The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The honourable member has fairly effectively drawn my attention to the matter, and I assume that he wishes me to draw my department's attention to the situation that exists at the school. I will take up the matter to see what information I can get for the honourable member. It would be fairer to say that my department, in conjunction with the Public Buildings Department, has taken a good deal of interest in fire safety. No one would pretend that an ideal situation exists in relation to the evacuation of children from school buildings. South Australia has a variety of schoolbuilding structures, which have been built over many years and, in some cases, need fairly extensive modification before the sort of evacuation procedure that I would regard as ideal could be undertaken. I recall, for example, an evacuation procedure that was tried on a trial basis with Public Buildings Department officers present. As part of the test, a teacher had to break a pane of glass in order to evacuate the children from the classroom. The teacher was slightly built and could not break the glass. A spectator who was viewing the trial had to wield a chair and break the glass for her. There are many problems in relation to this matter. I would not wish to suggest that the situation is other than that. However, I will take up the matter raised by the honourable member. I assure the House that the department is looking carefully at the modification of existing buildings to determine what proper evacuation procedures should take place.

ROAD HAZARDS

Mr. WOTTON: Will the Minister of Transport take steps to warn the general public of the need to take appropriate precautions when driving in the Hills in hazardous conditions, especially when it is foggy? Much publicity has been given recently in local papers in the Adelaide Hills about concern expressed by people in relation to this matter. Several serious accidents have occurred recently on major roads in the Hills, and it is believed necessary that the Minister should warn people of the hazards of driving in such conditions. I know the Minister does not like the term "turning on the lights", but I suggest that a warning could be given by the Minister that would help to relieve this situation. In a recent report in a Hills paper, a police officer from the area referred to this matter and asked that something be done by the Minister.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I appreciate the question asked by the honourable member, and I appreciate the difficult circumstances and dire results that occur often when people are in a fog and turn on their lights. The same occurred in Australia when there was a bit of a fog—

Mr. Wotton: Answer the question.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: —last December and the lights were turned on. As a result of that we are now in the greatest mess of all time. I hope the same sort of situation will not occur in the Adelaide Hills. I would expect that any responsible person driving a motor vehicle in a fog would slow down, but I would not consider it a danger to himself or anyone else.

Mr. Wotton: But they are not doing that.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If they are not (and I appreciate what the honourable member is saying), and they do not have sufficient sense to take the necessary precautions, I doubt very much whether words from me, the Commissioner of Police, the Road Traffic Board, or even the honourable member would penetrate too far.

I will discuss the matter with the Road Traffic Board to see whether the board can come up with a reasonable solution to what I accept as a real problem.

At 3.7 p.m., the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

COUNTRY FIRES BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the prevention and suppression of bush fires and other fires; to repeal the Bush Fires Act, 1960-1972; and for all other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: 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.

EXPLANATION OF BILL

It implements the recommendations made by a working party appointed in 1971 by a former Minister of Agriculture (Hon. T. M. Casey, M.L.C.) to inquire into and report upon all aspects of a proposed reorganisation of country fire services in the State. These recommendations are to be found in Parliamentary Paper 106/72.

The Bill preserves many principles of the existing Act that have been proved valid by long experience. However, it also introduces a good deal that is new. The provisions for administration are more comprehensive and complete than in the old Act and there has been a good deal of rationalisation and simplification of substantive provisions previously contained in the old Act. The principle of a separate Act for bush fire, control, and country volunteer fire services, is in keeping with the policy in every other State, each of which has its respective "Country", "Rural" or "Bush" fires Act. The title "Country Fires Act" was adopted as the most appropriate name because, although much of the Bill is applicable throughout the State, its major provisions relate to the establishment and maintenance of country fire services and the fighting of fires outside fire brigade districts.

The change in title from "S.A. Emergency Fire Services" to "S.A. Country Fire Services" is designed to avoid confusion with other "emergency" bodies and to obviate inappropriate calls upon C.F.S. services. The Bill provides for a board of 10 members, a Director of Country Fire Services, and such other officers as may be necessary to enable the functions presently performed by H.P.S. headquarters and the various bush fire committees of the S.A. Police Department and the Agriculture and Fisheries Department to be consolidated under the management of the one statutory body.

Statutory fire control regions and regional and district committees are proposed by the Bill. A statutory fund is to be administered by the board. This fund will be applied both in defraying general administrative expenses and in subsidising the purchase of equipment by C.F.S. organisations. Contributions to the fund are to be made by Government, insurers, councils and C.F.S. organisations. An innovation of special interest is a provision for
the formation of a Joint Fire-Fighting Advisory Committee, the Fire Brigades Board, and the Country Fire Services Board on any matter affecting the maintenance, operation, or rationalization of fire-fighting services in the State.

The Bill is significantly shorter than the present Act. The abandonment of many of the provisions has not resulted in the omission of any major principle from the Act. However, many suspended provisions have been abandoned, and the administrative detail has been left to the regulations. Much time and effort has been expended on the drafting of this important Bill, which is designed to bring maximum protection and remuneration to the operations of country fire services and to simplify the means of providing fire equipment and control for the benefit of the general public. I commend the Bill to the earnest attention of members.

Clause 2 establishes the operation of specified clauses to be suspended if necessary when the Bill is brought into operation. Clause 3 sets out the assignment of the Bill. Clause 4 repeals the Bush Fires Act, 1960, and its amendments, dissolves the Bush Fires Expenditure Subsidies Fund, and transfers the moneys to the Country Fire Services Fund. Clause 5 sets out the obligations for the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 6 directs attention to the State-wide application of certain provisions of the Bill. This provision is directed to the applicability to all individual applications under the Act.

Clause 7 to 16 establish the Country Fire Services Board and deal with the terms and conditions of employment. The Board is constituted a public service for the purposes of the meaning of the Superannuation Act, and the provisions of the Act are applied to the Board.

Clause 17 empowers the Board to appoint a Director and other officers and employees in the interest of the provisions of the Bill.

Clause 18 provides for the registration of fire brigades and the establishment of the State Fire Control Board.

Clause 19 empowers the board to register district fire-fighting associations. Clauses 21 and 22 provide for the board to register and dissolve fire-fighting organizations or to register "gray" committees for brigades, which desire some formal recognition for the purpose of training activities or to fight fires.

Clause 23 provides for the registration of a C.F.S. organisation as in force, or when the registration becomes de facto deserted or is properly carried out by its functioning. Clause 24 and 25 relate to the appointment, by the board, or council, of fire control officers and fire party leaders. Provision is also made under which certain officers (e.g., farmers' representatives) have the power to inspect or form the organization of a council.

Clause 26 provides for the registration of fire brigades and the establishment of the Joint Fire-Fighting Advisory Committee under the Bill. Clause 27 establishes a joint committee, appointed by the Governor, consisting of the Minister and any other two members being established by the Fire Brigades Board and two of six members to be nominated by the Advisory Board. The committee is directed to advise the Minister and the board on any matter affecting the constitution, provision or rationalization of fire-fighting services in the State. Clauses 28 to 31 enable the board to establish and maintain the Country Fire Services Fund which comprises many moneys appropriated by the sum of the Act, and the balances recovered on the order of the Treasurer, invested or borrowed moneys. The clauses also provide for the distribution of funds in certain circumstances.

Clause 45 provides for the carrying in carrygrass of an efficient chemical extinguisher during the fire fighting period or of any other equipment, at a price not exceeding the carrying of five or more specified and or grass and the throwing of burning materials (for example, lighted cigarette butts) from vehicles during the fire fighting period or at any time as in action in the carrying of the fire-fighting equipment to overcome the deficiency. An appeal may be made to the Minister, or the Governor, for providing fire-fighting equipment in the carrying of the fire-fighting equipment, and delaying working expenses incurred in fire-fighting. Equally, the word "fire" may not be sold or disposed of without the consent of the Board.

Clause 55 empowers the board or a council to give written directions for the clearing of bush or grass from any land to prevent the outbreak or spread of fire, and provides a right of appeal to the Minister against such direction. The authority of the board in this regard extends over a council in respect of land under that council's care, control, and management. Clauses 51 to 57 describe the powers of fire control officers, fire party leaders, and police officers in the control and suppression of fires and provides penalties for fire control officers in the performance of their powers and functions. Clause 58 provides a reciprocal arrangement for the carrying of fire-fighting operations at any adjoining State boundaries by empowering a member of a recognized interstate fire-fighting organization to take control of the area or to distance an application. Clauses 59 to 61 relate to the installation and use of fire alarms and apparatus and prescribe penalties for their misuse as well as a fine for the violation of the penalty. Clause 67 contains regulation-making powers, and the provisions of the Act are confirmed by the Minister.

Mr. GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT (Minister of Labour and Industry) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Bill, 1972. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: I move That this Bill be read a second time.

I seek to have the second reading explained in Howard without any reading it.

Leave granted.

EXPLANATION OF BILL

The Bill, which amends the Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Act, 1972, is introduced following a departmental examination of the working of the state that has since it came into operation. The amendment of the Bill aims to ensure that all employees will be dealt with by the examination of the clauses of the measure. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 contains a typographical error in the definition of "building work", (b) somewhat clarifying the definition of "building work" in the context of this tort; (c) extending the definition of "worker", and (d) re-defining the definition of "worker" to ensure that "independent contractors" are, to an appropriate extent, included within the meaning of the expression. Clause 4 amends section 8 of the principal Act by enlarging the membership of the board to 10 members, the new members being the Chief Inspector of Industrial Safety, who is to be a member ex officio, and three representatives of the United Trades and Labour Council. Clause 5 is consequential on the increase in the number of members, and is section 12 of the principal Act and provides that in the absence of the Chairman or his deputy, or the Inspector in charge at the meeting, the board shall and may fix between $200 to $500 to the penalties under sections 16 and 19 of the principal Act. Clause 9 amends section 26 of the principal Act by increasing the penalty in this section from $500 to $1,000.

Clauses 10 and 11 make an appropriate increase in penalties under sections 21 and 23 respectively. Clause 12 amends section 24 of the principal Act by providing for the expiry of the registration upon an occupier ceasing to occupy registered premises. Clause 13 revises section 25 of the principal Act which is now manifest in the light of the amendment effected by clause 12. Clause 14 appropriately increases the penalties under section 25 of the principal Act. Clause 15 amends section 27 of the principal Act which deals with reporting of work injuries by providing that the Act may be applied to work injuries occurring in industries declared under the Act, as to which to new subsection (1). Clause 16 amends section 28 of the principal Act, which provides for the approval of any methods and forms of reports critical to safety is involved, by extending the scope of this section both as to industries to which it can be applied as well as an increasing the penalty.

Clause 17 amends section 29 of the principal Act which deals with the preparation and execution of a legal and education. Clause 18 increases the penalty under section 30 of the principal Act. Clause 19 provides for the adoption of standards with respect to occupational safety and health in the provisions of the Act.

Mr. DEAN BROWN secured the adjournment of the debate.

PUBLIC PURCHASES BILL

Adjoined debate on second reading.

(Coalued from August 16, Page 521.)

Dr. TONEK (Leader of the Opposition): Once again we are to examine the Treasurer's statement on the Loan Estimates, and, on superficial examination, these seem to be very attractive aspects of this document. It is in the same format, and includes some sentences and paragraphs that occur from year to year.