet again in September, and the Opposition will rally its forces to the best of its ability and attack the Government. At present, however, I intend to ask for some assurances. Colleagues who have preceded me have sought to be reassured but they have received no replies. We are not criticizing or condemning the Government; we are merely asking for assurances. We represent constituents, and constituents ask us what the Government is doing about certain things.

In our benevolent moments, we sometimes say something nice about the Government, and acknowledge that it is doing its best. The Government cannot be held responsible for everyone who makes a mistake. All the Opposition asks is that the Government should give some assurance against the mistakes recurring. The Opposition asks that the faults which have become apparent and the cracks in the administration which have occurred since Parliament last met on 16th March will be corrected before Parliament meets again in September. I had not intended to say as much as I have said but, if the occasion merits it, I will say much more when Parliament meets again.

The Chief Secretary seems to think the Opposition has no rights, but it has some. The Opposition has not attempted to condemn the Government to-day; it has merely asked for certain assurances. Some pitiful comment was made about the Opposition having made an agreement that the House would rise by dinner time. What rot! The House last met on the 16th March, and it will not meet again until September, but it is suggested that the Opposition should be deprived of its rights.

It is probable that the Government does not now speak to the Country Party, because the Government now has control in another place. The members of the Government party used to be the friends of the members of the Country Party, but they do not care about them now. The Country Party does not count now. In referring to an insipid agreement concerning the House rising by dinner time, the Government forgot that the Country Party had some rights. Country Party speakers occupied some reasonable time, and they were perfectly entitled to do so. As sportsmen in all parts of the House know, there is time on in every game. The Country Party took up some time, as it was perfectly entitled to do, and there was time on for that. If members of the Government want to open some pickle factory at night, they may do so, but
all other honorable members should be permitted to conduct the business of the State in the best way we know.

There is now a new Minister of Transport, and he cannot be expected to know everything about his Department yet. His colleague, who did an excellent job as Minister of Transport, was sacked. The former Minister of Transport may, from camaraderie, back up the new Minister who should tell us what will happen in regard to the construction of Harris trains. I ask the Minister of Transport—if he knows anything about the matter—whether he can provide any better information than was given in answer to the question I asked, on 20th September, 1966, as to how many Harris trains were being constructed.

I also asked the then Minister of Transport whether the Newport workshops were capable of building the Harris trains to the completion of the programme. I also desired to know whether contracts would be let in Japan or anywhere else. However, the Minister displayed the dexterity which members of the Government have developed over the years, and that question was not answered. I was merely informed that trailer coaches would be made at Newport and motor coaches would be made somewhere else. Since that time, trailer cars have been made at Newport and motor cars have been made at the works of Martin and King Proprietary Limited.

Since then, because of the advent of two-carriage trains, some trailer coaches have had to be converted into motor coaches, and that work is being done at Newport. Because of the great admiration of Japan which has come about in the last few years, with Japan's magnificent control of electronics, transistors, and the like, and with the intrusion of Hong Kong millionaires into this country, people, particularly people in my electorate, fear that the Newport workshops will become partially redundant and will be used to make only trailer cars. They also fear that the Government will place contracts in Japan for the construction of motor carriages. On the 20th September, 1966, I sought an assurance from the Government. I asked whether the Government was interested in continuing the great work done at the Newport workshops, but the answer was negative. I now ask what will happen between to-night's sitting and September. I want an assurance that the Newport workshops will continue to carry out the work that has been done there. The Newport workshops have proved their capability. During the war years, not only tug boats, but also tanks and aeroplanes were manufactured there. The other day, I attended an exhibition by apprentices at the Newport workshops. It would do anyone good to see what the apprentices do.

Honorable members will recall the Horsham–Kyosan Engineering Company Limited project and will know of the wonderful system of electrical control of all signals between Spencer-street and Albury. The Japanese know a great deal about this sort of thing, but the honorable member for Sunshine, the honorable member for Footscray, and I visited McKenzie and Holland Aust.) Proprietary Limited at Spotswood and found that that firm knows more about the electrical system of signalling used between Spencer-street and Albury than all the Japanese firms put together. That information has been given in this House during debates on adjournment motions. It is to the credit of the Government that fresh tenders were called and a contract placed with McKenzie and Holland (Aust.) Proprietary Limited—and the system is working perfectly.

All the Opposition asks to-night is that the Government should state what will happen between now and September concerning matters mentioned in this debate. Does the Government intend to
threw out of work the men now employed at the Newport workshops? Does it intend to make redundant the apprentices who for many years have done the sort of work of which I have spoken? Does the Government intend to throw away all the wonderful work which has been done locally and let contracts in Japan for the supply of the next series of Harris trains? The questions are as simple as that. Will the Government answer them?

Mr. MITCHELL (Benambra).—I hear noises from the Government benches. It is a change to hear the gagged voices bringing out a slight squeal. The members of the Government party have been told to keep quiet. They are wincing under the dictatorship of their party machine. They know they have no case. They have no comeback against the dictatorship which controls their party machine. It is good to hear one squeal from them. I should like to ask the Premier, or the Minister of Labour and Industry, when and in what form it is proposed to introduce legislation to legalize the baking of bread at week-ends. There is dead silence now from the Government benches. If it is intended to introduce legislation to legalize the baking of bread at week-ends, is the Premier sure that he will be in a position to implement the legislation controlling this activity? It is one thing for this Government to try to bedazzle its poor stooges who back it up with vast sums of money, but another thing to carry out its promises. Is any member of the Government game enough to stand up and say, "Yes, we will introduce legislation to permit the baking of bread at week-ends and guarantee to make it work"? The Government cannot make it work; it utters brave words, but it will get nowhere.

An article on page 4 of the Truth newspaper of Saturday, 6th May, is headed, "Lesson from the Shame of One Town". This article contains a pertinent paragraph, and I should like a succinct and definite statement from the Government on what appears in this article which states—

The first step which the returned Bolte Government should take is to ensure that there are no more secret courts in this State.

What exactly is going on? An earlier paragraph in the article states—

More remains to be told of the secrets of Swan Hill, which the town's courts sought to cover up. But the public will have to wait for the further details.

We should not tie a label on to young people too early for their indiscretions, but if the law as we know it is to be properly administered, there should be no secret courts. Some of the disclosures in Truth are far from incredible, but I want the Government to make a clear-cut statement in answer to what has been stated in that newspaper. Is this secrecy justifiable in the interests of young people, or is it something that has been hushed up to cover an extremely unsavoury situation that may break out elsewhere?

I should like the Minister of Transport to investigate the position of the railway crossing at Koetong, which has been "hanging fire" for a number of years. The buck was passed from the Country Roads Board to the Railway Department and back to the Country Roads Board, and in the meantime the Shire of Towong had put up with this extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs. The road from Melbourne through Corryong to Sydney is fully bitumenized, yet at this dirty railway crossing at Koetong, the approach to which is most awkward, motorists have to get off the bitumen. As the Country Roads Board has made a clear-cut statement on the matter, I should like the Government and the Minister of Transport to finalize the Railway Department’s side of the issue and let the Shire of Towong know what the position is. The Government and the Railway Department, in conjunction with the Country Roads Board, should remove this black spot from this road.
Honorable members generally and all the people of this State are concerned about health and hospitals, but the other day it was touch and go whether or not the hospital at Corryong would have to close. The hospital at Wangaratta is in debt to the tune of $60,000 a year, in spite of the brilliant administration by Mr. Larkins and his band of helpers. Some months ago, my colleague in another place, the Honorable A. K. Bradbury, asked what the Government intended to do about this disgraceful position, and he was told that the Government was considering the matter. This is an inept Government. Faced with a vital issue of mounting debts of hospitals, the Government is only considering the matter! The attitude of the Bolte Government is, "Let the people pay." Because of the parsimony, the inability and the unwillingness of the Bolte Government to tackle this matter of hospital finances, the people of the Upper Murray area, Tallangatta, Corryong, Wangaratta and Wodonga have been asked to put their hands in their pockets to assist the local hospitals. This is not because the Bolte Government cannot meet its debts, but because it will not meet them. Why has not the Government the money to help these hospitals? The Premier has got this money but he denied the sick, the suffering and the dying of this State so that he could pay the blackmail to the Democratic Labor Party and retain the Treasury benches.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East).—First, I offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of Committees. I am sure that you have already realized that you have a difficult job on your hands because it seems that the people of Victoria have elected even more back-bench members to the Government party whose sole function will be to have a shot at the person who is prepared to express an opinion. This has been clearly demonstrated to-night. Anybody who has observed the faces of the new back-bench members of the Liberal Party will realize that they are fast learning that they will not be allowed to express their opinions on matters relating to their electorates. The same position will apply in the party room; they will not be prepared to voice their opinions and face this barrage of interjections and the vilification thrown their way.

At least most members of the Country Party have the satisfaction of knowing that the electors, given a choice of four parties, gave more than 50 per cent. of their votes to members of the Country Party. This is something of which members of the Country Party can be proud, and it gives us the added strength that we need to meet the overwhelming forces on the Government benches. It is not the size of the dog in the fight that counts, but the size of the fight in the dog.

I did not intend to participate in this debate, but was forced to do so because of certain remarks made by interjection by the Minister for Fuel and Power, who indicated that the Premier had given him an assurance that there would be graduated tariffs for the supply of natural gas in Gippsland.

Mr. BALFOUR.—There will be differential charges in Gippsland.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—I find it difficult to pin the Government down on this matter. On numerous occasions I have tried to get a clear-cut statement as to its intentions, but I have been unable to do so. The latest interjection by the Minister has completely changed my conception of what I thought he meant last time, and this is the argument I have with the Government. I cannot get a clear-cut statement on what is proposed. Will the price of gas be cheaper to the householder in Sale than it will be to the householder in Melbourne?

Mr. BALFOUR.—No, leave the word "Sale" out of it. There will be a differential charge in Gippsland.
Mr. B. J. EVANS.—A differential charge usually means that the rate for householders will be different from that for commercial and industrial concerns. Am I to assume that natural gas will be cheaper in the eastern part of Gippsland than it is in that part of Gippsland which is closer to Melbourne? How is it proposed to implement this policy, because in Sale gas is distributed by a private undertaking? Does the Government propose to take over this undertaking, and, if so, which instrumentality will take it over?

Mr. B Alfour.—Sale has never been mentioned.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—I cannot get to first base.

Mr. Balfour.—You do not understand the position.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—I am trying to understand it. It is easy for the Government to say that there will be cheaper gas for Gippsland—four short words—knowing full well that some gullible people will accept this statement because they do not understand the ramifications of the sale and distribution of natural gas. But, what do those words really mean? Do they mean that the price of natural gas to the eastern part of Gippsland will be reduced by the .3 of a cent per therm that it costs to pipe the gas? Is that the difference? The Government should inform honorable members what the concession is to be. I am trying to get the facts so that I can judge fairly and honestly what the Government proposes to do, but all I get is this vague generalization that tells me nothing. Honorable members are entitled to a clear-cut statement from the Government on this question.

Unless it is proposed to take over the gas undertakings at Sale, I cannot understand how cheaper gas can be guaranteed to the residents of that city, yet, because of the Government's assurance on this point, the local people believe they will enjoy cheaper gas. I should like the whole situation clarified. I am not expressing an opinion one way or the other, although the Country Party has certainly expressed its opinion on the question of uniform tariffs. It is clear that the only way by which the Government can provide concessional gas prices is by a uniform authority being responsible for the distribution of gas throughout the whole of the State. Unfortunately, the Government rejected a Country Party amendment to the relevant Bill to empower the Gas and Fuel Corporation to distribute gas throughout the State.

If the Government is fair dinkum in saying that cheaper gas will be available in Gippsland, it should inform honorable members who will distribute the gas, who will enjoy the reduced tariffs, and how much cheaper the gas will be. If the gas is to be supplied at only .3 of a cent per therm cheaper, it will be worth very little to the people of Gippsland. The Government should inform honorable members of its proposals.

The Government cannot blame the Country Party for raising objections if the proposals are not properly explained. I hope the Government will make its intentions clear so that we will understand the position, be able to draw our own conclusions and perhaps modify our policy to meet the position in the light of further knowledge. However, with the information at its disposal, the Country Party still believes that a uniform tariff throughout the State would be in the best interests of all concerned. The only way by which the people of Victoria can obtain natural gas at a reasonable rate is for the costs of distribution to be shared and pooled all over the State. I defy any honorable member to name a service or commodity which can be provided in the country cheaper than it can be supplied in the metropolitan area.
An examination of the Supply schedule reveals that, for a similar period last year, an amount of $15,619 was provided for the Traffic Commission. No comparable amount appears in the Supply schedule which is now under consideration. I hope this does not mean that the Traffic Commission will not be able to function during the early part of the next financial year. The Commission plays a vital role in the community, particularly in view of the calamitous number of deaths on our roads in recent weeks. I should like an explanation from the Government why this item has been omitted from the Supply schedule.

The motion was agreed to.

The resolution was reported to the House and adopted.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The House went into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year 1967-68, the sum of $100,992,900 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue of Victoria.

The motion was agreed to, and the resolution was reported to the House and adopted.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL

(No. 1).

Leave was given to Sir Henry Bolte (Premier and Treasurer) and Mr. Rylah (Chief Secretary) to bring in a Bill to carry out the resolution of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary) brought in a Bill to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of $100,992,900 to the service of the year 1967-68, and moved that it be read a first time.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read a first time, and passed through its remaining stages.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1966-67.

The House went into Committee of Supply for the further consideration of the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1966-67.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—As explained by the Premier and Treasurer, the Supplementary Estimates relate to three main items—first, wages awards since the Budget was brought down, including the general margins awards; secondly, refunds of stamp duty on cheque forms held by banks and rendered obsolete by the introduction of decimal currency; and, finally, the restocking of the new paper store for the Government Printing Office. The Opposition is not opposed to any of these items.

The motion was agreed to.

The resolution was reported to the House and adopted.

WAYS AND MEANS.

The House went into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year 1966-67, the sum of $3,757,684 be granted out of Consolidated Revenue of Victoria.

The motion was agreed to, and the resolution was reported to the House and adopted.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL

(No. 2).

Leave was given to Sir Henry Bolte (Premier and Treasurer) and Mr. Rylah (Chief Secretary) to bring in a Bill to carry out the resolution of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary) brought in a Bill to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of
The debate (adjourned from earlier this day) on the motion of Mr. Rylah (Chief Secretary) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East).—Earlier, the Chief Secretary informed the House that the Select Committee on Drainage, which was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1965, had, because of the completion of the Forty-third Parliament, ceased to exist, and he stated that the purpose of this Bill is to recreate that committee and allow it to continue with its investigations.

I am well aware of the reasons for the existence of the Select Committee on Drainage; I am also aware of the work that it has done and of the investigations that it has carried out. The Opposition agrees that, in the interests of Victoria, it is necessary that the committee should be reconstituted to allow it to finalize those investigations. Although the committee was constituted in 1965, it did not actually commence its work until 1966. In the short period of twelve months, the Drainage Committee carried out many investigations and heard much evidence.

The Chief Secretary and the Premier realize the many complexities involved in the investigation of the drainage problems of Victoria and understand that in many cases there is a conflict between the Water Act, the Drainage Act, the Health Act, the Local Government Act and the River Improvement Act. It will be necessary for the Drainage Committee to examine and sort out the complexities and contradictions that exist between those enactments, and endeavour to establish a uniform code for the benefit of Victoria.

The committee was ably led by its chairman, the honorable member for Moorabbin, who now represents Bentleigh. The Statute Law Revision Committee originally considered the question of drainage in Victoria, and finally realized that the investigations would be better carried out by another committee. That committee suggested that the problem should be dealt with by a Select Committee.

This Bill provides that all the minutes of the previous committee, together with the evidence already submitted, will be available to the new committee. I am sure that, upon the completion of its work, the Select Committee on Drainage will provide a worth-while and well-established code in relation to drainage which will be of benefit to the State. Therefore, the Opposition supports the Bill.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—The Country Party supports this Bill to provide that the Select Committee on Drainage shall continue its valuable work and shall be able to consider evidence previously submitted. From time to time, severe drainage problems arise. It is vital that these problems, many of which are irksome, should be solved. Undefined watercourses are a big bugbear to country people and, at the moment, honorable members are not in a position to know the answers. Large sums of money will be needed to solve these problems effectively.

The Drainage Committee has already submitted a number of valuable interim reports, but it has not yet reached finality on principles. I am sure that it will find a reasonable solution to the problems, and will recommend effective economic proposals. I have every confidence in the committee, and I take the opportunity of saying how much I appreciate its work. I am sure that
it will provide an excellent report for the future consideration of the House.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed, pro forma.

Mr. RYLALH (Chief Secretary) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Revenue for the purposes of this Bill.

A resolution in accordance with the recommendation was passed in Committee and adopted by the House.

The House went into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

Education Department: Sunshine Technical School: Report of Board of Technical Inspectors


Mr. RYLALH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a day and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker or, if Mr. Speaker is unable to act on account of illness or other cause, by the Chairman of Committees, which time of meeting shall be notified to each member of the House by telegram or letter.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. RYLALH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—I ask the appropriate Minister to direct the attention of the Minister of Education to conditions at the Sunshine Technical School which are of long standing and which are overdue for remedy. I quote from the report of the annual inspection by the Board of Technical Inspectors made a year ago, in which it is stated—

Major building requirements have been reiterated in inspectors' reports over a period of years during which time conditions have deteriorated year by year. Class-room accommodation is, to say the least, unsatisfactory and toilet facilities are totally inadequate for a mixed school of nearly 1,000 students and 70 teachers. The administrative offices and staff rooms are unworthy of the name and the remoteness of some temporary class-rooms militate against efficient organization of classes, to say nothing of the inconvenience afforded students and teachers who have to walk long distances quite unprotected from the weather.

Last week-end, portion of the class-room accommodation, valuable teaching equipment, and other equipment supplied by parents were destroyed by fire. Now the Department has to decide what it will do to repair the destruction, and I urge the Minister to consider meeting the over-all requirements of the school at this important stage in its development.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I desire to raise for consideration by the Assistant Minister of Education an accommodation problem associated with the establishment of the Northcote Technical School. I have received communications from the secretary of the school committee and the secretary of the Technical Teachers Association of Victoria concerning the acute accommodation problem and the difficulty that has been experienced in a liquefied petroleum gas supply being fitted to the temporary class-room situated at the Wales-street State School for science experiments. The Minister indicated previously that it is not the policy of the Department to connect a liquefied petroleum gas supply to more than one
entry to this particular type of portable class-room, but in this case no liquefied petroleum gas has been supplied to the class-room, and this matter is causing some concern.

Further, the Minister has arranged with the Department to make available to the school temporary accommodation previously occupied by B. J. Ahern, a carrying firm in the area. The school is anxious to utilize this building, which was vacated by Mr. Ahern more than six weeks ago, but unfortunately up till now no electricity has been supplied to the building. This is a matter for the Public Works Department, but the parents, the school committee and the teachers would be grateful if the Minister of Education could look into it and the other point I have raised.

Finally, I wish to refer to permanent accommodation for the 1968 enrolment, which the Minister has investigated. It would be a great pity if these students could not be accommodated in other than temporary class-rooms. The Minister and officers of his Department have given some assurances on the matter in the past, but, because of the apparent slowness of the Public Works Department in this matter, I again direct the attention of the Minister to it.

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne).—Earlier to-day, I received some disquieting information from a member of the Melbourne City Council. Apparently negotiations are being resumed or a movement has been resurrected to move the University High School from its present site. Honorable members may recall that, during the last session of Parliament, I raised this question and received a categorical reply from the then Minister of Education that in no circumstances whatever would he agree to any proposal to move the University High School from its present site. There had been rumours or a press report that a conference was to take place between the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health. The former Minister of Education stated that no conference would be held, but that there would be a confrontation and that he would fight to the last ditch to prevent anything of this sort occurring. If anything has been done, it has been done in secret, and I take this opportunity of bringing the matter to the public eye.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East).—I direct the attention of the Minister of Public Works to a matter which I regard as urgent. It relates to renovations to the toilet system in the Albert-street, Brunswick, State School No. 1213. The Minister of Labour and Industry, when acting as Assistant Minister of Education, once stated that this school should be bulldozed. The Public Works Department is carrying out certain worthwhile renovations at a cost of more than $3,000.

The chairman of the school committee and the newly appointed headmaster have informed me that the contractors are replacing the existing slate urinals in the boys' toilet with stainless steel urinals, but that the length is being reduced from approximately 33 feet to 21 feet. Consequently, parts of the walls where the urinals existed will be bare. This school has been the subject of a good deal of publicity lately. The number of students enrolled now is approximately 1,000, whereas when the toilets were constructed at about the turn of the century no more than 500 students attended.

I do not blame the Public Works Department, which is probably working to specifications received from the Education Department; I am not familiar with the liaison that exists
between the two Departments. If it has been worked out by computer that a certain area should be provided for a certain number of students, I can only say that those responsible must be unaware that a number of temporary class-rooms have been added to the school without any increase in toilet facilities. It is incomprehensible to me that the existing urinal area should be reduced. I leave it to members to imagine what will happen when there is a sudden influx of pupils. The alterations are being carried out during the present school recess. The headmaster is concerned about what will happen if the area is reduced as indicated.

I point out also that there has been a large influx of new Australians to the electorate I represent. Between 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of the children attending the school are of new Australian parentage, and it is intended that their habits shall conform with Australian standards. I urge the Minister of Public Works to make an immediate investigation with the view of having stainless steel encompass the whole of the area that has been used as a urinal for the past 50 years.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park).—I direct the attention of the House and of the Minister of Education to a shortcoming of administration in the western suburbs of Melbourne, and particularly in the electorate of Deer Park. I refer to the lack of satisfactory accommodation for mentally handicapped or retarded children. My attention has been directed to the fact that a child who is substantially mentally retarded has been attending one of the schools in the area but has been kept with his own age group until the children have reached Grade VI. The child has been tested by the Psychology and Guidance Branch, which has stated that he must attend a special school. However, the waiting period for entrance to a special school is two to three years, and the child has no school to go to.

A special school exists in Rosamond-road, North Footscray, and provision has been made for another one to be established in the near future at Broadmeadows, but this will not alleviate the position of handicapped children in the Deer Park electorate. Looking at the matter on the basis of a two-year wait, it seems that there is inadequate provision for mentally retarded children in my electorate, and I should like the matter brought to the attention of the appropriate Minister.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—I ask the Minister representing the Minister of Education to provide some information concerning the proposed establishment of a co-educational technical school at Lalor in February, 1968. I have experienced some difficulty in ascertaining how the Government proposes to establish this school. I know how it has acted in these matters in the past; it has grabbed any old ramshackle thing that happened to be handy, put students in it, and called it a school. I fear a repetition of this practice regarding the establishment of the school to which I refer.

I ask the Minister to make available to me as soon as possible the proposals of the Department and to inform me when it is proposed that tenders shall be called for construction of the school building, whether the building will be completed in time for the beginning of the 1968 school year and, if not, what arrangements are being made to establish this school, particularly as it is intended that it shall be a co-educational technical school from its inception. I believe this will be the first time that this has happened so far as a technical school is concerned.

Mr. PORTER.—That is not so.

Mr. WILTON.—I hope—possibly it is a forlorn hope—that the Government will establish the school in its own building. I do not know of any suitable premises in the Lalor district that the Department could use as temporary accommodation. I should
like to be supplied with this information as soon as possible, because many parents whose children are affected are already making inquiries, and I should like to be able to give them details.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—Certain matters relating to education have been raised. The honorable member for Sunshine referred to conditions at the fire-struck Sunshine Technical School. All honorable members may not know that, as soon as a school is damaged or destroyed by fire, officials of the Education Department and the Public Works Department take immediate action to provide temporary accommodation and to plan the rebuilding of the school as quickly as possible. That has happened at Colac, Camperdown, Geelong High School, and Box Hill. The honorable member suggested that some other requirements for the school should be taken into consideration when it is rebuilt. I assure him that, in accordance with general practice, that will be done.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition mentioned certain requirements at the Northcote Technical School. I shall direct the attention of the Minister of Education to his intimation that, in connexion with liquefied petroleum gas and science equipment, certain things are lacking.

The honorable member for Melbourne mentioned an alleged proposal to move the University High School from its present location. The policy on this matter, as clearly enunciated in this House by the previous Minister of Education, will stand.

The honorable member for Brunswick East referred to toilets at the Albert-street State School. Strictly speaking, the redesigning of the toilets is the concern of the Public Works Department; that would be done by that Department's architects. I shall refer the matter to the Minister of Public Works.

The honorable member for Deer Park said that a mentally handicapped child living in his electorate had been examined by the Psychology and Guidance Branch of the Education Department and that it was indicated that the child should attend a special school. The honorable member said that there was no special school in his electorate. One of the proudest developments in education in this State—this would apply to any Government—is the development of education in special classes for mentally handicapped children.

I am certain that, when the Broadmeadows school is opened in the near future, there will be adequate facilities for mentally handicapped children living in the northern and western suburbs. At present, the Education Department makes provision for the transport of these children to the various special schools. There is a special school at Montague to which children are brought from the western and northern suburbs. If the honorable member will give me details of the case to-morrow, I will examine it personally.

The honorable member for Broadmeadows was worried about the establishment of a co-educational school at Lalor. I undertake to direct the attention of the Minister of Education to his remarks.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I assure the Leader of the Opposition and, indeed, all honorable members, that the spring session will commence at the normal time, on either the first or second Tuesday in September; this has been the custom for some years.

I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, and all honorable members would wish me to refer to the outstanding records of two former Ministers. The honorable member for Malvern, who was the Minister of Education for eleven years, would be the Minister who, under all conditions,
could swear that he had fulfilled his oath of office that he would administer his portfolio without fear, favour or affection. During the eleven years in which he held the portfolio, the way in which he dedicated himself to his duties day and night was something of which he can feel very proud. Whatever may have happened and whatever may happen in the future, the fact that in the past eleven years John Bloomfield dedicated his life to education is something that cannot be taken from him.

Honorable members might have been critical, and they might have had reason to be on occasion, but I am sure that no honorable member was ever critical of Mr. Bloomfield on the basis that educational needs in his electorate had a lower priority because of politics. Mr. Bloomfield administered his portfolio in the way in which everyone would wish all Ministers would administer their portfolios.

Ministers will come and go, but John Bloomfield will be remembered as being the Minister of Education during the period of the greatest expansion in education that this State will ever have the good fortune to experience. Thousands of class-rooms have been built, hundreds of new schools, including high schools and technical schools, have been opened, two new universities have been established, and the basis of the Victoria Institute of Colleges has also been established. There has been a great recruitment of teachers and an enormous increase in the enrolment of students. All these things happened during the period in which Mr. Bloomfield was Minister of Education. He would agree with me that it was his good fortune to be Minister of Education during this exciting and exacting period. I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, and all honorable members would wish me to extend thanks to him for a great job well done.

Mr. Darcy was Minister of Water Supply for three years. He also had the good fortune to occupy his office when great planning was possible. Plans were made for future irrigation and drainage. There was the whole of the integration of the Snowy Mountains waters into the New South Wales rivers and the development of the Goulburn and Murray valleys, the Chowilla dam, the Torrumbarry dam, and the great Buffalo dam, which it is hoped will be built ahead of time. Mr. Darcy had the opportunity to administer the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission during that important period. He was also Minister of Mines when the wealth of gas and oil was discovered in Bass Strait. He, too, can feel comfortable in knowing that he has made a very great contribution to industry and to the advancement of this State.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you and all honorable members would wish to join with me in expressing these sentiments, however inadequately I have expressed them.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—It is only appropriate that, on behalf of the Opposition, I should join the Premier in wishing the two former Ministers well. During the period in which Mr. Bloomfield was Minister of Education, I do not suppose any other honorable member of this House endeavoured to make life as difficult for him as I did. Having said many hard things whilst speaking for the Opposition, I think it is appropriate that I should repeat something which I have already told Mr. Bloomfield. In the course of the last few days, I had occasion to meet a senior officer of the Education Department socially, and he told me, quite genuinely, that he was sorry to see John Bloomfield go from education. Because I have on many occasions used statements made by various persons in the Education Department against the honorable member for Malvern, it is only appropriate that on this occasion I
should convey to the House the views of one senior and eminent public servant. Although in a sense members of the Opposition may feel that we have lost a formidable political foe, I think we all agree that in what is probably the most difficult portfolio in the Government the honorable member for Malvern always brought to bear very considerable abilities and gave of his best under all circumstances and in conditions which were not always the best and in many cases probably quite impossible.

We hope that while he is on the back bench he will use that time to recuperate from the considerable strains of his former important office. Those strains must have imposed considerable physical burdens on the honorable member. We wish him well in the future and perhaps when we are making life difficult for his successor he will again take up the cudgels.

I have not in my capacity as a member of this House had many dealings with the former Minister of Water Supply because in my electorate when one turns on a tap water comes out on most occasions. However, we wish him well, and we hope he will continue to play a full and active role in this House. We know his capacities.

We believe that both honorable members not only are worthy additions to the back bench but may well strengthen the hand of the Premier and the Government in the difficult situations which we hope to produce in the near future.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—I desire to express the appreciation of members of the Country Party to the two former Ministers referred to by the Premier, who was supported in his remarks by the Leader of the Opposition. I endorse all that has been said. Both former Ministers had a quality which was greatly appreciated by members of the Country Party and doubtless by other honorable members. We had deputations to them on many occasions, and the quality to which I refer is the anxiety to try to meet the situation as it was expounded to them and to do what could possibly be done to assist. That quality was very much appreciated by members of this House and by the hundreds of people who comprised the deputations. We desire to place on record our appreciation of their services to the State.

Mr. BLOOMFIELD (Malvern).—The motion for the adjournment of the sitting proceeded according to custom up to a point. There were five questions designed to embarrass the Minister of Education—slightly less difficult than normal in my experience—and they were rather more adeptly coped with. Then, I can truthfully say that, to my astonishment, I was summoned from another part of the House—not from the place one would have expected, either—brought to the Chamber and informed that the Premier desired my presence. I have had the unique experience of hearing my own obituary. That is really what it was. There were flights of imagination and pleasant adjectives were used, but I am more grateful than I can express to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party for those extraordinary, happy and generous contributions to to-day's proceedings.

I found it difficult not to be overcome with emotion when the Premier was speaking, but to me it was a beautiful occasion. I will remember in terms of affection my association with this House and the very generous attitude which has been adopted this evening.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I am sure that, even on the motion for the adjournment of the sitting, it was the wish of the House that these feelings and sentiments should be expressed towards the two former Ministers.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.47 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17, 1967.

The President (the Hon. R. W. Mack) took the chair at 2.34 p.m., and read the prayer.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 1).

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

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 2).

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

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE (DRAINAGE) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education), was read a first time.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL (No. 1).

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Supply Bill is to provide for the expenditure requirements from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the period of three months from July to September next. The annual Appropriation Act, which was passed by Parliament last December, provided the authority for expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue up to 30th June, 1967.

As honorable members are aware, it is proposed that, after Parliament has granted Supply and has approved the Supplementary Estimates which will be introduced to-day, both Houses will adjourn until the spring session, when the Budget for 1967-68 will be brought in. It is necessary therefore to pass a Supply Bill now covering the first three months of next financial year and so provide for the period from the end of June to the time when Parliament meets for the spring session.

The amount included in the Bill before the House is $100,992,900. This is the amount estimated to be necessary to meet expenditure requirements under the individual departmental votes for the months of July, August and September, 1967, on the basis of the continuation of existing services. No provision has been made for any additional expenditure which would arise from new policy decisions. These matters must await the introduction of the 1967-68 Budget by the Government.

So far as the Budget for the current financial year is concerned, the position is that, while a number of changes have occurred since the Budget was introduced—for example, on the expenditure side there are the general margins decision and certain other wage awards affecting the Public Service, Teaching Service and police, and on the revenue side there is the effect of the supplementary grant to be made available from the Commonwealth as determined at the February Premiers’ conference—a review of this year’s Budget indicates that allowing for variations that have occurred the over-all result will come out within the result which was forecast when the Budget was brought down.

There are no unusual items in the Supply schedule, which follows the usual form, and the sum included under each Division is in accordance with the existing pattern of expenditure. As I have said, the Supply schedule does not anticipate any policy matters which must be left until the Budget is introduced. I commend the Bill to the House.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—This Bill, and the measure which will follow,
are part of the machinery of government that is necessary following an election. I propose to treat both measures as purely formal. I have noted, of course, that this House will meet again later in the year. In the meantime, the Government is faced with great and growing problems, not all of man's making, both in town and country. We trust that these problems will be given careful and earnest consideration because I hope that when Parliament reassembles the Government will not find honorable members on this side of the Chamber without spirit or afraid to criticize.

The Premier has made some prognostications about the equality of numbers in the Upper House and the fact that he will not hesitate to use your vote, Mr. President, if it becomes necessary to do so. I have been unaware that your vote was for sale to anybody, and I trust that, so long as I am a member of this House, you, Sir, will not depart from, but will preserve, the traditions of Parliamentary government and maintain the spotless reputation that you have acquired here as President of this Chamber.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—In dealing with this measure and, of course, the succeeding Bill which relates to the Supplementary Estimates, this House is acting as it did on a previous occasion three years ago. Generally speaking, honorable members treat Bills of this type as purely machinery measures to enable the Government to carry on over the period during which it prepares its legislative programme for the Budget session of Parliament. Present trends indicate that the Government will encounter many difficulties in the future.

In his speech, the Minister of Agriculture gave an assurance that the over-all result of the financial operations for the current financial year will come within the forecast that was made when the Budget was brought down. Honorable members will be interested to see whether this assurance is fulfilled. Money must be available to enable the Government to carry on the affairs of State, and this Bill will supply the requisite funds. I accept the Minister's assurance that no matters of policy are involved in this Bill and that it is purely a machinery measure to enable the Government to meet the normal accounts incurred by the State. My party does not propose to debate the Bill further. Country Party members could, of course, debate a number of issues with which this measure deals; we could carry on a healthy and vigorous debate on certain issues, but the fact that we shall not do so does not indicate that we shall be silent when Parliament reassembles later in the year.

I join with Mr. Galbally in expressing interest in certain of the Premier's remarks, which indicate that the honorable gentleman has possibly not heard of Pym, Hampden, and other eminent men who established Parliamentary practice and privilege. The Premier would be wise during the recess to study the history of the growth of the Parliamentary system. If he did so, he might be a more learned man, and better equipped to cope with the situation that exists in this House. The Premier should read the accounts of some of the historical events that have taken place in formulating the Parliamentary system of government that exists today. Unfortunately, the honorable gentleman has neglected to inform himself concerning these important aspects. I shall leave the matter to the Premier and his conscience. In the meantime, my party will support the Bill, which will provide the money to enable the Government to carry on until the Budget session.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.
CONSOLIDATED REVENUE BILL
(No. 2).

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Despite the size of the Supplementary Estimates document which has been distributed, the appropriation which it covers relates to only three basic items. These are—

1. Wages awards since the Budget was brought down, including the general margins award of January last.

2. Refunds of stamp duty on cheque forms held by banks and rendered obsolete by the introduction of decimal currency.


These payments have been met in the first instance from the Treasurer's Advance under the provisions of the Public Account Act, but it is necessary for a Parliamentary appropriation to be obtained to cover them, and this is the purpose of the Supplementary Estimates.

The amount covered by wages and salary awards affecting the Public Service, teachers and police and including the general margins determination is $3,098,000. For appropriation purposes, it is necessary to have an appropriation spread over each of the individual salary votes in the Estimates, and the Supplementary Estimates give effect to this.

The wages determinations to which I have referred include two general awards made late in 1966. On 31st October last, the Teachers Tribunal brought down a determination relating to payments for qualifications and the rates of salary paid to certain classes of women teachers. It is estimated that this determination will cost $418,000 this financial year. On 3rd November, 1966, the Police Service Board brought down a general award which is estimated to cost $935,000 this financial year.

The other determinations which have been made by the Teachers Tribunal and the Public Service Board since the Budget was brought down applied the marginal increases which flowed from the January award of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in the total wages cases of 1966 to the Teaching Service and the Public Service. The cost of these determinations this financial year is $1,625,000.

The determination of the Public Service Board applying the marginal increases to the Public Service was made on 24th February, 1967. Here the Government has again followed the practice adopted under similar circumstances in the past, and provision has been made for the retrospective application of the determination of the Public Service Board to the date appropriate under the terms of the award of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—the 29th January, 1967. A specific appropriation to cover this retrospective payment is included in the Supplementary Estimates under Division No. 48A.

With the introduction of decimal currency, all State Governments agreed to refund to the banks stamp duty on cheques held in stock by them and printed with a “£” sign and rendered obsolete under decimal currency. The Stamps Act provides a time limit within which refunds can be made in respect of documents with prepaid stamp duty, and, as some of the cheques fell outside this time limit, it is necessary to appropriate funds to cover these refunds. The refunds have been made and charged to the Treasurer’s Advance in the meantime. The supplementary provision is made under Division No. 48.3.9 and amounts to $310,000.

During the year, it was necessary for the Government Printer to change the location of the bulk paper store. In anticipation of this move, stocks of paper had been allowed to run down over the past two financial
years to a level below minimum working requirements. At the time when the Budget was in course of preparation, the date of transfer to the new store was not known. This took place in November, 1966, and the cost of restoring stocks of paper to minimum working levels has fallen in this financial year. A supplementary provision of $350,000 is made under Division No. 55.2.7 for this purpose.

The motion was agreed to.

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

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE (DRAINAGE) BILL.

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This is a short but important Bill to reconstitute the Drainage Committee which was appointed under the Joint Select Committee (Drainage) Act passed in 1965. This committee consisted of six members, Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Granter and Mr. Cathie representing this Chamber, and three honorable members representing another place.

Because of the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, the Drainage Committee became, as it were, drained of its life blood; it went out of existence from a statutory point of view. This was brought about by the terminology used in the principal Act, which stated that the committee should continue to exist until the expiration, by effluxion of time, of the Legislative Assembly or the dissolution of either House of Parliament. The proclamation of the Governor dissolving the Legislative Assembly prior to the last election meant that the Drainage Committee ceased to exist.

As I have already said, the purpose of this Bill is to reconstitute the Drainage Committee in its previous form and, further, to enable evidence presented to the former committee to be taken into consideration by the new committee. This committee will merely be an extension of the former Drainage Committee so far as membership is concerned. The Bill is an unusual one, but it has been made necessary by the manner in which the Drainage Committee was formed and the provisions of the statute which constituted it. I commend the Bill to the House.

The Hon. SAMUEL MERRIFIELD (Doutta Galla Province).—This Bill seeks to recreate the Drainage Committee. As honorable members are aware, the committee will consist of six members, three representing the Legislative Assembly and three appointed by this House. The Drainage Committee has produced a number of interim reports, the latest of which consists of 48 pages. I have quickly perused twelve of these pages and from them it is obvious that many important principles are emerging. The committee has met on 149 occasions and has heard evidence from 56 witnesses. Naturally, much of this evidence remains undigested, and consequently the present findings of the committee are inconclusive.

The Joint Select Committee on Drainage was formed as the result of a suggestion to the Government by the Statute Law Revision Committee, which stated that it was not the appropriate body to deal with the question of drainage and that it could not undertake such a comprehensive inquiry because of other urgent investigations. The Government acted on the suggestion of the Statute Law Revision Committee, and a Bill was introduced in 1965 to constitute the Joint Select Committee on Drainage. This committee has a long way to go in its investigations, and I believe it is wise that as many of the original members of the committee as possible are retained on the new committee so that the evidence they have
heard can be assimilated and acted upon. The Opposition gives formal approval to the Bill.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—My party is anxious to ensure that the Drainage Committee shall be reconstituted as quickly as possible. The representatives of the Country Party on this committee are Mr. Swinburne from this Chamber and the honorable member for Gippsland East in another place. I have read the interim report recently submitted by this committee, and that report indicates that the committee has gone far in establishing principles on urgent legal problems relating to drainage throughout Victoria.

Honorable members are not giving sufficient consideration to the important of the Drainage Committee. Further, the people in the southern and western parts of the State have not bothered to give evidence. Drainage problems concern not only the irrigation areas but also the high rainfall parts of the State. I hope all honorable members will examine the problems of drainage in a non-political way so that the findings of the committee can be considered in a way that will prove to be of benefit to Victoria as a whole. Its findings could be both urgent and important. We trust the Bill will be passed expeditiously, so that the committee can quickly get to work and complete its investigations.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to.

Clause 3 (Term of office of committee, &c.).

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The somewhat unusual wording of this clause has been mentioned by one or two members. It provides that the Drainage Committee will cease to exist on the expiry of the Assembly by effluxion of time or by the dissolution of either House of Parliament. I understand that the reason is contained in section 101 of The Constitution Act Amendment Act which provides that the Assembly shall exist for a period of up to three years and no longer, but may be dissolved before the expiry of that time.

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.

ADJOURNMENT.


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

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, July 18, at Eleven o’clock.

The reason for sitting on the 18th July is that on the 14th July next half of the members of the House will cease to be members until they are again sworn in. It is intended that those members who have been elected or re-elected will be sworn in on the 18th July, the nearest convenient date to when members will have ceased to be members under the Constitution. If members were not sworn in on the 18th July, the House would be without a President. For constitutional reasons, this situation could not be permitted. Therefore, the election of a President will take place on the 18th July. Another point is that members of the various committees can carry out their functions only as duly sworn members of Parliament. My earlier indication that both Houses would adjourn until the Budget session was an error on my part. Although the Assembly has adjourned until then,
as I have indicated, for constitutional reasons it is necessary for the Council to sit on the 18th July.

The motion was agreed to.

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

That the House do now adjourn.

This is an appropriate stage to say a few words about Mr. Grigg and Mr. Gawith, who are retiring from membership of this House in the near future. Mr. Grigg was honoured by Her Majesty with a C.B.E. at the last allocation of honours, and it can truly be said that few persons in this State have given longer and more faithful service to the community than Mr. Grigg. For many years, he was captain of a rural fire brigade and for a long period he continued to be associated with fire brigades and performed outstanding work as a member of the Country Fire Authority. He also served in the municipal field for a long period and was president of the Municipal Association of Victoria for two or three terms. When I first met Mr. Grigg, he was serving on the executive, the legislative committee and the industrial claims committee of the Municipal Association. He has also been associated for many years with his local hospital and agricultural society. All of the work I have enumerated has been done by Mr. Grigg in an honorary capacity.

As a member of this House for twelve years, Mr. Grigg has had the courage of his convictions, and we all trust that he will enjoy good health in the years ahead. He has received loyal assistance from a wonderful wife. All honorable members will agree that a member of Parliament cannot satisfactorily carry out his duties without the assistance of his wife. Over the years, Mrs. Grigg has been a great partner of her husband, and we convey best wishes to them for the years ahead.

Mr. Gawith has been one of those colourful personalities who have graced this Chamber, and I regret that circumstances are such that he will not be with us when the House reassembles. Mr. Gawith revelled in interjections, and few members of the House have been prepared to engage him in verbal cross-fire, in which he has been outstanding. Mr. Gawith is the only member of the House in my 32 years of membership who has been able to clear the galleries; soon after his election, he did this very effectively. In telling Mr. Gawith that we regret he will not be a member of the House after 14th July, I thank him very much for his friendship and co-operation. I am sure all members are sorry that he will not be with us in future sessions.

I refer now to the passing of Sir John Lienhop. For a number of years, he was Leader of the House as a member of a coalition Government in which I was a junior Minister. Sir John Lienhop was Minister of Public Works and afterwards Agent-General in London. He gave great service to the State, and we regret his passing. I should like the records of this Parliament to contain a tribute to the late Sir John Lienhop for his work in the interests of the State. His passing is much regretted and condolences are offered to Lady Lienhop.

I should like to refer also to the passing of the Honorable Esmond Kiernan, who for some time was a Minister of the Crown. When I was first elected to this House, Mr. Kiernan occupied the place in the Chamber now graced by Mr. O'Connell. Mr. Kiernan took a particularly keen interest in the debates; he was an extremely able debater and contributed much to the deliberations of the House.

After 14th July, half of the members of the House will have to be sworn in as a result of the recent elections. I extend best wishes for
what lies ahead to those members who successfully faced their masters, and I am confident that the new members will maintain the firmly established high standards and traditions of this House. An indication that this will be so was the speech made by Mr. Hamilton last night when he ably moved the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. Of course, we always expect an outstanding contribution from Mr. Nicol, who seconded the motion; he is always well worth listening to.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—I should like to express to those members who will not be with us in the new Parliament thanks for the contributions they have made to public life in this State and best wishes in their retirement. It may be that they will be happier than those who continue to be members of this House. Out of respect to the feelings of at least one of the members concerned, I do not propose to make any further reference to this subject; I should very much like to do so, but we must respect those wishes.

The late Honorable E. L. Kiernan was formerly one of the representatives of Melbourne North Province. He was a doughty fighter, and in the spring sessional period I propose to say something about him when speaking in support of a Bill the purport of which members may guess. Some of us well remember the late Sir John Lienhop in this House. A splendid fellow, possessed of great gifts, he was a fine debater who lived to a ripe age. Sir John Lienhop left this Chamber to become Agent-General in London, where he carried out his duties industriously, and it was always a pleasure to see him.

Without further ado, I bid members good afternoon and express the hope that when the House reassembles we shall be like giants refreshed.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—The House has met on this occasion in extraordinary circumstances. It has been the first occasion on which certain successful candidates have not taken their seats in this Chamber immediately after their election. This has caused all sorts of complications when members have been speaking in the House to-day.

I join with the Minister of Agriculture in expressing good wishes to retiring members and hope they find plenty to occupy their minds, because they are capable persons who possess able minds. I trust that they will be happy in their retirement. I have known Mr. Grigg for many years. Before he became a member of this House, he rendered tremendous service to the municipalities of the State. He had a long association with the Municipal Association of Victoria and gave great service to fire brigades. One could name a long list of organizations in which he gave meritorious voluntary help. Mr. Gawith also had considerable municipal experience which stood him in good stead as a member of Parliament.

This House will meet again on 18th July, when the new members will be welcomed. Those fortunate members, including myself, who have not had to face an election, can feel a certain amount of equanimity. I hope the next sessional period will be fruitful.

I concur in the remarks made by the Leader of the House about the late Sir John Lienhop. I did not know the late Mr. Kiernan very well; it is 25 years since I was elected to this House, and I cannot recall whether he was then a member. Sir John Lienhop was an active member of the House, in which he was Leader of the Government for a considerable time. He served for a long period as a Country Party Minister.

Sir John Lienhop was well known throughout the northern district of Victoria and the Riverina as a grazier, and he was prominent in the administration of the Bendigo Racing Club.
One could mention a long list of the organizations to which he gave voluntary service. He was a personal friend of mine and of many other members, and I speak of him from the viewpoint of friendship as well as of recognition of the great service he gave to the State. Sir John Lienhop stood by his friends through thick and thin and expected them to stand by him. It was not one-way traffic. He was a capable man and he gave outstanding service to this House, to this Parliament, and to the State of Victoria. On behalf of the members of the Country Party, I join with the other members of the House in extending deepest sympathy to Lady Lienhop.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province).—I congratulate Mr. Thompson on his appointment as Minister of Education. I am glad that the Education portfolio is to be administered by a member of this House as honorable members will have direct approach to the Minister. In December, 1964, consideration was given to the acquisition by the Department of Health of which, you, Mr. President, were the head at the time, of land occupied by the University High School, for extensions to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. At the time, I asked a question about the matter, and the answer given by you, Sir, was:—

Consideration has been given to acquisition of the high school site for hospital purposes. The Education Department has made it clear that it could not vacate unless similar facilities were provided in the same locality. While the school remains in its present location, the whole of the area it occupies is necessary for this purpose.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital wants to build a private and intermediate ward block and a medical consulting suite, but it has no land on which it can construct the necessary buildings. I sincerely trust that the new Minister of Education will maintain the attitude of the previous Minister and that none of the land occupied by the University High School will be passed to the Department of Health until provision is made for facilities of the school to be located elsewhere.

The Hon. G. W. THOM (South-Western Province).—As one of the over-worked and under-paid Whips in this House, I join in extending good wishes to Mr. Gawith and Mr. Grigg. It has been my pleasure to have had their co-operation over quite a long period. Honorable members well know that they have been most diligent in attending meetings of this Council and have met their obligations in the best possible manner. I personally thank Mr. Grigg, who was quite ill at times, and Mr. Gawith for the attention they gave to their duties. I wish them well in their retirement and trust that they have many happy years ahead of them.

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. W. Mack).—I join with the party Leaders in extending to those members about to retire best wishes for a long and happy retirement. They have in their various ways made great contributions to the work of this House. I shall not go over the ground so ably covered by the other speakers. I know that Mr. Grigg has given a lifetime of service to the community, quite apart from the service he has given to the State as a member of Parliament. Neither Mr. Gawith's political friends nor his political foes ever knew what he would say next, either by way of interjection or by way of a speech. Many of his interjections were witty, and some were cutting, but they were always appropriate to the particular circumstances.

I trust that in the years which lie ahead the retiring members will look back with pleasure to the service they gave to the community and in this Parliament and that from time to time we shall see them back in this building as visitors. They leave us without an enemy and with many friends.
The Hon. C. S. GAWITH (Monash Province).—To-day, a comparatively new member, Mr. Hamilton, has seen the affection one receives when one leaves this place but not when one enters it. I feel sure that if I had been treated with that warm affection when I first came here I would not have become the nervous type I now am. My task to-day is simple. I want to thank all those people who have shown kindness to me during my twelve-year term, starting with the staff of Hansard, the Clerks of the House, my fellow members, and the Presidents of the Council.

It is unfortunate that, because of sickness, Mr. Grigg was not able to attend to-day. It has been my good fortune to be a member of this Council which meets in what I believe to be one of the most beautiful Parliamentary Chambers in the world. It has also been my good fortune to hear the utterances of some remarkable men who are and have been members of this Chamber. While speaking of people who have gone before me, I inform honorable members, if they are not already aware of it, of the heart-rending fact that the mortality rate in the twelve years I have been a member of this Council has been two members or former members of Parliament a year. That is one of the reasons why I, a very young man of 56, want to leave this place and enjoy myself.

Speaking as a retiring Parliamentarian to the press, the public, or whoever wishes to listen to me, I say that the life of a Parliamentarian is most onerous, most unrewarding, and under-paid. Surely that statement is worth a cheer from honorable members.

It has been my pleasure to witness the rise of a farmer to the highest position in the State. Sir Henry Bolte has been Premier for a record period of twelve years and is entering on a further term of office. In my opinion, his new term could be a very difficult one. He will need all the goodwill possible to carry out his duties. With his top-heavy party, his job will be no sine-cure. I wish Sir Henry well, and I am sure that he will weather the storm.

I should also like to mention a man who was Leader of this House for a very long time—my friend, Sir Arthur Warner. He was a dynamic and remarkable man who had a great range of knowledge. It was always a pleasure to listen to him, especially when Mr. Galbally tackled him and they produced exchanges which were a joy to listen to. I remember Mr. Galbally saying, while criticizing Sir Arthur at one time, that he had a big mouth and that every time he opened it he put his foot in it and walked all over everyone. For the past eight years, I have been trying to work out what that meant, but I have failed miserably.

I also remember such men as Bill Slater, Buck. Machin, Fred. Thomas and Jack Little, the Leader of the Democratic Labor Party. I remember Mr. Little picking up a Bill containing 44 clauses, threatening the House that he would cause it to sit until 4 a.m., and then doing so. Of the present members of the Council, I should say that the most able speaker is my friend, Mr. Todd. We have not always seen eye to eye. I recall the honorable member speaking on a fair rents Bill and telling the House that the Government was a capitalist Government, and criticizing members of the Government for producing such a Bill which was against the worker. He stated that in his capacity as a member of Parliament for one of the poorer districts of Melbourne his attention had been directed to a small house. He then stated, “Gentlemen, just think of it; it has been under the one tenancy for 33 years and in that time it has had one coat of paint.” I interjected, “What colour?” I do not think anybody will remember the sotto voce reply, which was, “It was the same colour as your bread.”
I hope to come back here, but I have one or two regrets. About ten or eleven years ago, I made a wish in this House—it was a half prophecy—that the basic wage would go up to $40 a week. Today I think there is justification for the payment of such a figure. The formula under which a marginal increase is determined is wrong. It is not equitable that when a man on the basic wage is given an increase of $2 a week the person receiving from $100 to $120 a week gets an increase of $20 a week. Legislation should be enacted to provide that those people who are affected should receive a minimum wage of $40 a week. We are living in an age of prosperity, and that is the least we should do.

I should like to thank Mr. Chandler; it has been a great honour to work under his leadership. Mr. President, I shall be glad to accept your invitation to see you in your room after the House rises.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.42 p.m.

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Legislative Council.

Tuesday, July 18, 1967.

At 11 a.m. the Council met pursuant to adjournment.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS.

The Usher of the Black Rod, at 11.5 a.m., announced the arrival of the Commissioner (the Honorable Mr. Justice Newton) appointed by His Excellency the Governor to administer the oath of allegiance to the eighteen recently elected members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Justice Newton took the President's chair, and announced the receipt of a Commission from His Excellency the Governor to administer the oath. The Commission was handed to and read by the Clerk.

The Clerk announced that returns had been received to writs issued by His Excellency for the election of members to serve for the provinces set out hereunder and by the endorsement on such writs it appeared that the following members had been elected:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>Vance Oakley Dickie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bendigo</td>
<td>Frederick Sheppard Grime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boronia</td>
<td>Gilbert Lawrence Chandler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doutta Galla</td>
<td>John Matthew Tripovich</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Yarra</td>
<td>William Montgomery Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>Robert William May Higinbotham</td>
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<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Douglas George Elliot</td>
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<td>Melbourne North</td>
<td>John William Galbally</td>
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<td>Melbourne West</td>
<td>Alexander Wilson Knight</td>
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<td>Monash</td>
<td>Lindsay Hamilton Simpson Thompson</td>
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<td>Northern</td>
<td>Stuart Richard McDonald</td>
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<td>North-Eastern</td>
<td>Archibald Keith Bradbury</td>
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<td>North-Western</td>
<td>Arthur Robert Mansell</td>
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<td>South-Eastern</td>
<td>Alan John Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>South-Western</td>
<td>Stanley Edmond Gleeson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Templestowe</td>
<td>William Vasey Houghton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Sir Ronald William Mack</td>
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The new members, with the exception of Vance Oakley Dickie and Archibald Keith Bradbury, took and subscribed the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr. Justice Newton attested the Oath Roll, and then withdrew.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

The Clerk announced that the time had arrived for proceeding to the election of a President.

The Hon. G. L. Chandler (Minister of Agriculture).—It is with pleasure that I move—

That the Honorable Sir Ronald William Mack do take the chair of the Council as President.
All honorable members will agree with me that, in carrying out his duties during the period in which he has occupied the chair in this Council, Sir Ronald Mack has exhibited those very important qualities of patience, dignity, and impartiality.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—I second the nomination of the Leader of the House.

Sir RONALD MACK (Western Province).—I am deeply conscious of the honour proposed to be conferred upon me, and I submit myself to the will of the House.

As there were no other nominations, Sir Ronald Mack was conducted to the chair by his proposer and seconder.

Sir RONALD MACK (Western Province).—Before I take the chair, I desire to thank honorable members and express my humble acknowledgment of the high honour which the House has conferred upon me. I appreciate the confidence which honorable members have reposed in me.

The President-Elect then took the President’s chair.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—Mr. President, I congratulate you on your re-election as President of the Legislative Council. I also congratulate you on the high honour which Her Majesty has seen fit to bestow upon you. The honour is richly deserved, as you have served your country in war and peace with great distinction.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—Mr. President, we of the Opposition join in congratulating you on your re-election as President of the Council. The confidence which honorable members have shown in you is by no means undeserved. We also congratulate you on the honour which Her Majesty has seen fit to bestow upon you. We wish you a very happy term of office.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—Mr. President, the members of the Country Party join in congratulating you on your election for your second term as President of the Council, and we wish you a happy term of office. We also congratulate you on the honour recently bestowed upon you by Her Majesty. The honour is one which you deserve not only for the service you have rendered to this State as a Minister of the Crown and as President of the Legislative Council but also for other services which throughout your life you have rendered to people in that part of the State in which you live. We sincerely hope that your new term of office as President will be a happy one, in the best traditions of this House.

The Hon. W. R. GARRETT (Southern Province).—Mr. President, as Chairman of Committees, and therefore your Deputy, I also offer my congratulations, both on your re-election to the high office for which you have been chosen in this Council and on the knighthood which was recently bestowed upon you by Her Majesty the Queen. I trust that you will enjoy that honour for many years and that you will remain as our President for a considerable time.

The PRESIDENT-ELECT (Sir Ronald Mack).—I thank the party Leaders and the Chairman of Committees for their kind remarks, for which I am deeply grateful. I realize the importance of the office to which honorable members have elected me. I hope that my term of office will be a happy one, but whether or not it will be so, will, of course, largely depend on members of the House.

I also thank honorable members for their references to the honour recently conferred upon me by Her Majesty the Queen. I realize that this is an honour conferred on this Council of which I am fortunate to be, for the time being, the figurehead. All honorable members realize that the
conferring of the honour indicates the great importance attached to the Legislative Council of Victoria. I shall carry out the duties of my office as well as I am able. A very high standard for me to follow has been set by previous Presidents, and I shall endeavour to maintain the high traditions of my office. I thank all honorable members.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I have to inform honorable members that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the President-Elect in the north Library at a quarter to 12 o'clock this morning. I ask that honorable members meet in the main Library a few minutes before that time in order to accompany the President-Elect.

The sitting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. until 12.13 p.m.

The President (Sir Ronald Mack) took the chair, and read the prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE GOVERNOR.

The President (Sir Ronald Mack).—I have to report that, accompanied by honorable members, I presented myself this day to His Excellency the Governor, who was pleased to approve of the choice made by the Council, and addressed me in the following terms:

MR. PRESIDENT,

I have much pleasure in congratulating you upon your re-election to the high and distinguished office of President of the Legislative Council.

I feel sure that the honorable members have acted wisely in choosing you as their President and that you will continue to uphold the traditions of your office with the same dignity and wisdom which you have always shown in the past.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—By leave, I move—

That leave of absence be granted to the Honorable A. K. Bradbury for three months on account of absence from the State on official business.

The motion was agreed to.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

The President (Sir Ronald Mack) laid on the table his warrant nominating the Honorable A. K. Bradbury and G. J. Nicol to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees whenever requested to do so by the Chairman of Committees or whenever the Chairman of Committees is absent.

The President.—I think I should indicate that the Honorable Archibald Todd is also a Temporary Chairman of Committees, but it is not necessary to include his name on the warrant which I have laid on the table because it was included in a previous warrant.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable D. G. Elliot and R. W. May be members of the House Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable the President and A. J. Hunt be members of the Joint Committee to manage the Library.

The motion was agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable the President, A. K. Bradbury, S. E. Gleeson, A. W. Knight and A. R. Mansell be members of the Printing Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

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

That the Honorable the President and J. W. Galbally be members of the Select Committee on the Standing Orders of the House.

The motion was agreed to.
STATUTE LAW REVISION COMMITTEE.
The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—
That the Honorables R. W. May and J. M. Tripovich be members of the Statute Law Revision Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.
The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—
That the Honorables A. K. Bradbury and W. M. Campbell be appointed members of the Public Works Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.
The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—
That the Honorables A. W. Knight and A. R. Mansell be appointed members of the State Development Committee.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT.

NEW MEMBERS—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS: PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF EFFLUENT INTO PORT PHILLIP BAY—MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL: GREATER MELBOURNE SCHEME: AIR POLLUTION: STATEMENT OF MINISTER.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—
That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until a day and hour to be fixed by the President, or, if the President is unable to act on account of illness or other cause, by the Chairman of Committees, which time of meeting shall be notified to each honorable member by telegram or letter.

The motion was agreed to.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—I move—
That the House do now adjourn.

I take this opportunity to congratulate those honorable members who have been re-elected and those who have been elected to this House for the first time. I am sure that, in the years that lie ahead, Mr. Grimwade, Mr. Fry, Mr. Houghton and Mr. McDonald will contribute much to the deliberations in this Parliament. I trust that they will have long and pleasant associations with all other members of this Chamber.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province).—I raise a matter of Government administration which is causing serious concern to rate-payers and residents in the municipalities adjacent to Port Phillip Bay. I refer to the proposed plan of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to discharge 60,000,000 or 70,000,000 gallons of treated sewage into the Bay each day. Apparently, the Board has approved of the plan despite the possible pollution of the Bay and its effects on the beaches and marine life.

The plan was originally brought forward last February, but it has been surrounded by secrecy, evasion and contradictions at the highest levels of the Bolte Government. Indeed, just prior to the last State elections, Sir Henry Bolte and other members of Cabinet, including the Minister for Local Government and the Minister of Housing, quite seriously misled the people by pretending that no such plan existed.

The serious political censorship involved in this matter is also of concern. One of the Commissioners of the Board of Works who opposed this plan was approached afterwards by the public relations officer of the Board and informed that he had made a very good speech on the subject but that not one word of it would be printed in the daily newspapers, so that no word of opposition to the proposal would reach the public. This is the attitude adopted by the Board of Works.

I have in my possession a publication issued by the Board and sent through the post. I received my copy
on Wednesday, 12th July. This publication, which is signed by Mr. Snadden, the secretary of the Board, is dated 12th July, yet the envelope was postmarked 11th July. The Board’s decision was not made until Tuesday, 11th July, so the publication was printed and posted to members of the public before the matter had been voted upon.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER.—Why do you say that?

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE.—I received it on Wednesday, 12th July and it was postmarked on Tuesday, 11th July, at which time the Commissioners had not voted on it.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER.—That was the day on which a vote was taken.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE.—Perhaps the Minister can inform me why it was printed before a decision had been made? I now seek an assurance from the Government, from the Minister of Agriculture and from the Minister for Local Government that under no circumstances or conditions will the Government approve this scheme.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The matter to which attention has been drawn by Mr. Cathie is of immense importance, but it is regrettable that he has raised it in this way, because it should be the subject of considerable debate.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE.—In what other way could I raise the matter, Mr. Minister?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER.—Mr. Cathie’s comments, especially his allegation of previous evasion on this issue, require a reply. When Mr. Cathie first spoke about this matter, he knew, as well as anyone else, that it was a proposal emanating from the engineers of the Board and that at that stage it had not been considered by the Sewerage Committee, the Board of Works itself, or the Government. At that time, he was told quite plainly—and this is still the position—that a decision made several years ago—that the ultimate outfall of this purified water would be near Cape Schanck—still stood.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH.—If it is pure water, why take it all the way to Cape Schanck?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER.—That was a decision made some years ago, and I will come to that point in a minute. Subsequently, the Sewerage Committee of the Board considered this proposal—I do not know on what date but I can ascertain that for the honorable member—and passed it—I understand, unanimously—and last Tuesday it came before the Board itself. I do not know when the brochure referred to by Mr. Cathie was printed, but I should imagine that it was printed before the meeting, in anticipation that the Board would approve of the scheme. There is nothing wrong with that procedure. If the Board had refused its assent to the proposal, the brochure would not have been published. At all events, the matter was discussed at some length by the Board, was ultimately passed, and was then submitted to the Government. It is a legal requirement that the Government shall approve of any such scheme, and this proposal came to the Government last Friday in the form of a letter, together with the document produced by Mr. Cathie, which explained the scheme and which many members of the public have received.

I give the assurance that the Government, along with anyone else of goodwill who values the conservation of the Bay, its foreshores and beaches, is firmly committed to their preservation and that no scheme will be agreed to which will detrimentally affect the many advantages of the Bay and its foreshores. Of course, it is still open for the Board to try to convince the Government that the scheme which it has in mind does not have that effect. It has not been put forward lightly by the Board. Many people who are as well intentioned and as well informed as any member of this House are
prepared to go along with the scheme, and therefore the Government has asked the Commission of Public Health, the Fisheries and Wildlife Department and the Port Phillip Authority to make a full examination of the scheme and report to Cabinet.

I give an assurance that no decision will be made until all of those bodies have had a chance to examine the project in detail and make a report. I am not in a position, as Mr. Cathie apparently thinks he is, to make a decision on the spot without examining the evidence.

The Hon. I. R. Cathie.—I have examined the evidence.

The Hon. R. J. Hamer.—The Government will rely, not on Mr. Cathie's examination but on the evidence which will be put before it by people who are competent to speak on the subject.

Sir Percy Byrnes (North-Western Province).—I want to refer to certain statements that have appeared in the press recently concerning the Melbourne City Council, whereby it appears that the council needs the injection of some new blood and has decided to bring forward a proposal for a type of Greater Melbourne council. The Government has made no statement of any consequence on this matter, and in my opinion it should state whether or not it intends to introduce a Bill to create a Greater Melbourne council. The Government has made no statement of any consequence on this matter, and in my opinion it should state whether or not it intends to introduce a Bill to create a Greater Melbourne council. Some fifteen or sixteen years ago, I spent a considerable amount of time in preparing such a Bill, but it was rejected in this House without debate.

I should like the Minister for Local Government to inform me whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill of the type to which I have referred and, if not, whether it will give me permission to search the annals of the Public Works Department and the Local Government Department in order that I can obtain information to bring my Bill up to date and re-introduce it.

It is obvious that the Melbourne City Council is no longer able to manage its affairs unless it is given a broader charter and that it is attempting to do this by seeking the introduction of a Bill similar to one which was proposed by Mr. Barry but which was subsequently rejected because, it was stated, the Labor Party would gain control of the Melbourne City Council.

My Bill was an excellent one, and I seek an assurance from the Minister that, if and when I introduce a new measure, it will be debated. I repeat that I should like authority to search records of the Public Works Department and the Local Government Department in order that I may bring the measure up to date so that the Melbourne City Council can be saved from its present troubles.

The Hon. R. J. Hamer (Minister for Local Government).—Nobody can stop Sir Percy Byrnes, as a member of this House, from introducing any Bill he wishes. If he would like to introduce a Bill of the type to which he has referred, it will be debated. I assure him that the Government will not be bringing in such a Bill. As I understand the position, the Bill introduced by Sir Percy covered the whole of the metropolitan area—that is, it provided for 60 per cent. of the inhabitants of this State to be under the control of one council. The Government will not have a bar of such a scheme. The present proposal has not yet been put to the Melbourne City Council, and I do not know whether or not it will be accepted by that body. I have not seen the details of the scheme; they have been kept secret so far.

Sir Percy Byrnes.—The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works would still be in control under your administration.

The Hon. R. J. Hamer.—That is right. If and when any resolution on the subject is passed by the Melbourne City Council, it will receive full consideration.
The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province).—Members of this House read with a great deal of interest the recent comment of the Minister of Health concerning clean air in Melbourne. He was so positive in his remarks that it seemed that the Government, with the help of industry, was getting on top of air pollution. Members of the Labor Party would like an extensive report on the subject to be made by the Minister early in the session to indicate what the Government is doing to bring about clean air, how much it is spending and to what extent it is co-operating with industry, because the effects of air pollution in Melbourne have gone beyond a joke. Far from being clean, the air in the city is polluted more than it has been at any previous time. We look forward to a report from the Government in this direction.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.38 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, September 12, 1967.

The President (Sir Ronald Mack) took the chair at 4.57 p.m., and read the prayer.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.

The President (Sir Ronald Mack) informed the House that he had received from His Excellency the Governor a Commission authorizing him to administer the oath of allegiance to such members as had not already taken and subscribed the same since their election.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon. V. O. Dickie (Ballarat Province) and the Hon. A. K. Bradbury (North-Eastern Province) took and subscribed the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

RETENTION OF THE TITLE OF “HONORABLE.”

The President (Sir Ronald Mack) announced that he had received from the Honorable the Premier a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations intimating that Her Majesty the Queen had been pleased to approve the retention of the title of “Honorable” by Mr. Percy Victor Feltham, M.B.E., Mr. Charles Sherwin Gawith, and Mr. Thomas Henry Grigg, C.B.E., who had each served as a member of the Legislative Council for a continuous period of not less than ten years.

PETROL.

OCTANE RATINGS: PRICE CUTTING.

The Hon. R. W. MAY (Gippsland Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) Does any State legislation require standards of octane rating for various grades of petrol; if so, what are the ratings?

(b) What is the octane rating of petrol sold by the major oil companies as super and second-grade fuels, respectively?

(c) What provision exists to check the quality of the various grades of fuel, what provision exists for enforcement of standards, and what are the penalties for any breaches?

(d) Is petrol being sold at 5.5 cents below regular prices; if so, is that petrol a mixture of super and second-grade fuel, and in that case, what are the proportions of the mixture?

The answers are—

(a) No.

(b) Octane rating (by research method) —super (or premium), 97; regular (or standard), 87.

A representative of “Daylube,” which is a brand of Japanese petrol imported into Victoria, stated that the Japanese suppliers
guaranteed the octane rating of their petrol as—super, 98 minimum; regular 88 minimum.

A distributor of "XL," which is another brand of Japanese petrol imported into Victoria, stated that the petrol had an octane rating as follows:—super, 98; regular, 90.

(c) The major oil companies test the quality, including octane rating, of the petrol they supply. There is no State Government Department or instrumentality which tests petrol for octane rating. No standards are set by legislation and hence no penalties can be imposed.

(d) No evidence has been found that petrol is being sold at 5.5 cents below the regular price but petrol is frequently offered for sale at 5d. below the regular price. It is not known whether such petrol is a mixture of super and regular grades.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (EQUAL PAY) BILL.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Labour and Industry Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER (OMBUDSMAN) BILL.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE (Northern Province), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision for the appointment and functions of a Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman), and for purposes connected therewith.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. J. M. WALTON (Melbourne North Province), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Local Government Act 1958 to provide for the election of councillors by adult franchise, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to abolish capital punishment.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

WORKERS COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Workers Compensation Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

BARLEY MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Barley Marketing Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend Division 6 of Part I. of the Administration and Probate Act 1958, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

MASSEURS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Health), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend section 10 of the Masseurs Act 1958, and for purposes connected therewith.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS REPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend section 4 of the Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

PESTICIDES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend section 9 of the Pesticides Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LITTER BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Litter Act 1964.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

MEDICAL (FOREIGN PRACTITIONERS) BILL.

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Health), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to extend the duration of the provisions of the Twelfth Schedule to the Medical Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

DAYS AND HOURS OF MEETING: ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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

That Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week be the days on which the Council shall meet for the despatch of business during the present session, and that the hour of meeting on Tuesdays be half-past Four o'clock, on Wednesdays, Four o'clock, and on Thursdays, Eleven o'clock; that on Tuesday and Thursday in each week the transaction of Government business shall take precedence of all other business; that on Wednesday in each week private members' business shall take precedence of Government business; and that no new business be taken after half-past Ten o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

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

That leave of absence be granted to the Honorable Geoffrey John O'Connell for two months on account of ill health.

The motion was agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

SCAFFOLDING REGULATIONS.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—I desire, by leave, to make a statement to the House concerning two recent inquests into deaths which occurred as the result of scaffolding accidents. The statement reviews the recommendations made by the Coroner and indicates the action being taken upon them. Let me stress at once that in neither case were the Scaffolding Regulations found to be in any way defective or insufficient. In both cases there was a failure to observe them.

The regulations are designed to ensure the safety of men working upon scaffolding, which in some cases may be hundreds of feet above the ground. The men who are required to work on such structures are entitled to the utmost protection which safe working conditions can afford them, and the Scaffolding Regulations Committee is charged with the task of formulating and submitting to the Minister practical and effective regulations to achieve that purpose. The committee is itself an expert body composed of representatives of the Master Builders, the Trades Hall Council, the Institute of Building Surveyors, Architects, the Municipal Association of Victoria,
Ministerial [12 September, 1967.] Statement. 71

the Department of Labour and Industry, and the Building Regulations Committee. It performs its tasks carefully and responsibly, and the regulations which it sponsors are sound and sensible.

The first fatal accident occurred at the new Totalizator Agency Board building in Queens-road, South Melbourne. It is eight stories above ground line, and is a steel-framed structure encased in concrete. The north and east concrete walls are clad with a brick “skin.” As the concrete walls were constructed, mild steel stirrups were cast into them, to which the scaffolding was later to be tied so as to allow the brickwork “skin” to be erected. On the 11th July last year, virtually the whole of the scaffolding on one wall collapsed and fatally crushed a young plumber’s apprentice, David Young, who was emerging from a doorway below. Other men working on the scaffolding had miraculous escapes from death or injury.

The Coroner found that the scaffolding was erected, in the first instance, with reasonable skill, and was approved by the inspectors; but that subsequently the structure was weakened by the removal of some of the ties, thereby rendering it unsafe. He found that the bricklayers constructing the outer “skin” were probably responsible, and he also found that the bricklayers overloaded the structure with their bricks and other material, and the combination of these two factors caused its collapse. The Coroner made three recommendations, all of which are being carried out.

First, he recommended a provision designating the principal contractor as “the person in charge of scaffolding,” unless there is a written agreement with a sub-contractor whereby the latter assumes this responsibility. This will overcome the difficulty found by the Coroner that once the scaffolding had been satisfactorily erected, neither the principal contractor nor any sub-contractor considered himself bound to ensure its continued stability. A suitable provision is now being discussed with the Crown Solicitor.

The Coroner’s second recommendation was that the Supervisor, or assistant supervisors of scaffolding, who are officers of the Local Government Department, be empowered to prosecute detected breaches of the regulations so as to obviate delays which can occur at present. This will require legislation, which is now being drafted.

The Coroner’s third recommendation was that the use of wire ties in scaffolding on multi-storied buildings be investigated. The Scaffolding Regulations Committee has done this, and a suitable amendment to the regulations, which will eliminate wire ties in such cases, will shortly be promulgated.

The more recent fatal accident occurred at the Australian Mutual Provident Society building at 60 Market-street, Melbourne, on 5th April this year, in which a plumber, Mr. Charles Christie, employed in the erection of an air-conditioning duct fell eight floors down the duct to his death. In that case, two steel ladders had been hooked over the top of the duct, and a working platform placed inside the duct, consisting of a piece of laminated three-ply attached to a rung of the ladder on each side. Incredibly enough, the sheet of three-ply seems to have been merely picked up on the site. It was marked with paint and even had saw cuts part way through it. Such a contraption did not comply with the regulations, and would not have been approved if approval had been sought. It was not sought. The platform broke and so a man met his death.

At the inquest on the 24th August, the Coroner found that the death was due to a breach of the Scaffolding Regulations. He made no specific recommendations, but the Scaffolding Regulations Committee
has, nevertheless, been asked to review the tragedy to see whether any lessons can be learned in the quest for even greater safety precautions. Neither of these deaths should have happened; but, because they did happen, no reasonable thing can be left undone to ensure that no more lives are lost in the future. That is the whole purpose of safety regulations, and no effort will be spared to see that they are as effective as human skill and knowledge can make them.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.


It was ordered that the report, together with the minutes of evidence, be laid on the table.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.
Address-in-Reply.

The debate (adjourned from May 16) on the motion of the Hon. H. M. Hamilton (Higinbotham Province) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY (Melbourne North Province).—Armed with the strategy of two packed Houses and using a threat with regard to your vote, Mr. President, if I may say so, the Government is now in a position to convert citizens into subjects and to shear away what freedoms are left to us. Mocking the destruction of a precious freedom—one vote-one value—the servile instrument of the Government's power meets to-day for the first time. The Parliament of Victoria, whose conscience will no longer be tormented by the remembrance of those duties which it is now incapable of discharging, can pass its days perforce in tranquil obscurity. An all-powerful Executive can now run riot over the liberties of the people and reap the harvest of a crime plotted with stealth.

The Hon. G. W. THOM.—The electors did not think so.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—The people were not given an opportunity to speak on this question. Some members of this Chamber represent provinces in which there are 60,000 people, but in my province there are 100,000 electors. That is the crime of which I speak. Mr. Thom may tell us under what principle of equity the electors choose a Parliament. Of course, I forget! Mr. Thom represents a country area where it is difficult to get from one place to another, and therefore he represents half the normal number of electors. As anyone knows, it is much easier to travel 20 miles in a country electorate than it is to travel 5 miles in a crowded city electorate.

The Hon. G. W. THOM.—There are 4,000 square miles in my province; that is not a bad area.

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—Mr. Thom must remind me of that argument—miles instead of people. With the enfeeblement of Parliament, the jury system is the only remaining safeguard of liberties in Victoria—but for how much longer? Each jury is a Parliament in miniature. I cannot see one institution dying and the other surviving, because the jury system is just as direct and vital a consequence of sovereignty of the people as is a freely elected Parliament. The jury system is not only a judicial institution, it is also a most valued political institution. The fascinating study of the jury system as a judicial institution, its origins and its adaptability to the wants of
a modern, highly developed community is outside my present purpose, no matter how interesting such a study may be. My present purpose, in view of the fact that the Parliament in Victoria can no longer claim to speak for Victoria, is to emphasize its role as a political institution.

The first point about the jury system as a political institution is that it places the real direction of society in the hands of the people instead of leaving it under the authority of the Government, whether that authority is represented by the Government itself, by its Ministers, or even by the Judges, because the Judges, too, are appointed by the Executive. As Lord Devlin said so long ago, it is a pity that the Judges are appointed by the Executive, but he could not think of any other way of appointing them.

The Hon. Murray Byrne.—They could be elected, and there would be a lot of merit in that method.

The Hon. J. W. Galbally.—I agree. It should always be remembered that the members of the High Court are appointed by the Federal Government, and wise men have said that perhaps the decisions on State and Commonwealth relations would never have gone as they have if those Judges had been appointed by the States. The institution of the jury raises the people themselves, through those selected for the time being, to the bench of judicial authority, and consequently invests them with the direction of society. In the minds of ordinary people, the Government, Ministers, members of Parliament, Judges and magistrates are all on one side; they represent the governing classes, and the jury system presents an opportunity for the ordinary people to exercise their voices in contemporary affairs.

The jury system is the touchstone of contemporary common sense without which society will inevitably wither away. It was said of Socrates that he first drew philosophy from the clouds and made it walk on the earth. The jury system is an institution which draws down the knowledge of the laws to the level of popular comprehension and makes the uninitiated understand the nature and extent of their legal rights and obligations.

The concurrence of people in the administration of the law, through the system of a jury, is the ultimate sanction of society. In judging his neighbour, each man knows that he also may in turn be similarly judged. It teaches the members of a community not to turn from the responsibility attached to their own acts. The jury system clothes every citizen with a kind of magisterial office; it makes all citizens feel that they have duties towards society and that they play a part in its government. It forces men to occupy themselves with something other than their own affairs, and thus curbs individual selfishness, which is the rust of society.

Reduced to its last analysis, the intelligent and impartial administration of justice is all there is to free government—nothing else. It is public justice that holds the community together. It is said that the machinery of justice is employed so as to give each man his due and to protect all in the enjoyment of their life, liberty and rights, and that the men in the jury box are the court of appeal when, in the case of the humble as well as the most exalted, they are attacked.

The right of trial by jury must remain a most valuable right for the protection of our system. The history of our civilization, particularly in Britain, shows—this may not gratify the House—that it is not to the Parliament or the Judges but to the verdict of hardy British jurors, who courageously and firmly stood out, that we owe our most precious liberties. We owe to them the right of people to assemble for lawful purposes—remember the university students in Queensland to-day—the right of free speech and the freedom of the press. All these liberties were
secured to the English people over the most vehement protests of the Government and the Judges. The jurors, most of them humble men, simply said, "We will not convict", and they stood out. That is where our liberties come from.

The first object of a tyrannical Government—as we have here—is to make Parliament truly subservient to its will. This has been accomplished; it has taken some time, but now it is a reality. The next step is to overthrust or diminish trial by jury, for no tyrant can ever allow a person's freedom to be left in the hands of twelve of his countrymen. Trial by jury is more than an instrument of justice; it is more than a judicial institution, it is the lamp by which freedom lives. I shall read to the House a short passage written by Blackstone over 200 years ago, which is one of the most celebrated passages of his commentaries. His words are just as fresh to-day as when they were written, and I commend them to the House—

So that the liberties of England cannot but subsist so long as this palladium remains sacred and inviolate; not only from all open attacks (which none will be so hardy as to make), but also from all secret machinations, which may sap and undermine it; by introducing new and arbitrary methods of trial; by justices of the peace, commissioners of the revenue, and courts of conscience. And however convenient these may appear at first (as doubtless all arbitrary powers, well executed, are the most convenient)—

how often has the expression been used in this House and how often does it bear repeating that "all arbitrary powers, well executed", present a short cut—

yet let it be again remembered, that delays and little inconveniences in the forms of justice, are the price that all free nations must pay for their liberty in more substantial matters;

No doubt it may be a little inconvenient to go to court before a jury; time is wasted, and so on! I conclude with Blackstone's final comment—

that these inroads upon this sacred bulwark of the nation are fundamentally opposite to the spirit of our constitution; and that, though begun in trifles, the precedent may gradually increase the spread, to the utter disuse of juries in questions of the most momentous concern.

The PRESIDENT (Sir Ronald Mack).—Will Mr. Galbally quote the authority he has just read?

The Hon. J. W. GALBALLY.—It was quoted in a recent publication, Trial by Jury, by the Honorable Sir Patrick Devlin, one of Her Majesty's Judges in the High Court of Justice and published as one of the Hamlyn lectures.

On the motion of Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province), the debate was adjourned.

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

BARLEY MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this short Bill is to extend for a period of three years the operations of the Barley Marketing Act 1958, No. 6206, as amended by the Barley Marketing (Amendment) Acts, Nos. 6955 and 7397.

The barley growers of Victoria, through the Victorian Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association and the Australian Primary Producers Union (Victorian Division), have requested that the Act be extended for three years commencing with the 1968-69 crop, so that organized marketing by the Australian Barley Board may be continued.

The Victorian Maltsters Association is not opposed to the continuance of the Board, and the general manager of Carlton and United Breweries Limited appreciates the necessity for the re-enactment of the Barley Marketing Acts in Victoria and South Australia. The Minister of Agriculture in South Australia has advised that similar legislation will be introduced during the current session of Parliament in South Australia.
The Act was originally passed in 1948 following a period of organized marketing under war-time powers, to operate for a period of five years, and was confirmed by a large majority at a poll of barley growers. It has been periodically extended since that time. Together with a similar Act in South Australia, it provides for barley grown in Victoria and South Australia to be received and marketed by the Australian Barley Board, which has proved a valuable marketing organization for the growers in both States. Up to 44,600,000 bushels produced in the two States have been sold by the Board in one favourable season—1960-61—38,400,000 bushels being from South Australia and 6,200,000 from Victoria. In that year, 6,900,000 bushels were sold for consumption in Australia and 37,700,000 bushels for export.

The Board has safeguarded the interests of users of barley by making available their requirements for malting, stock feeding and other purposes, and has traded actively in overseas markets including the United Kingdom, continental countries, Japan and other eastern countries.

The Board of seven persons consists of three elected representatives of the South Australian barley growers, one elected representative of the Victorian growers, a nominee of the brewers and malsters, a person nominated by the Governor of Victoria, and the chairman nominated by the Governor of South Australia.

Provision is made in the Act for a poll of growers to be taken if a sufficient number should become dissatisfied and desire the operation of the Act to be terminated.

The barley industry in Victoria is recovering from a period of decline that commenced in 1961, due mainly to the absence of bulk handling facilities which have since been provided by the Grain Elevators Board.

In 1948, some 196,000 acres of barley were sown in Victoria, and the acreage increased steadily to a peak of 374,000 in 1953. In 1961, it dropped to 225,000 acres, and since then has not exceeded 200,000 acres until this year, for which the estimate is 280,000 acres. Barley growers who had switched to the sowing of oats have this year reverted to barley on a greater area of their farms, and may be expected to sow even larger areas to barley in the future.

In South Australia, a downward but less severe trend in acreage also occurred, to about 1,000,000 acres in recent years. Production levels have naturally varied with seasonal conditions, but otherwise are proportional to the acreages sown. Last season, 1966-67, the Board received 22,000,000 bushels, 3,300,000 in Victoria and 18,700,000 in South Australia. Of the Victorian total, 3,170,000 bushels were in bulk and only 47,000 bushels were in bags. Of the 3,300,000 bushels received by the Board in Victoria, 2,400,000 bushels were of malting quality and were purchased by Victorian malsters. Their total requirements were approximately 11,000,000 bushels, the balance being obtained from South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. These figures indicate the scope for increased barley production, both for malting and stock feed purposes, even though there is a movement of a large section of the malting potential to New South Wales and Queensland, where new malthouses are being established by Victorian malsters.

The 1967 annual report of the Board provides particulars of its operations, including details of sales made in various markets, returns to growers and administrative costs.

The malsters have been required to pay a reasonable price to the Board for Victorian and South Australian barley but are free to trade in New South Wales and Queensland. Attempts by growers to establish an all-Australian Barley Marketing Board have not proved successful, and therefore it is necessary to extend the
operations of the two-State Victorian-South Australian Board to preserve organized marketing in these States.

As already mentioned, bulk handling of barley has proved successful and is being extended. New silos specially erected for barley have a total capacity of 2,450,000 bushels, but the over-all resources of the Grain Elevators Board are being utilized to handle the crop as expeditiously and efficiently as possible. In the coming season, barley will be received in bulk at over 60 centres, at eighteen of which the grain will be classified "on the spot" to speed up deliveries.

The Barley Board has mechanized and accelerated its grain classification system to enable deliveries to be expedited and has reduced the number of main grades to three, which is the minimum required for efficient marketing both in Australia and overseas. The maintenance of established high standards is essential in order that the crop may be marketed to best advantage in the interests of producers. It has been demonstrated that, using modern aeration and temperature control techniques together with insecticide—malathion—at the receival point, barley with a maximum moisture content of 13 per cent. can safely be stored in bulk. The few isolated growers and others who prefer to deliver barley in bags will be able to do so.

The Grain Elevators Board intends to erect further silos for barley at appropriate centres to cope with the increased production expected in future years.

In many countries of the world, and notably in the United Kingdom, barley has become the main grain for stock feeding purposes, and this trend is expected to develop in Victoria, assisted by the production of new higher yielding varieties being bred by the Department of Agriculture.

In summary, the production of barley in Victoria is expected to increase, facilitated by bulk handling and marketing by the Australian Barley Board. The Bill, which extends the operation of the Board until the 1970-71 crop, is commended to the House.

Efforts have been made per medium of the producer organizations to extend the operations of this Board into other States, but New South Wales and Queensland have never been particularly keen to join in an Australia-wide Board. As a result, a considerable amount of the production in New South Wales is coming into Victoria and is being purchased by the maltsters here, and, as I have indicated, there is a trend now for the maltsters to set up their own facilities in New South Wales and Queensland. Whilst the Board may have handled only some 3,300,000 bushels in this State in 1966-67, the production in Victoria totalled about 5,000,000 bushels. It is believed that the balance has been sold interstate. Under section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, we cannot overcome that situation.

The producer organizations have approved of this Bill in principle, and, with the support of both the Wheat and Woolgrowers Association and the Australian Primary Producers Union, we can see no reason why this legislation should not be extended for a further three years.

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

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

FIREARMS (PROHIBITED PERSONS) BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this short Bill is to extend to a young person who has been detained in a youth training centre the prohibition under the Firearms Act 1958 relating to the obtaining of a firearm certificate and the purchasing, possessing, or carrying of a firearm.
Sub-section (2) of section 31 of the Act creates prohibitions against the granting of a firearm certificate to four classes of persons for a period of five years after release from prison or during probation or parole. The prohibition applies, first, to a person who has been convicted of any indictable offence or of any offence against the Vagrancy Act 1966 and has been sentenced to any term of imprisonment therefor. Secondly, it relates to a person who is at large pursuant to a probation order made under section 508 of the Crimes Act 1958. Thirdly, it is applicable to a person who has been released from gaol on parole pursuant to an order made under section 534 of the Crimes Act. Fourthly, the prohibition relates to a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence and has been released on entering into a recognizance to receive and undergo sentence. The sub-section also makes it an offence for such a person to purchase, possess or carry a firearm during the prohibited period.

The question which arises under this Bill relates to a young person who is convicted of an indictable offence and who is not necessarily sentenced to a term of imprisonment but may be directed by the court to detention in a youth training centre. Legal opinion on this point is to the effect that there is a distinction between detention in a youth training centre and imprisonment.

The reason for the introduction of this Bill is that the prohibitions which I have mentioned relating to firearms do not at present apply to a young person who has been detained in a youth training centre for an indictable offence or an offence against the Vagrancy Act. The Bill simply extends to such a person the prohibitions to which I have referred.

I am sure that honorable members will agree with this proposal because the character of the person concerned is similar to that of persons to whom the prohibitions now apply, and it is only the form of punishment which it has been thought suitable to his particular case which takes him out of the existing four categories. Obviously, the prohibitions should be extended to include such a person. I commend the Bill to the House.

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

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

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS REPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. This short measure is introduced to amend the Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958. Section 4 of that Act prohibits, unless the court orders to the contrary, the publishing or broadcasting by newspapers, documents, radio, telegraphy or television stations of the names, addresses, or schools or any other particulars likely to lead to the identification of females, or male children under the age of sixteen years, against whom offences of a sexual or unnatural nature have been committed. The section also prohibits the publication of what purport to be pictures of the victims.

I point out that the prohibition relates to the publication of these particulars relating to females of any age and males under sixteen years of age. On several occasions, the attention of the Government has been directed to the fact that there has been publication of names or
addresses or particulars leading to identification—in some cases photographs—of male victims of such attacks and assaults who are over sixteen years of age. There is nothing at present to prevent that from happening, but representations have been made to the effect that there is really no reason why the protection afforded to females should not be extended to males of any age who are just as likely to suffer the same embarrassment, the same ridicule on occasions, and the same implicit penalty. It is always in the hands of the court to say whether or not a case is one in which publication of details will not be permitted or is not desirable. After considering the matter, the Government has agreed with that view, and this Bill is designed to extend the prohibition, unless the court otherwise orders, to victims, whether they be male or female, of any age.

It will occur to the House that there may be an unintended result of the present situation in that it may well induce people not to report offences because of the possible publicity for themselves which will ensue if court proceedings follow. From that point of view, the House will probably agree that this is an appropriate extension of the principle which was introduced into the legislation ten years ago.

On the motion of the Hon. Archibald Todd, for 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.

The sitting was suspended at 6.23 p.m. until 7.54 p.m.

MASSEURS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time. Its purpose is to increase the fees that may be charged by the Masseurs Registration Board of Victoria for examination and registration of masseurs and to alter the Board’s financial year so as to coincide with the calendar year. The Masseurs Registration Board was formed in 1922 for the purpose of bringing the practice of massage for therapeutic purposes under some control. The Board was given power to prescribe a course of training, to examine trainees, and to register suitable persons as masseurs. The examination fee at that time was limited to £3 3s., the fee for initial registration was fixed at £1 1s., and for a certificate at 10s. 6d. The annual renewal fee was fixed at 2s. 6d., with a penalty of up to £1 1s., payable for restoration of registration after a lapse in payment of the annual fee. In 1935, the annual fee was increased from 2s. 6d. to 5s. That is the only alteration which has been made to these fees in 44 years of operation.

In 1945, the Board was given the added function of conducting the course of training for which it could charge fees payable by students and pay lecturers. Prior to that time, it had merely prescribed the course, which was conducted first by the Australian Massage Association and later by a committee known as the Massage Curriculum Committee. From 1945 onwards, the Board has been the recognized training body for masseurs. The tuition fees have been kept to the base minimum necessary to meet school costs. It should be noted that the practice referred to in the Act and in these notes as “massage” is known by practitioners and the public as “physiotherapy”.

Although the Board has conducted the course through appointed lecturers and a director of training, it has, of necessity, been dependent on various hospitals for accommodation, equipment and so on. In 1966, the Board joined the Speech Therapy School and the Occupational Therapy School in joint occupancy of a building known as “Lincoln House” which was provided by the Government when you, Mr. President, were Minister of Health, for the convenient
accommodation of the training activities of these three bodies. In so doing, the Masseurs Registration Board gained considerably in that its school has a physical existence and possesses its own equipment and facilities. On the other hand, however, it has incurred liabilities which it is considered should not be met entirely by income from students.

The Board has asked that the Act be amended to increase the following:

(a) Examination fee: At present $6.30—Proposed $10.
(b) Registration fees: At present $2.10—Proposed $5.
(c) Certificate fee: At present $1.06—Proposed $2.
(d) Renewal fees: At present 50 cents—Proposed $5.

As previously stated, the fees (a), (b) and (c) have remained unchanged since 1922, while the annual renewal fee (d) has been the same since 1935. Fees (a), (b) and (c) are fixed by regulation, the amount stated in the Act being the maximum that may be charged. The annual renewal fee (d) is fixed by the Act. The proposed increase in this fee is in accordance with the policy of the Board to adjust its finances to meet the increased cost of administration, including the increased cost of conducting the Physiotherapy School.

As previously stated, the fees (a), (b) and (c) have remained unchanged since 1922, while the annual renewal fee (d) has been the same since 1935. Fees (a), (b) and (c) are fixed by regulation, the amount stated in the Act being the maximum that may be charged. The annual renewal fee (d) is fixed by the Act. The proposed increase in this fee is in accordance with the policy of the Board to adjust its finances to meet the increased cost of administration, including the increased cost of conducting the Physiotherapy School.

For purposes of comparison, registered opticians pay an annual fee of $12.60, while pharmacists pay $6.30, although in the case of the latter the cost of the work of both the Pharmacy College and the Pharmacy Board receives considerable assistance, both directly and intangibly, from the Pharmaceutical Society.

The Masseurs Registration Board keeps tuition fees at as low a level as possible, and they are comparable with the fees for courses of a similar nature conducted at the universities. It considers that a reasonable proportion of its increased expenses should be met from registration and renewal fees. The registrar of the Board has estimated that if the renewal fees are increased as proposed, the Board's revenue from this source will be in the region of $4,300, compared with the present "renewal" income of a little over $400.

The proposal to alter the Board's financial year, if put into effect, will bring the Board's annual reports into line with those of the speech therapy and occupational therapy schools using Lincoln House, and into line with the calendar year pattern on which all of its fees are based. This alteration has been sought by the Board. 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 19.

PESTICIDES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Under the provisions of the Pesticides Act, all pesticides—that is, fungicides, insecticides, weed destroyers and vermin destroyers—used in primary production must be registered at the office of the Director of Agriculture before they may be sold legally in Victoria. Registration must be renewed annually, and a list of registered pesticides is published each year. The registration of any particular pesticide remains in force until the publication of the next year's list and no longer.

Before registration of a new pesticide chemical is approved, all available information is studied by officers of the Department of Agriculture, particular attention being given to toxicity and possible effects on humans. The matter is also referred to the Pesticides Review Committee for its advice. The committee is comprised of Mr. R. G. Downes, chairman of the Soil Conservation Authority; two officers of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. F. H. Williams, the Chief Chemist, and Mr. S. Fish, the
Chief Biologist; Mr. J. C. F. Wharton, Deputy Director of Fisheries and Wildlife; Mr. W. P. Dunk, Chief Irrigation Officer of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission; Dr. A. J. Christopbers and Dr. E. Forbes Mackenzie of the Department of Health; Mr. W. T. Parsons, officer in charge of the Keith Turnbull Research Station; and an officer of the Premier's Department, Mr. P. Matheson, who is secretary of the committee.

Although no pesticide will be approved for registration where the toxic hazards would be too great for safety, it may happen that, after a pesticide has been registered, fresh information becomes available, or, under certain conditions previously unforeseen, hazards may be presented which make it advisable that the pesticide be withdrawn from the market in order to prevent further use. Several years ago, a chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticide, Telodrin, used in Victoria gave rise to dangers to humans and stock not met with during supervised experimental trials by the manufacturing company before application for registration was made. This pesticide was withdrawn from sale voluntarily.

Under the present Act, no power exists by which the registration of a pesticide may be withdrawn. If a pesticide should be deemed by the Department of Agriculture to be too dangerous for further use, the only legal action which can be taken is refusal of renewal of registration. This could mean a delay of many months before the pesticide could be forced off the market.

The committee of inquiry appointed in 1964 by the Premier of Victoria to inquire into the effects of pesticides gave particular attention to this matter, and in its published report recommended that the Pesticides Act be amended to allow for withdrawal of registration of a particular pesticide if considered necessary in the public interest. This Bill is intended to give effect to the committee's recommendation. The amendment would give the Director of Agriculture power to withdraw approval of the registration of a particular pesticide, thus effectively preventing its sale in this State. The Bill provides that such withdrawal of approval must be effected by notice published in the Government Gazette.

The proposed amendment represents an important step in ensuring the safety of the public against the effects of dangerous pesticides. As this simple Bill is deemed desirable in the light of experience, I commend it 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 19.

ADJOURNMENT.
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE: RESUMPTION OF ADDRESS-IN-REPLY DEBATE—MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS: COWDEROY-STREET, ST. KILDA, DRAIN.

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

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

That the House do now adjourn.

I suggest that those honorable members who desire to participate in the Address-in-Reply debate should be prepared to do so as soon as possible, as I believe it is desirable that this item should not remain too long on the Notice Paper. I think honorable members will agree that it is desirable to complete this particular debate within a reasonable period.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province).—I wish to direct the attention of the House to a matter of great importance which concerns in particular the citizens of the City of St. Kilda, as well as many thousands of people who regularly visit
that popular resort, although it is one of the inner suburbs of Melbourne. Over the week-end, my colleague, Mr. Todd, and I, accompanied by three councillors of the City of St. Kilda, visited the West St. Kilda area where we experienced one of the most objectionable smells we have ever suffered, namely, that caused by the Cowderoy-street drain, which discharges into the Bay adjacent to the St. Kilda pier.

Before placing the facts of the matter before honorable members, in all fairness I wish to say that our representations to the Minister for Local Government have consistently met with a sympathetic reaction to the extent that my colleague Mr. Todd was assured that the Minister would make representations to the responsible body, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, so that this shocking injustice to the people of West St. Kilda could be speedily removed. We know that the Minister has gone to a lot of trouble to bring about some form of correction of this consistent malodour which crops up, all too frequently in that particular area, and we are grateful for the honorable gentleman's efforts. However, this odour is not only proving objectionable to residents, but in the opinion of one of the councillors of the City of St. Kilda, supported by three minor tests that he has made, is getting to the stage of being unhealthy.

People tend to laugh about complaints concerning smells as they do about gout, but those who have experienced the latter realize that it is not humorous, and this is not a joke so far as the people of West St. Kilda are concerned. It is one of the most obnoxious smells that I have ever experienced, and something precipitate must be done by the Government to alleviate it. I ask the Minister for Local Government to take this matter in hand.

In support of the facts I have put before the House, I shall quote a letter written to me by a responsible member of the community and a lifelong resident of the area, Mr. L. S. F. Smith, a stipendiary magistrate. The letter reads—

I wish to offer my support to yourself and the residents who are concerned with the deplorable condition of the West St. Kilda beach.

I have been a life-long resident of this area and whilst, prior to the building of the breakwater, the St. Kilda pier and jetty created a minor seaweed nuisance, with the erection of the breakwater it has become a major problem affecting thousands of people in the area and depriving Melbourne of what was once one of the best beaches along the Bay and only three miles from the City. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works drain on to the beach aggravates the problem.

The drain more or less ends when it reaches the beach. The discharge flows over the beach into the Bay and cannot get away from the area because of the breakwater and, to a lesser extent, the pier. The letter continues—

In front of the St. Kilda Yacht Club (the former public dressing pavilion) the sand has entirely disappeared—creating ideal conditions for the Club but depriving the people of a beach.

One might be forgiven for wondering whether the destruction of this beach is purely fortuitous or part of a long-term plan to create suitable conditions for the yacht squadron for there does appear to have been a studied neglect of the area by all parties concerned with token work done, quite ineffectually, at long intervals.

The controlling bodies must choose between the interests of the Royal St. Kilda Yacht Squadron and those of the people of Melbourne and of St. Kilda West in particular for the nauseating stench from this beach is an unbearable embarrassment to local residents who are not at all interested in yachts.

I would suggest that experts be called in to try and solve the problem here and that trial and error methods be abandoned. Ruthless methods should be resorted to and, if necessary, the removal of the breakwater should be considered.

I am enclosing herewith an article by Mr. J. M. Bowler a geologist of the University at Canberra, which has a bearing on the problem here.

The West St. Kilda beach was a unique heritage and should be restored at any cost. The condition of the area of beach that remains is deplorably dirty and this has no justification whatever.
The need here is immediate and urgent, and any move for improvement has my fullest support.

The letter is signed by Mr. L. S. F. Smith, Flat 5, 319 Beaconsfield-parade, St. Kilda West. I do not intend to quote at length from the article which appeared in the Sun News-Pictorial, but it strongly suggests that sand resources around Port Phillip Bay should be carefully conserved and that foreshore dunes should be reserved and not isolated from the sea by buildings.

Once again, I ask the Government to take urgent action in this matter. From scientific advice I have received since the week-end it is clear that unless the drain is extended beyond the breakwater, or in some way the breakwater is dismantled, and the drain discharges farther out into Hobson's Bay, the area will remain obnoxious. I realize that any remedy will cost money.

It is not possible to underestimate the nauseating effect on everyone who lives in the area. It is so bad that visitors to the area for the first time cannot get away quickly enough. The St. Kilda City Council cannot be entirely absolved from some responsibility because it should give the cleaning of the beach much closer attention.

The cost of extending this drain must be met by the Government as a matter of extreme urgency. If any member doubts what I say, I invite him to visit the area and to smell it for himself.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—On this issue, Mr. Elliot and I are at one. I know that Mr. Todd has had a particular interest in this matter for some time. I visited the area last week, and I can confirm what Mr. Elliot has said. It is a great disappointment that the beach has again deteriorated to the condition that it was in a year ago because, shortly before last summer, after inspections and agitation, a meeting of the main authorities concerned—the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the Foreshore Committee and the St. Kilda City Council—was held and a plan arrived at which it was hoped would remedy the situation in the future. The Board of Works contributed towards the cost of straightening the drain, and the Foreshore Trust, the St. Kilda City Council and the Local Government Department made contributions towards a total cleansing of the beach. The total cost of the work was in the vicinity of $1,500, and all parties thought the problem had been overcome.

It has been a tremendous disappointment to all that not only has the problem not been overcome, but that the condition of the beach is as bad as it ever was. I think this has been due partly to the unseasonable drought conditions because the drain is also an overflow from the Albert Park Lake and the flow has been insufficient to flush out the drain. It is also obvious that what was done last year was not enough.

I assure the House that the matter is regarded most seriously. The proper action to be taken will be a matter of some debate because this has been the case in the past. The causes of the condition have not been clear: Some attribute it to rotting seaweed in the drain; others attribute it to the contents of the effluent in the drain. There may be various reasons. The main trouble does appear to be that the drain discharges onto what was once high water mark, but, due to the build up of sand, it is now 100 yards from the water's edge and the effluent cannot flow properly, thus puddles and pools of a most offensive kind are created. It is obvious that this problem requires attention, because it is unfair to the residents, and it is destroying a section of beach which ought to be available to the people of Melbourne.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 8.20 p.m. until Tuesday, September 19.
Tuesday, September 12, 1967.

The Speaker (the Hon. Vernon Christie) took the chair at 4.10 p.m., and read the prayer.

NATURAL GAS.

DUTSON—DANDENONG MAIN TRANSMISSION LINE.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—I desire to ask the Minister for Fuel and Power a question without notice. It is—

Will the Minister for Fuel and Power advise the House of the present position in regard to the supply of pipes for the Sale—Dandenong natural gas pipe-line that is to be constructed by the Victorian Pipelines Commission?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer to the honorable member’s question is—

On 7th September, the Victorian Pipelines Commission recommended to the Government the following three tenders amounting to $9,041,052 for the manufacture and protective coating of the required 110 miles of 30-in. diameter pipes for the Dutson—Dandenong natural gas main transmission line:

1. Nippon Koken Kabushiki and Sumitomo Metal Industries (jointly)—both of Japan.
   —For the manufacture of 25 miles of pipe to be delivered in Melbourne about the end of November, 1967, at a cost of $1,781,154. Five miles of this pipe will be a special heavy duty type to be used for railway and river crossings, &c.

2. Tubemakers of Australia Ltd.—For the manufacture and coating of 75 miles of pipe with deliveries commencing in January, 1968, and for the coating of 12½ miles of pipe ex Japan, at a total cost of $6,297,840.


With the approval of the Government, the Governor in Council to-day sanctioned the Victorian Pipelines Commission entering into these contracts which provide for the pipes and coating to comply with the Commission’s technical requirements pending delivery of pipes of Australian manufacture and a maximum of Australian manufacture, consistent with delivery requirements.

The amount of the Japanese contract includes $389,271 import duty. As this contract will be for pipes that cannot be supplied by Australian manufacturers within the required time, application is being made to the Commonwealth Government for a full remission of this duty and, in the circumstances, we believe that remission of this import duty would be fully justified.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

SUBSCRIBER TRUNK DIALLING TELEPHONES.

Mr. TAYLOR (Balwyn), chairman, presented the report of the Committee of Public Accounts upon subscriber trunk dialling telephones, together with an appendix.

It was ordered that they be laid on the table, and be printed.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY (WORKS PROTECTION) REGULATIONS 1967 AND STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION WORKS PROTECTION REGULATIONS 1965.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong) presented the report of the Subordinate Legislation Committee on the Electric Supply (Works Protection) Regulations 1967 (Statutory Rule No. 8 of 1967), Regulation 5 and the State Electricity Commission Works Protection Regulations 1965 (Statutory Rule No. 227 of 1965), Regulation 4, together with minutes of evidence.

It was ordered that they be laid on the table.

GAOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Gaols Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

MARKETABLE SECURITIES BILL.

For Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), Mr. Rylah (Chief Secretary), by leave, moved for leave
to bring in a Bill to make provision with respect to instruments of transfer of certain marketable securities, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**MONEY LENDERS (CORPORATION LICENCES) BILL.**

For Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), Mr. Rylah (Chief Secretary), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill relating to the licensing of money lenders.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

For Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), Mr. Rylah (Chief Secretary), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING IN VICTORIA BILL.**

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the incorporation of the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**RURAL FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

Sir WILLIAM McDoNALD (Minister of Lands), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Rural Finance Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**REVOCATION AND EXCISION OF CROWN RESERVATIONS (No. 2) BILL.**

Sir WILLIAM McDoNALD (Minister of Lands), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to revoke the permanent reservations of certain lands and the temporary reservation of certain lands, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**PORTLAND HARBOR (EXCHANGE OF LAND) BILL.**

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the exchange of certain lands between the Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners and the Victorian Railways Commissioners, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (BREAD) BILL.**

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry), by leave, moved for leave to re-enact Division 2 of Part VII. of the Labour and Industry Act 1958, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL.**

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the abolition of capital punishment.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS BILL.
Mr. WILKES (Northcote), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to consolidate the law relating to Aborigines of Victoria, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

WORKERS COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.
Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Workers Compensation Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY (EQUAL PAY) BILL.
Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to provide equal pay for equal work.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ADULT FRANCHISE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS) BILL.
Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Local Government Act 1958 to provide for the election of councillors by adult franchise, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

GRAIN ELEVATORS (BORROWING POWERS) BILL.
Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that an appropriation be made from the Consolidated Revenue for the purposes of a Bill to increase the borrowing powers of the Grain Elevators Board.

A resolution in accordance with the recommendation was passed in Committee and adopted by the House.

On the motion of Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands), the Bill was brought in and read a first time.

MONEY LENDERS (CORPORATION LICENCES) BILL.
Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this short Bill is to rectify a current defect in the principal Act which became apparent following upon the death of a person who held a money lender's licence on behalf of a corporation. There has been, in recent years, a rapid increase in the number of incorporated companies engaged in the business of money lending, and for the purpose of enabling these corporations to engage in such activities a licence is issued by the court to a person authorized by the corporation to hold the licence on its behalf. This person is more commonly known as a nominee.

However, following upon the death of the nominee, there is no provision in the principal Act which enables the licence to be immediately transferred to some other person authorized on behalf of the corporation. In these circumstances, the only alternative open to the corporation is to apply for and be granted a new licence in the name of some newly appointed nominee.

However, a statutory period of fourteen days, which in practice often extends to 21 days or more, must elapse before the licence is granted by the court. During this period the money lending corporation remains unlicensed. It would be impracticable, in the modern complex system of finance, for such a corporation immediately to cease its money lending transactions. Yet to continue to do so would invite prosecution for a contravention of the principal Act and
place in jeopardy the right of the corporation to recover the money lent in the course of the transaction.

This Bill proposes to rectify the situation by providing that upon the death or incapacity of the corporation nominee the licence shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the licence is transferred to a person authorized by the corporation to hold the licence on its behalf. The corporation would be in breach of the principal Act if it failed to effect the transfer of such licence within a period of three months from the death of the nominee.

I shall now explain the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is the usual citation and explanatory provision. Paragraph (a) of clause 2 proposes a new paragraph (d) of sub-section (3) of section 7 of the principal Act and provides that a corporation which fails to transfer the licence to another person within a period of three months after the death of a person who holds the licence on its behalf shall be guilty of an offence. Paragraph (b) of clause 2, by amending sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) of section 8, enables a corporation on whose behalf a licence is held to authorize any other person to apply to the court for the transfer of that licence. Paragraph (c) proposes a new subsection (4) to section 8 of the principal Act and provides for the continuity of the licence on the death or incapacity of the holder of the licence.

By clause 3 the provisions of the Bill are deemed to be retrospective to protect those corporations and their transactions which have been affected by the provisions of the Act. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne), the debate was adjourned.

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

Mr. Rossiter.
the Board's policy of providing additional storage at locations in the wheat-growing areas where large numbers of rail trucks have been required during previous harvests to complete the harvest in excess of available local storage.

In the 1964-65 season, the Board received a record quantity of 79,500,000 bushels of wheat and 1,400,000 bushels of barley. Even if all storages at all country receival points were filled to capacity, the receival of a similar crop with the existing local country storage totaling 60,900,000 bushels would require the use of 25,000 rail trucks of the general purpose 20-ton capacity type to permit the receival of the 20,000,000 bushels of grain in excess of the available local country storage capacity.

As existing facilities at the subterminals at Murtoa and Dunolly and the shipping terminal at Geelong have a maximum rail truck discharge capacity of 6,000 trucks per week, the provision of additional country storage is needed to complete large harvests without undue delay. Since the Grain Elevators Act was amended to permit the Board to receive barley in bulk, annual receivals of that commodity have been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Bushels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>211,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>1,355,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>1,337,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>3,172,187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the past two years, the Board has increased the number of country stations at which barley may be received into the Board's elevators. This extension of facilities has assisted the industry, and the production of barley—for which there is a good local market—is increasing. Barley plantings this year are up considerably and, given an average season, receivals could be increased by 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. over last year's figures. If this trend should continue, it is likely that the Board will have to construct additional storages for barley, particularly as it appears that any extra barley acreages are likely to be at the expense of oats rather than of wheat. Although it is expected that there will not be any spectacular increase in wheat production in Victoria, in view of the economics of the wool industry, the steady increase which has been a feature of the industry in the past few years is expected to continue, and it is evident that, for a number of years at least, the policy of constructing further storages in the country for wheat will have to be continued.

Approximately 2,000,000 bushels of the Board's total country storages are of the very old shed-type bulkheads which must be progressively replaced with conventional cylindrical silos. This year, the Board has embarked on a construction programme comprising nine complete two-bin grain storage units of 145,000 bushels capacity to be erected at Caldwell, N.S.W., Echuca, Goorambat, Mathoura, N.S.W., Murchison East, Peechelba East, Prairie, Rushworth and Wakool, N.S.W.; seven complete single-bin grain storages of 80,000 bushels capacity to be erected at Avoca, Mitiamo, Noradjhu, Pirita, Pyramid, St. James and Yarto; and nine complete annex bins of 70,000 bushels capacity to be erected at Dimboola, Katamatite, Kiamal, Oaklands, N.S.W. (two annex bins), Pier Millan, Rennie, N.S.W. (two annex bins), and Rochester. These storages, which are expected to be completed for the 1967-68 harvest, will provide additional storage for 2,495,000 bushels at country stations.

In addition to the country elevator construction programme, it is expected that there will be substantial expenditure in connexion with dust extraction contracts and other improvements at the Geelong terminal, including the provision of a fender to protect the Board's shipping pier, and other additions and modifications to make it possible to accommodate larger vessels. Apart from the need to increase selected
local country storage capacity for wheat or barley, additional loan funds are required to permit the replacement of horizontal bulkhead-type structures having a storage capacity of approximately 2,000,000 bushels, which are not equipped to retain wheat in the weevil-free condition which is now required for export.

The Board’s present policy is to concentrate on the provision of mechanized cylindrical bin-type storages suitable for use in treating or protecting grain from weevil infestation. The current average construction cost for all works associated with this type of mechanized storage is approximately 65 cents per bushel. On this basis, the cost of providing silo space for an extra 1,000,000 bushels of grain is $650,000.

The Board’s present borrowing power under Act No. 6266 is $26,000,000, and the estimated total borrowings to date are approximately $25,090,000, leaving $910,000 available to meet the proposed 1967–68 programme totalling $1,750,000, of which $650,000 has already been borrowed. To complete the programme I have outlined, it is necessary that the Board’s borrowing powers should be increased by $4,000,000, and I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows), the debate was adjourned.

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

RURAL FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for three amendments to the Rural Finance Act 1958 which is administered by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. The first amendment, the drafting of which has been based on experience of one company—the Colac Brick Company Limited—will permit the Commission, with the approval of the Treasurer, to participate in the financial reconstruction of any company to which the Commission has made a loan.

Present legal opinion is that the Commission’s authority is generally limited to taking action pursuant to its securities where any company is in default or is unable to pay its way. This means, in effect, that while the Commission can avail itself of some provisions of the Companies Act in relation to companies which get into difficulties, generally speaking its only course of action at present is to appoint a receiver who, having completed his task, accounts to the Commission and other creditors, and if there is a deficiency in the final analysis, the Commission is able to treat its loss as it would any other bad debt, by writing it off.

From its experience of administering loans to country industries, the Commission is of the opinion that except for the odd company which fails following a receivership—it is often inevitable and the only way out—the appointment of a receiver is not always the most appropriate and sensible action. The shortcomings of receivership are more apparent if this means the closing down of an industry which is serving a useful purpose for decentralization and particularly the town in which it operates, provided of course, that it can be demonstrated that there is a practical alternative to receivership.

The Colac Brick Company Limited has been in financial difficulty for years, and at present it is being carried on under an official manager who is being advised by a committee of management appointed by shareholders and creditors, of which the Commission is the major secured creditor. The appointment of the official manager—which was made by a vote of creditors—had the effect of staying, for the time being, any
hostile action by unsecured creditors and at the same time gave those interested in the continued operation of the company an opportunity to test whether it had reasonable prospects. The results have indicated that a complete financial reconstruction of the company is a pre-requisite to its continued operation. On the one hand, to appoint a receiver would cause a certain situation to arise and could result in the closing down of the industry with no alleviation of likely losses; on the other hand, if it can continue on a suitable basis, by agreement between creditors and mindful of shareholders' initial contributions to the company, it can be a continued benefit to Colac and its product will be of considerable help in the area in which it operates. Further, the company is a more valuable asset while in a reasonable financial state and continuing to operate.

This Bill provides statutory authority for the Commission to hold shares in a company so financially reconstructed. In the event of success or takeover following reconstruction, the transfer of a debt or part debt to shareholding provides a greater safeguard to the security of the Commission. In other words, if part of the settlement provides for the Commission to hold shares in lieu of all or part of the debt it may write off, this loss can in part be covered if the company should do well and/or later be the subject of a take-over bid or similar arrangement.

It is not visualized that there will be wholesale financial reconstructions following the passage of this Bill. Since the Rural Finance Act was passed by the Parliament in 1949, a total sum of just on $10,000,000 has been lent to secondary industry in the country, and many successful enterprises owe their beginning in no small measure to finance from the Commission which may not have otherwise been available. There has been no falling off in the calls for assistance, and in the past three years an amount of just under $3,000,000 has been lent or committed.

As at 30th June, 1967, an aggregate sum of $4,750,000 was outstanding in respect of these loans, and I am informed by the chairman of the Commission that, while due regard must be paid to the fact that in the early life of financing a secondary industry there is always a measure of risk, particularly if normal sources of finance are not available, generally there is a satisfying record of efficient operation of the industries assisted and an equally satisfying prospect of repayment of the loans made, having regard to the risks involved.

The first amendment I have been discussing refers to companies assisted with loans made out of the Commission's fund. The second amendment, namely, that proposed to be made to sub-section (3) of section 35 of the principal Act, extends the operation of the first amendment to any loans which may have been or may be made pursuant to the agency provisions of the Rural Finance Act, which allows the Commission to take charge of the administration of loans made on behalf of the Treasurer.

The final amendment provides for an increase in the total of any one loan that may be made by the Commission without the specific approval of the Treasurer, a limit of $20,000 being imposed by the original legislation in 1949. Of course, loans have been made in excess of $20,000, particularly to country secondary industries, but for the average farmer who seeks financial accommodation from the Commission, a loan of $20,000 has been taken as a general limit unless special circumstances have existed.

The lift in this authority from $20,000 to $30,000 will, I believe, be welcomed by honorable members, as it will be realized that the capital involved in a successful farming enterprise to-day has risen considerably and the challenges which primary producers are facing, and no
doubt will face, require an increased productive capacity from the farm, which in turn will require additional capital.

Naturally, the Commission does not set itself up as being an organization that will provide all the finance required for the farming community; indeed, the bulk of it at present comes from the banking system and other financial sources. However, the Commission does have an important role to play, and I believe this 50 per cent. increase in its limit will be of considerable help. Honorable members will of course note that the Commission, with the approval of the Treasurer, will still have authority to approve of loans in excess of $30,000. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. STONEHAM (Midlands), the debate was adjourned.

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

REVOCATION AND EXCISION OF CROWN RESERVATIONS (No. 2) BILL.

Sir WMILLIAM MCDONALD (Minis­
ter of Lands).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.
The object of this Bill is to obtain legislative approval for revocations, excisions and amendments of certain reservations, so that the lands to which they refer may be used for purposes which are considered to be more advantageous so far as the State is concerned. There are eight reservations referred to in the Bill, and for the information of honorable members the following details are supplied in the order in which the reserves are set out in the three schedules to the Bill.

The First Schedule contains three items dealing with reservations which it is proposed to revoke in full. Item 1 refers to an area of 1 rood 29 perches of Crown land in the township of Casterton, permanently re- served in 1932 as a site for an Oddfellows' Hall. The secretary of the Oddfellows' lodge at Casterton has advised that the hall which was previously erected on the land was sold and removed from the site in December, 1965, and that the lodge does not wish to continue to control the area.

The abutting land on the north side of the present hall reservation is reserved as a site for a State school, and an application to have the hall site added to the State school reserve has been received from the Education Department. Departmental reports show that the area is ideally situated for extension of the school grounds which occupy a comparatively small area considering the size of the school, and it is proposed that, subject to revocation of the existing reservation, the area will be reserved for State school purposes.

Item 2 relates to an area of 45 acres 1 rood 7 perches of Crown land in the Parish of Loddon, which was permanently reserved in 1887 as a site for water supply purposes. In connexion with inquiries made by the secretary of the Shire of Gordon, regarding a section of this reserve required for road purposes, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission has advised that none of the reserve is now required for the purpose for which it has been reserved, and has furnished a certificate to that effect, as required by section 20 of the Land Act 1958. It is proposed, therefore, that the existing reservation shall be revoked, so that an area of about 4 acres may be provided for road purposes and the balance held for possible future dealings under the provisions of the Land Act.

Item 3 covers an area of 87 acres 2 roods 23 perches of Crown land in the parish of Kyabram East, permanently reserved in 1902 as a site for a racecourse. The reserve is located about one mile south of Kyabram railway station, and subsequent to its being permanently reserved, a Crown grant of the site,
for use as a racecourse and offices and conveniences connected therewith and for no other purpose whatsoever, was issued to Messrs. J. Tehan, H. Ryan and J. Shortis in 1905.

In 1939, that Crown grant was surrendered, and since then the reserve has been under control of a committee of management comprising, at various times, representatives of the municipality, the agricultural and horticultural society, the local golf club and the public. The existing committee of management, whose current term of appointment will expire on 14th February, 1968, consists of Councillor W. A. Robinson representing Kyabram Borough Council, Messrs. G. Hooper and A. S. Caldwell representing Kyabram Turf Club, Messrs. J. Hill and M. Gartner representing the public, and Messrs. P. H. Easton and G. A. Fraser representing Kyabram Golf Club.

Although reserved only for a racecourse, the land has been used over the years for other recreational purposes including golf, cricket, go-kart racing and model aeroplane flying. It is also understood that, although no race-meeting has been held on the reserve for a number of years past, there is still some active use of the area for purposes connected with racing, as some trotting horses are trained there. In view of the various recreational purposes for which the land is currently used, it is considered necessary that action should be taken to widen the purposes for which the reserve may be validly used.

It is therefore proposed that the existing reservation for a racecourse be revoked, with a view to the area being re-reserved as a site for racecourse and recreation purposes. I may mention that another area of 7 acres 1 rood 22 perches, included in this Bill as Item 1 of the Third Schedule, is linked with the site to which I have just referred, and will be dealt with in due course.

The Second Schedule refers to four reservations which are itemized in Part I of this schedule, and from which it is proposed that excisions shall be made of the areas respectively shown in Parts II, III, IV and V of the schedule.

Items 1 and 2 refer to two reservations of Crown land which together comprise the "Duncan MacKinnon Reserve" at Murrumbeena. Item 1 sets out details of the original reservation of about 13½ acres from which it is proposed to excise a total area of 3 roods 16 perches consisting of two separate sections of 29 perches and 2 roods 27 perches, required for road traffic improvement works. The area of 29 perches, which has been sought by Caulfield City Council, is located at the northern point of the reserve, at the junction of Murrumbeena and Crosbie roads. The other section of 2 roods 27 perches comprises a strip about 34 feet wide along the south boundary of the reserve, with a rounded corner at the junction of North-road and Crosbie-road, and has been sought by the Country Roads Board in connexion with the widening of North-road.

The reservation to which Item 2 refers was formerly a part of Murrumbeena-road adjoining the western boundary of the original reservation referred to in Item 1. Subsequent to a new section of Murrumbeena-road, between North-road and Leila-road, being reconstructed in a position farther west, the old portion of the road, containing an area of about 1¾ acres, was closed in 1964, under the provisions of section 349 of the Land Act, and was permanently reserved as an extension of the original reservation. The area of 8 perches proposed to be excised from this section of the reserve lies immediately west of the area of 2 roods 27 perches referred to in Item 1, and is also part of the Country Roads Board requirement for road-widening works affecting North-road.
Item 3 refers to Albert Park, which is a permanent reservation as a site for a public park in the cities of South Melbourne and St. Kilda from which it is proposed to excise an area of 19 perches with a view to its being reserved as an addition to the South Melbourne Technical School site. The land to which the proposed excision relates consists of a rectangular strip 30 feet wide for a distance of 170 feet adjoining the eastern boundary of the school reserve, and has been sought by the Education Department to provide land required urgently for the construction of class-rooms and an assembly hall for the technical school. This school is situated on an area of 1 acre and 26 perches with a frontage to Albert-road adjacent to the St. Kilda railway. The original site of the technical school comprised an area of one-half acre which was excised from Albert Park in 1915 by Act No. 2587. The school site was increased to its present area by a later excision of 2 roods 26 perches from Albert Park by Act No. 5593 of 1951.

The school has a present secondary school enrolment of approximately 600 students, together with a part-time apprenticeship training enrolment of 340. Even with the additional extension now sought, the area of the school site would be much below the desirable standard for the purpose, but in view of the fact that parkland is involved, the proposed excision has been restricted to an absolute minimum for urgent requirements. The proposed school extension consists of an open flat area covered with screenings, and has been used for some time for the parking of cars. The committee of management of Albert Park has advised that it raises no objection to the proposed excision in this case.

Item 4 concerns Caulfield Racecourse, which is a permanent reservation as a site for racing, recreation and public park purposes for which a Crown grant was issued to trustees. The proposed excision in this case covers an area of 9 acres 2 roods 27 perches known as Glenhuntly sports ground, which is located in the south-western section of the racecourse reserve, and has a frontage of about 245 yards to Neerim-road. The area is actually fenced out from the racecourse proper, and contains a number of substantial improvements, including a fenced oval with a brick grandstand for spectators, tennis courts with a brick pavilion for players, rooms for athletic clubs, a band rotunda, a children's playground and conveniences.

By agreement between the racecourse trustees and the Caulfield City Council, and subject to the necessary legislative authority, it is proposed that, after excision from the existing reservation and Crown grant, the excised area of 9 acres 2 roods 27 perches will be re-reserved under the provisions of the Land Act as a site for recreation, convenience and amusement of the people, and placed under control of the Caulfield municipality as a committee of management. I may add that in connexion with plans for further development of the area, advice has been received from the Education Department that the Minister of Education has arranged for an amount of $10,000 to be provided from Treasury funds in return for free use of the reserve oval by Caulfield High School and other State schools within the municipal district.

Item 1 of the Third Schedule relates to the revocation of a temporary reservation at Kyabram. As I mentioned previously, the item referred to in this schedule is linked with Item 3 of the First Schedule. The reservation now under consideration contains an area of 7 acres 1 rood 22 perches of Crown land in the parish of Kyabram East, temporarily reserved as a site for a racecourse by Order in Council of 17th June, 1952. It comprises a strip 2 chains wide along the eastern boundary of the main racecourse area, but is undeveloped for that purpose. It is intended that this area will be included in the site to be re-reserved.
for racecourse and recreation purposes, and one proposed development on the northern section of this strip is the establishment of a small-bore rifle range.

It is unusual to include in a revocation and excision of Crown reservations Bill provision for revocation of a temporary reservation which may be effected by administrative procedure under the Land Act. In this instance, however, because of local interest and activities connected with the racecourse land as a whole, and to keep honorable members apprised in full of proposals, it was considered desirable to provide in the Bill for the revocation of the permanent and temporary reservations, so that any dealings in respect of both sections of the racecourse area may proceed simultaneously.

I shall be pleased to arrange for honorable members to be furnished with any additional information which may be desired in respect of any particular item in the Bill, which I commend for the favorable consideration of the House.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—I move—

That the debate be now adjourned.

I should like to ask the Minister to make available maps, suitably coloured, clearly showing the areas of land with which this measure deals.

The motion was agreed to, and it was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.

GAOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Minister of Water Supply).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purposes of this Bill are—

(a) to enable a police lock-up to be proclaimed as a police gaol for a lesser period than 30 days; and

(b) to simplify the procedure governing the discharge from gaol of persons serving a number of terms of imprisonment for non-payment of sums of money.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Gaols Act 1958, the Governor in Council, upon a certificate from the Director-General that any lock-up is fit for the purpose, may proclaim any police lock-up to be a police gaol for the reception of prisoners whose sentences do not exceed 30 days.

During a period of many years, 75 lock-ups have been proclaimed as police gaols. However, on present-day standards, most of them do not have the facilities required for the holding of prisoners for such a period. As a result, police gaols, other than those at Bendigo, Mildura and Warrnambool, are not now used to hold prisoners sentenced to periods of imprisonment in excess of three days.

When the sentence is longer than three days but less than 30 days, the prisoner may be transferred to the police gaols to which I have just referred or to a penal establishment, but when the sentence exceeds 30 days the prisoner must be transferred to one of the established departmental gaols. Prisoners are often required to serve sentences of only seven days or so, and in themselves are not security risks. It is therefore clearly uneconomic and a substantial demand on the man power resources of the Police Department and penal staff to transfer those short-term prisoners, particularly from the remote areas of the State, to penal establishments.

Some of the disused 30-day police gaols will be suitable for the reception of prisoners for varying periods of imprisonment of less than 30 days. Some of them would be presently suitable, and others would need some alteration or adjustment.

Clause 2 of the Bill substitutes a new section 7 in the Gaols Act 1958 to enable the Director-General, after
consultation with the Chief Commissioner of Police, to recommend to the Minister that a police lock-up is fit for the reception of prisoners for a specified term not exceeding 30 days. If the Minister accepts that recommendation, he may, by notice published in the Government Gazette, proclaim that lock-up to be a police gaol for the reception of prisoners for any term of imprisonment not exceeding the terms specified. Sub-section (3) of the new section 7 provides that the provisions of the Act then in force relating to gaols and the rules and regulations made thereunder shall, in so far as those provisions are applicable, apply to police gaols.

I shall now refer to the provisions of the Bill concerning the discharge from gaol of persons serving sentences for non-payment of sums of money. The Gaols (Commencement of Sentences) Act 1966, by amending section 20 of the Gaols Act, made provision for the release from gaol of persons imprisoned for non-payment of fines or moneys as if they were fines.

The Chief Secretary's Department recently had the experience of a person who was sent to Pentridge Gaol on 28 separate warrants of commitment for non-payment of road maintenance charges. To effect his discharge it was necessary to prepare 28 separate orders and for the offender to enter into 28 separate recognizances conditioned in respect of each sum of money remaining unpaid. From the administrative point of view, the position would be very much simplified if the offender were regarded as serving one sentence where the gaol terms on a multiplicity of warrants held by the gaoler are cumulative.

Section 19 of the Gaols Act, as amended by the Gaols (Commencement of Sentences) Act 1966, makes every term of imprisonment in default of payment of a sum of money cumulative. Clause 3 of the Bill proposes a new sub-section (3A) of section 20 of the principal Act, which provides that where a person is imprisoned for non-payment of a sum of money and the gaoler has other warrants for the committal of that person to gaol for non-payment of other sums of money, and the terms of imprisonment to be served are cumulative in accordance with section 19 of the principal Act, that person will be deemed to be serving one term of imprisonment for the aggregate of all the cumulative terms of imprisonment.

The new sub-section also provides that the Governor may by one document order the discharge of that person with respect to all sums of money upon the prisoner entering into one recognizance conditioned for the payment of the sums of money remaining unpaid.

On the motion of Mr. WILKES (Northcote), the debate was adjourned.

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

BUILDING SOCIETIES (UNSECURED LOANS) BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This short Bill proposes an amendment to the last paragraph of section 36 of the Building Societies Act 1958. The purpose of the amendment is to place responsibility upon every member of the committee of management of a building society for the making of loans or advances without security. It arises out of an investigation into the operation of a certain permanent building society which had advanced money to a corporation out of moneys invested in or loaned to the society. The advance was unsecured or secured in a manner other than that permitted by the Building Societies Act 1958. This society did not in fact operate as a building society in the traditional sense, but in effect carried on business as a speculative building company.
To understand the proposed amendment, it is necessary to refer to the existing provisions of the Act. Subsection (2) of section 4 of the Act lists the objects for the establishment of a permanent building society. These objects are—

(i) to raise funds for assisting members in obtaining freehold or leasehold property; or
(ii) to make loans upon the security of freehold or leasehold property; or
(iii) to purchase land for the erection of houses.

Sub-section (1) of section 17 provides that a society may employ its funds for such of the following as are provided for in its rules:

(i) To make advances to members upon security of their shares;
(ii) to make advances to members and other persons and to corporate bodies upon the security of freehold or leasehold by way of mortgage; and
(iii) to make advances to other building societies.

Under section 21 of the Act, the amount that a permanent society may receive on deposit or loan shall not at any time exceed five times the amount of the existing paid-up capital and subscriptions paid to the society on borrowers' shares. Section 36 provides that if any building society receives loans or deposits in excess of the limits prescribed by section 21, then every member of the committee of management of the society shall be personally liable for the amount so received in excess or lent or advanced without security.

The purpose of the new paragraph is to make every member of the committee of management of a society personally liable for loans or advances made to members without the security of freehold or leasehold estate by way of mortgage. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 19.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at half-past Three o’clock.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.41 p.m.

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**Legislative Assembly.**

Wednesday, September 13, 1967.

The Speaker (the Hon. Vernon Christie) took the chair at 4.4 p.m., and read the prayer.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.**

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—There are 94 questions on to-day’s Notice Paper, and I ask that they all be repeated next Tuesday. The Government will then answer as
many of the questions as it possibly can. I suggest this procedure, not because of any unwillingness of the Government to answer the questions, but because of the practical problem of dealing with 94 questions in the time available.

**STAMPS BILL.**

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill relating to receipt duty, to amend the Stamps Act 1958, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**ESTIMATES FOR 1967-68.**

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1967-68, in lieu of the Estimates of Expenditure for the first three months of the year 1967-68, transmitted on the 16th May, 1967, and recommending an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.

**FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1966-67.**

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting Final Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1966-67, and recommending an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue accordingly.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER BILL.**

Mr. WILKES (Northcote), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision for the appointment and functions of a Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman), and for purposes connected therewith.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**THE BUDGET.**

The House went into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I present to the House the Budget statement for the financial year 1967–68. Budget day is an annual event, and I mention with humility, yet with a sense of pride which I hope will be pardoned, that this occasion marks the submission by me on behalf of the present Government of thirteen successive Budgets.

Some honorable members may be quick to observe not only the significance of that number, but the coincidence of it with to-day's date. I would have no wish to avoid the responsibility of the transition in time and number from twelve to fourteen, though had I been in any way inclined to superstition I could have avoided the coincidence of the number of successive Budgets and the date on the calendar. According to the Oxford dictionary superstition is an unreasoning awe or fear of something unknown. To-day's Budget deals specifically with the span of the government financial year ending on 30th June next—a period of time which has more than three-quarters yet to run. Even in the limited sense of the span of the present financial year, to-day's Budget deals with the future. Yet it is a future which stretches out beyond the current financial year—a future which will depend very much on the actions of to-day. The future must of necessity hold much that is yet unknown, but the Government is not superstitious and therefore has no awe or fear of that unknown. Rather do we accept the challenge to do for to-day not only what is right and good for to-day, but what is right and essential to ensure the future progress and development of this State.
Over the span of twelve years during which we have been entrusted with the government of Victoria, we have at all times approached our task placing great emphasis on forward planning, particularly financial planning which goes to the very heart of physical achievement. This Budget—the first which follows the decision of the people to entrust us with the government of the State for a further term—represents a further stage in forward financial planning for the continued progress of our State. This is the objective above all else to which we pledge ourselves.

Let me therefore outline the circumstances which go to make the background of financial considerations against which the Budget has had to be drawn up, and explain the manner in which we propose to deal with those circumstances.

In our democratic society the role of government may be summarized under two main headings. First and foremost is the maintenance of the rule of law so that the rights of the individual are protected and preserved. Then there is the administration of those services and community endeavours which the people have decided over the years are matters best administered by government, so that not only are the requirements of the individual member of the community fulfilled, but also the best interests of the community at large are served. This side of government involves administration and finance, and it is the financing of this side of government with which this Budget is concerned. On the one hand the Government is involved in the spending of money to maintain services, the biggest and most important being education. On the other hand the Government is involved in getting the money to spend. Much though some might wish, there is no magic formula to be invoked. I have already made reference to the number thirteen, and wistfully recall here that in the 19th Century a "thirteen" was the name given in Ireland to an English shilling which was worth thirteen pence Irish. A Victorian 10 cent piece which was worth 11 cents Australian would conveniently overcome our financial problems, but such is not within reach. Thus for the Government of the State, raising the money to spend on essential services as provided in the Estimates of Expenditure which have been placed before you involves but two choices. Either these essential services must be provided at a charge to the individual who receives them to cover the cost, or the community in general must be called on to provide the funds from taxation. It is taxation which has been for centuries the accepted basic method of finance for government, and the sheer ability of government to provide for the people generally the services which people look to the Government to provide, depends on the ability of the Government to raise revenue from taxation.

It is at this very point, and in these simple terms, that the Governments of the States in Australia, maybe in varying degree, come up against the greatest problem faced by practically any Government anywhere in the world. This is no matter of theory. It is a simple and straightforward cold hard fact of life. It is a fact of life which has been distorted and camouflaged by the enemies of State government for a long time. Because it springs from the crushing way in which the Commonwealth Government has chosen to use its dominant financial powers under the Constitution, it was long regarded not as a problem, but as an inevitable and irrational protest by the States against the Federal Government. I am greatly heartened by the fact that more and more people, particularly men in business and industry, have come to realize that the States have very real and acute financial difficulties. Ever since we have been in government I have spoken of these problems, and have
warned of the inevitable consequences of allowing things to continue as they are. For a long time—too long—the powerful propaganda forces of the Commonwealth Government were able to create the impression that we were crying wolf, but I am encouraged to find a general realization of the truth of what we have been saying. Wherever I go today I find that there is a widespread recognition of the financial problems of the States and a realization of the need for change. That is to say, wherever I go except in Canberra. There I and my colleagues, the Premiers of the other States, still find an ostrich-like attitude which seeks to deny the problem.

I spoke of these matters with force and feeling in presenting the Budget last year, and what I then said played some part in bringing about further conversations between the States and the Commonwealth on the financial problems of the States. The outcome of those conversations has had an important bearing on the Budget which I now present to the House, and I would like to place on record what has happened during the past twelve months.

You will recall that I said last year that the Governments of the States have such limited revenue sources that it is becoming extraordinarily difficult to formulate satisfactory budget policies at the State level to ensure the availability of finance for the maintenance of State Government services. We have no effective access to any of the major revenue fields which throughout the world, and throughout time, Governments have had to rely on for finance. I said that the whole set up was so patently crazy and loaded against the States that it was beyond comprehension how anyone could be found to defend it. I said that change was overdue, that time was running out, and I made a plea that the Commonwealth should co-operate with the States to find a solution to the problem while time yet remained. That it could be done, I suggested, was supported by the examples of "co-operative federalism" as enunciated by Prime Minister Pearson of Canada, and of "creative federalism" as enunciated by President Johnson in the United States of America.

This was not without impact. Responsible opinion supported what I said, and with the Premier of New South Wales we were able to demonstrate that together, representing two-thirds of the people of Australia, our two States were facing a chronic situation of financial difficulty that could not be passed off as being a problem only for the smaller States. In the result the Prime Minister indicated that he would be prepared to discuss the problem. All other Premiers expressed support for what I had put forward, and subsequently it was arranged that the Prime Minister would meet with all the Premiers in a round table discussion set for February last.

I must say that this discussion in February was fruitful and encouraging. The Commonwealth was prepared to recognize that an immediate problem faced the States for the then current financial year, following the general increases in wage margins promulgated by the Commonwealth wage fixing authorities, and made provision for a special supplementary payment of modest proportions to all States for 1966-67. This was a useful and welcome contribution to our financial stability last year. Further, it was agreed to reduce the time lag before increases in wages are reflected in the formula grants to the States. At the same time the Commonwealth conceded that the Premiers had shown that there was indeed a long-term problem to be solved, and it was agreed to resume consideration of that problem in June of this year. The Prime Minister indicated that the Commonwealth would give close study and bring a constructive attitude to the long-term problem.

Sir Henry Bolte.
This was all very encouraging and it seemed that at long last a break-through was in sight. Such hopes were to be short lived, as the June conference was to prove, for in June there was no sign of the constructive attitude of the Commonwealth which had been promised. On the contrary, the Commonwealth appeared once again to see only that which they desired to see, and which was confined very much to their own environs of Canberra. Let me tell you what it was that the Commonwealth could not see, though which to us and a growing multitude of people seems all too obvious.

Tax reimbursement grants from the Commonwealth to the States came into being only because of the effective taking over by the Commonwealth of the power of the States to levy an income tax. Each successive scheme of tax reimbursement grants to the States has provided a rate of growth in those grants significantly less than the natural long-term growth rate from income tax without any change in income tax rates. This is the basic reason for the breakdown in these successive arrangements, and unless this is recognized any change in the present system must be short-lived, however adequately it may meet an immediate problem.

The experience of the past has clearly demonstrated that if a State is not to have an income tax of its own, then it must have not only a grant in substitution for income tax, but a grant which grows over the years at a rate not less than the natural long-term growth rate of income tax. Income tax has the highest rate of natural growth of all taxes. That is to say, without any change in the rates of income tax, or in the basis of assessing taxable income, the revenue from income tax grows at a consistently faster rate than the revenue from any other tax. Since 1959 for example, Commonwealth Government revenue from income tax on the incomes of individuals has shown a natural growth rate of 11 per cent. per annum apart altogether from policy decisions on rates of tax. Taking income tax from individuals and companies combined, the rate of growth has been 10 per cent. per annum.

By way of contrast our tax reimbursement grant from the Commonwealth in substitution for our income tax, which represents some 45 per cent. of our general Budget income, has grown at only 8 per cent. per annum since 1959. In other words we have only been getting an 8 per cent. increase on average on what is now 45 per cent. of our income, whereas we ought to have been getting an increase of 10 per cent. and our grant would now be a higher proportion of the Budget. At the same time, the Commonwealth is getting an increase of 10 per cent. per annum on its own share of income tax, and by giving us only 8 per cent. it is getting 2 per cent. on our share as well.

Revenue from our own State sources has a natural growth rate of only some 7 per cent. to 7½ per cent. per annum at best. But in the loss of income tax the State has lost a tax with a natural growth rate of 10 per cent. a year over the long term. This is what the Commonwealth has taken from the State. It has substituted for it a grant which has grown at some 8 per cent. per annum, and the loss has to be made good by the State from the limited fields of taxation which are open to it and have a low rate of natural growth. Thus the State has to constantly increase rates of existing taxes and impose new taxes to fill the gap. The alternative would be to allow education and other services to stagnate—an alternative which no responsible Government could contemplate. The plain fact is that since
1959 we have increased our annual revenue from State taxes paid to Consolidated Revenue by $80,000,000, of which $30,000,000 has had to come from new taxes or increases in rates of existing taxes.

What this Budget action has meant can in turn be illustrated best by translating these figures into relative terms in relation to the Commonwealth Budget. If it had been necessary for the Commonwealth to increase its revenue from non-income taxes since 1959 by the same proportion as Victoria has had to increase its revenue from State taxes—all of which are non-income taxes—then the Commonwealth would have had to find an extra $720,000,000 in 1966-67 from taxes other than income tax—that is $720,000,000 over and above the revenue actually received by the Commonwealth in 1966-67 from taxes other than income tax. This would have required an increase of 43 per cent. in the present rates of all these taxes. This is the equivalent measure in Commonwealth terms of the effort which has been required of our Government from State taxation for Budget purposes since 1959, and it illustrates in clear and simple terms the extent of that effort.

Given that the basic need is to restore to the States the growth rate in income tax revenue which they have lost, then this can be done in either of two ways. Income tax power can be returned to the States in a modified form such as that which operates in Canada, with a uniform assessment Act, a single return, a single assessment, and inbuilt safeguards to protect the Federal Government’s income tax powers. It can be done, and this would be our first choice. If income tax powers in a modified form are not to be returned to the States, then it is essential that tax reimbursement grants grow at a rate not less than the natural long-term growth rate of income tax. Unless either of these things is done there is no hope of solving the longer-term problems of Commonwealth-State financial relations.

Going along with the above, and having regard in particular to the fact that virtually the whole of the weight of servicing new public debt now falls on the States—in contrast to the situation before the States lost their income tax powers—some consideration might well be given to the Commonwealth vacating some minor tax fields to enable the States to make greater use of these fields and more adequately discharge their obligations.

Some people are of the opinion that the Commonwealth Government pays half the debt of a State. This point of view has been brought about over the years because of a misunderstanding concerning the 25 cents per cent. that the Commonwealth Government pays over the 53-year period of the loan. What actually happens is that if $100 is owing now in 53 years’ time when the loan is eventually paid off, the Commonwealth Government will have paid 53 times 25 cents, which is a total of $13.25 and the State Government will have paid $86.75 out of the $100. I wanted to clear up that matter. Some honorable members believed that the Commonwealth Government paid half the loan and I must confess that I once believed that that was the position. However, as I have now pointed out, that is not the case.

In terms of constitutional power, it is the power to levy an income tax which is the important thing which the States have lost. In terms of practical ability to continue to pay our way, the serious loss is the loss of the natural long-term growth rate of income tax. Without this the States must remain seriously financially embarrassed. If income tax was returned to the States on the modified basis which I have

Sir Henry Bolte.
suggested from time to time—similar to the answer found in Canada—the States would regain both constitutional power and the ability to live. If income tax is not returned, then the States mere ability to live depends on incorporating the long-term growth rate of income tax in tax reimbursement grants.

The present tax reimbursement formula has broken down. The reason it has broken down, and the formulas and arrangements that went before it, is that while from time to time they have come close to meeting the immediate needs of a particular financial year, they have failed to provide for growth to take care of future years. I demonstrated to the Commonwealth in June that the present formula would not meet the requirements of 1967–68. Therefore, in terms of practical mechanics, if the solution to long-term problems was to be found in tax reimbursement grants we would have to provide for adequate grants for 1967–68, and adequate growth in these grants for future years. These two things go hand in hand. Growth in itself is not enough. Growth must be built on an adequate base.

If these points were covered, not only would this make it possible for the States to continue to exist with some measure of financial responsibility, but, more important, it would remove the cancerous growth that has bedevilled the relationship between the Commonwealth and the States for so long, and make possible a truly co-operative partnership for the good of the nation. It is of no use the Commonwealth Government saying that it is dissatisfied and the States saying that they are dissatisfied. If this state of affairs continues it will lead to the ruination of this country.

Mr. FENNESSY.—What can you do about it?

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—We are endeavouring to do something about it, but under the policy of the Labor Party nothing would be done because that party believes in uniform taxation.

All of this was a statement of fact, not of opinion. It was supported by other Premiers, but rejected by the Commonwealth. Therefore, I have to report to the House with great disappointment that the year which began with such promise for a genuine co-operative review of the financial difficulties of the States ended with refusal by the Commonwealth to do anything to facilitate change.

The result of this situation is that yet again the Commonwealth Government has forced the State into the position of taking responsibility for new taxation, while being able to use for itself that part of the natural growth of income tax which it has filched from the States. This sets the background against which we have had to prepare the 1967–68 Budget. Two choices only presented themselves—to stand still or to continue development. There can be no argument about the choice we have made. We have provided in the Estimates of Expenditure for our inescapable expenditure. We have assessed in realistic terms our revenue from existing sources, and we are putting forward plans for obtaining additional revenue to ensure that total revenue will be sufficient for our essential needs. Unless this is done a shortage on the revenue Budget would have to be made good from loan funds with a consequential threat to the whole of the works programme.

Before outlining the proposals concerning new revenue, let me first give the broad outline of the expenditure side of the Budget and the factors to be taken into account for the year.
The Estimates provide for a total expenditure on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of $603,000,000. This is $43,400,000 or 7.8 per cent. greater than expenditure last year. The influence of education on our Budget considerations will be quite obvious when I say that $23,000,000 of this increase is for education. This is 53 per cent. of the total increase. While the over-all rise in expenditure represents an increase of 7.8 per cent., the increase in education is 13.1 per cent. and other expenditure will rise by only 5.3 per cent. I will speak of education expenditure in more detail later, but at this stage I should say something about the elements in the increase in expenditure other than education.

There are some items which are pre-determined for us. Wages awards will add a gross amount of $11,400,000 to expenditure this year, including $5,400,000 relating to education expenditure. Debt charges—that is interest and redemption payments on loan moneys—will increase by a gross amount of $9,700,000, including $1,900,000 relating to education expenditure. The cost of superannuation pensions will rise by $1,100,000. The effect of these three items is to account for $14,500,000 out of the $20,400,000 increase in expenditure other than expenditure on education. The balance of $5,900,000 covers the increased costs of health and hospital services, and the increased provision necessary for all other activities including the implementation of some limited policy decisions, mainly in the field of child welfare and health, and which I now announce.

Payments by the Social Welfare Department in respect of children who are wards of the State will be increased as follows:—

Children in approved children’s homes—

Under five years of age .. from $11 to $13 per week.
Five years and over .. from $8.50 to $9.50 per week.
Children in foster homes .. from $5.50 to $6.50 per week.

There will be a general increase of 10 per cent. in the allowable income for purposes of assistance to mothers with children in necessitous circumstances, and in the maximum payment for each child. Children over fifteen years of age and still at school will qualify for assistance.

The new rates of payment will commence next month.

In the policy speech we said that we would review the range of subsidies for kindergartens, crèches, day nurseries, municipal home-help schemes and aid to elderly citizens and related matters. In the light of this review the following increases are proposed to operate from 1st October, 1967:—

Maximum Grants for Elderly Citizens’ Clubs towards running costs will be lifted by $400 to $2,000 per annum.
Subsidies for Infant Welfare Centres and Infant Welfare and Mothercraft Training Schools will be increased to $1,900 per annum in respect of each sister employed on a full-time basis.
The subsidy per enrolment for Crèches and Day Nurseries will be increased from $230 to $250 per annum.
Subsidies for Play Centres will be increased from $1,200 to $1,500 per annum.
In addition, living allowances made available for certain scholarships under the administration of the Department of Health will be increased as follows:

Kindergarten Training and Play Leader Course Scholarships—Living allowances will be increased by $100 per annum.

Pre-school Mothercraft Scholarships—Living allowances will be increased by $60 per course of six months.

Infant Welfare Sisters Course Scholarships—Living allowances will be increased by $48 per course of four months.

The total allocation to the Aborigines Welfare Fund will be lifted from $270,000 to $450,000, to provide greater assistance towards the housing, education and general welfare of Aboriginal families. Provision has been made to implement the scholarships scheme for Aboriginal children as announced in the policy speech, and this year 220 Aboriginal children are being assisted financially to continue their education at secondary schools.

These matters have been taken into account in the expenditure figures, and rigid economies have been enforced in all general departmental spending. No one can accuse us of extravagance. Education is a must and the increase there is 13.1 per cent. While this certainly places strains on the Budget it is a cost which must be faced. Expenditure other than education will rise by only 5.3 per cent.—quite a modest figure alongside the increase in the Commonwealth Budget of 9.5 per cent. over-all, 9 per cent. in the running costs of Commonwealth Departments, and 7.4 per cent. in Commonwealth expenditure excluding defence and payments to the States. If our increase in expenditure other than education had been even as high as 7.4 per cent. this would have cost another $8,000,000. To avoid spending an amount of this order is surely good housekeeping on any test. However, even by keeping the increase in expenditure to an absolute minimum there is $43,400,000 to be met. How is this to be done? To answer this question we must turn to the revenue prospect.

REVENUE 1967-68.

In 1966-67 revenue and expenditure were exactly in balance, and with expenditure rising by $43,400,000 in 1967-68 this becomes the measure of the additional revenue needed in 1967-68 to balance the Budget.

Under existing conditions we estimate that receipts from revenue items under our own control will rise by $18,200,000. In addition our tax reimbursement grant, as presently estimated, will be up by $17,800,000 so that the total increase in revenue on existing conditions would be $36,000,000. With expenditure rising by $43,400,000 a gap of $7,400,000 is immediately apparent. While this is less than the increase in the wages bill from awards made by wage fixing tribunals, it is a sizeable amount and the responsibility of getting it cannot be shirked or avoided. Nor can we overlook the possibility that if the prevailing dry seasonal conditions are not soon reversed, they could have a marked effect on our revenue estimates. While such a possibility calls for caution and preparedness, of itself it would not call for special revenue action of a long-term character. But this cannot be said of the hard core gap of $7,400,000, and this does remain to be covered in this year and for the
future, because it comes from an increase in expenditure which, though it arises initially this year, must be met not in this year alone, but also in succeeding years. The inescapable conclusion is that it calls for additional revenue of a permanent rather than a temporary nature.

**REVENUE PROPOSALS.**

We have surveyed the limited fields of revenue which are open to us, and have come to the following conclusions:—

Land tax yields a revenue of some $22,000,000, and land tax rates will not be increased. However, in due course, we will be bringing forward some proposals for changes in the Land Tax Act to facilitate the use of municipal valuations as approved by the Valuer-General. As an administrative matter it is proposed to bring the present valuation staff of the Land Tax Office under the Valuer-General. This is consistent with intentions which were foreshadowed previously, and which will be designed to remove much of the misunderstanding which has arisen in the past from the lack of uniformity in valuations for different rating authorities. It will be a logical working out of the principles already incorporated in the Valuation of Land Act.

Probate duties are estimated to yield some $37,000,000 this year. There will be no increase in probate duty rates, but we will be giving close consideration to the possibility that some change may be necessary in the form of the present legislation to protect the revenue against loss from the use of facilities based in the Australian Capital Territory. Similar considerations are under examination in relation to the avoidance of stamp duties. Honorable members will recall a case recently in which an application for probate in respect of a New South Wales estate was lodged in Canberra and there was some doubt whether New South Wales would receive its just share of the probate duty payable.

Stamp duties are now the major item of State taxation revenue, and we propose a change in this field. Subject to certain exemptions, stamp duty is now payable on receipts for money at a rate of 5 cents for every $400 of total receipts in the case of persons who elect to pay duty on the basis of periodical returns to the Comptroller of Stamps, and in other cases at a sliding scale subject to a maximum duty of 20 cents on any individual receipt if the duty is paid by means of adhesive duty stamps. We propose a basic review of the present exemptions from stamp duty on receipts, and to adopt a flat rate of duty of 1 cent for every $10 or part thereof. The legislation to give effect to this change will be introduced immediately so that it can be considered by the House in the context of the Budget, and to give adequate time for the proposals to be understood before they come into operation. It is proposed that the new receipt stamp duty will operate not later than the beginning of February, 1968, and our estimate is that the additional revenue to be received this financial year will cover the gap between revenue and expenditure under existing conditions. Thus the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1967–68 now before the House show an exact balance, with expenditure estimated at $603,000,000 and revenue at the same amount.

**EDUCATION.**

The Government continues to give top priority to education and the total amount available for education including provision from the Loan Fund in 1967–68 will be $239,200,000, an increase over last year of $27,700,000 or 13.1 per cent.

Sir Henry Bolte.
Over our term of office we have lifted the annual provision for education from $52,600,000 to $239,200,000, although expenditure figures are not the only test nor do they tell the full story. The fact is that over the years we have done much more than merely keep pace with the demands of growing numbers of school enrolments. Very real improvements have been made in accommodation and staffing and in the availability of modern equipment and teaching aids. However this is a continuing process, and if the demands are to be met, expenditure on education must continue to grow. Not only is the number of children of school age continuing to increase, but more and more of these children are staying longer at school and going on to higher levels of education. As an example, 26 per cent. of those who entered Form I in 1962 are now studying at matriculation level, whereas only 13 per cent. of those entering Form I in 1954 went on to matriculation.

There are two sides to the demand for greater education opportunities. On one hand there is the need on the part of industry and commerce for higher skills and training to satisfy the increasing complexities of industry, and to keep pace with the dramatic growth in scientific knowledge. On the other hand there is the ever-increasing desire of parents that their children should have higher standards of education, not only for its own sake, but so that they can take advantage of the wider opportunities which commerce and industry have to offer. No one therefore can opt out of the implications of higher spending on education. Parents seek it for the sake of their children. Industry and business seek it to satisfy their needs for skills. The total community is involved, and in obtaining the resources necessary for expanding investment in education, the Government is reassured in the belief that all members of the community—not as individuals only, but as representatives of industry and business which are calling for higher and higher skills to be found through education—will respond to the challenge to see that the resources are made available. I spoke earlier of the place of taxation in the financing of government services. I speak here specifically of taxation in relation to education. Without the one there cannot be the other. It is therefore no mere coincidence that this Budget deals with both matters. In betting parlance if you want to back one you must back the double. What is more, it is a double with a guaranteed dividend. There can be no question that increased investment in education produces very real benefits to individuals and to the community at large. The benefits and very real gains are there to be won, bringing with them increased and improved productivity in all fields, and general improvements in living standards all round. Therefore the Government will continue its policy of providing for the maximum possible expenditure on education.

Details of the education building programme will be given when the Public Works Loan Application Bill is before the House. As already announced it will include provision for an expanded building programme for teachers' colleges, which this year will be assisted by a special contribution from the Commonwealth. We have always placed, and we will continue to place, great emphasis on teacher training. When the Government took office there were 3,066 student teachers in training, 1,870 for primary schools and 1,196 for secondary and technical schools. This year there are 9,778 student teachers in training—4,209 primary and 5,569 secondary and technical. The all-in target for 1968 is 10,750. In 1955, there were 870 teachers who commenced teaching after their period of training, while in 1968 there will be 2,609 including 1,139 for secondary and technical schools.
The essence of the Government's policy in education is to ensure a balanced development over the whole field and at all levels. Tertiary and technical teaching institutions, and the universities have not been overlooked. We have established two new universities, and over recent times our expenditure on universities has been growing at more than 20 per cent. per annum. This year the provision is $19,971,000. The Commonwealth also contributes towards university costs, and this year it will be contributing towards the costs of other nominated tertiary courses. This Commonwealth assistance has not in any way diminished our own effort; rather does it increase our commitment because it is dependent on matching funds from us of roundly twice the amount from the Commonwealth.

We have already indicated our care for the school system outside the sphere of the Education Department. Over the last two years we have provided interest subsidies on an amount of $3,000,000 borrowed for buildings by registered secondary schools, and in 1968 subsidies will be available in respect of a further $2,000,000. In this Budget, quite apart from the additional funds provided for the State education system, we have made provision to implement two further proposals announced in the recent policy speech.

We will make available subsidies of $1 for $1 for approved capital projects at non-departmental teachers' training colleges, and on a $1 for $1.85 basis for increases in the running expenditure of these colleges over the 1967 level. As from 1st July, 1967, we will provide to all approved registered schools a per capita payment of $10 a year for each pupil at primary level and $20 a year for each pupil at secondary level. A Bill dealing with this matter will be introduced at an early date.

Both of these proposals were put to the electorate at the recent election and were endorsed by popular vote. I repeat what was said in the policy speech, that this further assistance to be given to the registered schools will in no way restrict the growth of the State education system. The cost of the proposals for this year is estimated at $2,600,000 and this has been included in the figure of $239,200,000 which I gave earlier for the total provision for education for this financial year. This is an increase of $27,700,000 over last year's expenditure, and without the assistance to registered schools the increase is $25,100,000 compared with an increase last year of $22,800,000. The financial provision for education from revenue this year represents 40.5 per cent. of our general Budget expenditure. If assistance to registered schools is excluded it is 39.9 per cent. and last year it was 38.8 per cent. This proves that in no way has assistance to registered schools affected the provision made for the State system.

HEALTH SERVICES AND HOSPITALS.

The total provision for expenditure from revenue and loan funds on health services, including hospitals and mental hospitals, during 1967-68 is $105,797,000. The action that was taken last year, and which was enumerated in detail in the Budget speech then, was directed to stabilizing hospital finances and arresting a drift that had occurred with hospital costs outreaching hospital income. This action had the intended effect on hospital finances, and over the whole field the income of hospitals covered their expenditure for the financial year 1966-67, while $1,000,000 was made available for the reduction of accumulated overdrafts.
This year hospitals will derive a full year’s benefit from the action taken last year, and with an increase in the Government allocation to the Hospitals and Charities Fund of $905,000, hospitals will have increased spending power for current purposes of $5,500,000 in 1967–68. The amount provided in the Budget towards running costs of public hospitals and institutions subsidized by the Hospitals and Charities Commission is $41,373,000.

It is significant to note that in our public hospitals we are treating some 325,000 in-patients and 830,000 out-patients a year, an increase of more than 60 per cent. in ten years. Increasing emphasis on medical services has resulted in a reduction in the number of beds per 1,000 of population required to meet needs.

The continued stability of hospital finances, and the assured availability of hospital services to those who need them, must continue to depend in large measure on the willingness of people to participate in hospital benefit schemes. “Operation Safeguard” launched by the Minister of Health this week is designed to stimulate membership of hospital benefit organizations. We are anxious to see the voluntary insurance system supported and developed, but should this fail, then serious consideration must be given to some form of compulsory insurance scheme.

The financial provision for mental health services this year is $26,170,000. Six new wards are about to open for the care and treatment of intellectually handicapped children, while provision has been made for increased financial assistance to day training centres. Arrangements have been made to ensure that child endowment payments received by the Mental Health Authority in respect of children under its care will be available for special purposes in the interests of the children, quite apart from funds provided by the Government in the normal course for the care of these children.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MATTERS.

While time does not permit a comprehensive review of all agricultural and rural matters within the limits of a Budget speech, there are one or two observations which it will be appropriate to make. Our primary concern at this moment is of course the extremely dry season being experienced over much of the State. While it would be wrong to engender unwarranted fears about the eventual outcome, the position does call for caution and preparedness as I indicated earlier when speaking of our revenue estimates. What has been necessary to be done up to now has been done. Eighteen shires and part of another shire have been declared drought areas, and two cloud seeding planes are on constant standby and will continue to be so for as long as circumstances require. The Government stands ready to take whatever further action may prove to be required.

Provision has been made for a continuation of the Government’s programme for the development of Department of Agriculture research stations and extension services serving all fields of primary industry. At the present time new laboratories to complement field research work at the Ellinbank Research Station and the Pastoral Research Station at Hamilton are nearing completion. A new plant research laboratory at Mildura was opened recently to provide research facilities for the control of insect pests and plant diseases in the Sunraysia district. New
laboratories have also been completed recently with the aid of industry funds for the cereal research programmes at Rutherglen and Walpeup. Work is proceeding on the new Gilbert Chandler Institute of Dairy Technology, which will be used for research into the manufacture of dairy products, and will provide facilities for students studying for Diplomas of Dairy Technology.

The Rural Finance and Settlement Commission is planning to spend a total amount of $7,055,000 this year on its land settlement projects and by way of loans to farmers and to country industry. With 168 orchards and dairy farms established, the development of the East Goulburn Irrigation Area is now virtually complete, and this year the Commission will be concentrating on its settlement projects at Heytesbury and Rochester. Over the past three years the Commission has provided finance on the average of $1,000,000 a year for secondary industries in the country.

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY.

Progress with the Government’s ten-year water conservation plan has been very satisfactory and provision has been made for a continuance of the major dam projects included in that programme. Nillahcootie dam on the Broken river is rapidly nearing completion and is now storing water. Work on the Tarago river dam is well advanced and this reservoir will augment supplies to the Mornington Peninsula system in 1968. The construction of the Lake Merrimu storage reservoir near Bacchus Marsh and associated diversion works have commenced.

In the irrigation districts good progress is being made with improvements to the water distribution systems to give improved supplies and to reduce water losses. An important project is the remodelling of the Torrumbarry Irrigation System. At the same time increasing emphasis is being placed on drainage works in all irrigation districts.

For the third season in succession the usage of water for irrigation last season was a new record and for the first time exceeded 2,000,000 acre-feet. In the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District alone, deliveries were 1,472,000 acre-feet which was 11 per cent. higher than the record of the previous season.

For the coming irrigation season much will depend on rainfall during the spring and early summer and irrigators and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission are watching the position closely.

New reticulated water supplies were brought into operation in eight towns during the past year bringing the total number of town water supplies managed by the Commission or by local authorities to 382. Four new sewerage schemes were completed and there are now 63 local sewerage systems in operation. The Government’s policy of liberal assistance towards the provision of reticulated water supply and sewerage to country towns will continue, and many quite small towns are now benefiting from such facilities. A total amount of $15,000,000 will be available this year by way of loan fund advances and private borrowings towards the cost of new water supply and sewerage works being provided by local authorities. In addition, an amount of $2,700,000 has been allocated in the approved loan works programme to improve and expand services in the large regional urban systems controlled by the Commission. Included in this programme are major works for the rapidly expanding Mornington Peninsula and the recently proposed industrial complex near Hastings as part of the new Westernport development.

Sir Henry Bolte.
During the past month the River Murray Commission has given further consideration to the future of the Chowilla dam project against the background of revised cost estimates and benefits following receipt of tenders. As a result of this reassessment the Commission has decided to defer construction of the dam and to proceed with further investigations, particularly in relation to the need to control levels of salinity in the River Murray and storage possibilities on the headworks.

In the light of some criticism which has been directed at the Government of Victoria in this matter, I think I should remind the House that the body responsible for the decision was the River Murray Commission and that under the relevant legislation decisions of the Commission must be unanimous. This was a unanimous decision, and the Commonwealth and the States of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia are represented on the Commission.

**LOAN PROGRAMMES.**

A Government borrowing programme amounting to $677,000,000 has been approved by the Australian Loan Council for works and housing purposes for the 1967–68 financial year. This is an increase of $32,000,000 or 5 per cent. over the corresponding figure for last year.

Victoria's share of this total Government programme is $139,700,000 for works and $33,000,000 for housing under the terms of the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement. In addition, approval was given to a new money borrowing programme of $107,940,000 for Victorian authorities including municipalities which will each borrow more than $300,000 during the current financial year.

The Loan Council accepted a proposition which I put forward at its meeting in June last, that it was time to revise the basis which determined the inclusion of an authority in the semi-government programme. The previous figure of $200,000 had not been altered since 1936—more than 30 years ago. In the light of changes in money values which have taken place over that time it was agreed that a new figure of $300,000 should be adopted to operate in the 1967–68 year. This decision has the advantage of a further simplification of administrative procedures for the approval of loans by many bodies which are local government in character, without loss of any over-all borrowing control. It also means that the increase in the semi-government borrowing programme is effectively more than the increase of $12,950,000 for Victoria as shown by the published figures to the extent of some $3,500,000.

With regard to local government bodies, which under the new arrangements will each borrow not more than $300,000 during the year, there will be no over-all limit on borrowings provided that the terms and conditions of individual loans are approved by the Treasury in accordance with general Loan Council conditions.

Our semi-government borrowing programme for 1966–67 of $94,990,000 was fully raised, and I must say that it is a satisfying experience for our State to be consistently successful year by year in raising resources of this magnitude. Indeed what it demonstrates is that we lack no ability in raising finance, in spending it to the advantage of the community, and in servicing any borrowings involved in the process, where we have the authority to do so. In the wider sense it provides the proof that we are quite able to manage our financial affairs
to the advantage of the State and of the nation, and that the hindrances which the Commonwealth Government chooses to impose on us as a State are to the advantage of neither.

Two statutory bodies are included in our semi-government borrowing programme for the first time this year—the Lower Yarra Crossing Authority and the Victorian Pipelines Commission. The Government is satisfied that the financial requirements of these two authorities can be raised successfully as part of the general semi-government borrowing programme, and that continuity of work will be assured on the important construction programmes involved. The 1967–68 semi-government borrowing target of just on $108,000,000 is well in sight and in this regard it is pleasing to report that already at the end of August, after just two months, 50 per cent. of this programme had been raised.

Details of the Government works programme for the current financial year will be made available when the usual loan application Bills are introduced into the House at an early date. In framing the works programme, special emphasis has again been placed on the needs of education and two-thirds of the additional funds available have been allocated for this purpose.

Provision has also been made to cover the pronouncements made in the policy speech concerning certain municipal grants. These include the increases to $20,000 and to $9,900 respectively in the maximum grants which are made available by the Government towards the cost of swimming pools and public halls. These increased limits will apply in respect of projects which will be in progress at 1st October next or are commenced after that date. In addition, the allocation of loan funds to the Local Government Department for drainage subsidies has been increased by $200,000 and provision will be made for an increase of $100,000 in the allocations made available from the Municipalities Assistance Fund. A further contribution of $100,000 will be made available to the Municipalities Forests Roads Improvement Fund to assist councils with roadworks necessary to facilitate the extraction of forest produce.

HOUSING.

As announced in the policy speech the Government proposes to increase the rate of acquisition and clearance of slum reclamation areas from 20 acres to 25 acres per annum. To achieve this target the annual allocation from the Loan Fund will be increased to $1,600,000 and additional funds will be provided from Housing Commission sources. The programme will also be assisted by contributions from municipalities and from the sale of reclaimed areas. In the current financial year the Commission plans to complete 866 housing units for families, and to let contracts for the accommodation of 200 elderly persons on land reclaimed under the Government's slum clearance programme.

Out of the amount of $33,000,000 available under the Commonwealth and States Housing Agreement, 30 per cent., or $9,900,000, will be made available to co-operative housing societies through the Home Builders' Account. Co-operative housing societies continue to make a substantial contribution towards meeting the community's housing needs and in helping many families on the road to home ownership. To the 30th June last just on 60,000 families had obtained their homes with the aid of co-operative housing finance. During last financial year additional loan accommodation amounting to almost $22,500,000 was made available.

Sir Henry Bolte.
to societies. Since the last Budget the Government has implemented the proposal to increase the maximum amount of advances which can be made by the societies from $6,600 to $7,500 in general cases, and from $8,000 to $8,900 in cases of members with five or more dependent children. It is proposed to increase from five years to ten years the age limit in respect of existing houses on which advances may be made and an amending Bill for this purpose will be introduced at an early date.

During 1966–67 the Housing Commission constructed 1,339 dwellings in the metropolitan area and 1,777 in country towns. This was a total of 3,116 for the year and brought to 59,806 the total number of dwellings provided by the Commission up to 30th June last. An additional 1,869 housing units were under construction or let to contract at that date.

RAILWAYS.

Railway income for 1967–68 is estimated at $107,899,000, an increase of $2,910,000 over last year’s result. This estimate has been based on the assumption that the wheat harvest will be 70,000,000 bushels and that the more buoyant economic conditions apparent in the latter part of 1966–67 will continue throughout the year. Reductions in live stock charges as from 1st July have arrested the decline in this traffic which was so much in evidence last year, and the result is estimated to be an additional $500,000 revenue during the year. Increased earnings are also expected from general goods traffic.

Working expenses in 1967–68 will be increased by $1,350,000 as the result of wages awards made during 1966–67, and by a further $1,725,000 by the $1 per week “total wage” increase operative from the beginning of the financial year. After providing for higher material prices and the cost of earning additional revenue, working expenses are estimated to increase overall by $3,926,000 to $107,485,000.

The Estimates accordingly provide for the railways to earn an operating profit of $414,000, which when set against interest and other debt charges of $5,778,000, will leave a shortage of $5,364,000 in the railway accounts.

CONCLUSION.

I spoke at the outset about the role of government in modern society, with particular reference to the financing of those community services for which Governments are responsible. The Government has the responsibility for making decisions on the level of expenditure which is necessary to continue these community services and on how that expenditure is to be financed. It cannot escape this responsibility and the decisions which it makes on behalf of the community in this way are clearly set out in the Budget in money terms.

However, the Government’s responsibility is wider than this. Its decisions must be made within the framework of the necessary financial planning to ensure stability in government finances generally, and to encourage the continued growth and development of the State in the long term. Growth brings with it the challenge of problems to be met and solved, of priorities to be assessed and ordered. We stand ready at all times to accept this challenge, even though we continue to be put in a false position by the Commonwealth. If our tax reimbursement
grant, paid to us in substitution for income tax had grown, even since 1959 at the long-term growth rate of income tax of 10 per cent. per annum, our grant this year would have been $260,000,000, or $34,000,000 more than we expect to receive. With this additional amount which rightfully belongs to us, yet has been diverted by the Commonwealth to its own use, not only would we have avoided an increase in State taxes this year, but much of the increase of past years would have been unnecessary. However, such is not the case. In these circumstances the Budget represents a realistic assessment of the action which is needed for the coming year to promote further progress in the development of the State, and the well-being of all sections of the community. The only alternative to the proposals put forward would be to make substantial reductions in expenditure, and to any who may be tempted to disagree with the need for increased revenue, I suggest that the onus is fairly and squarely on them to demonstrate where, and to what degree, reductions in the Estimates of Expenditure could be effected.

Progress was reported.

VOTES ON ACCOUNT.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That a sum not exceeding $108,632,380 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying the following services for the year 1967-68:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Legislative Council—Expenses of Select Committees</td>
<td>$900</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Legislative Assembly—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly House Committee—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Parliamentary Printing—Printing of Hansard, &amp;c.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Parliament Library—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$9,700</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Parliamentary Debates—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
<td>$24,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Governor's Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Premier's Office—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>State Film Centre—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Soil Conservation Authority—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>State Development—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Agent-General—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Public Service Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Audit Office—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>Totalizator Administration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>State Accident Insurance Office—Salaries</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>State Motor Car Insurance Office—Salaries</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Workers Compensation Board—Salaries</td>
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<td>Fisheries and Wildlife—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Government Shorthand Writer—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>Social Welfare Administration and Research and Statistics—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Family Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Youth Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Prisons—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Training—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Probation and Parole—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>Police—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>30. Police Service Board—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>32. State Library—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>33. National Gallery—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>34. National Museum—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>36. Immigration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>41. Courts Administration—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>43. Registrar of Companies—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>46. Treasury—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>47. Pay-roll Tax—Payment to Commonwealth Government</td>
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<td>48. Tender Board—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>49. State Superannuation Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>56. Public Works—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>61. Mines—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>62. Explosives—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>63. Gas Regulation—Salaries</td>
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<td>66. Agriculture—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>67. Horticulture—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>69. Animal Industry—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>70. Dairying—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>71. Extension Services—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>72. Health Administration—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>73. General Health—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>74. Tuberculosis—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>75. Maternal and Child Welfare—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>76. Mental Hygiene—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>77. Ministry of Fuel and Power—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>78. Railway Construction Board—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>79. Ministry of Transport—Salaries and General Expenses</td>
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<td>80. Forest Commission—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>81. State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>82. State Coal Mine—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
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<td>150,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>83. Railways—Salaries, General Expenses, and Other Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>108,632,380</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In May last, Parliament granted Supply for the initial three months of this financial year, and pending the passing of the Appropriation Act further Supply is necessary to cover payments falling due after 30th September next. The Supply Bill now before the House covers the months of October, November and December, 1967. The amount provided in the Bill and covered by the motion which I have moved is $108,632,380. This is the amount estimated as necessary to meet expenditure requirements under departmental votes during the ensuing three months.

The detailed Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1967-68 have been presented with the Budget, and the Divisions contained in the Schedule correspond with the Estimates of Expenditure.

The amounts included in the Schedule under each Division allow for the uneven incidence of payments falling in the period covered by the Bill. An instance of the uneven timing of payments relates to the payment to the Insurance Commissioner of the annual premium in respect of the policy of workers compensation insurance covering governmental employees other than those employed by the Forests Commission, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the Railway Department. A provision of $1,000,000 has been included in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1967-68 under the Treasury, Division No. 46, to cover this premium which is paid to the Insurance Commissioner in December each year. The amount of Supply included in the Schedule now before honorable members under Division No. 46, Treasury, makes allowance for this payment of $1,000,000 to the Insurance Commissioner.

Provision has also been made in the Supply Schedule to cover the additional cost of wage and salary payments falling due in the period as a result of the increases granted by wage fixing authorities following the decision brought down on 5th June, 1967, by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in the National Wage Cases of 1967. The direct cost to the Budget of these increased payments is $5,400,000. In addition, provision has been made to cover wage payments accruing during the Christmas holiday period to railway workshop employees proceeding on vacation over that period.

For these reasons the amount of Supply for the three months ending December next is greater than the amount which was required for the three months ending September.

Full details of the expenditure under each Division are contained in the Estimates of Expenditure covering the current financial year which have been circulated to honorable members with the Budget. However, if any honorable member desires any particular information, I shall be happy to supply it during the course of the debate.

As it is necessary to have this measure considered in another place in time to cover payments falling due from the 1st October next, it is necessary that the Supply Bill should be passed by this Committee next week. If necessary, the Committee will sit three days—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—to enable this to be done.

Progress was reported.

**FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1966-67.**

The House went into Committee of Supply.

**Sir Henry Bolte** (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That a sum not exceeding $3,572,910 be granted to Her Majesty on account for or towards defraying services for the year 1966-67 as printed in the Final Supplementary Estimates.

The amount covered by the motion which I have moved represents the amount of the Final Supp -
mentary Estimates for the year 1966-67. The amounts included in these Final Supplementary Estimates represent expenditure incurred last financial year in excess of the amounts authorized under various divisions in the Appropriation Act and the Supplementary Estimates for 1966-67. The expenditure totalling $3,572,910 has been brought to account in 1966-67 and is included in the result for last financial year. After allowing for the transfer of $1,700,000 to revenue from the Mallee Land Account, the net Budget result for 1966-67 was that revenue and expenditure were in balance. Variations between estimated and actual revenue and expenditure for 1966-67 are shown in the Budget Papers.

The largest single item contained in these Final Supplementary Estimates is included under Division No. 74, Health Administration, and provides for an additional contribution of $1,487,894 to the Hospitals and Charities Fund.

Last year, in addition to increasing the contribution to the Hospitals and Charities Fund by $3,040,000 to $39,040,000, the Government provided for hospitals to obtain additional income apart from direct Government grants. Legislation was enacted to allow hospitals to charge actual bed cost for workers compensation and motor car accident cases, and the Motor Car Act was amended to increase from 18 cents to $1.40 the amount included in third-party insurance premiums and paid to hospitals. In both these cases the amending legislation was implemented later than was expected when the Budget was introduced, and as a result the additional income available to the hospitals from these two sources fell short, by $250,000, of the amount which it was originally estimated would be received. In addition, the hospitals were faced with the cost of awards brought down by wages boards during the year and which amounted to $1,178,000.

The supplementary provision for hospitals covers these two items which together amount to $1,428,000. It also covers a shortfall in the amount of revenue available for hospitals from the totalizer and Tattersall duty after taking into account the additional amount required for the Mental Hospitals Fund to cover the cost of increased payments to day training centres for mentally handicapped children. These payments were increased by the Government in December, 1966, from $160 to $230 per child per annum.

A total supplementary provision of $784,664 is required to cover salary payments, including overtime and payments in lieu of long service leave entitlement. In respect of the individual votes covering salaries and allowances, the expenditure in 1966-67 exceeded the available appropriations by $603,540, and a supplementary provision to this extent is required under the relevant votes. Overall, this overspending was offset by underspendings of $609,335 in other salary votes. However, in the particular votes where a shortage occurred, a supplementary provision is required, and the necessary provision has been included in these Final Supplementary Estimates.

The remaining items included in the Final Supplementary Estimates amount to $1,300,352. Under Division No. 40, Education, a supplementary provision of $166,241 has been made to cover payments to colleges of advanced education under the matching arrangements of $1 Commonwealth to $1.85 State contributions and college fees, for recurrent expenditure in these colleges.

A supplementary provision of $90,067 is also required under Division No. 40 to cover payments to State schools towards fuel, electricity, cleaning and other maintenance costs. Over the year, there was a build-up of accounts, mainly for heating costs in the schools, and additional funds were made available to the Department to settle these accounts.
In two cases under the votes relating to the Chief Secretary's Department, a substantial supplementary provision has been necessary. First, under the vote relating to the Family Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Branch, an additional provision is required to cover payments to mothers with children in necessitous circumstances. These payments exceeded by $68,000 the amount originally estimated to be necessary.

Secondly, under the vote relating to the Prisons Division, an additional provision of $80,000 is necessary to cover the cost of provisions, stores and other consumable items for the institutions administered by the Division.

Under Division No. 48, Treasury, an item has been provided to cover the contribution of $65,201 to the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund. This contribution is equivalent to the amount paid into Consolidated Revenue from totalizators operated at race meetings on Anzac Day. This procedure has been followed each year since the operation of the Anzac Day Act 1960, and, in effect, both the Hospitals and Charities Fund and the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund receive the full benefit of the percentage received from the operation of totalizators at race meetings held on Anzac Day.

The items I have mentioned cover the more significant provisions included in the Final Supplementary Estimates. As I have already stated, the total amount of these Final Supplementary Estimates has been taken into account in arriving at the Budget result for last financial year. The amounts under each vote in the Final Supplementary Estimates have been included in the expenditure for the financial year 1966-67 as detailed in the statements presented with the Budget. If any further information is required, I shall be pleased to supply it in the course of the debate.

Progress was reported.

Sir Henry Bolte.

COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING IN VICTORIA BILL.

The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill was read.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I have examined this Bill, and am of opinion that it is a private Bill.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That all the private Bill Standing Orders be dispensed with, and that this Bill be treated as a public Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

One of the important sources from which our legal system has grown is that of the authority of decided judicial decisions. In Australia, as in most other English-speaking countries, the record of these decided cases has been kept by means of a series of law reports. These reports have been kept for many years past and are referred to when necessary by courts.

Reported cases in Victorian courts have been contained in the Victorian Law Reports, or, as they have been latterly known, the Victorian Reports. These Victorian Reports have been published for some years by the legal publishing firm of Butterworths on behalf of what has been known as the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria. According to the information supplied to me by those who have undertaken research in this subject, the origin of this council and its original constitution appear to have become shrouded in the mists of antiquity and little appears to be known of them. Some years ago, Mr. Justice Dean of the Supreme Court, whilst chairman of the council, drafted an ad hoc constitution which was adopted by the then council. That was purely a temporary arrangement and His Honour himself expressed some doubts as to the legality of the constitution, but it was used as a makeshift.
It is felt that the relatively unsatisfactory position in Victoria in this matter should be remedied by incorporating the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria as has been done in England, New Zealand and other countries. It is proposed to effect this by this Bill. The measure has been initiated as a result of recommendations which have been made by the Chief Justice and by His Honour Mr. Justice Pape, who is the chairman of the present Council of Law Reporting.

The Bill, after providing for a short title and a definition clause in clauses 1 and 2, provides in clause 3 that the council shall be a body corporate by the name of the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria, having perpetual succession and a common seal, capable of holding and disposing of property, of suing and being sued, and of doing and suffering all such other acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

Clause 4 provides that on the commencement of the Act all property vested in the old council shall be deemed to be transferred and vested in the incorporated council; that all members of the previous council shall be released and discharged from liability in respect of anything transferred to the new council; and that no stamp duty shall be payable in respect of the transfer to the incorporated body of any of the property of the old council.

The constitution of the corporate council is provided for in clause 5. It shall consist of a Judge of the Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice who shall act as chairman, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General and the Librarian of the Supreme Court who shall be members ex officio, and two members each appointed by the Council of the Law Institute and the Victorian Bar Council. The nominees of the Law Institute and the Bar Council on the present council shall be deemed to have been appointed members of the incorporated council. The Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General may respectively nominate any person to represent them at any council meeting.

Clause 6 provides that any member other than an ex officio member shall be appointed for a period not exceeding five years and be eligible for re-appointment on the expiration of that time. All persons nominated members of the council shall remain members of the council after the expiration of their term until successors are appointed.

There is provision in clause 7 for vacation of office of an appointed member by death, resignation or removal by person or body by whom he was appointed. Provisions relating to the chairman presiding and the conduct of meetings are contained in clause 8. It will be necessary for three members to be present to form a quorum. Clause 9 provides for the appointment of a secretary-registrar and other officers of the council.

By clause 10 the council is given the power to prepare, publish or arrange for the preparation, publication and sale of reports of judicial decisions in any court in Victoria and also for the publishing and selling of other legal works and the purchase of copies of law reports and other legal publications. Moreover, the council is empowered to purchase the business of any person, firm or company engaged in the preparation, publication or sale in Victoria of any source of law reports insofar as such business relates to the preparation, publication and sale of such reports. The clause also places a prohibition on any other person, firm or company other than the council publishing a new set of judicial decisions of courts in Victoria except with the consent of the council. That merely legalizes a power possessed by the existing unincorporated council.

The council is empowered by the provisions of clause 11 to reimburse members for travelling and other
expenses incurred in attending meet­
ings or in connexion with the
business of the council. The council
is given power under clause 12 to
invest any moneys not immediately
required for expenditure by the
council in the same manner as trus­
tees are authorized to invest in trust
funds.

Finally, in clause 13 it is provided
that nothing in the Act can be con­
strued to prevent the council from ex­
pending any moneys belonging to it
for any purpose that is in its opinion
ancillary to the principal function of
the council as defined in clause 10.

It is felt that this Bill will not only
assist the official publishing of reports
of cases heard in Victorian courts
and provide a simple mode of con­
trol in the future but will also bring
law reporting in Victoria into line
with the systems adopted in other
countries. I commend the Bill to the
House.

On the motion of Mr. TURNBULL
(Brunswick West), the debate was
adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be
adjourned until Wednesday, Septem­
ber 20.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from May
16) on the motion of Mr. I. W. Smith
(Warrnambool) for the adoption of
an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Moonee Ponds).—On behalf of the Opposition, I wish to
endorse and support the expressions
of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II, which were moved so
sincerely and impressively by the
honorable member for Warrnambool
and seconded in no less able a manner
—for the first time in many years,
by a member of the fair sex—by the
honorable member for Mitcham. I
am supremely aware of the privilege
afforded to me and, in particular to
the electors of Moonee Ponds, in
being the first member of Her
Majesty's Opposition to speak on
the motion for the adoption of an
Address-in-Reply to the Speech of
His Excellency the Governor, Sir
Rohan Delacombe. It is gratifying to
have been chosen by the electors to
represent them for the duration of
the 44th Parliament, and I assure
them that their confidence, support
and trust will not be misplaced. I
shall use this opportunity to repre­
sent both faithfully and energetically
the people of the Moonee Ponds
electorate for as long as they will
grant me the honour of being their
member.

As a member of the Opposition, I
am well aware of the responsibilities
of an Opposition. As guardians of
the democratic rights of all the
people, Opposition members must
carry out their duties with deter­
mination and vigour. It is our role
not to offer negative criticism but to
find alternative policies and make
positive contributions to the debates
in Parliament.

The newly created electorate of
Moonee Ponds, bounded by the
Royal Agricultural Showgrounds
to the south, the Melbourne Air­
port to the north, the Mari­
byrnong river to the west, and the
Moonee Ponds creek and Tullamarine
jetport freeway to the east, reflects
with some accuracy the growth,
development and increasing com­
plexity of our everyday life. In this
area there are nineteen schools—five
State primary schools, two high
schools, and twelve registered
schools catering for pupils at both
primary and secondary levels. There
is also a large Housing Commission
estate, which is the home for more
than 2,000 children and which
generates an increasing social
problem in one area of the electorate.
A growing population of new settlers
is adding colour and richness to the
electorate. The pressure on some of
the schools to teach the English
language to large Italian and Greek
sections of the community is grow-
The Moonee Ponds electorate, which takes in most of the City of Essendon, embraces some 37 voluntary auxiliaries which service our public hospitals and other public utilities and, at the same time, make substantial contributions to various charitable projects in the community. The Essendon and District Memorial Hospital stands as a monument to the outstanding achievements of the dedicated people in this area. Much has been achieved in this inner metropolitan electorate but, because of the many problems that grow from our changing society and changing patterns, much work remains to be done. By making representations to the appropriate authorities, I hope to be able to assist in overcoming these problems and seeing the work fulfilled while I am the chosen representative of this electorate.

I wish to comment on the reference in the Governor's Speech to the massive fuel and power resources available in Victoria for industrial development. The problem of maintaining a balanced production of the State's fuel resources is a matter of great concern to the Opposition. The Latrobe Valley brown coal deposits are national assets of immense value, which provide power resources for four-fifths of Victoria's electricity supply. The discovery of natural gas will result in gas competing with electricity in many fields and a change in the pattern of fuel consumption in Victoria. Because of this, the establishment of a pilot plant to manufacture metallurgical coke, or char as it is known, is vital to the future of the Latrobe Valley. An industry to manufacture this basic material needs to be established as soon as possible and practicable to provide an alternative use and market for the by-products of briquettes. We should ensure that any benefits which flow from these resources are not lost to the State. Their control must remain within Victoria, and urgent action should be taken to safeguard the future of the Latrobe Valley.

I also direct attention, and with equal vigour, to cultural development and the expansion of these resources of the beloved arts for the benefit of the community in general. The State Library and Museum, the National Gallery and the Institute of Applied Science are the repositories of the most comprehensive collections of works of art, literature and national history in the southern hemisphere. When the new Arts Centre is completed, it will house Australia's greatest art treasures; it will also provide accommodation for other cultural activity. The opening of the new Arts Centre and the consequent benefit to the public from its galleries will be a milestone in the history of Victoria's cultural maturity. This unique event should be an occasion for the display of the talents of Australian artists. The State Government should sponsor and lend its patronage to a great art exhibition and offer substantial rewards to encourage entries from artists of high standard and world renown. A unique event in our history like this would stimulate interest in all levels of the community.

The Institute of Applied Science is also a cultural asset. With its radio carbon dating laboratory and the dedicated people who operate this instrument, the Institute is not only a repository of our culture but also a great educational agency of a specialized type providing scientific knowledge and a source of information that will lift our standards of achievement. The community has extended, as we have heard, and the frontiers of science are expanding. The interest of the public in this field of endeavour is certainly growing, but our Institute of Applied Science is unable to keep abreast with this greater public awareness. Financial limitations are retarding the natural expansion of the Institute. With all this exciting development of science, the Institute is being run on a shoestring, although the responsibilities
of science museums have been augmented by many spectacular advances made in this field.

The school services provided by the Institute have grown to become an indispensable auxiliary of science teaching in schools. In 1966 more than 8,000 students attended the Institute in conducted excursions, as well as individuals and other groups. The planetarium has become a first class tourist attraction, as was predicted when it was opened, but this attraction of world class needs more staff; otherwise it will be unable to keep abreast of the demands that are being made on it. In this current upgrading of cultural establishments in Victoria, it is unthinkable that the Institute of Applied Science should be held back. When the National Gallery has moved into the new Arts Centre building, the Institute of Applied Science will need all the help it can obtain to move into the re-allocated areas in the museum building and prepare its facilities. There will be a need for increased displays to exhibit many subjects which have been excluded in the past because of lack of space and which are at present in storage. The Institute must be given more consideration to meet these challenges to enable it to give the public the service to which they are entitled. Better museums not only are an educational asset for the benefit of schoolchildren, but also contribute to the heritage and future of any State. Our Institute of Applied Science contributes to the heritage and future of the State of Victoria.

In these times of dramatic and exciting change, this Parliament stands as a vital and valuable safeguard of the rights and liberties of the ordinary person. During the period that I am privileged to serve in this institution, I trust I shall honour it by at all times representing the people of my electorate with honesty and sincerity, and, to the best of my ability, irrespective of political, social or religious attitudes, for better or for worse. I trust it will be for the better, and I hope that as a member of this Parliament I shall be able to make a practical contribution to the challenges of my office.

On the motion of Mr. ROSS-EDWARDS (Shepparton), the debate was adjourned.

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

**ADJOURNMENT.**


**Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—I move—**

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at half-past Three o’clock.

The motion was agreed to.

**Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—I move—**

That the House do now adjourn.

**Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I should like to ask the Government whether the Auditor-General’s report will be made available to members of this Parliament for examination before the resumption of the debate on the Budget, which has been adjourned for a fortnight. In other years, without the assistance of the Auditor-General’s report, honorable members have been inhibited in examining and discussing the ramifications of the Budget. Indeed, in very few Parliaments are members expected to debate a Budget without the assistance of such a financial report. I should like the Government to give some assurance that the Auditor-General’s report will be ready in time for all honorable members to examine it before discussing the Budget.**

Mr. Edmunds.
Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I should like to ask the Premier whether he will give an assurance to the House that before the resumption of the debate on the Budget all the notes and memoranda which constituted the submission made by the State of Victoria to the recent meeting of the Loan Council will be made available to honorable members. It was an integral part of the Premier's Budget speech that, as spokesman for Victoria, he and the State of Victoria were wronged by the attitude of the Federal Treasurer, Mr. McMahon, and presumably the Prime Minister, Mr. Holt. No honorable member will be in a position to judge the accuracy or correctness of the propositions made by the Premier unless the case that was submitted on behalf of Victoria is made available to members of this House.

The difficulty that confronts every honorable member is that the Liberal Prime Minister of Australia and the Liberal Premier of Victoria differ on whether Victoria's Premier did well at the meeting of the Loan Council. I do not know which honorable gentleman is telling the truth. The matter can be resolved for all honorable members if the Premier makes available all the notes and memoranda that were used and all the submissions that were made to the Loan Council. If the honorable gentleman does that, this Parliament and the people of Victoria will have a fair opportunity of making an independent assessment of whether the additional taxes that they will be required to pay are the result of the Premier's maladministration or, as he tends to suggest, the way in which he was treated by the Prime Minister and the Federal Treasurer.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—I wish to bring to the notice of the Attorney-General a matter concerning one John Somerville Smith, whose name is no doubt well known to most honorable members.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Is this a matter of Government administration?

Mr. TURNBULL.—It is, Mr. Speaker. This gentleman and two other people associated with him entered into an agreement for the sale for $26,000 of a business which was carried on by a Mr. Simon at 479 Sydney-road, Brunswick. The consideration was 100 promissory notes each for $260 in favour of the vendor, Mr. Simon. The stock in trade was apparently disposed of.

The SPEAKER.—The honorable member should indicate which aspect of Government administration is involved.

Mr. TURNBULL.—I am suggesting that this man is guilty of criminality, and I am asking the Attorney-General, who I am sure will bring to this State a better administration of justice, to look into the matter. It is obvious that some legal action should be taken against the gentleman to whom I refer in respect of these matters.

Mr. G. O. Reid.—Has this matter been reported to the police?

Mr. TURNBULL.—I reported it to the police, but I believe it is so serious that it should be brought to the notice of the Minister. This man is skilled in criminality and has written an article entitled, "How to rob a bank with a ball point pen". In addition, he has robbed an elector of Brunswick West of approximately $20,000. Victoria has been a fertile territory for this type of criminal, and I am sure that the new Attorney-General will be anxious to close down on John Somerville Smith.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East).—I direct the attention of the Assistant Minister of Education to the condition of the slate roof at the Albert-street, Brunswick, State School, which is an old school.

Mr. Wilkes.—The Minister suggested that it should be bulldozed.

Mr. FENNESSY.—It should not be bulldozed at this stage. Because of the danger to the pupils of this
overcrowded school of decapitation or injury by a falling slate, it is urgent that roof repairs should be carried out.

Mr. WILTON (Broadmeadows).—An article appearing in the Herald of Monday last reported that the 6.30 a.m. train from Broadmeadows to Melbourne, for some reason, comprised only two carriages, and that the guard was forced to allow passengers to travel in his compartment. I ask the Minister of Transport whether the report is accurate and whether he will indicate the reason for using a two-carriage train on the Broadmeadows line.

Mr. Rossiter.—The passengers did not have to walk.

Mr. WILTON.—I thank the Minister of Labour and Industry for his assistance, because he has reminded me that many passengers were unable to board the train and had to wait for the next train, thus arriving late at their places of employment. I have already written to the Minister requesting him to receive a deputation from the Broadmeadows City Council to discuss the railway service on the Broadmeadows line. I ask for an assurance that there will not be a similar occurrence in the future.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I assure the honorable member for Brunswick West that I will inquire into the matter raised by him. I am glad to learn that he has already reported the incident to the police because the police reports will be vital in deciding what action will be taken.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—I shall direct the attention of the Premier to the request of the Leader of the Opposition that the notes and memoranda presented by the Premier to the recent Loan Council meeting be made available to members of this House.

The submission by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the Auditor-General’s report should be made available before the resumption of the Budget debate will also be brought to the attention of the Premier.

The matter referred to by the honorable member for Brunswick East is very important. I would not like any child to be decapitated or injured by a falling slate. I shall refer this complaint to the Buildings Branch of the Education Department in an endeavour to have the necessary repairs undertaken.

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—I shall furnish a written reply to the honorable member for Broadmeadows concerning the train from Broadmeadows which was "short-changed," if that is a proper description. I was not aware of the occurrence, but I am glad to hear that the guard did not stand too much on railway regulation; his action indicates that there is flexibility in the Railways Service. This encourages me greatly in my new portfolio.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.17 p.m until Tuesday, September 19.
WESTERNPORT BAY.

Establishment of General Cargo Traffic Port: State Development Committee's Inquiry.

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

Does the Government anticipate that a general cargo traffic port for other than oil and petroleum products will be established at Westernport Bay; if so—(i) is it anticipated that after the year 2000 this general cargo traffic will equal the present Melbourne Harbor Trust traffic; and (ii) why did the terms of reference for the State Development Committee's inquiry only provide for ten and twenty year forecasts?

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

(i) It is anticipated that port facilities will be established at Westernport for large bulk handling ships associated with specific industries. Should a demand arise for general cargo facilities, these could be provided. Having regard to the requirements of shipping in the world-wide developments for containerized cargo handling, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant development of general cargo traffic in Westernport in the foreseeable future. (ii) It was considered that forecasts having a reasonable degree of accuracy could be expected for these periods and that they would indicate the future trend of Westernport development.


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

(a) Are existing deep channels in Westernport Bay close to foreshore areas; if so, at what places?

(b) What is the average distance from shore to deep channel in potential port areas other than at Long Island or Crib Point?

(c) Are the BP refinery and wharf at Crib Point and the proposed Esso-B.H.P. wharfage at Long Island in key positions near the deep water channel, and do they land-lock Hastings Bay as danger points in the event of fire or explosion?

(d) How does the proposed permit to Esso-B.H.P. at Long Island fit in with the second recommendation of the State Development Committee's report upon the desirability of developing further port facilities in Westernport Bay, 1967, which proposed a general cargo port at this point?

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

(a) Existing channels are relatively deep and close to the foreshore on the mainland at Sandy Point, Crib Point, Long Island and northwards thereof for a distance of approximately 4,500 feet. On Phillip Island these conditions exist from Observation Point near Rhyll for a distance of some 5 miles to the westward. Somewhat shallower channels exist on the western side of French Island and on the southern side at Long Point; and from Stockyard Point for a distance of some 2½ miles to the north-east.

(b) For a distance 4,500 feet north of Long Island deep channels are some 2,000 feet offshore. For a further 2½ miles northward the average distance to the deepest water is approximately 1 mile.

On the northern shore of Phillip Island from Cowes to Observation Point the average distance is of the order of 2,000 feet.

(c) (i) The BP jetty and the proposed jetty at Long Island are in good positions having regard to the distance to the deep water channel, but other sites at least as good exist to the northward of Long Island.

(ii) A distance of some 2½ miles will separate the two jetties, and they are sufficiently remote from Hastings for safety purposes.

(d) Recommendation 2 referred to "cargoes" not "general cargo". Furthermore, conclusion No. 9 of the report states—"The development of further port facilities at Westernport for general cargo trade is not at present warranted".

In conclusion No. 4 it states—"Westernport presents potential for the development of such industries as the petrochemical fertilizer and steel industries".

Hastings Planning Scheme: Development of Long Island Area.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) When does the Hastings planning scheme close its exhibition period?

(b) Does the Hastings Shire Council control that planning scheme and its own interim development order?
The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answers are—

(a) The Hastings Shire Council advises that an application was lodged on the 1st August, 1967 for a fractionation plant and administrative offices.

(b) The Government has no information on this.

(c) The permit was dated 17th August, 1967.

(d) It is understood an amending scheme is being prepared, based on a tentative scheme which the council has had for some time in anticipation of future industrial and port development at Long Island, but details of it have not yet been finalized. The council did not require the application of the company for a permit to be publicly notified.

DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS AT HASTINGS.

The Hon. I. R. CATHIE (South-Eastern Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) Would expert technical opinion from such bodies as the Melbourne Harbor Trust dredging authorities support the use of mud flat dredging at Hastings for reclamation spoil along foreshore lines in an area with 10-ft. tides?

(b) Does this mud disperse under water, thus requiring dumping into Bass Strait?

(c) What is the approximate cost per mile of dredging channels 50 feet deep by 400 feet wide with appropriate underwater side baffles?

(d) Has the Hastings Shire Council received any guarantees from the Government of financial support in reclaiming the new site reserved for public port facilities; if so, what are these guarantees; if not, how is the council to carry out its plan?

(e) What is the estimated cost of preparing the proposed cargo port area ready for future construction?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—(a) and (b) Investigations have not yet been carried out in the seabed in the Hastings Eighth area. However, seabed investigations extending from Stony Point to northwards of Long Island indicate that suitable material for reclamation is available if required.

(c) Costs of dredging depend on the type of material, quantity involved and manner of disposal having regard to the value of dredgings for reclamation purposes or alternatively the distance to dumping grounds. The depth of the seabed prior to dredging is also relevant and a specific answer cannot be given to this question.
(d) It is not envisaged that development and financing of port facilities will be a council responsibility.

(e) The intent of this question is not clear, and further information would be necessary before an answer could be given.

ANTI-POLLUTION MEASURES.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) What special means of disposal of effluents from the industrial complexes built or being built on Westernport Bay are envisaged by the Government?

(b) What measures are being taken to prevent oil spillages from the adjacent refinery polluting Westernport Bay?

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

(a) Effluent from the existing refinery is treated in a two-section single stage A.P.I. separator before being discharged into the waters of the bay.

Method of treatment of effluent from future industries has not yet been studied.

(b) In addition to the provisions referred to in part (a), refinery pipe-lines are regularly patrolled and inspected and staff is always present at the jetty during transfer of oil products.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

RESIDENCES: REVENUE: MAINTENANCE.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE (Northern Province) asked the Minister of Education—

(a) How many residences are owned by the Education Department?

(b) What is the annual revenue derived from these residences?

(c) Into what fund or funds is this revenue paid?

(d) What is the annual cost of maintaining these residences?

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

(a) 1,985.

(b) $420,000 estimated in 1967-68.

(c) Consolidated Revenue.

(d) The Public Works Department has advised that, in 1966-67, the amount was $436,376.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

CHRISTMAS HILLS—WATSON CREEK AREA: RE-LOCATION OF TRANSMISSION LINE: COSTS AND COMPENSATION FOR LANDOWNERS.

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

(a) Why was the transmission line through the Christmas Hills—Watson Creek area abandoned by the State Electricity Commission?

(b) What are the financial amounts involved for—(i) survey work carried out; (ii) bulldozing the area for the transmission line clearway and the pylon areas; (iii) providing access gates; (iv) compensation for landholders whose properties are affected; and (v) future works in re-locating the transmission lines?

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

(a) Following representations from a number of impartial sources that the selected route of the line near the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower would impair the very picturesque view from the tower, the Commission engaged the services of Perrott, Lyon, Timlock and Kesa, one of the foremost firms in Melbourne in the field of town planning, to examine the various alternative routes available and to advise whether there was sufficient justification for changing the route of the line to preserve the amenity of the area. The consultants examined the matter very thoroughly, making field studies of the Commission's proposed route and other alternative routes in the area, and recommended that, in the interests of the community, the line should be deviated to the south of the Commission's route starting in the vicinity of Wattle Glen and joining again with the Commission's route approximately half a mile east of Watson's Creek. The Commission adopted the route proposed by its consultants.

(b) (i) $3,000.

(ii) $8,000.

(iii) $1,500.

(iv) $25,189. Compensation in respect of damage has not yet been assessed. Some of this expenditure may be recovered if landowners treat to have the easements expunged from their title.

(v) $28,000. This is not additional expenditure in the sense that it would have had to be incurred had the new route been selected at the outset.
RICHMOND WORKSHOPS: PRIVATE CONTRACTS.

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

(a) What contracts have been let to private enterprise by the State Electricity Commission for work which can be performed at the Richmond workshops?

(b) What was the basis of the contracts, and how do these contracts compare financially with the cost of the same work performed at the workshops?

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

The State Electricity Commission has in existence 716 period contracts from different manufacturers for the supply of about 10,000 different items of stores stock for general use throughout the Commission at a total annual value of $16,000,000. Some of these contracts have been repeated periodically over the last ten years. The contracts are called by public tender and are of one or two years' duration on an "as required basis". The lowest tenderer who can fulfil the terms of the specification is normally awarded the contract.

Facilities are available in Commission workshops for the manufacture of a significant proportion of these items. However, these workshops, of which Richmond is the largest in the metropolitan area, exist primarily to carry out operational maintenance work and manufacturing is undertaken only to ensure the efficient use of labour or to meet a temporary supply shortage or other operational emergency. Because of the way these workshops operate and the small quantity and intermittent nature of manufacture, it is not possible to make an effective comparison of cost.

OCCUPANCY OF PREMISES IN COLLINS-STREET, MELBOURNE: RENT.

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

(a) How many floors are occupied by the State Electricity Commission at 440 Collins-street, Melbourne, and what departments occupy such space?

(b) What is the rental paid?

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

(a) The State Electricity Commission's Fuel Department occupies the 9th and 10th floors at 440 Collins-street, Melbourne.

(b) The monthly rental is $10,371.

BRIQUETTE EXPORTS: SHIPPING AGENTS.

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

(a) What tonnage amounts of briquettes were exported from Australia during the past three years, and to what countries were they exported?

(b) What shipping agents acted on behalf of the State Electricity Commission?

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

(a) 21,260 tons to Japan.

(b) Most of these briquettes were sold to Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort Pty. Ltd., who arranged the shipping to Japan. The State Electricity Commission arranged for delivery to and loading into the ships.

GENERATION BY NATURAL GAS TURBINES.

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

(a) Does the price of natural gas allow the State Electricity Commission to make use of it for peak loading by natural gas turbines?

(b) Does the Commission intend to use this method of power generation; if so, when and where will the plants be situated?

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

The Commission's plant installation programme provides for all its requirements of additional peak load plant to 1974 to be met by additional entitlement becoming available from the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme. For developments after 1974, natural gas is one of a number of fuels being examined for use in peak load stations. As a decision on the next peak load development does not need to be made for some time yet, I am not able to say whether natural gas will be used or where the plants will be situated.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS.

PAYMENTS TO CONSOLIDATED REVENUE.

The Hon. SAMUEL MERRIFIELD (Doutta Galla Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) What was the amount of the 3 per cent. public authorities tax paid by the State Electricity Commission and the Gas and Fuel Corporation last financial year?
(b) What are the amounts anticipated to be paid in the current financial year, and in 1968–69?

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

(a) $5,730,000.
(b) 1967–68—$6,250,000. It is not possible at this stage to give a reliable estimate of the revenue from this duty in the 1968–69 financial year.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

STAFF: EXPENDITURE: EQUIPMENT.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister of Health—

(a) What staff is employed at the present time in the Clean Air Section of the Department of Health and what are their qualifications?
(b) What was the expenditure of the section for the year 1966–67?
(c) What is the capital value of non-expendable scientific equipment at present used by the section?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Health).—The answers are—

(a) Senior Engineer (Clean Air)—

Bachelor of Civil Engineering.
Engineer of Water Supply (Victoria).
Member, Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Scientific Officer—

Associate Diploma in Applied Chemistry.
Associate Diploma in Chemical Engineering.
Associate, Royal Australian Chemical Institute.
Graduate, Institution of Chemical Engineers (London).

Scientific Officer—

Associate Diploma in Applied Chemistry.
Associate Diploma in Chemical Engineering.

Laboratory Assistant.

In addition, the following officer will commence duty with the Clean Air Section on Wednesday, 20th September, 1967—

Scientific Officer—

Associate Diploma in Applied Chemistry.
Associate Diploma in Chemical Engineering.
Associate, Royal Australian Chemical Institute.
Associate Fellow, Institute of Petroleum (London).

(b) $24,391.11.
(c) The capital cost of the scientific equipment considered to be non-expendable is approximately $21,300.

AIR POLLUTION TESTS: INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT BY INDUSTRIES.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister of Health—

(a) How many air pollution tests have been carried out by the Clean Air Section of the Department of Health during each year from 1964–65 to 1966–67, and to date in 1967–68?
(b) How many of the tests showed emissions greater than permitted under the Clean Air Regulations 1965?
(c) How many industries installed equipment to correct these emissions, and are the emissions from these factories still conforming to the requirements of those regulations?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Health).—The answers are—

(a) It is assumed that this question relates to specific emissions from particular sources and the reply is given accordingly.

1964–65—Nine.
1967–68—Nil.
(b) Twelve.
(c) All companies concerned either have installed adequate control equipment which now operates within legal limits or have been instructed by the Commission of Public Health to install within a specified time control equipment which will work strictly within the legal limits.

In one case a fault within the control equipment occurred and when repaired and retested, the emission was found to be only one-tenth of the legal limit.

TESTS WITH CONTINUOUSLY RECORDING EQUIPMENT.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister of Health—

How many tests for suspended dusts, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and other materials which affect human health were made on a comprehensive basis with modern continuously recording equipment in the State for the year 1966?

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

None, but where it has been considered necessary spot checks for particular polluting substances have been carried out with less sophisticated equipment.
AIR POLLUTION COMPLAINTS.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister of Health—

(a) Is he aware of a claim by a member of the Clean Air Committee that 151 individual complaints concerning air pollution were lodged during the ten months prior to March, 1967?

(b) How many of these complaints were call-backs to previously reported complaints?

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Health).—The answers are—

(a) Yes.

(b) One hundred and fourteen of these complaints were in respect of sources known to officers of the Clean Air Section. In all cases the offending works had been inspected previously, some several times.

MUNICIPALITIES.

PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES: INQUIRIES INTO POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS.

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

(a) What section of the Local Government Act permits councillors to inquire into the political affiliations of applicants for employment with their council?

(b) If not covered by the Local Government Act, would such councillors be exceeding their powers in carrying out these inquiries?

(c) Does the Minister support the view that councillors are entitled to make inquiries as to the political beliefs of their prospective employees; if not, what action (if any) did he take against Moorabbin city councillors reported to have made such inquiries?

(d) Will he assure the House that such occurrences will not be tolerated in the future?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answers are—

(a) and (b) Every municipal council is empowered under the Local Government Act to appoint such officers as it may consider necessary to carry out its statutory functions.

Except in those cases where particular academic qualifications are called for, the Act does not state what considerations a council shall have in mind in making appointments to its staff.

(c) and (d) My own view is that the political views of an applicant for a position are irrelevant to his suitability for appointment. In the case of Moorabbin City Coun-

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN:

APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.

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

(a) Is it the policy of the Government to penalize national servicemen returning from overseas insofar as their age is concerned when applying for appointment for a position with a municipal council?

(b) Is he aware that such a consideration was used in the rejection of an applicant as a valuer with the Moorabbin City Council?

(c) What action does he intend to take to see that national servicemen are not so penalized?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answers are—

(a) and (c) Municipal councils are responsible for making their own appointments, but it is certainly not consistent with Government policy generally that national servicemen should be in any way penalized.

(b) No.

EXPENDITURE BY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION.

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

In view of the Minister's reported statement in the Age newspaper on 2nd September that municipal candidates should only be allowed to spend a limited amount on their campaigns, will he inform the House what action he has taken or intends to take in this regard?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—I expressed a personal view, but I am also aware that very few candidates would be affected by such a limitation, and that in practice it would be difficult to implement. The Municipal Asso-
Railway

[19 September, 1967.] Department.

129

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

What action has he taken with regard to the allegation that the names of persons who have been dead for more than 30 years are listed on the municipal electoral roll for the City of Prahran?

The Hon. R. J. Hamer (Minister for Local Government).—I have informed the persons who made the allegation that the proper course is to bring to the notice of the municipal clerk the names of any deceased persons still enrolled.

Prahran Municipal Roll.

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

What action has he taken with regard to the allegation that the names of persons who have been dead for more than 30 years are listed on the municipal electoral roll for the City of Prahran?

The Hon. R. J. Hamer (Minister for Local Government).—I have informed the persons who made the allegation that the proper course is to bring to the notice of the municipal clerk the names of any deceased persons still enrolled.

Railway Department.

Rent Revenue: Staff.

The Hon. M. A. Clarke (Northern Province) asked the Minister of Agriculture—

(a) What was the revenue from rents received by the Victorian Railways Commissioners in each of the three years ended 30th June, 1964, 1965 and 1966?

(b) What railways staff was specifically employed in the Department responsible for such rents?

(c) Have the Commissioners any plans for—(i) increasing this source of revenue; and (ii) employing more specialized staff in this Department?

(d) What were the main detailed items of such rent revenue during the year ended 30th June, 1966?

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

(a) 1963-64 ... $1,476,485.
1964-65 ... $1,542,700.
1965-66 ... $1,714,215.

(b) Sixteen officers were engaged solely on work related to leasing, with 27 others involved to some degree.

(c) (i) Yes.
(ii) Yes.

(d) Rents from houses, portables and other accommodation let to employees—$557,283.

Rents and licence fees from other sources—$1,156,932.

Victorian Pipelines Commission.

Natural gas: Transportation Charges.

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

What will be the charges by the Victorian Pipelines Commission for the transportation of natural gas from the off-shore treatment plant at Sale to the City Gate at Dandenong, and on what basis are the charges to be calculated?

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

The Victorian Pipelines Commission will not be in a position to determine its charges for transmission of natural gas from Sale to Dandenong until after a current market survey has been completed next year. In the meantime, the Commission will be giving consideration to the basis for calculating the charges.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

Road Tankers: Permits: Damage to Roads.

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

(a) When were the various oil companies and their contractors granted permits with respect to allowing the large road tanker vehicles of 25 tons or more to operate?

(b) What are the conditions of the permits?

(c) On what basis were the permits given?

(d) Why were the municipal councils not consulted with respect to their views on the granting of such permits?

(e) What provision is made for financial reimbursement to the municipal councils for repairing road damage caused by these large vehicles?

(f) Is the Transport Regulation Board aware of the operation and principle of the spread axle system employed on this type of vehicle?

(g) Is there any defined route for these vehicles to traverse?
The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—As the answers are lengthy, I seek leave of the House for their incorporation in Hansard without being read.

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

(a) Permits have been issued for appropriate vehicles as from 9th December, 1965.
(b) Permits are being issued subject to—
   (ii) The further provisions of the Motor Car Act 1958 and any by-laws and bridge limits being otherwise observed on all State highways, by-pass roads, main roads, tourist roads and forest roads (declared in accordance with the Country Roads Act) in the State of Victoria except Phillip Island-road and the Ocean-road, and, provided that travel is not within one municipality only, on all other highways within the greater metropolitan municipalities within a 20 mile radius of the G.P.O. Melbourne.
   (iii) Any licence or permit required by the Transport Regulation Act being held and the conditions of any such licence or permit being observed.
   (iv) The right of the Board to cancel the permit by notice sent under registered post, whereupon the permit would have no force or effect from the date specified in such notice.
   (v) The permit to remain in force from the date of issue until cancelled or paragraph (h) of sub-section (1) of section 33 of the Motor Car Act 1958 is amended.
(c) Tyre and axle loads have not been affected, but the axle group formula (as shown in the Third Schedule to the Motor Car Act) has been altered to provide for higher weights.

The section of the Board's permit relating to axle group weights is quoted below, together with those originally provided in the Motor Car Act.

The provisions of section 33 of the Motor Car Act 1958, No. 6325, may be exceeded as shown hereunder. The weight of the motor car and load carried thereon not to exceed the weights set out in the following table opposite to the distances between the axles described as A and C (in a diagram attached to the permit).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit.</th>
<th>Motor Car Act.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 35 feet and not exceeding 36 feet</td>
<td>25 tons 14 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 36 feet and not exceeding 37 feet</td>
<td>26 tons 2 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 37 feet and not exceeding 38 feet</td>
<td>26 tons 9 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 38 feet and not exceeding 39 feet</td>
<td>26 tons 16 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 39 feet</td>
<td>27 tons 3 cwt.</td>
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</table>

And in addition the gross weight of the four rear axles shall not exceed the weights set out in the following table opposite to the distances between the axles described as B–C (in a diagram attached to the permit).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit.</th>
<th>Motor Car Act.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 25 feet and not exceeding 26 feet</td>
<td>21 tons 19 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 26 feet and not exceeding 27 feet</td>
<td>22 tons 7 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 27 feet and not exceeding 28 feet</td>
<td>22 tons 15 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 28 feet and not exceeding 29 feet</td>
<td>23 tons 3 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 29 feet and not exceeding 30 feet</td>
<td>23 tons 10 cwt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeding 30 feet</td>
<td>23 tons 18 cwt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(d) This was not considered necessary because no change was proposed in tyre, axle or conventional bogie loadings. The practical increase is in the allowance for axle groups consisting of more than two axles.

(e) No provision has been made.

(f) The Country Roads Board is aware of the operation and principle of the spread axle system, which was in use before the issue of the above permits.

(g) No, but the permit holders are required to observe any special limits which have been imposed on any roads and bridges.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.
ACCOUNTANCY REGULATIONS.

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

(a) Has he approved of the new accountancy regulations under the Local Government Act 1958?

(b) Is he aware that these regulations attempt to do by regulation propositions which Parliament rejected in 1949?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answers are—

(a) No. The new municipal accounting regulations were prepared in draft form by an expert committee comprising representatives of the Municipal Association, the Institute of Municipal Administration, the Australian Society of Accountants, municipal auditors, the Country Roads Board and the Local Government Department.

The draft has been circulated for comment to the Institute of Municipal Administration, the Local Government Engineers' Association, the Municipal Association and all municipal councils, and comments are now being awaited.

(b) No. The regulations have no other object than to provide more efficient accounting methods in municipalities.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.
ROAD FROM SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY TO BARRY'S BEACH: COST.

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

(a) What is the estimated roadworks cost for the road leading from the South Gippsland Highway to the Esso-B.H.P. terminal at Barry's Beach?

(b) Will any of this cost be met by way of Country Roads Board contribution; if so, what is the amount?

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

(a) $51,250.

(b) Yes—$20,000.

METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.

LEVY ON MUNICIPALITIES.

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

(a) Is he aware that the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board increased its levy on metropolitan councils by .0579 of a cent in the $1 for this financial year?

(b) In view of the increased responsibilities and burdens facing municipalities, will he implement the recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry into Local Government in 1962 that municipalities pay one-eighth of the cost of urban fire protection services?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government) .—The answers are—

(a) Yes.

(b) The problem is not solved merely by reducing the contribution to be made by municipalities, as that amount would have to be obtained from some other source which could only be the fire insurance companies.

The Government has looked at this matter, but it must be recognized that some people insure their properties against fire and others do not. Those who do insure pay for fire protection, both through their fire insurance premiums and through their municipal rates. Those who do not insure make no other contribution for fire protection than that through municipal rates. If councils' contributions were to be reduced from one-third of the cost to one-eighth, the proportion borne by those who pay insurance premiums would in effect increase, and the proportion paid by non-insurers would decrease. The Government sees no reason for increasing the burden on those who insure.
COUNCIL OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

MEMBERSHIP: INVESTIGATIONS: REPORTS.

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

(a) How often does the Council of Public Education meet?

(b) Who are the members of the council, and over the past five years what has been their attendance record at council meetings?

(c) When did the council last report upon—(i) methods and developments in public education overseas; and (ii) the present educational standards of both private and State schools within the State?

(d) When did the Minister last refer a matter to the council for investigation and report?

(e) Over the past five years, what matters has he referred to the council?

(f) How can this body operate without a permanent secretariat?

The Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education).—The answers to these questions are lengthy and, with the approval of the House, I suggest that they be incorporated in Hansard without being read.

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

(a) Approximately quarterly.

(b)—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Members.</th>
<th>Meetings.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. A. G. Austin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. C. R. Badger</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. G. Bartle</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. F. H. Brooks</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. A. L. Cahill</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. T. H. Coates</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J. A. Cole</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. K. D. Cole</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. P. J. Fensham</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. E. P. Gootie</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Fr. J. A. KeaneY</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mons. J. F. Kelly</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J. L. Kepert</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss E. K. Kirkhope</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J. Nattras</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. C. R. Nichols</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R. E. Parry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. R. A. Reed</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. W. B. Russell</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. G. D. Thompson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One position vacant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) 12th September, 1961.

(d) 2nd March, 1965.

(e) Continued education; public examination system; transition from school to university.

(f) The council has a permanent staff of registrar and assistant. This staff acts as the secretariat for the council and for the registration committee of the council which handles, at monthly meetings, the registration of teachers, schools and teachers' colleges.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

CARRUM TREATMENT PLANT.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) Is the Government aware that, unlike many modern overseas plants, the plans for the Carrum treatment area do not include a final sand filtration stage and that therefore the turbidity of the effluent will be above a disturbing twenty parts per 1,000,000, a percentage of which will undoubtedly contain plant nutrients?

(b) Was a final sand filtration stage ever considered at Carrum; if so, why was it dropped, in view of ever increasing international standards?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answers are—

(a) According to the Board of Works, it is not correct to suggest that many modern overseas treatment plants include a final sand filtration stage. Many overseas plants do not even have secondary treatment as planned for the south-eastern purification works. The effluent will not contain more than twenty parts per 1,000,000 suspended solids, which is a higher standard
than that required by the Department of Health for discharge into an inland stream which is subsequently used for water supply purposes.

(b) No.

**DETERGENTS.**

**EFFECT ON SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS: OVERSEAS BAN.**

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province) asked the Minister for Local Government—

(a) Is the Government aware that Great Britain, Western Germany and the United States of America have banned the manufacture and use of non-biodegradable or A.B.S. (alkyl-benzene-sulphonate) detergents such as those manufactured by petrochemical companies, because of the danger that they may cause foaming in sewage treatment plants or in receiving waters?

(b) To prevent dumping of unsaleable overseas stocks to the detriment of local manufacturers of soft detergents, will the Government consider legislation and regulations similar to those now existent in Great Britain, Western Germany and the United States of America?

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—The answers are—

(a) It is understood that legislation restricting the manufacture and retail sale of so-called hard detergents has been enacted in Western Germany and certain of the States of America. Elsewhere, in England, for example, a similar objective has been achieved by agreement with manufacturers. According to the Board of Works, foaming in purification plants is no longer a major problem overseas, and has not so far presented a major problem here.

(b) The matter will certainly be reviewed if evidence becomes available of any intended dumping.

**MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.**

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to clarify the persons who may vote at polls and elections held pursuant to the Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958, to enable managers to be appointed for marketing boards in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

**MEDICAL (FOREIGN PRACTITIONERS) BILL.**

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill relates to the continued operation of special provisions governing the registration in this State of medical practitioners whose qualifications cannot be recognized under the ordinary provisions of Part I. of the Medical Act 1958.

These special provisions enable a body known as the Foreign Practitioners Qualifications Committee, in any case where an applicant with medical qualifications seeks to register with the Medical Board of Victoria but is not eligible for registration as a medical practitioner under the provisions of sections 19 and 20 of the Medical Act 1958, to issue a certificate stating that the applicant is a fit and proper person to be registered as a legally qualified medical practitioner. On receipt of this certificate, the Medical Board registers the person concerned.

Before issuing such a certificate the Foreign Practitioners Qualifications Committee is required to satisfy itself that the applicant—

(1) has been qualified to practise medicine in an overseas country and that his qualifications have not been withdrawn for unprofessional conduct;

(2) that he has been resident in Victoria for at least three months;

(3) that he is professionally competent to practise;

(4) that he is of good character; and

(5) that he has an adequate understanding and command of the English language.

The Foreign Practitioners Qualifications Committee consists of nine persons, all legally qualified medical practitioners. As this committee is at present constituted, these nine
persons are appointed on the nomination of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Melbourne, and comprise five persons engaged in medical practice and four professors, namely, a professor of medicine, a professor of surgery, a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, and a professor of paediatrics.

The special legislative provisions relating to the registration of foreign medical practitioners, which are now incorporated in the Twelfth Schedule to the Medical Act 1958, were first introduced as the Medical (Registration) Act 1957, No. 6084, and were to operate until the 31st December, 1960, and no longer. However, on two separate occasions subsequent to that date the period of operation of these provisions was extended but, without the introduction of further legislation to extend the period, no further use could be made of the provisions after the end of the present year.

When first introduced, a person desiring to apply for registration as a medical practitioner under the provisions of Act No. 6084 of 1957 had to be qualified by three years residence in this State. In the first few years of operation to the end of the year 1960, 63 applications for registration were received and, of these, 39 were registered, whilst others were to undergo some further study and present again for examination. In the second period to the end of 1964, a further sixteen applications were received, and nineteen new registrations were made, while in the third period, some fifteen applications were received and seven registrations effected. Eleven applications are currently being considered.

At first it was feared in some circles that the introduction of legislation such as that contained in the Medical (Registration) Act 1957, would lead to a big influx of foreign doctors but, although at first a number of applications were received from European medical practitioners who had been in Victoria for a considerable period, there has been no noticeable increase in the number of migrant doctors coming to Victoria.

Subsequently, when in 1965 the qualifying period was reduced by section 3 of the Medical (Foreign Practitioners) Act 1965, from three years to three months, similar fears were expressed, but again there has been very little change in the rate of lodging of applications for registration. There appear to be no grounds for fearing that the existence of this means of registering foreign medical practitioners will in any way place in jeopardy the careers of medical graduates from our own universities.

As it will not be possible under the Twelfth Schedule as now drafted for further applications to be lodged for consideration by the Foreign Practitioners Qualifications Committee after the 31st December, 1967, some provision for extension is necessary. As it is felt quite safe to do so, it is now proposed to extend the operation of the Twelfth Schedule indefinitely as a means of affording recognition to competent and qualified medical practitioners from foreign countries who choose to migrate to Victoria and who naturally desire to practise their profession.

The Bill will achieve this by repealing those words in the schedule which place a time limit on its operation. 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.

BARLEY MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of the Hon. G. L. Chandler (Minister of Agriculture) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.
The Hon. ARCHIBALD TODD (Melbourne West Province).—This measure proposes to extend the provisions of the Barley Marketing Act for a further period of three years. I want to say at the outset that my party does not hesitate to support legislation like the Barley Marketing Act. The Labor Party has always believed in the principle of orderly marketing, and the various boards that have been set up in this State to ensure that primary producers receive a just reward for their labours receive the approbation of the Labor Party.

From time to time individuals with a personal axe to grind have attacked the operations of the various State marketing boards, but when their activities are examined closely generally it is found that they are concerned with their own ends and not with the general welfare of the people of Victoria and primary producers in particular.

In his second-reading speech, the Minister of Agriculture advised the House that two of the leading primary producer organizations in this State, the Victorian Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association and the Australian Primary Producers' Union (Victorian Division), had requested that the principal Act be continued for another three years in order that the organized marketing by the Australian Barley Board could continue and that the barley producers would be guaranteed an economic return for their crops from season to season.

I am sure that all honorable members believe in the principles of orderly marketing. Members of the Labor Party are particularly proud of those in our party who planned the wheat stabilization scheme and of the benefit that it has brought to wheat-growers not only in Victoria but throughout Australia. I suppose barley is not regarded as such an important factor as wheat in the economy of the country; nevertheless it is an important product. In this small piece of legislation, the component part of the Victorian section is worthy of note. One feels impelled to ask the Minister why some special privilege should be accorded certain representatives on the Board. As the Minister indicated, the Board comprises seven persons and consists of three elected representatives of the South Australian barley growers, one elected representative of the Victorian growers, a nominee of the brewers and malsters, a person nominated by the Governor of Victoria, and a chairman nominated by the Governor of South Australia. There must be some cogent reason for the representation of South Australia. This is quite an odd selection of people. It seems to be a unity ticket between the States of South Australia and Victoria. I wonder who is the nominee of the brewers and from which brewery he comes.

The Hon. I. A. SWINBURNE.—Courage!

The Hon. ARCHIBALD TODD.—I shall come to that. In Victoria there is a brewery octopus which is slowly strangling the independent hotelkeepers and bringing within its tentacles almost the whole hotel trade in Victoria, as well as in many other places. One is constrained to ask why the brewers should have special representation on the Australian Barley Board and why we should not look on the Carlton and United Breweries Limited, if it has a nominee on the Barley Board, as the body most likely to pursue its own ends as far as buying barley for its own use is concerned. Will the Government give some assurance that, if an opposition brewery is set up in this State—Courage has been mentioned—the Government will consider allowing it to have some say in who shall be the nominee of the brewers in this State?

Sir PERCY BYRNES.—The brewers can settle it themselves.
The Hon. ARCHIBALD TODD.—If Carlton and United Breweries Limited has the opportunity, it will be settled by force and in no other way, by putting people out of business if they attempt to defy that company. This provision is worthy of examination. We believe that in the main the primary producers themselves should be responsible for the proper functioning of the marketing of their produce. I doubt whether the brewers have any moral right to representation on this Board and, even if the Government, by its curious way of arriving at decisions, decides that they shall have representation, I hope that when the opposition brewery gets into action in Victoria consideration will be given to that group in the selection of a nominee of the brewers.

One can imagine the maltsters contending that they should have some say in the operation of the Board. I do not cavil at that to a degree, because malt and barley are used for many purposes other than that of the brewing of "grog." Therefore, Mr. Acting President, the Labor Party will not oppose the extension of the operation of the Board, as provided for in the Bill, for a further period of three years. It is hoped that the producers will enjoy good seasons and will not be harmed greatly by the present drought, but will be protected and receive a fair reward for their labours.

The Hon. A. R. MANSELL (North-Western Province).—The Country Party must support this Bill. It will support any measure relating to any commodity of primary production in respect of which there are marketing problems.

The Australian Barley Board was set up to overcome problems of marketing and prices when grain was being left on the hands of producers. It is necessary for primary producers, particularly of food, to look farther afield in an effort to dispose of surplus production in the Commonwealth. The industry needs to sell overseas. All sections of the industry, including members of the Victorian Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association and of the Australian Primary Producers' Union, as well as the consumers, support the extension of the operation of the Australian Barley Board for another three years. I thank Mr. Todd for his statement that the Labor Party will always support marketing boards which will provide the opportunity for the producer to sell and the consumer to buy foodstuffs at prices that are fair to both sides.

When Bills similar to this have been before the House, members of the Country Party have always agitated for greater representation for Victorian growers. The only explanation I can give Mr. Todd concerning the fact that Victoria has only one grower representative on the Board compared with three for South Australia is that South Australia has been the main barley producing State. A situation similar to that which has developed in the egg industry is arising, inasmuch as produce is being taken from Victoria over the border and then brought back into the State.

Members of the Country Party would like another grower member representing Victoria to be placed on the Board and to have the Board extended to take in New South Wales. There does not appear to be much production farther north or to the west, but in our opinion it is necessary to have New South Wales covered by the Board. The growers in that State will not participate at present because they gain the advantages of control by the present Board as regards the disposal overseas of any surplus. Unfortunately, this year there is not likely to be so much of a problem regarding the export of surpluses, particularly from Victoria, because the rain has been late in coming, and I do not expect production to be very high.

The Government appointed a committee to inquire into the bulk handling of oats and barley, and it is
surprising how production has increased since the bulk handling system has been put into effect. This has been done, very wisely, through the Grain Elevators Board. The crop has been handled far more economically than previously, and the work of the producer has been much easier. Producers have the benefit of machinery—purchased at a cost of thousands of dollars—which is geared for bulk handling, and of transport facilities to the railhead which are also similarly geared. Nowadays it is impossible to get men to sew bags—persons who were engaged in this occupation are now a lost race. Bulk handling enables produce to be marketed at a lower cost.

Members of the Country Party would like New South Wales to participate in the barley marketing scheme and to be represented on the Australian Barley Board and would like another grower representative from Victoria appointed to the Board. As regards representation of the maltsters or Carlton and United Breweries Limited, I, as a primary producer, cannot see why the consumer should not be represented on this and other similar boards. The consumers may have a point of view to put which, perhaps, the producers do not see. The housewife has the right to representation on some marketing boards. I think Mr. Todd will agree with me on this point. I shall be disappointed if the Government decides to appoint a nominee from Carlton and United Breweries Limited, without considering other similar interests. The Government would be lacking in its duty if it did not consider proposals by the two opposing concerns. I do not suggest that a representative of each should be appointed.

Members of the Country Party support the proposed extension of the operation of the Barley Marketing Act for another three years. In three years' time we shall again agitate for further representation by Victorian growers. The area covered by the barley industry is so large that the Victorian growers' representative has no hope of covering the whole of the State to see what is happening throughout the industry. Barley growing takes place practically throughout the whole of the State. Crops are grown well to the south, although most of them are in the Mallee, where the best quality barley in Victoria is produced. The Country Party supports the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2 (Duration of Act).

The Hon. G. L. Chandler (Minister of Agriculture).—Both Mr. Todd and Mr. Mansell have supported the Bill with reservations as to the personnel of the Board. I take second place to nobody in my efforts to get additional representation for Victorian growers on the Board, and I do not accept any criticism on this account. This matter has been taken up with South Australia and with the producer organizations in this State. If we are dogmatic and say that we will not enter into an agreement with South Australia unless an additional Victorian representative is appointed, there is a likelihood that the Board as at present constituted will fall to pieces, in which case we shall have to revert to a State Board.

The Hon. J. M. Tripovich.—Is not representation on a production basis?

The Hon. G. L. Chandler.—To some extent it is. I have not production figures for the past season, but, in 1965-66, 18,514,000 bushels from South Australia and 3,217,000 bushels from Victoria went through the Board. I have not been in a very strong position in arguing this matter with South Australia, and the producer organizations in Victoria know it. The matter has been discussed with the Victorian Wheat and Woolgrowers' Association and the
Australian Primary Producers’ Union, which have realized the difficulties. We have done our best but have not been successful in gaining additional representation for Victorian growers. However, the producers do not want the Board to fall apart.

The Hon. A. R. Mansell.—We are not suggesting that it should be allowed to fall apart.

The Hon. G. L. Chandler.—I am only indicating that I have endeavoured to obtain additional grower representation for Victoria but have not been successful.

As regards maltsters and brewers, if I remember correctly I inherited the present arrangement from another Government, and I should think that any criticism on this score must be levelled at the Government which introduced the scheme. Probably Mr. Todd realizes that, although he has not made the point clear.

Victoria and South Australia have made efforts to get New South Wales and Queensland to join the Board, but there has not been any move by producers in New South Wales to become affiliated with it. Maltsters have been able to do business in New South Wales and some of their production has come to Melbourne.

Probably about 1,500,000 bushels of barley grown in Victoria have been taken to New South Wales and returned to this State, or it may be that that quantity has been sold outside the Board in Victoria. Every effort has been made within the powers contained in the Act to police this matter within Victoria and those efforts have met with some success, though not with as much as we would like.

New South Wales and Queensland have not been particularly keen on entering into the marketing scheme. The Board is somewhat of a misnomer. Although it is named the Australian Barley Board, it represents only two States and is not truly an Australian Board. It is a carry-over from the war years, when it was more of an Australian Barley Board than it is at present.

As Mr. Todd and Mr. Mansell have indicated, production of barley in Victoria has improved because of the use of bulk handling methods controlled by the Grain Elevators Board. It has become more attractive to barley growers to have their produce handled on a bulk basis rather than on a bag basis as in previous years. The barley industry in this State now shows signs of increasing production.

The questions regarding the maltsters and growers representation have given us deep concern, and they have been discussed with the producer organizations. I pay a brief tribute to the representative of the Victorian Government on the Australian Barley Board—Mr. Miller, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, who has few equals in Australia in the field of cereal production. Mr. Miller was the representative of the Australian Agricultural Council on the wheat index committee, which is the committee representative of the industry, the Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the State Departments of Agriculture. It was the duty of that committee to make recommendations annually as to cost fluctuations. Mr. Miller has done a remarkable job. He retires at the end of this year, and I think the Deputy Director of Agriculture in New South Wales is to take his place on the committee. Mr. Miller is a recognized authority, and I pay a tribute to him for the work that he has done over the years.

The Hon. Archibald Todd (Melbourne West Province).—I have listened with some interest to the confessions of the Minister and his frank admission that his hopes of bringing stability to the Barley Marketing Act and peace to the industry have not materialized. Bills are continually being introduced to correct situations inherited from previous Governments. This Government
has had ample opportunity to correct the errors and omissions of previous Acts.

I feel strongly that the general manager of Carlton and United Breweries Limited should be asked whether it would be advisable to continue the Barley Marketing Act. Is he such an important person so far as the economy of Victoria is concerned? The general manager of Carlton and United Breweries Limited is a representative of the beer barons, and they do not do much for the welfare of this State; in fact, in the final analysis, they perpetrate misery. However, I accept the statement of the Minister, and I hope that the producers of barley will be successful in having their product properly marketed.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—Mr. Todd has given a grand exhibition of shadow sparring.

The clause was agreed to.

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

The sitting was suspended at 6.19 p.m. until 7.57 p.m.

MASSEURS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of the Hon. V. O. Dickie (Minister of Health) for the second reading of this Bill was resumed.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province).—The art of massage has been with us for centuries, and I suppose it will continue with us for many centuries to come. The soothing application of hands to the anatomy has, through the years, proved a rather fascinating experience for many people. My party sees nothing to oppose in this Bill.

It is proposed to increase certain fees which I shall enumerate. The Masseurs Registration Board, which is empowered to prescribe a course of training, to examine trainees and to register suitable persons as masseurs, can charge an examination fee of $6.30. It is proposed, under this Bill, to increase the examination fee to $10. Registration fees will similarly be increased from $2.10 to $5, certificate fees from $1.06 to $2, and renewal fees from 50 cents to $5—an increase of approximately 1,000 per cent. It must be admitted that there have been no changes in the fees since 1935, and it is time that they were brought into line with modern-day thinking.

It is good that masseurs have been registered in Victoria, but I think we should cogitate a little on the fact that the majority of people who practise massage in this State are not registered. Registered masseurs generally operate in some of the more recognized Turkish baths. I do not know whether honorable members have noticed in certain newspapers recently a few rather fascinating advertisements indicating that people can indulge in massage with sauna baths at addresses which sometimes are difficult to find. From inquiries of the police I understand that this is sometimes a cover for prostitution. I do not know whether the Government is unwittingly condoning the registration of masseurs who might use the art of massage to facilitate the opening of a brothel, but the fact remains that the practice to which I refer is going on in Melbourne and the police are quite concerned about it.

I suppose a massage and sauna bath would make a perfect combination and, if there should be added to it other intriguing features, it could become an even more fascinating combination. So far as Melbourne is concerned—and I suppose it is applicable in other States, particularly in Sydney—this practice is undoubtedly going on. I suggest that the Government should look into the practice I have referred
to, and at the same time ensure that full protection is available to persons who seek massage treatment.

Honorable members would appreciate that the application of unskilled hands to the body could cause damage. This would apply particularly to the application of a fairly strong pair of hands which could cause damage to ligaments or even bones. If honorable members cogitate on the implications of what I have said, they will realize that, possibly, other damage could be caused. My party does not oppose the Bill, but during the Committee stage I should like the Minister of Health to comment on what I have said.

The Hon. H. A. HEWSON (Gippsland Province).—The Country Party supports this simple Bill which, of course, hinges on bringing fees relating to masseurs up to date. An increase in fees often causes increases in other charges. In this case, I do not think there is any need for masseurs to increase their charges because their registration fees in the past have been reasonably light.

In 1945, the Masseurs Registration Board was given powers additional to those which were granted to it in 1922. Its powers were increased considerably. From 1945 onwards, the Board has been the recognized training body for masseurs. The proper training of and tuition for masseurs is important; it is also important that practitioners should be registered. It was interesting to hear Mr. Elliot reminiscing.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—I was not reminiscing; I am an active participant so far as massage is concerned.

The Hon. H. A. HEWSON.—It would appear that massage has not made a great impression on Mr. Elliot's figure, nor has it assisted me. The Board's functions are very important. I feel that great importance should be attached to massage and physiotherapy. Furthermore, I consider that fees paid to a masseur should be allowable as taxation deductions. After all, masseurs play an important part in the livelihood of the community. The West Gippsland Hospital at Warragul—I am a member of the board of that hospital—makes a bursary available each year for the training of physiotherapists and masseurs, who render particularly good service to the community. The bursary is provided primarily to ensure that the services of a masseur are, when they are needed, available to the hospital. Greater recognition should be given to the work of masseurs who perform excellent work, particularly in the treatment and rehabilitation of hospital patients.

Although this is perhaps a simple measure in form, it is important, and it could have important implications. The proposal to alter the Board's financial year will bring its annual reports into line with those of similar organizations. In future, the Board's financial year will end at the same time as that of kindred bodies. My party supports the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time and committed.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2 (Increase in fees for examination and registration).

The Hon. V. O. DICKIE (Minister of Health).—As has been said, this could be termed a fees Bill, although it contains certain provisions relating to the annual reports of the Masseurs Registration Board. Mr. Elliot referred to the fact that a certain degree of publicity has recently been given in sections of the press to massage parlours and sauna baths where evidently things happen which are not strictly in accord with massage as we know it. In view of the fact that provisions in this Bill refer to legislation enacted in 1923 relating to masseurs, I assume that certain controls have been exercised over masseurs during the 44 years that have elapsed since that date.
The Masseurs Registration Board is charged with the responsible task of setting standards for masseurs, or physiotherapists as they are medically known to-day, and it is necessary for those who seek registration to hold certain qualifications. The qualifications are listed in section 5 of the principal Act. I am certain that no person who is registered as a masseur or physiotherapist is participating in the practices to which Mr. Elliot referred. Obviously, these things are going on in the community, but they would be subject to police action, I should imagine, as they come within the ambit of the Police Offences Act. Honorable members need have no fear that any person who is registered as a masseur will enter into this branch of massage. However, I agree with Mr. Elliot that the police must keep a watchful eye to ensure that the contribution which masseurs and physiotherapists make to the community is not dragged down by the actions of other persons of the type mentioned.

Mr. Hewson suggested that fees charged by a masseur should be allowed as income tax deductions. Of course, this is basically a matter for the Commonwealth Government. However, I understand that if a person is referred to a physiotherapist by a qualified medical practitioner, the physiotherapist's account will be accepted by the Taxation Department as a legitimate deduction.

The Hon. H. A. HEWSON (Gippsland Province).—I was speaking particularly of fees charged by masseurs or physiotherapists when the patients were not referred to the masseur or physiotherapist by a doctor. Many people do not go to the extra expense of visiting a medical practitioner before seeking physiotherapy treatment.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province).—I support Mr. Hewson's contention that masseurs' fees should be allowable taxation deductions although I realize, as the Minister rightly stated, that this is a Common-wealth matter. Because of the consistent condemnation by the Bolte Government of the Federal Government, it might not be a bad idea for the Minister to take this question up with the Federal authorities with a view to providing a service to the citizens of this State who receive treatment of this nature. There is no reason why fees paid for legitimate physiotherapy should not be tax deductible.

Medical expenses are high enough without ignoring the use of such a facility as physiotherapy. The treatment can be continued over a long period and the cost of such treatment should be deductible for income tax purposes, whether or not the person is referred by a medical practitioner.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON (Higinbotham Province).—A physiotherapist is not supposed to treat a patient unless the patient is referred to him by a medical practitioner; that is part of the ethics of the profession.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT (Melbourne Province).—I disagree with Mr. Hamilton because, speaking from personal experience, I have been treated by a physiotherapist for the past three years, and I was not referred to him by a doctor.

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.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from September 12) on the motion of the Hon. H. M. Hamilton (Higinbotham Province) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

Sir PERCY BYRNES (North-Western Province).—Mr. Acting President, on behalf of the members of the Country Party, I express our regret that Sir Ronald Mack is a
patient in the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, and we ask you to extend to him our very best wishes for a speedy recovery. At the same time I congratulate you on being appointed Acting President, and I know that you will carry out your duties in the highest traditions of the House.

The Address-in-Reply to the Governor’s Speech is in part an address of loyalty to the Queen. In these times when there is some doubt whether the old institutions will carry on for ever, and changes in thinking are taking place in various components of the old British Empire, now the Commonwealth of Nations, no one can doubt the loyalty of the Victorian people to the Crown and what it stands for.

I remind the House that at present Australia is involved in fighting a war in Vietnam, although there has been no formal declaration of war. Quite a number of our young men are engaged in the conflict, and a greater number will be similarly engaged in the future. Many of these men are national servicemen who have been balloted in as conscripts. On completion of their tour of duty in Vietnam, they will be discharged and return to civilian life. Members of the first intake of national servicemen have already been discharged.

After the second world war, very little was being done to fit discharged men for their return to civilian life. At the time the Parliament of Victoria did not wait for the Commonwealth Government to move, but took certain action to assist the returned men. A few weeks ago a newspaper article referred to the young men in Vietnam as the “forgotten” men. This is a true statement. Having given two years of their young lives in fighting a war, these men will return to their own land. Their normal occupations will have been interrupted and they will have to re-adjust themselves to civilian life. I know, from experience, that this is not easy.

_Sir Percy Byrnes._

When the question of assisting these returned servicemen was mentioned in the Federal Parliament, some members and Ministers said that they had been in Vietnam for only a short time. I protest against that line of thought. Anyone who has taken part in a war knows that the amount of service is not governed merely by the length of time spent in a particular area of war. It might be only a few weeks, but in that time a person could see enough to last him for the rest of his life. In Vietnam the casualties have been relatively high.

Certain branches of the Returned Services League of Australia have discussed the rehabilitation of these young men with Federal members and myself. On behalf of the Country Party, I have obtained from the Minister for Repatriation a complete list of the assistance available to these men, but who is advising them of their entitlement to this assistance? When they return to this country they are glad to get home, but are out of touch with the world they left. They need guidance and help, which is what we should be giving them.

As is the case with any member of the armed forces who has served overseas, national servicemen are eligible for a housing loan of up to $7,000 from the War Service Homes Division. If a married man is killed on service, his wife is eligible for a loan of $7,000, repayable over 45 years. It is also possible for returned servicemen to receive vocational training for twelve months, and financial assistance up to $3,000 towards the purchase of tools of trade and a number of other items. An advance of $6,000 may be made for the purchase of agricultural land.

These forms of assistance are very good as far as they go. If a returned man wants to receive vocational training, he must apply for it within six months of discharge, and for financial assistance application must be made within twelve months of
I shall not deal with all the forms of repatriation assistance as this is a Commonwealth matter, but I strongly object to this State thinking it can ignore these men because repatriation benefits are a Commonwealth responsibility. They are returning to State electorates, and the State Government should ensure that they receive the best possible assistance and guidance to enable them to be successfully repatriated into civilian life.

Victoria should institute a land settlement scheme for those men returning from Vietnam who wish to take up farming. I have discussed this matter with the chairman of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission, and he has agreed that quite a number of these young men would like to go on the land. There is, however, no land settlement scheme in which they can participate. In order to assist them, it would be necessary to amend the Land Settlement Act. Under the present Act, returned servicemen can apply for a block of Crown land which has been made available and, subject to all things being equal, they will get preference—which does not mean much.

It may be said, “Why do these young men want to go on the land?” I know many young men of eighteen or nineteen years of age who are working hard on the land and would be glad to obtain agricultural land. They are capably managing their own affairs at a comparatively early age. It should be possible to institute a scheme of single unit farms, such as was instituted after the two world wars. A scheme of this nature could be financed by the State Government through the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission. There may not be many young men who will require this assistance, but the Commonwealth Government could be requested to make money available at the same rate of interest as for war service homes, namely 3½ per cent.

Under such a scheme, a man could apply for a single unit farm within twelve months of his discharge and be eligible for settlement within five years. There are young men who have not been apprenticed to a trade, but who would like to go on the land, and they should be afforded this opportunity. It is our duty as a Parliament and as individuals to see that they are given such assistance.

A special duty to assist these men also devolves on the returned servicemen, especially those from the second world war. I was engaged in the 1914 bow-and-arrow war, as it has been called, and I repatriated myself. Many men were not in that fortunate position, and they had a rough time after discharge from service. The returned soldiers of the first world war made up their minds that the lads returning from the second world war would be treated much better than they were. They met and worked consistently to see that the returned servicemen of that war received reasonably good treatment. As a result, those men received much more assistance, particularly in relation to land settlement, than we were given. Now, the returned men from the second world war have a responsibility to the young men serving in wars of the present day.

The numbers of our young men who may be involved in the future may increase because, east of Suez, England no longer counts for very much, and consequently Australia’s obligations must increase. Because of the relentless movement of history, Australia must accept responsibilities of which it would never have thought 40, or even 25 years ago. As a result, it may have more men in the field of war, in various parts of the world, than it had in previous years. In general terms, repatriation benefits should apply to national servicemen in the same way as they do to other soldiers.
I propose to the Government that it should establish a scheme of single-unit farms to be made available to those ex-servicemen who wish to go on the land, and suggest that the Commonwealth Government should be asked to make advances available at an interest of 3½ per cent. or less. I believe the men concerned should be given twelve months in which to register under the scheme, and that they should be entitled to apply for farms within five years of their discharge from national service. By that time they will have had sufficient experience to do anything that is required of them.

As a whole, people are only too anxious to do justice to the men who serve in Vietnam, but apparently they do not quite get around to thinking about it. More and more families will become involved as a greater number of men serve in Vietnam, and more people will realize what a tremendous drag there is on the community. Neither the young men who are conscripted nor those who volunteer should be left to fend for themselves after returning home. The community in general should help them to resume their places in civil life, whether they take a job, enter a profession, go on the land, or need help to acquire a house, or require assistance for some other purpose.

The theme of the Governor's Speech was one of development, and this theme has been a continuing one for a great number of years. Since 1955, Victoria has been fortunate enough to have had a succession of good seasons allied to good government. It is because of sound and stable government that the State has attracted such a number of new residents. No one can deny that there have been tremendous developments in Victoria since 1955, and that the pattern is continuing.

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tioned the Rip. On another occasion I told the House of a survey of the Rip made by the Shell company. That company was able to prove that the present rule of thumb requiring an under-keel clearance of 10 feet is not necessary for the safety of ships brought through the Heads.

The Hon. A. W. Knight.—The Port Phillip pilots think differently, and I will back their judgment against yours any day.

The Hon. G. W. Thom.—I am pleased that there are two schools of thought. This matter must be resolved because the Shell company, with some very highly rated mathematicians and other people from the Adelaide University, were able to prove, as a result of work over a considerable period, that the under-keel clearance of 10 feet was not necessary. In a few years’ time, the refinery potential at Geelong and Altona must be used to its fullest capacity, and thought must now be given to the small amount of dredging which will be necessary in the South Channel. The Geelong Harbor Trust is ready to go ahead with its dredging programme. It has already widened the channels in Corio Bay, and is prepared to deepen them to 42 feet. Tankers are now being built with a broader beam.

I hear laughter from members of the Labor Party at that simple statement. If they took the trouble to investigate the latest trends in ship building, they would find that much bigger tankers than those at present operating, but drawing the same draught, are being built. This is possible because they have a wider beam. We cannot afford not to give consideration to the deepening of the channels within Port Phillip Bay.

The wheat terminal at Geelong should also be considered. With refineries and the wheat terminal inside the Heads, it is only good business to examine the cheapest way to meet the challenges of the future in regard to both oil and wheat. A member of the Wheat Board made a rather ill-considered statement that consideration may have to be given to the establishment of a wheat terminal on Westernport Bay. Most honorable members are businessmen, and, if they possessed an asset such as the wheat terminal at Geelong, they would be looking for ways in which to use it to its fullest capacity.

At present, the Geelong wheat terminal can receive 400 tons of wheat an hour. At the height of the season, when only one shift and a small amount of overtime is worked, the terminal can handle all the wheat received. From the terminal, ships can be loaded at the rate of 1,600 tons an hour. It is feasible and economic to consider the further development of that terminal rather than to give airy-fairy thought to the establishment of another terminal. That terminal could be used to its fullest capacity, and the waste of money which would be involved in establishing another terminal could be avoided.

I have some remarks to make about the road toll. Last week, a possible reason for a number of accidents was forcibly brought home to me. I lay the blame for some accidents at the feet of car manufacturers who do not give enough thought to equipping high-powered vehicles with tyres commensurate with their horse-power. After the adjournment of the House last Tuesday, my wife and I went to Ringwood, and we left there to return to Geelong at about 11.30 p.m. I do not normally drive as fast as I once did but there was almost no other traffic on the road and I travelled at 75 miles per hour. I was travelling safely—so I thought. Suddenly, I felt the rear of the car start to sway. I pulled up, thinking a tyre had been punctured. However, none of the tyres was losing air, and there was no sign of any puncture. I then thought that a shock absorber had failed. I had travelled 20,000 miles with these tyres fitted to my car, and I believed they still had plenty of tread and were quite safe. I visited my usual

service station and was told by the proprietor that I had been very lucky because there was very little grip left in the tyres. We had a conversation about tyre ratings, which subject has received some prominence in the press and has recently been discussed by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria. I found, on examination, that the maximum speed rating for the tyres that were fitted to my car when I bought it new was up to 85 miles per hour sustained speed.

The Hon. D. G. Elliot.—That is the maximum speed for new tyres.

The Hon. G. W. Thom.—That is so, and it is an important point. I further found that "sustained speed" means periods of between ten minutes and one hour. As Mr. Elliot so rightly interjected, 85 miles per hour is considered to be the safe speed for those tyres when new. I had been driving that car for twelve months. One can travel at 75 to 80 miles per hour without feeling that one is driving too fast, but after six months' wear the efficiency of the tyres is reduced tremendously.

I believe a committee should be set up to examine the vexed question of the type of tyres for which provision should be made by legislation having regard to the horse-power or potential speed of a particular car.

The Hon. M. A. Clarke.—Or the weight of it?

The Hon. G. W. Thom.—That is so. If a person buys a motor car which is capable of travelling at 75 or 80 miles per hour, he does not envisage that, when he has been driving the car for six or nine months, his tyres will not permit him to travel safely at those speeds.

The service station proprietor with whom I discussed the matter recommended nylon tyres, which provide a far greater margin of safety than the tyres which were originally fitted to my car. Some consideration should be given to the question of compelling manufacturers to fit higher grade tyres in the first instance when cars are offered for sale. I believe the whole question of tyres should be examined because tyre problems could be the cause of a number of tragic motor car accidents which occur on country roads.

In conclusion, I am sure that in this sessional period we will be privileged to hear speeches by a number of new members, and I am looking forward to their contributions.

The Hon. S. R. McDonald (Northern Province).—In taking part for the first time in this debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, I desire to express my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to endorse Mr. Thom's remarks concerning the great work done by our Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, and his good lady.

With my colleague, Mr. Clarke, I have the honour to represent the Northern Province, which embraces a large area—9,000 square miles—of northern Victoria. It extends from Shepparton in the east to Kerang, from Echuca on the River Murray to St. Arnaud. It includes two flourishing cities, two boroughs, one town and fifteen shires. It embraces virtually every type of primary and secondary industry which can be found in rural Victoria.

I know that in replacing the Honorable Percy Feltham I am following a man who made a great contribution to the deliberations of this House. After my election, Mr. Feltham was good enough to give me some good advice and the benefit of his long experience. Among other things, he told me that he considered two of the most important attributes in being a successful parliamentarian were to have an insensitive hide and a sense of humour. On this basis, I am sure Mr. Thom qualifies as a successful member of Parliament.

I should like to refer briefly to three matters. The first concerns the need in Victoria for an increased
rate of land settlement. That this need exists is evidenced by the fact that there is a small but steady stream of Victorians leaving this State to establish themselves in newly-developed areas, particularly in Western Australia and Queensland. It is also evidenced by the fact that, whenever new farms become available in settlement schemes in Victoria, there are often hundreds of applicants for perhaps half a dozen farms.

There are two methods of increasing land settlement. The first is to pursue schemes such as Heytesbury, where 260 new farms have been established, and other schemes such as that west of Rochester in the Campaspe Irrigation District where 60 dairy farms will be established. These schemes are commendable, but they have one great disadvantage in that they require substantial capital expenditure by the State through the Rural Finance and Land Settlement Commission.

The second method is to release suitable Crown lands for development by individual persons. Anyone who examines the State of Victoria will realize that there are substantial areas of Crown land which have sound agricultural potential. In the province that I represent, there are in the Rushworth-Murchison area, for instance, thousands of acres of Crown land which, if released, could be developed quickly.

I have had first-hand experience in that area with land which was purchased for $10 an acre and which after five years of development has reached a stage where it is capable of yielding 30 to 35 bushels of wheat per acre and of carrying three dry sheep per acre. I suggest that if Crown land of this type, which in many instances is returning virtually nothing in timber royalties, is released, it will be quickly taken up and developed. This would provide the opportunity which might otherwise be denied to some Victorians to strike out for themselves as farmers. The remarks passed by Sir Percy Byrnes may be relevant in this connexion.

The second matter to which I desire to refer concerns the eradication of bovine brucellosis. This disease, which is more commonly known as contagious abortion in cattle, is one of the most serious in the Australian cattle industry and is one of the main factors contributing to infertility in beef and dairy herds. It has been reduced in Victoria to a large extent by a voluntary vaccination campaign. This campaign was pioneered in this State in 1943 and the stage has now been reached where the incidence of the disease in vaccinated herds is from 5 to 8 per cent. This has been proved by surveys conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

There are several reasons why it is desirable and possibly essential that this disease should be eradicated. The first is an obvious one, that it would eliminate economic loss in these two industries. It has been stated authoritatively that the losses in infected herds which are not subject to vaccination can be as high as 20 per cent. in milk production and 15 per cent. in annual calf drop.

The second reason why eradication is desirable concerns the element of public health risk associated with this disease. Human brucellosis, or undulant fever, can be contracted by humans who come in contact with the brucella organism. For this reason, it is found in dairy farmers, abattoir workers, veterinarians, and others. It can also be contracted by consumption of unpasteurized milk from infected cows. The statistics available indicate that the incidence of the disease in Australia and in Victoria is not high. Up to 50 cases have been diagnosed in Victoria in one year. However, the statistics relating to human brucellosis are not necessarily reliable, and the actual figure could be much higher.
I wish to quote from the Commonwealth Department of Health publication, *Bacterial Diseases*, Volume II., by Dr. H. R. Seddon. At page 39, the author states—

Official figures do not necessarily give a true indication of the extent of human brucellosis. The signs of the disease are so variable, and the infection is so insidious that medical practitioners sometimes fail to recognize the disease or take the necessary steps to establish an accurate diagnosis. Therefore, the number of cases in human beings can be higher than evidenced by statistics. In humans, the disease is extremely unpleasant; it is usually acute; it recurs at regular intervals; and there is no permanent cure. Accordingly, it is desirable that it should be eradicated.

There is only one practical method by which eradication of bovine brucellosis may be achieved—that is to institute a compulsory vaccination campaign followed by a test and slaughter programme after, say, a period of five years. Vaccination would reduce the incidence of the disease to a level where a test and slaughter campaign could be usefully carried out. This type of campaign has been undertaken in some European countries. Such a programme is in progress in the United Kingdom and in New Zealand. There is no insurmountable reason why a brucellosis eradication campaign similar to the tuberculosis campaign in Victoria should not be implemented.

One further point concerning brucellosis has a bearing on the export meat trade. West Germany has seen fit to introduce stringent regulations which require a declaration that meat imports are from brucellosis-free animals. Similar steps may be taken by other countries. This is an additional reason why brucellosis should be eradicated.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I am aware of the responsibilities that are now mine as a member of this House, and that I shall endeavour to discharge these responsibilities to the best of my ability. I thank honorable members for their indulgence, and look forward to long and pleasant associations in this Chamber.

On the motion of the Hon. W. G. FRY (Higinbotham Province), the debate was adjourned.

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

The House adjourned at 9.0 p.m.

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**Legislative Assembly.**

Tuesday, September 19, 1967.

The Speaker (the Hon. Vernon Christie) took the chair at 4.4 p.m., and read the prayer.

**PUBLIC SERVICE.**

**OVERTIME PAYMENTS: ADDITIONAL STAFF AND EXPENDITURE.**

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

1. By what amount (if any) overtime payments to the Public Service have been increased in each of the last twelve years?

*The Hon. S. R. McDonald.*
2. How many additional staff have been added to the Public Service in each of those years?

3. What additional expenditure has been incurred as a result of new appointments in the same period?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answers to these questions contain detailed statistical information, and I suggest that they be incorporated in Hansard without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:

1. During the last nine years, from 1959 to 1967, figures for payments for overtime and additional payments by way of penalty rates for rostered time of ordinary duty performed during week-ends and on public holidays have been recorded separately. In previous years, however, the figures were not dissected into overtime payments and payments by way of penalty rates and consequently overtime figures cannot be separated from penalty rates for these years. Thus the figures for the years 1956 to 1959 show the combined increase or decrease in both overtime payments and payments by way of penalty rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount of increase (or decrease) in overtime payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>$9,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>$649,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>$359,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>$364,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>$210,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>($36,758 decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>$103,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>$35,490</td>
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2. Year | Number of additional staff |
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>525</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>533</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
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<td>492</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>519</td>
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<tr>
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<td>883</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The additional expenditure due to new appointments cannot be separated from the total additional expenditure for salaries and wages generally. The additional expenditure for salaries and wages over the years involved is due to general salary revisions, revisions of particular groups and individuals, incremental progression in career ranges, and new appointments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Additional expenditure for salaries and wages.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>$6,450,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>$4,191,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>$3,266,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>$3,266,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$1,248,680</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>$3,174,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>$2,055,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>$2,956,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>$4,388,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>$1,652,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>$2,541,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>$2,274,412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OMBUDSMAN.

SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Premier—Whether, in view of the growing demand for the appointment of an Ombudsman, the Government will reconsider its opposition to appointing such an officer; if not, why?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is “No.”

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

PROXY MEMBERS.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Premier—Whether, as some of the smaller Parliamentary committees have, due to occasional illnesses and more members travelling overseas during the recesses, been existing on the bare number required to make up a quorum, he will give consideration to framing amendments to the appropriate Acts to allow proxy members from the absent member’s party to act when a committee member is absent for a month or more?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answer is “No.”

WILLIAMSTOWN NAVAL DOCKYARD.

ACQUISITION OF LAND.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Premier—If he will ascertain and inform the House whether the Navy Department of the Commonwealth Government recently acquired a greatly increased area of the Williamstown waterfront adjacent to Her Majesty’s Naval Dockyard; if so—(a) whether any private land is involved or, alternatively, whether all the land was under control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust; (b) whether the land
was compulsorily acquired by the Department or, alternatively, whether the transfer was the result of negotiated agreement; 
(c) what compensation was paid and whether this amount was paid to—(i) Melbourne Harbor Trust funds; or (ii) Consolidated Revenue, and (d) whether the area acquired includes any roads or piers previously open to the public for many years and, in such event, whether these will now be out of bounds to the public?

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

1. Yes—on the 19th May, 1967, Royal assent was given to the Commonwealth Department of the Interior acquiring by compulsory process, Nelson pier and about 170 feet of adjacent water frontage, together with two areas of land inshore of this and adjacent to the then existing western boundary of the Naval Dockyard. This was published in the Commonwealth Government Gazette No. 47 of the the 1st June, 1967.

(a) No private land was involved; most of the land concerned was under the control of the Trust, with the exception of two small areas, one with a water frontage which, although vested in or owned by the Trust, were actually under the control of the Department of the Navy—having been sequestered during the world wars;

(b) The land was acquired by compulsory process, the resulting compensation being negotiated;

(c) Compensation paid amounted to $578,037—

(i) the above amount was paid into the Melbourne Harbor Trust Fund;

(ii) see answer to (i);

(d) The area acquired includes part of a former access road and an alternative access road will be provided by the Commonwealth on Trust land in lieu.

The alternative road will be available and open to the public in the normal manner.

The area acquired also included Nelson pier which was previously open to the public when under Trust control.

The manner in which the Commonwealth will administer this pier with regard to access by the public is not known to the Trust.

CROWN LAND.

RE-ALLOCATION.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Premier—

Whether he will give consideration to having an inventory compiled of lands which are vested in various Departments but not used and not likely to be used, to enable these lands to be re-allocated to Departments and instrumentalities such as the Victorian Housing Commission which is in urgent need of free land to construct low-rental and lone-person units?

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

All Departments, when they require land, survey the area and any land held by another Department is first considered.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

ACQUISITION OF POINT GELLIBRAND.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Premier—

Why the Government allowed the "take-over" of the area known as Point Gellibrand, Williamstown, by the Melbourne Harbor Trust from the Commonwealth Government in view of his virtually giving his approval and support to the fight of the Williamstown City Council from 1948, by writing to the then Prime Minister (Right Honorable Sir Robert Menzies), in February, 1962, seeking release of the land for housing in accordance with the council's desires?

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

As the honorable member is aware, the land taken over by the Melbourne Harbor Trust was in lieu of land taken over from the Trust by the Commonwealth. It is understood that details of these transactions were given to the honorable member in a recent letter from my colleague, the Honorable M. V. Porter, M.L.A., Minister of Public Works.

OIL WHARVES IN YARRA RIVER.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Public Works—

1. Whether, in view of the fact that local members of Parliament have repeatedly stressed the dangers of the present position of the oil wharves in the Yarra river, the Melbourne Harbor Trust has any immediate plans for the re-location of these wharves; if so, whether these plans are secret and, in that event, for what reason?

2. In the event that there are plans and there is no reason for secrecy, why, in the interests of good public relations, local members and municipal councillors, who have constantly expressed concern, cannot be informed of what improvements to the present dangerous situation are contemplated?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—These questions refer to the removal of the oil terminals on the Yarra river, and I think we are
on common ground because everybody wants them moved. The answers are—

1. (a) Yes—it is proposed to take the present terminals out of commission by early 1969;
   (b) No—the plans are not secret.
2. The reason that the Trust’s proposals have not yet been announced is that finality has not been reached on the best practical location.

NATURAL GAS.

PRICE: SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Premier—

1. Whether the natural gas maximum price is 3.21 cents a therm; if so, why this was not revealed in the official price list release?
2. Whether no new suppliers can supply the Gas and Fuel Corporation until the contract for natural gas with Esso-B.H.P. has been in operation for five years after natural gas is available to consumers in Melbourne?
3. Whether the Government will release, as a matter of urgency, including the price formula and the so-called escape clauses, of the agreement between Esso-B.H.P. and the Gas and Fuel Corporation?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answers are—

1. (a) The price of natural gas for the first three years will vary between 2.58 cents and 3 cents a therm at the treatment plant at Dutson and thereafter it will vary between 2.58 cents and 3.21 cents a therm depending on the volumes taken.
   (b) No official price list has yet been released.
2. This is correct and this provision forms part of the letter of intent between Esso-B.H.P. and the Gas and Fuel companies.
3. Certain aspects of the agreement between Esso-B.H.P. and the Gas and Fuel Corporation have not yet been finalized; and, accordingly, I am not prepared to release details of the agreement at this stage of proceedings.

AUDITOR-GENERAL’S REPORT.

AVAILABILITY.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Premier—

Whether it is expected that the Auditor-General’s report for the last financial year will be available for the consideration of honorable members prior to the Budget debate; if not, why?

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

I can give no assurances regarding the Auditor-General’s report, and I do not believe I should attempt to do so. I am not seeking knowledge as to when his report will be available.

LOAN COUNCIL.

SUBMISSION BY VICTORIA.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Treasurer—

If he will lay on the table of the Library details of the basis of the detailed submission made by the State of Victoria to the recent Loan Council meeting; if not, why?

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

Loan Council meetings are always held in camera and all discussions are confidential.

PAY-ROLL TAX.

TAX ON TEACHERS’ SALARIES.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Treasurer—

Whether the salaries of teachers employed in non-Education Department schools and Victorian Education Department schools, respectively, are subject to pay-roll tax; if so—(a) whether the pay-roll tax is charged against the Education vote in Victoria; and (b) what pay-roll tax on teachers’ salaries is estimated for this financial year and what amount of pay-roll tax was paid during each of the last five financial years?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answers are—

1. Pay-roll tax is paid on the salaries of teachers employed in Victorian Education Department schools and is charged against the Treasury vote covering pay-roll tax payments—this financial year Division No. 47. In respect of non-Education Department schools, an exemption from the payment of pay-roll tax is provided for certain schools under the provisions of section 15 of the Commonwealth Payroll Tax Assessment Act.
2. The estimated cost of pay-roll tax on teachers’ salaries this financial year is $2,680,000. Payments over the last five financial years were as follows:—
   1962–63 . . . . . $1,544,959
   1963–64 . . . . . $1,708,783
   1964–65 . . . . . $1,875,338
   1965–66 . . . . . $2,076,826
   1966–67 . . . . . $2,313,852
RURAL FINANCE.

ADVANCES: BAD DEBTS.

Mr. STONEHAM (Midlands) asked the Treasurer—

1. Since 1948-49, what advances have been made or renewed, respectively, each financial year by the Rural Finance Corporation, and later by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission, in respect of—
   (a) primary industries; (b) secondary industries; and (c) Government agency business?

2. What are the locations at which secondary industries have been assisted each year in respect of (b) and (c) of question No. 1 above?

3. What bad debts have been written off each year, in each of the categories shown in question No. 1 above?

4. How many secondary industries to which advances have been made have fallen into receivership, and what individual losses were incurred by the Corporation or Commission as a result of the failure of the firms concerned?

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—The answers to the questions consist of detailed statistics, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th></th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th></th>
<th>Government Agency</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advances</td>
<td>Renewals</td>
<td>Advances</td>
<td>Renewals</td>
<td>Advances</td>
<td>Renewals</td>
</tr>
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<td>To 30th June, 1951</td>
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<td>1,612</td>
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<td>1953-54</td>
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<td>1,624</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954-55</td>
<td>2,749</td>
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<td>2,749</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td>2,357</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,357</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1956-57</td>
<td>2,122</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,122</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1957-58</td>
<td>2,675</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,675</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2,497</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1959-60</td>
<td>2,269</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,269</td>
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<td>1960-61</td>
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<td>2,446</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961-62</td>
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<td>226</td>
<td>2,896</td>
<td>226</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td>2,660</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>2,660</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>3,464</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>3,464</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>3,539</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>3,539</td>
<td>475</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>3,696</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>3,696</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>3,639</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>3,639</td>
<td>438</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. It is not possible to give the location of secondary industry loans year by year, as statistics are not kept in this fashion. However, since the inception of the Rural Finance Corporation, loans have been made to assist secondary industry in the following locations:—

Alexandra.
Avoca.
Bacchus Marsh.
Bairnsdale.
Ballarat.
Barwon Downs.
Beaufort.
Bendigo.
Benalla.
Bright.
Bruthen.
Campersdown.
Charlton.
Club Terrace.
Cobram.
Cobungra.
Colac.
Dartmoor.
Dandenong.
Drouin.
Dundowie.
Edenhope.
Euroa.
Frankston.
Gaffney's Creek.
Geelong.
Gelantipy.
Girgarre.
Glen Annie.
Glen Thompson.
Hamilton.
Harcourt.
Hastings.
Healesville.
Heathcote.
Heyfield.
Horsham.
Invergordon.
Katunga.
Kerang.
Kilmore.
Kongwak.
Koondrook.

Korumburra.
Kyneton.
Lancefield.
Lindendy.
Lithgow.
Lithgow.
Lancefield.
Lindendy.
Mansfield.
Maryvale.
Mildura.
Mooroolbark.
Moe.
Nathalia.
Omeo.
Pakenham East.
Porepunkah.
Portland.
Queenscliff.
Robinvalle.
Rochester.
Rushworth.
Sebastopol.
Seymour.
Shepparton.
Sorrento.
Stanhope.
Stawell.
Swanpool.
Tatura.
Traralgon.
Tyabb.
Wangaratta.
Warragul.
Warracknabeal.
Wantirna.
Wedderburn.
Wonthaggi.
Woodend.
Woods Point.
Wodonga.
Woodside.
Yarragon.
Yea.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Primary Part III. Rural Finance Act</th>
<th>Secondary Part III. Rural Finance Act</th>
<th>Government Agency</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958-59</td>
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<td>1961-62</td>
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<td>1962-63</td>
<td>1,449</td>
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<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>2,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Session 1967.—10

4. There have been three cases of secondary industries assisted under Part III. of the Rural Finance Act which have fallen into receivership. No loss was incurred in one of these and finality has not yet been reached in the other two cases. There have been three cases assisted with Government agency loans which have gone into receivership. No loss was involved in one case and losses involved with the other two cases amount to $9,544 and $22,245.

MOTOR CAR ACT.

Constitutions: Fines.

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

1. How many motorists were convicted in the last financial year for breaches of the Motor Car Act 1958?
2. What total amount of fines was imposed?
3. Into what fund or funds these fines were paid?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—

The answers are—

1. The information sought by the honorable member is not readily available. To obtain this information would require a physical check of between 130,000 and 140,000 briefs of evidence.

2. $935,722.
3. (a) Revenue $888,566
(b) Transport Regulation Fund 47,156

Total 935,722

Driving Licences: Age and Testing of Holders.

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

1. How many persons licensed to drive motor vehicles in Victoria are over 60, 70, 80 and 90 years of age, respectively?
2. What check (if any) is made in the interests of public safety to ensure these persons are mentally and physically adequate to drive a vehicle?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—

As the answers to this question are lengthy, I ask leave of the House to have them recorded in Hansard without my reading them.

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

1. The information requested is not readily available. Obtaining the information would necessitate a physical search of all current drivers' licence records. However, recently a block of 4,000 drivers'
licences were checked in an endeavour to ascertain how many licence holders were over the age of 65 years, 70 years, 80 years and 90 years, respectively. Applying the percentages indicated to the total number of licensed drivers, Mr. Hickey suggested the following approximate number of persons in the respective age groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66 years to 69 years inclusive</td>
<td>32,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 years to 79 years inclusive</td>
<td>26,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 years to 89 years inclusive</td>
<td>4,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 years and over</td>
<td>Not included in sample.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Irrespective of age, when a person applies for a driver’s licence he is requested to supply certain information in relation to his state of health and is then required to sign a declaration stating that the information is correct. Where there is any doubt as to the fitness of the person to be issued with a driver’s licence, he is requested to supply a medical certificate so that consideration may be given to his application.

In cases where a person already holds a driver’s licence and information is received to the effect that the person concerned may be suffering from a condition of health which, while driving a motor vehicle, could constitute a grave danger to such person and other road users, the Chief Commissioner of Police requests the driver to arrange for a report furnished by a medical practitioner to be submitted within a prescribed period in order that consideration may be given to the question of permitting the person concerned to retain his driver’s licence. In cases where a disability is suffered the Chief Commissioner of Police may also require the person concerned to undergo a driving test.

Where information is received which raises doubt as to the qualifications of any person to drive a motor vehicle, for reasons other than a health condition, the Chief Commissioner of Police requests such person to undergo a driving test within a prescribed period.

In any case where a medical report is not satisfactory or has not been furnished within the prescribed period, or a driving test is not performed satisfactorily or the person concerned has failed to present himself for the test, the Chief Commissioner of Police is empowered to cancel the driver’s licence of any such person in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Car Act 1958.

### TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD

#### APPLICATION FOR AGENCY.

**Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown)** asked the Chief Secretary—

If he will lay on the table of the Library the file relating to the application of Mr. K. J. Hickey of 39 Edgar-street, West Footscray, for a T.A.B. agency?

**Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—** Applications for appointment to the staff of the Totalizator Agency Board and to agencies are made to the Board and are not in the custody of my Department. In fact, it has been the practice of the Chief Secretary’s Department not to interfere with or have anything to do with these appointments. I feel sure that the general manager of the Board would be only too pleased to supply the honorable member with any information relating to the application which he may desire.

### GEELONG TRAINING PRISON.

#### ACCOMMODATION.

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

1. How many cells are available for occupation by prisoners at the Geelong Training Prison?

2. What is the maximum number of prisoners accommodated in any such cells?

3. How many of these cells are equipped with normal sewerage facilities and running water, and what is the procedure for prisoners in relation to sewerage and water demands in those cells not properly equipped in relation to normal standards?

**Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—** The answers are—

1. Ninety-four single-bed cells.
   - Seven four-bed cells.
   - Six six-bed cells.

2. Six.

3. A night-tub is available in each single cell, and two or more in community cells, for sanitary purposes. A vessel of water is available in each community cell. Prisoners take their own pannikins of water to single cells.

### SOCIAL SERVICES.

#### BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE.

**Mr. WILKES (Northcote)** asked the Chief Secretary—

1. In view of the increasing interdependence of benefits paid by the Commonwealth and State agencies, what steps have been taken by the Government to overcome present difficulties?

2. Whether a meeting has been held between responsible parties; if so, with what result; if not, whether it is the intention of the Government to hold such a meeting in the immediate future?
3. What additional benefits could be made available for single persons or childless couples not covered by special assistance as in the case where children are involved?

4. Whether the Government considers the present rate of special assistance adequate?

5. What is the present formula for determining adequate benefits?

6. Why this formula has not been made public?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers to this question are detailed, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard, without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:

1. Arrangements have been initiated by the Commonwealth for a conference with the States to examine the position. This will take place on the earliest mutually acceptable date.

2. See answer to question No. 1.

3. The Commonwealth provides benefit payments for adult persons awaiting employment, and pensions for those incapable of employment.

The State provides for children alone, and never has provided for any class of adult persons.

4. It should be borne in mind that a referendum of the electors of Australia handed over to the Federal Government the responsibility of providing social service benefits. The actions of the State Government since 1946 have been to supplement the Commonwealth social service benefits where, in its opinion, they are not adequate.

To ensure that the people of Victoria are able to bring up their families under reasonable conditions, the State Government is prepared to supplement a family's income up to what it considers is an amount necessary to ensure that the children are properly maintained.

Provision has been made in the present Budget for an increase of 10 per cent. in the formula for assistance payments, in recognition of increases in the cost of living.

$ per week.

5. The new formula is—

Mother and one child ... 12.65
Mother and two children 15.30
Mother and three children 18.05
Mother and four children 20.45
Mother and five children 22.55
Mother and six children ... 24.40
Parents and one child ... 20.35
Parents and two children 22.45
Parents and three children 24.65
Parents and four children 26.50
Parents and five children 28.15
Parents and six children 29.35

6. Full details of the formula then in operation were given by the Chief Secretary on 12th September, 1962, in answer to a question from the then honorable member for Fitzroy, and were published in Hansard, No. 2, issued on 15th September, 1962.

INCIDENCE OF POVERTY IN VICTORIA.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Premier—

Whether he has had any inquiry made into poverty and its areas of incidence in the Victorian community, with the object of establishing the extent of need and the means by which those so suffering can live in dignity and security; if so, what was the nature of the inquiry and what action is proposed?

For Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), Mr. G. O. Reid (Attorney-General).—The answer is "No."

VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES.

SUBSIDIES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether the Government subsidizes voluntary welfare agencies through the Hospitals and Charities Commission; if so—(a) what are the criteria for such subsidies; (b) how funds are allocated as compared with allocations for hospitals; and (c) whether adjustments to allocations are made according to raised cost of services?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The information sought by the honorable member concerns the Department of Health, and my colleague, the Minister of Health, has supplied the following answers:

1. Yes. A limited number of voluntary welfare organizations registered under the Hospitals and Charities Act are subsidized through the Hospitals and Charities Fund.

2. The subsidy granted to an organization is based upon an assessment made of its financial position and programme of activities.

3. The needs of hospitals and institutions receive first priority and subsidies to voluntary welfare organizations are necessarily dependent upon the balance of funds available.

4. Any increase in operational costs of voluntary welfare organizations is considered when subsidies are being determined.
PROFESSIONAL WORKERS IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S HOSTELS: SUBSIDIES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. Whether the Government subsidizes or proposes to subsidize professional workers in young people's hostels run by voluntary agencies in conjunction with the Youth Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Branch; if so, what are the conditions of subsidy?

2. How many new hostels were opened last year?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The answers are—

1. No. The Government does, however, subsidize the expenditures of approved voluntary hostels for buildings, renovations and furniture. It also subsidizes the board paid by young persons living in such hostels.

2. Whilst no new hostels were opened last year, grants totalling $49,294 have been made to approved voluntary hostels during the years 1965-66 and 1966-67.

SALARIES OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS: SUBSIDIES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether consideration has been given to subsidizing the salaries of professional social workers employed by voluntary agencies; if so, with what result?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—Discussions are currently taking place with the Treasury on this matter. I assure the honorable member that the Government is doing everything within its power to assist agencies to augment their services.

SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH.

ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS: LOCAL SERVICES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether the Government has any plans to set up local professional welfare services to assist families and individuals with social welfare problems in districts where such services are unavailable?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The Social Welfare Branch has established regional offices giving the services mentioned and other services at Mildura, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Morwell and Shepparton, and suburban offices at Dandenong, Frankston and Preston. Others are to be brought into operation when finance is available.

The police and the clerks of courts in all of those areas—particularly in country areas—are aware of the social service benefits available. It is part of their duties to supply information to people who inquire. Incidentally, there is also a close liaison between the Commonwealth and State Social Services Departments, and information is available from the Commonwealth officers.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether the Government is aware that the New South Wales Child Welfare Department has had a community education officer for a number of years; if so, whether the Government has given consideration to the appointment of a similar officer in Victoria?

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

1. Yes.

2. Not at this stage as the Government believes there are more pressing appointments to be filled.

ARRANGEMENTS WITH HOUSING COMMISSION.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What arrangements exist between the Social Welfare Branch and the Housing Commission to help lessen the number of children now finding their way into substitute care because of housing difficulties, and how successful any such arrangements have been?

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

Good co-operation exists, and the Commission assists where practicable. In fact, it has rendered considerable assistance in many instances.

RESEARCH INTO CHILD CARE.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What research has been undertaken into child care to enable different forms of care to be properly evaluated and what staff is available to undertake such research?
Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answer is—
A research project is in course, under direction of a committee of departmental, voluntary and advisory council representatives, using the research and statistical staff of the Social Welfare Branch.

FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION.

Foster Care and Adoption Section: Staff: Expansion of Foster Care.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—
1. What additional staff has been appointed to the Foster Care and Adoption Section, Family Welfare Division, since publication of Survey of Child Care in Victoria 1962-1964?
2. Whether this number is considered adequate to expand foster care and adoption without weakening standards of selection of foster and adoptive parents?
3. What progress has been made with expanding foster care by enlisting the cooperation and partnership of voluntary organizations?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are—
1. Five social workers; three administrative officers; three typists.
2. Not wholly but, having regard to other departmental commitments, the staffing position cannot be said to be unsatisfactory.
3. A pilot scheme organized in conjunction with the Superintendents' and Matrons' Association has produced some increase in the number of wards in foster care. The scheme is about to be reviewed to see if the operation can be accelerated.

Children's Homes Section: Staff: Review and Planning of Work.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—
1. What additional staff has been appointed for the Children's Homes Section, Family Welfare Division, since publication of Survey of Child Care in Victoria 1962-1964 to enable the regular review and planning for all wards, and visits to be made to all institutions on a regular basis?
2. How many wards are at present under supervision—(a) of the Children's Homes Section; (b) in departmental institutions; (c) in approved children's homes; (d) on home release; and (e) by others?
3. What staff is available for supervision of these wards and whether the Government plans to increase staff for supervision of such wards?

4. What provision is now made for regular review and planning for all wards?
5. How regularly institutions are visited?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are—
1. One senior professional officer.
2. (a) Total 4,601 (including (b), (c), (d) and (e).
   (b) 483.
   (c) 2,335.
   (d) 1,600.
   (e) (i) 183 boarded out with relatives;
   (ii) 656 in foster care; (iii) 139 pending adoption.
3. Full-time of eleven officers; plus part of time of fifteen officers. Further staff would be added as funds become available.
4. Every ward is subject of short and long-term planning.
5. Fortnightly at departmental institutions; annually at voluntary institutions.

Allambie Reception Centre: Decentralization: Staff Accommodation: Separation of Sexes.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—
1. What decentralized reception centres have been provided to help relieve the continual pressure on Allambie and to avoid moving children from their own localities?
2. What progress has been made with the construction of adequate staff quarters at Allambie Reception Centre?
3. Whether separate reception centres have been planned for—(a) girls alleged to be sexually promiscuous or likely to lapse into a career of vice or crime; and (b) boys charged with offences?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are—
1. Reception centres have been established at Ballarat and Mildura.
   An arrangement is made at Bendigo, too, where children can be accommodated, if required.
2. Quarters for twenty staff have been completed and are occupied.
3. (a) Yes, in plan for erection at Bundoora (with new Youth Training and Remand Centre).
   (b) Yes, in construction at Turana.

Placement of Babies: Accommodation.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—
1. In view of the grave shortage of suitable substitute care for babies, what provision has been made for their placement with families or in small groups rather than in congregate babies' homes?
2. What additional accommodation has been provided for children unable to make close relationships because of emotionally disturbed family backgrounds?

3. What increased services and facilities for babies whose adoption is arranged under the 1964 legislation has been provided for the Family Welfare Division?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are—

1. Twenty-five babies are placed temporarily with private families. A statutory/voluntary committee is currently exploring ways to increase this number.

2. Some additional accommodation for these children has been provided with the opening of “Iloura” at Balwyn in 1965 and “Ashendene” at Olinda in 1966. Also $10,000 has been provided in the current loan works programme for the purchase of land from the Housing Commission for the building of further family group homes.

3. Eight additional staff (three professional, three administrative and two typists) plus additional office accommodation, have been provided.

FAMILY COUNSELLING SECTION: STAFF.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

What increased staff has been provided for the family counselling section, Family Welfare Division, since publication of Survey of Child Care in Victoria 1962–1964?

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

None so far, but this matter is under consideration and will be dealt with when more urgent needs have been met.

YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION. INSTITUTIONS: STANDARDS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What progress has been made with standards for institutional care for children?

2. What numbers and percentages of wards in institutions are in family group homes in—(a) departmental institutions; and (b) approved children’s homes?

3. Whether provisions have been made for—(a) homes in small units to accommodate 30 girls, from eleven to fifteen years, with problems of control; and (b) a home in small units, for 30 boys of a similar age group, with similar problems?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are—

1. The Family Welfare Advisory Council has this under consideration.

2. (a) 88 = 19 per cent.;
   (b) 468 = 20 per cent.

3. (a) Yes;
   (b) Yes.

“REQUIRED INCOME” FORMULA.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What is the present “required income” formula used for payment of assistance to children in necessitous circumstances?

2. When the formula was last revised and what consideration has been given to further revision?

3. What is the present maximum rate of assistance and when this rate was last revised?

4. How many families receive less than they might otherwise under the “required income” formula, because of the maximum rate restriction and what is the justification for the maximum rate to parents being less than that paid to foster parents?

5. Whether the Government has considered abolishing the maximum rate, and using only an up-to-date formula?

6. What is the present amount of emergency assistance available to a family and when the amount was set?

7. Whether emergency assistance or further assistance is available for single persons or childless couples?

8. Whether the Government is aware of the position in other States with the provision of assistance to single persons or childless couples?

9. What publicity is given to the availability of State financial assistance?

10. What provisions exist for any appeal against rejection of State assistance?

11. What consideration has been given to assessment of the adequacy of assistance to meet the real living expenses of children who are without sufficient means of support?

12. What official discussions have taken place following the Commonwealth Government’s Budget proposal to subsidize State financial assistance?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are lengthy and statistical, and I seek leave for their incorporation in Hansard, without my reading them.
Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:

1. $ per week
   - Mother and one child: 12.65
   - Mother and two children: 15.30
   - Mother and three children: 18.05
   - Mother and four children: 20.45
   - Mother and five children: 22.55
   - Mother and six children: 24.40

2. The figures quoted in answer No. 1 contain increases announced in the Government's present Budget.

3. The former maximum rate of $3.50 per week per child has been increased to $4 in the present Budget.

4. Approximately 300.

Of the present total of 1,780 assisted cases, there are only 200 cases in which children are living with other than their own parents, but these children are not wards of the State. They cannot, therefore, be assisted at "ward foster" rates of $5.50 per week. They are assisted at the maximum rate for "assisted" cases, that is, $3.50 per week. This figure has been increased in the present Budget to $4 per week.

5. No. To do so would impose extra costs which could not be met with the funds available.

6. $20 in any one year, non-repayable and distinct from normal assistance, has been provided since 1963.

7. No. This is not within the charter of the Social Welfare Branch of the Chief Secretary's Department.

8. Yes.

9. Advice of availability is given by all voluntary agencies, country police officers, departmental regional and suburban officers, and all Commonwealth district registrars.

10. Statutory provision exists for appeal to the Minister.

11. The rates of assistance have been increased within the limits of available finance.

12. Arrangements have been initiated by the Commonwealth for a conference with the States to examine the position. This will take place on the earliest mutually acceptable date.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

CLOSURE OF COUNTRY STATIONS.

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

Whether the Government intends to close, in the near future, at least four country police stations; if so, where and why?

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

No. Four stations were, however, closed on 31st August last. These were situated at Avenel, Cowwarr, Talbot and Ultima. On 30th June last, the Middle Park sub-station was closed and on 31st July last, stations at Brunswick East and Brunswick West were also closed.

Recent reviews indicated that at the police stations already mentioned there was insufficient work to justify the stations remaining open and, further, a re-arrangement of police stations in the areas and districts concerned would provide for a more efficient and effective use to be made of the manpower available. The Chief Commissioner, therefore, recommended the closure of these police stations with a consequent re-organization of adjoining sub-districts.

I wish to stress that, with any police station that has been closed on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, this has been done in the interests of the community and has allowed police supervision to be better organized. In no case has there been a reduction of police protection in the areas concerned.

In this connexion, I would refer to the report of the Committee of Public Accounts to the House on the Police Department, where the committee commented on the number of one-man police stations in the country where there did not appear to be sufficient local activity to justify the retention of a police station in the area.

I can assure honorable members that the greatest care is exercised to ensure that police services to the areas where stations have been closed are not decreased, but in most cases services have actually been increased. I think six new stations have been opened.

SEATING IN WATCH-HOUSE CELLS.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Chief Secretary—

Whether it is the normal practice to provide fixed seating in suburban watch-house cells; if so, whether he will take action to provide fixed seating in the cells at the Brunswick police station?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answer is "No".

OVERTON DAY NURSERY, BENDIGO.

REQUEST FOR FILES.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Chief Secretary—

If he will lay on the table of the Library all the files dealing with the Overton Day Nursery, Bendigo?
Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answer is—

The files have been forwarded to the Librarian, Parliament House, to be laid on the table of the Library.

STATE INSURANCE OFFICES.
ACCIDENT AND MOTOR CAR BUSINESS.

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne) asked the Chief Secretary—

1. What was the profit of the State Accident Insurance Office for the year ended 30th June, 1967, in respect of—(a) underwriting business; and (b) investments, &c.?

2. What was the underwriting profit or loss of the State Motor Car Insurance Office for 1966-67 on—(a) comprehensive policies; and (b) compulsory third party policies?

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—
The answers are—

1. (a) $2,373,766.
   (b) $685,767.

2. (a) A profit of $210,750.
   (b) A loss of $1,010,894.

LAW DEPARTMENT.
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Attorney-General—

1. Whether, now that the roll of justices of the peace has been completed, he will advise—(a) how many of the enrolled justices are resident in each of the metropolitan State electorates; (b) whether there has been any reduction in the number of annual appointments due to the more stringent duty requirements of nominees laid down by the Law Department; and (c) what is the number of appointments for each of the last five years?

2. Why, in the event that there has been any reduction in the number of annual appointments due principally to the reason referred to in question No. 1 above, appointments are still being made in some electorates where the present number of justices far outnumber those of other electorates?

3. Whether he will consider giving an assurance that before a non-resident of an electorate is appointed a justice mainly for the purpose of serving the requirements of a particular business or industry in the electorate wherein he or she is employed—(a) the member of Parliament for the electorate where the applicant resides will be consulted; and (b) the applicant, if appointed, is to relinquish the commission if his or her place of employment is changed or alternatively will in such circumstances be required to re-apply in the normal manner for a further appointment?

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—The answers are—

1. (a) The position as to justices resident in each of the metropolitan State electorates is indicated by the list of registered justices distributed to members of the Legislative Assembly. It is not possible to provide immediately the information sought, as there is a large amount of work involved. However, the task of bringing the list up to date is now well advanced and a revised list will be distributed to members as soon as possible. I expect that this will be done by the end of the year.

   (b) Yes.

   (c) 1962 260
   1963 297
   1964 240
   1965 135
   1966 162
   1967 (to 12th September) 117

2. Appointments of justices are made not on the basis of equality of the number of appointments in electoral districts, but on the needs of particular areas. Each proposed appointment is considered in the light of all relevant circumstances.

3. (a) This is the current practice and will be continued.

   (b) I am unable to give any general assurance in this regard. I can only say that each case will be considered on its merits.

COMPANIES ACT.
Cox BROTHERS GROUP.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Attorney-General—

1. When the inquiry into all aspects of share dealings in the Cox Brothers group commenced?

2. Whether this inquiry is completed; if so, whether the report has been submitted to the Government, and in that event, when the report will be tabled in Parliament; if not, when it is anticipated that the report will be submitted to the Government?

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—The answers are—

1. 30th November, 1966.

2. I understand that the inspector has finished the taking of evidence and is now completing his report. I expect to receive the report within a few weeks and it will be tabled in Parliament as soon as practicable after receipt.
MUNICIPAL ROLLS.

METHOD OF COMPILATION: ERRORS.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. Whether the Government intends to inquire into the system under which municipal rolls are compiled?

2. Whether specific instances of names of deceased persons appearing on rolls have been brought to the notice of the Government; if so, what action it intends to take to avoid such grave errors in future elections?

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

1. No.

2. Two instances were brought to notice in respect of the recent State-wide municipal elections. Occasional errors are probably inevitable, as deaths are not always notified, but council officers generally are concerned to keep the rolls accurate and the present system whereby lists are made available for public inspection with opportunity for claims for and objections to enrolment to be determined by a revision court before the rolls are finalized is considered adequate.

MELBOURNE WATER SUPPLY.

RESTRICTIONS: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

1. If the Minister will ascertain and inform the House—(a) whether the metropolitan area is to be subject to water restrictions in the immediate future and, if so, what will be the likely extent of these restrictions; and (b) what is the total deficiency of all the reservoirs serving the metropolitan area as compared to this time last year and the year before?

2. Whether the Minister is aware that the Public Works Committee recommended in its first report on Melbourne's future water supply in late 1964 that, as a matter of urgency, the diversion of five creeks, namely the Mississippi, Cement, Armstrong's, McMahon's and Starvation creeks into the conduits serving the metropolitan area, thereby, by a simple engineering operation which would have cost about $1,000,000, augmenting metropolitan supply by the addition of 12,000 million gallons annually which was previously running to waste into the bay?

3. Now that the Government has adopted the recommendation to use four of these creeks in the manner recommended—(a) what are the reasons for the long delay in implementation; (b) when the work will commence; and (c) when the metropolitan area will reap the benefit of the diversions?

I realize that question No. 1 is now redundant, but it was placed on the Notice Paper before water restrictions were imposed.

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answers supplied by the Minister for Local Government include the information sought by the honorable member in question No. 1, and are as follows:—

1. (a) Water restrictions were imposed in Melbourne commencing 15th September, 1967. The restrictions are basically—

A ban on fixed sprinklers, except between 9 a.m. and noon.

No car-washing with hoses.

A ban on filling and cleaning private swimming pools, except between 9 a.m. and noon.

(b) On the 18th September, 1966, there were 19,688 million gallons more water in the storages serving Melbourne than there is to-day.

On the 18th September, 1965, this figure was 21,308 million gallons.

2. The committee reported that the water from the five creeks would be required by the year 1974 to provide, under dry seasonal conditions, for an expected metropolitan population of 2,700,000.

3. The water from the four principal creeks will be progressively diverted by 1970 under a phased programme agreed with the Board of Works as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catchment</th>
<th>Estimated Yield (Million Gallons per Annnum.)</th>
<th>Date of Handover</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McMahon's creek</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>31st May, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starvation creek</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>31st May, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cement creek</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>31st May, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong's creek</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>31st May, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of Public Works, for the Minister for Local Government—

If he will ascertain and inform the House—

1. What action (if any) is proposed to reduce the odours believed to emanate from the sewerage farm at Werribee which are inconveniencing Geelong residents?

2. Whether he considers the present method of handling sewage at the farm could be improved to reduce odours; if so, how?

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

(1) Some odours do emanate from the farm, but the Board of Works contends that they are not the cause of any inconveniences which Geelong residents may be suffering. Complaints from the Geelong City Council, and from members of Parliament representing the district, have been investigated on numerous occasions, but the Board has not been able to accept responsibility and has pointed to possible local sources, such as a meat works, a refinery, a cement works and seaweed contaminated by local drains.

(2) The Board is constantly reviewing its purification activities at the farm, so as to keep its methods up to date, and this will continue.

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

1. How many of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works overflows discharge raw sewage into the Yarra river and under what circumstances this occurs?

2. What approximate annual quantity of sewage is so discharged?

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

During and immediately after heavy rainfall, sewage diluted by stormwater could discharge for short periods into the Yarra river by one or all of five overflows. The two major ones are allowed to discharge only after settlement of the sewage has taken place. The number of such overflow points is being reduced progressively.

Based on measurements the estimated total discharge from these diluted overflows varies from 50,000,000 to 200,000,000 gallons per year, depending on the wetness of the particular year.

By way of comparison the Minister has supplied this information: The average annual discharge of undiluted raw sewage to the metropolitan farm—I emphasize that it is to the farm at Werribee—is approximately 37,000 million gallons.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura) asked the Minister of Public Works—

1. What moneys were made available to Victoria from the Commonwealth Aid Roads Fund in the last five financial years?

2. What is the method of distribution to municipalities?

3. What amounts have been allocated to councils in the present Mildura electoral district over the last five financial years?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—The answers are rather lengthy and contain a great many figures; therefore, I suggest that I be granted leave to have the answers incorporated in Hansard, without my reading them.
Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:—

Last five financial years.

1. Financial Year. Amount.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td>$21,753,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>$22,824,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964-65</td>
<td>$25,575,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td>$27,507,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>$29,442,658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 127,104,255

Of these amounts, approximately $400,000 per annum was made available to the Public Works Department for expenditure on the construction of works that are not roads but are directly connected with transport by road or water, in accordance with sub-section (5) of section 5 of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act 1964.

2. The Country Roads Board allocates the funds to municipalities for road and bridge works throughout the State.

Before the beginning of each financial year municipal councils throughout Victoria are asked by the Board to submit applications for funds for works on main and unclassified roads. These applications also indicate the degree of priority accorded the various works by the councils.

Many factors are taken into account by the Board when allocating funds, both for its own direct works and for works under the supervision of the various municipal councils throughout Victoria.

Applications for funds are invariably far in excess of the amount available to the Board for allocation. The Board must therefore carefully examine each application and distribute its funds according to road needs and bearing in mind the priorities accorded them by the councils. Variations in total amounts granted each year may occur as road needs vary from year to year and from place to place.

Other factors taken into consideration by the Board in deciding the level of allocations include regional economic development and settlement, availability and relative cost of road making materials, and the climate and topography of the area.

The distribution of Commonwealth Aid Roads funds to municipal councils is also affected by sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act 1964 which provides that at least 40 per cent. of the amount made available to each State under this Act shall be expended on the construction of roads in rural areas (including developmental roads, feeder roads, roads in sparsely populated areas and in soldier settlement areas and roads in country municipalities and shires), other than highways, trunk roads and main roads.

3. The following table shows the amounts allocated from Commonwealth Aid Road funds to the municipalities in the Mildura electoral district over the past five financial years, for works on main and unclassified roads. The figures do not include allocations made for the construction and maintenance of main roads from other funds available to the Board for this purpose.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karkarooc Shire</td>
<td>$95,208</td>
<td>$105,286</td>
<td>$96,258</td>
<td>$93,801</td>
<td>$82,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura City</td>
<td>$34,998</td>
<td>$29,480</td>
<td>$39,704</td>
<td>$37,464</td>
<td>$38,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildura Shire</td>
<td>$149,718</td>
<td>$133,908</td>
<td>$140,866</td>
<td>$138,256</td>
<td>$131,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Swan Hill Shire</td>
<td>$150,448</td>
<td>$183,386</td>
<td>$173,572</td>
<td>$173,491</td>
<td>$193,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walpeup Shire</td>
<td>$102,754</td>
<td>$61,832</td>
<td>$67,816</td>
<td>$71,265</td>
<td>$74,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Wycheproof Shire</td>
<td>$102,684</td>
<td>$123,816</td>
<td>$139,330</td>
<td>$131,219</td>
<td>$118,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>$635,810</td>
<td>$637,708</td>
<td>$657,546</td>
<td>$645,496</td>
<td>$638,018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Only partly within the Mildura electoral district.

In addition to main and unclassified roads a total amount of approximately $41,000,000 has been expended from Commonwealth Aid Road funds on State highways throughout Victoria during the last five years. The Mildura electorate has approximately 12 per cent. of the total mileage of State highways in Victoria and it may therefore be assumed that an approximate amount of $4-5,000,000 has been expended on such roads in the electorate during the period.
MARIBYRNONG RIVER.
REPLACEMENT OF CORDITE-AVENUE BRIDGE.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Public Works—

In connexion with negotiations between the Country Roads Board, the Commonwealth Department of Supply and the Department of the Interior, regarding the siting of a proposed new bridge over the Maribyrnong river at Cordite-avenue—

(a) whether agreement between the Country Roads Board and the Commonwealth Departments is being achieved; (b) what date has been set by the Department of Supply as the deadline for completion of negotiations; (c) what is the estimate by the Department of Supply of the sum to be paid to the Commonwealth for compensation in respect of the land involved for re-siting of the buildings; and (d) whether this compensation will be paid by the Country Roads Board?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works)—The answer is—

(a) Negotiations are proceeding and further advice from the Minister for the Interior is at present being awaited.

(b) No date has been set for completion of negotiations.

(c) The Department of Supply has advised that the cost of building alterations and transfer of certain facilities is estimated at $50,000. No estimate for land has been supplied.

(d) The compensation will be paid by the Board in the first instance as a charge against the project, to which municipal contribution will be required.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
ONCOST CHARGES TO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Public Works—

Whether the Public Works Department charges 12½ per cent. for plans for new buildings and allied facilities required by the Education Department; if so, whether the fees are a charge against the Education vote and, in that event, what are—(a) the estimated total fees to be charged to the Education Department during each of the last five financial years; and (c) the method of dispersal of these fees within the Public Works Department?

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works)—The answer is—

The Public Works Department does not make a flat charge of 12½ per cent. for plans for new buildings, and allied facilities required by the Education Department.

The Department makes a charge to recover the actual overhead costs incurred on the design and supervision of works projects of all Departments including the Education Department, together with the administrative costs associated therewith.

The actual rate of this charge in 1966–67 was 11.66 per cent.

The charges for design, supervision and administration are not charges against Education Department vote funds but are met from a special allocation of loan funds made available for the purpose.

(d) the estimated total charge by the Public Works Department in 1966–67 for design, supervision and administration in respect of new school buildings and ancillary works to be carried out on behalf of the Education Department is $2,300,000.

(b) the total design, supervision and administration charges for new buildings and ancillary works on behalf of the Education Department during each of the past five financial years were—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962–63</td>
<td>$1,540,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963–64</td>
<td>$1,829,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964–65</td>
<td>$1,988,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965–66</td>
<td>$2,026,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966–67</td>
<td>$2,189,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) The amount recovered in respect of design, supervision and administration charges is used to meet the fees of outside professional architects and other consultants where these are employed or is credited to Consolidated Revenue to recoup actual expenditure by way of salaries and other costs of the Public Works Department met from Consolidated Revenue in the first instance.

HOUSING COMMISSION.
GEELONG AREA: UNITS OCCUPIED BY DESERTED WIVES.

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

1. How many deserted wives occupying Housing Commission units were registered at the Geelong Housing Commission office as at August, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967, respectively?

2. On each of the above dates, what was the estimated percentage of Housing Commission rental units in the Geelong area occupied by such persons?
Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—

1. Deserted wives in common with other categories of persons on restricted incomes are eligible for consideration in respect of Commission homes at Geelong.

No specific records are kept as to the number of deserted wives who may be tenants at particular times and therefore the information required in relation to previous years is not available.

However, a recent survey of portion of the Norlane estate disclosed that in a group of approximately 600 houses, 41 were tenanted by persons now classed as deserted wives. Not all of these may have been so classified when they first entered into occupation.

2. The percentage arrived at in the partial survey mentioned above was approximately 7 per cent.

PROVISION OF PLAYING SPACE.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

Whether, as creative play is such an important facet of healthy development, the Government is prepared to review the Housing Commission's charter to allow for provision of play space and the necessary leadership in respect of existing and future estates?

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

The Housing Commission in all current developments makes provision for play space and for the supply of the necessary equipment.

In addition it has been successful in encouraging in each of its larger projects the formation of community committees which function independently of the Commission and which provide the necessary leadership and supervision of all playing and recreation facilities.

The Playgrounds Association and certain municipal councils also liaise with the Commission in this regard and contribute valuable assistance.

SUNSHINE ELECTORATE: ACCOMMODATION: RENTALS: SALE OF HOMES: WAITING TIME.

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

1. How many—(a) two-bedroom flats; (b) three-bedroom flats; (c) two-bedroom houses; and (d) three-bedroom houses, respectively, are in the Sunshine electoral district?

2. What are the minimum and maximum rentals of the above units?

3. How many houses are being purchased?

4. How many flats and houses, respectively, became vacant in the twelve months ended August, 1967?

5. What is the waiting time for occupation of these units?

6. What additional housing the Housing Commission proposes to construct in the district?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are of a statistical nature and fairly lengthy. Therefore, I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard, without my reading them.

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

I presume the honorable member is referring to Housing Commission accommodation.

1. 208 two-bedroom flats
   Nil three-bedroom flats
   464 two-bedroom houses
   930 three-bedroom houses—erected by the Housing Commission in the Sunshine electoral district.

2. Minimum rentals charged by the Commission are—

   Two-bedroom . . . . $7.75
   Three-bedroom . . . $8.25

Maximum rentals charged by the Commission are—

   Two-bedroom . . . . $10.00
   Three-bedroom . . . $10.50

3. Currently, there are 363 homes being purchased from the Commission.

4. Twenty-six Housing Commission flats and 41 Housing Commission houses in the Sunshine electoral district were vacated in the year ended August, 1967.

5. Flats—two-bedroom—18 months.

   There are no three-bedroom flats involved.

   Houses—There are no applicants for two-bedroom houses on the waiting list for this area.

   Three-bedroom houses—22 months.

6. The Commission has no current proposal to erect additional housing in the Sunshine electoral district.

BALLARAT AREA: HOUSING FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

Mr. STEPHEN (Ballaarat South) asked the Minister of Housing—

Whether he is aware that the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service has been canvassing his agents in Ballarat to ascertain if Housing Commission houses can be made available for 100 families it proposed to bring to Ballarat
from South Australia; if so, whether the Housing Commission has any plans for an immediate crash programme of building in the Wendouree, Ballarat East or Sebastopol areas to assist in housing these newcomers who are so badly needed to supplement the work force needed for industrial expansion in Ballarat?

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

The only information regarding possible movement of families from South Australia to Ballarat is based on a telephone call received at the office of the Commission's agent at Ballarat from the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service.

This appears to have been a tentative inquiry only and, in reply, the present rate of housing vacancies was quoted for the premises situated in Smith-street, Kensington.

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. How many directions for demolition have been issued by the Housing Commission during 1967?

2. How many of such directions were in respect of premises situated within the municipality of the City of Melbourne, and of these how many were in Smith-street, Kensington?

3. Whether any of the orders referred to in question No. 2 above were issued without prior consultation with, or the receipt of a report from, an authorized officer of the Melbourne City Council; if so—(a) on how many occasions; and (b) for what reason?

4. Whether any of these orders were issued without the owners and/or occupiers being first given the opportunity to effect necessary or urgent repairs?

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

1. Up to the 14th September, 1967, notices have been served within the year 1967, requiring the demolition of 608 dwellings.

2. Of this figure 56 orders applied to premises within the municipality of the City of Melbourne, and six of that number were situated in Smith-street, Kensington.

3. A total of 27 reports resulting in orders for demolition were received from the authorized officer of the municipality of Melbourne in 1967, and 29 orders for demolition were issued in consequence of reports originated by Commission inspectors in the course of their duties.

Where orders were initiated by Commission officers, prior written advice of this intention was forwarded to the authorized officer at Melbourne City Council.

Owners had the right of appeal in all cases but none were received.

4. The occupiers of premises affected would, at the time of inspection, be informed of the Commission's interest and probability of notices being served.

It is not Commission policy however to notify a non-resident owner of a proposed order, prior to the service of notices, as it is the view that these persons have had ample opportunity over a period of years to adequately preserve and maintain the property, and where demolition is ordered, this action is taken because the dwelling has reached a stage where satisfactory repair has become impracticable.

It has been found also that in some cases, where a non-resident owner receives prior knowledge of an order, immediate steps are taken to sell the property to an unwary purchaser, with little knowledge of local housing conditions.

Mr. CLAREY.—The Minister had better get a better answer from people who know something about the matter. The Minister had better provide a different answer to people whom I know about.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The House will not tolerate any more from the honorable member.

Mr. CLAREY.—I ask that that be recorded in Hansard.

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. How many building blocks have been acquired in the township of Dimboola by the Aborigines Welfare Board since the Board was first constituted, how many houses have been built on this land, and, prior to the appointment of the property officer, who was responsible for recommending the acquisition of land?

2. What action has been taken to implement stage one of the report of the Lake Tyers Planning and Action Committee and what action has been taken in regard to the sixteen individual recommendations of stage one?
3. What action was taken to implement promises made in September, 1966, to residents of Lake Tyers in regard to—(a) house designs; and (b) siting of houses in the building programme recently completed?

4. Whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the recent report by ABSCHOL on Lake Tyers; if so, what action has been taken to implement the recommendations contained therein?

5. Whether, in view of representations made by the Australian Association of Social Workers, Victorian Branch, the Minister considers there has been frustration by the Board in regard to its social workers; if so, what steps have been taken to improve the position?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers consist of three pages of closely typed matter and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard without my reading them.

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

1. (a) Twelve building blocks have been acquired in the town of Dimboola by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

(b) Seven houses have been built on this land. In addition, a 'Save the Children Fund' Welfare Centre was erected on one site.

(c) Prior to the appointment of a property officer, the Board's then housing member was responsible for recommendations concerning the acquisition of land.

2. The Aborigines Welfare Board approved in principle the recommendations in the report of the Lake Tyers Planning and Action Committee, and the Government has agreed to the proposals.

The Lake Tyers Project Committee consisting of seven persons was appointed on 10th March, 1967, and has met three times; recommendations have been brought forward to the Aborigines Welfare Board and these have been adopted.

In relation to the sixteen individual recommendations of stage one of the report, the following is the situation:—

(i) Establishment of an Aboriginal Council. This has been discussed with residents who have sought more time to consider the proposals.

(ii) Appointment of over-all supervisor. The position has been advertised twice; on the second occasion a recommendation was made but was not approved by the Public Service Board. The position will be re-advertised.

(iii) Appointment of a farm supervisor. The position of farm manager has been advertised and a recommendation was made but it, too, was not approved by the Public Service Board. This position will also be re-advertised.

(iv) Appointment of a nursing sister. A nursing sister is on the staff at Lake Tyers.

(v) Effecting improvements to the existing farm—general farming has been continued, including farm cutting and the provision of some new fencing, but major development cannot be undertaken until the farm manager is appointed.

(vi) Commencement of a farm training scheme. In abeyance pending necessary staff appointments.

(vii) Conducting a sixteen weeks special training-for-employment scheme. Also in abeyance pending staff appointments.

(viii) Establishment of a spot timber mill. All aspects of forestry development and utilization have been discussed with the Forests Commission and subject to further reports from the Commission a programme of clearing, logging and reafforestation has been adopted by the Aborigines Welfare Board.

(ix) Establishment of a vegetable growing project. In abeyance until the farm manager is appointed.

(x) Renovation of five existing cottages as homes for pensioners, and

(xi) Building of eight new homes for Aboriginal families. Three former staff cottages have been renovated and are occupied by Aboriginal families; approval has been given for three existing cottages to be extensively renovated. In addition three new houses have been constructed, and are occupied by Aboriginal families, while a fourth new house has been commenced. Further, one new staff residence has been provided, a second has been commenced and an existing residence is being renovated.

The cost of the new buildings and renovations in the past twelve months has been approximately $60,000 and a further expenditure of $50,000 is envisaged in the current financial year. When this programme is complete, all Aboriginal families and pensioners at the station will have been rehoused.

(xii) Establishment of extra-curricular tutorial classes for school children. Suitable arrangements are being made with the Education Department for the 1968 school year.
(xiii) Establishment of a play centre for mothers and infants.—Being investigated by the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee and the Department of Health.

(xiv) Establishment of adult education classes.—Being arranged with the Education Department for 1968.

(xv) Development of recreation facilities.—The acting officer-in-charge has commenced recreational activities and various community service organizations have been approached for assistance with the project.

(xvi) Restoration of the church building.—In abeyance.

In summary, it will be noted that considerable progress has been achieved towards the implementation of the recommendations of stage one.

3. (a) House plans were discussed with Aboriginal residents at a special meeting at Lake Tyers on 4th November, 1966, and general agreement was reached.

(b) Two houses were sited on one of the locations selected by the residents. Another could not be located as suggested by residents because of inability to provide satisfactory water, drainage and sewerage facilities on the site. This third house was located near the other two.

4. The most recent report by ABSCHOL was dated 6th February, 1967, and contains no specific recommendations on Lake Tyers.

5. I have had a report from the Australian Association of Social Workers, Victorian Branch, and I received a deputation from that Association. I do not consider that there has been frustration by the Board in regard to its social workers.

VISIT OF OFFICER TO NEW ZEALAND: RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

What recommendations were made by the officer of the Aborigines Welfare Board who made a two months observation visit with the Department of Maori Affairs, New Zealand, whether these were discussed by the Board, and what action was decided on?

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

The officer visited New Zealand from 21st January to 11th March, 1966. He transferred to another branch before the report was completed and the document was received by the Board on 21st April, 1967, when it was tabled and copies were circulated to members of the Board.

The report covered general observations and detailed information, but there were no specific recommendations.

In the meantime, the Board had adopted its new policies in August, 1966, and the general suggestions in the report are along the lines covered by the Board’s policy document. The report has been borne in mind in the implementation of policy.

TRAINING OF WELFARE OFFICERS: STAFF CONFERENCES.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. Whether, in view of the apparent lack of social welfare training of the Aborigines Welfare Board’s welfare officers, there is any departmental staff training programme; if not, whether one is being considered?

2. How many conferences of country-based staff have been held in Melbourne in the past twelve months, and when they were held?

3. Whether the Board sees any value in welfare staff conferences?

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

1. There is provision on the staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board for a senior Aborigines welfare officer, whose duties include the training and supervision of the Board’s field staff. This position was advertised in July, 1967, but there was no suitable applicant.

The Board has also agreed to a scheme of cadet social workers, and this and other proposals for staff training are under consideration by the Government.

2. No combined conference of welfare staff has been held in the past twelve months, but individual country-based officers have attended head office for discussions.

3. Yes.

ANNUAL REPORTS: UNEXPENDED FUNDS.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. When the last annual report of the Aborigines Welfare Board was submitted to Parliament; what period this report covered; and whether it included a financial statement; if not, why?

2. When it is expected the Aborigines Welfare Board annual reports for 1966 and 1967 will be presented to Parliament?

3. What amount of funds was unspent by the Aborigines Welfare Board in each of the years, 1965, 1966, and 1967?
Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—

1. On 7th December, 1966, the report of the Aborigines Welfare Board for the year ended 30th June, 1965, was tabled in Parliament.

Board reports have not in the past included a financial statement. I have given directions that in future they will do so.

2. The 1966 report will be tabled within a few days and the 1967 report will be tabled as soon as possible—I hope before the end of this session.

3. 1964-65... $95,841.69
   1965-66... $102,978.28
   1966-67... $55,923.63

Honorable members should note that funds unexpended at the end of the financial year remain in the Aborigines Welfare Fund and do not return to Consolidated Revenue. The carry-over from year to year is due, in part, to the fact that provision for payments on works in progress at the end of a financial year must be made at the beginning of the new financial year.

The revised policy of the Board and the Housing Commission, whereby houses have been allocated by the Commission to Aboriginal tenants in lieu of their being built by the Board, has resulted in a reduction of capital expenditure.

CONDITIONS IN THE MORWELL–TRARALGON AREA.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. Whether he has read the report of the Director of the Aborigines Advancement League (Victoria), on his visit to Traralgon–Morwell in May, 1967?

2. Whether the Aborigines Welfare Board discussed this report; if so, what action (if any) was taken?

3. When the Board last employed a welfare officer on a permanent basis in the West Gippsland area?

4. Whether the former occupants of this position transferred to other Government Departments because their efforts were being continually frustrated by the Board?

5. Whether Aborigines living in the Morwell–Traralgon area have complained about the bully-boy attitude of a part-time employee of the Board; if so, whether he has confidence in the ability of this man to promote the self-respect and morale of Aborigines under his jurisdiction and, in the event that he has not, what action is proposed?

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

1. In June, 1967, I received a copy of a circular letter addressed by the Director of the Aborigines Advancement League to branches, affiliates, interested persons and organizations. This circular letter enclosed a statement entitled—"A ‘State of the Nation’ Report on Victorian Aboriginal Affairs”.

The covering circular letter urged addressees to lobby their local member of Parliament, myself and the local and daily papers to challenge the re-appointment of present Aborigines Welfare Board members and to demand the establishment of a small interim Board, contrary to the provisions of the Aborigines Act.

2. No.

3. 10th April, 1967; but since that date an acting welfare officer has been employed full time in the district.

4. This former officer of his own volition sought a transfer to the Education Department which was granted. I am unaware of the officer’s personal motives in seeking this transfer.

5. Any complaints received about the activities of Board officers are investigated, and if sustained, action would be taken. I am not prepared to comment on the abilities of any officer in the absence of specific complaints against a specific person.

LAKE TYERS ABORIGINAL STATION: SLAUGHTER OF STOCK: SUPPLY OF FRESH MEAT: SALE OF BEEF CATTLE: STAFF: PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—

1. Whether he is aware that the residents at Lake Tyers have requested permission to slaughter for domestic consumption and that slaughter-house and cool-room facilities exist on Lake Tyers?

2. Whether the Aborigines Welfare Board refused the residents’ request; if so, what reasons were given?

3. Whether he will undertake to remedy the present situation at Lake Tyers where the residents are denied an adequate supply of fresh meat?

4. What income the Board received from the sale of beef cattle from Lake Tyers in the financial year ended June, 1967?

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

1. Yes.

2 and 3. Consequent upon the cessation of ration handouts at Lake Tyers in April, 1966, provision was made for the supply of meat through a local storekeeper. The provision of separate killing facilities for such a small population would be uneconomical, resulting in a higher price for meat to the residents.

4. $12,900.
Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—
1. What staff are employed at Lake Tyers settlement and what are their duties and hours of attendance?
2. Whether he is aware that Aboriginal residents at Lake Tyers have expressed strong antipathy and resentment towards certain part-time staff members on the reserve; if so, whether it is thought important that the staff at Lake Tyers should enjoy the confidence of the residents?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—
1. The acting officer-in-charge is responsible for the over-all welfare and operation of the reserve. He is resident on the reserve and is on duty as required, except that he is away on alternate week-ends.

The acting farm foreman is responsible in an advisory capacity on all aspects of farming. He attends the reserve daily, usually from 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

The nursing sister is responsible for all aspects of health and medical care, subject to a medical officer. She is resident at the reserve on week days and is on duty between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and at other times as required.

2. I am aware that some Aboriginal residents from time to time have expressed resentment towards some staff members, both part-time and full-time. I believe it to be essential that staff should enjoy the full confidence of the residents, and that this will only be possible in circumstances of the fullest co-operation, not only between residents and staff but also of other people whether on or off the reserve.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote) asked the Minister of Housing—
1. Whether two families who were residents at Lake Tyers when the Minister visited the reserve in September, 1966, and gave certain undertakings about the accommodation, are still living in standard accommodation?
2. Whether families that have subsequently returned to Lake Tyers have been provided with adequate accommodation?

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answers are—
1. I was not the Minister responsible for Aboriginal affairs in September, 1966. However, the former Minister visited Lake Tyers on 29th September, 1966, and he then agreed that four new houses would be erected and that two vacant staff cottages would be renovated for occupation by Aboriginal families. In fact three new houses have been completed, and three former staff cottages have been renovated and are occupied. A fourth new house has been commenced and three other cottages are to be completely renovated. It is apparent that the former Minister’s undertakings will have been more than honoured with the completion of this programme.

2. Yes.

HOUSING.

SUB-STANDARD DWELLINGS.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister of Housing—
How many occupied dwellings, which are not regarded as fit for habitation by modern standards, exist in—(a) Victoria; and (b) the metropolitan area.

Mr. MEAGHER (Minister of Housing).—The answer is—
I know of no statistics or figures available in relation to the number of occupied dwellings unfit for human habitation within the State of Victoria or the metropolitan area and any assessment of this position would need to be obtained by survey in conjunction with all municipal councils.

The only figures available are those related to premises which have come under Commission control, either in consequence of the reports of municipal authorities or by the investigations of the Commission’s housing inspectors.

At the present time 3,818 premises are under a declaration of being unfit for human habitation within Victoria, and of these 2,526 are situated in the metropolitan area. Of the total figure, 2,495 have been ordered to be demolished and the balance of 1,323 to be brought to a state of compliance with the Standard of Habitation Regulations.

In addition, 1,078 premises have been declared to be in a state of disrepair, and required to be brought to the proper standard.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

PROPOSED RESUMPTION OF LAND IN HERNES OAK AREA.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Fuel and Power—
If he will lay on the table of the Library all files dealing with the State Electricity Commission’s proposed resumption of land in the Hermes Oak area?

Mr. BALFOUR (Minister for Fuel and Power).—The answer is—
The State Electricity Commission’s general file relating to its land resumption policy in the Hermes Oak area has been laid on the table of the Library. If the honorable member is interested in any specific case which is not referred to on this file, I shall be happy to discuss that matter with him.
ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR DAM IN TRARALGON AREA.

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

if he will lay on the table of the Library all the files dealing with the acquisition by the State Electricity Commission of land for a dam in the Traralgon South area in the vicinity of Traralgon creek?

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

The Commission has not yet formulated any plans to resume land at Traralgon South. I assume that the matter which the honorable member has in mind relates to a submission which the Commission has made to the Town and Country Planning Board in response to the decision of that authority to embark upon a comprehensive revision of the Latrobe Valley sub-regional planning scheme. The Commission has set out information concerning possible future developments in the Latrobe Valley so that land may be zoned to avoid prejudicing these projects if and when they are embarked upon. One of these possible developments is a dam in the Traralgon South area to protect from flooding any brown coal open cut workings which may become necessary at Loy Yang.

If the honorable member so desires, I will arrange for the file on this subject to be laid on the table of the Library.

BREAD INDUSTRY.

SUNDAY BAKING: CONVICTIONS: FINES.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

How many bakers have been convicted for breaches of the ban on Sunday baking, giving the names and addresses of the persons or firms convicted, and the fines imposed in each case?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—It is not possible to answer this question in the form in which it is put.

INSPECTION OF BAKERIES: OFFENCES: PROSECUTIONS.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. How many inspectors of the Department of Labour and Industry were on duty inspecting metropolitan bakeries for offences on the nights of August 5th and 12th, 1967?

2. At what times these inspectors commenced and ceased duty?

3. In what areas they operated?

4. How many bakeries they called upon and to how many they were admitted?

5. At how many of these bakeries were offences detected?

6. What are the names of the bakeries proceeded against for alleged offences?

7. What convictions (if any) were recorded in each case?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SCHOOL SITES: EQUIPMENT FUNDS: COMMONWEALTH GRANTS: SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT: SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. What is the area of the site of each of the following schools:—(a) Brunswick High School; (b) Moreland High School; (c) Coburg High School; (d) Brunswick Technical School; and (e) Brunswick Girls' School?

2. Whether a special equipment fund is in existence at the Brunswick Technical School?

3. What other metropolitan technical schools (if any) have a special equipment fund?
4. Whether such special equipment funds are financed by payments out of the Commonwealth science and technical grant, or whether, alternatively, pieces of equipment are furnished to the schools and paid for out of such grant?

5. Before the commencement of the Commonwealth grant what was the source of the special equipment fund, in each of the three financial years before commencement and what annual payment was made into the special equipment fund in respect of the Brunswick Technical School?

6. Whether science and technical equipment grants to non-State schools are made in money or, alternatively, by the supply of equipment and, if made in money, what total amounts will be paid to such schools for the financial year 1967-68?

7. Whether the Education Department in the year 1966-67 or previously supplied the following or similar equipment to the Brunswick Technical School, indicating whether, in respect of any such equipment supplied, it was requested by the Advisory Council of the school:—(a) the nervous system of a rabbit; (b) the human skull; (c) plastic sheep's heart; (d) a cat's skeleton; (e) mounted bird, lizard, and toad each in a perspex cover; (f) a bisected rat in spirit; and (g) the alimentary canal of a rat?

8. To what other schools (if any) equipment referred to in part 7 above was supplied?

9. Whether technical schools in the metropolitan area were furnished with telescopes; if so—(a) for what purposes; (b) whether it was intended that such instruments be used during the hours of darkness; and (c) whether, in most cases, no classes for whom the instruments were intended were then sitting?

10. What State primary and secondary schools in the eastern and southern sectors of the metropolitan area have the following facilities:—(a) a library; (b) adequate playgrounds; (c) an assembly hall; (d) a gymnasium; and (e) adequate provision for the exhibition of films?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—As the answers supplied by the Minister of Education are lengthy and contain statistics, I suggest that they be incorporated in Hansard, without my reading them.

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

1. (a) 3 acres 3 roods 11 perches.
   (b) 2 acres 0 roods 30 perches.
   (c) 1 acre 3 roods 2 perches.
   (d) 2 acres.
   (e) 1 acre 0 roods 33 perches.

2. Yes.

3. All other metropolitan technical schools.

4. In respect of the purchase of equipment for Forms VI. and above, and for apprentice and trade training, special equipment funds are financed by payments out of the Commonwealth technical grant.

5. The Loan Fund.
   1961-62 . . . . . . $1,200
   1962-63 . . . . . . $1,000
   1963-64 . . . . . . $6,400

6. Non-State schools do not receive technical equipment grants but they do receive cash grants for science laboratories and equipment. Such grants are paid out of Commonwealth funds as and when directed by the Commonwealth Government.

7. This, or similar, equipment was supplied. It was not requested by the advisory council.

8. All State secondary schools and most technical schools.

9. Yes.

(a) To enable field work to be carried out in connexion with the astronomy sections of the technical school science syllabuses.

(b) Yes—with adequate teacher supervision and parental approval.

(c) All students in technical schools could be involved in the use of telescopes.

10. The information required to answer this question is not available without contacting the schools concerned. Although the areas are not clearly defined, the number of schools in the broad area would be in excess of 300. It is not considered reasonable to take officers from their normal duties to undertake this survey.

WILLIAMSTOWN DISTRICT: EFFECT OF HOUSING COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. How many children of school age are expected to be accommodated in the new twelve-storied Housing Commission flats at Nelson-place, Williamstown, when these are occupied in late October?

2. Whether the nearest State school, No. 1183, will be able to accommodate all these children without overcrowding of classes; if not—(a) whether the children will be spread over a number of district schools; or (b) whether there are plans to build additions to No. 1183, and in such event, when work on these additions will commence?
Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—

1. Forty primary pupils, twelve post-primary pupils.
2. The primary children will attend State School, No. 1183, Williamstown, where there is ample accommodation. Classes will not be overcrowded. At present additional accommodation is not necessary.

NEWPORT STATE SCHOOL: FIRE DAMAGE: INSURANCE.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. What is the estimated cost of the damage to buildings and equipment from the recent fire at the Newport State School?
2. Whether the cause of the fire has been established?
3. Whether the damage was covered by insurance; if not, why some form of insurance against fires and robberies was not taken out?
4. Whether it is the intention of the Department to repair the damage to this old school or to rebuild it to more modern designs?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—


Minimum cost of new replacement furniture for seven class-rooms and office—$2,800.

2. Cause of the fire is not known.

3. State school buildings are not usually insured but loss by fire would be covered by the Government Buildings Fire Insurance Pool. Individual schools may take out insurance against fires and robberies if they desire. The Newport State School buildings were insured by the contractor who was carrying out renovations at the school at the time of the fire.

4. An early decision will be made as to whether damage to the building will be made good or whether a new class-room wing will be built.

SCHOOL CROSSINGS: STOP SIGNS: SUPERVISION.

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

1. Whether the Minister will provide permanent stop signs at school crossings?
2. Whether the Minister will ensure that where supervision of crossings is required, such supervision will be undertaken by properly-paid, authorized and trained adults.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The Chief Secretary has provided the following answers to the questions addressed to the Minister of Education:

1 and 2. School crossings in Victoria have been designed and their use regulated on the basis that motorists are required to give complete use of the carriageway from kerb to kerb to any person on the crossing at the times when the flags are displayed.

The particular effectiveness of the crossing is due to the fact that the flags are displayed only at times when children are generally using the crossing. This requires a very onerous obedience from drivers and the good record of school crossings is undoubtedly brought about by this fact which ensures that drivers have a high expectancy of the possibility of a child being on the crossing whenever the flags are displayed and of their being required to stop.

The supervision of crossings by children, teachers or adults whether on a voluntary basis or council employed is not essential therefore. All that is needed is that someone puts out and takes in the flags at crossings.

It is true that any additional assistance such as monitoring, the carrying of flags, the use of boom gates or the wearing of bright coats all help a motorist to recognize a crossing but such aids are not essential.

SURVEY OF FUTURE SCHOOL NEEDS IN MELBOURNE'S INNER SUBURBS.

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

1. Whether the Minister will inform the House when the "Departmental survey of future school needs in Melbourne's inner suburbs", reported in the Age of 1st June, 1967, as being ordered by him, was commenced?
2. What officers, or what sections of the Education Department, are carrying out the survey?
3. What information has been obtained from this survey which was not, as at the 1st June, 1967, already in the possession of the Minister?

4. What recommendations have been made as a result of this survey?

5. If the Minister will lay on the table of the Library the file on this survey?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are as follows:

1. In August, 1967.

2. District inspectors of schools for the primary division, assistant directors of secondary and technical education for their respective divisions.

3. The surveys are not yet complete.

4. Recommendations have not yet been made.

5. As soon as it is completed.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS: READING PROGRAMMES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

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

1. What is the total value of reading programmes and associated equipment, such as reading accelerators, used in State primary schools?

2. In the last financial year, what was the total value of programmes and equipment purchased for primary schools and of this aggregate, what proportion was met by—
   (a) the Education Department; and (b) outside bodies, such as local parents and friends' associations?

3. In the last financial year, what was the percentage outlay for reading systems, paid for by the Department, in relation to the Department's total outlay for educational equipment?

4. What is the accepted size of a class that can, in terms of the learning process, effectively use programmed reading systems?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The Minister of Education has furnished the following answers:

1 and 2. As contributions involving reading programmes and associated equipment in State primary schools are generally provided by associated school bodies in excess of subsidy grants, an accurate answer to these two questions could only be given after making a State-wide survey of all primary schools.

3. Departmental outlay for various aspects of reading are included in both library and equipment subsidy grants, and separate figures are not yet available in relation to total outlay for educational equipment.

4. If the question relates to the S.R.A. reading laboratory and similar programmed reading schemes, a normal class with the usual spread of ability can handle the material satisfactorily in terms of the learning process.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION IN BRUNSWICK EAST ELECTORATE.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. In view of the urgent need to overcome the overcrowding caused by the great increase in the number of pupils now attending State School No. 1213, Albert-street, Brunswick, and the Moreland State School, when it can be expected that temporary class-rooms which now occupy almost half the playground space at those schools will be replaced by permanent buildings?

2. What is the nature of the extensions to be made at the Moreland High School for which contracts have been let?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—

1. A scheme for the construction of an additional storey to provide increased classroom accommodation, modernization and renovations to the Moreland State School has been prepared by the Public Works Department and is at present being examined by officers of the Education Department. If approval is given to the scheme it is expected that the Public Works Department will be in a position to invite tenders in the near future.

2. The new class-room wing at Moreland High School will comprise:—  
   Ground Floor:  
   Three class-rooms, music room, canteen,
staffroom, rest room, office, stores and boys' and girls' physical education rooms, change rooms and toilets. First Floor: Physics room, laboratory, office and store, chemistry room, laboratory and store, library, rest room and toilets.

LAND RESERVED FOR SCHOOLS IN DEER PARK ELECTORATE.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

In respect of the locality bounded by the Calder Highway on the south, the Maribyrnong river on the west, Sharps-road on the north and the railway line on the east—
(a) what land has been reserved for school sites; (b) where precisely such sites are; and (c) what is the area of each site?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

(a) One site has been reserved.
(b) Land bounded by Queensberry, Erebus, Eliza and Collinson streets.
(c) 4 acres 2 roods 16 perches.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WESTERN SUBURBS: TEACHING STUDENT-SHIPS: PUPILS.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

In respect of the following secondary schools—Altona High, Altona North High, Werribee High, Sunbury High, Bacchus Marsh High, Williamstown Girls, Williamstown High, Sunshine High, Sunshine West High, St. Albans High, Braybrook High, Maribyrnong High, Footscray High, Footscray Girls and Niddrie High, what is—(a) the number of students from each who entered a primary teachers college this year; and (b) the number of pupils in each of Forms IV., V., and VI. this year?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is in the form of a statistical table, and I do not wish to take up the time of the House by reading it so I ask leave to have it incorporated in Hansard without being read.

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

(a) and (b)—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Entered College</th>
<th>Form IV</th>
<th>Form V</th>
<th>Form VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altona H.S.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altona North H.S.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Werribee H.S.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbury H.S.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacchus Marsh H.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td>94</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamstown Girls' H.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamstown H.S.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine H.S.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine West H.S.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Albans H.S.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braybrook H.S.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maribyrnong H.S.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footscray H.S.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footscray Girls' H.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td>124</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niddrie H.S.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENTS AT PRIMARY TEACHERS' COLLEGES.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

In respect of the primary teachers' colleges at Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Burwood, Coburg, Frankston and Toorak, respectively, what is the number of male and female students?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

As at 1st August, 1967, the numbers were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Men.</th>
<th>Women.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altona North</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn West</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsville</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine East</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunvale</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tottenham</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tottenham North</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wembley</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarraville West</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wembley</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Excluding secondary students attached to this college.

SCHOOLS IN SUNSHINE ELECTORATE: PUPILS AND TEACHERS: WORKS.

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

1. Within the Sunshine electorate, how many pupils and teachers, respectively, are at the schools named in the question asked by me in this House on 21st February, 1967?

2. Since April, 1966, what works at these schools have been—(a) requested by the school committees; (b) carried out by the Government; and (c) planned by the Government?

3. What works have been planned or undertaken by the Government without requests by the school committees?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—I do not wish to break down the rules of procedure, but again the answers to these questions consist of statistics, and I seek leave to have them incorporated in Hansard without being read.

2 and 3. The answer to these questions involves a large amount of detail which it is not considered reasonable to provide in the form of answers to questions. The honorable member is invited to contact the officer in charge of the Department’s Buildings Branch with a view to perusing the departmental files and summaries of Public Works Department files.

MARYVALE HIGH SCHOOL.

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

Whether the plans for the proposed Maryvale High School are now to be limited by the deletion of the gymnasium and/or the assembly hall; if so—(a) what is the extent of the proposed restrictions; and (b) what are the reasons.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education is—

(a) No.
(b) The gymnasium was reduced in size from the original proposal but will still be double the size of present standard gymnasiums.

(c) The assembly hall is not included in stage 1 which is the only part approved up to the present.

(d) The reason for the reduction in size of the gymnasium was that the total cost of the building was substantially higher than the designers had expected and some economies had to be effected if other areas of the State were not to suffer.

It still represents a big increase in size and cost on previous standards.

**University High School Land.**

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

If he will lay on the table of the Library any files or papers dealing with representations made by the Royal Melbourne Hospital and/or any other body or authority for the acquisition of any portion of the land occupied by the University High School?

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

**Leongatha Technical School: Enrolments: Provision of Permanent Building.**

For Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South), Mr. B. J. Evans asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. How many students were enrolled when the Leongatha Technical School was opened?
2. How many students are now attending the school?
3. What is the anticipated enrolment at the school in February, 1968?
4. What steps are being taken to provide a permanent building for this school?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—

1. 82.
2. 82 as at 25th August, 1967.
3. 160.
4. The Public Works Department has been requested to furnish a report and estimate of the cost of providing the first section of the school. However, because of the many other works to be undertaken and the various factors which must be taken into account when considering the planning and erection of school buildings, it is not possible to say, at this stage, when tenders are likely to be invited.

**Teachers' Residences.**

For Sir HERBERT HYLAND (Gippsland South), Mr. B. J. Evans asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. How many houses were purchased or built for teachers during the financial year 1966-67?
2. How many of such houses were occupied by technical school teachers and technical school principals, respectively?
3. What steps, if any, were taken to provide a residence for the principal of the Leongatha Technical School during 1966-67?
4. What measures are proposed during the current financial year to provide residences for the principal and the staff, respectively, of the Leongatha Technical School?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—

1. Nineteen.
2. Nil; one.
3. Efforts were made to purchase a residence but the Department was subsequently advised that a suitable house could not be located.
4. (a) It is intended to erect a residence for the principal on the old Jeffrey-street school site but, in view of the number of other residences required throughout the State, it is not possible to guarantee that it will be provided this financial year.
   (b) As the staff at present at Leongatha Technical School have satisfactory accommodation, there is no proposal to provide departmental residences.

**Commonwealth Grants for Science Laboratories.**

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

For which Victorian schools Commonwealth grants for science laboratories have been approved, indicating the total amount paid in respect of each school under these provisions?
Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Education includes a number of statistics covering several foolscap pages and I ask that it be incorporated in Hansard) without being read.

Leave was granted, and the answer was as follows:

Science rooms under the Commonwealth science grants scheme have been built or are under construction at the State secondary schools shown on the attached list.

In addition, 340 State secondary and technical schools with senior science classes have received special equipment purchased under the scheme at a cost of approximately $2,000,000 and it is expected that a further $500,000 will be spent on equipment during the present financial year.

At this stage it is considered undesirable to name the additional State secondary schools at which science laboratories are to be built, but it is expected that approximately $1,700,000 will be spent on construction of some 50 science rooms during this financial year.

The non-State schools which have received individual grants from the Commonwealth and the total amount paid to each school up to the 30th June last are shown on the attached list. Schools which are to receive grants from the Commonwealth during the current financial year have been indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of State School</th>
<th>Total.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ararat</td>
<td>$16,659.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashwood</td>
<td>$64,103.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballarat East</td>
<td>$62,850.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>$105,967.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balwyn</td>
<td>$52,779.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell Park</td>
<td>$11,160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>$56,624.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendigo</td>
<td>$44,340.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bendigo Girls' Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bentleigh</td>
<td>$58,764.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td>$48,847.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonbeach</td>
<td>$62,837.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Hill</td>
<td>$38,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>$104,999.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croydon</td>
<td>$64,448.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandenong Girls'</td>
<td>$17,729.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dandenong</td>
<td>$48,777.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eltham</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzroy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geelong</td>
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<td>Geelong North</td>
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<td>Glenroy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntingdale</td>
<td>$57,218.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karingal</td>
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<td>Kerang</td>
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<td>Leonagtha</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKinnon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macleod</td>
<td>$55,612.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maribyrnong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mildura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitcham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moorleigh</td>
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<td>Murrumbeena</td>
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<td>Oakleigh</td>
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<td>Oak Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pascoe Vale Girls' Sec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosebud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seymour</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Traralgon</td>
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<td>University</td>
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<td>Upfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upwey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wangaratta</td>
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<td>Waverley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williamstown</td>
<td>$5,942.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yallourn</td>
<td>$29,452.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cobram</td>
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<tr>
<td>Echuca</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elwood</td>
<td>$67,639.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidelberg Girls' Secondary</td>
<td>$15,519.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryborough</td>
<td>$63,688.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preston Girls'</td>
<td>$57,119.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushworth</td>
<td>$30,169.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>$50,713.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glen Waverley</td>
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<td>Monash</td>
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<td>Colac</td>
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<td>Donvale</td>
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<td>Altona North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aspendale</td>
<td>$21,827.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mildura</td>
<td>$12,948.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tottenham</td>
<td>$24,881.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watsonia</td>
<td>$36,507.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yallourn</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenroy Girls'</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>$13,494.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of State School</td>
<td>Total up to 30th June, 1967 ($)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corio</td>
<td>13,328.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swan Hill</td>
<td>9,243.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepparton</td>
<td>8,140.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston East</td>
<td>5,841.20</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Design, supervision and administration, &c. 414,097.76

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Registered School</th>
<th>Total up to 30th June, 1967 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy</td>
<td>22,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Aquinas College, Ringwood</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ballarat College, Ballarat</td>
<td>19,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ballarat Grammar School, Ballarat</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Brigidine Convent, Malvern</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Camberwell Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Canterbury</td>
<td>18,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Ladies College, East Melbourne</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Caulfield Grammar School, East St. Kilda</td>
<td>12,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Champagnat College, Wangaratta</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Chanel College, Geelong</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Christian Brothers College, East Melbourne</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Christian Brothers College, East St. Kilda</td>
<td>33,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Christian Brothers College, North Melbourne</td>
<td>42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Clarendon Presbyterian Ladies College, Ballarat</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Clonard Brigidine Convent School, Geelong</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Dandenong Catholic Boys' Regional High School</td>
<td>10,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De La Salle College, Malvern</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Don Bosco Regional High School, Fern Tree Gully</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Rice College, Bundoora</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Essendon Grammar School</td>
<td>12,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Fintona Girls' School, Balwyn</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Firbank Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Brighton</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Geelong Church of England Grammar School</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Genazzano Convent, Kew</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Gippsland Grammar School, Sale</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Girton Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Bendigo</td>
<td>14,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Hamilton District &amp; Alexandra Colleges, Hamilton</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ivanhoe Grammar School</td>
<td>10,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kilbreda College, Mentone</td>
<td>58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kilbride College, Albert Park</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kildare College, Traralgon</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Killeder College, Springvale</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kilvington Baptist Girls' Grammar School, Ormond</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Korowa Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Glen Iris</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Loreto Convent School, Portland</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Loreto Convent School, Toorak</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Lowther Hall Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Essendon</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Marcellin Junior School, Camberwell</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Marist Brothers College, Bendigo</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, South Yarra</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mentone Girls' Grammar School, Mentone</td>
<td>61,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Mercy Regional Girls' College, Coburg</td>
<td>30,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodist Ladies College, Kew</td>
<td>16,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong</td>
<td>18,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount Lilydale College, Lilydale</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Mount Scopus College, Burwood</td>
<td>49,970</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Bentleigh</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Our Lady of Sion College, Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Our Lady of Sion College, Warragul</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Peninsula School, Mt. Eliza</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Presentation College, Moe</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation College, Windsor</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Presbyterian Ladies College, Burwood</td>
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<td>*Queens Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Ballarat</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ruyton Girls' Grammar School, Kew</td>
<td>10,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East</td>
<td>98,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart College, Glen Iris</td>
<td>22,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart Girls' College, Oakleigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Sacred Heart College, Geelong</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salesian College, Sunbury</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Santa Maria College, Northcote</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Scotch College, Hawthorn</td>
<td>21,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Shelford Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Caulfield</td>
<td>24,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Aloysius College, North Melbourne</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*St. Anne's Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Sale</td>
<td>12,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*St. Bede's College, Mentone</td>
<td>38,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name of Registered School | Total up to 30th June, 1967 | $  
--- | --- | ---  
St. Brandan's College, Coragulac | 9,000 |  
St. Brigid's School, Horsham | 2,000 |  
St. Columba's College, Essendon | 33,800 |  
St. John's Marist Brothers, Hawthorn | 8,000 |  
St. John's College, Braybrook | 30,300 |  
St. Joseph's College, Echuca | 3,000 |  
St. Joseph's College, Mildura | 18,000 |  
St. Joseph's Preparatory College, Pascoe Vale South | 10,000 |  
St. Joseph's College, Maryborough | 20,000 |  
St. Joseph's Girls' School, Altona West | 20,000 |  
St. Kevin's College, Toorak | 41,000 |  
St. Leonard's Presbyterian Girls' College, Brighton | 10,972 |  
St. Mary's College, Bendigo | 20,000 |  
St. Margaret's School, Berwick | 12,170 |  
St. Patrick's College, Ballarat | 40,600 |  
St. Paul's College, Altona North | 10,300 |  
St. Paul's Regional Boys' School, Spotswood | 19,000 |  
St. Paul's College, Traralgon | 20,000 |  
St. Vincent's College, Bendigo | 3,000 |  
*The Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale | 32,000 |  
*Strathcona Baptist Girls' Grammar School, Canterbury | 21,944 |  
*The Hermitage, Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Geelong | 24,340 |  
*Tintern Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Ringwood East | 37,000 |  
*Trinity Grammar School, Kew | 12,170 |  
*Vaucluse Convent School F.C.J., Richmond | 32,000 |  
*Wadhurst School, St. Kilda-road, Melbourne | 12,170 |  
*St. Patrick's College, Sale,  
*Carey Baptist Grammar School, Kew,  
*The Geelong College Preparatory School, Newtown,  
*Haileybury College, Brighton,  
*Mentone Boys' Grammar School, Mentone,  
*Wesley College Junior School, Syndal,  
*Yeshivah College, East St. Kilda,  
*School to receive grant 1967-68.

DEER PARK ELECTORATE: PROVISION OF SPEECH CENTRE.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry, for the Minister of Education—

1. Whether the Minister is aware that a large percentage of the citizens of the Deer Park electoral district are newcomers from non-English-speaking countries?

2. Whether the Minister will give authority for a survey to be made of the schools in the district in order to ascertain the need for a speech centre and a remedial teaching centre, respectively, to serve the schools in this locality?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry)—The answers supplied by the Minister of Education are—

1. Yes.

2. A survey is being made of the age and location of migrant children who are not proficient in English with a view to providing additional courses to assist in their schooling.

LADIES' HAIRDRESSING SALONS.

EMPLOYMENT OF APPRENTICES:

SALARY RANGE: ALLEGED BREACHES OF AWARDS.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. How many apprentices are employed in ladies' hairdressing salons to the knowledge of the Apprenticeship Commission?

2. What is the present salary range for such apprentices?

3. How many complaints have been received and investigated by the Commission's officers regarding alleged breaches of awards and conditions over the last two years relating to apprentices in such salons?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry)—The answers are—

1. There were 2,233 apprentices employed in the trade of ladies' hairdressing in Victoria at 30th June, 1967.
2. The minimum weekly rates of wages payable to apprentices in the trade of ladies' hairdressing at present are as follows:
   - 1st year—$10
   - 2nd year—$13.05
   - 3rd year—$18.50
   - 4th year—$26.05

3. This information is not ascertainable from the records maintained by the Department.

HAIRDRESSERS REGISTRATION BOARD.

PERSONNEL: APPROVED HAIRDRESSING SCHOOLS: SUPERVISION OF REGULATIONS.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East) asked the Minister of Labour and Industry—

1. What are the names of the present members of the Hairdressers Registration Board, indicating whom they represent and when they were appointed?

2. What is the name of the present chairman and when he was appointed?

3. How often the Board met during the last two years and what was the duration of such meetings?

4. What is the name of the present registrar and when he was appointed?

5. How many officers and employees are employed by the Board?

6. What total number of persons within the prescribed classes is listed in the register of hairdressers as at 1st January in each of the years 1960 to 1967?

7. How many hairdressing schools are at present registered and approved of by the Board, what are the trade names (if any) of such schools operating within the metropolitan area, and what are the names of the principals conducting such schools?

8. How many such schools have been registered over the last seven years and what schools (if any) have had registration either suspended or cancelled over the last seven years?

9. What number of officers of the Board are engaged full or part time supervising the regulations of the Hairdressers Registration Act pertaining to—(a) standards of hygiene, sanitation and safety; and (b) standards of training to be observed in schools registered under the Act?

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—The answers include a series of statistics, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard, without being read.

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

1. Name; Nominated by or Representing.
   - Alan Charles Eldridge; Minister of Education.
   - Frank Norwood Waldran; Victorian Master Hairdressers Association.
   - Aubrey Lawrence Paul McGill; Victorian Master Hairdressers Association.
   - Raymond William Guest; Master Ladies Hairdressers and Cosmeticians Association of Victoria.
   - Chloris Ouida Ignace; Registered Schools of Hairdressing.
   - William George Weston; Hairdressers Employees Federation.
   - William Nankervis; Hairdressers Employees Federation.

The appointments of all members date from the 29th November, 1966.

2. The chairman of the Board is Roderick McLean Campbell Aitchison—appointed from 29th November, 1966.

3. The Board has had 29 meetings in the past two years, average duration of each meeting being 24 hours.


5. Nine full-time and five (including the registrar) part-time officers and employees.

6. Persons registered in the prescribed classes as at the 1st January, 1960 to 1967 inclusive are shown in the list appended.

7. Four schools, all in the metropolitan area, as follows:
   - Associated Hairdressing Academy—Principal: Frank Jesse Dibble.
   - Venus School of Hairdressing—Principal: Chloris Ouida Ignace.
   - Melbourne School of Hairdressing and Beauty Culture—Principals: Verna Mary Green, and William Bruce Young.
   - Centreway Hairdressing College—Principal: Francois Kramer.

8. One registered in 1962. No cancellations or suspensions.

9. Four inspectors are employed full-time in supervising these regulations. In addition, as there are regulations under the Health Act in respect of hygiene in hairdressers shops which are parallel to those under the Hairdressers Registration Act, all council health inspectors are also concerned with standards of hygiene and sanitation in hairdressers' shops.
LIST OF PERSONS REGISTERED IN THE PRESCRIBED CLASSES OF HAIRDRESSING AS AT THE 1ST JANUARY, 1960 TO 1967 INCLUSIVE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st January—</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>3,943</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1,681</td>
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RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

REPLACEMENT OF CARRIAGES: NEWPORT—ALTONA SERVICE.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. To what extent (if any) “Tait” carriages are taken out of service as the new “Harris” trains are introduced into the railway service?

2. What is preventing the replacement with some of the better type “Tait” cars of the mixed carriages both “Tait” and dogbox types (most of which are in bad repair) on the Newport—Altona line?

3. Whether, in the event that no surplus better type “Tait” cars are available at present, he will inspect this antiquated train with a view to having replacements made as soon as possible?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answers are—

1. Until the remaining 80 swing door suburban carriages have been replaced, no “Tait” cars will be taken out of service as new “Harris” trains come into running.

2 and 3. As explained in (1) no “Tait” cars are being withdrawn.

The trip is short (3½ miles) and there are few passengers outside peak hours. The use of other rolling-stock on the line could only be at the expense of the longer and more heavily patronized routes.

NEWPORT WORKSHOPS: MAINTENANCE WORKS: NEW TRAINS.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether it is the intention of the Railways Commissioners to have the Newport railway workshops concentrate on maintenance and repair of “Harris” (blue) trains and to call tenders from both local and overseas firms for future construction of new “Harris” trains; if so—(a) through what media these and other similar tenders will be invited; and (b) whether the Commissioners publish a list of accepted tenders as does the Public Works Department in respect of Education Department works?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

The Newport railway workshops will be utilized to the limit of their resources in connexion with the maintenance and construction of suburban carriages, but if requirements exceed their capacity, tenders will be invited from outside firms.

(a) Tenders would be invited by public advertisement.

(b) Lists of accepted tenders are advertised in the Victoria Government Gazette and in the publications Tenders, Building and Construction and Australasian Manufacturer.
**Williamstown Pier Service: Curtailment.**

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. How many trains which formerly went to Williamstown Pier railway station now terminate at Williamstown?

2. What are the reasons for curtailing this service which benefited the area for many years?

3. Whether, now that the Commonwealth Government has acquired most of the adjacent area on the east side of the station, the curtailment of service is the prelude to complete elimination of the station?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answers are—

1. Ten trains which at present go to Williamstown Pier will terminate at Williamstown as from 2nd October, 1967.

2. So few people travel on these trips that their continuance is not justified.

3. Whether the Williamstown Pier station is retained or not will depend upon the future patronage of the rail service.

**New Fruit and Vegetable Market at Dynon: Rail Link.**

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether the Railway Department has any plans to provide a rail link with the new fruit and vegetable market at Dynon-road; if so, whether this link will consist of both Victorian and standard gauges and whether plans are available for perusal by members?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

A plan has been prepared providing for a combined broad and standard gauge rail link to the new fruit and vegetable market at Dynon.

I can make a plan available for perusal to any honorable member who wishes to see it.

"Overland” Express: Provision of Club Car.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether there has been any demand for inclusion of a “club” car on this train; and (b) what is the basic reason for including such an amenity on the Southern Aurora and not on the Overland?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

While agreement in principle has been reached between the South Australian and Victorian Railway Departments, who jointly own the Overland, as to the desirability of including a “club” car in the consist of that train, there are operating difficulties to be overcome in that, with the existing length of platforms available at the Adelaide and Melbourne terminals, the operation of such a car would involve the running of second divisions on many more occasions than is now necessary.

In any event, funds available for new rolling stock for the Overland are fully committed for the next few years in providing additional second-class sitting carriages and new power-brake vans to enable the train to be converted to head-end power supply before expiry of the economic life of the existing carriage-mounted generating equipment.

**Measures to Deter Vandalism and Hooliganism.**

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether he will give consideration to incorporating motormen’s cabins in some of the new “Harris” carriages with interconnecting doors to enable two-carriage trains to be self-contained units as a deterrent to vandalism and hooliganism on trains, and also to hasten the replacement of “Tait” carriages which at present are the only cars adaptable to two-carriage trains?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

As sufficient “Tait” trailers with a special compartment that could be economically converted to a driving unit were available to meet the requirements of two-car trains, the Commissioners were not prepared to incur the considerably higher cost in converting “Harris” trailers.

It is expected that these “Tait” units will be retained in service for some years.

**Freight Rates for Wheat.**

Mr. BUCKLEY (Lowan) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. What are the prevailing freight rates for the transport of wheat by rail to the Geelong terminal from the silos at Service-
ton, Kaniva, Nhill, Dimboola, Horsham, Jeparit, Rainbow, Woomelang, Hopetoun, Beulah and Warracknabeal, respectively?

2. Whether, in view of rumours of a proposed increase in these rates, he will give an assurance that grower organizations and members of this House will be given an opportunity to put their case in respect of the high cost of production?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answers include a table, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard without being read.

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

1. Existing rates for the carriage of wheat to the Grain Elevators Board terminal at Geelong.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station from</th>
<th>Rate per Ton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serviceton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaniva</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nhill</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimboola</td>
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<td>$6.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeparit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainbow</td>
<td>$7.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woomelang</td>
<td>$7.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hopetoun</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
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<td>Beulah</td>
<td>$7.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warracknabeal</td>
<td>$6.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. There is no proposal to increase freight rates.

MCINTYRE-ROAD, SUNSHINE NORTH, BRIDGE.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether the Railway Department has any plans for replacing the narrow bridge over the railway line at McIntyre-road, Sunshine North?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

Replacement of the bridge is not necessary for railway purposes, but the City of Sunshine is investigating a proposal for a new bridge to improve conditions for road users.

APPRENTICES: RECRUITMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. How many apprentices are employed at Newport railway workshops, Ballarat railway workshops, and Bendigo railway workshops, respectively, and what were the respective figures for each of the last four years?

2. In the event that the number of apprentices being recruited into the Railways Service is declining, what measures are being taken to increase the intake?

3. In the last five years, how many apprentices have left the Railways Service within a year of completing their time?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answers are—

1. New South Wales Minister of Transport is considering a suggestion that a compulsory distinguishing mark be placed on second-hand tyres to show how many times these have been retreaded; if so, whether, in the interests of road safety, he is prepared to investigate the possibilities of similar action in Victoria?

MOTOR VEHICLE TYRES. RETREADING.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

Whether his attention has been drawn to a report that the New South Wales Minister of Transport is considering a suggestion that a compulsory distinguishing mark be placed on second-hand tyres to show how many times these have been retreaded; if so, whether, in the interests of road safety, he is prepared to investigate the possibilities of similar action in Victoria?
For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answer is—

Yes. The Government sees some difficulties in the way of effectively handling this problem. However, the New South Wales authorities will be contacted to see if investigations in that State have brought forth anything which has not shown up in Victoria.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

STUDENTS' CONCESSIONAL FARES.

Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown) asked the Minister of Transport—

1. Whether he has any comment to make regarding press reports that the Government now proposes to raise the age for concession fares on trains from fourteen to fifteen years in line with the school-leaving age?

2. Whether, in the event that the finances of the Government have improved to such an extent that the answer given by the then Minister to question No. 20 asked in this House on 20th September, 1966, on this subject that this would increase the already high loss of revenue sustained by public transport in granting students concessions and, in present financial circumstances, could not be contemplated no longer applies, he will also grant this concession on trams?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answers are—

1. The reports are substantially correct but, as often happens, could be misleading. A child of fourteen years is now in the half fare concession, whereas previously the child had to be aged thirteen years. The point is that the child must now be under fifteen years—not under fourteen years as previously.

2. The Tramways Board's finances are quite separate from the Government's. The Board has to bear its own losses entirely itself, and increasing the age for children's fares from under fourteen years to under fifteen years would inevitably increase its loss.

I will, however, discuss with the Board the estimated effect on revenue of raising the age limit for children's fares generally from under fourteen years to under fifteen years.

TRANSPORT REGULATION BOARD.

TRANSPORT OF GOODS.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of Transport—

What goods are permitted by the Transport Regulation Board to be transported within a 100-mile radius of their place of origin?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport), Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—I ask leave of the House to have the answer incorporated in Hansard, without being read.

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

Apart from statutory licence freedoms under section 5 of the Commercial Goods Vehicles Act and, in particular, the freedom to carry Third Schedule commodities (livestock, bulk petroleum, market garden and orchard produce, furniture and perishables), the Transport Regulation Board grants permits automatically for road transport of the following commodities:

(a) State-wide.—Uncrated plaster and cement sheets, gypsum board, roofing tiles, cement prefabricated products, glazed doors and timber windows, steel window frames, special types of cement pipes and earthenware pipes, stuck kiln-dried hardwood timber, sanitary earthenware, uncrated refrigerators and washing machines, scrap metal and marine goods, potatoes and onions, firewood, hides, skins and tallow (not exceeding ten drums per trip), gas cylinders.

(b) Superphosphate, bricks—up to 100 miles.

(c) Baled hay—70 miles and limited movements up to 100 miles.

(d) Petroleum products in drums and packages—up to 160 miles.

(e) Sawn timber—under formula permitting one-third of mill output to move by road subject to two-thirds being consigned by rail.

(f) Cement from Gippsland Cement Works, Traralgon.

(g) Aerated waters up to 50 miles to a depot and 70 miles for direct delivery to retailers.

(h) Poultry foods and stock foods up to 100 miles.

(i) Wool to Portland within a 50-mile radius and from places beyond 20 miles of a railway station.
(i) Products and raw materials for decentralized industries.

In addition to these automatic permits, considerable road transport of miscellaneous goods is permitted after examination of the circumstances advanced by the consignor or consignee.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS BOARD.

FINANCES: PASSENGERS CARRIED.

Mr. CLAREY (Melbourne) asked the Minister of Transport—
1. What was the deficit or surplus of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board for the year 1966-67 of—(a) bus operations; and (b) tram operations?
2. What was the surplus in respect of non-operating activities in that year?
3. How many bus and tram passengers were carried during the same period?
4. What was the accumulated deficit of the Board as at 30th June, 1967?

For Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport, Sir William McDonald (Minister of Lands).—The answers are—

Subject to audit the answers are:—
1. (a) Bus operations, deficit $709,460.
   (b) Tram operations, deficit $518,508.
2. $247,332.
   Tram: 131,876,418 passengers.
4. After writing back certain specific provisions previously made in the accounts amounting to $2,918,535 the accumulated deficit carried forward at 30th June, 1967, was $2,201,654.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

BREACHES: PROSECUTIONS.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

In respect of breaches of the Clean Air Act since its inception in 1958—(a) how many prosecutions have been launched by the Department of Health against offenders; (b) how many prosecutions have been filed by municipal councils under powers of prosecution delegated by the Department; and (c) what were the names and addresses of the persons or firms proceeded against?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

(a) No prosecutions under the Clean Air Act have been undertaken by the Commission of Public Health.

(b) and (c) Records of prosecutions undertaken by municipal councils are not held in the Department of Health.

POLLUTION IN GEELONG AREA.

Mr. TREZISE (Geelong North) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—
1. Whether the degree of air pollution has decreased in the suburbs of Newtown North and Herne Hill at Geelong over the past three of four months; if so, by what amount?
2. What are the types and amounts of gases and odours polluting the air in these areas and also in the suburbs of Norlane, Corio, North Shore and North Geelong?
3. What are the main sources of such gases and odours?
4. Whether inquiries have been carried out at any time to trace the source of such odours and gases in the Geelong area for remedial purposes; if so—(a) what was the type of inquiry; (b) what were the findings; and (c) what action followed?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health are—

1. The degree of air pollution in Newtown North and Herne Hill is measured by two deposit gauges measuring dust fall, the designated locations of these gauges being Newtown North (No. 202) and Newtown West (No. 201). The results for the past four months have not yet been processed and it is therefore not possible at this stage to state whether there has been any significant variation in dust fall.

2. The suburbs of Geelong mentioned contain a large number of industries, including a cement works, oil refinery, sulphuric acid works, superphosphate works, abattoirs and other offensive trades. Amongst the types of gases discharged are sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and sulphur-rettet hydrogen and various hydro-carbon compounds. These gases also arise from the burning of fuel and domestic oil heating units from which sulphur dioxide is discharged, from motor cars from which carbon monoxide and hydro-carbons are emitted and from the ventilation system of the Geelong sewerage system from which sulphur-rettet hydrogen arises. The amount of gases referred to in these areas would consequently be impossible to determine.

3. As seen in the answer given to question No. 2, the sources of gases and odours are numerous.

4. (a) Inquiries have been made at various times into air pollution complaints in the Geelong area. The methods employed include on-site investigations to determine the time and duration of occurrences and the
correlation of this information with wind speed and direction and other meteorological factors.

(b) Inquiries on odour complaints have generally proved inconclusive.

(c) Odours allegedly arising from the oil refinery at Corio are at present being investigated by departmental officers in conjunction with examination of plans in connexion with proposed extensions.

POLLUTION IN SUNSHINE ELECTORATE

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. What action is being taken by the Commission of Public Health to combat air pollution in the Sunshine electoral district and adjacent areas?

2. Where deposit gauges are located and what are the readings since 31st December last?

3. What industries have been dealt with in connexion with air pollution since that date and what specific action was taken in respect of each industry?

4. Whether there have been any changes in the prevailing winds in the district in the last five years: if so, what are the changes and the causes of the changes?

5. What scientific inquiries have been made into the design and location of deposit gauges by the Commission of Public Health?

6. What measures are being taken in anticipation of future industrial and residential development in the district in terms of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works report on population increases?

Mr. MANSOn (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health are—

1. Officers of the Clean Air Section are responsible to the Commission of Public Health for carrying out surveys in connexion with dust fall-out, sulphur dioxide and smoke density monitoring. The Commission of Public Health is also required to approve of air pollution control equipment in new industrial premises which may emit air pollutants. In so far as the electoral district of Sunshine is concerned the Commission has approved of air pollution control methods established by the following companies in respect of the equipment named—

   (a) Albion Quarrying Co. Pty. Ltd.—Hotmix plant.
   (b) Castrol Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (c) Olympic Cables Pty. Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (d) Massey Ferguson (Aust.) Ltd.—Two cupolas.
   (e) Dyecraft Pty. Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (f) Metal Manufacturers—Boiler plant and kerosene gas generating plant.
   (g) Sunshine Cabinet Works Pty. Ltd.—Wood waste incineration plant.
   (h) W. K. Burnside—Boiler plant.
   (i) J. H. Ralph & Sons Pty. Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (j) Austral Standard Cables, Maidstone—Industrial incinerator.
   (k) Beaurepaire Tyre Service Pty Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (l) Edcliff Engineering Pty. Ltd.—Spray booths.
   (m) I.C.I.A.N.Z. Ltd. Fabrics Division—Boiler plant.
   (n) Steelcraft Baby Carriages—Boiler plant.
   (o) Co-operative Farmers and Graziers Direct Supply Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (p) Leroc Containers Pty. Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (r) E.P.M. Concrete Pty. Ltd.—Boiler plant.
   (s) Sidney Cooke Pty. Ltd.—Boiler plant and peronele heater.
   (t) A.C.L. Manufacturing Proprietary Ltd.—Mould weight and ladle drying equipment.
   (u) Fletcher Chemical Co. Australia Pty. Ltd.—250 horse-power boiler plant.

2. Deposit gauges are located at 14 Delmont-street, Albion (Site No. 171) and at Almond-avenue, Brooklyn (Site No. 172). The Department's deposit gauge survey is based on monthly readings over a period of twelve months and the readings for the current year have not been processed.

3. In addition to those mentioned in paragraph 1, investigations and inspections have been made into major plant modifications at the works of Massey Ferguson (Australia) Limited and Lead Products (Vic.) Pty. Ltd. In the case of Massey Ferguson (Australia) Limited, these plant modifications involve a new modern iron and steel foundry and the modernization of other furnaces, which have been the subject of many complaints about smoke and fume emission in the past.

Investigations of the proposals of Lead Products (Vic.) Pty. Ltd., in which officers of the Department's Industrial Hygiene Division were also involved, included an inspection and discussions with the company's managing director at its Sydney works and head office. The proposals now before the Department's Clean Air Section include plans for the incorporation of extensive equipment to satisfactorily control the emission of any air pollutants.
4. This information is not available to the Department but information as to any changes could be obtained from the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology.

5. There is no universal standardization of deposit gauges. In the interest of interstate standardization the design of the standard deposit gauge adopted in Victoria is similar to the N.S.W. gauge, which had been in use for a number of years in that State. The location of the gauges follows closely the principles recommended by the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

6. Officers of the Department, when assessing plans and specifications for new industrial plant or plant extensions, always assume that at some time in the future residential development may take place near the industry concerned. The same standards in regard to air pollution control are therefore required for all plants, whether near residences or initially in an isolated area.

CHILD MINDING CENTRES.

CARE OF CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS.

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

Whether, in view of the increasing dependence of our economy on working mothers, the Government makes any provision, or intends to make any provision in the future, for care of school and nursery-age children of working mothers particularly in newly-developed outer areas of Melbourne?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

The Government does not make any provision for the care of school and nursery-age children to enable both parents of such children to go to work. However, subsidies, both capital and maintenance, are made available to assist with the operation of day nurseries conducted by municipal councils.

Working mothers with pre-school age children who are unable to make other arrangements for the care of their families usually leave them at privately owned and operated child minding centres. These centres are registered under the Child Minding Centres Regulations and their standards and conduct are directly supervised by officers of both the General Health and Maternal and Child Welfare Branches of the Department of Health.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES COMMISSION.

NEW SUNSHINE HOSPITAL.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. When work will be commenced upon the new Sunshine hospital?

2. What is the estimated cost of the hospital?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

A site has been reserved in Sunshine for a hospital, but there are no immediate plans for construction and consequently no estimate as yet.

HOSPITAL BENEFIT SCHEMES: "OPERATION SAFEGUARD".

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

Whether the Minister or his Department is associated with "Operation Safeguard"; if so, what is the expected cost of this campaign, and by whom the cost will be borne?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Yes. The Minister has authorized the Hospitals and Charities Commission to budget for an expenditure of $50,000 in the current year as the Government's share of the cost of the campaign. The campaign is being supported by various registered benefit organizations which are also providing funds towards the cost of their own publicity campaigns in association with the project.

HOSPITALS.

WORKERS COMPENSATION AND THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE CASES: OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS: DELAY IN PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

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

1. What amount was outstanding to Victorian hospitals for—(a) workers compensation cases; and (b) third-party insurance cases, in each of the years 1962-63 to 1966-67, inclusive?

2. What is the average delay in the payment of such accounts?
Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health are—

1 and 2. Separate figures are not available for third-party and workers compensation cases. Particulars for all non-qualified patients—third-party, workers compensation and repatriation, &c., are:

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<th>Amount Outstanding</th>
<th>Average delay in payment</th>
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<td>11.2 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WORKERS COMPENSATION CASES: OUT-PATIENT FEES.

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

Whether patients who claim cover under workers compensation, and who attend the out-patients department of any Victorian hospital, are asked to pay a fee before receiving attention?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

A person attending an out-patients department of a Victorian public hospital, who claims cover under workers compensation, is charged a fee in common with other outpatients. This fee is refunded to the patient concerned when the claim for compensation is admitted by the insurer. At the time of the person's attendance at the out-patients department, a hospital is not in a position to know whether the claim for compensation will be accepted by the insurer.

MEDICAL GASES: SUPPLY AND COST.

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

If he will ascertain and inform the House—

1. What companies supply medical gases to Victorian hospitals?
2. Whether hospitals may purchase the cylinders used to store such gases or whether they are required to pay rental charges and in the latter event what rental charges are applied?
3. What is the cost per 1,000 cubic feet of oxygen to the hospitals?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health are—

1. (a) Commonwealth Industrial Gases Limited.
   (b) Australian Liquid Air Limited.

2. Hospitals are not obliged to purchase cylinders; they prefer to rent cylinders because of initial purchase cost, maintenance and safety. Rental charges vary according to cylinder size. The charges are—

   Twenty-five cents per month for small cylinders (gas machine size).
   Forty-five cents per month for medium cylinders (ward size).
   Sixty cents per month for large cylinders (pipe-line size).

Charges are raised on the basis of cylinders held at a given date; therefore, the cost to a major hospital is somewhat lower.

3. The price varies according to the location of a hospital, consumption, and whether liquid or gaseous, and cylinder size. The minimum price for gas supplied in cylinders is $9–$10, and the maximum price $15, per 1,000 cubic feet (the latter a small user and in small cylinders). The price may be as low as $4.25–$5.25 per 1,000 cubic feet for a large user of liquid oxygen.

VICTORIAN MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

ADMINISTRATION.

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

1. On how many occasions the Victorian Medical Advisory Committee met in each of the years 1963 to 1967?
2. To whom this committee is responsible?
3. In what year the last report of this committee was made?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health are—

1. 1963—Seven.
   1964—Two.
   1965–1967—Nil.
2. The Minister of Health.
3. 1964.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
USE OF DIPHENYLAMINE IN PACKING OF APPLES.

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

Whether the substance diphenylamine has been used or is proposed for use in the packing of apples for storage purposes in Victoria?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Health is—

Diphenylamine has been used in Victoria over the past three years in experiments carried out by the Department of Agriculture in relation to the control of superficial scald of apples during cool storage and has proved most effective.

Its general use for certain apple varieties is desired by the apple industry in Victoria but to date it has not been approved by the State Department of Health.

The National Health and Medical Research Council has approved of the use of diphenylamine provided residues are not greater than seven parts per 1,000,000.

Approval for its use in each State is a matter for the State Department of Health and necessitates provision being made in the Food and Drug Standard Regulations.

It is understood that the Victorian Department of Health will make such provision shortly. New South Wales has already taken such action.

LANDS DEPARTMENT.
WATER HYACINTH IN MILDURA DISTRICT.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

Whether he is aware that water hyacinth has been found in the Mildura district; if so, what steps will be taken to ensure that water hyacinth does not spread through the irrigation system?

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The answer supplied by the Minister of Agriculture is—

Yes. In April, 1967, water hyacinth was found in the Mildura—Red Cliffs area. Prompt action by field officers of the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board resulted in destruction of all known plants. The full support and co-operation of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is being given to the Board in the control of this plant and a warning has been published in the local press of its potential danger.

NEMATODE TRICHODORUS IN GUNBOWER DISTRICT.

Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park) asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. Whether he is aware that nematode trichodorus has been found on properties in the Gumbower district?

2. Whether this parasitic nematode constitutes a threat to the tobacco-growing industry; if so, whether steps are being taken to control the spread of this parasite?

Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Agriculture are—

1. Yes. The nematode was first recognized as a pest of the tobacco plant and identified by officers of the Department of Agriculture.

2. The nematode constitutes a threat to the tobacco-growing industry in the Murray Valley region around Gumbower.

It is believed the same species has been discovered in some virgin land in Queensland and in some fruit-growing districts in New South Wales. To the present it has not been detected in any district in Victoria other than the Gumbower district.

Much has yet to be learned about this particular parasite.

Currently, the Department of Agriculture is investigating the host range of the pest and its possible role as a vector for virus diseases.

In field trials at the tobacco sub-station at Gumbower, various chemicals are being examined as a possible control for the pest. These chemicals include new as well as old nematicides.

Tobacco growers have been warned through the press and various publications circulating in tobacco districts, and generally by the Department's tobacco advisory officers, to refrain from introducing tobacco seedlings or anything that may have soil adhering to it from the Gumbower district to other tobacco-growing districts in the State.

SWINE COMPENSATION FUND.
CREDIT BALANCE: CONTRIBUTIONS.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Minister of Lands, for the Minister of Agriculture—

1. Whether, in view of the substantial sum now held in the Swine Compensation Fund, the fees payable by contributors will be reduced?

2. Whether he has seen the statement by the New South Wales Premier (Mr. Askin) that the New South Wales Government intends to reduce the tax from 20 cents to 10 cents?
Sir WILLIAM McDONALD (Minister of Lands).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Agriculture are lengthy, and I seek leave of the House, on the grounds of volume, to have them incorporated in Hansard, without my reading them.

Leave was granted, and the answers were as follows:

1. At 30th June, 1967, the amount standing to the credit of the Swine Compensation Fund, operating under the requirements of the Swine Act 1958, was $715,177.

The amount of swine stamp duty payable at present on the sale of pigs is 2 cents for every $2.50 or part thereof, with a maximum of 32 cents per animal.

The Swine Compensation Fund was established in 1927 and stamp duty payable was for the first time raised to 2d. or part thereof, with a maximum on any one pig of 2s. 6d. In 1934, stamp duty payable was reduced by 50 per cent. and the fund remained solvent until 1938–39, when, in that year and in the immediately following years, appropriations from Consolidated Revenue became necessary in order to meet compensation payments. This unsatisfactory state of the Fund was brought about by a steadily increasing price of pigs, as a result of which, owing to the maximum (1s. 3d.) of compensation payable, payments into the fund could not keep pace with increased compensation payments. In 1954, the position was stabilised by amendments to the Swine Act, raising the amount of stamp duty from 1d. to 2d. in the £1 or part thereof, with a maximum payment of 3s. 4d. in respect of any one pig and at the same time increasing the maximum amount of compensation payable in respect of any one pig from £15 to £20.

Revision of the provision of the Act was again undertaken in 1964, when the maximum amount of compensation payable was increased from £20 to £25, and, in addition, the requirement was abolished that seven-eighths only of the agreed valuation was paid in respect of diseased pigs condemned by a stock inspector, to allow for compensation payment of the full market value. No increase in tax was imposed at that time.

Since that time, the provisions of the Act have not been changed in respect of stamp duty and compensation payments, except for the alterations necessary following the change-over to decimal currency.

With the introduction of amending legislation in 1954, the Swine Compensation Fund recommenced operating on a sound basis, with the balance in the fund increasing at an average annual rate of approximately $44,000 for the next seven or eight years.

In common with the position in all other States, pig numbers in Victoria rose steeply in 1961 and 1962, remained at that then record level till 1964, and again rose even higher in 1965 and 1966. This increase in pig population has led to a steady increase in the yearly receipts to the fund, while expenditure in compensation payments has not risen correspondingly because of the successful disease control measures instituted by the Department of Agriculture.

In the month of June, 1957, 117 pig properties were under quarantine because of disease. This number had been reduced to 46 properties by June, 1967. Total condemnations of pigs and pig carcasses for which compensation was paid for the year ended June, 1967, was 2,992, as against 7,583 for the year ended June, 1957. This fall is mainly related to the drop in the rate of condemnations of carcasses for tuberculosis at abattoirs from 1,857 to 816 and a fall from 4,128 to 1,170 pigs and pig carcasses condemned because of swine plague.

Very careful consideration is now being given to the provisions of the Swine Act in relation to the present satisfactory position of the fund, and how this can be used to the best advantage of the industry, and in enabling the Department of Agriculture to press home these successful disease control programmes.

Matters which are currently receiving attention may be listed as follows:

1. Likely trends within the industry, particularly in respect of prices and numbers of pigs within the State.

2. The possibility of a serious outbreak of disease occurring, such as the outbreak of swine fever in New South Wales in 1961, which cost over $400,000 in compensation.

3. Means whereby the "Hypar" programme can be used to restock infected pig farms after depopulation and disinfection procedures.

4. The desirability of increasing the maximum amount of compensation payable.

5. Other avenues that might tangibly benefit the pig producer.

These points are all being carefully investigated so that contributors to the fund may gain the most advantage from a review of the position.

2. I understand that the New South Wales Government intends to introduce an amending clause to the Act governing swine compensation in that State. The proposal is, as the honorable member states, that stamp duty will be reduced from 20 cents to 10 cents per pig slaughtered.

I would point out that there are some essential differences between the operation of the corresponding Acts in the States of New South Wales and Victoria. First, in New South Wales, stamp duty is levied as a flat rate on carcasses, whereas, in Victoria, the duty is payable on pigs sold by an owner, and the amount varies according to the sale price of the animal.
Secondly, a most tangible difference exists in the matter of the diseases for which compensation is paid. In New South Wales, payment of compensation is limited to swine fever, tuberculosis, septicaemia, anthrax and brucellosis. In practice, as swine fever does not normally occur in Australia, and as anthrax and brucellosis are extremely rare diseases in pigs in New South Wales, payment is limited to tuberculosis and septicaemia and, because of the nature of these two conditions, nearly all payment is limited to cases where carcasses are condemned at slaughter.

In this State, on the other hand, compensation is paid for swine fever, tuberculosis, infectious pneumonia (swine plague), necrotic enteritis, swine dysentery, and swine erysipelas. It will be noted that none of the latter four diseases, which are the common infectious diseases of pig herds, is compensatable in New South Wales.

As these conditions account for some 75-80 per cent. of all pigs for which compensation is paid in Victoria, it is obvious that it is most unsound to compare procedures in this State with those operating in New South Wales.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION.

CHOWILLA DAM.

Mr. STONEHAM (Midlands) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

1. What were the considerations leading to stoppage of work on the Chowilla dam project?
2. Whether it is intended that work will be resumed on this undertaking; if so, when?
3. If he will lay on the table of the Library the files dealing with—(a) the Government’s decision that Victoria would participate in the project; and (b) reasons for the present discontinuance of work?

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

1. Intensive investigations are being undertaken by the Commission to assess the magnitude of the salinity problem, its main sources, and practicable means to combat it. At the same time, the River Murray Commission has recently engaged consultants to look into the problem on a comprehensive basis.

2. Yes. Investigations in progress include consideration of means to dispose of saline drainage flows particularly from the Sunraysia and Kerang areas. Design and costing of such works is not yet complete.

3. Recent occurrences of short-term high salinities at Swan Hill and downstream in Victoria have been mainly due to inflows of highly saline waters from Barr creek, a tributary of the Loddon river, which drains a large area of irrigated lands between Kerang and Cohuna. Regulating procedures have been initiated which should considerably reduce this problem. However, no early relief can be expected from the special problem which sometimes arises when heavy storms occur on the Barr creek catchment.

QUALITY OF RIVER MURRAY WATERS.

Mr. WHITING (Mildura) asked the Minister of Water Supply—

1. What action the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is taking to combat the problem of the decline in the quality of River Murray waters, of which he is aware?
2. Whether any consideration has been given by the Government to the diversion of drainage outflows to evaporation basins; adjacent to the Murray; if so, whether approximate costs have been ascertained and plans drawn up?
3. Whether, in view of the urgency of the situation, he can forecast any early relief for water users downstream of Swan Hill?

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

1. The River Murray Commission therefore recommended to the four Governments that work on the project be suspended pending further investigation.

2. A decision on future work on the Chowilla project will depend primarily on the further investigations being undertaken by the River Murray Commission, which body will report to the four Governments concerned. These investigations will include examination of storage possibilities on the Mitta Mitta river and also on the Indi (Upper Murray) river and at Lake Benanee near Euston, as well as possibilities at the Chowilla site.

3. (a) Yes.
   (b) Yes.
during times of low flow in the River Murray. There may be short periods when irrigators with salt-sensitive crops will choose to suspend irrigation. The Commission monitors water quality very closely and has arranged for up-to-date reporting on quality by local press and radio.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES COMMISSION.

TRAINING OF NURSES.

Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. How many country hospitals are registered as nursing training hospitals, giving their locations?

2. In each of the last five years what has been— (a) the enrolment of trainees at each hospital; and (b) the drop-out and failure rate?

3. What has been the average drop-out and failure rate at metropolitan hospitals over the same period?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health consist of three pages of typing and three pages of statistics, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard without my reading them.

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

1. There are 22 hospitals in country areas approved by the Victorian Nursing Council as general nurse training schools. Of this number, six are associated with the Northern District School of Nursing for educational purposes. The locations of these 22 hospitals are given in the attached list No. 1.

2. Figures given in reply to this part of the question cover the years 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1967 to the 30th June. The figures for 1967 to the 30th June will represent approximately two-thirds of the total enrolment for the year because the enrolments in the first half of the year are so much greater than for the latter part of the year.

Commencing in 1964, a change was made in the method of keeping records and it would require a considerable amount of effort to search the 1963 records in detail for the purpose of this answer. Figures for this year, therefore, have not been provided. As the course of nurse training covers a period of three years, it would be difficult to establish a "rate" for drop-out and failure. Consequently the figures shown for the years 1964 to June 1967 relate specifically to the numbers of persons falling out during the years stated.

"Failures" includes failures in the first professional examination (taken towards the end of the first year of training) the internal hospital examination (taken towards the end of the second year of training) and the final State examination.

The figures for "drop-out" include those who have discontinued training for any one of a variety of reasons as well as those who have discontinued due to failure in examinations. The individual figures are shown in list No. 2.

3. The period used is the same as for country hospitals, i.e., 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967 to the 30th June, and the figures shown in list No. 3 are presented on the same basis as those for list No. 2.

LIST No. 1.

HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS OF NURSING IN COUNTRY AREAS APPROVED FOR GENERAL NURSE TRAINING.

Provincial and Country Areas—

- Ararat and District Hospital, Ararat, Vic. 3377.
- Bairnsdale District Hospital, Bairnsdale, Vic. 3875.
- Ballarat and District Base Hospital, Ballarat, Vic. 3350.
- Colac District Hospital, Colac, Vic. 3250.
- Geelong and District Hospital, Geelong, Vic. 3220.
- The Gippsland Hospital, Sale, Vic. 3850.
- Glenelg Base Hospital, Hamilton, Vic. 3300.
- Latrobe Valley Community Hospital, Yallourn, Vic. 3838.
- Maryborough and District Hospital, Maryborough, Vic. 3465.
- Mooroopna and District Base Hospital, Mooroopna, Vic. 3629.
- St. John of God Hospital, Ballarat, Vic. 3350.
- Central Gippsland Hospital, Traralgon, Vic. 3844.
- Wangaratta District Base Hospital, Wangaratta, Vic. 3677.
- Warrnambool and District Base Hospital, Warrnambool, Vic. 3280.
- West Gippsland Hospital, Warragul, Vic. 3820.
- Wimmera Base Hospital, Horsham, Vic. 3400.

(Total—16).

The Northern District School of Nursing, Lister House, Rowan-street, Bendigo, Vic. 3550.

Associated Hospitals—

- The Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital, Bendigo, Vic. 3550.
- Castlemaine District Community Hospital, Castlemaine, Vic. 3450.
- Echuca District Hospital, Echuca, Vic. 3625.
- Kyne-ton District Hospital, Kyneton, Vic. 3444.
- Mildura Base Hospital, Mildura, Vic. 3500.
- Swan Hill District Hospital, Swan Hill, Vic. 3585.

(Total—6).
### Figure 1: Figures Relating to Enrolment, Drop-out and Failure of Student Nurses in General Nurse Training Schools in Country Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>1964</th>
<th>1965</th>
<th>1966</th>
<th>To 30th June, 1967</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enrolment No.</td>
<td>Total Drop-out</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>Other Causes</td>
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<td>Ararat and District</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Bairnsdale District</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Ballarat and District</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colac District</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong and District</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gippsland Base, Sale</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>Glenelg Base, Hamilton</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latrobe Valley, Yallourn</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryborough and District</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooroopa and District</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>St. John of God, Ballarat</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Central Gippsland, Traralgon</td>
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<td>Warrnambool and District, Base</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>West Gippsland, Warragul</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wimmera Base, Horsham</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitals Associated with the Northern District School of Nursing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Following Are no Longer Training Schools**

- Stawell District
- Warracknabeal
- Wonthaggi District

**Hospitals and Charities Commission**
LIST No. 3.

FIGURES RELATING TO ENROLMENT, DROP-OUT AND FAILURE OF STUDENT NURSES IN GENERAL NURSE TRAINING SCHOOLS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<td>101</td>
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<td>Preston and Northcote</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>Prince Henry's</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart</td>
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<td>St. Vincents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
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<td>98</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1,234</td>
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COUNTRY HOSPITALS.
Mr. B. J. EVANS (Gippsland East) asked the Minister of State Development, for the Minister of Health—

1. Where and at what individual cost hospitals have been built or subjected to major renovations in country areas by the Hospitals and Charities Commission and the Bush Nursing Association, respectively, in each of the last five years?

2. What is the bed capacity of each of those hospitals and the average daily bed occupancy?

Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development).—The answers supplied by the Minister of Health consist of detailed statistics, and I seek leave of the House to have them incorporated in Hansard without my reading them.

Leave was granted and the answers were as follows:—

Hospitals in country areas subsidized through the Hospitals and Charities Commission in which works were completed during each of the past five years and the value of the works so completed are as follows and in each case the bed capacity and daily bed occupancy figures shown are those relating to 1966-67:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Bed Capacity</th>
<th>Daily Average Bed Occupancy</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962-63.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geelong and District Hospital</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>324.8</td>
<td>378,708</td>
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<td>Gippsland Base Hospital (Sale)</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>108.1</td>
<td>366,518</td>
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<td>Mildura Base Hospital</td>
<td>260</td>
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<td>162,020</td>
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Bush nursing hospitals which received capital assistance are as follows and in each case the actual cost of the works, the current bed capacity and the daily bed average for 1966-67 is shown:—

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Hospitals and [ASSEMBLY.] Charities Commission.

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COST OF LIVING

PRICE INCREASES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES: CITY POPULATIONS.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West) asked the Premier—

1. Whether he is aware of a constant rising of prices and cost of services in Victoria during 1965, 1966, and 1967 to date?

2. Whether he agrees that the rise in consumer prices during these periods amounts to approximately 4 per cent. each year; if not, why?

3. Whether he will indicate what principal goods (which are used in the Commonwealth prices index) increased in price and by what percentage during these respective periods?

4. Whether he will indicate what services increased in cost and by what percentage during such periods?

5. If he will ascertain and inform the House—(a) what commercial use or practice (if any) has been adopted in Victoria in respect of prices of any and what commodities of the South Australian Prices Controls determinations; and (b) whether any Victorian organization objected to such use or practice?

6. What percentages of the population of Victoria reside within—(a) the metropolitan area; and (b) the cities of Ballarat, Geelong, and Bendigo?

For Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer), Mr. G. O. Reid (Attorney-General).—The answers are—

1, 2, 3 and 4. Any knowledge I have is obtained from the relevant section of the Year Book and the publication of the Government Statist.

5. No.

6. The honorable member can obtain the information from the 1966 Census Report.

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

NUMBER OF PREMIUM SCHEDULES: FINANCIAL POSITION.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir).—By leave, I move—
That there be laid before this House a return showing:—

1. The number of voluntary hospital and medical insurance organizations operating in Victoria.

2. The number of schedules of weekly premiums existing and the range of such weekly premiums.

3. The income, the administrative costs, the amount of benefits distributed (exclusive of Commonwealth Government payment), the financial reserves, and the capital assets of each of these organizations for each of the financial years 1964-65, 1965-66, and 1966-67.

The motion was agreed to.
JURIES BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to juries, to amend the Coroner's Act 1958, the County Court Act 1958, the Crimes Act 1958, and the Evidence Act 1958, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That consideration of Notice of Motion, General Business, be postponed until after consideration of Orders of the Day, Government Business.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—The Opposition is opposed to this motion for the reason, as the Chief Secretary is well aware, that I have given notice to the House that I desire to move by way of general business the following motion:—

That, in the opinion of this House, Sessional Orders should be adopted fixing the days on which this House shall meet for the despatch of business during the present session, and determining the sitting days on which Government Business, General Business, and Private Bill Business, respectively, shall take precedence of all other business.

This is not an attempt by the Opposition to take away from the Government and the Chief Secretary their prerogatives in conducting the business of the House. However, the Opposition is concerned, and we believe that all honorable members must be becoming increasingly concerned, about the manner in which the Government business has been transacted since Parliament resumed following the recent recess.

On a more general basis, Opposition members are concerned about the continual diminution, not merely of the rights of the Opposition, but of the rights of individual members in this House. My motion is designed to restore to this Parliament and to individual members the prerogatives which were once theirs—prerogatives which are exercised in the National Parliament and in other State Parliaments. The motion is, I believe, a legitimate and proper attempt to say to the Government, "You should so order the conduct and the affairs of this Parliament that individual members will once again have the right to introduce private members' Bills". The Opposition believes that it would prove beneficial if the practice of observing Grievance Day were restored.

I am informed by the Clerk that there was a time when motions of this type were moved regularly as a matter of practice, not by the Opposition, but by the Government of the day. It was the practice early in each Parliamentary session to adopt Sessional Orders fixing the sitting days, the hours of meeting and so on and determining the order of business. Sessional Orders of this type were last adopted in 1945 by the then Premier, who was the Leader of the Country Party, but they have not been adopted since. It was almost a standard procedure for Parliament to meet for three days each week. On the first two Thursdays, Government business took precedence, but on the following Thursday, general business took precedence, and private members were given the opportunity of proceeding with private Bills or motions. In other words, private members could use the forms of the House to raise matters of general concern, not merely to their own electors, but to the people of the State.

Mr. JONA.—Who was running Parliament then?

Mr. HOLDING.—We should be grateful that the honorable member for Hawthorn was not running Parliament at that time. The concept
of Grievance Day is a good one and it is provided for in the Standing Orders. Standing Order 273c provides that—

on every third Thursday, except when the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means are open, the first Order of the Day shall be either Supply or Ways and Means.

This enables honorable members to ventilate grievances and criticisms of Government administration. A period of four hours is allowed for the debate and each member speaking is entitled to speak for 30 minutes.

Grievance Day was observed regularly until 1939. It was held twice in 1944, once in 1954, and once in 1957. If there was ever a time for resorting to these traditional practices of Parliamentary procedure, I believe that the time is now. The regular observance of Grievance Day is necessary not only in the interests of the Opposition but, I may say frankly, also in the interests of members who are seated on the back benches on the Government side of the Chamber. One of the problems which is confronting the people of the State is the fact that more and more decisions are being taken in party rooms and not enough issues are being brought into Parliament for discussion and debate. Honorable members were treated to a spectacle to-day when the Leader of the Country Party asked the Premier the following question on notice:

"Whether, in view of the growing demand for the appointment of an ombudsman, the Government will reconsider its opposition to appointing such an officer; if not, why?"

It was a reasonable question, especially in view of the fact that the need for an Ombudsman in Victoria was recently discussed at the Liberal Party conference. In a way which is becoming characteristic in this Parliament, the Leader of the Country Party was told "No". He was not given the courtesy of a reason for this answer. If there are reasons for the Government's reply, the Government should be prepared to debate them.

Mr. Holding.

At present, there are on the Notice Paper, five private members' Bills, all of which relate to matters of considerable concern to large sections of Victoria's population. If the Government decides that it does not want these Bills to be passed and become part of the State's legislation, that is its prerogative. The Government has the numbers to adopt such a policy. But is it part of the Government's prerogative and part of the traditions of this Parliament that the Government should decide that Parliament will not even debate these issues and that private members will not have the right to raise these issues so that they can be debated, as they are debated in the National Parliament and in other Parliaments in the various States of the Commonwealth? Apart from the principle that is involved, the Opposition believes that as a matter of good government some attempt should be made to rationalize and organize the conduct of proceedings of this House.

After a substantial recess, this Parliament resumed its sittings last week. The Opposition was entitled to presume—as many honorable members did presume—that the Government would have used the lengthy recess to prepare its legislative programme; but what happened? On two days last week, Parliament rose before dinner, which indicated how good the Government was in organizing its legislative programme. Honorable members who brought visitors to the House, in some cases from the country, assuming that the visitors might see Parliament in action—they might even have worked on the basis that the visitors would hear a speech from the Premier—were sorely disappointed. After two sittings which, in total, lasted only four or five hours, Parliament rose, its business being completed for the week.

Mr. RYLAH.—You are a low hound.

Mr. HOLDING.—I ask the Chief Secretary to withdraw his remark.
The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I did not hear the Chief Secretary's comment.

Mr. HOLDING.—The honorable gentleman said, "You are a low hound".

The SPEAKER.—If that remark was made, I ask the Chief Secretary to withdraw it.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I withdraw.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—We have now reached the position where presumably even an attempt to organize the business of this House will meet with the type of reception I have just received from the Chief Secretary. The honorable gentleman's remark highlights the attitude of the Deputy Leader of the Government to the rights of individual members in this House and to the rights and prerogatives of this Parliament. Honorable members who have been here longer than I have—there are quite a few of them—will recall that, in recent years, the organization of Parliamentary business has become increasingly incompetent. Whenever a new Parliament is elected, it meets briefly for the first two or three weeks, as it did last week, because the Government does not have its legislative programme ready and there is not enough work to do. Towards the close of each spring session, however, Parliament must deal with the Christmas rush, as it were. Important items of legislation are brought in and, on many occasions, they cannot be properly considered by Parliament. Some measures are rushed through, sometimes with the use of the gag. Any honorable member can check the truth of my assertion. For the benefit of the young new back-bench members I point out that the Stamps Bill, which was introduced on 9th November, 1966, was rushed through Parliament without proper and effective debate. During the debate on that Bill on 23rd November, the Treasurer stated, by leave—

In the fortnight that has elapsed since the introduction of this Bill those sections of the business community affected by it have had the opportunity to study its impact on their operations. As a result, a number of submissions have been received directing attention to the impact of the legislation on particular types of transactions.

The Government then moved a series of amendments to the measure, which were followed by a further set of amendments on 28th February, 1967.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! What bearing has the matter which the Leader of the Opposition is now developing to the motion before the Chair?

Mr. HOLDING.—In the past, the organization of Government business has been such that, in the dying hours of a session, important Bills have been introduced which could not be properly considered by honorable members. They have been passed by Parliament and, within a matter of weeks, the Government has been forced to bring in amending measures. It is legislation by trial and error and, when that occurs, Parliament is brought into contempt.

The SPEAKER.—Order! I do not think the House can accept that statement of the Leader of the Opposition, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. HOLDING.—I will rephrase it and put it in another way.

The SPEAKER.—The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw it.

Mr. HOLDING.—I withdraw. I shall put it this way: Whenever Parliament does not devote its proper attention and time to considering important matters of legislation and rushes measures through without proper consideration, people outside Parliament, who are entitled to expect better treatment, feel less warm towards the institution and quite properly feel that the Government
and the legislators are not doing their jobs as properly and effectively as they could do them.

Sir Henry Bolte.—That is why you have only sixteen members on the Opposition side of the House.

Mr. Holding.—I am glad that the Premier, who wants to stifle debate in this Parliament, has interjected. Although the honorable gentleman might not like to admit it, he leads a 36 per cent. Government. There are many members sitting on the Government side of this Chamber who, in their own right, could not even win 36 per cent. of the votes.

The Speaker (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to return to the motion.

Mr. Holding.—What I have been saying is very relevant, Mr. Speaker, as I shall demonstrate. The party which, in its wisdom or lack of wisdom, may have elected to give Government members its second preferences—I refer to an organization known as the Democratic Labor Party—is, as a matter of policy, opposed to the Government on the issue of capital punishment.

The Speaker.—Order! The details of matters listed on the Notice Paper may not be discussed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Holding (Leader of the Opposition).—I shall comply with your ruling, Mr. Speaker. The Opposition is endeavouring to persuade the Government to apply its mind to the way in which it should organize its business, and the way in which it should consider preserving the rights and prerogatives of individual members of this House.

In the past, when private members have given notice of intention to move Bills, those items have been placed at the bottom of the Notice Paper, and members of the Government, by moving the type of motion now submitted by the Chief Secretary, have kept those measures there and they have not been debated. This is bad and Sessional Orders should be adopted to enable every member of Parliament to plan ahead in terms of working times and periods which will be allocated for general business. My motion is not an
attempt to usurp the prerogatives of the Chief Secretary; it is an endeavour to have adopted Sessional Orders which will allow all factors to be taken into account. If the Chief Secretary does not wish to have that prerogative exercised, that is for him to say, but the Opposition suggests that the Government should seriously consider putting the affairs of this House into order and adopting a system which will preserve the rights of individual members.

In this connexion, I believe it is proper to look at what happens in other Parliaments, particularly within the Commonwealth. The concept of private members' Bills is one of the oldest prerogatives. I point out that the National Parliament has passed substantial laws originating from private members' Bills and affecting the lives of individual citizens, including citizens of this State. One outstanding example was a private member's Bill dealing with marriage and divorce, which was introduced by Mr. Justice Joske of the Commonwealth Industrial Court, when he was the honorable member for Balaclava. Another recent example was a private member's Bill relating to Aboriginal affairs. Both of these Bills, which were introduced by Government back-bench members, have had a substantial impact on our public life. If it is good enough for this opportunity to be available in the Commonwealth Parliament, where back-bench members can influence the course of events, surely this Parliament should look at this precedent and adopt a similar system. Does the Government suggest that the back-bench members of the Liberal Party in this Parliament have not the capacity to initiate private members' Bills? I would reject such a proposition.

Another important reason for adopting Sessional Orders and preserving the rights and prerogatives of honorable members lies in the constitutional concept of this House. The Lower House was originally conceived as the popular Assembly, and is properly regarded as the Chamber where great events are both initiated and ultimately decided in the course of debate. The other place was to be regarded only as a House of review. The fact that it has Standing Orders which give private members certain rights and prerogatives has in recent years resulted in the political initiative moving from this House into the Legislative Council. Members of the Legislative Assembly should seriously consider that situation.

Every member of this House has three duties. First, he has a duty to his electorate and his constituents; secondly, to his party; and, thirdly, to this institution. If Parliament does not operate as successfully as it should, then it is the duty of the Government and other members of this House to consider the methods available by which the flow of business may be more readily and effectively conducted.

I remind honorable members that private members' Bills similar to those listed on the Notice Paper for this House are also on the Notice Paper of another place, and if the measures are not debated here, by virtue of the attitude of the Government, they will certainly be debated in another place. The Opposition concedes the Government's right to get through its business, but it should be possible to so organize its business that private members' Bills may be debated. It is not a question of the Government not getting through its business because time will be spent by this House on matters raised by private members; a glance at the Notice Paper will indicate this. The fact that this House met for a total of four or five hours last week is further proof that this is not the case.

Members of the Opposition will not be offended if the Government sees the merit of the Bills standing in their names and takes them over. Neither will they be offended if, after the measures are fully debated, the Government rejects and votes against
them. The time has come when this Government must consider the rights and prerogatives of members of this institution. The purpose of my motion is to restore, not only to the Opposition but to back-bench members who support the Government, their rights and prerogatives in relation to private members' Bills. The Opposition contends that the Government should not proceed with the motion moved by the Chief Secretary, but should be prepared to consider the motion standing in my name; that it should be prepared to adopt the motion; and that the Government and the Chief Secretary can then legitimately and properly exercise their prerogatives.

If Sessional Orders were adopted, the legislative programme could be organised effectively and opportunity would be given for individual members to raise matters which, traditionally, could be raised on Grievance Day, and members could introduce private Bills in the knowledge that they would be debated. I do not want to transgress your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but the private members' Bills listed on the Notice Paper deal with matters which, in recent times, have been the subject of serious political controversy. I hope the Government will consider what I have said. According to a great constitutional authority, Sir Ivor Jennings, it is the function of the Opposition to prevent gradual and insidious encroachment on the rights of private members.

If the Government is prepared to accept the motion which stands in my name, it will restore to this Parliament procedures which are part of our tradition and our heritage; it will restore to this Parliament some vitality and to individual members the prerogatives which were once theirs and have now been abandoned. If this were done, it would give new life to this Parliament; it would not merely preserve but would extend the concepts of basic Parliamentary democratic traditions.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The Leader of the Opposition has suggested that the Government is interested in depriving members of their rights.

Mr. HOLDING.—I did not say that.

Mr. RYLAH.—The honorable member did make that statement. I remind honorable members that the Government has just answered 117 questions, the largest number of questions which have ever appeared on the Notice Paper.

Mr. HOLDING.—If you allowed questions without notice, such a course of action would not be necessary, but you are not game to have them.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The Chief Secretary will be heard without interruption.

Mr. RYLAH.—Without desiring to be unkind, I point out that the Leader of the Opposition has provoked me in this matter. He accused the Government of arranging for the House to sit for only a few hours last week. I remind the honorable member that the Government offered the Opposition the opportunity to proceed with the Address-in-Reply debate, but it was stated that Opposition members would prefer to continue that debate this week.

Mr. HOLDING.—That is not true.

Mr. RYLAH.—It is true; the honorable member cannot be right all the time.

Mr. HOLDING.—We would like you to be truthful just some of the time.

Mr. RYLAH.—The Government was prepared to consider this motion on its merits; it is not, now.

Mr. HOLDING.—You please yourself.

Mr. SUTTON.—What an admission!

Mr. RYLAH.—But you have reminded us—

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The Chief Secretary should address the Chair, not the Opposition.
Mr. RYLAH.—I apologize, Mr. Speaker, but it is difficult to get a few words in between interruptions from members of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has reminded the Premier and me of what happened during the term of the last Labor Government. In those days, the gag was freely moved and discussion was curtailed on every possible occasion. Members of Parliament went on, night after night, passing legislation by exhaustion. I remember what happened when a particular Bill was before this House, and I shall have more to say about this later. After there had been a worth-while discussion on about half of the contents of the Bill, the then Leader of the Government said that no more amendments would be accepted as the debate was taking too much time, and he stated that the gag would be moved so that the Bill could be passed straightway.

Mr. HOLDING.—You have done that.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The Leader of the Opposition was heard, graciously, in silence. I expect the Chief Secretary to be heard in the same way.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—I raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Surely, what happened fifteen years ago has nothing whatever to do with the motion before the House.

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER.—Order! The honorable member for Melbourne has now moved to another place, but I remind him of what I said previously. There is no point of order. The Chief Secretary may reminisce in support of his argument.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The Leader of the Opposition spoke about the National Parliament. I remind him that there is still a federation in Australia, despite the efforts of some people to destroy it. I also remind him that one of the effects of having a so-called National Parliament in Canberra is that the gag is used regularly, week after week.

Mr. FENNESSY.—By a Government of your own party.

Mr. RYLAH.—Of course. The Federal Government is forced to use the gag, because, time and time again, the Opposition has tried to take business out of the hands of the Government, by talking on the adjournment and—

Mr. HOLDING.—Rubbish!

Mr. RYLAH.—This is not rubbish. The Government is proud of the fact that it has not used the gag more than twice in twelve years.

Mr. CLAREY.—Rubbish! You have used it six times.

(Naming and suspension of member.)

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The honorable member for Melbourne will leave me no other course, so early in the session, but to carry out the unenviable task of naming him, if he continues to interject.

Mr. CLAREY.—You can name me.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I name the honorable member for Melbourne, Mr. Clarey, for disregarding the authority of the Chair, and I ask the Premier or the Minister in charge of the House to take the appropriate course to support the Chair.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—Mr. Speaker, would you grant me the opportunity of having a so-called National Parliament in Canberra is that the gag is used regularly, week after week.

The SPEAKER.—I should be glad if you would speak to him; I have had several words with the Leader of the Opposition and other members.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I ask the honorable member for Melbourne to apologize to the Chair.

Mr. CLAREY.—What am I supposed to do?
The SPEAKER.—I am not prepared to accept an apology from the honorable member.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—I move—

That the honorable member for Melbourne (Mr. Clarey) be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr. CLAREY.—Do what you like.

The motion was agreed to.

(Mr. Clarey withdrew from the Chamber.)

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—The motion of which the Leader of the Opposition has given notice is most premature. The Budget is still to be debated; Supply is to be debated to-night; and the debate on the Address-in-Reply is still on the Notice Paper. There is plenty of opportunity for honorable members on both sides of the House to say what they desire to say.

In any event, the simplest way to deal with this problem is for me, by leave, to withdraw my motion, so that the motion standing in the name of the Leader of the Opposition may be debated.

By leave, the motion was withdrawn.

SESSIONAL ORDERS.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—I move—

That, in the opinion of this House, Sessional Orders should be adopted fixing the days on which this House shall meet for the despatch of business during the present session, and determining the sitting days on which Government business, general business, and private Bill business, respectively, shall take precedence over all other business.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—I second the motion.

The sitting was suspended at 6.22 p.m. until 7.53 p.m.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party).—I am disappointed with the Government’s attitude to this proposal. I remind honorable members that this is a democracy and that Parliament belongs to the people.

Mr. TURNBULL.—Not to the Government!

Mr. MOSS.—It does not belong merely to a section of Government supporters. In a democracy everyone is entitled to a fair deal. The essence of this institution is to ensure that the rights of minorities are protected.

Minorities have enjoyed rights in this institution over the years. They have rights in another place that is part of the Victorian Parliament, and, although the situation is not completely identical, Bills introduced by private members in another place are debated. Members of the Council have exercised those rights—with particularly good effect on some occasions. I need not remind you, Mr. Speaker, that, in some instances, the Government has taken over Bills which were introduced by private members in this Parliament; it has seen the merit and wisdom of those measures, and in a democratic manner—a compromise has been reached on occasions—the Government has eventually adopted and placed on the statute-book legislation which was introduced by private members.

I am anxious that the privileges of minorities and of individual members should be preserved without impeding the rights and the standards of the Government in this institution and that existing rights and practices should continue.

Mention has been made of the fact that it is many years since Sessional Orders were passed in this Assembly. As a matter of fact, it was the esteemed Leader of the Country Party, the late Sir Albert Dunstan, who, as the then Premier and Treasurer, moved such a resolution on the 30th August, 1944. The motion was as follows:—

That during the present session Government business shall take precedence over all other business on each sitting day except on Thursday, 7th September, and on every third Thursday thereafter, when business shall be called on in the following order, viz:—

On one third Thursday—

Private Bill Business:
1. Notices of Motion.
2. Orders of the Day.
General Business:
1. Orders of the Day.
2. Notices of Motion.

Government Business:

That motion was carried in the Legislative Assembly, and that was the last occasion on which such a motion was passed.

Although I do not agree with all of the arguments advanced by the Leader of the Opposition, I agree with the principle that the rights that have been written into Parliamentary procedure and established over the years in the Legislative Assembly should be preserved as far as possible. I do not wish to argue the details of the Notice Paper—whether the Leader of the Opposition’s motion under “General Business” should be dealt with before the second reading of the Marketable Securities Bill under “Government Business” is proceeded with—but I believe some of the arguments advanced by the Leader of the Opposition are sound.

I am disappointed at the remark of the Chief Secretary who in reply to the Leader of the Opposition, said that the Government was prepared to consider this motion on its merits but that it is not now prepared to do so. There is neither logic nor common-sense in that remark. Whatever it was prepared to do, after the Leader of the Opposition spoke the spokesman for the Government said, “We are not prepared to consider it now.” That is a pretty poor outlook, and I hope the Government will reconsider the arguments that have been advanced. In order to preserve this institution, every member should have certain rights; it should not be run by the Government all the time. Therefore, the motion submitted by the Leader of the Opposition should be supported.

I now wish to refer to the Standing Orders of the House. Standing Order 34 states—

The Orders of the Day shall be disposed of in the order in which they stand upon the paper, the right being reserved to Her Majesty’s Ministers of placing Government orders at the head of the list, in the rotation in which they are to be taken on the days on which Government business has precedence.

Then in regard to Grievance Day, which is associated with the motion, Standing Order 273c states—

On the Order of the Day being read for the Committee of Supply or Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Speaker shall put the question “That I do now leave the Chair,” but where either of these Committees has reported progress, Mr. Speaker shall leave the Chair without putting any question, on the Order of the Day being read.

Except that while the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means are open, the first Order of the Day on every third Thursday shall be either Supply or Ways and Means, and that on that Order of the Day being read the question shall be proposed “That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair,” to which question any Member shall be at liberty to address the House, or move any amendment thereon, provided that no Member shall speak for more than thirty minutes, and that the whole discussion on this question shall not exceed four hours.

In other words, if Ways and Means is disposed of, or there is no motion relating to Ways and Means, Grievance Day proceeds. Instead of the Government sponsoring a motion from time to time to get rid of Grievance Day, it is something that ought to be brought back into this institution. I can recall reading Hansard in my youth, and in particular speeches made by members on Grievance Day, and in my view it served and would still serve a useful purpose. As the Leader of the Opposition asserted, it may not be very long before Government supporters wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of expressing themselves on various aspects of Government administration and matters affecting their electorate. I do not know that the expression “Grievance Day” is the best way of describing this type of debate, but it has not been altered over the years.

Mr. WILCOX.—The Standing Order is still there.

Mr. MOSS.—That is so. I am not questioning the expression, although it does not seem an appropriate
description, but I do not suppose my remarks will have any effect on altering the Standing Orders. I do not think it will be long before several members who are supporting the Government, silently at the moment, will want to speak. Grievance Day would provide an opportunity for them or any other member of the House to air any matter if he obtained your call, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. JONA.—What about the Address-in-Reply and Budget debates?

Mr. MOSS.—It might be argued that honorable members have ample opportunity to express themselves on any subject, but if we followed the lead of the honorable member for Hawthorn we would be casting a reflection on the people who established the British system of government, which has stood the test of time. These matters would not have been written into our rules or have been adopted in practice if they had not been of good effect. Consequently, the argument that matters can be debated under some other heading is not good enough. I wish to say to the Government and particularly to its spokesman, the Chief Secretary, that our democratic practices should be preserved. Consequently the Country Party proposes to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and hopes the wisdom of the arguments that have been submitted will bear fruit with the Government.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—In supporting the motion moved by my Leader, I point out that, in his opening remarks, the Chief Secretary suggested that the Government was giving consideration to the motion, but prior to that the honorable gentleman had already moved a motion that would have prevented the House from debating it.

Mr. RYLH.—Only for to-day.

Mr. WILKES.—That is so. The debate has taken an unusual turn to the extent that the Chief Secretary saw some reason in the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and was prepared to withdraw his own motion to allow this motion to be debated. This is a simple motion, but it is also an exercise in democracy. It seeks to make it the responsibility of the Government, led at the moment by the Deputy Premier, the Chief Secretary, to arrange the hours and order of business but to have due regard to the prerogatives of members on both sides of the House. The Opposition sees nothing unusual in this type of request. The existing situation distinguishes between back-bench members or any other members in another place and back-bench members in the Assembly. Undoubtedly Sessional Orders are moved and accepted in another place and all members there have the right to introduce private members' Bills, which are often debated. Yet the same right is denied a back-bench member or any other member in this House. It is beyond reason how the Government can agree to allow some of its members certain rights and prerogatives in one place and to deny them in another.

Mr. WILCOX.—It is not a matter for the Government; it is a matter for the House.

Mr. WILKES.—In this instance, it is a matter of the Government denying certain rights. There is no doubt about that. The motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition clears the way for the Government to make this prerogative available to members. The motion leaves it to the Government to draft the legislative programme and does not interfere with it. The motion, as the Leader of the Country Party pointed out, merely says that certain Thursdays shall be set aside for specific business, as was the case when the last motion of this type was moved. Two Thursdays were set aside for Notices of Motion followed by Orders of the Day, and on the third Thursday Grievance Day took place and it was possible for members to debate Bills that were on the Notice Paper.
Under the system by which this Parliament operates at the present time, it is most unlikely that the privilege of debating private members' Bills will be extended to members on either side of the House. Last week, when the House met Opposition members gave notice of Bills of a very important nature. However, they see no way of obtaining the right to have these Bills debated in Parliament.

The motion does not mean that the Opposition wants the right to debate these Bills when it sees fit. The Opposition concedes to the Government the right of determining when a Bill shall be debated. The Government does not have to agree to the passage of these Bills, but at least Parliament would be given the opportunity of seeing the wisdom in the measures introduced by members of the Opposition. Surely if it is good enough for this practice to prevail in another place, an equal right exists for it in this House, because this is the Chamber where legislation relating to money, which vitally concerns the State, is initiated and debated, and passed or rejected. By not having the privilege we seek in this House, because this Chamber where legislation relating to money, which vitally concerns the State, is initiated and debated, and passed or rejected. By not having the privilege we seek in this House, and by refusing to accept this motion, the Government is denying members of the Assembly the right to a Grievance Day and the right to debate private members' Bills.

The Chief Secretary stated that there are plenty of opportunities during debates in this Chamber for members to express their opinions or grievances or to introduce topics, and the honorable gentleman referred to Supply. The Supply debate is very restricted because it relates only to Government administration. Because of that, the debate on Supply places restrictions on private members. Of course, the Address-in-Reply debate can be brought on whenever the Government sees fit, just as it can be adjourned, as happened the other evening. It is no good asserting that the Opposition was not prepared to continue with the debate on that occasion. After the honorable member for Moonee Ponds made his contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, a member of the Government party or the Country Party, with the permission of the Government, obtained the adjournment of the debate. Certainly, an Opposition member did not do so. Of course, the Address-in-Reply debate is not a substitute for the provisions of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. WILCOX.—Cannot honorable members discuss any subject during that debate?

Mr. WILKES.—A member can discuss any subject in an Address-in-Reply debate when it suits the Government to permit him to do so. That is because the Government has the right to bring on that debate whenever it sees fit. That debate is restricted in comparison with the terms of this motion, and the mere existence of items of Government business restricts the Opposition. On the Notice Paper to-day, the first Order of the Day, Government business, is “Marketable Securities Bill—second reading”. But how often is the order of business altered and item No. 9, No. 8 or No. 6 taken first?

Mr. SUGGETT.—Has the Opposition ever requested a change of order?

Mr. WILKES.—On occasions the Opposition does request certain alterations, but many other alterations are made by the Government. It is not proper that this motion should be rejected and that the rights of members of this House should be eroded as compared with those of members in another place. It is clear to every member of the Opposition that unless a Grievance Day can take place during a session of Parliament he has no inherent right to raise matters without being inhibited by the aspect of Government administration, as is the case in a Supply debate, and that the House is not functioning in the best interests of democracy in
this State. Over the past ten years since I have been a member, I can remember only one Grievance Day, and that was in 1957. Although there were no private members' Bills on the Notice Paper, Grievance Day took place. Since then the Government has not seen fit to allow a Grievance Day. This has not been because of the urgency of Government business. If it were because of the urgency of Government business late in the session, the Opposition might accept the position, but at the beginning of a session it is certainly not the fault of the Opposition that the Government has not its legislation ready. It may be that there is a lack of draftsmen.

We have recently experienced one of the longest recesses in the history of this Parliament and if, at the beginning of a session, as happened last week, the Government does not prepare Bills, makes no provision to keep the House going, and gives a blank refusal to the Opposition to allow its members to proceed with the debate on any of the Bills they have placed on the Notice Paper, obviously there is something wrong with the system.

At the beginning of his remarks, the Chief Secretary stated that the Government was giving consideration to the motion. Opposition members fail to see how the Government can distinguish between the rights of members in one place and the rights of members in another. Unless a motion of this nature is carried, members will continue to be inhibited—not only the members on the Opposition side of the House but also the backbenchers on the Government side who are affected in the same way—in fact, they are affected more because of their colleagues in another place.

We are proud of this Parliament and its attempt to safeguard the democratic principles of government in this State, but unless we are prepared to continue and extend these safeguards they will slowly but surely diminish, as we consider they have diminished over the past ten or eleven years.

Mr. RYL AH (Chief Secretary).—I assure you, Mr. Speaker—I do not suppose it is of much use assuring the members of the Opposition—that members of the Government party are just as interested in preserving the rights of the House as they are.

Mr. Turnbull.—After thirteen years in office?

Mr. RYL AH.—If the truth be known, probably we are more interested in doing so. The Government has shown this by the number of Parliamentary committees that it has set up and by the steps it has taken to ensure that there has been ample opportunity for discussion on all matters which have come before the House.

I must say that I am surprised and somewhat disappointed with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because during the last Parliament the arrangements the Government made with him worked well. Every member was given ample opportunity to debate any matters that came before the House. Any postponement of Grievance Day was done with the consent and the approval of the Opposition. I should not like the honorable member to refer back to the famous Grievance Day in 1957, which was probably the greatest flop of all time. It was extremely difficult then to keep a quorum in the Chamber.

Mr. FENNESSY.—Because of lack of members from the Government side.

Mr. RYL AH.—No, it was not the Government's problem.

Mr. FENNESSY.—We were here.

Mr. RYL AH.—I remember that the Opposition was ably represented by the honorable member for Brunswick East, who is most devoted to his duties.

The present situation is a very simple one. The Leader of the Opposition placed the motion on the
Notice Paper last Wednesday. Prior to that, he had made a statement in the press that he wanted to discuss with the Government the question of the conduct of Parliament and of Sessional Orders during the present session. As Acting Premier, I replied to him appropriately through the press, stating that I was prepared to discuss the situation with him at any time. I did not hear a word from him. There has been no discussion with the Government with regard to this motion.

Mr. HOLDING.—It does not need to be discussed. You can vote for it.

Mr. RYLAH.—The Leader of the Opposition wants to take the proceedings out of the hands of the Government. He wants to bulldoze this motion through the House. I realize that he has the support of the Country Party, and to-night there has been a “stand and deliver” operation. The Government is prepared to discuss with the Opposition at any time any suggested improvements for the procedure of this House, but believes that Mr. Speaker should participate in any discussion.

The Opposition has placed a motion on the Notice Paper, and although the Budget has to be debated, a Supply Bill must be passed and there is important proposed legislation to be explained to-night, the Opposition says, in effect, “You cannot do it. We are going to take the proceedings out of the hands of the Government.”

Mr. WILKES.—That is not true.

Mr. RYLAH.—That is the attitude of the Opposition. It wants to tell the Government how to run its business. The Government is not going to put up with that. To-night, very important measures are listed for discussion, and there is a little matter of Supply to be passed, too.

Mr. HOLDING.—We are happy to work.

Mr. RYLAH.—The Leader of the Opposition knows that those matters deserve important consideration. Accusations have been made about the Government wanting the House to pack up. As I have said, in the last Parliament Government members were able to arrange these things amicably and decently with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was then the Labor Party Whip.

Mr. FENNESSY.—You did not always say that.

Mr. RYLAH.—I think I can say that without exception amicable arrangements were made on every day of sitting except on one occasion when there was interference.

Mr. FENNESSY.—One night you chided the then Deputy Leader.

Mr. RYLAH.—Not in the last Parliament; if I did it on one occasion, that was not a bad record for a whole Parliament. At least, we had confidence in him and he had confidence in us.

I believe that fundamentally these problems can be discussed and resolved, but they cannot be debated in the atmosphere that has developed to-night. At this stage, we have on our plate the Budget, and it is a pretty important Budget. As a matter of fact, it is rather interesting to note that most of the questions asked by the Opposition to-day were on the basis of “Why did not the Government spend more money?” Yet the Budget debate is being delayed by these proceedings.

Supply must be dealt with this week. The Address-in-Reply is before the House, and if Opposition members want to go on with that debate, the Government will provide the opportunities. As regards the motion now being debated, members on the Government side of the House have not said anything about Grievance Day; we have not even discussed it.

Mr. HOLDING.—Think about it.

Mr. RYLAH.—We shall think about it and be happy to do so but at this stage we are certainly not prepared to accept a motion of the sort now before the Chair.
Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown).—I suppose all members, including the new members, must be disappointed with the speech of the Chief Secretary. First, he said that he would not accept the motion, but after being a member of the Government for thirteen years he should be prepared to accept anything at any time. The Government invited the motion. I suppose most of the new members are amazed to think we are going through this exercise of asking Parliament to safeguard the democratic rights of the Opposition and the back benchers on the Government side of the House. I would expect them to assume it was automatic that these things should take place. If the Opposition has done nothing else to-night, it has informed the new members that things they expect to take place in this House just do not take place.

Over the years, Opposition members have been chided with being non-constructive; we have been chided with never bringing forward anything for the benefit of Parliament; we have been chided with being “knockers”; and on this occasion, when we want to restore some semblance of Parliamentary democracy to the House, we are again chided with being “knockers”. In other words, we are not allowed to put a motion on the Notice Paper; we have to discuss the subject-matter of it with the Government on a back bench somewhere else. The place to do Parliamentary business is in the House.

I suggest that the Government is having the first knock that it has had for many years. Of course, it is unaccustomed to this, but I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this will not be the last knock that the Government will get. The Chief Secretary is making a virtue out of necessity. He said, in effect, “Over the years, we have allowed you to discuss the Budget, to debate the Address-in-Reply and to bring forward adjournment motions”. That is right. The Government has done that because it has been bankrupt of ideas itself and it has been jolly glad that members of the Opposition have been able to keep the House going.

Last week was a classical example of the inactivity of the Government. For years the press has been urging Parliament to do some work after a recess. I, as a custodian of the rights of members, including those in another place, have always taken the view that a Notice Paper must be prepared, that business should not go ahead without the opposing party being given notice of Bills, and that after they have been explained a period of adjournment should be granted to allow them to be discussed.

On this occasion, realizing the ineptness of the Government, the Opposition prepared a number of Bills to “to help lame dogs over a stile”, but what happened? As soon as the Opposition members introduced their private members’ Bills, the Government was so astounded that the Opposition had not produced a motion of want of confidence that it did not know what to do. This was not in the rule book. The members of the Government have been in the same groove for so many years that they did not know the answer. In the midst of confusion, the Government caused two bells to be rung, which meant that members could go home.

When the process was repeated on the second night of the sitting, even an old timer such as myself was wondering what had taken place in that great organization, the Liberal Party. It would have been a glorious opportunity last week for the Government to test Opposition members to see if they were sincere.

Mr. Jona.—They were tested last June.

Mr. FLOYD.—You tested us on the hustings and you won the battle.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The honorable member should address the Chair.

Mr. FLOYD.—The Government won the battle. Its members have become the victors but now they
want to become the oppressors, and that attitude is foreign to democratic principles. Last week, the Government should have tested the sincerity of the Opposition and said, "You are flying kites. You are bringing forward private members' Bills that you know you have no hope of getting debated because you have not the numbers".

When the Government was bereft of any ideas last week, it should have said to the Opposition, "Produce your Bills". The Opposition was prepared to do so, but if that idea had not occurred to the Government—possibly it did not because of limitations in the thinking of the Government—the next obvious thing to do was to get rid of the Address-in-Reply debate. Over the years, this debate has dragged on for months and months and has been completed with a burst shortly before Christmas Eve.

The Government has had the cheek to say to-night that the Budget and the Address-in-Reply have to be debated, as though its members were sitting there waiting on our words, waiting to see what we would bring up, so that they could rush to the Departments and say, "Did you hear what was said by members of the Opposition? You had better get on with the job and do something about it. The Opposition is shooting holes in your administration, and you have to do something about plugging them."

New members of the Government party must be very disappointed with the performance put up by the veterans of their party. Before being elected to this House, probably they looked at members of the Government with awe, with almost dog-like admiration. What has happened? Nothing! The Budget has to be discussed and so has Supply. Probably the Opposition will give you Supply. You have earned Supply.

Mr. FLOYD.—Very well, Mr. Speaker. The Opposition will probably be prepared to concede Supply. But for goodness' sake, let us get on to the things that count, including the Budget debate and the Budget Bills. If the Government is so bereft of legislation after a six months' recess, it should let the House deal with some of the Bills introduced by members of the Opposition. The Opposition does not undertake its task lightly. This matter is of great interest, not only to the community but also to the back-bench members of the Government. I instance the workers compensation legislation.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The honorable member must not debate the subject-matter of a Bill, but should confine his remarks to the motion before the Chair.

Mr. FLOYD.—When I have travelled around the country, I have heard people complain how they have been affected by certain legislation. They have said, "We cannot do anything about it, it is now law". I have told them that they can always change their Parliamentary member, but, when faced with that suggestion, they have said, "Our Parliamentary representative is a Liberal member and he is very sympathetic". Of course he is sympathetic! The Opposition is now providing the means for members of the Liberal Party to show their sympathy in debate. The Opposition has introduced a private member's Bill concerning equal pay for the sexes, and no doubt the recently elected honorable member for Mitcham will be delighted to say something on that subject.

If the Opposition introduces a Bill relating to workers compensation, the back-bench members of the Government, who were so sympathetic when they hoodwinked the workers, can now say something to the people of their electorates. The Opposition is providing the means for the Government back benchers to express their sympathy. In its wide
sense of fair play, on the wider social issues of the abolition of capital punishment, the Government might even allow a conscience vote!

The possibilities are unending. The Opposition has always been accused of "knocking"; but if this motion is carried it will allow honorable members to bring their hidden talents into play. The talents that the Opposition have been told exist amongst the ranks of the back-bench members of the Government are apparently wasted on Parliamentary committees; they should be allowed to develop in debate. It could be argued that if all honorable members were allowed to demonstrate their talents according to their own valuation, we would be here all night. What is wrong with that? Parliament has sat for long hours over many minor issues. If this debate does nothing else, it will awaken the Government to the fact that the Opposition is aware of the erosion that is taking place not only in this Parliament, but in all the Parliaments of the world. All Parliaments are crying out that the executive is taking powers from the Parliaments and it in turn is losing its powers to the Departments. I know that Government members will vote against this motion; the Government has fallen into a trap, and the Chief Secretary should never have withdrawn his earlier motion.

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—On the face of it, the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition has great appeal to anyone who has an interest in the democratic processes. Indeed, all honorable members are interested in those processes or they would not be members of this House. I have always been most interested in the forms of the House.

Honorable members, particularly the recently elected members, have been given a great deal of advice by the Opposition to-night. If honorable members take the trouble to study the forms of the House, they will see that there is ample opportunity to debate all the subject-matters listed by the Opposition under General Business. I make it quite clear to anyone listening to this debate, or who might read it in *Hansard*, that, in opposing the motion, the Government is not acting in an undemocratic and terrible manner. In fact, there is ample opportunity for honorable members to speak on the subjects mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. Honorable members do not have to hide their talents; let them give the House the benefit of their abilities. There are three Supply debates, a Budget debate, a daily debate on the motion for the adjournment of the House and the debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech in which various subjects can be debated.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—Tell us in what debate we can refer to the Country Roads Board?

Mr. WILCOX.—I have heard the honorable member for Gippsland East debate the Country Roads Board on several occasions.

Mr. B. J. EVANS.—You have not.

Mr. WILCOX.—Yes, I have. I emphasize that there is ample opportunity to speak on the various subjects if any honorable member takes the trouble to examine the forms of the House or to seek guidance on them. I now wish to refer to the items listed under General Business. Again, on the face of it, one might be tempted to think the Government was not permitting a debate. Everybody in the community knows that there has been ample debate in the past few years on the first three items mentioned—capital punishment, Aboriginal affairs, and workers compensation.

Mr. HOLDING.—Not in this House.

Mr. WILCOX.—There have been many debates on workers compensation, and honorable members know what happened.
Mr. HOLDING.—You are still trying to find out what happened; you were proved wrong.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The Minister of Transport should address the Chair and not enter into debate with honorable members.

Mr. WILCOX.—I am grateful for your advice, Mr. Speaker; I am trying to be as unprovocative as I have ever been in this House. I am simply stating a few facts. When honorable members say that there has been no debate on workers compensation, they are untruthful because there have been numerous articles in the press and debates in this House from time to time on all the matters listed. There will be further opportunities for similar debates.

Opposition members have referred to private members and their rights. They should remember the facts of life in this political world. As the honorable member for Hawthorn pointed out, on the 29th April of this year the people of Victoria had an opportunity to express their views on the policy of the Government, and the Government was elected on a policy that was clearly stated by the Premier. I am prepared to take time to get into the swing of this session again, and if honorable members opposite want it the other way, the Government will accommodate them. Opposition members cannot “take it”. The people of Victoria gave a clear decision, and the Government was elected on an announced policy. The people want that policy carried into effect. On its face, the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition may have a lot of appeal, but when one examines a little behind scenes, it is apparent that it is hollow.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—I compliment the Leader of the Opposition on presenting to Parliament the opportunity for the discussion on a question which, with the greatest of respect to the Minister of Transport, is agitating the minds of all Parliamentary democracies for several reasons. Every Parliament, not only in Victoria but in the Western democracies faces, on the one hand, the grave responsibility of exercising the fullest possible moral authority for the conduct of affairs of state on behalf of the people they represent. On the other hand, they are confronted with an ever-growing complexity and expansion of public administration which is becoming further and further isolated from the effective control of Parliament. It would be wrong to blame any Parliament or any Government for this state of affairs. It has grown because of the rapid development of Western society under conditions where Ministerial control is becoming ever more difficult. However, in other countries the recognition of this difficulty has given rise to the introduction of well-tried remedies.

Mr. STEPHEN.—More Ministers.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The appointment of more Ministers is not the answer and I am certain that the honorable member for Ballarat South will appreciate that the answer is also not to be found in Ministers refusing Ministerial responsibility which, in the view of the Opposition, some Ministers in this Parliament have done. The answers and remedies which have been sought in other parts of the world, particularly in New Zealand, in Canada, in the Mother of Parliaments in Great Britain, and in the United States of America to overcome this difficulty fall into two categories. One is the method which has been advocated by the Leader of the Opposition, namely, to endeavour to devise procedures whereby Parliament, irrespective of party and Government, can obtain a more intimate grasp and control of the fast and ever-growing administrative apparatus of the State.

I digress to say that earlier in the evening the Premier was asked whether he would agree to the appointment of an ombudsman in Victoria and, if I heard him correctly,
his bald reply was, "No". The honorable gentleman gave no reasons for his refusal. Without disclosing my authority for making the statement, I have the best of reasons for believing that in the view of the Government the appointment of an ombudsman is unnecessary because it may subtract from the authority of members of Parliament. The Premier, on the one hand, is not prepared to do what has been done in other advanced countries - namely, to permit the hearing, determination and ventilation of small grievances - and, on the other hand, is not prepared to permit Parliament to do what is done in other countries.

In the United States of America there is a committee system by which all parties can exhaustively discuss and analyze the working of public Departments. In the Mother of Parliaments, which should be our measuring rod and from which we derive not only our traditions but also, in some form or other, every procedure which we indulge in in this place, there is a specific time allowed for the discussion of private members' Bills. In addition, the necessary procedures are available to permit any party to ventilate its grievances. In Great Britain today, in addition to the safeguards that reside in British Parliamentary procedure, there has been a searching inquiry into the complexity of public administration. The same applies in Canada, where the whole of the apparatus of government is being overhauled, not with a view to looking for corruption, nepotism, inefficiency, maladministration or any of the things that generally make headlines in the newspapers, but for the purpose of modernizing the State apparatus to bring it into line with the requirements of modern society. This is also being done in New Zealand, as is evidenced from reports which are available from the Parliamentary and other libraries.

Mr. Lovegrove.

Therefore, my first point is that the proposal put forward by the Leader of the Opposition is long overdue. I refer to his proposal to revise the forms of this House in terms of the general experience of Parliamentary democracy throughout the world and to bring this Parliament into line with modern practice in other Parliaments. I add a political postscript to that observation which makes it all the more important that this action should be taken in Victoria. In this State we have a political situation, without which this Government would not be in office. That places an additional load of moral responsibility upon the Government. The proposal to which I am referring was put forward many years ago. During his speech the Leader of the Country Party referred to the action taken by the late Sir Albert Dunstan, when he was the Leader of the Country Party. I understand that the last occasion on which a Grievance Day was held in the Legislative Assembly of this Parliament was on 14th November, 1957.

Mr. Wilcox.—That has been mentioned before in this debate.

Mr. Lovegrove.—I am sorry I missed it. However, I shall mention the names of the members who spoke on that occasion.

Mr. Fennessy.—The Chief Secretary said that we all went home.

Mr. Lovegrove.—I doubt whether the Chief Secretary was in the House that day. He certainly did not speak.

Mr. Porter.—Did he have any need to?

Mr. Lovegrove.—Yes; anybody who reads the grievances expressed by members from both sides of the House on that day will be curious to know why the honorable gentleman or some other leader of the Government did not speak. The only Minister to speak during the debate was the then Minister of Labour and Industry, Mr. G. O. Reid. Other speakers on that day were the late
A. E. Shepherd, the then Leader of the Opposition; the then Leader of the Country Party, Sir Herbert Hyland; the then honorable member for Ripponlea, Mr. Tanner; the then honorable member for Grant, the late Mr. Crick; the then honorable member for Benalla, Mr. Cook; the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Stoneham, the honorable member for Midlands; and the present Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr. Rossiter.

As a matter of interest, the honorable member for Brighton, as the Minister for Labour and Industry then was, was concerned about some of the things that are worrying members of the Opposition to-day. Amongst other things he said—

In the United States of America the Hoover Commission reported most scathingly on the tendency of persons in the Public Service of that country to write letters which were a sheer waste of time.

Then he had something to say about the letter writing of the Victorian Public Service. He was followed by myself and then the honorable member for Mornington, Mr. Dunstan. Then followed the then honorable member for Elsternwick Mr. Gainey; and the honorable member for Williamstown, Mr. Floyd, wound up the debate. So, there were eleven speakers on that occasion. It is obvious that the Chief Secretary has suffered from amnesia in regard to this matter, and I sympathize with him.

Mr. Wilcox.—You suffer from the same complaint in regard to many other things.

Mr. Lovegrove.—I do not suffer from amnesia in regard to this matter. In 1958 or 1959, I referred to some of the questions dealt with by the Leader of the Opposition to-night on the basis of information made accessible to all parties at the time by the Clerk of the House, Mr. Robertson. Any party can use that information for debate, according to its choice. The Clerk extracted figures from 1938 to 1958 to indicate the time of the House devoted to the various categories, divisions and subjects debated.

I shall read all of the figures so that I cannot be accused of being misleading. Parliamentary and formal business, answers to questions, papers, messages and introduction of Bills occupied 4.6 per cent. of the time; adjournment motions, 2 per cent.; adjournment debates at the end of the sitting, 1.5 per cent.; Address in Reply debate, 4 per cent.; Budget debate, 5.2 per cent.; Ordinary Estimates, 4.2 per cent.; Consolidated Revenue Bills, 4.9 per cent.; no-confidence motions, 1 per cent.; finance—that is Budget Bills—3.9 per cent.; Government motions, routine business, 1.7 per cent.; Supplementary Estimates, .8 per cent.; motions, .3 per cent.; and then the most telling comparison, Government programme—that is Bills—65.6 per cent. That means that 65.6 per cent. of the time of this House was given to Bills introduced by the Government and no time was given to private members' Bills.

I suggest that if one could examine, in terms of the time occupied by the House along the well-divided categories of its duties, the situation which has crystallized in this Parliament over the past five years, one would find that the opportunities to put forward and argue the propositions which have been placed on the Notice Paper by the Opposition this week and which have been referred to by the Leader of the Opposition have diminished considerably. Here is one of the anomalies in the Victorian Parliament. Whilst the Leader of the Opposition in this House cannot move for the consideration of a private member's Bill, any member of another place, which present Standing Orders prohibit me from mentioning, can move any motion he likes. Opposition members are not suggesting that this procedure in the other place should be altered. We contend that it is anomalous that the procedure is permitted in another place and is not permitted here.
What can happen in another place?
A former member for Melbourne West Province, the late Honorable Buckley Machin, was instrumental in having placed on the statute-book the only effective legislation dealing with air pollution ever enacted in Victoria. The measure sponsored by my late colleague was supported by every honorable member in the other place. In fact, the relevant Bill was treated as it should have been treated by the Government, namely, as a non-party measure. Of course, the Government obtained whatever credit it could for supporting the legislation.

Certain other situations have occurred, and I make no apology for referring to them. The honorable member for Coburg and the honorable member for Moonee Ponds, as well as new members on the Government side, are not aware of these events. Only a few years ago, the Government party gave expression in Parliament to the freedom of members by allowing them to record a conscience vote on the question of live-bird trap shooting.

Sir Henry Bolte.—We did it on other matters, too!

Mr. Lovegrove.—I believe the Government acted similarly with the amending liquor legislation.

The Speaker (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I invite the honorable member for Sunshine to relate his remarks to the motion before the Chair.

Mr. Lovegrove.—On the 13th November, 1958, as reported at page 1684 of volume No. 256 of Hansard I raised this matter on the motion for the adjournment of the House at the close of a sitting. I asked you, Mr. Speaker—you were then acting as Deputy Speaker—

Whether or not it is possible for the Government at some early date to review those Standing Orders which make it impossible for members in this House—

You, Mr. Speaker, interrupted me and said—

I think that would be a matter for Mr. Speaker and the House.

I challenge anybody to say that you, Mr. Speaker, and your predecessor are not the best-informed members in this House regarding Parliamentary procedure. Your statement on 13th November, 1958, proves that the Leader of the Opposition to-day had no alternative to doing what he did if he desired properly to raise this matter in an effective way. After you had advised me, Sir, that it was a matter for Mr. Speaker and the House, I asked—

May I ask whether it is improper for me to refer to the matter on the adjournment?

You, Sir, stated—

I rule that it is not a matter of Government administration, and it is not proper that the question should be directed at the Chair.

I then asked you, Mr. Speaker—

May I ask how I may properly bring this matter before this House? There must be some method. Recently, members on both sides of the Chamber were denied the opportunity of properly debating three measures that were introduced. I confine my remarks not only to private members' Bills but also to Government Bills.

Your reply was—

In answer to the honorable member's second question, it would be proper for the honorable member to approach Mr. Speaker, who would take the matter up with the Standing Orders Committee.

I listened carefully to what the Chief Secretary said in reply to the Leader of the Opposition during this debate. I accept your authority in this matter, Mr. Speaker. When the Chief Secretary replied to my Leader, he was apparently unaware of your authority, and he improperly suggested a certain course of action.

The Speaker (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I do not think the honorable member for Sunshine should say that, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. Lovegrove.—I withdraw it, Mr. Speaker, and if I have done the Chief Secretary any disservice, I shall never forgive myself. After you had informed me that it would be proper for me to approach Mr.
Speaker, who would take the matter up with the Standing Orders Committee, you proceeded—

The honorable member no doubt refers to certain decisions given by me yesterday, strictly in accordance with the rules of this House.

I hastened to assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I was not questioning your rules in any way. I then asked you—

What further avenues are available to an honorable member of this House to ventilate this question in the event of Mr. Speaker deciding to do nothing about it? I question the limitation that appears to be placed on the rights of members of this House in regard to another place.

You, Mr. Speaker, said—

I would ask the honorable member to take action along the lines I have suggested and not to mention any hypothetical case. Of course, the honorable member may at any time bring forward in this House a substantive motion on the question.

That is precisely what the Leader of the Opposition has done in Parliament to-night. I deplore the ignorance on this question displayed by both the Chief Secretary and the Minister of Transport, who have been the only two Ministers game to stick their necks out. After you had informed me that I could bring forward a substantive motion on the question, I thanked you and resumed my seat.

I was followed then by the honorable member for Camberwell.

Mr. WILKES.—What did he say?

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—He dealt with another subject altogether: he spoke about Monash University.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! The honorable member should discuss the subject of the motion.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—This is the subject. If you permit me, Mr. Speaker, I propose to connect it to the subject.

The SPEAKER.—I think it should be done very quickly.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—I shall do that. If what I say is challenged, the record is there for any member of Parliament to read. On one occasion when a question was brought up—

Honorable members interjecting.

Mr. WILKES.—The saddle sores are still there.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The last thing I want to do is to exacerbate or harrow the feelings of members of the Government. I ask them to relieve me of that onerous responsibility. We were told something here in cold blood by a Minister, in the teeth of a recommendation of a Commission of Inquiry and a report made by no less august a body than the Committee of Public Accounts which, after it examined the affairs of a certain educational establishment in Victoria, set down in cold print what it believed should be the departmental
procedures for safeguarding the public purse and conducting departmental business in accordance with modern business practice. There for any honorable member to see are the recommendations of the Committee of Public Accounts. Before the election, a Minister stated in this House that he did not see any need to apply these standard practices and procedures to his Department. He said that he would not have them.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! I do not think that has any bearing on the subject of the debate.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The Minister said that after a Commission had been appointed by the Government to inquire into his Department.

Mr. RYLAH (Chief Secretary).—On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the honorable member has referred to a recommendation of the Committee of Public Accounts on the Education Department. So far as I know none has ever existed. Surely any question of what happened in the last Parliament is not relevant to the motion before the Chair.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—Let me answer that.

The SPEAKER.—Order! I do not take that as a point of order. I was hoping that after his illustration the honorable member for Sunshine would return to the subject, but as he is not doing so I ask him to forget the example and to come back to the motion before the Chair.

Mr. LOVEGROVE (Sunshine).—I am grateful for your guidance, Mr. Speaker, but seek permission to reply to the Chief Secretary.

The SPEAKER.—The honorable member must proceed with his argument.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The Minister made an incorrect statement. For the record I wish to deny the allegation made by the Chief Secretary.

The SPEAKER.—It was only a point of order, and there can be no discussion on it.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—The Chief Secretary is on record as saying that I referred to the Education Department. I did not do so. I referred to an educational establishment.

The SPEAKER.—I have ruled that there is no point of order, and I invite the honorable member for Sunshine to continue his speech.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—Mr. Speaker, you have made it very difficult for me. For the information of the Chief Secretary, it was not the Education Department; it was the University of Melbourne. I did not want to say that, but I have been compelled to do so. This emphasizes the point I am making. Some Ministers do not know the difference between educational establishments.

The SPEAKER.—Order! I invite the honorable member for Sunshine, who has had great experience in this place, to speak to the motion.

Mr. LOVEGROVE.—I shall do so, Mr. Speaker, and shall not detain the House any longer. I believe the motion is in the best interests of Parliament. When the Chief Secretary spoke tonight in reply to the Leader of the Opposition, the honorable gentleman did not shut the door. He said that some consideration would be given to this matter. I believe it is necessary in the interests of the efficient functioning of the Parliament that procedures of the character mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition and other honorable members who have spoken should be debated in Parliament. Leaving party politics right out of the question, I sincerely believe that it is in the interests of every member of Parliament that he should have the right—subject, of course, to certain restrictions which are inbuilt in the party system—to bring to Parliament the views of the great majority of people whom we represent in this place.

Mr. TURNBULL (Brunswick West).—We were hoping—

Mr. RYLAH.—The anti-climax!
Mr. TURNBULL.—The Minister's remark emphasizes what the Opposition has been arguing about tonight, namely, that Opposition members have some rights in this Parliament. It is obvious that for the first time the Government feels itself under fire. This is the first time we have seen such an array of Ministers of the Crown present in this Chamber. An honorable member interjected "an array of talent", but that is a matter of opinion. The whole basis of a democracy is that Parliament shall control the Executive. If one traces the constitutional history of Parliament, one finds that that is the whole basis of Parliament's existence. One of the established ways of carrying out that facet of constitutional practice is that there shall be a right for members to introduce private members' Bills and a right of a Grievance Day. The following passage appears at page 300 of the Seventeenth Edition of May's Parliamentary Practice—

Standing Order Number five provides for ten Fridays on which private members' bills have precedence over government bills, and ten other Fridays and four days other than Fridays until 7 p.m. upon which private members' motions (and private members' bills, in that order) enjoy a similar precedence.

The author then goes on to deal with the subject-matter. It has always been the practice in another place for members to have the right to discuss private members' Bills every Wednesday. I should have expected the Government to encourage this to be done, especially in view of the private members' Bills which appear on the Notice Paper, and which are part of the policy of the Democratic Labor Party. Of course, the Government is the product of the Democratic Labor Party.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—Order! That subject cannot be brought into this debate.

Mr. TURNBULL.—There are on the Government side of the House 46 members, all of whom, I have no doubt, have views on legislation under various headings. In my opinion, the Government is frustrating its own members as well as members of the Opposition. The House was informed that Opposition members had ample opportunity to submit any arguments or views to the House. The opportunity of asking questions of Ministers was mentioned. I shall illustrate how valuable this right is. To-day I asked the Premier whether he was aware of a constant rising of prices and costs of services in Victoria during 1965, 1966 and 1967. The honorable gentleman replied that any knowledge he had was obtained from the relevant section of the Year Book and the publication of the Government Gazette. Is the Premier honest when he says that he does not know that there is a constant rising of prices?

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—I ask the honorable member to indicate what bearing this has on the motion before the House.

Mr. TURNBULL.—I am replying to the arguments submitted by the Chief Secretary that members have ample opportunity to raise matters by way of questions addressed to Ministers, and on the adjournment of the House. On many occasions on the adjournment of a sitting, I have referred to problems affecting constituents, and I doubt whether I have ever received a written reply from a Minister. I suggest that these methods of raising questions on behalf of my constituents are frail and fragile rights. Many of the subjects raised are of great importance to the Parliament and to the electors generally, and no doubt Government members are anxious to express a point of view on them. One example is equal pay for equal work. I should imagine that if Government members had the right to express their own view on equal pay for equal work, they would be in favour of it.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The honorable member may not debate that subject.
Mr. TURNBULL.—I submit I am entitled to show that there are many matters of importance which, in the interests of democracy, should be made the subject of private members’ Bills. Indeed, many Acts on the statute-book have originated from private members’ Bills. As an example, I cite the Public and Recreational Lands Bill which was introduced in the Upper House by Mr. Galbally and was adopted by the Government as the Cultural and Recreational Lands Bill. Before the ink had dried, the Government introduced an amendment designed to carve up playing fields and public land in Brunswick and Coburg.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie).—The honorable member is now debating an Act of Parliament, and I ask him to return to the terms of the motion before the House.

Mr. WHEELER.—You have had plenty of opportunity to refer to that subject.

Mr. TURNBULL.—The Opposition has had no opportunity to introduce Bills which would suppress that type of Government action. The Government ought to take a reasonable view on this question and accede to the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. If it does not propose to do that, the views of other Ministers who have been in the House during the whole of this debate should be heard.

If the views of the majority of the residents in an electorate indicate that certain legislation is necessary, a private member should have the right to introduce a Bill. I hope to see the day when this right will be conceded by the Government. If this opportunity is not provided every day, which it has not been in the past, some reasonable time ought to be afforded to private members to debate topics which are of interest to those people whom they represent.

Mr. FENNESSY (Brunswick East).—I thought that other Ministers would have taken part in the debate on the important motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. New members on the Government side must be disappointed in their Ministers because this is an occasion when the Leader of the Opposition has suggested, not demanded, that the Government should consider implementing procedures which at this stage do not operate within this House.

Mr. BORTHWICK.—The Chief Secretary said that he would consider the suggestion.

Mr. FENNESSY.—That is so, but the honorable gentleman had already moved a motion to prevent debate on the subject.

Mr. BORTHWICK.—He withdrew that motion.

Mr. FENNESSY.—The Chief Secretary will consider the resolution now before the House, only because of the weight of evidence submitted by the Opposition and, apparently, because of evidence quietly given by Government back-bench members.

Mr. BORTHWICK.—Why are you pursuing it?

Mr. FENNESSY.—We are endeavouring to convince the Government that, unless it agrees to this suggestion, it is eroding the rights and privileges of members of this House. A couple of years ago, I had the privilege of representing this Parliament at a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in Jamaica. Other honorable members have represented this Parliament at similar conferences. One of the most important items for discussion at these conferences has been the question of Parliamentary privilege and the suggestion that there has been a tendency to erode this privilege. Many instances of this erosion have been brought before the House by Opposition members. The stage is being reached where Parliament is being controlled by the Executive and there is Government by regulation, not by representation.
The new members on both sides of the House should explore this situation. They entered this Chamber full of enthusiasm and probably some enthusiasm remains, but they must be disappointed that there will not be the expected opportunities to refer to topics in which they are interested. They may find themselves in the position of the honorable member for St. Kilda whose only outlet appears to be the daily press. He would obviously like to place before the House many of the views that he has enunciated in the daily press. I do not say that much of what he has said outside this House was not justified, but Opposition members would like to hear him make these statements in the House. We believe he should have the right and the privilege to introduce a private member’s Bill.

There are two Bills appearing in my name on the Notice Paper, but it is likely, if the practices of the past are followed by this Government, that they will never see the light of day. What is good enough for another place is certainly good enough for this place. After all, legislation should be initiated in this House and reviewed by the other House. Members of the Legislative Council have the opportunity to introduce Bills, and members of this House should be afforded the same privilege. The subject of the Bills introduced by the Opposition require a great deal of discussion, and concern subjects which should not be bandied around in an Address-in-Reply debate. I have been long enough in this House to know that, in the Address-in-Reply debate and in the debate on Supply, only parish pump matters are discussed. It is only during those debates that back-bench members on the Government side of the House have the opportunity to mention items of concern in their electorates and have their views published in the local press. I have no doubt that these honorable members will not be permitted to support the motion before the House, but they should consider the proposals it propounds, otherwise the privileges they thought they had will be completely eroded.

On one occasion, the Premier allowed members of his party to record a conscience vote on the question of whether or not birds should be shot, but apparently he is not prepared to allow a conscience vote on whether a man should be hanged. A Bill to abolish capital punishment has been introduced, but obviously the Premier will not permit a conscience vote on that subject. Excellent contributions have been made to the debate tonight, without any great ill-feeling being engendered. Members of the Opposition have asked that the rights and privileges of members of this House should be preserved, that all those things of which we speak at overseas Parliamentary conferences should be preserved. Everyone I have met at a conference of the Parliamentary Association has been jealous of the rights of members and of Parliamentary privilege. If representatives of the Victorian Parliament are sincere when they speak at those conferences, honorable members on both sides of the House must give consideration to the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition. It is framed as a request, not as a demand. If the motion were agreed to, the Government would have the right to list the Orders of the Day and to decide how it would conduct its business, but we ask the Government to provide for consideration of private members’ business. It would be for the Government to say what particular private member’s Bill would be brought forward. I suggest that the case of the Opposition on this motion is quite conclusive.

Dr. JENKINS (Reservoir).—I must express surprise at what has happened in this House to-night. The Chief Secretary has said that the Government party has been considering the matters mentioned by members of the Opposition. Therefore, one wonders why he so
emphatically rejects the proposition put forward by the Leader of the Opposition. One can only conclude that the Government will not allow the Opposition to achieve some sort of victory honours. I do not see the matter in this light. The Leader of the Opposition put forward his proposition because of a feeling amongst honorable members that the proposals it contains are proper matters for consideration. First, it proposes that there should be set days on which the Assembly should meet for the despatch of business. In my short experience in this Parliament, I have found that, early in the session, Parliament sits on certain days, for quite short hours. Towards the end of the session, the number of days of sitting each week increases and the hours are much longer until, late in the session, we have legislation by exhaustion.

Sir Henry Bolte.—You know that is not right.

Dr. Jenkins.—It is right, and it is not conducive to effective debate. At the start of their sessions, Parliaments in other States sit for three days a week for hours laid down. The legislation is prepared for the start of the session and it is debated within reasonable hours, unless matters of extreme urgency arise and a protracted debate ensues.

Mr. Wilcox.—There never was a Parliament that did not have a rush of business at the end of the session.

Dr. Jenkins.—There seems to be more and more of a rush at the end of sessional periods. I have voiced my objection to our conducting business in that way. The other Parliaments I have mentioned avoid many of the disadvantages suffered by members of this Parliament. The other matter of concern is that of precedence being given to private members' Bills, when they should have precedence, and on what days they should be debated. It has been suggested that in the normal course of business of the House the private member has an opportunity to discuss all the matters which come within his province. I consider that the introduction of a private member's Bill is something on a different basis altogether. In debating private members' Bills, discussion would be limited to specific subjects, and would be confined to particular areas. One could expect that members of other parties would similarly confine their discussions to specific matters. If subjects of importance to members are raised in such debates as that on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply, they are ignored by the Government. No proper consideration of them is given by the Parliament and no answer to questions raised or explanations of attitude are offered by Ministers or members of the Government party.

I fail to see why the motion has engendered such feeling amongst members on the Government side of the House, particularly in view of the Chief Secretary's admission that the Government was considering matters which had been raised by members of the Opposition. It seems to me to be a clear case of sour grapes and that the Government will use its numbers to vote against something which its members feel is right.

Mr. Holding (Leader of the Opposition).—In closing this debate on behalf of the Opposition, I shall simply make a few points which I feel have been overlooked or have been misunderstood by Ministers. It is wrong to suggest, as the Chief Secretary did, that in moving the motion the Opposition desired to usurp the rights and prerogatives of the Government in ordering the affairs and business of the House. Those rights and prerogatives are freely conceded by the Opposition. Indeed, they were considered in the formation and terminology of the motion.
Perhaps it will serve honorable members to consider what the motion says. It is very simple. First, the motion provides that Parliament should express the view that Sessional Orders ought to be adopted for fixing the days on which the House should meet; and no one can say that that is unreasonable. Secondly, it provides that, in considering the way in which the days of sitting should be allocated to the business of the House, regard should be had to Government business. That is done now. It also suggests that regard should be had to the allocation of time for general business, and that is occasionally done now. The motion also provides that time should be given to private Bill business, and that is never done.

I urge the Government not to treat this motion as an exercise in power or ego. There is the second requirement that the Sessional Orders have to be drafted and brought to this House for approval. The Opposition concedes that it is the duty of the Chief Secretary to draft such Sessional Orders because he is responsible for the general conduct of Parliamentary business. That is all that is involved in this motion.

No one has expressed views on this motion more eloquently than the honorable member for Sunshine. The Opposition is asking the Parliament to express its opinion that the Chief Secretary ought to draft Sessional Orders which take these issues into account. Ultimately the form of the Orders and how they are drafted are entirely within the prerogative of the Government. The Government got into this debate on the wrong foot; if it places itself in the position of voting against the motion, it will, as the honorable member for Reservoir said, be an incredible act of sour grapes. The Chief Secretary has conceded, "This is something we would like to consider." The Premier and Treasurer came into the House for a few moments and said, by way of interjection across the table, "Withdraw your motion and we will have a look at it." That is not the issue involved; it is a legitimate attempt by the members of this Parliament to say to the Government, "Let us examine the prerogatives of this institution; let us look at the privileges of the House."

I know, Mr. Speaker, that you will agree that the prerogatives and privileges of this institution ultimately mean no more or no less than the prerogatives and privileges of the individual member. It is all very well for the Minister of Transport to say, "There are certain forms of the House by which one can debate issues and criticize Government administration." There is no form of the House by which a private member, whether he be the Independent member for Coburg or any other member, can bring forward a private member's Bill so that at least it will be debated, whether the Government wants to reject it or adopt it.

In his Budget speech, the Premier and Treasurer threw out a challenge to the House that, if there was any way in which public revenue could be saved, he would be happy to have it brought forward. The Opposition now intends to accept that challenge, and the only way it can do so is by the introduction of a private member's Bill. The honorable member for Reservoir will give notice of such a Bill to-morrow. The Opposition will not be offended if the Government does not adopt any of the proposals embodied in the Bills introduced by private members. That is the attitude and spirit in which our members have entered into this debate. I ask the Chief Secretary to ponder the question whether or not the interests of the Government and of
Sessional Orders. (ASSEMBLY.) Marketable Securities Bill.

this Parliament—ultimately the interests of the people of Victoria—will be better served by members voting for a motion which does no more or no less than say, "This is the way the business ought to be put into order." Let us overlook the fact that the Chief Secretary came into this debate on the wrong foot. The Opposition has said that it is the responsibility of the Chief Secretary to draft the Sessional Orders, and in doing so he should have some regard to the rights of private members and the privileges, traditions and heritage of this House.

If this Government is so foolish as to vote against this proposal, it will take one more step down the slippery road which denies prerogatives and privileges to the House. I urge the Government to abandon this course. The Chief Secretary will agree with me that every honorable member has three duties—to his electorate, to his party and to this institution. I hope that members of the Government, and particularly the Chief Secretary, will put aside any feelings of ego and consider their duty to this institution.

The House divided on the motion (the Hon. Vernon Christie in the chair)—

Ayes.....27
Noes.....42

Majority against the motion.....15

Ayes.
Mr. Balfour
Mr. Billing
Mr. Birrell
Sir John Bloomfield
Sir Henry Bolte
Mr. Borthwick
Mr. Darcy
Mr. Dixon
Mr. Doyle
Mr. Dunstan
Mr. Evans (Balaraat North)
Mrs. Goble
Mr. Hayes
Mr. Loxton
Mr. MacDonald (Glen Iris)
Sir William McDonald
Mr. McKellar
Mr. McLaren
Mr. Meagher
Mr. Porter
Mr. Rafferty
Mr. Reeve
Mr. Reid (Box Hill)

Tellers:
Mr. Ginifer
Mr. Phelan.

Noes.
Mr. Reid (Dandenong)
Mr. Rossiter
Mr. Ryall
Mr. Scanlan
Mr. Smith
Mr. Smith (Bellarine)
Mr. Smith (Warrnambool)
Mr. Stokes
Mr. Suggett
Mr. Tanner
Mr. Tanner (Morwell)
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Templeton
Mr. Trethewey
Mr. Vale
Mr. Wheeler
Mr. Wilcox
Mr. Wiltshire.

Tellers:
Mr. Jona
Mr. Stephen.

BARLEY MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Council and, on the motion of Sir WILLIAM MCDONALD (Minister of Lands), was read a first time.

MASSEURS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Council and, on the motion of Mr. MANSON (Minister of State Development), was read a first time.

MARKETABLE SECURITIES BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Attorney-General).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Honorable members will recall that in 1966 the Victorian Parliament was the first Parliament in Australia to adopt legislation authorizing the use of a simplified form of transfer when stocks, shares and debentures are sold on the Stock Exchange. The system proposed was based upon that adopted in the United Kingdom in 1963, which dispensed with the
necessity of having the signatures of the parties witnessed and also dispensed with the need for the transfer to be signed by the transferee. However, the transferee's broker was required to authenticate the transfer by his stamp and by so doing he undertook to indemnify the company and parties to the transfer from any loss.

The Victorian legislation has since been considered in the Parliaments of every other State and similar legislation has been adopted by each State Parliament and in the Australian Capital Territory. All State Acts and the Australian Capital Territory ordinance came into operation on the 1st July, 1967.

In the course of the consideration of the Victorian legislation in the other States, there were further discussions at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General, and the Victorian Attorney-General concurred in various proposed amendments to the Victorian scheme. That conference was attended by my predecessor, the present Chief Secretary.

This Bill re-enacts the provisions relating to the new form of transfer in line with the latest agreement of the standing committee. The new system has already proved its worth and has been welcomed by stock brokers and the investing public. I believe that these benefits will be more greatly appreciated as the new system becomes better understood. It is of course essential that the legislation should be substantially uniform so that securities in companies incorporated in any State can be readily traded on Stock Exchanges anywhere.

Except in regard to one matter, the differences between the Bill before the House and that adopted by the last Parliament are matters of detail and terminology. The one matter of substance corrects a defect in the Victorian legislation which allowed an instrument of transfer to be authenticated only by the stamp of a Victorian stock broker. It is of the essence of the scheme that the authentication of a broker in any other State which has adopted similar legislation should be accepted in Victoria. This defect has been overcome by removing the word "Victorian" in the interpretation of the word "broker" in clause 2.

Companies have been acting on the stamps of interstate brokers since the new system came into operation on 1st July, and it is therefore necessary to make the new Bill operate as from that date. That is the date upon which the other States agree.

Apart from purely verbal changes, the main alterations effected by the Bill are as follows:—In clause 2 interpretations of "debenture", "marketable security" and "proclaimed corporation" are included. Formerly the Companies Act interpretations for "debenture" and "marketable security" were relied on. Interpretations of "transferee" and "transferor" are included to make it clear that these terms include the respective parties to a renunciation and transfer of rights.

Clause 3 differs only in minor verbal respects from the existing section 3. Clause 4 is identical with the existing section 4 except for the inclusion of a reference to an instrument of renunciation and transfer. Clause 5 expands section 5 to set out in more detail what must be done in relation to the execution of the transfer and in particular makes it clear that a transferee, on the affixing of the stamp of the transferee's broker, is deemed to have agreed to become a member of the company and to be bound by its memorandum and articles. Clauses 6, 7 and 8 differ only in regard to terminology from the existing sections 6 and 7, but express reference is made to transfers of rights by way of renunciation.

Clause 9 is a new provision which makes it clear that the use of the new system operates notwithstanding the provisions of any memorandum
articles or trust deed. Clause 10 is similar to the present section 8 and clause 11 is similar to the existing section 9, but express power is given to vary the forms prescribed for use in connexion with the new system. This power will enable improvements to be made in the form from time to time in the light of experience.

It is particularly desirable at this time of great activity on the stock markets of Australia to do anything that is likely to facilitate the transfer of shares and other securities and to obviate unnecessary clerical work and its consequent expense.

I shall now deal with the clauses of the Bill in detail. Clause 1 is the usual short title and commencement, and provides that the Act will be deemed to have come into operation on the 1st July, 1967.

Clause 2 is the interpretation clause. The interpretation of "broker" provides that a broker who is a member of any prescribed Stock Exchange in any part of Australia is a broker for the purposes of the Act. "Debenture" has a similar interpretation to that in the uniform Companies Act but refers also to the securities of proclaimed corporations. "Proclaimed corporations" includes foreign companies registered in Victoria and any other corporation which the Governor in Council proclaims. It may be desirable from time to time to proclaim companies or corporations incorporated under special Acts.

The use of the schedule forms is authorized by clause 3, which also provides that those schedule forms when duly completed will be sufficient. Clause 4 provides that notwithstanding anything in the company's own memorandum or articles, instruments of transfer need not be witnessed and need not state the occupations of the transferor and the transferee.

By clause 5, prescribed instruments are deemed to have been duly completed by the transferee if they show the full name and address of the transferee and bear a stamp of the transferee's broker. It sets out in detail the effect of the fixing of the transferee's broker's stamp in relation to securities which have an un-called liability and in relation to rights, and expressly provides that the transferee is deemed to have agreed to become a member.

The provision which makes the transferor's broker liable to indemnify the company in question, the transferee and the transferee's broker against loss or damage arising from any fraud or unauthorized signature of the transferor is contained in clause 6. Clause 7 contains an authority and protection for companies which act upon transfers effected in accordance with the Act.

The declaration that the Act operates notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act but preserves the right of a company to refuse to register a transfer on grounds other than those relating to formal validity is contained in clause 8. The validity of other lawful forms of transfer is preserved and a trustee or legal representative is given express power to act on a transfer executed in accordance with the Act.

It is made clear by the provisions of clause 9 that the registration of a transfer that complies with the Act does not constitute a breach of any trust deed or other instrument. Clause 10 makes it an offence for a broker to affix his stamp if the transfer does not relate to a sale or purchase made in the ordinary course of his business.

The Governor in Council is given power by clause 11 to make regulations and in particular to vary the prescribed forms of transfer. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, September 26.
Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Labour and Industry).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is twofold. It provides amendments, of a machinery nature, with respect to the appointment of valuators of co-operative housing societies, and also contains a provision of some importance in connexion with the age limit on existing homes on which co-operative housing societies may make advances. I shall now explain the proposed amendments.

Sub-section (2) of section 58 of the Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958, relating to the valuation of freehold property on which a society proposes to make an advance, provides, inter alia, that the valuation “shall be made by a sworn valuator appointed under section 7 of the Transfer of Land Act 1958”. Although section 7 of the Transfer of Land Act has been repealed, sub-section (1) of section 4 of that Act defines “sworn valuator” as follows:

“Sworn valuator” means a person for the time being holding a certificate of qualification as a valuer from the Valuers’ Qualification Board.

It is desirable, therefore, that the Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958 should be amended, and it is proposed that “valuator” should be defined for the purposes of the Act.

Clause 2 of the Bill proposes the insertion of the required definition in section 3 of the Act. As the amendments proposed in clauses 2 and 4 are related, I shall now deal with clause 4. The definition of “valuator” having been inserted in section 3 of the Act, it is then necessary to amend sub-section (2) of section 58 of the Act which, it is now proposed, will provide only that the valuator shall be approved by the registrar.

Clause 3 of the Bill contains the important amendment of which I made mention in my opening remarks. The proposal arises from an undertaking by the Government during the election campaign earlier this year, and provides for the amendment of sub-paragraph (iii) of paragraph (a) of sub-section (2) of section 34 of the Act to extend from five years to ten years the age limit of dwellings in respect of which advances may be made by co-operative housing societies.

The original Act, which came into operation in 1945, provided that advances could be made only in respect of dwelling-houses to be erected. In 1948, an amendment permitted advances to be made on dwelling-houses not more than ten years old, but in 1949 this was reduced to five years. The Government considers that it is appropriate to extend the age limit to ten years. Areas which ten years ago were on the fringe of development, so to speak, are now completely built up. The proposed extension will permit members of co-operative housing societies to purchase houses in these areas.

Before concluding, I wish to outline briefly the operations of co-operative housing societies to 30th June, 1967. There were 1,070 societies, including 382 being financed from the Home Builders’ Account under the Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement, with an aggregate membership of 53,963.

The loan accommodation made available to the societies being financed by lending institutions amounted to $184,133,000, of which $180,183,000 has been guaranteed by the Government. The money provided from the Home Builders’ Account totalled $98,064,790, including $21,375,991 from the revolving nature of the account. At 30th June last, 59,508 members had been provided with their own homes, and there were also 2,355 more homes in course of erection—a total of 61,863. I commend the Bill to the House.
On the motion of Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition), the debate was adjourned.

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

PORTLAND HARBOR (EXCHANGE OF LAND) BILL.

Mr. WILCOX (Minister of Transport).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

When the development of a new Portland harbor was envisaged some years ago, the Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners were established for the purpose of developing, administering, financing and operating the port and its various facilities. One of the facilities was a railway line from the Hamilton-Portland railway line to the new wharf area. This was built at the cost of the Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners. Half a mile along the wharf line from its connexion with the Victorian Railways main line, the “exchange sidings” were established.

The Victorian Railways carried the traffic over the harbor Trust’s line to the exchange sidings, the name arising from the fact that these sidings were the point of exchange of the rail vehicles between the Trust and the Victorian Railways. From the exchange sidings, the Trust operated its line to its sorting sidings near the wharves and thence to the wharves. Since that time, the port has developed, particularly in respect of export traffic of grains. In addition, fertilizer works are being built there and traffic will no doubt increase when the works are in production.

The Government decided that the section of the harbor Trust line from its junction with the Hamilton-Portland line to and including the exchange sidings should be taken over by the Victorian Railways for the sum of $470,000, which is the approximate value of the facilities. At the same time, as wharf traffic is no longer handled through Portland station and the original wharves, the line between Portland North station and Portland station has become a “white elephant”, handling only passenger and goods traffic.

For the benefit of honorable members who do not know the district, I point out that the new port area is a little distance from the original or old wharves and the Portland station is adjacent to the old wharves. It is intended to discontinue rail service beyond Portland North and to transfer the facilities to the Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners for $60,000. No doubt, the line will be removed, but I am not sure what the station facilities will be used for. The money which the Victorian Railways will receive as a result of this exchange will be spent on making Portland North a modern terminus suitable for handling the traffic of the area, including the passenger and goods traffic, which is growing in accordance with the general development of the district.

With the export of barley and oats through Portland, trainloads of these goods are being moved to the area. The Victorian Railways are doing this by running the trains beyond the exchange sidings to the Trust’s sorting sidings. The Trust has no locomotives for that work. In the course of these operations, the railways are operating over part of the Trust’s line, and in the interests of safety it is desirable that they should maintain the line and control its operation to their standards as far as the sorting sidings. Then the Trust takes over the rail wagons and moves them as required.

Three legislative steps are necessary to validate the course outlined, namely:—

1. To transfer from the harbor Trust to the Victorian Railways, the Trust’s interest in the lands forming the line between the junction with the main line and the exchange sidings.
2. To transfer from the Victorian Railways to the Trust railway land between Portland North station and the present Portland station.

3. To authorize payment of the amounts involved for the exchange of the lands.

Operation and maintenance by the Victorian Railways of the Trust's section of line from the exchange sidings to the sorting sidings will be covered by a private siding form of agreement between the Trust and the Railways Commissioners, as was earlier the case in the latters' operation between the main line and the exchange sidings. This is the customary means of covering instances where the Railways Commissioners operate on lines which are not on land vested in them.

The clauses of the Bill may be summarized as follows:—Clause 1 is self-explanatory. Clause 2 describes the Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners and the Victorian Railways Commissioners for the purposes of the new Act. Sub-clause (1) of clause 3 provides for the Trust's lands concerned, technically described in Schedule 1 of the Bill, to be vested in the Railways Commissioners on a date to be proclaimed. Sub-clause (2) of clause 3 provides for the Railways Commissioners' lands concerned, technically described in Schedule 2, to be vested in the Trust on a date to be proclaimed. Sub-clause (3) authorizes the payment of the specified sums by each party for the lands involved.

Clause 4 provides that the lands vested in the Trust shall no longer form part of the Portland and Hamilton railway. Thus, the provisions of the Railways Act will apply to them as an authorized line of railway. Schedules 1 and 2 contain the technical descriptions of the lands to be exchanged.

This Bill is an example of co-operation between two forms of transportation—rail and sea—and it comes about as part of the development of Portland as a progressive port. I am glad to see such evidence of co-operation in the transportation field, and I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. FLOYD (Williamstown), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 3.

STAMPS BILL.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The primary purpose of this Bill is to implement the proposal announced in the Budget speech relating to stamp duty on receipts. The Bill also includes a number of amendments to the Stamps Act relating to other matters, but these are not basically matters of revenue significance. I shall refer to them specifically in due course. At this stage, I want to explain the detailed provisions of the Bill as they relate to stamp duty on receipts.

I should say right at the outset that the provisions of the Bill relating to stamp duty on receipts constitute a basic revenue measure which is part and parcel of the financial planning inherent in the Budget. The ability to finance the expenditure proposals as contained in the Estimates of Expenditure which have been submitted to the House, and which must in due course be incorporated in the Appropriation Act, is in very real terms dependent on the enactment of this Bill.

The circumstances which make it necessary to submit this measure to the House have been explained in
detail in the Budget speech, and I do not propose to repeat them here. This Bill and the Budget go hand in hand. They are, as it were, the opposite sides of the same coin, and as foreshadowed in the Budget speech the Bill is introduced now so that it can be considered by the House in the context of the Budget. To meet the convenience of honorable members, it is proposed that the Budget debate shall be resumed next Tuesday. That is why I considered it desirable to introduce the Bill at this stage—so that honorable members may consider it in conjunction with the Budget. It is not that I hope to have the Bill passed at the same time as the first line of the Budget. It will also facilitate consideration and discussion outside the Parliament of the proposals in concrete form right from the outset. While the Government could not undertake to depart in any way from the principles underlying the measure, constructive comments and suggestions from interested parties which could facilitate the practical application of the provisions of the Bill will be welcomed.

I emphasize that if the Government accepts constructive proposals that are suggested, either by members on the Government side or of the Opposition, members should not criticize this measure as being hastily prepared or ill-conceived. If such a position arose, the Government would have to adopt the attitude of mind of which the Leader of the Opposition has accused it. It is difficult to win this argument. If these constructive proposals are acted upon—

Mr. WILKES.—But the Government has never acted in that way.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—The Government has acted upon constructive proposals. When the Government accepts constructive proposals, it is accused of introducing hastily prepared legislation which has to be amended, but if the Government does not accept suggestions, it is accused of steam-rolling.

Mr. HOLDING.—If the Opposition makes suggestions, the Government says that it is a Government Bill for which it is responsible.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I hope there will be a happy compromise on this particular matter. I confess that at this stage there may be administrative difficulties, and I shall welcome any constructive suggestions in this regard. Much detailed consideration has gone to the drafting of the Bill, but there may well be aspects of commercial practice which could call for some modifications of proposed administrative arrangements.

In broad outline the present position with stamp duty on receipts is as follows:—Persons engaged in a trade, business, or profession may elect to pay duty in bulk on periodical returns of total receipts. In this case, subject to minor qualifications, duty is payable at the rate of 5 cents for every $400 or part thereof of total receipts. In the case of persons who are not eligible to elect to pay duty in this manner, or being eligible do not so elect, duty is payable by adhesive stamps on receipts issued for amounts of $10 or more on a sliding scale subject to a maximum duty of 20 cents.

The present system creates many anomalies. Those who pay duty under the return system pay on their total receipts. On the other hand, those who do not use this method, pay no duty on receipts for less than $10, and a maximum duty of 20 cents on amounts of $1,000 or more, however large the amount. Thus two businesses with exactly the same total money receipts may pay different amounts of duty. Again, where duty is paid by adhesive stamps, two firms with identical aggregate receipts might pay different amounts of duty because one firm's receipts are predominantly amounts under $10 while those of the other firm are over $10. Anomalies of this nature are undesirable elements of any taxing measure.
Under the Bill, it is proposed that there will be a uniform rate of duty of 1 cent for every $10 or part thereof for all receipts of money by any person engaged in a trade, business or profession. For persons not engaged in a trade, business or profession, amounts of $10 or less will be exempt, but the standard rate of duty will apply to all amounts over $10. While the new rate of duty is higher than the present rates, the new rate will be a uniform rate and apply to all receipts liable to stamp duty. This will avoid the anomalies under the present system. The Bill continues the present arrangement whereby any person or firm engaged in a trade, business or profession may elect to pay duty in bulk on periodical returns. Where such a person or firm does not elect to pay receipt duty on the return system, duty will be payable by means of impressed or adhesive stamps, but the rate of duty will be the same.

Suitable administrative arrangements are proposed to acquaint people of the facilities available under the return system of paying duty. If the Bill is passed, the Comptroller of Stamps will write to all companies, factories, shops, and persons using registered business names, setting out details of the scheme and enclosing a form of election. Other groups will be contacted and forms of election made available through professional and business associations. Depending upon the size and nature of the business, each person or firm electing to use the bulk system will be required to make returns at intervals such as monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually, as the Comptroller of Stamps determines, and to remit with the return the appropriate amount of duty calculated at 1 cent for every $10 or part thereof of the total amount received. There will be flexibility in allocating dates for making returns to meet the convenience of business as far as possible. It is in mind that the period covered by those returns which are on an annual basis should be such as will allow preparation of the return to coincide with preparation of income tax returns. This should particularly suit the convenience of small businesses and primary producers.

I also announced in the Budget speech that a basic review of the present exemptions from stamp duty on receipts was proposed. Accordingly, the Bill provides a new list of exemptions to replace the present exemptions as contained in the Third Schedule to the Stamps Act. A number of alterations has been made in the list of exemptions, but the four basic changes relate to—

1. Receipts for salaries and wages.
2. Receipts for sale of primary products.
3. Receipts for dividends and interest received by individuals.
4. Receipts for insurance premiums.

Until 1965, receipts for salaries and wages were not generally exempt from stamp duty. However, such receipts were not compulsory, and it was not common practice to issue them. When they were issued, they were subject to stamp duty where the amount was $10 or more. In 1965, all receipts for salaries and wages were exempted from stamp duty. Under the Bill, salaries and wages at a rate exceeding $20 a week will be liable for receipt duty at the same rate as will apply to all receipts—that is 1 cent for every $10 or part thereof. However, to protect employees from the problems of giving a receipt and attaching a duty stamp to it, the Bill makes it compulsory for the employer to deduct receipt duty from the payment to the employee. Where the employer pays his own receipt duty by means of the bulk return system, he will pay the amounts deducted from employees to the Comptroller of Stamps by including them in his periodical returns. In other cases, the employer will be required to make out a note or
memorandum of the amounts deducted and pay duty on that memorandum by means of adhesive stamps, or come to an arrangement with the Comptroller of Stamps to make periodical returns in respect of deductions from salaries and wages.

It has been necessary to include special provisions in the Bill at this point to cover the position of Commonwealth employees. In the view of our legal advisers, the Commonwealth Government and its authorities would not be bound by the general provisions relating to deductions by employers, nor would its employees necessarily be bound by the liability to pay receipt duty on periodical payments of salaries and wages. To cover this possibility, the Bill provides that such an employee would be required to make an annual return to the Comptroller of Stamps showing his periodical salary and pay duty on that return. However, provision is also made to allow for agreement between the Governor-General for the Commonwealth, and the Governor in Council for the State, to cover deductions from the wages and salaries of Commonwealth employees. In that event, the obligation on the employee to make an annual return would not arise. The Government does not expect any real practical problems to occur in this area, because we would not expect that either the Commonwealth Government itself, or its employees, would wish to take advantage of any possible legal technicality to put them in a privileged position in relation to all other members of the community.

Mr. HOLDING.—You are hopeful.

Sir HENRY BOLTE.—I am not hopeful at all, because the position is covered in case they do not cooperate. The amount of receipt duty which will be payable on salaries and wages by the average employee will not be large. For example, on $50 a week, the duty will be 5 cents or $2.60 a year. Other members of the community, including self-employed persons, will be liable for receipt duty on virtually their total receipts, including that part of those receipts which represents their income, and the Government believes it is equitable that salaries and wages should also be subject to receipt duty. This is the position in Western Australia.

The other three main changes in the list of exemptions which I mentioned were—

Receipts for the sale of primary products.
Receipts for dividends and interest received by individuals.
Receipts for insurance premiums.

The first two of these exemptions were introduced in 1965, but, consistent with the general principles of the Bill, they will be discontinued. As I mentioned earlier, it is envisaged that for the most part the primary producer will be able to pay duty in one amount on an annual return which can coincide with the preparation of his income tax return. At the rate of 1 cent for every $10, or the equivalent of $1 in every $1,000, the amount of duty in individual cases will not be very great. The exemption for receipts for insurance premiums has been in the Stamps Act for a very long time, almost since the inception of receipt duty, but once again it would be inconsistent with the principles of the Bill for it to be continued.

Other amendments of the exemptions cover the removal or widening of certain existing exemptions, and the introduction of some new ones. Those removed include the exemption of payments to building, co-operative and friendly societies, which is no longer considered to be warranted, together with certain others which are now redundant. The existing exemption for deposits or loans for terms up to twelve months with the short-term money market has been widened to include what is known as the unofficial market. The existing charitable exemption has also been
Stamps [19 September, 1967.] Bill. 235

widened. New exemptions cover receipts given for tax refunds; pension and other payments under the Social Services, Repatriation and Tuberculosis Acts; superannuation, pensions and retiring allowances up to $25 a week; and payments of relief or assistance by Governments or charitable institutions.

In some measure, the provisions of the Bill relating to receipt duty may have the appearance of a new form of stamp duty. The rate of duty is certainly changed, and I have no desire to disguise or hide this fact. However, apart from the rate of duty, what the Bill in reality does is to remove anomalies which are inherent in the present legislation, and provide a wider and more equitable application of the incidence of receipt duty over the whole community. I pointed out in the Budget speech the dual interest in higher spending on education by the businessman and the individual parent. With the new receipt duty proposals, the businessman will have the opportunity to make a contribution to the rising costs of education in an equitable way. So, also, the individual person, through the small contribution by way of stamp duty on receipts for salaries and wages, will be able to make his contribution to the rising costs of education.

At this point I might mention that, by its own legislation, the Commonwealth has expressly given an immunity from State stamp duty to some of its own instrumentalities. Particularly where these are in competition with private enterprise which will be liable for stamp duty on receipts under this Bill, we would expect these authorities to pay duty. One example which comes readily to mind is that of Trans-Australia Airlines, which is in competition with Ansett-A.N.A. The latter company will pay duty on its total receipts and, if Trans-Australia Airlines sought protection because it is a Commonwealth authority, there would have to be legislation to ensure that it paid an equitable amount, as its competitor would do. The only way we could ensure this would be to inconvenience the clients of Trans-Australia Airlines by placing the onus on them to stamp the receipt for the money they paid to Trans-Australia Airlines, and thus make that authority responsible for the duty. It would be intolerable to have to legislate in that way, and I believe that Trans-Australia Airlines will agree to meet its obligations under this taxing measure in the same way as its competitor.

As indicated in the Budget speech, the anticipated additional revenue to be received this financial year will be of the order of $7,400,000 and will be sufficient to equate estimated total revenue with the total expenditure as estimated in the Budget. This estimated $7,400,000 will be received only if the Act comes into operation at an early date. My advisers have suggested that the Act would have to come into operation some time in January.

Mr. Turnbull.—What have you done about paying money into and out of trust accounts? Have you exempted those payments?

Sir Henry Bolte.—There are no double payments of duty. The agent provision is preserved. I will give an example which may help the honorable member. If a man gives his broker an order to buy shares, he pays his broker, who pays the broker of the seller of the shares, and it is only at that point that a receipt duty is levied.

Mr. Turnbull.—I had solicitors' trust accounts in mind.

Sir Henry Bolte.—I would have to examine the position; all those matters will be cleared up.

Apart from the basic provisions relating to stamp duty on receipts, the Bill provides for a number of other amendments to the Stamps Act. Clause 4, which amends section 41 of the principal Act, clears up
a doubt which has arisen regarding the scope of the provisions of the Stamps Act relating to bills of exchange. It will henceforth be clear that bills of exchange do not include debentures. There is, of course, a separate duty on debentures as such.

Clause 5 deals with a difficulty which has arisen in respect of transfers of property for an inadequate pecuniary consideration. Where the property consists only of real property, the Stamps Act permits the assessment of duty at gift rates on the amount of the inadequacy of pecuniary consideration only, with sale rates of duty being applied to the amount of the consideration. Where the property transferred comprises a mixture of real property and personal property, however, the Act provides that gift rates of duty are to be charged on the total value of the property and not merely the inadequacy of the consideration. The subsection proposed to be added to the existing section 84 of the Stamps Act, by clause 5, will allow the principles of assessment now applied to partial gifts of land only to be applied to cases of partial gifts comprising land and personal property. Nearly every honorable member of this House has had a case of this nature put to him. I particularly remember one mentioned by the honorable member for Gippsland East. This provision will solve the problem. It could perhaps be overcome by the party having two contracts but, when there is only one contract, this provision will apply.

Clause 6 amends the provisions of section 131AC of the principal Act, which relates to credit business and which was added to the Stamps Act last year. Stamp duty at the rate of 1½ per cent. was applied to loans carrying a rate of interest over 9 per cent. per annum and a rebate of duty was allowed, equal to the mortgage duty paid on the security documents supporting those loans. Certain technical requirements of the Instruments Act have resulted in this rebate being lost in some cases where loans are secured on registrable bills of sale or registrable assignments or transfers of book debts. The rebate was never intended to be restricted in this way, and the present amendment rectifies the situation.

Clause 7, which makes three amendments to section 137b, deals with mortgages. The existing definition of "mortgage" permits a mortgage to escape duty where it is given to secure a sale of land on terms under a contract of sale after transfer of the property has been demanded by the purchaser in accordance with the provisions of the Sale of Land Act. The amendment remedies this defect.

Clause 8 inserts a new section 140A in the principal Act authorizing the Comptroller of Stamps to provide information to Commonwealth income tax authorities. The inclusion of this section, which is to be found in the Stamps Act of most other States, will authorize the Comptroller not only to give information to the Commonwealth income tax authorities but to have access to information on a reciprocal basis. The present position is that under Commonwealth law the Income Tax Commissioner has access to information from the Comptroller of Stamps, but he is precluded from giving reciprocal information to the Comptroller unless the Comptroller is authorized by law to provide information to him. Provision is made for the normal secrecy arrangements appropriate in these circumstances.

Clause 9 makes a number of amendments to the provisions in the Third Schedule relating to the duty on transfers of marketable securities. Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) bring the rate of duty on non-broker transactions, which are at present three-eighths per cent. into line with that on broker transactions which, as a result of the recent uniform marketable securities legislation, was fixed at a rate based on four-tenths per cent. Similar rates now apply in all other States. At the same time the existing exemption from duty on

Sir Henry Bolte.
transfers of shares in gold, uranium and oil mining companies is removed by paragraphs (d) and (e). It is felt that this exemption no longer serves any useful purpose.

By a further amendment to the Third Schedule, clause 10 provides for exemption from duty in respect of leases granted or assigned by municipalities for the purposes of assisting with the decentralization of industry. The clause also exempts from duty transfers of leases and transfers of motor vehicles where those transfers are made to a shareholder during the course of the distribution of assets on the reduction of capital or the winding up of a company. This principle is already recognized with transfers of land and shares arising in such circumstances.

Attached to the printed second-reading notes, there is an explanatory memorandum which will be made available to all honorable members so that they may become thoroughly acquainted with the provisions of this measure. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Tuesday, October 3.

ADJOURNMENT.

Oil Discoveries: Statement of Premier—"HANSARD": Publishing Error.

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow, at Three o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. PORTER (Minister of Public Works).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. HOLDING (Leader of the Opposition).—In Bairnsdale this week, the Premier made a public statement concerning the significance of the oil find in Bass Strait. He stated that, because of these discoveries, Victoria could become another Middle East. Would the Premier be a little more exact in terms of the results of these findings, and at the earliest possible occasion would he make a full statement to Parliament on the economical and other implications of these oil discoveries?

Mr. RAFFERTY (Glenhuntly).—I direct the attention of the House to an obvious publishing error at page 96 of the last issue of Hansard. In the second column under the heading "Final Supplementary Estimates for 1966-67", it is stated—

Sir Henry Bolte (Premier and Treasurer) presented a message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting Final Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1966-67, and recommending an Commissioner (Ombudsman), and for purposes connected therewith.

Following that reference is the introduction of the "Parliamentary Commissioner Bill" in these terms—

Mr. Wilkes (Northcote), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make provision for the appointment and functions of a Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman), and for purposes connected therewith.

I have discussed the matter with Hansard and I have seen the draft of the copy which was sent to the Government Printing Office. As there has obviously been a printer's error, I suggest that action be taken to rectify the mistake by the issue of a corrigendum.

Sir HENRY BOLTE (Premier and Treasurer).—I was correctly reported as having said at Bairnsdale on Monday that Victoria could ultimately become a Middle East regarding oil production for Australia in the near future. I stand by that statement. The information that the Government receives from the Mines Department and the information from time to time issued by the prospecting company, Haematite Exploration, lends weight to the belief that this is not an extravagant statement; rather it is possibly an understatement because the last three strikes that have been made have all been highly successful.