LIVESTOCK BILL

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it.

Leave granted.

The Livestock Bill, which is the culmination of 20 months joint effort by representatives of the State's livestock industries and Government, represents a major step forward in the regulation of the State's livestock industries. It supports opportunities for the livestock industries to position themselves as safe and wholesome providers of food to our local and export markets. The Bill is a result of this joint approach and is designed to meet the needs of livestock producers, processors and service sectors in the 1990's.

The major effect of this Bill is the consolidation of eight Acts into the one Act, to be called the Livestock Act. This step alone will significantly enhance the administration of livestock legislation, thereby enabling Government to focus public expenditures into activities beneficial to livestock industries.

The Bill incorporates support for a number of important national agreements, thereby ensuring that South Australia is in harmony with livestock legislation enacted, or to be enacted, elsewhere in Australia. In addition, these changes ensure that South Australia complies with national agreements on the control of and funding for exotic diseases and vendor liability.

This Bill contains effective controls in relation to contaminants (residues). Contaminants are becoming a major trade issue in livestock products and their control is essential if South Australia is to retain its reputation as a supplier of high quality and clean livestock products.

The Bill also provides Government with the ability to investigate and control any disease or contaminant that has the ability to affect the health of livestock or native or feral animals, or the marketability of livestock or livestock products. With the continuing emergence of serious new conditions in livestock, such as equine morbillivirus in Queensland last year, the ability of Government to quickly and effectively investigate, and if necessary control, a new potential threat to productivity of the State's livestock industries or marketability of livestock products is essential.

Fish health is incorporated into this Bill, which will ensure that the control of diseases and contaminants of this rapidly emerging sector continues to receive a high priority from Government. This is a step forward in ensuring the continued preservation of the productivity and market access for this important sector, especially aquaculture.

Under the Bill, each of the livestock sectors are offered the opportunity of establishing a livestock advisory group. These groups will advise the Government directly on a number of matters affecting the sector that they represent, including the establishment of a self-funding capacity, codes of practice and vendor warranties. Through this mechanism, the livestock industries have opportunity to actively contribute to the management of their own industry. This is in keeping with the Government's philosophy of fostering self regulation.

The State's livestock industries are also offered the opportunity in the Livestock Act to undertake self-funding for areas they consider important to develop for the well-being of the industry. Due to the State's relatively small size in a number of mainstream livestock industries, it is important that the State's livestock industries be able to develop and position themselves within the global marketplace to take advantage of any strategic advantages they may have. The provision of a self-funding capability to them will enable this to occur.

The Livestock Act will provide South Australia with additional controls over the feeding of livestock, equivalent to those found anywhere else in Australia. The controls are designed to prevent, for example, an outbreak of mad cow disease.

The Bill contemplates vendor liability provisions being prescribed by regulation. This is an important step forward in risk management for livestock producers and processors. These provisions enable buyers of livestock and livestock products to determine risk of market or production limiting conditions before the sale is transacted, with the confidence of knowing that if there is no remedy available to them if the product is found not to be in the condition described. This will place South Australia at the forefront as a supplier of safe livestock and livestock products.

Several benefit/cost analyses have been conducted during the preparation of this Bill. For each of these, the benefits to the community as a whole have been shown to substantially outweigh their associated costs. In applying this Act to particular diseases or contaminants consideration will be given to a number of parameters including risk and benefit/cost analyses. This will ensure maximum return to South Australia on expenditure for the control of diseases and contaminants. For example, the benefits to the community of imposing controls on virulent footrot in sheep within South Australia exceed the costs incurred by the community of doing so by a factor of 17:1. More extensive and exhaustive benefit cost analyses conducted in Victoria gave similar benefit/cost ratios for legislation which is substantially the same as that contained in this Bill.

I commend the Bill to Honourable Members.

Examination of Clauses

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Clause 1: Short title
Clause 2: commencement
Clause 3: Interpretation

This clause defines terms for the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 4: Interpretation—notifiable condition and exotic disease

The Minister may declare particular diseases and contaminants (caused residues in the Stock Act) to be notifiable conditions for the purposes of the Bill. Special provisions apply in Part 4 Division 1 of the Act.

Clause 5: Interpretation—livestock etc. affected or suspected of being affected with a disease or contaminant

This clause assigns a meaning to the terminology used throughout the Bill about livestock or other property affected with a disease or contaminant. It also provides that the Minister may declare periods in respect of which livestock that have been exposed to affected livestock will themselves be suspected of being affected. The later concept is similar to that of endangered stock under the Stock Act.

Clause 6: Interpretation—controlling or eradicating disease or contamination

This clause ensures that the concept of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination encompasses diagnosis, prevention, treatment, control and control in spread of disease, minimising risks etc. It is designed to overcome some of the difficulties associated with the terminology relevant to both disease and contamination.

Clause 7: Application of Act

This clause authorises Ministerial exemptions. It also ensures that civil remedies are unaffected by the provisions of the Bill.

PART 2

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT IN REGULATION

DIVISION 1—LIVESTOCK ADVISORY GROUPS

Clause 8: Establishment of livestock advisory groups

Livestock advisory groups may be formed for the various sectors of the industry to provide advice to the Minister. This is a new and innovative design to recognise the significant role that industry can play in determining relevant regulation and in fostering communication between government and industry.
Clause 9: Functions of livestock advisory groups

Advice is to be given to the Minister on the operation of the Bill and its impact on the sector of the industry. The Minister may seek advice on other issues related to the relevant sector of the industry.

Clause 10: Terms and conditions of membership and procedures

Appointments are to be made by the Minister and the Minister is to determine the terms and conditions of appointments.

Clause 11: Annual reports

Annual reports are required and are to be made available to industry.

DIVISION 2—INDUSTRY FUNDS

Clause 12: Establishment of funds

The Minister may establish a fund for a particular sector of the industry, on the recommendation of or after consultation with the relevant livestock advisory group. The provisions in this Division support self-funding schemes. The funds are designed to take the place of the funds maintained under the Apriaries Act 1931, the Castle Composition Act 1939, the Deer Keepers Acts 1987 and the Swine

Clause 13: Contributions to funds

The regulations are to prescribe the methods of collecting or paying money into funds. Constitutional limitations will apply to the rates established by regulation.

Clause 14: Application of funds

The regulations (or a trust deed incorporated or referred to in the regulations) will set out the purposes for which the funds may be used. These may include compensation schemes, services such as the testing service or other benefits.

Clause 15: Audit of funds

The Auditor-General is to audit the funds at least once each year.

DIVISION 3—INDUSTRY CODES OF PRACTICE

Clause 16: Codes of practice

This clause contemplates the establishment of sector specific codes of practice by regulation. The relevant livestock advisory group is to be consulted with a view to ensuring that any regulation is relevant and advantageous to industry.

It is, for example, intended that various of the provisions in the Apriaries Act, or the responsibilities to the management of hives and bees will be included in a code of practice.

PART 3

REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

This Part provides the framework for registration schemes for keeping livestock, artificial breeding and veterinary diagnostic laboratories. The schemes are to be supported by regulations. The resulting flexibility facilitates appropriate regulation of industry.

DIVISION 1—KEEPING LIVESTOCK

Clause 17: Registration for keep to certain livestock

The regulations may prescribe classes of livestock in respect of which registration is required.

Under current legislation registration is required for keeping deer (Apriaries Act, Deer Keepers Act). By enabling regulations to prescribe the classes of livestock, the matter can be kept under constant review and an appropriate response made to industry needs.

DIVISION 2—ARTIFICIAL BREEDING

Clause 18: Registration for artificial breeding

Registration is required for a business involving artificial breeding of livestock of a prescribed class. This is similar to the current requirement under regulations under the Stock Act.

Clause 19: Requirement for registration to perform artificial breeding procedures

Registration is required for the carrying out of an artificial breeding procedure. This does not apply to veterinarians. It is intended that regulations will exempt owners of livestock from the requirement for registration when carrying out certain artificial breeding procedures on the livestock. Registration is currently required under regulations under the Stock Act, for all procedures in relation to specified classes of livestock.

DIVISION 3—VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

Clause 20: Requirement for registration of veterinary diagnostic laboratories

The requirement for registration authorising operation of a veterinary diagnostic laboratory is similar to the current requirement under the Stock Act.

DIVISION 4—GENERAL

Clause 21: Eligibility for registration

This clause contemplates requirements for registration being stipulated in regulations.

Clause 22: Application for registration

This clause determines the process for applications.

Clause 23: Term of registration and renewal

The regulations are to specify the term of registration.

Clause 24: Conditions of registration

The regulations may impose conditions of registration, as may the Chief Inspector.

Clause 25: Periodic returns

The regulations may require registered persons to make periodic returns.

Clause 26: Suspension or cancellation of registration

The Chief Inspector is empowered to suspend or cancel registration if the person ceases to be eligible or commits an offence against the Bill.

PART 4

HEALTH OF LIVESTOCK

DIVISION 1—NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS

The Stock Act applies to diseases and residues (contaminants) declared by the Minister by Gazette notice. The reporting requirements and the provisions empowering inspectors to issue orders or take action both relate to declared diseases and residues. To ensure appropriate action can be taken many relatively minor conditions are declared and technically must be reported. The Bill limits the reporting requirements to the more serious conditions (declared as notifiable conditions under clause 4) while allowing action to be taken in relation to any disease or contaminant as necessary. This change is designed to facilitate owners and veterinarians distinguishing the conditions that are serious and to encourage compliance with the reporting requirement. Other serious offences are limited to notifiable conditions.

Clause 27: Requirement to report notifiable conditions

The owner or manager of livestock or livestock products is required to report notifiable conditions or a suspicion of a notifiable condition to an inspector. A veterinary surgeon or a livestock consultant is under a similar obligation.

This clause is similar to section 16 of the Stock Act, but extends the requirements to livestock establishments (stock agents or other persons who provide advice about livestock for fee or reward) and, as noted above, limits the reporting requirement to notifiable conditions.

Clause 28: Acts causing or likely to cause livestock to become affected with notifiable condition

This clause makes it a serious offence to do an act intending or being recklessly indifferent as to whether livestock become affected or further affected with a notifiable condition.

This clause is similar to section 13(2) of the Stock Act.

Clause 29: Bringing notifiable disease into State

This clause makes it an offence to bring a notifiable disease into the State without the approval of the Chief Inspector.

Clause 30: Movement of livestock or other property affected with notifiable condition

This clause makes it an offence to move livestock or livestock products affected with a notifiable condition into, out of or within the State.

The provision is similar to section 13 of the Stock Act.

Clause 31: Supply of livestock or livestock products affected with notifiable condition

This clause makes it an offence to sell or supply livestock or livestock products affected with a notifiable condition.

This provision is similar to current section 27 of the Stock Act.

Clause 32: Feeding of products that may cause livestock to become affected with notifiable condition

This clause makes it an offence to sell or supply livestock food that may cause livestock to become affected with a notifiable condition or to otherwise feed or facilitate the feeding of livestock with such food.

This provision is similar to section 28 of the Stock Act.

DIVISION 2—RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY OF LIVESTOCK OR OTHER PROPERTY

Clause 33: Prohibition on entry of livestock or other property absolutely or without required health certificate, etc.

The Minister is empowered to prohibit the entry into the State or a specified area of livestock, livestock products or other property by notice in the Gazette for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination. The measures can be preventative, ie, there is no need for any particular disease or contamination to be present.

The notice may require livestock or other property to be accompanied by a relevant health certificate.
The clause covers matters currently contained in sections 14 and 15 of the Stock Act and in the Apiculture Act.

DIVISION 3—INVESTIGATIONS

Clause 34: Investigation by Inspector

Like section 17 of the Stock Act this clause authorises investigations by inspectors. The power is extended to investigation of the cause of death or of a condition affecting livestock.

Clause 35: Investigation by owner or occupier of land

This clause allows the owner or occupier of land to detain and examine stock found on the land and to recover costs if the stock are found to be affected with a disease or contaminant. It is similar to section 18 of the Stock Act.

DIVISION 4—CONTROL OR ERADICATION OF DISEASE OR CONTAMINATION

Clause 36: Guidelines for taking action under this Division

Action may be taken under this Division to control or eradicate any disease or contamination affecting livestock. There is no need to prescribe the diseases or contaminations by Ministerial notice before action can be taken as is currently the case. This clause requires the Minister, Chief Inspector or inspector in taking action under the Division to have regard to the gravity of the consequences of the disease or contamination.

This clause also recognises the importance of the national strategies for exotic disease and allows other guidelines to be prescribed in or in relation to other diseases and contaminations.

The provisions in this Division rationalise the provisions in Part 3 of the Stock Act and provide a flexible system providing a range of powers to assist in the effective and efficient control of an outbreak of disease or contamination.

Clause 37: Gazette notices

The Minister is empowered to impose restrictions by Gazette notice for a specified period for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination. Schedule 1 sets out examples of the sorts of restrictions that may be imposed.

Section 25 of the Stock Act provided for proclamations covering similar matters in relation to exotic disease.

Clause 38: Application on default

An inspector is empowered to impose restrictions by individual order for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination if the inspector knows or has reason to suspect that livestock, livestock products or other property is affected or in danger of becoming affected with the disease or contaminant. The examples set out in Schedule 1 are also applicable to individual orders.

Compare sections 19 and 21 of the Stock Act.

Clause 39: Action in emergency situations

If a person refuses or fails to take action required under a notice or order, the inspector may take the action and the costs of doing so may be recovered.

Clause 40: Action in emergency situations

An inspector may take urgent action for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination without issuing an order or without the Minister having issued a notice. This is a new power to ensure a prompt response can be made where it is warranted.

Clause 41: Action where no person in charge and owner cannot be located

An inspector may also take action for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination where the owner of livestock or other property cannot be found and there is apparently no person in charge of the livestock or other property. The costs of taking the action may be recovered from the owner of the livestock or other property. Compare section 20 of the Stock Act.

Clause 42: Exercising powers in relation to native or feral animals

Native or feral animals may be treated or destroyed if necessary for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination. Before issuing an order in relation to native animals an inspector must seek the approval of the Chief Inspector. Powers may be exercised in relation to native animals despite the fact that they may be protected. Except in urgent circumstances the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources must be consulted before powers are exercised in relation to native animals. Compare section 29 of the Stock Act.

Clause 43: Limitation on destruction or disposal of livestock or other property

The approval of the Chief Inspector must be obtained for the destruction or disposal of livestock, livestock products, livestock food or equipment or articles used in relation to livestock and destruction or disposal of other property must be authorised by warrant of a magistrate.

This is similar to section 23 of the Stock Act except that section 23 requires the warrant of a justice rather than a magistrate and that requirement extends to livestock food and equipment or articles used in relation to livestock.

Clause 44: Limitation on proceedings in case of exotic disease

Like section 26 of the Stock Act this clause prevents legal action that may delay a prompt response to exotic disease.

DIVISION 5—IMPLIED CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS TO HEALTH OF LIVESTOCK

Clause 45: Implied contractual terms and conditions

This is a new initiative. It is contemplated that the regulations will establish terms and conditions for vendor declarations relating to the health of livestock, or the quality of livestock products or livestock food. The terms and conditions will determine the consequences that flow if the declaration is proved false in relation to some of the livestock, livestock products or livestock food. They will also set out qualifications for persons who may certify matters relevant to proving a declaration false.

The terms and conditions are to be implied into every contract. However, it will be up to the vendor to invoke the provisions by making the relevant declaration in individual cases.

The parties are to be free to vary or revoke the terms and conditions set out in the regulations.

DIVISION 6—MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 46: spell of prohibited products in certain circumstances

This clause prohibits feeding material from a placental mammal to livestock; feeding material from a ruminant to another ruminant; and feeding material that contains faeces (such as chicken litter) to livestock. This regulation is, in part, aimed at attempting to avoid problems such as mad cow disease.

A prohibition against swill feeding is currently contained in the regulations under the Stock Act.

PART 5

EXOTIC DISEASES ERADICATION FUND

This Part takes the place of the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act 1956. The provisions are consistent with an intergovernmental cost sharing agreement on exotic animal diseases.

Clause 47: Establishment of Fund

The Fund is to be kept as directed by the Treasurer and consists of money advanced under the cost sharing agreement or by the Treasurer.

Clause 48: Application of Fund

The Fund is to be applied to clean up operations and to compensation.

Clause 49: Claims for compensation from Fund

This clause sets out the amount of compensation payable in relation to livestock or other property destroyed in a program to control a declared exotic disease outbreak. In the case of livestock, this is the value of the livestock basically at the beginning of the outbreak or, if there has been an increase in the overall value of livestock owned by a particular claimant at the end of the outbreak, the value at that later date. The aim is to provide an amount of compensation that will allow the claimant to restock at the end of the outbreak.

In the case of property other than livestock, it is the value of the livestock at the time it is destroyed.

Clause 50: Procedure for making claim and determination of claim

Claims must be made within 90 days of the death or destruction of the livestock or other property. However, a top up claim may be made if the overall value of livestock owned by the claimant has increased at the end of the outbreak.

The Minister may refuse or reduce compensation if the claimant is convicted of an offence related to the outbreak.

The Chief Inspector is to assess the claim and inform the claimant of the amount determined.

Clause 51: Appeal against Chief Inspector’s determination of claim

The claimant has 21 days to appeal to the Minister against the Chief Inspector’s determination. The matter is to be determined by a panel (ie industry member, a valuer and a departmental nominee).

PART 6

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO BEES

Clause 52: Reservation of Kangaroo Island for pure Ligurian bees

This clause makes it an offence to keep in or bring into Kangaroo Island any bees other than Ligurian bees. This is similar to section 12 of the Apiculture Act.

Clause 53: Reservation of other areas for classes of bees by proclamation
This clause allows the Governor to reserve parts of the State for particular types of bees by proclamation. It is similar to section 13 of the Apiculture Act.

Clause 54: Prohibition against keeping bees in specified areas of State
This clause allows the Governor by proclamation to prohibit the keeping of bees in specified parts of the State to assist the dried fruits industry. It is similar to section 11 of the Apiculture Act.

PART 7
BRANDS

This Part takes the place of the Brands Act and the Branding of Pigs Act. The provisions are consolidated and simplified. All registration is to be for limited terms with renewal, to assist in keeping the registers up to date.

Clause 55: Registers of brands
This clause requires the Chief Inspector to keep registers for brands for prescribed classes of livestock.

Clause 56: Applications
This clause sets out the procedure for applications for registration.

Clause 57: Refusal to register brand
This clause enforces the regulations setting out requirements for registration of brands—e.g., brands for sheep must reflect the requirements for the district in which the sheep are usually kept. A brand is also required to be unique.

Clause 58: Term of registration of brand and renewal
The registrations are to determine the term of registration.

Clause 59: Exclusive use of registered brand
This clause sets out the right of the registered owner to exclusive use of a brand.

Clause 60: Transfer of ownership of registered brand
Transfer is to be with the consent of the Chief Inspector to enable the Chief Inspector to be satisfied that the relevant requirements of the regulations are compiled with in relation to the proposed new owner.

 Clause 61: Cancellation of registration of brand
Provisions for cancellation are included to enable the registration to be kept up to date.

Clause 62: Offence to use registered brand of another
This clause makes it an offence for a registered brand to be applied to livestock not belonging to the owner of the brand. It also makes it an offence to destroy or deface a registered brand mark.

PART 8
ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

DIVISION 1—ADMINISTRATION

Clause 63: Appointments
The Minister is to appoint a Chief Inspector, deputy Chief Inspectors and inspectors. The ability to appoint more than one deputy is new and is designed to facilitate exercise of the Chief Inspector's powers.

Clause 64: Identification of inspectors
An inspector is required to be issued with an identification card and to produce it for inspection at the request of the person to whom the inspector intends to exercise powers under this or any other Act.

Clause 65: Analysis
This clause contemplates approval of analyses by the Chief Inspector for the purposes of the evidentiary provisions of the Bill.

Clause 66: Delegations
This clause enables the Minister or Chief Inspector to delegate powers or functions.

Clause 67: Immunity from personal liability
This clause is the standard provision providing immunity for acts in good faith to an inspector or other person engaged in the administration of the provisions of the Bill.

DIVISION 2—GENERAL POWERS OF INSPECTORS

Clause 68: General powers of inspectors
This clause provides inspectors with powers to search and request information and to seize evidence etc.

Clause 69: Provisions relating to seizure
This clause determines what is to happen to seized property. It recognises that property may need to be disinfected or even destroyed for the purposes of the control or eradication of disease or contamination.

Clause 70: Offence to hinder, etc., inspectors
This clause is a standard provision making it an offence to hinder or obstruct an inspector etc.

Clause 71: Self-incrimination
The privilege against self-incrimination is not to apply. However, if a person objects on that ground, the answer or the fact of producing information cannot be used against the person except in proceedings relating to false or misleading statements.

DIVISION 3—COMPLIANCE NOTICES

Clause 72: Compliance notices
This is a new initiative to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the Bill, largely those set out in regulations. It enables an inspector to issue a notice to a person to secure compliance with the requirements. The notice can require the person to take action or to refrain from taking action.

PART 9
APPEALS

Clause 73: Appeals
An appeal to the Administrative and Disciplinary Division of the District Court is provided for decisions related to registration and compliance notices.

Clause 74: Operation and implementation of decisions subject to appeal
Decisions are to continue to have effect despite an appeal, unless the court orders otherwise.

PART 10
MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 75: False or misleading information
This is a standard provision making it an offence to provide false or misleading information under the Bill.

Clause 76: Statutory declarations
This clause allows the Chief Inspector to require information to be verified by statutory declaration.

Clause 77: Telephone warrants
This clause facilitates the obtaining of warrants by telephone in urgent circumstances. Warrants are required to break into premises or anywhere on premises to destroy certain types of property.

Clause 78: General defence
This clause provides that it is a defence if the defendant proves that the offence was committed intentionally and did not result from any failure on the part of the defendant to take reasonable care to avoid commission of the offence.

Clause 79: Vicarious liability
This clause provides that employers and principals are responsible for the acts of employees or agents in the course of the employment or agency.

Clause 80: Offences by bodies corporate
This is a standard provision providing that each director of a body corporate is guilty of an offence if the body corporate is guilty of an offence.

Clause 81: Continuing offence
This is a standard provision providing further penalties for continuing offences.

Clause 82: Prosecution period
Prosecutions are to be able to be commenced up to 5 years after the alleged offence to take account of biological factors. After 2 years the Minister's authorisation for the prosecution is required.

Clause 83: Recovery of costs associated with prosecutions
The court is required, at the request of the prosecutor, to make an order for the reasonable costs of analysis against a convicted offender.

Clause 84: Evidence
This clause provides evidentiary aids.

Clause 85: Service
This clause provides for the method of service of notices and orders under the Bill.

Clause 86: Incorporation of codes, standards or other documents
This clause authorises the incorporation of codes etc. as in force from time to time in regulations, notices, orders or codes of practice.

Clause 87: Gazette notices
This clause enables Gazette notices under the Bill to be varied or revoked and contemplates that it may be necessary for discretions to be granted in the notices (eg an inspector's approval may be necessary for movement of certain items in the strategy for control of an exotic disease).

Clause 88: Regulations
This clause expressly contemplates regulations about identification of livestock, vaccines and hormonal growth promotants and a new regulatory scheme for waysbills for movement of livestock. It also contemplates regulations providing for transitional matters.

SCHEDULE 1
Requirements for control or eradication of disease or contamination
This schedule sets out examples of requirements that may be imposed by Gazette notice or individual order for the purposes of controlling or eradicating disease or contamination.
SCHEDULE 2
Repeal and transitional provisions


Transitional provisions are included for the positions of the Chief Inspector and Deputy Chief Inspector. New appointments are to be made for inspectors. Arrangements are made for the continuation of orders, licences and registration of brands. Necessary notices and proclamations will be remade. The transitional provisions require the existing funds to be maintained pending payment into a corresponding fund or other application in accordance with the regulations.

The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS secured adjournment of the debate.