

able dealing that have existed in the past in this State.

On motion by Mr. North, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.54 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 11th August, 1943.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

CHAIRMEN (TEMPORARY) OF COMMITTEES.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with Standing Order 31A, I have to announce that I have appointed as temporary Chairmen of Committees for the current session the following members:—Hon. V. Hamersley, Hon. G. Fraser and Hon. H. Seddon. Mr. W. R. Hall accepted the position of temporary chairman during the absence from the State on Air Force duty of Mr. Fraser on the understanding that the latter, on his return, would be reappointed.

MOTION—COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

As to Election by Ballot.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (2.21): I move—

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Sessional Committees during the present session:—

Standing Orders.—The President, the Chairman of Committees, the Chief Secretary, Hon. C. F. Baxter and Hon. H. S. W. Parker.

Library.—The President, Hon. C. F. Baxter and Hon. E. M. Heenan.

Printing.—The President, Hon. E. H. Gray and Hon. W. J. Mann.

Joint House.—The President, Hon. J. Cornell, Hon. E. H. Gray, Hon. V. Hamersley and Hon. G. W. Miles.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South): I gave notice yesterday that I intended to oppose the motion and, with the consent of the majority of members, to amend it so that we shall have a ballot. I take it for granted that everybody understands that I have no personal objection to any of the members suggested for the committees. They would probably do good work in an honorary capacity, but I do object to our having foisted on us committees in the election of which we have no say. We have the right, Sir, to elect you as President and the right to choose our Chairman of Committees, but when it comes to other committees the members are chosen and appointed for us. I think it will be realised that if Mr. Gray does his work half as well as he is paid to do it, he has quite enough to do.

Hon. H. S. W. Parker: He is an Honorary Minister.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: He is an Honorary Minister getting paid to do his work, yet he is on two committees. Apparently it is considered that no other member has the capabilities of Mr. Gray. Again, Mr. Baxter is on two committees. No wonder he is ill—when he has so many jobs. The President is ex officio on all committees and Mr. Cornell is ex officio on one committee. As a matter of fact, Mr. Cornell is on three committees, one of which does not appear in this list. He is on the Gardens Committee which I believe is an off-shoot of some other committee. That is not right. I am not seeking any of these jobs. I do not want a seat on any one of the committees, though, if I had to do any of the work, I would do it the same as other hon. members.

My point is that the House should elect committees and not have them appointed and have it laid down that we should do this and that. I have been here 16 years and this sort of thing has gone on all the time. It occurs when we appoint managers to confer with those representing another place. As soon as this House votes against some proposal, the Government decides it wants a conference. It advises us who has been appointed to attend the conference and this House has not the opportunity to select its representatives unless some member asks for a ballot. Ordinarily nobody likes to ask for a ballot because to do so seems to be casting a reflection on members who have been appointed. I believe the work of these committees should be spread amongst mem-

bers and that the House should have an opportunity to say who shall serve on the committees, just as it has the opportunity to say who shall be President and who shall be Chairman of Committees. I move an amendment—

That all the words after “That” at the beginning of the motion be struck out, and the words “the members to serve on the standing committees in accordance with Standing Order 34 be appointed by ballot” inserted in lieu.

I agree that it is time our Standing Orders were amended so that those to be appointed shall not be named as in the past. We should appoint them by ballot.

HON. W. R. HALL (North-East—on amendment): I second the amendment. In my opinion the House should exercise jurisdiction from time to time in the appointment of such members as are deemed fit to act on the various committees. I know of no other institutions or organisations in regard to which the method adopted in this House is followed in the appointment of committees. Respecting road boards and municipal councils, members themselves appoint the men to act on their finance committees or works committees. As a matter of principle, the amendment should be supported. I do not for one moment doubt the good work that has been carried out by those who have been nominated for appointment to the standing committees of this House, but I claim that an opportunity should be given to every member to change the personnel of the committees if so desired. With that object in mind, I support the amendment.

Point of Order.

Hon. J. Cornell: I do not wish to burke discussion, but I would like to know, Mr. President, if you regard the appointment of these sessional committees as formal business.

The President: I consider that, according to the Standing Orders, the appointment of members of committees should take precedence over the Address-in-reply debate. If members will turn to Standing Order 34, they will see that it reads—

At the commencement of each session the Council shall appoint the undermentioned number of members to serve on the following committees:—

I take it that that Standing Order over-rides or rather explains Standing Order 15, which reads—

Except as provided by these Standing Orders or by leave of the Council, no business beyond

what is of a formal character or unopposed shall be entered upon before the Address-in-reply has been adopted.

I regard Standing Order 34 as covered by the words “except as provided by these Standing Orders.” These provide that this business should precede the Address-in-reply.

Hon. J. Cornell: That means it is formal.

The President: That is so.

Debate Resumed.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central—on amendment): I congratulate Mr. Williams on his action in bringing this matter forward. I accept his statement that he has no complaint to make against any member who has served on committees of the House. It should not be necessary to emphasise the vital principle at stake. Mr. Williams stated that principle clearly and briefly when he pointed out that the House elected the President and that members as a whole had the opportunity to elect the Chairman of Committees. Why we should continue to tolerate—I use that word advisedly—in the democratic country where we live and under our democratic system the method that successive Governments have pursued in this Chamber—I understand it applies in another place—of nominating the members of the various committees, I do not know. There is a principle involved, but we shall have to bow to the will of the majority. Personally, I have no complaint to make against any member who has served on committees in the past, but I think that, as far as possible, an endeavour should be made to afford every member an opportunity to make himself conversant with the work of Parliament through these committees by appointment to one or other of them. Such a change will be all to the good.

HON. J. CORNELL (South—on amendment): I have no objection to the practice of many years being altered, but I think it should be effected in a proper manner. Any such change should be brought about by amending the Standing Orders to set out that at the commencement of each session the committees should be appointed by ballot. If we are to depart from the present custom, that is the course that should be pursued. I submit that the amendment is not in order. The motion provides for the inclusion of the President on all committees and for the Chairman of Committees on one committee. The amendment provides for

striking out all the words embodied in the motion after the word "that," and substituting words the effect of which would mean that the personnel of each committee would be determined by ballot. In order to make the amendment apply, it will have to be altered.

Hon. C. B. Williams: My amendment must be in conformity with the Standing Orders.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It should be framed in conformity with them, but the Standing Orders provide that the Chairman of Committees shall be a member of one particular committee.

Hon. C. B. Williams: And the President is ex officio a member of all committees.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Exactly. But if the amendment is carried the House might elect all the members of the committee and remove the President or myself, in my capacity as Chairman of Committees. Unless there is some alteration in the proposal, that might be the result. Under Standing Order 34, four members are to be appointed to serve on the House Committee, for instance.

Hon. C. B. Williams: On a point of order: I do not wish to burke discussion either, but—

The PRESIDENT: I must ask Mr. Williams to resume his seat. After Mr. Cornell has concluded his remarks, Mr. Williams will have an opportunity to speak.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I am concerned with the amendment as placed before the House. I submit there is no need to elect all the members by ballot.

Hon. C. B. Williams: That is correct.

Hon. J. CORNELL: But that is not provided for in the amendment. Mr. Williams wants others to do that for him.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I have Standing Order 34 in mind.

Hon. J. CORNELL: So have I, and I am discussing the motion and the amendment as they are before the House. The House is to proceed to elect these committees by ballot, whereas the Standing Orders unquestionably appoint the President and also the Chairman of Committees. I do not know how Mr. Williams proposes to overcome that difficulty. To give effect to the motion, the Standing Orders provide that at the commencement of each session the Council shall appoint a certain number of members to the various committees, excepting those members

whose appointment to the committees is provided for by the Standing Orders.

The PRESIDENT: Does the hon. member ask for my ruling?

Hon. J. Cornell: Yes, as to whether the amendment is strictly in order at this stage.

The PRESIDENT: I rule that unquestionably the amendment is in order. If the amendment be carried, it will not affect the position of the President as being a member ex officio of all the committees, nor will it affect the position of the Chairman of Committees as regards being a member of the Standing Orders Committee. It will mean that in accordance with the Standing Orders the President will be a member ex officio of all committees, and the Chairman of Committees a member ex officio of the Standing Orders Committee. Further, it will mean that elections will be held for those members who are not ex officio members of the committees. I rule that the amendment is in order.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (on amendment): There can be no question that Mr. Williams is quite in order in endeavouring to amend the motion I have moved; but I would like to point out to the hon. member that by so doing he is breaking away from what has been the Parliamentary practice for very many years.

Hon. W. R. Hall: That will not make much difference.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I agree. The practice has been in force, not only in this Parliament, but in every Parliament of the Commonwealth and, I believe, also the Imperial Parliament. It is a procedure which has been followed for very many years, and has been found to be perfectly satisfactory in all those Parliaments. Our Standing Orders simply provide that these committees shall be appointed, and certainly do not provide any method by which they shall be appointed.

Hon. W. R. Hall: The Standing Order does not say who shall be appointed.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: If the hon. member will keep quiet for a moment, he will see that I am coming to the very point he is trying to raise. It is not a question of the Minister appointing the members of the committees at all, and neither is it a question of the Government having erred as suggested by Mr. Hall, and no Government has interfered in this matter as suggested by him.

Hon. W. R. Hall: On a point of order. I did not suggest that any Government had appointed members.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: I should have made it plain that I referred to the Hon. E. H. H. Hall. It is not a question of a Minister taking any action at all. It is this House which takes action, and this House is master of its own business. If it does not like the method by which committees are appointed, any member can rise in his place to state the position as he sees it to the House, and if he can convince a majority of members in the House at the time that his views are correct, no doubt the House will agree with him. I do not think anyone objects to a ballot on principle. I rose merely to point out that if we agree to a ballot on this occasion, we shall be departing from what has been Parliamentary practice for very many years indeed.

Hon. C. B. Williams: We will set a new precedent.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: Then there is a right way of going about it. I hold that the right way is that which has been pointed out by the Chairman of Committees. I understand that hitherto the practice has been to endeavour to provide that the membership of the various committees shall be representative of the various sections of the Chamber.

Hon. J. Cornell: That is the point.

The CHIEF SECRETARY: And, in addition, that those appointed to the committees shall be prepared to accept the positions and be prepared to carry out the duties that go with them. In order to carry out the suggestion of Mr. Williams we shall have to amend the Standing Orders. I have no doubt that the Standing Orders Committee will take into consideration whatever decision the House may arrive at on the motion and amendment before the Chair at the present time.

HON. H. L. ROCHE (South-East—on amendment): I support the amendment, and I hold with Mr. E. H. H. Hall that Mr. Williams is to be congratulated on presenting the matter to us as he did. This is not the first we have heard of the subject. I believe Mr. Williams ventilated it last session. Although it is a matter of opinion whether it would be more desirable to pro-

ceed on other lines in order to achieve the object in view, if the House did decide on such an amendment of the Standing Orders as suggested by Mr. Cornell, the matter would have to be deferred for another 12 months before the decision of the Chamber could be acted upon. This amendment is not aimed at individuals. The mover of it seeks only to maintain a principle to which, I believe, practically all public men in this country subscribe—the right of such appointments being subject to election by the people affected. I am not greatly concerned myself as to whether some hoary old Spanish custom has grown up or been accepted or practised. If, in the opinion of the majority of this Chamber, an improvement can be effected, then I hold that it is only right and proper that we should amend the existing procedure or practice which has been handed down from time immemorial. It is not that any member desires appointment to these committees. There is no special prestige attaching to them. However, it is the right of this House, just as it is the right of any representative assemblage in the community, to elect those people by whom it wishes to be represented.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Metropolitan-Suburban—on amendment): I cannot follow what the trouble is about. The Standing Orders are very clear. They say that the Council shall appoint these standing committees, four of which are provided for. The Chief Secretary has moved that certain committees shall consist of certain members. I take it that any member may vote whichever way he likes when the motion is put, either for it or against it, or can amend it. He can put forward the names of other members if he likes in lieu of those named in the motion. That is the only difference I can see between the motion and that which Mr. Williams desires. Apparently all that Mr. Williams wants is the right to exercise his vote, and already he has that right.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I object to these committees being handed to me as if I have to agree to the names mentioned.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER: In the past the members of these committees have always been named. If they were not named a certain amount of confusion would arise because possibly members of the House would be nominating a number of different persons. This method has proved satisfac-

tory in the past. I have never known anyone to object to any member who has been proposed to serve on one of these committees. The Chief Secretary is only proposing that these members shall form the committees in question, and it is competent for any member to move an amendment. The present practice is a good one.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan—on amendment): At the beginning of last session I expressed the opinion—I still hold strongly to it—that it was desirable there should be frequent changes in the personnel of these standing committees. I do not suggest that we can improve upon the present personnel. Indeed, I do not think we could have better committees than we now have, but it does seem desirable that newly elected members should be given an opportunity to take greater interest in the proceedings of this House and should from time to time be elected to these committees. I am not supporting the amendment for this reason: The Chief Secretary in nominating these committees is always very careful to see that as far as possible the different sections of political opinion in the House are represented in each case. If the ballot system were adopted, that factor would possibly disappear, and it might happen that only one section of political thought was elected to these committees. I am sure that is something no one would desire.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	8
Noes	12

Majority against 4

AYES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. C. B. Williams

(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. V. Hamersley
Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. C. R. Cornish	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. F. E. Gibson	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. W. J. Mann

(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

As to Procedure.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I draw attention to the fact that all parties interested in these

committees voted against my amendment. I should now like to move—

The President: The hon. member has already spoken to the question.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Am I not entitled to nominate any other member in opposition to those already named?

The President: The hon. member can move a further amendment.

Hon. J. Cornell: What amendment can the hon. member move? He moved an amendment, that all the words after “that” be struck out, and the House has resolved that those words should remain.

The President: The amendment which has just been defeated was to the effect that all the words after “that” be struck out. The House has decided that all the words after “that” shall not be deleted. I therefore take it that that is an affirmative vote in favour of the committees that have been nominated.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Very well, Mr. President.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	12
Noes	8

Majority for 4

AYES.

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch	Hon. W. H. Kitson
Hon. J. Cornell	Hon. W. J. Mann
Hon. C. R. Cornish	Hon. G. W. Miles
Hon. J. M. Drew	Hon. H. S. W. Parker
Hon. E. H. Gray	Hon. F. R. Welsh
Hon. V. Hamersley	Hon. F. E. Gibson

(Teller.)

NOES.

Hon. L. B. Bolton	Hon. J. G. Hislop
Hon. J. A. Dimmitt	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. E. H. H. Hall	Hon. G. B. Wood
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. C. B. Williams

(Teller.)

Question thus passed.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £2,500,000.

Standing Orders Suspension.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, resolved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Supply Bill to pass through its remaining stages at one sitting.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY [3.0] in moving the second reading said: The pur-

pose of this Bill, which is usually presented at the beginning of each session, is to provide supply to finance the services of the State until the Estimates are passed. These are being prepared and will be presented to Parliament as early as possible. The amount asked for by the Bill is as follows:—

Consolidated Revenue Fund ..	£2,000,000
General Loan Fund	200,000
Advance to Treasurer	300,000
Total	£2,500,000

These figures, compared with those submitted in last year's Supply Bill (No. 1), disclose that needs for this year's Bill have increased by £150,000, mainly on account of war exigencies, to meet increased expenditure in regard to civil defence, concession fares to soldiers, superannuation payments on behalf of State employees with the Defence Forces, war damage insurance, increased cost of transport, basic wage increases, cost of supplies, etc. War conditions have precluded expenditure of loan moneys for developmental work, and in this connection only essential requirements can be entertained.

Expenditure for the first three months of last year from Consolidated Revenue, not including that under special Acts, amounted to £1,922,120. Interest and sinking fund payments are permanently provided for and are included in expenditure under special Acts. The Advance to Treasurer is provided to meet special immediate expenditure that cannot for the time being be charged to votes or accounts. It was estimated last financial year that there would be a deficit of £33,810. The year, however, closed with a surplus of £24,436, being £58,246 better than the estimate.

The actual revenue received last year was £13,151,678, while the estimated revenue was £12,394,502, being an increase of £757,176.

That increase is made up as follows:—

	£
Taxation	16,928
Territorial	29,234
Business undertakings	620,227
Other	90,787

The actual expenditure last year was £13,127,242 and the estimated expenditure £12,428,312, showing an increase of £698,930.

In this case the increase is accounted for as follows:—

	Increases.	Decreases.
	£	£
Interest .. ..	..	31,888
Sinking Fund .. ..	..	596
Exchange .. ..	..	2,833
Social Expenditure .. ..	..	42,128
Pensions .. ..	..	8,587
Other Public Works	129,177	..
Business Undertakings	402,159	..
Other	253,626	..
	784,962	86,032
Less decreases	86,032	
Net increase	698,930	

The main increases in revenue and expenditure are the result of increased activities in business undertakings created by present-time conditions. All aspects of the finances are carefully watched, and economies effected whenever possible. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3.8]: I am sure it must be pleasing to every member of this Parliament to find that at the opening of this session, the war position is so much better than when we finished our deliberations last session. At that time there is no doubt that the initiative was with the enemy, but today the Germans, Italians and Japanese are being repulsed in their attacks and steadily pushed back from the frontiers which they held when Parliament adjourned. We appreciate the gallantry of all the Services. We appreciate the tremendous efforts of the mighty Russian army and the incalculable benefits that the Allied Nations are deriving from its powerful efforts. The British, United States and Dominion Forces have, since we last met, cleared North Africa of the enemy and at this moment they have reduced resistance in Sicily to small dimensions. I think we can safely look forward

to the elimination of Italy in the not too distant future. The American and Australian Forces in the Pacific have changed the whole outlook, and today we can look forward to the finish of the Pacific war within measurable distance.

Hon. G. B. Wood: What do you mean by that?

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: When we closed our last session of Parliament, the end was not in view. I think it will be the opinion now of every member that we can see the time when this war will end, and that is not too far ahead. Australia must be ever grateful to the Mother Country and to our Allies. The debt we owe to the United States of America is one that this Commonwealth of ours can never repay. I am afraid that without the help which Australia obtained from the United States Forces we would have been in the same position as Malaya and Singapore. So, let us be thankful to all those who helped us, and appreciative of the efforts of our Fighting Forces and those of our Allies. Let us not overlook the praise that is due to those who stayed behind in Australia in order to provide material for war.

My remarks on the Speech delivered by His Excellency will be brief. I intend to confine myself to three points. Reference is made to the fact that revenue exceeded expenditure for the third successive year. This is a matter for congratulation and satisfaction. But I wonder whether these three surpluses are sufficiently great to make up the leeway caused by reducing expenditure on essential maintenance. The Speech states that some provision to cover the arrears of maintenance has been made, and one has only to look at our trams, trains, omnibuses and ferries to see that they are not in anything like a satisfactory condition. In fact, the rolling-stock of the various units of the Government-owned transport services in this State are in such a state of disrepair that it must make the engineers and others in charge of maintenance extremely unhappy. The same may be said of Government buildings, which have deteriorated over the past four years to such an extent that it will necessitate a large amount of money to recondition them.

In fact, many of the capital assets of this State have depreciated to such alarming proportions through lack of maintenance as to cause grave concern to us all. I am not

blaming the Government for this set of conditions, nor do I blame the departmental heads. What must be the concern not only of Parliament but of the public as a whole, is whether sufficient reserves have been built up to meet the immense cost that will be incurred in restoring the country's capital assets to something like their pre-war condition and value. The Chief Secretary in his reply may be able to indicate what provision has been made for maintenance. By that I mean that, year by year, the Government departments have, by experience, built up records and they know just what will be the average cost of maintenance for each and every service. I just wonder whether the difference between the amount spent on maintenance during the past three years and the amount set aside as stated in His Excellency's Speech is sufficient to meet the enormous cost that must be faced in reconditioning and restoring to their former value, buildings, transport vehicles and the various Government-owned concerns.

Reference is made in the Speech to gold-mining. We all realise that this industry should make a very important contribution to re-employment after the war. The Speech states—

Every endeavour is being made to preserve this great industry so that after the war it will be able to play the valuable part expected of it in absorbing men and producing wealth. I am afraid that whatever endeavour has been made to maintain this industry, it has not been very effective. No-one blames the State Government for that set of conditions. The present position of the mining industry has been brought about partly by war conditions but very largely by the policy of the Commonwealth Minister for War Organisation of Industry, who places so little value on the part that gold is likely to play in world finance. I do not want to steal the thunder of members who represent provinces in the goldfields areas, but I know that many of the mines that previously provided a good deal of employment and produced a good deal of wealth have been denuded of their plant. From many mines have been taken steam engines, Diesel engines and electric generating plants, which have been moved hundreds and, in some instances, thousands of miles from the previous scenes of operation.

The result is that many of the mines that have been substantial employers of labour

and producers of wealth are today nothing more than skeletons of their former selves. One wonders whether those mines will ever be capable of returning to production. They will certainly not be capable of resuming production immediately after the war. In the circumstances, I wonder whether mining will play the important part expected of it in the re-employment of our men. Unless some more determined effort is made to save the industry and preserve gold-mining, I am afraid it will not play the part we hope it will. I do not know whether the Mines Department is building up any records of the plant that has been moved from gold-producing mines, great and small, but I submit as a suggestion to the Government that unless steps are taken to provide for helping mine-owners either to repossess or replace this plant, the mining industry will not be the help we hope in the period immediately after the war.

Education is referred to in the Speech. It is pleasing to note the announcement of the Government's intention to initiate legislation to raise the school leaving age from 14 to 15 years, but the proviso to the paragraph making the extension apply "at a convenient time" is much too loose to please either members of this House or the general public. Indeed, I think it would be the consensus of opinion of the public generally that the school leaving age be raised to 16 instead of 15 years. However, an increase of one year will be a step in the right direction, and I am satisfied that legislation to this effect will meet with the approval of both Houses. I feel sure that both Parliament and the public will resent any delay. Money is found for other purposes and money must be found for education. Our system of education has very definitely lagged behind the systems of other States and other countries.

The Chief Secretary: Not at all.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: I believe that any educationist would agree with my statement. However, I believe it to be true. In my opinion, the Government would be ill-advised to be indefinite about the date for introducing this reform. No matter how difficult it may be, let us make this session the "convenient time" for raising the school leaving age.

Hon. G. B. Wood: You cannot raise it in the twinkling of an eye. Extra buildings will be required.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: Cannot we make provision this session and not defer it till a convenient time? Members know that convenient times seldom come. There is always something cropping up to permit of the excuse that the time is not convenient.

Hon. G. B. Wood: But we must have buildings and provision of that sort.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT: A decision should be made immediately and not deferred till a convenient time. The children of today are going to be faced with a much harder life than any of us experienced, and unless we equip them adequately for the battle of life, we shall definitely fail in our duty to them. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

On motion by Hon. L. B. Bolton, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.15 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.24 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 11th August, 1943.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (4).

SWAN VIEW TUNNEL.

As to Report on Mishap.

Mr. TRIAT asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the report of Ventilation Inspector Lloyd on the Swan View tunnel cannot be completed until the Railway Department makes available to Mr. Lloyd, the results of gas tests taken in the inquiry by the inspector? 2, Is he aware