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Statement: National wage case

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....February 3, 1976....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
228 4811

NATIONAL WAGE CASE

The South Australian Government will seek to intervene in the National Wage Case being heard before the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in Melbourne.

The South Australian advocate will argue for the full flow-on of the 6.4% cost of living increases from the September and December quarters.

Cabinet decided on Monday to intervene in the case because of the Federal Government's about-face on its clear election promise to support indexation.

"The benefits of indexation are already evident. The reason we have a prospective Budget surplus in South Australia is because indexation has worked.

"The rate of increase in wages has slowed down, while at the same time workers are being compensated for the rises in the cost of living.

"Indexation has brought stability to the economy and is a workable method of reducing unemployment and cutting inflation.

"But it has to be respected by all sides. The Federal Government's disgraceful abandonment of indexation makes it necessary for the South Australian Government to make sure its views are heard by the Commission.

"The workforce has had to pay the increased prices and charges which occurred in the last two quarters, and the South Australian Government would be breaking faith with the wage and salary earners of South Australia if it did not support indexation.

"The Federal Government has broken its promises".



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