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Good Evening,

The announcement by the University of Adelaide that it will impose a limit on the number of students entering the faculty of medicine is further evidence of the Playford government's serious neglect of University education provision and its shocking refusal to plan adequately for the future development of Universities.

The view is widely held that Adelaide University ought not to expand beyond the capacity of its present site - larger Universities and especially those with a number of different sites have been found to be administratively inefficient and costly. The proper thing to be done is that Adelaide University should not be ^{responsible} presonsible for University education for the whole of South Australia - it has reached its limit. The Government must now take responsibility for further provision of University facilities elsewhere and should already have done so long ago.

The Labor Party of whose policy decentralisation is a cardinal feature, believes that country University development is vital to South Australia. On this score the following report was adopted by the A.L.P. Last year.

- (1) No country area of S. A. has a potential University population of reasonable size. Students at Adelaide University have been classified according to their home (other than mere term time) address. The real rural areas of S.A. account for only 503 students less than 10% of the total. Last year there were only 176 students taking the Leaving examination in the whole of the South East. There are no Leaving Honours classes outside the metropolitan area.
- (2) This means that any country University College has to be a residential one - and residence must be subsidised. The cost per student is thus likely to be about 3 times as great as Adelaide University.
- (3) Experience overseas has shown that a University with a potential total population of 2,000 will add 8,000 in

population to a country town. The very existence of higher education facilities in a town of reasonable size increases the possibilities of decentralisation of industry there, as there are more opportunities for employment, more entertainment, diversification of facilities.

- (4) Residential university institutions are more conducive to academic work than non-residential ones. Adelaide University itself has recognised this in its attempt to establish residential University colleges on as large a scale as possible.
- (5) There are besides cost, two major objections to a country University college raised:-

- (i) A difficulty in obtaining staff. The only country University so far established here (New England University at Armidale) has had difficulty obtaining suitable senior lecturers although its professors are of good standing. Staff there do complain of isolation. However, if a suitable site in South Australia were chosen, within reasonable commuting distance of other large towns and not too far from a metropolis (Armidale is 500 miles from Sydney) this should be no very great difficulty.
- (ii) A residential country institution could not by 1967 take all of the 1,000 or so students needing to be catered for by 1967 as only a proportion of students could go away and into residence. Moreover, one of the present over-burdened faculties is economics and many of its students work in business in the city and are subsidised in their courses by businesses here. It is, therefore, clear that there must be some further development of University facilities in the metropolitan area. By 1967 the medical faculty on North Terrace will be able to take no extras and so an additional medical school must be provided for. No country area can develop a large

enough teaching hospital to provide sufficient clinical material by 1967, nor for many years after. Since teaching is done in the clinical years of the medical course largely by nonoraries and these are specialists who congregate in Adelaide, a country medical school is a long way off.

The A.L.P.'s policy on University development is as follows:-

The form of the plan should be:-

- (1) A second University (to be called the University of S.A. or some such) to be set up now. This should be independent of Adelaide University. (Victoria has already followed this course at Monsh).
- (ii) The second University should at opening provide courses in Arts, Science and Economics and plan for the clinical years of a medical school by 1967.
- (iii) Attached to it should be a country college with associated University college faculties of arts, science and rural economics and and provide for country teachers' training; this should be residential and be the basis for development of a third University. (Victoria is already planning a third University and New South Wales already has three).
- (iv) It should be required of the new University that it make adequate provision for external courses. Adelaide University has refused to provide these. In our desperate teacher shortage we ought to provide country teachers with the chance to take University subjects while they are teaching. The Teachers' Institute has been pressing for this.

No plan for adequate extra teaching hospital facilities, nor indeed for further adequate hospitals for S.A. Has been made by the Government. It is quite clear that there must be a large South western suburban hospital built - before Mr. Baden-Pattinson was in the Ministry he was always asking questions about a hospital at Oaklands, but for some years now he hasn't uttered a squeak. The hospital at Oaklands is not even on the drawing board, and

judging by the time the Queen Elizabeth Hospital took, most of us will be in our dotage before we see it if this Government remains in office.

The Labor Party's plan for hospitals includes a Government teaching hospital of 800 beds at Oaklands. This would tie in with the A.L.P. University development program and would ensure that those who have the qualifications to enter on a medical course will not be excluded.

Some of the most brilliant doctors were academically undistinguished before they entered on their courses. Yet through the Government's bumbling ineptitude - its serene unconcern with providing adequate tertiary education, people qualified to start a medical course in S.A. will now be excluded - prevented from doing so.

This shocking state of affairs only Labor has the plans and the will to reverse. If South Australia is to get enough medical graduates and South Australian students are to get the education they seek - the only way is to put Labor in office.

Goodnight.