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**Title:**

Speech by the Premier at the Racing presentation dinner

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AT THE RACING  
PRESENTATION DINNER, 17th AUGUST, 1967.

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Mr. Chairman, etc.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of being with you this evening and to be given the responsibility of proposing this important Toast to Racing. I compliment you Mr. Chairman, on the organisation of this function bringing together as it does representatives of all sections of the community in South Australia associated with and interested in the racing of horses.

I think you are all aware that I am not an expert on racing matters, and I do not propose to pretend to be able to give you advice this evening on any problems you may have associated with the sport of racing. Although I am not averse to studying form in a number of activities, I do not seem to find time to closely study the form of race horses. Nevertheless, I recognise that racing is a matter of considerable interest to many members of our community.

Whilst racing has been known through the ages as the "sport of kings" it is also the sport of many thousands of our average citizens throughout the State. It provides them with a recreational facility which captivates their interest, and in doing so I believe it provides an aspect of their well-being. The old adage of "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is as true today as when it was first coined, and the activities of racing clubs provide an important contribution towards the "play" of a large section of our community.

However, racing is not merely a sport alone because many aspects associated with it combine to make it an important industry in South Australia. There is at present a large amount of capital invested in the bloodhorse breeding industry in South Australia, and I am very happy to say that this industry has had much success particularly in recent years.

The training, care, and riding of horses are other aspects which provide employment within our State, and then there is the large body of people who derive employment from the various functions necessary to stage each race meeting. I am glad to know that all sections of the sport and industry are able to combine in this dinner tonight, and I compliment the South Australian Jockey Club for their organisation not only of this dinner but for their administration of racing in South Australia.

I referred a moment ago<sup>to</sup> the breeding industry and the activities of our trainers and jockeys. The outstanding success which South Australian horses have achieved at Interstate Carnivals over recent years has established South Australian racing on a very high plain. I believe that the men associated with the breeding industry in South Australia are men of knowledge and foresight, and I believe that the breeding

industry in South Australia faces the future with every expectation of success. There can be no doubt also about the ability of our trainers and jockeys, and one only has to point to the record of Galilee trained by our South Australian trainer Bart Cummings, and ridden by South Australian jockey John Miller, to know that we lack nothing in South Australia in the ability to properly prepare horses for racing. With the breeding industry established on a high plain and the proven ability of our trainers and jockeys, owners can look forward with confidence to successful activities with their horses.

For a long time South Australian racing did not have the benefit that off-course totalizator facilities in other States had given to racing in the respective States. The Labor Government recognised this need and the South Australian Totalizator Agency Board has been firmly established on a basis which will ensure its success. This will surely enable racing in South Australia to progress on a high plain.

Before presenting the Toast to Racing I would like to offer my personal congratulations to the owner, breeder, trainers, jockeys and apprentices who have respectively been successful in winning the various trophies for the racing year just ended. They undoubtedly have received much personal satisfaction from their successes, and I compliment them not only on being successful in winning the respective trophies, but on the contribution that they as individuals, are making to the activities of racing in this State. To those who have not been successful in the year just concluded I also express the thanks of the racing community for their contribution towards the success of the sport, and I take this opportunity of wishing them success and satisfaction in their future association with racing.

Mr. Chairman, it is with pleasure that I present tonight the Toast to Racing.