

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 13 December, 1973

**Bills Returned—Questions without Notice—Australian Agricultural Council—Suecial Adjournment—Public Accounts Committee—crown Lands and Other Acts (Reserves) Amendment Bill (Int)—Gore Hill Cemetery Bill (Int)—Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment) Bill (Int)—Printing Committee—Gwydir River System Distributary Works Bill (Int)—Industrial Arbitration (Further Amendment) Bill second reading)—Adjournment (Retirement of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly—Camden District Hospital—Goulburn Health Administration)—Printed Questions and Answers.**

MR SPEAKER (THE HON. JAMES CAMERON) took the chair at 11 a.m.

MR SPEAKER offered the Prayer.

### BILLS RETURNED

The following bills were returned from the Legislative Council without amendment:

Wheat Industry Stabilization and Wheat Quotas (Amendment) Bill  
Wheat Quotas Bill  
Youth and Community Services Bill

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### RACING PRIZE-MONEY

MR FERGUSON: I ask the Chief Secretary whether he has seen the annual report of the Totalizator Agency Board which warns that influential sections of the racing industry were exerting strong pressures on the clubs to increase prize money. As a result of dividends paid to clubs from the TAB is prize money in New South Wales as high as or above that paid in almost every other country in the world? Will the Minister inform racing clubs that any increase in prize money will result in a reduction of revenue derived from the TAB? Further, will he instruct them that TAB dividends will be cut unless they take immediate steps to improve facilities for the public?

MR GRIFFITH: I have no control over the Totalizator Agency Board, which comes under the administration of the Premier and Treasurer, to whom the honourable member's question should be directed.

#### DIRTY RAILWAY CARRIAGES

MR CLOUGH: I ask the Minister for Transport whether carriages on metropolitan suburban trains are frequently dirty internally as a result of passenger usage. Will he give consideration to providing on the back of seats in the trains ashtrays and also refuse receptacles in appropriate positions?

MR MORRIS: I understand that four tons of litter are taken every day from electric trains in the Sydney area. Of course, the carriages themselves do not generate litter. Before they leave the sheds they are swept and cleaned. On their first run of the day they gather empty cigarette packets, orange peel, milk-shake cartons and so on. Almost any refuse that should be disposed of in a garbage tin seems to be left in trains. The other day I saw figures illustrating the tremendous amount of refuse that is left in trains. This is a pity because after one or two runs of a morning the trains acquire a most untidy appearance.

The honourable member has raised a matter that could well be looked at. Last year ashtrays and receptacle bins were provided on twenty-four buses. Although it may not be a reason for not making another attempt to overcome the litter problem, within the first week eight had been set on fire and another eight had been wrenched from their hooks and thrown out on the road, leaving eight intact. That result does not give the authorities great heart. Country trains have refuse containers and ashtrays in carriages in which smoking is permitted. Half the carriages on suburban trains are now non-smoking as a result of pressure by the normally passive non-smokers who seem to be rising up in judgment against smokers. I am bound to say that not all the spoil in trains is caused by smokers. In non-smoking railway cars a large quantity of lolly papers, banana peel and other refuse is left, apparently by those who have either given up smoking or do not wish to start the habit. So non-smoking passengers generate as much refuse in trains as do smokers. The short reply to the honourable member for Eastwood is that I shall consider the matter he has raised.

**SYDNEY AIRPORT**

Mr **BANNON**: I ask the Minister for Public Works whether he is aware that the Australian Government recently announced the expenditure of \$7.5 million on improvements at Sydney airport. Further, is he aware of proposals by certain petrol companies to construct a pipeline to carry aviation fuel to the airport? Does the Minister agree that these companies would not expend money if they did not believe there will be future development of the airport? Will he say what knowledge the Maritime Services Board has of extensions of the airport into Botany Bay?

Mr **PUNCH**: I am not sure of the full implications of the honourable member's question, but I shall study them and let him have a reply.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

Mr **LEITCH**: I ask the Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways a question without notice. In view of the impending presentation of the report by the **Barnett** committee on local government, would the Minister inform the House whether the date of the local government elections due next year might be affected?

Sir **CHARLES CUTLER**: Quite a number of people have raised this matter with me. Apparently a report that appeared in the press last week mentioned the possibility of the local government elections being deferred as a result of findings contained in the **Barnett** committee's report, which is to be submitted in the near future. So far as I am aware at the moment, the committee will present the report to me probably some time next week. The tentative date for presentation is 20th December, but that is very tentative. If the report is submitted then, obviously it will be necessary for me to study it over the Christmas period, then discuss its implications with my Cabinet colleagues initially and determine just what has to be done on the recommendations in the report.

If the Government decides to adopt the recommendations in *tato* or in part, it is only reasonable that I should allow time for appeals against any of them. If after the appeals have been lodged and **studied**—which would probably take about three months—the Government decides to proceed with the recommendations in the report, it could mean that the legislation would come forward in the budget session next year. If this becomes the programme, the sensible course might be to postpone the local government elections that would take place in September next year. However, until such time as I receive the **Barnett** committee's report and study its implications it is impossible for me to say whether or not the local government elections next year will be deferred.

**TAXI HIRING**

Mr **CAHILL**: I ask the Minister for Transport whether people who book **radio**-controlled taxis must pay a fee for this service. Is the Minister aware that many of these hirers are compelled to share the taxi with other passengers, against their wishes, and also are not taken to their destination by the shortest possible route? If this practice is illegal, will the Minister take immediate steps to correct the position? However, if multiple hiring is in accord with government policy, will the Minister clearly publicize it and also eliminate the radio-booking charge?

Mr **MORRIS**: The honourable member for Marrickville correctly stated that a charge is made for a radio taxi booking. The purpose of the charge is to enable the patron to have a taxi for his or her own convenience at a specified time. There should be no multiple hiring and no other passengers should be in the taxi. Further, the hirer should not be taken on a **Cook's** tour but driven directly to his destination. I shall do what the honourable member suggests, because I believe that other people should be in the taxi only if invited by the hirer and not by the driver of the taxi.

The taxi rules are known by all taxi men and by most people, though sometimes a hirer does not want to appear difficult by taking a stand on the matter after other people have been admitted to the taxi. I shall arrange for adequate publicity to be given to this matter to ensure that the taxi is a personalized mode of transport for the person who hires it. Multiple hiring is allowed only on occasions at Central station where special permission is given and in the unhappy situation of a transport strike, and on those occasions special announcements are made.

#### TRAFFIC WARDENS

Mr BROOKS: My question without notice is directed to the Minister of Justice. The Minister for Transport last week referred to the over-extension of the police in many directions in carrying out their respective duties. To alleviate further the workload on specially-trained members of the police force, will the Minister consider the introduction of a traffic warden force, similar to that operating in the United Kingdom, for the purpose of controlling traffic at intersections and at pedestrian crossings? Will he consider also whether such traffic wardens should be under the control of the Police Department or whether the local government bodies in the State should be empowered to employ traffic wardens when they consider it necessary to do so?

Mr MADDISON: I compliment the honourable member for Gosford on having raised this question which indicates his concern, my own, and that of the Minister for Transport, and the Government that police should be basically employed in the prevention and detection of crime. When one looks at the Government's record of fulfilment and its concern in this regard it will be noted that many changes have been made whereby police officers, by and large, do not have to serve summonses that can be served by post. Moreover the Government has provided for ancillary clerical staff to be introduced in greater numbers to the Police Department thus relieving the police of the time-consuming task of taking statements

and performing similar duties. The suggestion made by the honourable member for Gosford is certainly worthy of close consideration.

I understand that when Assistant Police Commissioner Lane was overseas earlier this year with other officers concerned with traffic law enforcement and traffic procedures, he looked at the system prevailing in Los Angeles and in London where traffic wardens are in operation. I have been informed that the police intend to conduct a feasibility study shortly with a view to seeing how effective such a traffic wardens system would be. I think it is proposed initially to select about half a dozen or more reputable people to perform duties in selected places. Basically, I think that the role of a traffic warden is seen as simply that of controlling pedestrian movement across foot crossings and at intersections, and it certainly seems to be one worthy of close attention. The question which may then arise as to whether such people should be sworn as special constables would need to be considered. In the light of the feasibility study which I have mentioned, consideration will be given to making wider use of this facility and in this regard the claims by the honourable member for Gosford relating to the Central Coast area will be kept in mind. I should say in conclusion that I imagine that—although there would be no certainty about this—traffic wardens would be employed not by the local government authority but by the Police Department.

#### PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX FOR LUCAS HEIGHTS

Mr KEANE: I direct my question without notice to the Premier and Treasurer. Is he aware that the Liberal candidate for Woronora in the recent general election campaign publicly stated that he had given her an assurance that the Government no longer intended to support the building of a petro-chemical complex at Lucas Heights? Will the Premier and Treasurer reaffirm this assurance and thus dispel the apprehensions of people in the Woronora electorate?

Sir ROBERT ASKIN: As the honourable member for Woronora is a new member, the Christmas spirit being in the air, I shall look at what he has said and try to give a helpful answer as soon as I can,

#### WATER CONSERVATION

Mr SINGLETON: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Conservation and Minister for Cultural Activities. Are reports that the federal Government has refused or slowed down the granting of funds for major conservation and development projects in New South Wales correct? What is the current situation regarding the Dartmouth Dam and Pike Creek Dam projects? Will the federal Government's action interfere with projected major water conservation schemes in New South Wales? What effect will the cutback have on the Jackadgery scheme on the Clarence that is badly needed for water conservation, flood mitigation and power generation to give the north a degree of permanent independence in respect of power?

Mr FREUDENSTEIN: It is true that major construction for water storage schemes in New South Wales has been thrown somewhat into confusion because of the attitude that is being adopted by the present federal Labor Government. Federal Government support for Pike Creek Dam has been withdrawn completely and a new agreement has been entered into between Queensland and New South Wales to complete that dam without Commonwealth assistance. Moves are afoot to close down work on the Dartmouth Dam in Victoria, to which project New South Wales is a party, and which is designed to supplement the supply of water along the Murray River and to augment the water supply for Adelaide. I understand that feelers have been put out to this Government by the relevant Commonwealth department to the effect that the federal Government buy back water that is at present surplus to the requirements along the Murrumbidgee River of some 290,000 acre-feet so as to send that water to Adelaide in preference to proceeding with Dartmouth Dam.

The whole question of finance for water storages will be discussed tomorrow at a meeting of Ministers in Melbourne. I am afraid that the offer at present being made by the Commonwealth Government that this State should borrow funds at 8½ per cent to resume construction of water storage schemes is right out of the question for this State to consider. That throws the Jackadgery scheme into the same position as I mentioned in the House last night when I was speaking on the Loan Estimates. We are in a quandary about priorities on State works that have been thrown into complete disorder. There is a need for positive thinking on the part of the Commonwealth Government with regard to direct finance to assist in capital works. The honourable member for Clarence may be assured that the feasibility study and site investigations at Jackadgery are proceeding and that the Government will endeavour to give that project the priority that it deserves.

#### ANNUAL LEAVE PAY LOADING

Mr QUINN: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Education, representing in this House the Minister for Labour and Industry and Minister for Consumer Affairs. Is it a fact that the Government, and now the Employers Federation of New South Wales, have agreed that workers in this State should receive a 173 per cent loading on their pay for annual holidays? Is it a fact, also, that approximately 400,000 workers in New South Wales will not be covered by any such agreement? Will the Minister recommend to the Government that legislation be introduced immediately to amend the Annual Holidays Act to take care of those workers who will not be covered in this respect by existing awards and agreements?

Mr WILLIS: In answer to the first part of the question asked by the honourable member for Wentworthville—

Mr EINFELD: How about the colour of the Minister's suit?

Mr WILLIS: What is the matter with it?

Mr EINFELD: It has a tinge of red.

**[Interruption]**

Mr WILLIS: I thank honourable members opposite for their complimentary remarks, and particularly those made by the honourable member for Waverley, who no doubt would like an assurance that the material is not flammable.

Mr EINFELD: Is the Minister the bag man for the party?

Mr WILLIS: In answer to the honourable member for Wentworthville, I am afraid I cannot say off the cuff——

**[Interruption]**

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We have had enough discussion of the Minister's sartorial attire.

Mr WILLIS: I cannot say off the cuff just how many workers in the State would not be covered by the consent awards or agreements referred to in this morning's press as being affected by the announcement made in the Industrial Commission yesterday. This is a matter of which I have no more knowledge than what appeared in the press. Such persons would be in addition to those covered by the election undertaking given by the Premier and Treasurer, which applies, of course, only to employees of the State Government. As to the remaining workers in this State, I do not quite know what the position would be. I do not know whether the honourable member for Wentworthville is speaking of employees covered by State awards or federal awards, or even whether they are under the jurisdiction of this State. However, I shall refer the matter to my colleague the Minister for Labour and Industry and Minister for Consumer Affairs. Although I cannot undertake to get an answer before the Christmas recess, I shall try to obtain the information for him at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

Mr MASON: I address a question without notice to the Minister for Transport. Is it a fact that there is a considerable amount of prejudice against drivers under the age

of 21, and is that prejudice evidenced particularly in insurance premiums and requirements imposed on young drivers? Has the Minister any evidence to suggest that the great majority of the younger drivers are careful, responsible and thoughtful? If that is a fact, will the Minister make some endeavour to bring the burden of insurance charges home to those who are really responsible for the high cost of repairs to motor vehicles?

Mr MORRIS: I have expressed concern previously about the fact that all young drivers, good and bad, are lumped together by insurance companies and are required to face higher charges. The honourable member for Dubbo referred to persons under 21 years of age. It is true that drivers in that age group are involved, but I think that the age requirement he mentioned extends to 25 years. That means that all drivers between 17 and 25 are lumped together for the purposes of this insurance company imposition. Sometimes the excess is as high as \$250. I have been discussing this matter with the Attorney-General and also with the Minister for Labour and Industry and Minister for Consumer Affairs, but I can tell honourable members that legislation is being considered to prohibit the imposition of premiums, terms, conditions or exclusions that discriminate against a comprehensive insurance policy holder solely on the grounds of his or her age.

I see no good reason why youngsters who are good drivers with a clean slate should suffer through the sins of some of their less responsible peers. It is taking the easy way out for insurance companies to decree that as young drivers have a worse claims record than older drivers they should all be sluggish. What insurance companies should recognize is that some young drivers and some older drivers have bad claim records and therefore irrespective of age bad drivers should be required to pay higher charges. A system should be devised based upon a driver's record, and how expensive his particular motor vehicle is to repair if involved in an accident. A purely arbitrary measure such as age should

not be used. The Premier and Treasurer in his recent policy pronouncements undertook to do something about this impost on all young drivers. The Government will be doing something about it.

### STRATA TITLES

Mr MAHER: I address a question without notice to the Minister of Justice. Is the Minister aware that the Strata Titles Act recently proclaimed requires the Registrar-General for the first time to issue a certificate of title for all common property of past and future strata title buildings? Is the Minister aware also that the Valuer-General will now be entitled to fix a valuation on such common property? Will the Minister act to prevent local government and other rating bodies from imposing rates on common property of this nature?

Mr MADDISON: The Strata Titles Act passed in the last Parliament has not yet been proclaimed. Indeed, it will not come into operation until probably 1st April or 1st May next. As I intimated in this House during the second-reading debate on the legislation, problems exist relating to the carry-on provisions or the transitional provisions as they are known, particularly with regard to titles already issued. Many technical aspects of the new bill will have to be carried over into existing strata certificates of title. The Act contains provisions in respect of titles issued for the first time for common property in strata unit blocks.

I cannot reply to that part of the honourable member's question relating to whether the Valuer-General will fix a valuation on these titles. The idea of issuing title to common property was not directed towards rating or valuation but rather to various dealings which secure the endorsement of unit owners in the particular block and affecting that common property. The legislation is designed to allow accretion to common property of adjoining land which might be seen to be of benefit to the unit block. Also, that legislation will permit part of the common property to be disposed of to an adjoining owner or to a statutory authority. The measure was not designed to allow valuations of common property nor

indeed to allow for rating of it as a flow-on from a valuation. I shall make a close examination of the implications contained in the honourable member's question and let him have an answer as soon as possible. Upon the resumption of this session in the New Year I shall inform the House of the precise position.

### RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY MUSEUMS

Mr MEAD: I direct a question to the Minister for Lands and Minister for Tourism. Have two very dedicated groups of people, by dint of hard work and much expenditure on their own account, provided two museums in the Sydney area—the tramway museum at Loftus and the railway museum at Enfield? Are these two groups facing difficulties in two respects, namely, the need for more land to expand their activities and the possibility of their losing the railway museum at Enfield? Has the Minister given consideration to the tourist value of these two museums, which are attracting thousands of people every week? Can anything be done to assist them by way of premises or finances?

Mr LEWIS: I am indebted to the honourable member for Hurstville for his question. It is true that I have discussed the future of the Enfield roundhouse, in which a number of locomotives and historic trains are housed. The bodies concerned are the Australian Railway Historical Society, the N.S.W. Rail Transport Museum, the South Pacific Electric Railway, and others. I have discussed this matter with Mr Shirley of the Public Transport Commission and my colleague the Minister for Transport, both of whom advise that this land at Enfield is needed for departmental use and in consequence they would like the museum moved. It is thought that people interested in historic trains would like a line made available for display of the running qualities of various trains and rolling stock.

When hunting around the State to see whether there is an appropriate area for this purpose, I found that a loopline in my electorate between Mittagong and Picton

is likely to be closed by the Public Transport Commission as **an** uneconomic line. **As** a consequence, it occurred to me that it may be possible for some organization to purchase that land from the Public Transport Commission so as to **resite** the museum in the area between Picton and Mittagong, which would also be suitable as a location for trams and tramway tracks that are now located at the northern end of the Koyal National Park. I hope that the State Government will support such a proposal. As the honourable member and the House may know, the tramway organization has for some time been looking for another area in which to display historic trams.

In addition to the difficulties being experienced by the three groups I have mentioned, difficulty is being met in rehousing the locomotion section of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. I am currently discussing with my colleague the Minister for Conservation and Minister for Cultural Activities the possibility of moving this section of that museum to this new site. I believe the honourable member implies in his question that the establishment in another area of a museum of trams, trains and other means of locomotion would be a great tourist attraction indeed, particularly if trains and trams were to be run on tracks already there.

I have in mind that it may be possible during the Christmas and Easter holidays, and on public holidays to run a regular train service by an historic train between Mittagong and Picton. As honourable members are aware, the Hume Highway is heavily used by travellers from Canberra and the southern States so that it would be possible for a man to stop at Mittagong on the way north and there unload his wife and children, or perhaps only his children, so that they could travel by the train from Mittagong to Picton. ~~He could then follow the train and pick them up at Picton. If he were going~~ south to Canberra or Melbourne he could do the same at Picton and travel alongside the train, picking up his wife and family at Mittagong without having to lose time or retrace any part of his journey. I am having discussions with the two shire councils **concerned—the** Mittagong and Wollondilly

*Mr Lewis]*

shire councils—the museum, the historical society, the tramway organization, the Public Transport Commission and the Minister for Cultural Affairs. It is not an easy decision to make. I hope that within a month I can have an officer making a feasibility study with a view to plans being drawn up for the use of these areas on the lines I suggest. I do not expect any **firm** decision to be made before the middle of next year. I thank the honourable member for **Hurstville** for his interest in this matter and this information will be of interest to his constituents who often visit the tramway museum at Loftus.

#### ALLEGED FINANCIAL SCANDAL

Mr HILLS: I address my question to the Attorney-General. At the annual general meeting of the Australian Shareholders Association, New South Wales, Limited, did Mr Blackburn say that during the year his organization had occasion to contact both the Minister and the Corporate Affairs Commission on important shareholding matters? Did he say also that he and the organization had recently been in touch with the Minister on what was considered to be a major financial scandal which they were prevented by the defamation laws from publicly pursuing at this time? Is this scandal equal in magnitude to that surrounding the Alexander Barton group of companies? Does the Government propose to warn the public about those who are involved or does it propose to allow the matter to drift along until the public has been fleeced?

Mr McCAW: Mr Speaker—

Mr JACKSON: Don't do your block; keep cool.

Mr McCAW: I shall remember the Christmas spirit is in the air, even though the ~~deposed Leader of the Opposition~~ has forgotten it. I am grateful to the honourable member for Phillip for giving me the opportunity to provide the House with some information. I saw the press report upon which the honourable member is presumably relying. I saw a reference to a major scandal. The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs has given me some advice.

Mr **MULOCK**: The Minister certainly needs it.

Mr **McCAW**: I certainly do, but not as much as some honourable members here. The honourable member for **Phillip** referred to a major financial scandal. The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs advises me that on 6th September, 1973, the Australian Shareholders Association and Mr Blackburn communicated with him. Probably he communicated also with me or through me and I should have referred it to the commission which, as Parliament knows, is an autonomous body with which I have neither the inclination nor power to interfere in matters of administration. Parliament has made it that way, I am glad to say.

Mr **EINFELD**: It did not stop the Minister from summoning an inspector to his office.

Mr **McCAW**: I did not summon an inspector. That is a lie. The honourable member need only look at the file to find out.

Mr **EINFELD**: Well, you invited him.

Mr **McCAW**: An invitation is different from a summons.

Mr **SPEAKER**: Order! There is too much disorder on the Opposition side of the Chamber.

Mr **McCAW**: Honourable members know the circumstances surrounding the alleged summons. By 6th September, when Mr Blackburn or his association addressed its reference to the commissioner, the commission for some six weeks had had the group under inquiry. There are some twenty-five companies in the group.

Mr **MALLAM**: Who are they? The public should be warned.

Mr **McCAW**: Do not be so curious. One of the companies was established in the British West Indies, some four, from memory, were incorporated in Victoria, some others in Western Australia as well as in another State and some in New South Wales. The alleged major financial scandal was that the balance-sheets of the group

as at 30th June, 1973, showed some substantial losses incurred in the first half of the financial year. Following the receipt of the communication from Mr Blackburn's association the commissioner and the two inspectors who, unprompted by Mr Blackburn's association, had been engaged already for several weeks on the inquiry, then carried it further, as is their right and duty, and secured, so I am advised, the utmost co-operation from the directors of the group. Towards the end of September a large list of questions was submitted to the directors and early in October replies to all questions were forthcoming. In the light of the answers to the questions, the matter was then referred to the Crown Solicitor and to Mr J. K. Ford, Q.C., recently appointed senior deputy Crown prosecutor, companies. After an examination of the result of the commission's investigations, some other desirable lines of inquiry were suggested and these are being pursued vigorously.

I am advised by the commissioner that the investigations have revealed that the losses were not attributable to any dishonesty or misconduct. At this stage I have been advised expressly that nothing has been revealed which would justify a recommendation that I should appoint inspectors and invoke the special investigation provisions of the Companies Act. I emphasize that I am advised that what was called in colourful language a major financial scandal is inapt to describe the losses referred to in the balance-sheets, and that the utmost co-operation of the directors has been forthcoming. The co-operation between the New South Wales inspectors who are engaged in the inquiry and the similarly appointed inspectors in the other three or four States where some of the group of companies have been incorporated, is continuing.

Incidentally, the same press report intimated that Mr Blackburn's association wished to be represented upon the advisory committee, which is a voluntary body established at the invitation of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs and is representative of substantial organizations having interests in the companies field. At the instance of the commission I have extended



to Mr Blackburn an invitation to submit the name of a nominee to participate in the most valuable work of the voluntary committee.

#### **SCHOOL LIBRARY SUBSIDY**

Mr ROFE: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Education. Are *per capita* grants expected to cover freight, cartage and fares incurred by teachers engaged in pupil escort as well as the purchase of library books? Are there any emergency grants for disadvantaged schools, particularly those without the benefit of a public library in the area in which they are located?

Mr WILLIS: In recent weeks the matter to which the honourable member for Nepean refers has been the subject of a great deal of correspondence and representations to me following upon the promulgation by the Department of Education of a policy decision taken about the time of the last budget in connection with the library subsidy paid by the department to schools throughout the State for the purchase of books. Unfortunately, in the transmission of a decision some misunderstanding has occurred as a result of the wording of the circular sent to schools, which suggested that the freight to be paid by schools some distance from where the books are obtained is to be included in their cost. If this were so it would mean discrimination against those schools some distance from the city and in effect, as I have termed it on other occasions, it would be discrimination on the grounds of distance. During the present session of Parliament a question on this subject has been asked already and I said then, and I repeat, that I have issued a direction to the department to correct the misunderstanding and to ensure that the amount of *per capita* finance allowed for library and other incidental subsidies is to be treated as separate from freight, so that freight will be recoupable by the schools concerned, as it has been in the past. In these circumstances I think the problem to which the honourable member has referred will be overcome, unless any special difficulty arises.

As I have said on other occasions, I am willing to give consideration to particular cases where hardship to a school may be shown, or it is at a disadvantage in consequence of the change of policy, which otherwise has been accepted generally throughout the community as most fair in principle. I do not know the particular school or circumstances to which the honourable member for Nepean has referred in the latter part of his question, but if there are any cases for which he believes a good argument may be made out in favour of special treatment because of special circumstances with which a school is faced, particularly a school for handicapped children, I shall be only too happy to give them special consideration. I should be grateful if the honourable member for Nepean or any other honourable members would provide me with details of any such case.

#### **IMPRISONMENT OF JUVENILES**

Mr MADDISON: On 12th December the Leader of the Opposition asked me a question concerning the detention of a young person in the custody of the Department of Corrective Services. I have made inquiries in this matter and can inform the House that on 27th August, 1973, the young man was convicted at the court of petty sessions, Redfern, of an offence of driving a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. His date of birth, as recorded on the court papers, was 6th June, 1954. On the same date he was convicted at the same court of the offence of driving a motor vehicle with the prescribed concentration of alcohol present in his blood and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, cumulative on the sentence of six months imposed in respect of the offence of driving in a manner dangerous to the public. He was received into Long Bay on the same day on warrants issued to give effect to the court's decision.

On 7th November, 1973, solicitors who that day appeared for the person in respect of a charge of stealing a motor vehicle wrote to me advising that he was born at Albury on 4th January, 1957. Immediate

inquiries were made, first of the Police Department, whose records disclosed that he was 18 years of age, and second, of the Registrar-General's Department, which was unable to be of assistance as sufficient identifying particulars were not available to locate the birth registration. On 9th November, the person made a statutory declaration in which he declared that his date of birth was 4th January, 1957, and that he was born at Albury. A relative who was contacted also stated that the correct date of birth was 4th January, 1957. On 13th November further inquiries were made of the Registrar-Generals in both Sydney and Melbourne and both advised that they were unable to locate any entry relating to the birth of the person.

On 15th November I wrote to my colleague, the Minister for Youth and Community Services, apprising him of the facts of the matter and seeking his views on the question of transfer of the young person from a place of imprisonment to an institution under the control of his department. In a letter dated 7th December my colleague indicated that he was willing, under the terms of section 94 of the Child Welfare Act, to order the transfer of the young person, subject to my consent. My consent was given and a formal order was signed by my colleague and myself. On 12th December the young person was handed into the custody of officers of the Department of Child Welfare.

In the course of the inquiries it came to notice that the young person was known under two different names in addition to the name under which he was charged. It also transpires that he has an extensive record of previous convictions not only in children's courts but also in courts of petty sessions, where apparently he failed to make his correct date of birth known to either the police or the courts. I might add that it still has not been possible formally to ascertain the precise date of birth of the young person.

#### AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

Mr CRAWFORD: In tabling the resolutions of the meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council held in Canberra on 2nd November, 1973, I might mention that this is the first time documents of this kind have been tabled, but it is intended that after each meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council a *précis* of the reasons why decisions were reached, together with the decisions themselves, will be tabled.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

##### SEASONAL FELICITATIONS — RETIRED MEMBERS

Sir ROBERT ASKIN (Pittwater), Premier and Treasurer [11.56]: I move:

That, unless otherwise ordered, this House at its rising this day do adjourn until Tuesday, 19 February, 1974 at half-past Two o'clock p.m.

I take this opportunity of saying that I am happy to be able to convey to you, Mr Speaker, to all members and to everyone connected with the functioning of this Parliament the compliments of the season. I do so most warmly. My colleagues and I offer you, Mr Speaker, and Mrs Cameron our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Also, I take the opportunity of extending our compliments to you on the excellent manner in which you have commenced your new and vitally important responsibilities. Further, I am pleased to have the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the support and assistance I have received from my own ministerial colleagues throughout the year. Likewise, I greatly appreciate the continuing loyalty and co-operation of the members of the Government parties.

On behalf of my ministerial colleagues and all members on this side of the House, I extend best wishes and compliments of the season to the Leader of the Opposition and Mrs Wran, to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Mrs Ferguson, and to all members of the Opposition and their families. Similar greetings are extended to the independent members—the honourable member for Blue Mountains, the honourable member for South Coast and the DLP member, the honourable member for Gordon.

Our seasonal greetings go also to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and his assistants, the Parliamentary Library and Hansard staffs; I express our gratitude to them for their unfailing courtesy and assistance that are always readily forthcoming to members.

Also, I convey Christmas greetings to the members of the press gallery, who have the responsible task of reporting accurately the activities of the House. I extend warm greetings to members of the Parliament House staff who, I am sure we all agree, do an excellent job. I take this opportunity of paying a tribute to my own personal staff also, and to the dedicated hard-working officers in the various departments who are associated with the preparation of bills for presentation to Parliament; I have in mind particularly the Parliamentary Counsel, the Government Printer and their staffs who, I am sure, deserve the thanks of members from both sides of the House and best seasonal wishes.

At this stage I express my appreciation of the excellent work done for not only this Parliament but also the community of this State by former colleagues from both sides of the House who retired at the end of the last Parliament. In view of the time factor and the fact that there are eleven such former members, and because a number of other honourable members on both sides of the House wish to pay their tributes, it will not be possible for me to speak as long as I should have liked in order to try to do justice to the service and standing of these honourable people. The fact that my remarks will be comparatively brief does not detract from the high esteem in which I and other members of this House hold them. Nearly all those former colleagues are present today in Mr Speaker's gallery. Among them are our former Speaker and former members and Ministers from both sides of the House who retired before the recent elections.

Mr Leo Nott is in a slightly different position. It is fair to say that Leo was a quiet and unassuming member who will be genuinely missed. He was a courteous member of this House who did his job well.

*Sir Robert Askin]*

I am sure my feelings are shared by my colleagues on both sides of the House on this rather nostalgic occasion. Next, let me say a few quick words about Mr Jack Gordon Beale who entered Parliament many years ago. I think he served the longest of those who are in the gallery today. He entered Parliament as a result of a by-election following the death of his father, who was the former member for the South Coast electorate. Until his recent retirement, Jack Beale represented the South Coast electorate for thirty-one years and in that time he proved himself a most capable member for his electorate. Mr Beale became Minister for Conservation after the 1965 elections. Statistics show that, during the six years that he held that portfolio, he had more dams built than were built in any other six years in the history of this State.

Jack Beale is a chartered engineer. He holds a master's degree in engineering from the University of New South Wales and is qualified in civil, agricultural and mechanical engineering. He once headed an international consulting engineering practice. Mr Beale was commended for his conservation work in India by no less a person than Mr Nehru, the late Indian Prime Minister. Mr Beale's survey of water resources in this State was recognized by experts as an outstanding effort. In 1971 Jack Beale became the first full-time Minister for Environment Control in Australia. He contributed greatly to the progress of this State, particularly in the field of conservation.

Mr Arnold Henry Jago—known to us as Harry—began what might be called his public career while he was employed by the Bank of New South Wales in the 1940's, when he was elected leader of the bank employees committee, which was opposing the proposal made at that time to nationalize the banks. That was his first taste of political life. In 1959, Harry Jago entered local government as an alderman of the Ku-ring-gai municipal council. Later he was elected mayor at the first council meeting he ever attended. He was mayor of that municipality in 1960 and 1961. In 1962 he won the Gordon seat in the New South Wales Parliament, and after the 1965 election he was appointed Minister for Health. Thanks

to the energy and initiative he displayed with this difficult portfolio a programme of reconstruction is steadily restoring many of the State's hospitals which had been structurally in bad shape, probably mainly because of the insufficiency of finance.

Under Mr Jago's leadership the State's psychiatric hospitals have been transformed and much greater emphasis has been placed on human dignity and rehabilitation in the care and treatment of patients. In the public health field Mr Jago was extremely active in improving the school dental service, food and drug handling controls, and health education. Today Harry Jago is accompanied by Mrs Jago. They can both take great satisfaction from his considerable record of service in the health field for the people of this State, particularly those afflicted by illness or injury. All of us, irrespective of our political outlook, regret the human oversight which terminated his public career. I wish him well for the future.

Sir Kevin Ellis occupied the Speaker's chair in this House for eight and a half years, ever since the Government took office in 1965. He was first elected the member for Coogee in 1948 and he held the seat until 1953 when there was a political swing against him. He staged a comeback in 1956, holding the seat until 1962, when he lost it again on a political swing. However, he was re-elected in 1965 and held the seat until his retirement. Apart from his outstanding service in this Parliament, Sir Kevin has taken part in many public activities. He was Deputy Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, director of the National Heart Foundation, a member of the boards of Prince Henry Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital and Eastern Suburbs Hospital, and a fellow of the Senate of the University of Sydney where he was an outstanding graduate, winning a gold medal.

Apart from this remarkable record of public service, especially in the field of hospitals and universities, it is as Speaker of this Legislative Assembly that Sir Kevin will best be remembered. By popular consent he is recognized as one of the really great Speakers—many think the greatest—in the history of this House. In my view

he is certainly the greatest Speaker in living memory. Sir Kevin Ellis can go into retirement feeling well satisfied with his tremendous record of service to the community and to this honourable institution.

Mr William Chaffey, known to us as Bill, first entered this Parliament as a member of the United Australia Party, representing the Tamworth electorate in 1940 when he won a by-election following the death of his father, Captain Frank Chaffey, who had held various portfolios including Agriculture and Chief Secretary. Bill Chaffey remained in Parliament until his retirement at the age of 58, having served for thirty-three consecutive years as the representative of the one electorate. He was not the oldest member of this House in years but he was certainly the longest serving member at the time of the recent elections. In 1965, Mr Chaffey became Minister for Agriculture after spending twenty-four years in Opposition. He held that portfolio until 1968. When Bill Chaffey was away at the war members of the Country Party looked after his parliamentary responsibilities, and when he was discharged from the army in 1945, having been twice mentioned in dispatches and awarded the United States Bronze Star, he joined the Country Party, becoming its deputy leader in 1959, a position he held until 1968. Mr Bill Chaffey was a most popular member of this Chamber.

Mr William Sheahan, popularly known as Bill Sheahan, is a veteran politician, respected by members on both sides of this House. He was first elected as the Labor member for Yass on 10th May, 1941, and continued to remain a member of this House until his retirement at the end of the last Parliament. In the 1950 elections the name of his electorate was changed to Burrinjuck, but the electors did not change their minds about him and he was re-elected with a substantial majority. People like myself who have visited his electorate for various reasons know of his great personal popularity in the local area. Bill Sheahan held four portfolios for successive Labor governments,

Lands, Transport, Attorney-General and Health. He gave useful, effective—in fact great—service with each of those four portfolios.

Mr Sheahan was a soldier of the first Australian Imperial Force and served in France and Belgium. I recall having had many a verbal tussle with him in this House. As we all know, he was a most redoubtable debater and one was fortunate if occasionally one came out on top; usually it was the other way round. Though some of us lost points in debating a matter with Bill Sheahan, none of us ever lost our respect for him as a man and as a parliamentarian. He has given great service to the State.

I come now to Norman Phillip Ryan, known as Norman to all of us. He represented his electorate of Marrickville for twenty years as a backbencher and as Minister for Public Works in the Cahill, Heffron and Renshaw ministries, between 1959 and 1965. He was Minister for Public Works during the early and difficult years of the construction of the Sydney Opera House and had a strong, personal interest in the building's progress. Mr Ryan was also closely involved with country development and travelled extensively over the State to supervise public works projects. He took a personal interest in those things. Prior to entering politics Mr Ryan was active in local government where he developed his interest in public works and transport. He was an alderman of the Marrickville council between 1946 and 1953. He was mayor in 1953 before entering Parliament. He and his wife gave great service locally and to the community in general. Politics aside, I can say that Norman Ryan became a close personal friend of mine. That personal friendship springs from our four months together on a parliamentary tour abroad in 1963 when we found that we had many things in common, and became good friends. He leaves this House without the slightest ill-will from any honourable member on either side.

Reginald Francis John Coady was M.L.A. for Leichhardt from 1954 to 1962 and became the member for Drummoyne following  
*Sir Robert Askin*]

a redistribution of electoral boundaries. He was educated in Sydney and has occupied most official positions in the New South Wales branch of the Australian Labor Party. At the time of his entering Parliament he was chief clerk for Tooheys Brewery. He is particularly well-known for his church and charity activities. Reg, as we all know him, had a tremendous local following as member for Drummoyne. I know that he earned this personal following by reason of his dedicated work for the electorate, especially for pensioners and people who suffered from some disability or disadvantage. He was an indefatigable worker for those who needed help. I went to an election booth in his electorate one election day to give a hand to our candidate. A few elderly ladies came up to me and said, "Mr Premier, you are not going to work against our Reg, surely?" I felt as though I was an interloper. He was popular because he earned his popularity. We shall all miss him.

Clarence Joseph Earl was elected as member for Fairfield in 1953. In 1962 he became M.L.A. for Bass Hill. Until his election to Parliament Clarrie Earl was a school teacher and he became deputy headmaster of Chester Hill school. He continued his interest in education in his political life and throughout his years in the Legislative Assembly also showed a keen interest in conservation and cultural matters. Clarrie Earl was a good debater and made many useful contributions to the affairs of the House. He was a loyal member of his party who served his electorate faithfully and well.

Robert Joseph Kelly, Joe Kelly as he is known familiarly to most of us, was a member of this Parliament from 3rd March, 1956, when he was elected as Labor member for East Hills, until his recent retirement. He was re-elected five times for the same seat. His long experience in the Labor Party, which he joined in 1946, made him an effective politician for those he represented. While Labor was in office he was, from 1959 to 1964, parliamentary representative on the Town and Country Advisory Committee to the Minister for Local Government. When Labor lost office

in 1965 he became one of the Opposition's shadow Ministers and, later, in 1969, was elected president of the Parliamentary Labor Party. A keen member, Joe Kelly was well recognized for his sardonic wit and repartee, at which he was most able. He leaves this House on good terms with all honourable members on the Government side and certainly on good terms with his own colleagues.

James Bernard Southee, Jim Southee, was elected as the member for Blacktown in 1962. He held that seat until 1971 when he contested and won the new seat of Mount Druitt. During his time in the Legislative Assembly he was actively interested in housing, planning and education. In his electorate his special interest was the Blacktown Hospital. He was a foundation member of the hospital board and was president of that board for five years to 1972. Mr Southee joined the Australian Labor Party back in 1929 and was president of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Workers Union from 1956 to 1961, before entering Parliament. He was temporary chairman of committees from 1964 until his retirement. I do not think any honourable member will deny that Jim Southee, in his quiet way, was one of the most popular members of this House. Besides being popular he was a dedicated member who looked after the interests of his electorate.

Albert Ross Sloss has had a long career in politics, local government and community affairs. As the member for King since 1956 he has taken an active interest particularly in housing, health and social welfare, and in other matters. Albert joined the Australian Labor Party as far back as 1927. He was an alderman of the Sydney city council from 1939 to 1940 and from 1950 to 1953. Between 1958 and 1962 Mr Sloss was a director of the Sydney Hospital board and from 1957 to 1973 was a member and trustee of the Wentworth Park trust. He was chairman of that trust in 1968. Albert was a loyal member of his party in this House. I say with the best of goodwill that he was irrepressible in debate. We will all miss his contributions to the debates of this

House though I must confess that there were occasions when I found a little difficulty in following the argument he was putting forward. He was a likeable member. It is nice to see him in the House, accompanied by his good lady. He leaves with the goodwill of all his colleagues.

To all these distinguished colleagues from both sides of the House, to the former Speaker of the House, former Ministers and other members may I say again how pleased I am to see them here today. May I say too how glad my colleagues who may not have the opportunity of speaking are to see them. I publicly congratulate all of them on their service in their respective spheres to this honourable institution and to the public of this great State. At 1 p.m. today there will be a testimonial lunch in the parliamentary dining room for these former colleagues of ours, to which all sitting members are invited to be present, if at all possible, by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association which will be the host. Last, I extend to those members, their wives and families our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and for many healthy, happy and contented years of retirement. Without exception they have earned it.

Mr FERGUSON (Merrylands), Deputy Leader of the Opposition [12.20]: In my capacity as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I should like to express appreciation to my leader for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Opposition on this important occasion. It was suggested that I should do so in view of my long experience and knowledge of many of the former members of Parliament who are sitting in Mr Speaker's gallery.

First, Mr Speaker, on behalf of my leader and the Parliamentary Labor Party, I express to you and your wife best wishes for a happy Christmas. I appreciate having the opportunity of thanking, expressing goodwill and extending best wishes to the Clerk and his staff, to Hansard, the amanuenses, the staff of the Parliamentary Library, the attendants, Mr Scarlett and his staff, the dining room staff, the housekeeper's staff, all the tradesmen, the switchboard operators,

the postmaster, the police who watch over our vehicles in the parliamentary car park and members of the press gallery. I offer sincere compliments of the season and express our good wishes in particular to the Premier and Treasurer and Lady Askin, and to the Deputy Premier and Lady Cutler.

Also on behalf of my leader and my Parliamentary Labor Party colleagues I extend to those gentlemen who ceased to serve as honourable members at the past election—whether they be political friend or foe—our sincere appreciation of their services to this House. It was a blow when twelve honourable members retired at the one time. Their departure left a vacuum in our collective experience and knowledge. On behalf of the Parliamentary Labor Party, the Labor Party in general in New South Wales, and the trade-union movement, I express to the eight Labor Party members who retired our sincere appreciation of their work for the Labor movement during their terms as members of this House.

I refer particularly to the Hon. William Francis Sheahan who, as the Premier and Treasurer ably pointed out, served this State in the capacity of Minister for Lands, Minister for Transport, Attorney-General and Minister for Health. One must admit that he is a controversial figure, but in all the capacities in which he served, the departments concerned knew that they had a Minister in charge who went about doing things, giving directions, and insisting that they be carried out. I have heard some weird and also some wonderful speeches in my time, but a speech that had a most profound effect on me was made by the Hon. W. F. Sheahan when "peace" was a dirty word. He stood up in this Parliament and spoke about Vietnam. He gave his testimony on why Australia should not be involved in Vietnam, and that was a turning point in the re-orientation of the thinking of my party, which made us determined that Australia should get out of Vietnam. I say publicly that that was one of the finest, most courageous speeches I have ever heard, and I sincerely thank Mr Sheahan for delivering it.

*Mr Ferguson]*

During the recent election campaign I had an opportunity of visiting the Burrinjuck electorate. I always knew of the high esteem in which Mr Sheahan was held by his constituents, but on that occasion I had the honour to be present in Tumut on a Saturday morning when, for the last time, he spoke to the people as their elected representative. It was indeed a testimonial to him that when he spoke in the street the whole town stopped to listen to him. Even at that stage he was still appealing to them and indicating where he thought they were wrong. I could not think of a finer tribute to a man than that a whole town should stop to hear him speak in support of the candidature of his son, and also to say farewell to his constituents.

Also on behalf of my party I wish to pay tribute to the former chairman of the Parliamentary Labor Party, Robert Joseph Kelly, previously the member for East Mills. Mr Kelly's performance in this House was indeed wonderful. I personally thank him for the great deal of helpful advice that he gave me. As president of our party, Mr R. J. Kelly transformed that office and gave it an importance that to my mind it had never had before. Steeped in the history of the trade-union movement, he was indeed a valuable colleague. I was impressed by Joe Kelly's deep understanding of the class position and the role of workers in society. For what he was and what he did I offer him the sincere thanks of the Labor Party.

The Premier referred to another of our colleagues, Clarence Joseph Earl, whom I succeeded in the electorates of Fairfield and Merrylands when the seat of Bass Hill was created. Quite rightly, the Premier spoke of Clarrie Earl's wonderful war record. He served in the Middle East with the Ninth Division and was wounded. In some ways that had a profound effect on his life. Clarrie Earl served his party faithfully and well, and he leaves this Parliament with the goodwill and friendship of his former parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House.

I take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to the former member for King, Albert Ross Sloss, indeed a unique character. I had the opportunity last Monday evening of attending a testimonial in this city at which **400** persons gathered to pay tribute to Mr Sloss. He is revered in the city of Sydney. He was always willing to battle for the things he thought were right, and when one saw the people coming to Parliament House to interview him, one was reminded of patients lining up outside a doctor's surgery. We will always appreciate the work that he did as a member of Parliament.

I turn now to Reginald Francis John Coady, one of the most remarkable members of Parliament I have ever known. Quite frankly, when a re-distribution was made, it was thought by most honourable members that Reg Coady would lose the seat of Drummoyne to the Liberal Party. How tremendous a member he was was shown by the fact that he won the seat, and won it with a majority of over **1,000** votes. It is most important to recognize that because of Reg Coady's valuable work and service to his constituents, his majority did not drop when the Labor Government went out of office in **1965**. There was no swing against him. No issue was too big or too small for Reg Coady. The Parliamentary Labor Party extends its thanks to him for a job well done. I am sure that I speak also on behalf of all his constituents, whether they be in Leichhardt or Drummoyne. He was indeed a wonderful member and we thank him greatly.

I pay tribute to Leo Mervyn Nott, one of the finest country persons I have met. He sprang from the countryside and he expressed the thoughts of country people—sometimes to my annoyance, quite frankly, for I am city-bred and have lived within the sound of electric trains all my life. Leo Nott put the views of country people in a persuasive way, and the Labor Party thanks him for the wonderful job he did for those he represented.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to say something about another of our former parliamentary colleagues, the Hon. Phillip Norman Ryan. The Premier and Treasurer quite correctly pointed out that Mr Ryan was Minister for Public Works in a most controversial period, namely during the early days of the construction of the opera house. He was subjected to a great many attacks in Parliament. Although he was maligned, he had the great satisfaction a few weeks ago of being present at the opening of the opera house by Her Majesty the Queen. Whatever arguments there may be about the interior design, the building itself is magnificent, and that alone is a tribute to the fortitude and courage of the Hon. Norman Ryan. We thank him particularly for what he did in that respect, and we thank him also for the work that he did generally as Minister for Public Works.

I wish to refer now to another of our former colleagues, James Bernard Southee, who in **1962** became the member for Blacktown and from **1971** to **1973** served as the member for Mount Druitt. Jim Southee, as the Premier said, had a long association with the Australian Workers Union. In our party everyone had great respect for everything Jim Southee said, especially when he spoke on trade union matters. Jim Southee called a spade a spade and when he laid it on the line he meant it. He was a wonderful trade unionist and parliamentarian. We thank him for his work and the service he gave to the trade union and Labor movements.

On behalf of my colleagues I should like to express to Sir Kevin Ellis our appreciation of his services to this Parliament as Speaker. All members on this side of the House appreciated the initiative of Sir Kevin in providing additional accommodation for members who had been required to work under appalling conditions. Sir Kevin, ever conscious of the needs and rights of members of Parliament, did everything he could possibly do to improve conditions and make us better members. He had a great respect for the parliamentary institution. We are grateful to Sir Kevin for the service he rendered to the Parliament and we wish him a happy retirement.



I pay tribute to Harry Jago, a former Minister of the Crown and member for Gordon. I recall when Harry Jago came into this Parliament and took his seat on one of the back benches. Within three short years there was a sudden transformation and he was sitting on the Government benches as Minister for Health. Harry Jago did a wonderful job for this State in the health portfolio. We appreciate his service to New South Wales and hope that rather than retire he will for many years to come continue to serve the interests of the State in some other capacity.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute on behalf of the Labor Party to another former Minister of the Crown, Mr Jack Beale, who was also the member for South Coast. To be quite frank, I did not often agree with Jack Beale's contributions to this House but I recognize that if a man can be re-elected as many times as Mr Beale was to this Parliament he must have an outstanding capacity to understand his constituents. The extent of his understanding was reflected in his continued long service here. The Opposition thanks Mr Beale for his contributions to the Parliament and wishes him well in his retirement.

Last but not least I refer to the former Minister for Agriculture, member for Tamworth and Country Party member of this House, Mr Bill Chaffey. Bill has indeed been a unique figure in this Parliament. He is one of the warmest, friendliest and kindest men I have ever meet. There is no malice in Bill Chaffey. I recall that when Labor was in government he nearly drove us mad by continually referring to the standing orders. Unfortunately, sometimes he would win. Bill Chaffey displayed an obsession with the standing orders but his greatest obsession was the parliamentary institution. Bill Chaffey always endeavoured to establish that the parliamentary institution had to be protected and that he was here to protect it. He had a wonderful war record. On behalf of the Labor Party I am pleased to wish him well in his retirement.

*Mr Ferguson]*

Sir CHARLES CUTLER (Orange), Deputy Premier, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways [12.34]: I join with the Premier and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to those former members who have retired from this Parliament, in each case after quite lengthy service. Looking at them sitting in the public gallery I worked out that between them, give or take a few years, they had served this Parliament for 250 years. They might not look that ancient but that is how the figures add up. All these gentlemen have served effectively and with great efficiency. I pay tribute to each and every one of them on behalf of the Country Party.

Perhaps I might be forgiven if I single out two of our former colleagues for special mention. I have carefully chosen one from each side of politics so that no criticism might be offered of me on that score. First, I should like to refer to Sir Kevin Eillis who served many years as Speaker and most certainly was the outstanding occupant of the Chair in my twenty-odd years' experience in this Parliament. He had the most difficult task of chairing a meeting of more than ninety political prima donnas. That is a pretty tough job at any time. We are a difficult group to control. The fact that we are involved in party politics places a personal strain upon all of us but more particularly it places a strain upon the man who has to chair this Assembly. Sir Kevin deserves the goodwill of all who served under him for the way he carried out his role with fairness and great dignity.

I hope that my former ministerial colleagues, the former Minister for Health Mr Jago, the former Minister for Conservation and Environment Mr Beale, the former Minister for Agriculture Mr Chaffey and the former Minister for Public Works Mr Ryan, will forgive me if on behalf of the Country Party I single out as the other person for special mention Mr Bill Sheahan who served with great distinction for a long period in this Parliament. Bill Sheahan was one of the most efficient Ministers in my experience. I recall a period nearly twenty years ago when he administered not only his own portfolio, Lands, but also the portfolio of the

Attorney-General in the absence of that Minister. Bill Sheahan carried those portfolios through a rather hectic session of Parliament. Subsequently the Parliamentary Country Party took the unusual step of entertaining that **Labor** Minister to express to him their appreciation for the way he had performed those difficult roles during the parliamentary session. I think that that rather rare occurrence speaks for itself.

All former members carry with them into their retirement the good wishes and goodwill of my colleagues in the Country Party and of myself. Our good wishes and thoughts are conveyed also to you, Mr Speaker, to the Clerk and to all the staff in the parliamentary establishment, particularly Hansard and the members of the press gallery. To all honourable members and the staff we wish not only a very happy Christmas but also a bright and prosperous 1974.

Mr HILLS (Phillip) [12.38]: I wish to join with the Premier, the Deputy Premier and my colleague the Deputy Leader of the Opposition first in conveying to you, Mr Speaker, members of the staff and all those associated with this Parliament my good wishes and those of my colleagues who are unable to be here this afternoon. Might I convey particularly my thanks to the staff who formerly worked with me as Leader of the Opposition for the great help and co-operation they gave me when I held that office. I convey to them publicly my warm thanks and that of my colleague the former Deputy Leader of the Opposition for their devotion and support both before and during the recent election campaign. I join with the members who have spoken earlier in thanking members of the press gallery and the media for their help and co-operation. I offer thanks to the officers of the House—the Clerk, his assistants and their staff—Hansard and the other parliamentary staffs as well as all those public servants outside this establishment who have afforded help in one way or another. Under secretaries of departments, private secretaries to Ministers, typists and many other people afforded us great assistance and their efforts are appreciated.

Today one of the most unusual happenings that I have ever seen is occurring in this House. From what I have learned nobody can recall what is now taking place ever happening before. When the Premier decided to have an early election the Parliament was unable to pass on its felicitations to those members intending to retire. Most of our colleagues who retired at the recent elections are present in Mr Speaker's gallery today. They heard speeches mile on end during the time they served in this Parliament. Nevertheless it is proper that the opportunity should be taken for us to entertain them through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association with a luncheon today and at the same time to indicate our appreciation here for the work they performed on behalf of the community during their long periods of parliamentary service.

Sir Kevin Ellis has been mentioned. In the main, I enjoyed his Speakership. I disagreed with him on a couple of occasions, but of course that happens in the thrust and parry of politics. It was a question of his views against mine. Nevertheless I respected him for his ability as Speaker, for his qualities as a gentleman and as a man who served his constituents well in the electorate of Coogee. One has only to look at the recent election results to appreciate the personal support that he received in that electorate. The Government had great difficulty in holding the seat but I presume that the result will be dealt with in another place. Sir Kevin Ellis performed his duties in a great and dignified way, as did Lady Ellis in her capacity as wife of the Speaker. My wife has known her for a long time, and we have a great affection for her.

May I talk of my old friend Bill Sheahan, a man who spent a great deal of time in this Parliament in the turbulent years. He is a man of great capacity and ability. Every time he stood in his place in this Chamber, even in later years when he was getting older, he captured the imagination of every member present. It was always a great joy to hear the beautiful language he used when expressing himself. His ability was not confined to the use of the English language.

He had great knowledge as a parliamentarian and acquired extensive experience in various ministries, including **Attorney-General**, Minister for Lands and Minister for Transport. I know that he was not really happy about having the transport portfolio. Nevertheless he threw himself into that task with great dedication and during his time as Minister for Transport things happened.

It is good for a Minister to make things happen in his department. A Minister of the Crown has tremendous power, and if he makes his office work as Bill Sheahan did, great things are done in the State. I have been to his electorate with him on occasions and I have seen the reverence paid to him by his constituents, as member for Yass in earlier years and member for **Burrinjuck** in later years. He served through a really colourful period in this State when men like Lang, **Bruxner**, Stevens and **McKell** trod the boards in this Parliament. We have lost a lot by their leaving, and the retirement of Bill Sheahan also leaves a tremendous gap in this Parliament.

May I talk of another old friend of mine, Norman Ryan. We went into the Cabinet together. I remember walking in with him to be sworn in. As new boys and completely inexperienced we were at the tail end of the queue. It was a great joy to serve with him in the Cabinet, as it was with Bill Sheahan and many other men who have left this Parliament, and of course with the honourable member for **Castlereagh**, a former Premier. Norm Ryan had a tremendous task thrust upon him in his acceptance of responsibility for negotiating in the first place with Joern Utzen, a difficult man at any time to talk to. But Norm Ryan has the great capacity of being able to confer with people and to get the best out of them and to obtain their co-operation. Because of that quality he was able to get work started on the Sydney Opera House which, incidentally, was started in unusual circumstances by a former Premier, the Hon. J. J. Cahill, who had no authority from the Parliament to start the project but just went ahead anyway.

*Mr Hills]*

Subsequently it was necessary to bring in legislation to authorize the work. This was all handled by Norm Ryan. Unfortunately, the Hon. J. J. Cahill had died meanwhile, and many of the circumstances surrounding the original arrangements and agreements that had been entered into were not known to some people. It was left to Norm Ryan, a man of great capacity, to sort out all the problems. He had worked in the Department of Public Works of New South Wales and later served this State most effectively as the Minister responsible for that department. I am sorry to see him leave this Parliament.

Other members have talked about Reg Coady and his great capacity as a parliamentarian. It may not be known that he did not want any Ministers to come into his electorate. As he would put it, he thought that they would muck up the situation for him. So concerned was he for his constituents that he would say: "Keep all those Ministers away from my electorate; I will take care of the situation myself." He did just that by means of his great capacity of being able to talk to people. That is what being a politician is all about, knowing the grass roots problems of constituents. How many times has Reg Coady risen in his place to talk not about major national or State issues but about water board rates or other matters vitally affecting his constituents? I hope that in retirement Reg, with his sister, will enjoy the good things of life and look back with pleasure to his days in this Parliament. Many of us remember the great work that he did in the Clerks Union in the old days in the battle against the Coms. I am not afraid to congratulate people who did that in the dark days when things were difficult. Reg Coady is one of those people willing to stand up and be counted.

Mr DURICK: Don't forget the bridge over the Hawthorne Canal.

Mr HILLS: When I was Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways Reg Coady did not want me to go out to his electorate to open the bridge over Hawthorne Canal. He wanted to do it himself and it was done in the way he wanted it.

My old friend Jim Southee has had a tremendous amount of experience around New South Wales as a trade-union official. A great parliamentarian, he served with distinction as a Temporary Chairman of Committees in this place. Unfortunately, I cannot spend a great deal of time in extolling the virtues of all these retired members, but I feel that I should refer to the period when I served on the Sydney city council and in this Parliament with Albert Sloss. As the Premier has said, if when Albert made a speech in this House and we did not necessarily understand what he was saying, our friends in the *Hansard* gallery were always quite capable of interpreting what Albert said—and what he was saying, of course, made a lot of sense. He always spoke on matters that related to the grass roots—the things the people are concerned about. Albert has a wide experience including his membership of the Lord Howe Island board. Also he has been a member of the Wentworth Park Trust and an alderman of the Council of the City of Sydney. Albert has been involved in the affairs of many other organizations, including police boys' clubs. At one time he was mine host in a hotel, where he was able to meet people from all sections of the community. I say to the new members that if they are seeking solutions to any problems relating to local government, officers of councils, government departments, police operations or the like, they should go to Albert for them. Albert is one of the members who were unfortunate—or fortunate according to their outlook—to lose a seat following the redistribution of electoral boundaries. I have taken over a considerable part of Albert's former area, and I only hope that I shall be able to serve his former constituents as well as he has always done.

Joe Kelly, a former president of the Parliamentary Labor Party, would sit beside me as Leader of the Opposition and offer me advice at party meetings. Much of his advice was of great assistance. He tells a great story of his short period of service on the Bankstown council. A colleague of mine, the honourable member for Castlereagh, then the

Minister for Local Government, was responsible for throwing that council out, bringing Joe's term in local government to a rapid conclusion.

I do not know whether over all the period Joe served in here he was taking it out on the honourable member for Castlereagh or on the Bankstown council but almost every time he stood in his place he took the Bankstown council to task. Of course, he said that it was one of those things on which he was able to get full support at the local level. As has been said, he served on the Town and Country Planning Advisory Committee. It was my great pleasure as a former Minister for Local Government to appoint him to that position. My only concern was that when the Labor Party introduced legislation in this Parliament setting up the State Planning Authority the provision in the legislation that the Parliament should be represented on the new State Planning Authority—a provision similar to that applying with the Town and Country Advisory Committee—was removed in another place. I feel that the services of a man like Joe Kelly representing this Parliament would be appropriate. I know that the honourable member for Blue Mountains is now serving on that body but he does not do so as a statutory right. To have on such a major body as the State Planning Authority a person of the capacity of Joe Kelly would be a great advantage.

Leo Nott wrote to me today from Gulgong. Of course he regrets being defeated. Again, he was one of the casualties of the redistribution of boundaries. Let us face it; that is how he lost the seat. It was unfortunate but these things happen. I want to say on behalf of our party what a great and dedicated member of Parliament Leo Nott has been and I hope the day is not far distant when he decides to come back to this Parliament of ours.

I regret most sincerely the circumstances in which Harry Jago leaves this Parliament. It was most unfortunate that this should have happened. Some may say that his position should have been covered in some way, and so on, but I think it most unfortunate

that this Parliament should lose a man dedicated to his portfolio. I saw him in many places in New South Wales in his capacity as Minister. Health is a trying portfolio. The man who holds it at the moment has a big responsibility. As men like Billy Sheahan and Harry Jago will tell you, the annual meetings and problems in hospitals make it necessary for the Minister for Health to travel continually from one end of the State to the other. Harry Jago had the capacity to talk to the people who were the officials of the various hospital boards. I have served on boards and seen Harry Jago in his capacity as Minister; I have always been impressed with him. Despite the fact that there were not unlimited funds available to him he made the money go around to the best of his ability and capacity. I am certain that he as Minister for Health would have been constantly niggling at the Premier and Treasurer for more money to spend on health services. On behalf of my colleagues I express appreciation for his work as Minister.

Jack Beale, of course, we know—especially his engineering capacity. I remember that as Minister, I had a brush with him in his electorate. That was only because Jack Beale was anxious to do whatever he could for his constituents. Though during his recent years as Minister he was not given the latitude he should have been given by his Government, this is not the time to be talking about that sort of situation. I think he was frustrated and found the situation more than anyone could stand. Nevertheless, he served his Parliament over a long period of years—thirty-one in all.

Bill Chaffey, during the time he was Minister for Agriculture—and I am sure his successor agrees—did great work. The Premier spoke about Norm Ryan heading a delegation abroad of which the Premier was a member. Bill Chaffey was also a member of that delegation and he may have been one of the frustrations that the other people had to enjoy or suffer during that trip, but Bill has a great love of the land and it was appropriate that he should be Minister for

*Mr Hills]*

Agriculture. It was a pity that the Government saw fit to remove him from that post. I know that there is always a lot of heart-burning in such circumstances, but it must have been a tremendous blow to the man's pride to have that sort of thing happen.

However, it did; but he continued on in his capacity as honourable member for Tamworth. He has a great knowledge of the standing orders and a great love for this place. I sincerely hope that the new members coming in here will be able to acquire the love, affection and dedication that Bill Chaffey has for this Parliament. Unless we have men that are willing to stand up on behalf of this Parliament it will go out of existence. I am referring not only to the competition between the Commonwealth and the State but particularly to the Executive taking over what should be the functions of this Parliament and failing to refer matters to it. Bill Chaffey has always been a great stickler for parliamentary government and for ensuring that this situation would not obtain.

Having said so much about the members who have retired I finally want to mention Clarrie Earl, a former deputy headmaster, who was a member of this Parliament over a long period. Unfortunately during the past six months Clarrie lost his wife, also he felt the pressure of Parliament a little more than most others. This was because of his make-up. He decided to retire because he felt he would like to enjoy the open air. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to Clarrie's service in the army and the effect it had on him and his health. I only hope that Clarrie Earl gets to enjoy the open-air camping and all the other things that he now wants to do. In his stead as member for Bass Hill we have no less than the Leader of the Opposition. I want to say to all our colleagues who have resigned or retired: "Come back and see us. We are delighted to know you. You gentlemen served this State well in your various capacities and this State is the loser for your going."

Mr D. B. HUNTER (Ashfield) [12.58]: The late Joseph Jackson, who served in this Parliament for three decades, once commented to me that anybody who ran the gamut of an election and served the people had some qualities that marked him as better than his fellows. I recall on an occasion when it was said, one of the bystanders remarked: "That is quite right, Joe, but mind your hide." Apart from the witticism, the statement runs true. It is proven in the eleven men who did not face up to the polls last month. I want to suggest that apart from Sir Kevin Ellis, whose position as Speaker and manager of this House made it necessary for his work to be graced with honours, as the days go by the things we will remember about these gentlemen are not the political contributions they made, the work they did, the revolutions of which they may have been part or any of the changes that they wrought either as Ministers or as nagging backbenchers, but their attractive and different qualities which we shall always remember. Much has been said about the many posts that Sir Kevin held—but far beyond is the personality of the man which meant more and will mean more in retrospect than all the official accomplishments that were his. In joining with those who have already spoken, I thank our former colleagues for their contribution to the public life of this State and for what they did in Parliament. I hope that upon their retirement they will look back with a sense of satisfaction at having served this Parliament and knowing, after this morning, the real regard and respect they won from those with whom they served.

*[Mr Speaker left the chair at 1 p.m. The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.]*

Mr EINFELD (Waverley) [2.30]: Mr Speaker, like the others who have contributed to this debate, I am delighted to pay tribute to you. I should like you to accept from me and my colleagues our best wishes for the festive season for yourself and your wife. We join with the greetings that have been extended to you from the Government side of the House. Further, we join in the greetings that have been extended to the Premier and his wife, the

Deputy Premier and his wife, and all members on the Government side and members of my own party. We wish them all a prosperous, happy and healthy New Year.

Parliament is said to be a very cold place, in that it has a habit of evaluating its own members in a perspective that reduces them to a common level. I believe that any member of Parliament who gets affection here must deserve it, because the method of evaluation is quite dispassionate. All the more remarkable is it, therefore, that the tributes paid to the twelve gentlemen who have retired from this Parliament should have been warmly, unanimously and effectively received by all honourable members. Each of the retiring members, in his own right, has earned in this Parliament the respect and admiration of all his colleagues. Indeed, the House is now made up of ninety-nine members, each an individual in his own right, and each with some egotism, for none of us would have arrived in this place without having personal ambition and an admiration for his own qualities—and, of course, a sometimes grudging admiration for the quality of his fellows. However, the twelve retired members whom we are farewelling today are all persons who have earned for themselves great respect and, in many instances, tremendous personal affection. For myself, I feel a sense of loss because I will lose the close association I have had with these gentlemen who have sat next to me or opposite me in this Chamber from day to day, and I know that we have had a mutual feeling of fellowship, warmth and friendliness.

I cannot think of Bill Sheahan, the veteran of our party, without having respect and admiration not only for his talents but also for the friendship and warmth of the advice and counsel he has given to me and other members of Parliament. I will remember the virtues of Norman Ryan, with whom one could build up a great affection. Also, to Jim Southee, who on one noteworthy occasion went out of his way to do me a turn, which I shall not easily forget, I pay a great tribute for his being a warm humanitarian of outstanding merit and worth. Then there are Reg Coady and Albert Sloss. Reg Coady is a warm personality who looked

after his electorate in his own personal, inimitable way. Reg is a warm friend. Of course, I have known Albert Sloss for all my political life, and we have always been good friends. Joe Kelly had a wit and an ability to impart it for the enjoyment of all his colleagues. He was the president of our party and I had the pleasure one day of nominating him for the position of Speaker. If he had been elected he would have fulfilled that onerous responsibility with outstanding merit. Leo Nott and Clarrie Earl are two other colleagues whom we can ill afford to lose from this Parliament.

I regret the departure of Sir Kevin Ellis also; he occupied the position of Speaker during all the time I have been a member of this Parliament, and he was outstanding in many respects. It is true that I often felt his rulings were somewhat faulty, but that does not detract in any way from the affection that I have built up for him. I had a special relationship with Sir Kevin Ellis, not because we both went to that grand old school, Fort Street Boys High School—

Mr WILLIS: Hear! Hear!

Mr EINFELD: If the Minister went there too, that would destroy the whole picture.

Mr WILLIS: I did not go there.

Mr EINFELD: That is just as well.

Mr WILLIS: I would hate to say that I went to the same school as the honourable member.

Mr EINFELD: As a matter of fact, that would be the only thing that the Minister and I could have in common. Sir Kevin Ellis attended this famous boys high school, and in some way over the years my wife and I have built a personal friendship with him and his wife; we both hold that friendship dearly and we are delighted to be able to call Sir Kevin and Lady Ellis our friends.

Harry Jago left the Parliament under difficult circumstances. I attended the luncheon that is now famous; it was a luncheon tendered by the New South Wales branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary

Association to five visiting members of the United Kingdom Parliament. At that luncheon I represented the Parliamentary Labor Party; I had not learned the effect of the numbers game then, so I was still the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Mr Jago officially represented the Government. I sat next to a lady who was a member of the House of Lords. Strangely, her name was Baroness Bacon—strangely because I was sitting next to her. She had been a Minister in the Wilson Labor Government and was a woman of outstanding merit, showing a special interest in our Parliament and in my personal position. She asked me what candidates were opposing me at the forthcoming election. I told her there was a Liberal Party candidate, a Democratic Labor Party candidate, an Australia Party candidate, and a gay liberation of homosexuals candidate. I said, "He is the fellow who is really after my seat."

Harry Jago was sitting opposite me, next to a Tory member of the House of Commons. Harry said, "How do you know you have four opponents?" I said, "Half an hour before this luncheon started I telephoned the returning officer as the nominations closed at twelve o'clock today, to ascertain who are my opponents." Harry Jago was very upset, or appeared to be. His face became very red, and I was wondering whether he was choking on a piece of steak he was eating. He said, "Did nominations close today?" I replied, "Yes." He said, "I don't think they could have." I said, "They did." He was very upset; he went away and communicated with someone, and found out that his nomination had not been lodged. That was probably the most embarrassing luncheon of my whole life. Although I had opposed Harry Jago in this Parliament on a number of occasions, particularly when he was presenting bills—which he did often—with which I disagreed, I had built up an esteem for him. I thought that was a poor way for a man to finish his parliamentary career; I still have that feeling. At that time I was most upset, and I still am, because I happened to be the person who conveyed the information to him. Of course there

was no culpability on my part but I felt that I was the instrument of fate in that I told him nominations closed on that day. I felt uncomfortable about that. I pay tribute to Harry Jago and his wife, who is a charming woman. They both deserve a lot better than being the subjects of that misfortune.

Jack Beale goes from this House with my warm regards. It is said of him that he never uses one word where twelve will do. Nevertheless he is a good friend of mine. We met in London on one occasion and we exchanged pleasantries. I shall always be delighted to meet him wherever it is and to shake hands with him as a friend.

We also lose Bill Chaffey, a picturesque person who probably disturbed the Parliament more frequently than almost any other member did, but nevertheless is a warm, good friend. We pay tribute to the twelve men who have finished their parliamentary careers. In many cases I think they will not have finished their careers in life, though they have left the Parliament. We will miss them. I came into this House in November, 1965, and in the short time I have been in the Parliament there has been a considerable turnover of members. Unfortunately some of our colleagues have passed on to what I think is a better world—it certainly would not be hard to find a better world than the parliamentary world. I think that we are the poorer because these twelve retired members have left this House. Each of them has served the people of New South Wales in the way the people wanted to be served. I believe that this is a better world because those members served in that way. I am delighted to pay my tribute to the twelve gentlemen who have been mentioned today. I hope that they will not stay away altogether from Parliament but will come to see us from time to time. I hope that it will be my good fortune to be in contact with them on many occasions in the future.

Mr CRABTREE (Kogarah) [2.42]: It is with humility that as a backbencher I speak following such talent as the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and other members. I wish to do

two things. The first is to join with everyone in Christmas felicitations. The second is to pay tribute to the twelve good men who are no longer to be with us in this Parliament. To you, Mr Speaker, and to Mrs Cameron may I extend on behalf of the workers in this Parliament heartiest greetings at this festive season. It is with a tinge of regret that I see you in the august position of Speaker because I just cannot see myself carrying on as well as in the last Parliament without Jim Cameron joining forces against me in debate. I have appreciated your talents and your ability as a member of this Chamber. As I have said to you privately, I think you will have a wonderful record as the presiding officer of this House. On behalf of the backbenchers may I thank the parliamentary staff and our good friends in the dining room for their consideration at all times. I thank the Premier and Treasurer for his many courtesies to us. I should like to say that it is marvellous when honourable members of the Opposition can go to a State function and meet Sir Robert and Lady Askin formally, and then meet them informally afterwards just as Bob and Molly. Those are the things that I hold dear in the Parliament, where we can be both formal and informal. That is an important facet of our democratic system.

To our colleagues who have retired and to Harry Jago who has left the Parliament in other circumstances, I say congratulations. I pay particular tribute to Harry Jago. It has been mentioned here on occasions that I was chairman of the St George Hospital, and I found that he was one of my loyal friends, though he was a member of the Government at that time. I deeply regret the fact that Harry Jago is not the Minister for Health now because I do not think that any other man has made a contribution under difficult circumstances in his portfolio in the same way as Harry Jago did.

I do not intend to deal at length with all twelve members who are leaving. I pay particular tribute to Bill Sheahan whom I knew for many years, even before I came into this House. When the political history of New South Wales is written there will be a special chapter called "The Great Reformer—Bill



Sheahan". I have never known a Minister who applied himself to the task allotted to him by his political party like Bill Sheahan did. I recall on a number of occasions when Bill Sheahan was concerned about advice he had been given by his responsible officers related to legislation he was introducing to this Parliament, he formed committees and discussed the matter within the parliamentary party even before its submission to Cabinet. Bill Sheahan desired to have the fullest possible advice. I think the Australian Labor Party and the Parliament loses a lot of its colour when it loses people of the calibre of Bill Sheahan.

I pay tribute to Albie Sloss. I feel a great personal loss because he has left us. I joined the Labor Party when I was sixteen years of age. I am proud of that. As I have told people over the years, I do not feel that the Labor Party is really a political party; it is a philosophy. I joined a philosophy of which I am proud. I met Albie Sloss when I was sixteen and he was nineteen. We were both expelled on the same night because of our philosophies. That was one of those things that endeared me to the man. He had the courage of his convictions even to the point of opposing what we thought was a machine that was trying to destroy a philosophy. Those are the kinds of things that I feel are worth while. I believe in a philosophy: I do not believe in a machine or in the numbers game. These are the men, with their type of thinking, who build Australia, whether the members are on the Government side or the Opposition side.

I do not want to delay the House. I promised the Minister for Education that I would speak for only three minutes. The twelve men who are leaving us are good men and true. We do not pay tribute to them today only for the efforts they made while in parliament—we pay tribute to them as men of broad vision and knowledge and because, in good Australian language, they were our mates. I say this to the new members of the House: we have had mateship over the years. There has been the cut and thrust of politics. Other honourable members would have been disgusted with me in some of the accusations and fights that we have had over the years, but if honourable

*Mr Crabtree]*

members have the capability to accept that and to go outside and shake hands, that is the kind of thing that constitutes a parliamentary democracy. We have our opinions but we do not hold personal grudges. If that is so, we can celebrate Christmas. May I say that the greatest tribute we can offer at Christmas today is the slogan that I should like to see on every packet of cigarettes and every carton of soap powder: "Let us have peace on earth and goodwill towards all men".

Mr SPEAKER: At this stage the House is in the situation in which a number of honourable members on both sides wish to join in the debate. I have received an intimation that if the debate proceeds much further an undesirable course will have to be taken. If the House would grant me the indulgence of adding my views to what has been said, I should appreciate the opportunity greatly. I certainly will not speak if there is the slightest hint of objection on either side of the House. This is a most unusual occasion. Indeed, some people have suggested that it is a unique occasion for a House of Parliament to have twelve former honoured and revered members sitting in the gallery of the House in this way.

I think we ought to conclude the debate on as favourable and non-controversial a note as is possible. I should like to say that I think it is a tremendous and a most distinctive privilege for us all as members of this House to have been able to merge our lives in the inner life of the Parliament. That is a life which people outside this House find extremely difficult to understand but we all are able to understand, and our former colleagues who sit in the gallery, because of the length of their service, are extremely well able to understand. If it is only in the building of a tangible house on a block of land somewhere, everyone who contributes to the building of it, be it the carpenter who hammers in the nails, knows that he has changed the character of that house in some way, and that his particular contribution to it will make it in the end a distinctively different house and, each would believe as a good tradesman, a better house.

Each of the twelve men of whom we have been speaking was a good tradesman. Five of them are former Ministers. The others all made their own distinctive contribution in different and extremely valuable ways. All of these members have changed this house in the same way as every family in succession who lives in a house changes that house and gives it an increased enrichment of character. However, here we are dealing not just with a tangible house, though a tangible house does stand upon the site of this Parliament and in a measurable form gives character to this place. There is as well as this tangible house that we can see and touch and in whose corridors and lobbies we can walk and in whose dining-rooms we can sit and there engage in wonderful, refreshing conversation, an intangible house of tradition and spirit that inures from age to age and grows richer from the contributions of all who live in it and work in it.

All of these twelve men in their own distinctive way have contributed to this intangible house that lives on and will live on even if the physical structure be demolished. Through their own decisions and contributions in party-room meetings and as members they have made decisions which touch upon the whole life of the community. Many of us come to the Parliament from areas of business or the professions. If we look back we recognize that we had been living in a fairly narrow canal and perhaps had mastered the expertise of that canal. But when we come into this House, for the first time we have the opportunity to paint in the broad and on the widest canvas imaginable, where any decisions made in the party room, whether it be Opposition or Government, may affect the whole community—we would hope and trust for the better. These men have made major contributions in this way. Hence though they walk out physically from this House they leave behind a House, both tangible and intangible, different, richer and superior for their having been here.

When I speak in these terms I am sure I speak on behalf of all members of this House, from all sides and in all sections of it. I count myself richer for having been

associated with each one of these twelve men. I pause to single out only one of them for it would be invidious to do more than that, but wrong if I were not to speak personally of my immediate predecessor in his presence today and to say that though I am called upon in this office to be two-eyed or multi-eyed if one likes, and to be completely impartial, I am utterly partial and one-eyed when it comes to the dispute on whether my predecessor was simply one of the great Speakers of this House or the greatest Speaker of this House. I declare my partisanship and say that I believe him to be the greatest Speaker this House has known and I pay my personal tribute to him without qualification of any kind.

I conclude simply by saying that I wish to reciprocate those warm and generous expressions of yuletide goodwill which have been conveyed to me and to my wife by the Premier, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Premier, the honourable member for Kogarah and others who have spoken today. I appreciate those expressions and I know that my wife does likewise. I pay my tribute to all the staffs of the Parliament. Again I do not want to name them one by one for the fear that I might perchance miss one and create an impression that their particular contribution to the total working of the parliamentary establishment is not appreciated. I appreciate the contributions of all the various staffs who gather here. I pay particular tribute to those people who are close to me in the parliamentary sense in that since I have assumed this office, although only some ten days ago, they have made my fitting into this new role so much easier and so much less traumatic than it might otherwise have been. I extend to all members of the House my personal best wishes for a completely happy Christmas and a most rewarding new year.

Motion agreed to.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

### FIRST REPORT

Mr **CLOUGH**, as Chairman, brought up the First Report, during the currency of the Forty-fourth Parliament, of the Public Accounts Committee.

## BILL RETURNED

The following bill was returned from the Legislative Council with an amendment:

Pipelines (Amendment) Bill

CROWN LANDS AND OTHER ACTS  
(RESERVES) AMENDMENT BILL

## INTRODUCTION

Mr LEWIS (Wollondilly), Minister for Lands and Minister for Tourism [2.57]: I move:

That leave be given to bring in a bill to provide for the reservation of certain lands as state recreation areas; to consolidate and amend certain laws relating to the appointment, powers and duties of trustees of certain lands; to provide for the vesting of certain lands in the council of a local government area; for these and other purposes to amend the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the Closer Settlement (Amendment) Act, 1914, the Local Government Act, 1919, and certain other Acts; to repeal the Public Trusts Act, 1897, the Trustees of Show-grounds Enabling Act, 1909, the Public Parks Act, 1912, the Trustees of Public Reserves Enabling Act, 1924, and certain other enactments; and for purposes connected therewith.

Consequent upon the dissolution of the last Parliament, a bill relating to this matter, which had been passed by this House and read a first time in another place, lapsed and has to be reintroduced. The measure for which leave to introduce is now sought is substantially the same as the previous bill but some minor amendments have been effected. These include an alteration in procedure required to be followed by trustees where the Minister's consent to the sale of a reserve or part thereof is proposed to be sought, and the imposition of a maximum term in respect of those temporary licenses which trustees are being authorized under the bill to grant without the consent of the Minister.

Details of this measure were fully outlined by me on 11th October, and 17th October in this House. It is sufficient for me to conclude at this stage by stating that this bill is an extensive measure effecting a major overhaul of the law coming within

my administration as Minister for Lands relating to the appointment of trustees of reserves and to the care, control and management of those areas. It is both a consolidating and amending measure of major significance and contains important innovations such as the provisions enabling the establishment of state recreation areas. I am pleased to commend the motion to the House.

Mr DAY (Casino) [3.0]: I have not read the *Hansard* report of the debate on the previous bill, in which I took no part, but the Opposition believes the bill to be sound in principle. However, we hope that the planning associated with this proposal will not become the shambles that developed at Corindi. This is the season of goodwill and I do not want to be dogmatic about what happened at Corindi but the Minister made statements in this House last week which I believe should be truthfully answered.

Mr LEWIS: On a point of order. The honourable member is speaking about an area of land on the North Coast which has no relation whatsoever to the legislation for which I seek leave to introduce.

Mr DAY: On the point of order. I wanted only briefly to mention this matter and I wanted to indicate the errors that had been made in the plans for the acquisition of land at Corindi.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I shall permit the honourable member to deal briefly with this matter. He must then come back quickly to the bill.

Mr DAY: I wanted only briefly to correct some of the incorrect statements made by the Minister in relation to the reservation of certain land in the Corindi area. The Minister said that during the election campaign I had claimed to have had some effect upon the subsequent corrections of what the Minister had originally planned.

Mr LEWIS: With due respect to **your** ruling, Mr Speaker, I take another point of order. This matter has no relation to the bill. Though I respect your ruling, I give you my assurance as Minister for Lands and

Minister for Tourism that this bill for which I seek leave to introduce has no relation to the matter the honourable member is dealing with.

Mr DAY: On the point of order. I submit that the Minister is canvassing your ruling. I undertook to mention this only briefly. In spite of what the Minister claimed, I submit that the area of land to which I refer is bound up, part and parcel, with the powers to be conferred by this bill.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I adhere to what I said previously. I shall permit the honourable member for Casino to mention this matter briefly but he must come back quickly to the motion.

Mr DAY: I had said that, having regard to the time of the year, I merely wanted to set out the facts of the position. The truth is that I raised the matter in the House at the first opportunity after we met—as *Hansard* will prove—on behalf of the Corindi Progress Association which sought this action in the face of the lack of action by the honourable member who represents the area. I want to say that the errors admitted by the Minister in this instance should not be permitted to recur under this legislation. I want to ensure that when areas are designated and reserved as state recreation areas, infinitely more care will be exercised by the Minister and his staff. In this instance—and in others if care is not taken—there will be grave concern on the part of the owners or occupiers of the land. They will be prohibited from extending premises, building on the land or obtaining finance for any improvements they might envisage as in their best interests. I believe that the Minister should intimate what precautions will be taken to overcome the shortcomings that were evident in the case that I have mentioned.

I submit to the Minister that the right of the present owners of the land to be reserved as state recreation areas should be sympathetically considered and that full and proper compensation should be promptly paid when, in effect, the State is to take over land for these purposes. I further submit that

when the Government has no immediate intention to develop these areas as state recreation areas, the owners should be permitted to continue in occupancy until funds are available or the Government has some definite intention to develop the areas—instead of merely drawing a line on the map which means nothing at all. I submit, too, that the Minister should seize the opportunity at the second-reading stage to indicate urgently the future of seaside resorts, caravan parks and camping grounds, their location and the improvements that will be permitted or promoted by the Government.

The bill deals with state recreation areas. Many of these state recreation areas are on the coastline of New South Wales and their present development has been inhibited by the lack of action from the Minister in permitting development to be undertaken by the trustees. At the second-reading stage I should like the Minister to indicate what additional finance is to be provided for the development of these areas. Areas already reserved for recreation in this State are seriously handicapped in their development by lack of finance from the Government. Existing reserved areas suffer from this problem and if the Minister is to reserve much larger areas for state recreation purposes, the House should be told what additional funds will be available for their development.

I notice from the preamble of the bill that local government will play a more important part. Certain of these lands are to be vested in the council of the local government area. I ask the Minister to say whether local government will be expected to provide part or the whole of the funds necessary for the development of these areas. It would be a good idea to have local government bodies declared the trustee. I am referring to a number of recreation areas in the State in which the existing trustees are disinterested. On the other hand, I want to point out that the trustees of many of these areas do a tremendous amount of voluntary work. I do not think that this can be done away with. That would be equivalent to saying that this voluntary work is of no value. The Minister should say what is proposed in this regard.

I want to know whether the bill will increase or reduce the powers and duties of the trustees. It provides for some alteration to the powers and duties of trustees and at the second-reading stage I want the Minister to explain in detail what is proposed by way of alteration to the present method of appointing trustees.

Mr CRAWFORD: Does the honourable member think that he will be unable to understand the bill when he reads it?

Mr DAY: I am quite sure that I shall be able to understand it as well as the Minister for Agriculture could. He is free with his comments but not too free with the truth on many occasions, as was demonstrated yesterday by his interjection. As I said originally, the Opposition supports in principle the reservation of these areas. We await the information I have asked the Minister to give at the second-reading stage.

Mr LEWIS (Wollondilly), Minister for Lands and Minister for Tourism [3.10], in reply: I am sorry that I shall have to make some critical remarks at this time of goodwill to all men, when the yuletide spirit is in the air, but the honourable member for Casino attracted no credit to himself or the area he represents when he displayed his ignorance about a measure that is likely to be introduced. He would have done better to have taken the time to do some research, as one must do when one is in Opposition, and looked at not only the second-reading speech I delivered on 17th October last but also the bill that was introduced on that occasion. If he could not understand them, he could get them explained to him by more superior members of his party. With due respect to your ruling, Mr Speaker, the honourable member came into the Chamber today and started to talk about areas that have nothing to do with the legislation.

The Government has set aside certain areas along the coast, and has suggested that they be set aside for all times. Unlike every previous government in the history of New South Wales, we had allowed a six months period in which to hear objections; that six months period has not yet

arisen. Once the objections are heard a firm decision will be made. At that stage the honourable member can complain about any area set aside for any particular public park—although I do not know why he should complain about areas set aside for public recreation or any other purpose. This legislation will have no effect whatsoever on caravan parks. The honourable member spoke also about compensation to be paid to the owners of lands that are acquired by the Crown for recreation areas. If he studies what I said in my second-reading speech on 17th October he will find that it is not intended that there be any concern immediately about private lands to be so acquired, though undoubtedly there will be in future. Of course, the honourable member failed to mention that the Government has made record sums available, through the Department of Lands, for national parks. These sums far exceed the money voted by any other administration, including those of his own political philosophy.

Motion agreed to.

Bill presented and read a first time.

## GORE HILL CEMETERY BILL

### INTRODUCTION

Mr LEWIS (Wollondilly), Minister for Lands and Minister for Tourism [3.13]: I move:

That leave be given to bring in a bill to dedicate certain land at Gore Hill as a public park; to make provision for the appointment of trustees thereof; to confer and impose certain powers, authorities, duties and functions on those trustees and on the Minister; and for purposes connected therewith.

The bill relates to the cemetery fronting the Pacific Highway at Gore Hill. The cemetery comprises an area of 5.784 hectares and was originally dedicated on 19th May, 1868. At least 8,000 burials have taken place in the cemetery which is under the care, control and management of a trust. Although all the gravesites were sold by the 1920s, there are still approximately 1,400 vacant sites. For some time representations have been made by the trust that the cemetery should be closed and converted into a

rest park and garden. This proposal arose mainly from the trust's lack of funds to maintain the cemetery in a reasonable condition.

Willoughby Municipal Council has agreed to undertake the conversion of the cemetery on the basis that it would assume control of the area freed from any existing liabilities. The council's development proposal includes the removal of all monuments and other surface structures and preservation of those monuments of historical importance together with those relating to graves for the perpetual care of which moneys have been paid. It also provides for the filling of the area with three feet of soil and planting of grass, construction of low retaining walls and pathways and general landscaping.

Provision is also being made in the bill to compensate the holders, or the representatives of the holders, of the unused burial rights upon application within a specified period, by way of burial rights to be purchased by the Crown in another cemetery. I shall be pleased to give further details at the second-reading stage.

Mr PETERSEN (Illawarra) [3.15]: From what the Minister has told us about the bill, it appears unlikely that any opposition or amendment will be offered by the Opposition in this Chamber. In 1970 a bill passed through this Parliament to make similar changes with respect to the old Catholic cemetery at Wollongong. On that occasion honourable members witnessed the ecumenical action of the Minister, the honourable member for Corrimal, the honourable member for Wollongong, who was then Mr Jack Hough, and myself, all agreeing to the legislation. We all received publicity, with photographs, on the front page of the *Illawarra Daily Mercury*—to the great advantage of all of us in our respective electorates. I suppose we should be thankful that so many of our ancestors had such a peculiar obsession with death, and had great monuments raised over their remains. Indeed, one of the most warming features of the change in society is that we no longer have this obsession with death. Though these days privately operated lawn cemeteries are popular, more and more people

are having their remains cremated. I am all in favour of the sentiment expressed by the American poet who asked that his body be reduced to ashes and distributed on some plant, which would flower and bring him to life again. That seems to be a more laudible use of one's earthly remains than to put them in the ground and then construct a great marble monstrosity over them. However, the fact that our ancestors did this means that we were able to convert the Catholic cemetery at Wollongong to a pleasant park at the end of Crown Street, near the sea and at the end of the shopping centre.

We certainly welcomed the bill that dealt with the Wollongong cemetery, and I assume that the people living in the Willoughby municipality will feel the same about this 5.784 hectares of land that were dedicated in 1868, especially as no burials have taken place there for many years. After all, Gore Hill, which was then probably a pleasant rural area, has now become somewhat a great concrete jungle. I appreciate that the residents of the area want something done with this cemetery so that they can have a park for their use rather than a useless monument that reflects the egotism of past residents who have long since well and truly shuffled off this mortal coil.

Motion agreed to.

Bill presented and read a first time.

## VETERINARY SURGEONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

### INTRODUCTION

Mr CRAWFORD (Barwon), Minister for Agriculture [3.18]: I move:

That leave be given to bring in a bill to make further provisions with respect to the appointment of members of the Board of Veterinary Surgeons of New South Wales; to provide for the licensing and control of veterinary hospitals; for these and other purposes to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1923; and for purposes connected therewith.

Some objects of this bill are: to reconstitute the Veterinary Surgeons Board of New South Wales to provide for the appointment to the board of persons nominated by the New South Wales division of the Australian Veterinary Association; to provide for the

prescribing of acts, matters or things that form part of the practice of veterinary science; to permit an inspector appointed under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1923, to enter premises at any reasonable time and make inquiries therein; to require persons holding prescribed offices or positions to be veterinary surgeons; and to provide that certain employees of a stock owner may carry out as part of their employment certain acts, matters or things that form part of the practice of veterinary science.

Other objects are to clarify the law relating to acts, matters and things forming part of the practice of veterinary science that may for fee or reward be carried out by persons other than veterinary surgeons; to impose a penalty of \$200 upon any person who, where no other penalty is provided, commits a breach of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1923; to prescribe the qualifications required for registration as a veterinary surgeon and to save the registration of persons currently registered who do not have the new qualifications and to provide for the provisional registration of persons pending receipt of documentary evidence of their academic qualification.

The bill will provide also for the establishment and licensing of veterinary hospitals of various classes and for the control of veterinary hospitals, including the appointment of a superintendent for each veterinary hospital; the suspension or cancellation of a licence in certain circumstances; the right of appeal to the District Court against certain cancellations or suspensions; and the power to prescribe by regulation standards to be observed in the construction, equipping, conduct and appointment of staff of different classes of veterinary hospitals. Other objects are to provide for the constitution of an investigating committee and a disciplinary tribunal to deal with complaints against veterinary surgeons along lines similar to those relating to medical practitioners and to provide for an appeal to the Supreme Court against an order of the disciplinary tribunal; and to make other provisions of a minor, consequential or ancillary nature.

*Mr Crawford]*

Many honourable members will recall that this bill was passed by this House during the last Parliament but because of time limitations it did not proceed further. To refresh the memory of those members and for the information of new members, I mention that the bill is a comprehensive revision of an Act which has not **been** amended in any substantial way for **fifty** years. The proposals include a new provision for the appointment of nominees of the Australian Veterinary Association to the Veterinary Surgeons Board, the requirement of a higher standard of qualification for entry into the profession, a new system of investigating and hearing complaints against veterinary surgeons, and new requirements for the registration of veterinary hospitals which have not been regulated in the past, and generally introduces a number of miscellaneous amendments to update the Act. I shall, of course, explain the bill in detail at the second-reading stage. I commend the motion to honourable members.

Mr GORDON (Murrumbidgee) [3.22]: The Opposition will not oppose introduction of the bill. We await it with great interest and concern. Bearing in mind licensing provisions that were applied to country killing works, we hope that the bill does not mean that an impractical idealist will introduce standards and conditions that will prove impossible for some veterinary surgeons so that veterinary surgeons will decide that they cannot provide hospital accommodation for animals. By implication the Minister has said that the standards will be more severe. I do not know whether he visualizes a health scheme for animals so that people who own animals will be able to insure against their animals being put into veterinary hospitals.

A person in the country, or in the city, who has a sick horse has to pay for a veterinary surgeon to come to the stable to examine the horse each day, or it may be cheaper to take that horse by float to the veterinary surgeon and leave it there for **a** week or two. If standards are enforced to

such an extent that a horse cannot be stabled within a certain distance of an operating theatre, a veterinary surgeon may say that he cannot take the horse, because the regulations will not allow it.

An over-zealous inspector might say that it is desirable that there be tiled floors in the hospital and that the walls should be tiled to make a really good job of it. For sterilization purposes, it could be prescribed that the walls be of stainless steel. Water from the town water supply might be said to be polluted, so that a still has to be installed on the premises to make distilled water. It might be said that if operations are to be performed it will be necessary to have a sterilization plant and, if it is a big hospital, that could entail a boiler-room with a boiler attendant. Stainless steel tops could be required on the tables at the hospital. If X-rays are to be taken, it might be suggested that there must be a special type of flooring so that there is no chance of shock from the X-ray plant.

Mr Speaker, it might be thought that I am being facetious but similar conditions of licensing were applied to country meatworks. A meatworks in my electorate operated satisfactorily for forty years. Everybody ate the meat that was killed there and taken to the butcher's shop and nobody ever complained in forty years that there were any cases of contamination. The local qualified meat inspectors were quite happy about that meatworks. Then the New South Wales Meat Industry Authority decided that the standards were not high enough. What was done? The owners had to close down the works which for forty years had been accepted and about which no one had complained. When more stringent standards of hygiene are prescribed, the people who own the meatworks might say that they cannot spend \$40,000 on the meatworks of a small town such as Whitton, Coleambally or Darlington Point which are populated by a few hundred people. At Coleambally there are probably 1,200 people who are virtually without fresh-killed meat which has to be brought, strange though it may seem, from Victoria into those areas.

I am pleased that the Opposition will have another chance to look at this bill. The House will have to consider closely some of the proposals. Standards prescribed might be applicable to a city with a big population, but in country areas they would be absolutely impossible of attainment. The Opposition will examine the bill with great interest and will make further comments at the second-reading stage.

Motion agreed to.

Bill presented and read a first time.

### PRINTING COMMITTEE

#### SECOND REPORT

Mr BREWER, as Chairman, brought up the Second Report from the Printing Committee.

### GWYDIR RIVER SYSTEM DISTRIBUTARY WORKS BILL

#### INTRODUCTION

Mr FREUDENSTEIN (Young), Minister for Conservation and Minister for Cultural Activities [3.28]: I move:

That leave be given to bring in a bill to sanction and provide for the carrying out of certain works for the distribution of water throughout the Gwydir River system and the construction of works incidental thereto; to amend the Public Works Act, 1912; and for purposes connected therewith.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the construction of distributary works to facilitate the use of water in the Gwydir River system, as regulated by Copeton Dam, when that dam is completed. The estimated cost of the works is \$6,300,000. The works generally comprise the construction of weirs, regulators and associated works to regulate the flow of water to the Mehi River, to Moomin Creek, and to Mallowa Creek; works to regulate the flow of water to the Carole-Medgun-Gil Gil Creeks system; stream channel improvements; deviations to and construction of roads of access; establishment of borrow areas for soil, sand and gravel, and quarries for rock and aggregates; and such works as may be required for the protection of the environment. The



Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission shall be the constructing authority and the works shall be carried out under the provisions of the Public Works Act, 1912.

The bill contains also the customary provisions enabling the constructing authority to enter into such contracts and take all such necessary steps for the proper execution of the work as may be necessary. The provision of these works will enable effective use of the regulated flow of the stream system for stock, domestic and irrigation purposes. As I said earlier, the bill has already been considered by the previous Parliament. However, I shall give greater details at the second-reading stage.

Mr GORDON (Murrumbidgee) [3.31]: The Opposition looks forward with great interest to studying the provisions of this bill. The conservation of water is something most important to members of this House, particularly members of the Labor Party. During the second-reading debate the Opposition would like to learn the number of farmers who will benefit from the proposed expenditure on the items listed in the bill; the manner in which the water will be reticulated to the farms; the manner in which draining is proposed to be effected; the use to which the water will be put; the crops that are to be grown using this additional water; and also the general benefit if any that will flow to taxpayers in this State. Many bills of this nature, providing for conservation of water resources, have been passed by this Parliament. However, many of those works have not been commenced. It is interesting to see the honourable member for South Coast present in the House. No doubt he is wondering when construction will begin on the Brogo Dam on the South Coast.

Mr FREUDENSTEIN: You are right behind.

Mr GORDON: I am pleased to be behind the Minister on this occasion and I hope that those works will soon be carried through to fruition. Can the Minister say when he expects to complete the contract in relation to the Brogo Dam?

Mr FREUDENSTEIN: I shall make those details available later.

Mr GORDON: It is hoped that should Parliament decide to go ahead **with the** works referred to in **this** bill, the **actual construction** will begin at an early date **so that** people interested in it will not feel as though they have been led up the garden path.

Motion agreed to.

Bill presented and read a first time.

#### PIPELINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

##### M COMMITTEE

Consideration of Legislative Council's amendment.

*Schedule of the Amendment referred to in Legislative Council's Message of 13th December, 1973.*

Page 8, clause 3, line 18. After the words "Public Works", insert "the Minister for Planning and Environment".

Mr FIFE (Wagga Wagga), Minister for Mines, Minister for Power and Assistant Treasurer [3.35]: I move:

That the Committee agree to the Legislative Council's amendment in this bill.

The purpose of the amendment is to add the Minister for Planning and Environment to the list in the principal Act, section 8 (1), of the Ministers whose concurrence is necessary for the granting of the pipeline permit. This amendment was suggested by a member of the Legislative Council. I have considered the amendment and give it my support. I point out that the existing legislation provides that the Minister for Local Government must be advised and his concurrence sought. Until recently the Minister for Local Government was the Minister in charge of the State Planning Authority. However, that authority has now been transferred to the administration of the Minister for Planning and Environment. It is appropriate that this amendment be inserted.

Motion agreed to.

**Legislative Council's amendment agreed to.**

##### ADOPTION OF REPORT

Resolution reported, and report adopted on motion by Mr Fife.

## INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION (FURTHER AMENDMENT) BILL

## SECOND READING

Debate resumed (from 12th December, *vide* page 430) on motion by Mr Willis:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Mr QUINN (Wentworthville) [3.37]: It is regrettable that the Parliament is required to deal with a measure such as this after having listened to the felicitations thrown around the Chamber earlier today. One might have hoped that we would approach this yuletide season without having to divide the House but should the Government press on with this measure the bells will be rung, and rung often. If it is intended to proceed through all stages of this bill the Opposition will be calling for divisions and hopes that some members from the Government side might see the light of our argument and join us in opposing some of the measures proposed by the Government. This bill is in many ways similar to the bill that was before the House in the last session of parliament. The main difference between this bill and the one considered in October is that this one has removed doubts which previously existed about what would happen to consent awards or agreements which had been entered into and would expire at some time subsequent to the passage of legislation prohibiting the reduction of working hours below forty a week.

On the previous occasion the Minister gave notice of and circulated certain amendments which he believed would overcome the problems raised by members on this side of the House at the introductory stage. Those proposals are now incorporated in this bill. If this bill passes through Parliament and becomes law there will in future be a total prohibition upon any employer reducing the working week for his employees below forty hours or below any lesser number of hours which might have been agreed upon in the past. It would appear that the commencing date of this prohibition will be 11th October, 1973. Prior to that date and without the passage of this legislation, employers and employees who sat around the conference table could

discuss not only terms and conditions of employment and wages to be received and paid but also the hours to be worked each day, each week or over any other period.

Honourable members are aware that the Industrial Arbitration Act makes provision for arbitration and conciliation in respect of all matters except hours. The only conciliatory application of the Act to hours is when consent awards have been entered into by the parties and registered, thus becoming binding on both parties. Should the parties fail to agree it is not possible to determine the matter by arbitration. The Act contains no provision under which a judge, a commissioner or any other person sitting as chairman can make a decision on hours to be binding on both parties. The only alternative in the past has been for the parties to the dispute to request Parliament to make an appropriate amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act in respect of hours. The Labor Council of New South Wales expressed some dissatisfaction with that state of affairs and approached the Minister at the time, now the Minister for Education, and suggested an appropriate amendment to the Act under which any matter concerning the reduction of hours could be arbitrated upon by the commission, or a commissioner when a committee is sitting in consideration of any award or in a dispute, when the committee would be chaired by a commissioner. The Labor Council further suggested that should the parties fail to agree on a question of hours a commissioner could be empowered to make a decision. The Minister agreed wholeheartedly and said that he would seek the authority of the Government for **such** an amendment.

The Government had agreed that this ought to be done but the terms and conditions of the bill are different from those envisaged by the Labor Council at the time of the application. Indeed, they are quite different from what the Minister agreed to at that time. They are totally unacceptable to the Labor Council and the Labor Party. I believe that this measure could bring about a situation I am sure the Government does not want. The bill makes it mandatory

for anyone seeking a reduction in the working week to apply to the Industrial Commission in court session. It could be a case involving one small employer and a few of his employees; it could be one employer with only one employee, but they are bound by this legislation just as is the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited or any other major employer. Everyone will be so bound. Any employer who wishes to make an agreement to work any number of hours fewer than forty a week will be under the threat of a \$1,000 fine—probably for each week worked on reduced hours—unless the Industrial Commission in Court Session after taking into account the economic effects, ratifies the agreement.

Because of the major ramifications surrounding any individual case, instead of industrial advocates appearing on behalf of the unions, a silk would have to be retained. The legislation will make it virtually impossible for any union or any group of workers, any employers, or even any one employer to effect a reduction of the working week in any industry. Some say that a reduction of hours is inflationary; some say that in no circumstances should the working week be reduced. The rag trade—to give it the name it calls itself—has adequately demonstrated during the past eight years that a reduction in the working week brings about a great increase in productivity. The rag trade generally has reduced the working week from forty hours to thirty five or thirty six hours; it has reduced the number of days worked in a week from five to four. As a result, production from each employee has increased amazingly. This type of incentive has demonstrated its worth.

I could quote the cases of many employees who have made such arrangements by sitting around a table with their employers discussing this issue and reaching agreement. In the future, these conferences will be useless unless the agreement is brought before the full bench of the Industrial Commission in Court Session and ratified after the economic consequences have been taken into account. The legislation will be a brake on whatever improvements may flow from this type of arrangement which, in the past,  
*Mr Quinn]*

has proved to be highly successful. The brake will be applied and we may expect that no longer will such arrangements be entered into. The passage of this measure will prohibit them. In the future any employer who says to even one of his employees, "You may work thirty nine hours a week", will be in breach of the Act and liable to a fine of \$1,000. Any group of workmen who wish to approach their boss will know that it is useless to do so. The employer will be precluded by this measure from doing anything to reduce working hours. Indeed, he will be fined if he does so. The Government will have brought about a state of affairs totally unacceptable to the union movement.

We are completely opposed to the bill, which will not be tolerated by the trade union movement generally. I urge the Minister, if he has any consideration for what may happen in the future, not to proceed with this legislation today. He should let the whole thing die and forget about the date 11th October. Negotiations have been entered into in the past couple of months; conferences have been held and agreements entered into but not registered. As a result of the bill, they may never be registered. These agreements have been brought about not by strike action or by holding the country to ransom; they have been reached by reasonable discussion between the parties. I urge the House to reject the bill and support the Opposition when it votes against the second reading.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Hills.

#### **BILL RETURNED**

The following bill was returned from the Legislative Council without amendment:

#### **General Loan Account Appropriation Bill**

*[Mr Speaker left the chair at 3.45 p.m. The House resumed at 4.33 p.m.]*

#### **BILL RETURNED**

The following bill was returned from the Legislative Council without amendment:

**Money-lenders and Infants Loans (Amendment) Bill**

## ADJOURNMENT

RETIREMENT OF THE CLERK OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—CAMDEN  
DISTRICT HOSPITAL—GOULBURN  
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Mr WILLIS (Earlwood), Minister for Education [4.33]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

In moving the adjournment I do not wish to traverse the ground already covered today, but I believe that those honourable members who spoke earlier were unaware of an impending event to which no reference was made—the probable retirement of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr I. P. K. Vidler, prior to the date on which the House will resume in February. Therefore as Leader of the House I should like to pay tribute to the very wonderful service that Mr Vidler has rendered to the Parliament as a servant of the Legislative Assembly. As an officer of this House he has befriended himself to all of us. When I came to this Parliament nearly twenty-four years ago Mr Vidler was Second Clerk-Assistant and over the years since then I have received a lot of service from him. On many occasions I have been in his debt for his greatly respected advice and guidance on the ways of the Legislative Assembly.

In more recent times as Leader of the House I have had a close and happy relationship with Mr Vidler. I thought it proper that on the eve of his retirement from service to the Parliament some kind words should be said on behalf of all honourable members. I am quite sure that everybody in this House, including those recently elected, share my views. I take this opportunity on behalf of all honourable members of saying to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Vidler, that we wish him a very happy retirement and express to him our gratitude for his service to us all over the many years he has been associated with this Chamber.

Mr FERGUSON (Merrylands), Deputy Leader of the Opposition [4.36]: The disclosure in the statement just made by the Minister for Education comes as a complete surprise to members of the Opposition. On behalf of members on this side of the House I should like to say that we have appreciated the work performed by Mr Vidler as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. At some later time we should like to have the opportunity to indicate to him in a practical way our appreciation of his services. We wish him well in his retirement.

Mr SPEAKER: I have very special reasons for endorsing those remarks but Mr Vidler has intimated to me quite clearly that he does not wish the House to expand on this subject.

Mr MALLAM (Campbelltown) [4.38]: I rise to speak on the adjournment following an answer that the Minister for Health has given to a question I placed on the *Questions and Answers* paper. Originally I asked this question in August and I asked it again in December when the House resumed. I asked the Minister:

What was the number and classification of staff on duty on each of the shifts on 7 August, 12 August and 15 August, 1973, at (a) Camden Hospital; (b) Hornsby Hospital; (c) Canterbury Hospital; (d) Liverpool Hospital; and (e) North Shore Hospital?

I asked that question with a view to ascertaining just what the position was at those hospitals at a time when a serious mishap occurred in the Camden area. The Minister replied:

The details requested are not readily available and could only be made available by a considerable amount of research which, it is felt, would be unwarranted. I can assure the honourable member that there is adequate staff at the hospitals mentioned and that the hospitals are efficiently administered.

This Minister is not inexperienced. He has been here for a long time. Surely he read the report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 28th November which pointed out quite clearly that a shortage of staff existed at Camden Hospital. Surely the Minister read

of the serious accident that occurred recently in the **Camden** district when through shortage of staff the **Camden** Hospital was unable to cope with the injured people and accident victims had to be turned away.

Shortage of staff is the story throughout hospitals in the western suburbs. It was admitted in the newspapers on 28th November, following this serious accident when twenty-one people were injured and the hospitals were swamped, that hospitals throughout this area, particularly the **Camden** hospital, did not have enough staff. Ever since I have been a member of this House I have been trying to get a hospital for Campbelltown. I take a serious view of a Minister answering a question of that sort in such a cavalier manner. The Minister should not do that. When a question is asked——

Mr WADDY: On a point of order. I understand that the purpose of the adjournment debate is to allow an honourable member to raise some matter of immediate importance.

Mr MALLAM: This is a matter of immediate importance.

Mr WADDY: You be quiet for a minute. I understand that the purpose of the adjournment debate is to allow an honourable member to raise a matter of great importance that is happening at the present time. For some unknown reason the honourable member prefers to use the adjournment debate to make an attack on me. Quite frankly, I do not think that is a proper subject for debate on the adjournment. I am happy to stand up to any attack that he likes to make on me in a proper form, but I submit that the debate on the adjournment is not the proper time to do that.

Mr SPEAKER: The matter that concerns me is that the honourable member for Campbelltown put a written question on notice on the *Questions and Answers Paper* asking what appears to be substantially the same question, and that question was in fact answered. It is a standing rule of the House that it is not in order for an honourable member to repeat in substance a question to which an answer has already been given

*Mr Mallam]*

or declined. The honourable member for Campbelltown might not be satisfied with the answer that was given to that question on notice, but it seems to me that he is now endeavouring, in effect, to ask the same question for the second time because he is dissatisfied with the answer that was given.

Mr MALLAM: On the point of order. That is not entirely the case. It is a case of the inaccuracy of answers to a question that I asked. I want to bring the Minister's attention to the fact that the answer was a complete lie. I want to bring to his attention the fact——

Mr WADDY: Are you talking on the point of order?

Mr MALLAM: Yes.

Mr WADDY: Would you address on the point of order?

Mr MALLAM: I referred to the fact that there is a shortage of staff——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member for Campbelltown whether in fact the matter that he is now raising is substantially the same matter as he raised before. My clear impression is that it is.

Mr MALLAM: What I am trying to get at is that there is a shortage of staff in the area.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the honourable member for Campbelltown to answer the question that I put to him. Is it substantially the same question or not?

Mr MALLAM: Substantially the same, but with this difference, Mr Speaker——

Mr SPEAKER: Then I rule that the honourable member may not raise this matter on the adjournment.

Mr BREWER (Goulburn) [4.43]: One matter that concerns me is the administration of health in the city and district of Goulburn. I believe that for some time the difficulties of communication between **Wollongong** and the **Tablelands** have been an obstacle to this administration. I know the Minister's department is doing everything possible to overcome this obstacle, but as the local member in close touch with health

problems and health administration in Goulburn, I believe the city of Goulburn should now have a sub-regional health administration, which would be of great benefit to the people of the district and must be provided in the reasonably near future. Both the Minister and the previous Minister, the Hon. A. H. Jago, have been most co-operative in health matters affecting Goulburn. I ask the Minister to give consideration to the development of a sub-regional health administration in Goulburn. Goulburn has a large base hospital and one of the best and most comprehensive mental hospitals in the State. There are hospitals also at Crookwell, Yass and other places throughout the area. I should like to hear the Minister's views on this important matter. I have not had the opportunity to warn him that I would bring it up at this stage, but I should imagine that as usual he has done his homework and will be able to give some indication of whether my thoughts and representations will be successful.

Mr WADDY (Kirribilli), Minister for Health [4.45]: In reply to the honourable member for Goulburn —

Mr MALLAM: He did not do any homework on the matter that I raised.

Mr WADDY: I did not need to do any homework on that.

[*Interruption*]

Mr WADDY: Would you be quiet? What you were trying to do was involve the staff of an important organization in getting out detailed material which would take literally hundreds of man-hours. I do not propose to use their services in that way when they can be better occupied. You did not even have the courtesy to tell me that you wanted to talk about the matter. Next time you want to raise a matter concerning my portfolio, have the courtesy to let me know beforehand of your intention.

[*Interruption*]

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Campbelltown to order.

Mr WADDY: I know that the Government is in the process of setting up regional health areas. I do not know what are the prospects for Goulburn; I have held this portfolio for only ten days and I am trying to catch up as quickly as I can with what is happening. A great many ramifications are involved in the honourable member's suggestion. I know that one regional centre has been established in the Riverina as a pilot scheme and from what I have seen since I have had the administration of the department I understand it has been working well. I shall certainly look at what the honourable member has suggested and find out whether it is included in the scheme put forward by my predecessor, who for eight and a half years administered this department in outstanding fashion and with much foresight in bringing improved medical treatment facilities to all parts of the State. I fully endorse his actions and I shall be happy to look at this question and tell the honourable member what I learn. I know the magnificent efforts made by the base hospital at Goulburn.

Mr FISCHER: Particularly at weekends.

Mr WADDY: I have not had occasion to be there at weekends. I know the honourable member is proud of the hospital and the way it has been developed. I shall certainly have a look at it in relation to this question of regional development. I am afraid I cannot give the honourable member an answer now, and I know he does not expect one immediately. A great deal of planning is going into regional medical activities in the State, and Goulburn could quite well be included in the scheme.

Might I personally extend my best wishes and seasonal felicitations to the Clerk who has been my good friend for the twelve years I have been here. I wish him happiness, long life and good health in his retirement.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 4.48 p.m. until Tuesday, 19th February, 1974, at 2.30 p.m.

**PRINTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The following questions upon notice and answers were distributed.

**WHEAT FREIGHT RATES**

Mr FISCHER asked the PREMIER AND TREASURER—

For each year since 1966–67—

- (1) What was the total subsidy paid by the New South Wales Government towards alleviating wheat freight rates?
- (2) (a) What was the New South Wales average payment per bushel of wheat transported, from the Government subsidy?
- (b) What is the equivalent metric average over the same period?

*Answer—*

(1)								\$000
1967–68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,104
1968–69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,827
1969–70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,462
1970–71	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,582
1971–72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,299
1972–73	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,453
(2)								
				(a)				(b)
				cents	per	bushel		cents per kilo
1967–68	..	..	..	4.8				0.18
1968–69	..	..	..	4.7				0.17
1969–70	..	..	..	5.7				0.21
1970–71	..	..	..	5.4				0.20
1971–72	..	..	..	5.6				0.21
1972–73	..	..	..	5.0				0.18

The figures shown under (1) between 1967–68 and 1971–72, inclusive, represent the combined sums paid by the State Treasury and the Rail Division, New South Wales Public Transport Commission. However, the figure in respect of 1972–73 was met entirely by the State Treasury.

**HEALTH RESEARCH**

Mr MALLAM asked the MINISTER FOR HEALTH—

- (1) Is the Health Commission at present carrying out experimental research into the differing health problems of socio-economic and ethnic groups?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of these experimental research projects?

*Answer—*

(1) The Division of Research and Planning of the Health Commission of New South Wales has recently undertaken some preliminary analyses of (1) health problems and (2) the use of different health services in three regions of the State. These studies focused on the use of hospital beds and casualty departments.

While this research is not aimed exclusively at estimating the differentials in the past use of health services by different socio-economic and ethnic groups, such differentials can be extracted from these studies, by making some very crude assumptions about how to define socio-economic status (in the absence of income data in Australian social research). It is also not the policy in New South Wales to explicitly seek ethnic status on admission to hospitals.

(2) With the urgent need to evaluate priorities for community health services in this State, it is expected that the Health Commission will undertake, in the near future, household interview surveys in different parts of the State, aimed at elucidating such aspects as (a) the current and past health problems of different communities; (b) consumer satisfaction with different hospital and health services; (c) past use and non-use of these health services by families, including families and individuals in different socio-economic ethnic and other groups; (d) consumer and provider perceptions of the needs for different health services in areas lacking basic health services.

#### **BARRACK POINT SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

Mr PETERSEN asked the **MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS** —

(1) Does the new Barrack Point sewerage treatment plant contain an emergency by-pass which provides for discharge of untreated effluent in emergencies into Little Lake at Warilla?

(2) If so—

- (a) Why is it considered necessary to discharge into Little Lake?
- (b) Why cannot it discharge into the open sea?

#### **Answer—**

(1) No, this is not correct. At no stage will the Board discharge untreated effluent into Little Lake.

The procedure is that under normal operating conditions in times of storm, one-half the sewage is given primary treatment and the other half given secondary treatment, and all of this is pumped through the outfall at Barrack Point, into the open sea.

(2) An emergency overflow has been provided, leading into an existing storm-water channel which eventually finds its way into Little Lake.

The sole purpose of this emergency overflow, which must be installed in all sewerage systems, is to provide against the unlikely event that all pumps will break down simultaneously. If this were to happen, it would be impossible to continue all the discharge quantity to Barrack Point.

Under these conditions, about one-quarter of the treated sewage would still be able to flow by gravity through the outfall into the ocean, with about three-quarters of the treated sewage effluent discharging into the stormwater drain. I wish to stress, however, that it is highly unlikely that this emergency overflow is ever likely to be used.



**KERRATACOCCUS ALGA IN SYDNEY WATER SUPPLY**

Mr BEDFORD asked the MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS—

(1) Is there an alga called *Kerratacoccus* present in the Sydney water supply?

(2) If so—

- (a) Is it **harmful** to humans?
- (b) Is there any known control measure?
- (c) Are controls being carried out and what are these controls?

*Answer—*

(1) An alga called *Kerratococcus* is present in the system of tunnels, aqueducts and open channels, collectively known as the Upper Canal, which flow to Prospect Reservoir. The Upper Canal serves a number of localities in the Campbelltown-Ingleburn-Liverpool area which takes supplies direct from this source.

The alga is not found anywhere else in the Sydney Water Supply.

(2) (a) It is harmless to humans but is aesthetically undesirable in that it causes tastes, and can lead to green stains on washing.

(b) *Kerratococcus* is particularly resistant to chlorine and to copper salts, and it is this resistance to chlorine which allows it to dominate the algal population of the Upper Canal, which is chlorinated.

Control is exercised by flushing to Prospect Lake where it cannot grow because of the absence of walls, to which it is normally attached. This however, provides only temporary relief. Control is also exercised by keeping to a minimum the nutrient levels in the water in the Upper Canal.

(c) Both these control measures are now being carried out and *Kerratococcus* numbers have dropped from a one time maximum of 30,000 per 100 millilitres to only 2,700 per 100 millilitres. The count is still falling.

**GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT IN ILLAWARRA AREA**

Mr PETERSEN asked the MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT—

What are the Government's plans for the introduction of an integrated rail and road government passenger transport system as recommended by the Illawarra Regional Development Committee?

*Answer—*

A Wollongong Area Transportation Study will be commenced in 1974 and will cover all aspects of transport in that area. The honourable member may be assured that the recommendations made by the Illawarra Regional Development Committee will be kept well in mind by the Study Team which will be under the auspices of the Urban Transport Advisory Committee.