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Australian Labor Party Broadcast presented by Don Dunstan Member for Norwood

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AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY BROADCAST 29/1/62

PRESENTED BY DCN DUNSTAN MEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good Evening,

Facts speak for themselves sometimes and in doing so blithely confound the confident predictions of Liberal politicians. Do you remember that last year Mr. Menzies in lofty and mellifluous tones assured us that the economic difficulties in which Australia then found itself were "little worries only and of a temporary nature" and that early in 1962 people would be wondering whatever it was everyone had worried about.

Do you remember how Mr. McMahon the Minister for Labor told us albeit in more plebeian tones than those of his leader, that the Government had every confidence that in the short run a high level of economic activity would replace the slight merely temporary downturn in the economic sphere and that full employment was a confident prediction for the short term? That the people of Australia had cause to be sceptical of all this was shown by the time the elections came round and the people expressed their scepticism at the polls. The Menzies government polled only 41% of the votes - 6% less than Labor and have retained office only on the good graces of Mr. Santamaria and Comrade Kruschew - being elected on the second preferences of the D.D.P. and the Communists.

We then were given to understand that the Menzies Government was going through a period of organising re-appraisals. The people had wanted Labor Policy. Perhaps then it would be all right to put into effect some of those Labor policies which up to December 9th they had called "disastrous, ruinous, hopelessly inflationary and absurd". So we are being softened up for a re-introduction of some import controls and a slight expansion of Government works. Nothing bold of course. That would be too inconvenient altogether politically. But enough of a change to have the newspapers of this State editorialising and saying that

Mr. Menzies' reversal of policy is hope-giving, sound and statesmanlike. Well is it?

This week Sir Douglas Copeland, that doyen of Australian economists whose background was long that of support for conservative policies, returned to Australia.

His comments on the Australian economy was brief and pungent. The policies of the Menzies government had been rejected everywhere else in the Western World. The credit squeeze was a stupid device. The policy for Australia to follow was one of bold community development and stimulation - - the U.S.A. was showing what could be done. There could be no more forthright endorsements of the clear policies and plans of the A.L.P. And while we reflect sadly on the increase in unemployment, on the continued economic stagnation, on the facts that those tracking to our doors desperately seeking work are not only old men now, but boys and men of all ages and that for the first time since pre-war children leaving school can't find work - we can make a firm resolve that each one of us will take every opportunity, both in the State and Federal spheres, to dismiss the Governments which have brought us to this pass.