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Title:

ALP Broadcast from Station 5KA presented by Don Dunstan, Member for Norwood

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A.L.P. BROADCAST FROM 5KA 24/7/61PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good evening,

We have had the astonishing spectacle in the last few days of an announcement by the Playford L.C.L. Government that it has finished the year 1960-61 with a surplus in the Treasury from the year's operations. This announcement was followed not by the torrent of criticism and bitter condemnation which should have been expected from any responsible organs of public opinion - but our newspapers burgeoned forth the fulsome flattery, very paeans of praise for the Treasurer.

Let me say this. If any Government, in times like these, where in Adelaide there are thousands desperately seeking work, where in districts like mine at Norwood poor breadwinners are coming in a constant stream to my door begging me to find work for them so that they may feed and clothe their children, pay their rent and other commitments- while people are going hungry and cold and facing the future with constant fear because they cannot find a job to earn their keep though they are willing and anxious to work - if any Government runs a surplus in its accounts it is not a matter for congratulation - it is a matter for abuse. The surplus in the Budget this year is a disgrace to this State.

How was the budget surplus achieved? In two ways - the expected return from revaluations of properties for land tax and water rates purposes was exceeded and the full amount budgeted for was not spent.

Now in both these cases more money could have been spent to provide jobs for those who are unemployed. If the Premier felt himself in any difficulty in using the available funds for jobs not in last year's estimates - and he has a certain amount of flexibility here anyway - he could have presented supplementary estimates to Parliament and should have had no difficulty whatever in gaining approval for a crash programme of public works to find jobs for the workless.

It is acknowledged that when times are slack the best policy

for the Governments to follow is to increase their spending - the orthodox course is to budget for a deficit to pour more money into the economy and to stimulate economic activity. Here we find the Government of South Australia deliberately following a diametrically opposed course - of budgeting for a surplus - creaming money off from the State's economic activity and thereby reducing effective demand for our commodities and hence lessening the effective demand for the employment of our work force.

So the workless of this State will have to tighten their belts some more. The Playford Government is as callous to their plight as the Menzies Government in Canberra and expects them to live on bright forecasts for a happy future.

Let me give you a few details of the sort of plight numbers of these people now find themselves in.

A jobless breadwinner is paid £3/5/- per week unemployment benefit. His wife is allowed £2/7/6 per week. He gets 10/- for the first child and nothing for the rest. That makes £6/2/6 a week for a family of a man, wife and say three children. Many of these people have rent bills to pay of £4-£6 per week, some have hire purchase commitments and they have to feed and clothe themselves their wives and children on the balance and pay for fuel and power and incidentals.

They can't do it. Many people who had reasonable jobs and a good income per week had hire purchase commitments related to that income. Now they are being forced to return the goods and pay, in many cases, £200 and more balance of hiring for goods they will never own. There are shoals of them now appearing in the ever lengthening lists at the U.J.S. Court.

Will the Government - will the community at large continue to ignore this situation? On present indications it will. Even in this crisis there are far too many whose motto seems to be "darn you Jack, I'm alright." It behoves the rest of us then to redouble our striving to get policies adopted to relieve the situation and to restore full employment. I beg of you, if you

know of jobs available let me know, particularly jobs in the engineering trades. I beg you too, to get behind the A.L.P. in its struggle for relief and justice for these people whose security the Government has so shockingly destroyed.

Goodnight.