

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, 27 April, 1971

Senate Vacancy (Election of Senator)—Oath of Allegiance—Sessional Committees—Sessional Orders (Business Days: Hours of Sitting and Precedence of Business)—Committee of Subordinate Legislation—Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Amendment Bill (first reading)—Public Service and Other Statutory Bodies (Extended Leave) Amendment Bill (first reading)—Securities Industry (Amendment) Bill (first reading)—Land Aggregation Tax Management Bill (first reading)—Land Aggregation Tax Bill (first reading)—Death of F. P. Buckley, Esq., C.B.E.—Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition—J. F. Wilson Will Trusts Variation Bill—Questions without Notice—Adjournment (Business of the House).

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4.28 p.m.

The Prayer was read.

## SENATE VACANCY

## ELECTION OF SENATOR

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of a communication from His Excellency the Governor acknowledging receipt of a letter of 16th March, 1971, informing him that, at a Joint Sitting of the two Houses of the Legislature of New South Wales held on that day, in accordance with section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act James Robert McClelland, Esquire, had been chosen as the person to fill the vacancy in the Senate caused by the death of Senator James Patrick Ormonde, and intimating that, on 16th March, 1971, he had certified to the Governor General the election of Mr McClelland.

## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of a Commission authorizing the Chairman of Committees, in the absence of the President, to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen required by law to be taken or made by members of the Council.

Commission read by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

## SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

## STANDING ORDERS

Motion (by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller) agreed to:

That the Standing Orders Committee for the present Session consist of the following Members, viz.—The President, Dr Bryon-Faes, Mr C. A. F. Cahill, Colonel Sir Hector Clayton, Mr Downing, Mr Hewitt, Mr McKay, Mr Maloney, Mr Wright and the Mover, with leave to sit during any adjournment and authority to confer upon subjects of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Assembly.

## LIBRARY

Motion (by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller) agreed to:

That the Library Committee of this House for the present Session consist of the following Members, viz.—The President, Dr Bryon-Faes, Mr R. H. Erskine, Major-General Eskell, Mr Gardiner, Mr Pratten, Mrs Roper, Mr Solomons, Mr Weir and Mr Wright, with leave to sit during any adjournment and authority to act jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

## PRINTING

Motion (by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller) agreed to:

That the Printing Committee for the present Session consist of the following Members, viz.—Colonel Sir Hector Clayton, Mr Colborne, Mrs Davis, Mr R. H. Erskine, Mrs Furley, Mr McIntosh, Mr North, Mrs Roper, Mr Shipton and Mr Weir, with the following duties and powers, and to whom shall be referred all Petitions presented to the House, and all Papers laid upon the Table. It shall be the duty of such Committee to report from time to time which of the Petitions and Papers referred to them ought, in their opinion, to be printed, and whether in full or in abstract; and it shall be in the power of the Committee to order such Petitions or Papers, or abstracts thereof to be prepared for the Printer by the Clerk in attendance upon such Committee and such Papers or abstracts shall be printed, unless the House otherwise order.

## HOUSE

Motion (by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller) agreed to:

That the House Committee for the present Session consist of the following Members, viz.—The President, Mr Ahern, Mr Cockerill, Mr Geraghty, Mr Manyweathers, Mr Murray, Mrs Roper, Mr Spicer, Mr Thom and Sir Edward

Warren, with leave to sit during any adjournment, and authority to act in matters of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Assembly.

### SESSIONAL ORDERS

#### BUSINESS DAYS: HOURS OF SITTING

Motion (by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller) agreed to:

That, unless otherwise ordered, this House shall meet for the despatch of business at Four p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in each week.

#### PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS

Motion (by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller) agreed to:

That Government Business shall take precedence of General Business on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and that General Business shall take precedence on Thursday in each week.

### COMMITTEE OF SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Motion (by the Hon. L. D. Serisier on behalf of the Hon. C. A. F. Cahill) agreed to:

(1) That this House do appoint a Committee to be called the Committee of Subordinate Legislation.

(2) That the Committee shall consist of five Members.

(3) That the following Members shall comprise the Committee, viz.—Colonel Sir Hector Clayton, Mr Gleeson, Mr Keighley, Mr McPherson and Mr C. A. F. Cahill.

(4) That it shall be the duty of the Committee to consider all Regulations, Rules, By-laws, Ordinances, Orders or Proclamations (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations”) which under any Act are required to be laid upon the Table of this House, and which are subject to disallowance by resolution of either or both Houses of Parliament.

If the Regulations are made whilst the Council is sitting, the Committee shall consider the Regulations before the end of the period during which any motion for disallowance of those Regulations may be moved in the House.

If the Regulations are made whilst the Council is not sitting, the Committee shall consider the Regulations as soon as conveniently may be after the making thereof.

(5) The Committee shall, with respect to the Regulations, consider—

- (a) whether the Regulations are in accordance with the general objects of the Act pursuant to which they are made;
- (b) whether the Regulations trespass unduly on personal rights and liberties;
- (c) whether the Regulations unduly make the rights and liberties of citizens dependent upon administrative and not upon judicial decisions;
- (d) whether the Regulations contain matter which in the opinion of the Committee should properly be dealt with in an Act of Parliament;
- (e) whether the Regulations appear to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Statute under which they are made;
- (f) whether there appears to have been unjustifiable delay in the publication or the laying of the Regulations before Parliament;
- (g) whether for any special reason the form or purport of the Regulations calls for elucidation.

(6) If the Committee is of the opinion that any of the Regulations ought to be disallowed—

- (a) it shall report that opinion and the grounds thereof to the House before the end of the period during which any motion for disallowance of those Regulations may be moved in the House;
- (b) if the Council is not sitting, it may report its opinion and the grounds thereof to the authority by which the Regulations were made.

(7) If the Committee is of the opinion that any matter relating to any of the Regulations should be brought to the notice of the House, it may report that opinion and matter to the House.

(8) The Committee shall have power to act and to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses, whether or not the Council is sitting, and all papers and documents referred to, and Minutes of the Proceedings, reports and records of the Committee of Subordinate Legislation appointed on 13 August, 1968, and authorized by the provisions of the Parliamentary Committees Enabling Act No. 42 of 1969 to function during the prorogation of Parliament and during the Third Session of the Forty-second Parliament, shall be referred to the Committee hereby appointed.

(9) The proceedings of the Committee shall, except wherein otherwise ordered, be regulated by the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council relating to Select Committees.

**CIVIL AVIATION (CARRIERS' LIABILITY) AMENDMENT BILL****FIRST READING**

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly and, on motions by the Hon. F. M. Hewitt, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND OTHER STATUTORY BODIES (EXTENDED LEAVE) AMENDMENT BILL****FIRST READING**

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly and, on motions by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**SECURITIES INDUSTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL****FIRST READING**

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly and, on motions by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**LAND AGGREGATION TAX MANAGEMENT BILL****FIRST READING**

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly and, on motions by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**LAND AGGREGATION TAX BILL****FIRST READING**

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly and, on motions by the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

**DEATH OF FRANCIS PATRICK BUCKLEY, ESQUIRE, C.B.E., A FORMER MINISTER OF THE CROWN AND AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES IN LONDON**

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER (Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council)

[4.45]: By consent and without previous notice, I move:

That the Legislative Council extends to Mrs Buckley and family the sympathy and sorrow of members of the Legislative Council in the loss they have sustained by the death of Francis Patrick Buckley, Esquire, C.B.E., a former Minister of the Crown and Agent-General for New South Wales in London.

I know that all of us in this House were sorry to hear of the death of Pat Buckley. The record shows that Francis Patrick Buckley was elected to the Legislative Council of New South Wales on 14th March, 1946, for a twelve-year term commencing on 23rd April, 1946. He resigned from the Legislative Council on 30th June, 1954, upon his appointment as New South Wales Agent-General in London. The record says also that Mr Buckley had become an Assistant Minister on 19th November, 1952, and that on 16th September, 1953, he was appointed Secretary for Mines, a post that we now refer to as Minister for Mines.

All of us recognize that especially in the post of Agent-General, which he occupied for eleven years, Mr Buckley served the State wonderfully well. His ability to mix with people and his skill in promoting New South Wales on every possible occasion were of interest to those who had the opportunity of visiting England during that time. Many people in England and on the Continent had the opportunity of learning something of New South Wales from Mr Buckley and perhaps of being attracted to this State. Possibly industry and capital also were attracted to this State because of the activities of Mr Buckley.

Mr Buckley was born at Dubbo seventy-seven years ago, the son of a woolclasser, and was educated at a convent school in Cobar. In Cobar he became apprenticed to a hairdresser and he joined the Hairdressers' Employees' Union in 1911. At the age of 19 he and his family moved to Sydney, where he became interested in political and industrial affairs. The drift to the city was obvious even something like fifty years ago, when people were leaving Cobar because, I take it, of the lack of development in the Cobar mines at that

time and the low price for the ore that was being extracted. Mr Buckley was elected an organizer of the Hairdressers' Employees' Union before he reached the age of 21 and later he became secretary of the union.

In Sydney Mr Buckley served also in local government. He was elected an alderman of the Marrickville council in the twenties and served for two terms, in 1942 and 1943, as mayor of Marrickville. In December, 1950, he was elected an alderman of the Council of the City of Sydney, and held that office until his resignation three years later.

As a young man, Pat Buckley was fond of most sports, and I am told by many Rugby League enthusiasts that he did much to establish the Rugby League code in the Marrickville area of metropolitan Sydney. I think it can be said that he had a special interest in golf, in England during the eleven years that he served there as Agent-General, and also in Australia. He was an active member of the Coast Golf Club at Little Bay.

I was not a member of the House during Mr Buckley's membership, but I often had the opportunity of meeting him over the past few years. He was a warm-hearted person who will be remembered for his personal qualities as well as his record of public service to the State of New South Wales—not only in his office as organizer and later secretary of the Hairdressers' Employees' Union but also as a member of the Legislative Council and a Minister of the Crown in this State, and especially as Agent-General for New South Wales overseas. On behalf of the Government and personally, I extend to Mrs Buckley and to other members of Mr Buckley's family our deep sympathy in their sad loss.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Leader of the Opposition) [4.51]: I join with the Minister in supporting this motion. As honourable members know, Pat Buckley was a very close personal friend of mine for well over forty years. Every member of this House who had the honour and pleasure to be associated with him will agree he was

a very fine man. I can sum up his character by saying that he was a very fine man in every sense of the word.

Pat Buckley's great contribution, of course, was to the trade unions and the Labor movement. As the Minister said, he was an apprentice hairdresser in Cobar and he joined the Australian Labor Party at the age of 17. He was apprenticed to Mark Anthony Davidson, who subsequently became a very well-known Labor parliamentarian. Having served his apprenticeship in Cobar, in 1911 at the age of 19 he came to Sydney. Shortly afterwards, following activities in the union, his great sense of justice and his spirit of rebellion against injustice led him to fight against some of the abuses that were then rampant in the hairdressing industry. At the age of 21 he became an organizer of that union and served it well for over a quarter of a century, both as organizer and as secretary.

There were some remarkable achievements in the hairdressing industry during Pat Buckley's service in it. Most of us recall abuses such as chair renting and the exploitation of men and women by proprietors of shops. This was put to an end by Pat Buckley's agitation and work, which culminated in New South Wales becoming the first Australian State to legislate for registration of hairdressers. This was looked upon as a somewhat revolutionary measure at the time. I understand that most of the States have followed New South Wales and now have statutory provisions similar to those pioneered by Pat Buckley.

Pat Buckley led the first Labor team of aldermen to win control of the Marrickville Municipal Council, and there is a great deal of evidence in Marrickville of the high regard in which he was held. Streets and other places have been named after him. He served that municipality as mayor for at least two terms, and in his tenure of office he was instrumental in having a lot of swamp land reclaimed for industrial purposes. By his efforts, a large area of land was drained, and an eyesore and hazard to health in the municipality became a good industrial area.

Subsequently, as the Minister said, Pat Buckley came into this Chamber. Those of us who had the pleasure to be here with

him were delighted by his contributions to the debates. I am sure that all members appreciated the honesty and sincerity with which he shouldered his duties both as Assistant Minister and as Minister for Mines. Probably his best service to the State of New South Wales was given during his period as Agent-General in London. I venture to say that any members of this Chamber or any of the citizens of New South Wales who had the good fortune to visit London when Pat Buckley was Agent-General would have nothing but praise for his assistance, especially if they had a problem that called for sage advice. It will not be disputed that Mr Buckley's advice as Agent-General compared more than favourably with assistance to Australian travellers available at Australia House. He built up a reputation of service to citizens of New South Wales which I think his successors will find exceedingly difficult to maintain.

When Pat Buckley went to London, he never forgot that he was an Australian; he was no different in England in his personal manner and characteristics. He did not succumb to the fallacy of trying to become more English than the English when in London, and I think this was appreciated by the English people. One illustration of how he was accepted by them is the fact that he became president of the Westminster branch of Rotary, right in the heart of London. As all honourable members know, rotary clubs are representative of citizens from all walks of life, and it is a great tribute to Pat Buckley that he held such a position in London.

As the Minister said, Pat Buckley was a great lover of sports, including athletics and golf. He liked to go to the races. Indeed, he had a wide appreciation of all sport; I do not think there is any sport in which he was not keenly interested. Over the years, he was an authority on many sports, particularly golf. He was a very keen golfer, but not being a golfer myself, I cannot say how well he played that game.

I conclude by saying that I was a close personal friend of Pat Buckley for over forty years. He had a philosophy which I admire: adversity never upset him, though he had suffered his share of it in his lifetime. Without my giving details, I can

assure the House that Pat Buckley always turned to the future and was never regretful of the past. He had a very fine family, whom it has been my pleasure to know intimately for a great number of years. I know it would be very difficult to convey to Mrs Buckley and her three daughters the regret that the Minister and I, and all other members of the House, feel at his passing. It would be impossible for us adequately to convey to her our respect for Francis Patrick Buckley. I am sure that in years to come his widow and daughters will receive from time to time indications from other sources of the high regard in which their husband and father was held by the community generally.

The Hon. T. P. GLEESON [4.58]: I join in the tribute that has been paid to the late Pat Buckley, whom it was my privilege to know as a personal friend. The Hon. R. R. Downing has reminded us that he was elected to this House in March, 1946. I came in here on the same day, and I had the privilege and honour to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, which he had moved. Ever since those days I have learnt much of his fine qualities. He was a wonderful friend, and as the Hon. R. R. Downing said, a great man in every respect. He was a warm-hearted person who saw good in everybody. He fought hard, but he held no ill will against anyone. He was a warm-hearted, lovable man, and I feel that any society in which he mixed must have gained from his presence. He left his mark upon this community.

From my own experience I know that as Agent-General in London Pat Buckley did a remarkable job. I recommended quite a number of people to contact him and on their return to Australia they praised him highly and told me of the help he was able to give them. The Hon. R. R. Downing reminded the House that Mr Buckley was born in a country town. I remember Pat Buckley going to Moree, Narrabri and other places in the north-west. He would be there for only half an hour yet would seem to know everyone. On many occasions I met him at race meetings and often we pooled our knowledge—sometimes with success and sometimes without it. He was a

joyful soul whom we all loved. To his wife and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy in the loss of such a wonderful husband and father.

The Hon. W. J. GERAGHTY [5.1]: I join in the sentiments expressed by the Minister, the Hon. R. R. Downing and the Hon. T. P. Gleeson in offering sympathy to the family of the late Pat Buckley. I should like to refer briefly to some small phases of his career not yet mentioned. Pat Buckley did invaluable work as an executive member of the Australian Labor Party. I had the pleasure of being associated with him from the early 'forties until about 1954 on the central executive of the Australian Labor Party. At one time I worked with him on the education committee, where he showed great initiative in the conduct of tutorial classes on the philosophy of Labor. These classes were usually held in the hall attached to the Hairdressers' Employees' Union office. There was no question of Pat Buckley's personal philosophy, which, combined with that of the Labor movement, attracted great numbers to the party. He gave the Labor Party great service by attracting to it young men who attained prominence within it.

In 1950 Mr Buckley became vice-president of the Australian Labor Party, an office that he held until about 1954. When he took the chair his handling of the executive meetings and the annual conference was noteworthy because of his ability to maintain peace when sometimes that task was most difficult. His wonderful nature, tolerance with opposing views and his captivating smile enabled him to do this without effort. These qualities symbolize the man to a far greater extent than I can put into words. He was a man of tolerance, dignity and kindness. The whole community has suffered a loss in his passing.

The Hon. Sir EDWARD WARREN [5.5]: I join with the Minister and other honourable members in paying tribute to a great man and in offering sympathy to Mrs Buckley. I was not a member of this Chamber when Mr Buckley was a Minister

of the Crown; our friendship came through my contact with him as chairman of the Australian Coal Association a position that I have held for twenty-four years, when he was Minister for Mines. In that capacity he played a prominent part in the development of the coal industry. He had a knack of bringing employers and employees together, especially in difficult times. He used this natural quality to advantage many times when he was associated with the Hairdressers' Employees' Union, as a member of this House, and as Minister for Mines.

Before Mr Buckley took up his position as Agent-General for New South Wales in London he asked me whether I could offer any advice to help him carry out his duties. I offered my best advice in a few words: I said, "Stay an Australian. Do not attempt to speak with an Oxford accent". He replied, "It is funny that you should say that. Bill McKell gave me that advice". Some time later in a conversation with me Sir William McKell confirmed that he too had given that advice to Pat Buckley. At official functions in London, no matter who attended, even personages such as Earl Mountbatten, Pat Buckley was always the shining light. Whatever the occasion his laughter could be heard. Pat Buckley was one of the most successful Agent-Generals that this State has ever appointed to London. He did his work well. When he worked he worked; when he played he played. What more could be asked of a man? I am grateful for the opportunity to join in this motion of sympathy to Mrs Buckley. She was of tremendous help to her husband when they were in London. She was president of the Australian Women's Committee in London. Pat was indeed fortunate to have a wife with her ability and ready capacity to make friends.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to associate myself sincerely with all that honourable members have said about the late Mr Buckley. During the time he was in this House I developed great admiration for him. He had my respect and esteem. Later, when he was in London as Agent-General, I saw him there and I was impressed by

his achievements. I can confirm the remarks of the Hon. R. R. Downing, that Pat Buckley did a wonderful job for New South Wales.

*Members and officers of the House standing in their places,*

Motion agreed to.

#### LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Leader of the Opposition) [5.10]: I wish to advise the House that I have been reappointed Leader of the Opposition and that the Hon. N. K. Wran has been appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER (Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [5.11]: I congratulate the Hon. R. R. Downing upon the continued confidence shown in him by members of his party. I know that honourable members on this side of the House will join me in congratulating also the Hon. N. K. Wran upon his appointment as Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is interesting to note that the appointment of a Deputy Leader of the Opposition resulted from the implementation of the Matthews report in 1966 and that the first person to be elected to that office was the Hon. J. J. Maloney.

There has been close co-operation between the leaders on the Government side of the House and the leaders on the Opposition side. I have every hope that with the appointment of the Hon. N. K. Wran, that co-operation, which makes the workings of the Legislative Council so much easier, will continue as it did under the Hon. R. R. Downing and the Hon. J. J. Maloney.

#### J. F. WILSON WILL TRUSTS VARIATION BILL

##### PETITION

The Hon. B. B. RILEY presented a petition from Colin Robert Milne and Peter Lancing Crosthwaite, trustees of the will of James Francis Wilson, deceased, praying for leave to bring in a bill to enable the trustees

of the will of James Francis Wilson, deceased, to pay and transfer to the beneficiaries under the said will the capital of the shares of the residuary estate of the said deceased, the income whereof is bequeathed to them respectively to be applied for the respective charitable purposes mentioned in the said will; to vary the trusts of the said will accordingly; and for purposes connected therewith. The petition was accompanied by copies of the *Government Gazette* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* containing the requisite notices.

Petition received on motion by the Hon. B. B. Riley.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Suspension of certain standing orders agreed to, on motion by the Hon. B. B. Riley (as a matter of necessity and without previous notice).

#### INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Leave granted to bring in a bill, on motion by the Hon. B. B. Riley. Bill presented, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE

Motion (by the Hon. B. B. Riley) agreed to:

(1) That the J. F. Wilson Will Trusts Variation Bill be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report, with leave to sit during any adjournment of the House and power to take evidence and to send for persons and papers; to make visits of inspection to places within the State; to examine witnesses and take evidence thereat.

(2) That such Committee consist of the following, viz.—Mr Fuller, Mr Calabro, Mrs Davis, Mr T. R. Erskine, Mr Gleeson, Mr Maloney, Mrs Roper, Mr Weir, Lieutenant-Colonel Willis and the Mover.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### DAIRY FOODS AND HEART DISEASE

The Hon. P. M. M. SHIPTON: I ask the Leader of the Government in the House a question without notice. Is it a fact that a certain professor, who was a guest of honour in a programme of that name broadcast by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, said that milk was bad for the

heart? Is it a fact also that in areas where life is cheap nursing mothers and elderly persons will give anything for milk? Do many doctors maintain that milk plays an important part in bone development, and has this professor of medicine taken this margarine propaganda to heart?

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: I did see a report of a statement by Professor Blacket of the faculty of medicine at the University of New South Wales in which he was somewhat critical of the value of milk and milk products in relation to heart disease. Those of us listening to the same radio station on the following night heard that claim refuted successfully by Mr Athol Baird, of Brisbane, representing the dairying industries of Australia. What Mr Baird said is well worth noting. He said, as the Hon. P. M. M. Shipton suggests, that milk is a basic food, and that there are methods of reducing the dangerous content for those who are worried about the incidence of heart disease. It is notable that the National Heart Foundation did not associate itself with the statement made by Professor Blacket. The honourable member may rest assured that there is still a great future in the dairying industry.

#### BRIEFING OF BARRISTERS

The Hon. H. D. O'CONNELL: I ask the Vice-President of the Executive Council whether he is aware that in the city allegations are rife that some unfairness and injustice exist in the briefing of barristers by the Crown Solicitor and by statutory corporations, especially the Government Insurance Office. Is it a fact that most barristers receiving Crown briefs are those placed upon a panel before this Government came to office? Will the Leader of the Government in this House refer this matter to the appropriate Minister so that these allegations may be investigated to ascertain whether any unfairness exists or whether any up-to-date method of re-organization is required to ensure fairness and equity in the distribution of work?

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: I am personally not aware of any unfairness or injustice in the briefing of barristers by the Crown or by statutory authorities in New

South Wales, and I have no particular knowledge of how the Government Insurance Office operates in this regard. I will certainly refer the question to my colleague the Attorney-General and ask him to look at the present method of allocation to determine whether there is any injustice or unfairness to members of the legal profession.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATE CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS

The Hon. H. J. MCPHERSON: My question, directed to the Leader of the Government in this House, relates to the Government's pre-election promise to make it obligatory upon councils to waive 50 per cent of pensioners' rates. Will the Minister confer with his colleague the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways, asking him whether he will answer the question that I submitted along these lines some weeks ago, and whether the Government will consider advising councils that they may anticipate this legislation for pensioners' rates now due for this year?

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: It is certainly the Government's intention to waive 50 per cent of the rates that are payable by pensioners, but the actual date of implementation is a matter for the Government generally and for the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways in particular. I will refer to my colleague that section of the honourable member's question. As the honourable member would know, the problem is that all local governing bodies have accepted their estimates and prepared their budgets for 1971, and they are operating on that basis, though many council rate notices are not sent out until February or March. A similar problem has arisen with regard to the Government's taking over the total expenditure on construction and maintenance of main roads in the State. The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways is at present considering when this action can be implemented.

#### ROYAL COMMISSION ON PRICES

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING: I ask the Minister for Labour and Industry whether he can tell the House when the pre-election

promise of the Premier to appoint a Royal commission to inquire into prices is likely to be implemented.

The Hon. F. M. HEWITT: The Premier and Treasurer is having certain discussions with the Prime Minister at present and I understand that when these are resolved the Premier will be making an announcement. I have no personal knowledge of the date.

#### WATER RATE CONCESSIONS FOR PENSIONERS

The Hon. W. J. GERAGHTY: Further to the question asked by the Hon. H. J. McPherson, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in this House what progress has been made towards granting similar concessions to alleviate the burden of water rates on pensioners' dwellings.

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: I understand that in another place the Premier and Treasurer has said that in the very near future he will be conferring on this question with representatives of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board.

The Hon. W. J. GERAGHTY: Will the Minister inform us of progress made?

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: I shall try to keep up with the supply of answers.

#### ADJOURNMENT

##### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER (Minister for Decentralisation and Development and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [5.24]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

I want to mention the business expected to be brought before the House tomorrow. The first matter that I hope the House will consider will be the Public Service and Other Statutory Bodies Extended Leave (Amendment) Bill, followed by the Land Aggregation Tax Management Bill and the Land Aggregation Tax Bill, followed by the Securities Industry (Amendment) Bill

and the Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Amendment Bill. That will be the order of business on the business paper for tomorrow.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 5.25 p.m.

### Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 27 April, 1971

Price Increases (Petition)—Clutha Development Pty. Limited Agreement Bill (Petitions)—Questions without Notice—Land Aggregation Tax Management Bill (third reading)—Sessional Committees—Land Aggregation Tax Bill—Primary and Associated Industries—Local Government (Elections) Amendment Bill—Costs in Criminal Cases Bill (second reading)—Adjournment (Housing Shortage at Campbelltown).

MR SPEAKER (THE HON. SIR KEVIN ELLIS) took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

MR SPEAKER offered the Prayer.

#### PRICE INCREASES

##### PETITION

Mr EINFELD presented a petition from certain citizens of New South Wales praying that the Legislative Assembly take the necessary action to control and, if possible, to reduce prices and so protect the living standards of the citizens of New South Wales.

Petition received on motion by Mr Einfeld.

#### CLUTHA DEVELOPMENT PTY. LIMITED AGREEMENT ACT

##### PETITIONS

Mr BANNON presented a petition from certain citizens of New South Wales praying that the Legislative Assembly amend the Clutha Development Pty. Limited Agreement Act.