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Good Evening,

The Premier has delayed the announcement of the State election date. It appears that he is following a course set during recent by elections that election campaigns will be kept to a minimum period. It seems certain, from the activities of Government candidates, that the election will be held early in March. But by keeping the announcement back till the shortest time possible constitutionally is left the Premier is seeking to evade having a reasonable period during which candidates will have a chance to inform the electors on the issues of the election.

What is ~~the~~^{he} frightened of? Why does he think it unwise or dangerous or undesirable that electors should have the best possible opportunity of finding out the facts underlying the issues on which they will be obliged to vote.

The answer is that he doesn't want people to know the facts because they are inconvenient to him.

He doesn't want them to know about the electoral situation in South Australia. He doesn't want them to know about the inadequate nature of many State Services. He doesn't want them discussing the bungling and neglect of which his Government is guilty over Town Planning.

How he knows that the Press in this State has continually suppressed the valid day-to-day criticism of his administration made by members of the Labor Party. It is very rare these days that we can get a statement from the Government until it is released to the Press. At the same time great publicity is given to his exaggerated and repeated statements about State development. But at election time the citizens interest quickens. Partic

concentrate their efforts and expenditure to reach the public and apprise them of the issues. The newspapers must perforce report matters which at other times ^{they} ignore.

Our dictator's attitude there - "Well, let's have as little of that as possible". He doesn't want the public to be interested in what is going on for one can see this in so many ways.

Standard text-book writers, professional, political scientists and the Clerk of the House of Assembly himself, after going overseas at Government request, have urged the adoption of the A.L.P. Platform for the establishment of a public accounts committee which can investigate the expenditure of Government monies and see that we are getting the best value for our money. Other Parliaments in Australia, the Federal Parliament and the House of Commons, have all insisted that such a standing committee is essential for proper financial control of the business of Government. But Sir Thomas Playford doesn't want the people to know what is going on his administration and have the details publicly discussed. So he has adamantly refused to have a public accounts committee here.

The whole attitude of the Government can be summed up from the remarks of a Minister in it who was recently quizzed as to why the Premier had Parliament meeting so infrequently. His answer was - "Well, when you've got good Government Parliament is a waste of time."

Parliament and the people are ignored today by this Government. The Premier and his Ministers regard them as unnecessary nuisances. It is time we asserted once again the peoples' right to knowledge of public issues, to call Government to account, and to make this a democratic State once again.

Goodnight!-