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A.L.P. BROADCAST 28th OCTOBER, 1963

BY DON DUNSTAN M.P.

Good Evening,

The A.L.P. in the State Parliament has recently had two quite singular victories. Most people don't know about them, so I should like to tell you about them tonight.

On some previous broadcasts I have told you of the proposals in the Labor Party Bill to amend the Maintenance Act, that these would alter the whole structure of the administration of Public Relief in this State, that the policy of the Children's Welfare Department of treating public relief as a repayable loan, and deducting sums from maintenance it was holding in trust for deserted wives to repay the Government for public relief and of cutting off public relief if a family on relief was lent or given a T.V. set or other chattels considered by the Department to be luxuries - all of these would be ruled out and the whole basis of relief altered.

That Bill has now not only passed the second reading, but the Premier has been forced to agree in the committee stages of the Bill to all Labor's major amendments. This is a terrific victory for Labor and for the poorer people of this State. Year in and year out we have protested about the meanness of Government policy on these matters, and now we have forced an alteration.

But to the Advertiser the whole thing was so unimportant that it didn't report a single word that was spoken. To readers of the Advertiser nothing had happened.

The Premier then announced over T.V. without mentioning the debate in the House or the Bill which he had previously opposed and on which he had been over-ruled. He announced that he had instructed the C.W. Department to stop taking T.V. sets into account in deciding whether to continue relief payments. The Advertiser wrote that up all right.

The next matter was Town Planning. The Labor Party has for a long time criticised the Playford Government's legislation on town planning. As I have said on this program before the Act

simply provides for the drawing of a beautiful and expensive plan for the development of Adelaide, and when it has been drawn and presented to Parliament that will be that. The plan has no force or effect. There is no provisions for the consideration of objections to the detail of the plan, nor for a body to amend the plan nor for one to carry^{it} out as is the case in all the other States.

The Opposition therefore moved the only motion it could, one which instructed the Government to treat the plan as an interim one, and to enact provisions for the consideration of objections, the amendment of the plan and the co-ordinating of work to carry it out. Under the Constitution the Opposition could not introduce the legislation itself as it would have had to provide for the spending of Government money, which the Opposition may not do. The Labor Party motion passed, and how did the Advertiser treat it? "Ineffective Opposition motion on Town Planning" they headlined. Ineffective they said because it had no force in law. But under the Constitution the Opposition may take no other action than we did, and the motion has this effect, that if the Government does not bring in legislation as the Assembly has now instructed it to do, it is in a difficult position to defend itself on a motion of no-confidence over that failure.

So once again it has been left to Labor to take steps vital to the protection of the people of S.A., and it has made those steps while not in Government, and made them successfully.

Goodnight.