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**Title:**

Australian Labor Party Broadcast presented by Don Dunstan Member for Norwood

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AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY BROADCAST, 27/8/62PRESENTED BY DON DUNSTAN MEMBER FOR HORNSEA.

Good Evening,

The urgency motion by the Leader of the A.L.P. in the House of Assembly last Thursday has caused much fluttering in the Liberal dovecotes.

In November, 1960, the Premier announced that within a fortnight 750 men would be engaged for the task of standardising the rail gauge from Broken Hill to Port Pirie. He said that agreement would be reached with the Commonwealth for the carrying out of the standardisation agreement. That was, of course, on the eve of the Freme by-election. The men were not engaged and no work has taken place. Then the Premier announced he might trade our rights to standardisation for Commonwealth support for his Chowilla dam project, but that fell through too. So the Premier issued a writ against the Commonwealth to enforce the standardisation agreement, but the High Court dismissed the action. This year the Menzies Government again refused to proceed with standardisation and Sir Thomas announced that he would spend some State monies doing preliminary work on the standardisation of the gauge.

Now a long time has gone by since this became an issue between the State and the Federal Government. There has been every opportunity for L.C.L. Federal members to bring pressure to bear on the Menzies Government to do something about the standardisation project, and if they have done anything in this regard it is plain that their efforts have been completely fruitless. The Menzies Government has refused to do anything about its obligation to this State under the standardisation agreement. The L.C.L. Senators particularly are supposed to be protectors of the interest of the State, and whatever they have done, if anything, has been bootless.

The A.L.P. was not satisfied with this state of affairs and was determined to see if something more effective could not be

done than simply saying that South Australia would go it alone with some preliminary work on the project. We therefore suspended the standing orders of the House of Assembly on a motion of urgency that the House should request all the S.A. senators to move an amendment to the motion in the Senate that the budget papers be printed requiring the Menzies Government to find money for the rail gauge scheme. The Premier did not want the motion to proceed, but was told that the Speaker Mr. Stott would vote with the A.L.P. This meant the Premier could not prevent the motion coming before the House. If he opposed the motion he would expose his previous manoeuvrings as a mere sham. If he supported it, he would demand that his own party members in Canberra threaten the Menzies Government with defeat in the Senate unless it complied with our demands. He was on the horns of a dilemma and chose the horn less immediately embarrassing to himself - he supported the A.L.P. motion. The Labor Senators in Canberra immediately complied with the House of Assembly's request. The Liberal Senators here said they will not - rather will they deny the needs of this State than hold a gun at the head of the Menzies Government. What sort of protectors of this State's interests they are, has been (for them) painfully exposed.

Goodnight.