



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/3298
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:

ALP Broadcast presented by Don Dunstan, Member for Norwood

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/3298

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

A.L.P. BROADCAST PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTANMEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good Evening,

It was perhaps no surprise to most experienced observers to find last Thursday that the Premier was at it again.

In most States responsible public officers and particularly the Premiers, do not make grandiose announcements of proposed public works unless those proposals have been duly investigated, approved and the cost of them provided. That, of course, is the proper way.

But in South Australia a different course is followed. Our Premier gaily announces the vaguest of plans as if they were already accomplished, and takes to himself daily credit for public works which the passage of time proves to be mere fevered imaginings.

I have often told of the way one of these major works, the S.E. deep sea port, was repeatedly announced with great fanfar and folderol, by Sir Thomas, as repeatedly in a different place.

Well, of course the public got a little weary of that show, so another had to be found. Various plans were announced for damming the Murray; the Advertiser published a plan showing Lake Bonney as a great area for water conservation. Then the Premier suddenly announced the great plan for an enormous dam upstream from S.A.

We heard a lot about this. Every so often some new consultation was to be held on the matter. Apparently it was going to be the major developmental work about which Sir Thomas would build his election campaign, as he built the last on the promise of oil development at Innamincka.

The cost of the project £13,000,000 was much publicised and the public asked to admire the achievements of our dashing chief executive.

But something intervened. The Leader of the Opposition,

Mr. O'Halloran died suddenly and the Premier needed to find a new public work closer to Peterborough to tickle the fancies of the electors at the by-election.

Do you remember the great announcement that hundreds of men would shortly be engaged to work for several years on the standardisation of the rail gauge from Broken Hill to Port Pirie. Sir Thomas said confirmation of the proposal was only a matter of weeks. Federal Cabinet would do this very shortly. In banner headlines we were told of the great assistance to State development and especially to the area of Frome this would be.

The by-election came and went. The Premier's candidate was defeated. The Government's interest in the standardisation project waned after an abortive trip to Canberra by Sir Thomas and the next we heard was that that doughty fighter for our rights was proposing to trade our rights in the rail standardisation agreement for Commonwealth support for the Murray dam project. That doesn't seem to have worked either. So now we have a sudden announcement from the Premier that Mr. Menzies does not seem very enthusiastic about the project, so it doesn't look as if it can be accomplished.

However, there are still public appearances to consider. It would be a pity to let all the ballyhoo about the project go entirely to waste, and it would be foolish to expect so accomplished a political conjuror to fail in some feat of legerdeman at this time.

Is the Premier daunted by this setback? Not a bit of it - two new alternative Murray dam sites within S.A. are immediately produced like rabbits from a hat - and looking every bit as surprised.

One of these sites involves flooding the irrigation settlement at Cadell. Not very long-range thought can have been given to this proposal. It is only a short time since a new prison farm erected at considerable cost to the State was opened at Cadell. The gay announcement that Cadell might be flooded

and that it would appear that alterations would have to be made to the bridge at Blanchetown, despite the interminable delays in the preparation of that project which it has already suffered, must cause consternation to all the people who will be directly affected. But really, you know, I don't think they need worry very much yet a while. This hasty and ill prepared announcement made on such an obviously flimsy basis, seems to be of a pattern with so many other announcements of projects which are never carried out in this State that they should be able to conclude fairly reliably that this is just another of those pipe dreams with which the Premier seeks to create the impression that he is getting great things done, while S.A.'s rate of industrial development remains the worst in Australia, as it has done for the last 10 years.

Goodnight.