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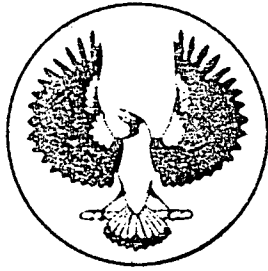
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Title:

Statement: Extensions to Panelboard plant at Mount Gambier

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date November 5, 1976

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
227 2688

EXTENSIONS TO PANELBOARD PLANT AT MOUNT GAMBIER

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, today inspected extensions valued at more than \$1.3 million at the Panelboard plant at Mount Gambier.

Mr. Dunstan was shown over the plant by the Chairman of Panelboard, Mr. David Cubbs, the company's general manager, Mr. Bob Gawne and the manufacturing manager, Mr. Ken Jones.

The new equipment is concentrated in three production processes - the wood preparation area, the laminating area and the sanding line.

The new equipment for wood preparation will add considerably to the efficiency of particle board manufacturing because it allows much greater use of waste timber and residues, and it converts material such as shavings, slab and chips into raw material for particle board products.

The Premier said the new process was a very significant development considering that until a few years ago nearly all of those residues would have been left in the forest, dumped or burnt.

One new chipping machine which can handle up to 14 tonnes of raw material an hour is already working and the second should be finished within the next few weeks.

In the laminating area a new foil laminating line has been installed, after extensive research into the needs of furniture makers and is among the most advanced of its kind in Australia, operating four times faster than the original line.

New sanding equipment has been installed which provides a better service for particle board and also reduces air and noise pollution.

The Premier told Panelboard employees during the visit that the work being done in the factory showed the great technical and manufacturing skills of the South Australian timber industry.

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"In the South East we have a resource which is being developed jointly by the Government and private companies, and the work that I have seen here today is typical of the great skill which has been built up in the South East over the years.

"The forestry industry relies on the Government for its raw materials and the Woods and Forests Department has shown that Government undertakings are efficient and successful.

"The timber processing industry in the South East would not exist if it was not for a very large amount of Government money being used to ensure the supply of raw materials.

"The Government has done this because it believes that the community, through its Government, must take an active role in ensuring that secure jobs are made available in country towns and that the standard of living is continually improved by bringing new industry to the country and by expanding existing industry".



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