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**Title:**

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

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A.L.P. BROADCAST 4/6/62 5KA

PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTAN - MEMBER FOR NORWOOD

Good Evening,

We are from time to time now being treated to happy pronouncements from L.C.L. politicians, the press, banking institutions and those who want to encourage the company investor, that happy days are here again. There is, they say, a significant economic recovery, the employment situation is steadily improving and no-one really has anything to worry about.

How I wish that they were right. There are two classes of people grossly affected by employment difficulties. One is unskill white collar workers over 40. There are numbers of them desperate for jobs and trying to eke out a bare existence on social service benefits. I have numbers of piteous letters from wives or relative asking me if I can find some employment for these people. I wish I could. But all the factories to which I used to be able to go to ask them to employ a man are now in such difficulties that they are more likely to put men off than to <sup>take</sup> them on. The other class is teenagers. There is a sickeningly large class of these completely unable to find employment. Let me give some examples. A youth aged 18, of good family and with an Intermediate Certificate has been looking for work now for some months. He cannot get anything, not even a job sweeping floors. On several occasions when he has applied for jobs recently, there have been between 40 or 80 applicants for the one position. He registered with the Commonwealth Employment Bureau. They only were able to suggest one vacancy to him. He went to the firm concerned only to find that the position had been filled one month before. At one place he went to there was a large number of applicants for an office boy's position which involved doing jobs mainly of a menial character. The boy they took had a Leaving Certificate.

Another youth, an English migrant, with the equivalent of our Intermediate Certificate managed to get an appointment with the employment manager of a large city firm. The Manager kept him waiting a long time. The boy felt ill, explained this to the office and went home - he had an acute attack of a gastric disorder and had to have medical attention. The manager concerned would not give him another interview and he has been unable to get a job of any kind since.

Another youth, a migrant, worked for an electrician for a year under a promise of an apprenticeship. The electrician then

said he didn't have enough work and would not go on with the apprenticeship arrangement. The boy now cannot find work of any kind.

There are hordes of young women seeking office jobs. Now the tragic thing about this whole situation is that for the first time since before the war young people have been deprived of the basic security that it is this country's duty to provide - the security of the knowledge that if they are willing to work there are jobs for them and they can work and keep themselves and provide for their future. The dire prophecies made by Labor that last year's school leavers would not all be absorbed have proved only too true. It need never have happened of course, but it will go on happening unless Labor's policies of community planning for development are adopted. The present Federal Government apart from a few stop-gap measures, still shows no signs of awakening to its real responsibilities.

Goodnight.