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Title:

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

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A.L.P. BROADCAST - STATION 5KA MARCH 19TH, 1962

PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good Evening,

The extraordinary public statements of the Playford Government on the electoral situation have shocked even the most complacent of South Australia's L.C.L. voters.

The plain fact is that Labor in the State elections on 3rd March, received the support of some 56% of South Australia's electors and the Playford Government was only supported by some 34%-36%.

The Government disputes this. Sir Thomas Playford backed up by the editorial writers of the Adelaide Advertiser, has claimed that in the seats contested by both major parties - and those were 20 of the 39 - the A.L.P. gained 48.5% of the votes and the L.C.L. 46%. The A.L.P. won 9 of those 20 seats and even though it polled more than the L.C.L. overall, Sir Thomas says it is quite fair for Labor to win nine and the L.C.L. 11. The other 19 seats according to Sir Thomas, cancel one another out. But in those seats in fact Labor, holding ^{only} ~~more~~ nine of them, represents far more electors than do the 10 government members or independents in the remaining ten.

For instance Mr. Jennings, the A.L.P. member for Enfield represents more electors than the Premier, the Minister of Lands, the Minister of Works, the Minister of Agriculture and the Speaker combined.

In fact, of course, the easiest way to see what the support for Labor and L.C.L. is in those seats not contested by both parties at the State election would be to take the vote for the parties in those areas at the recent Federal election and add those figures to the polling figures in the 20 seats contested by both parties at the State elections.

That gives the A.L.P. 54% L.C.L. 40% D.L.P. 5% and others 1%. But as there was overall a greater vote for Labor in the State elections than in the Federal election, Labor polling much higher figures in Murray, Mount Gambier, Wallaroo, Millicent, Unley, Norwood for instance the true figure would be about 56% A.L.P. 37% Liberal, 5% D.L.P. 2% Independents.

The Liberals, therefore, can't squirm out by trying to

talk gobbledegook about the figures. The people want a Labor Government. They have said so unequivocally and they are entitled to a Labor Government.

What arguments are there that the Liberal party put forward to justify the dictatorship?

The first is that S.A.'s rural production accounts for the major part of South Australia's income and therefore the country people ought to rule S.A. This is nonsense. If value of production were the basis for electoral representation then the industrial areas should rule because S.A.'s industrial output now exceeds the value of rural output. And anyway, why is productive work defined so narrowly. Rural production could not exist without farm machinery fertilisers etc. and why should shopkeepers, teachers, university professors and telegraph operators be ~~deemed~~ deemed unproductive. The contention is utterly absurd and illogical.

The second is that it is not voters but "interests" and "areas" which are to be represented in Parliament. But when asked what "interests" and what "areas" the L.C.L. is coyly vague. And that is not surprising, for not only does Labor represent the overwhelming majority of the people of the State, it also represents an overwhelming majority of the area of the State. The L.C.L. only represents selected areas and selected interest, the main interest being of the wealthy landholders - it is not for nothing that Sir Philip McBride is the Czar of the L.C.L. in this State.

The only proper basis of representation is that of the people - that's what democracy means - "people's Government". Each person has the same duties as a citizen with every other - to live according to the laws, to defend the country to pay taxes. In Co. Rainborough's phrase, "the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live as the greatest he". The poorest he should have as uch say in his own and his fellows future as the greatest he and every citizen be accorded the right to vote and have his vote counted equally with all others. The policy of democracy, of one vote one value, of responsible government, is the policy of the Labor Party and of the A.L.P. alone.

Good Night.