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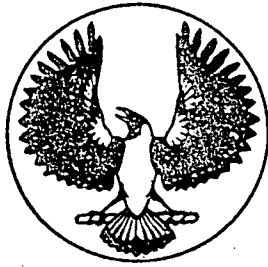
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Title:

Statement: Opposition hypocrisy over public service

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....November 19, 1976.

Embargo.....

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

OPPOSITION HYPOCRISY OVER PUBLIC SERVICE

It is totally hypocritical for Dr. Tonkin to suddenly masquerade as the protector of South Australia's public servants.

Throughout the year the Liberal Opposition has been attacking senior public servants in this State under the privilege of Parliament and in the knowledge that these public servants cannot publicly defend themselves.

The Opposition has attacked Permanent Heads and people in a range of Government appointments as well as making quite unfounded allegations about people being considered for public service positions.

Dr. Tonkin has used the vehicle of personal attacks on public servants as a means of clutching at any publicity. In the process he downgraded the standards of the Parliament and has caused resentment within the public service.

Only a few weeks ago Dr. Tonkin attacked public servants in my Department for, he said, taking over the running of the Government and being "youthful, militant and impatient". He cannot have it both ways. His record this year shows that he has quite disgracefully used personal attacks on public servants to further own political ends and his sudden about face just shows his insincerity and contempt for the public.

I made it abundantly clear in my reply in Parliament yesterday that the number of people supplying information to the Liberal Party was very small and that the overwhelming majority of public servants would have no part of any disloyalty to an elected government.

For he and Mr. Millhouse to claim I have attacked the whole public service is just nonsense as they both well know.



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