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Title:

Speech proposing the toast to the Australian Automobile Association at the 40th Annual
Conference Dinner

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, HON. DON DOWDAN, O.C., M.P.,
IN PROPOSING THE TOAST "THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION" AT
THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER ON TUESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 1967.

Mrs. Nally to Feb

MR. PRESIDENT, ETC. :

THANK YOU FOR THE HONOUR YOU HAVE DONE ME IN INVITING ME TO PRESENT THE TOAST "THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION" ON THIS THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL DINNER OF THE 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE HORSELESS CARRIAGE WAS AN EVENT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND HAS MEANT MUCH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AUSTRALIAN CONTINENT. IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN PARTICULAR, IT HAS BEEN THE MEANS NOT ONLY OF READY TRANSPORT BETWEEN DISTANT PLACES WITHIN THE STATE, BUT IT HAS ALSO PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION OF A GREAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS DAY AND AGE IT BORNES ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS OF OUR DAY TO DAY LIFE AND THERE ARE COMPARATIVELY FEW HOUSEHOLDS WHICH DO NOT ENJOY THE BENEFITS WHICH A MOTOR CAR CAN PROVIDE.

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THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE MADE IT A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE THAT ASSOCIATIONS COMPRISING MOTORISTS IN THE COMMUNITY GREW UP WITHIN THE STATES, AND IT WAS A FURTHER NATURAL CONSEQUENCE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN FORMED HERE IN THE CITY OF ADELAIDE AT A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESPECTIVE STATE ORGANISATIONS IN 1924, JUST TWENTY-ONE YEARS AFTER THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAD HAD ITS BIRTH IN 1903.

I DO NOT PROPOSE TO MENTION IN DETAIL THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION. THESE WILL BE WELL KNOWN TO ALMOST EVERYBODY PRESENT THIS EVENING. THE FACT THAT THE PROGRESSORS OF THE AUSTRALIAN WIDE ASSOCIATION LAID DOWN SANE AND ADEQUATE OBJECTIVES, HAS BEEN A BIG FACTOR IN THE SUCCESSFUL GROWTH OF THE ASSOCIATION WHICH NOW REPRESENTS A COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN ONE AND THREE-QUARTER MILLION MEMBERS.

THE SERVICE THAT HAS BEEN RENDERED BY THE CONSTITUENT CLUBS AND THROUGH THEM THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION, HAS RESULTED IN A STEADY AND CONTINUOUS GROWTH PARTICULARLY DURING THE POST-WAR YEARS WHEN OUR NATION HAS DEVELOPED RAPIDLY IN ALL SPHERES OF ITS ACTIVITY.

AS ONE WHO HAS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF A GOVERNMENT, I PAY A TRIBUTE SOUGHT TO THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION. WITH AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING CONSTITUENT MEMBERS OF THE NUMBER I MENTIONED EARLIER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO HAVE ADOPTED A ROLE OF PRESSURE GROUP TACTICS. IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE WISDOM OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED. I BELIEVE IT HAS ALSO BEEN IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS MANY MEMBERS THAT SUCH A ROLE WAS NOT ADOPTED.

THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA IRRESPECTIVE OF POLITICAL PARTY, HAVE SIMILAR OBJECTIVES TO THOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

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WE ARE ALL ACTIVELY CONCERNED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE ROADS SYSTEM, WE ARE ALL CONCERNED IN THE PROMOTION OF ROAD SAFETY AND THE MANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH GO TO PROVIDE SAFE AND PLEASANT MOTORING.

AS THE HEAD OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, MAY I SAY THAT I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO REPRESENTATIONS BOTH FROM THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION AND THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THE REPRESENTATIONS TO BE WELL CONSIDERED, AND ALTHOUGH FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER MY GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ALWAYS FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO ALL REQUESTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION, WE HAVE VALUED THE OPPORTUNITY OF CONSIDERING THE POINTS OF VIEW PRESENTED FROM THE ASSOCIATION ON THE VARIOUS TOPICS RAISED.

HAVING REGARD TO DISTANCES WITHIN THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACHIEVED A NOTABLE ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME. IN ORDER TO DO WHAT WE HAVE DONE THE GOVERNMENT HAS PAID TO THE HIGHWAYS FUND THE TOTAL NET COLLECTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES AND FEES FOR DRIVING LICENCES. HOWEVER, THE MONEY AVAILABLE TO THE HIGHWAYS FUND IN THIS STATE IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROMOTE A ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME OF THE DIMENSIONS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DESIRE AND WHICH I AM SURE YOUR ASSOCIATION WOULD DESIRE. UNLST IT IS TRUE THAT THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT DOES MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS STATE ROAD PROGRAMMES, THIS COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE REQUIRED TOTAL DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT COLLECTS THE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT WHICH THE MOTORING PUBLIC PAYS PER MEDIUM OF TAXATION ON PETROL. IF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WERE TO ADOPT A POLICY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PAY THE NET COLLECTION OF PETROL TAXATION TO THE STATES FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION, WE COULD SPEED UP OUR CONSTRUCTION

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PROGRAMME TO A STAGE MORE APPROPRIATE TO THE INCREASING DEMANDS FALLING UPON THE STATES THROUGH ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND THE MOTORING PUBLIC.

IN PRESENTING THIS TOAST I DO SO IN THE FIRM KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS EVENING WE HONOUR AN ASSOCIATION WHICH HAS ACHIEVED MUCH NOT ONLY IN THE INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS BUT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF AUSTRALIA. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE ASSOCIATION WILL CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE MOTORING PUBLIC AND I WISH IT EVERY SUCCESS IN ITS WORK IN THIS FIELD. GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU THE TOAST "THE AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION".