

Fruit Fly, Pensioners' Housing, Lord Mayor's Relief Fund Discussed by Renmark A.L.P.

The fruit fly problem, housing for pensioners, the Lord Mayor's flood relief fund, and unemployment were among matters discussed at the annual meeting of the Renmark Sub-branch of the Australian Labor Party held at the hotel recently.

The guest speaker (Mrs. Pattison, State A.L.P. executive) spoke on campaigning for the next elections and offered helpful suggestions on procedure.

Mr. R. H. Curren, the endorsed Labor member for Chaffey, was present at the meeting.

Mr. E. R. O'Connor, State secretary of the AWU, was also present and supported Mrs. Pattison's remarks. He referred to the unemployment situation in South Australia and said that of the hundreds of workers seeking employment the AWU, had been able to place only four in the past few months. He considered it necessary and urgent to open up and develop more country in Australia to provide work and room for many millions more people than at present.

FRUIT FLY

The secretary of the sub-branch (Mr. R. G. Lambert) spoke on the grave matter of fruit fly and expressed his opinion that a total ban on fruit importation into S.A. should be imposed.

"The average backyard gardener did not spray fruit trees," said Mr. Curren.

Mrs. Pattison cited an instance during a previous outbreak in Adelaide when all fruit was being stripped from suburban home gardens. Some fruit-fly maggot infested fruit was discovered in one of the Adelaide markets and was traced to a commercial grower who, because the fruit was his livelihood, had been allowed to sell it after an inspection had been made.

FLOOD RELIEF

Concern was expressed by members at "the obvious slowness of the administration of the Lord Mayor's Flood Relief Fund."

"Pensioners who suffered from the flood are the most urgent consideration for relief from this fund," said Mr. Curren, "and the fund was raised to alleviate immediate hardships, not for general rehabilitation."

Mr. Curren spoke on the cottages which had been erected at Berri for aged pensioners. He said that the cost to the pensioner of acquiring these cottages worked out at £2 a week, which was half the weekly pension. In addition, the cottages did not comply with the Act for the area in which they were situated. Their cost price to the Government was about £650, and the selling price £1,250.

It was resolved: "That the Parliamentary Labor Party be asked to investigate and submit a report on the administration of the Lord Mayor's Flood Relief Fund."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected: President, Mr. D. Strachan (re-elected), vice-presidents, Mr. E. D. Evans and Mr. T. R. Grimshaw; secretary, Mr. R. G. Lambert (re-elected); committee, Messrs. F. L. Tripney, E. Staben, R. Telfer, C. R. Radloff, J. Turnbull, M. Basnet, L. J. Newman, C. H. Martin and C. W. Telfer; auditors, Messrs. Newman and R. French; minute secretary, Mr. R. Telfer.