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ALP Broadcast presented by Don Dunstan Member for Norwood

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A.L.P. BROADCAST, 5th FEBRUARY, 1962

PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good Evening,

We have been treated to another grandiose plan by the Playford Government. Not just a million or two this time. £150,000,000. Just like that. It may come - it may not. It is rather significant that Torrens Island is in the area of the proposed Le Fevre Peninsula plan - first announced in 1949 - then resurrected in 1959 and about which next to nothing has happened.

We are so continually fed announcements of great things to come - great things which constantly recede like the rainbow's end - that it is sometimes a good thing to dig a few out of the files and brush the dust of the clippings and get what real satisfaction we may from contemplating the glories that were foretold and the emptiness that is.

Here's one - and I'll only take one tonight out of the embarrassing list I have here, because you'll be hearing of a few more of them in the next three weeks!

Released 24th July, 1958

**"NORTHFIELD DEVELOPMENT MOMENTOUS**

The construction of research laboratories at Northfield Hospital Farm would be the most momentous development which had occurred in the history of the Department of Agriculture for many years, the Director of Agriculture (Mr. A.R. Callaghan) said today. Building work on the farm would involve the expenditure of about £130,000. This would involve:-

- ✦ A wheat service laboratory for the Department to be constructed from funds contributed by wheat growers and the Commonwealth Government (£44,500/-/-).
- ✦ An animal husbandry laboratory and artificial insemination centre (£25,000).
- ✦ Laboratory services for soil and plant industry (£27,000).
- ✦ Research laboratory and farm animal disease diagnostic centre for the Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science (£32,000).

Dr. Callaghan said about 750 acres of land at Northfield would be available for the Department's field experiments.

"Apart from lifting the morale of staff and offering new horizons for the future, the proposals will provide laboratory equipment and farm facilities which ~~are~~ have been sorely needed for many years", he added.

The farm could also lend itself to the investigation of problems relating to dairy and pig production."

Well now, of all that plan, so enticing to farmers, so important to rural production had it been carried out - only one item has been started

What an urgent business the Playford Government thinks country development is. We have over 4,000 fewer farmers on the land today than in 1947, despite the Chifley Labor Grants paying for soldier settlement schemes operated here. Last year on the two schemes on the statute books for closer settlement the Playford Govt. spent - how much do you think? Not one penny.

The money subscribed by farmers for the wheat service laboratory - where has that gone? Not into the wheat service laboratory.

And as to providing agricultural advisors - the S.A. Department of Agriculture is operating two short - the officer at Minnipa has to try to cover another whole large district besides his own.

But to the Playford administration even to mention these unpleasant facts is being rude and unkind. It's so much nicer isn't it, to feed the people the staple diet from cloud cuckoo land.