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5KA BROADCAST 15.2.65

Good Evening,

The restricted entry to the Medical School at Adelaide University has spelt tragedy for over 100 young men and women who had set their hearts on a medical career. Even some students granted Commonwealth Scholarships to do a medical course have been refused admission. The tragedy is not only for these young people, however, it is also for us.

South Australia is already very badly off for trained medical and nursing staff. We have the worst ratio of medical practitioners to population in Australia. It can be well vander that doctors cannot be found in sufficient numbers to service many country areas in this state. As our population expands, and according to the Town Planning Committee we will have another 300,000 people here in the metropolitan area by 1976 the situation will become worse. The present medical school is quite inadequate to provide doctors sufficient for today's population, let alone tomorrow. But the Government has no plans for another medical school.

The Labor Party urged, over six years ago, that a second medical school attached to a second University Institution, and with a teaching hospital, was an urgent need. These things cannot be planned in a day - a teaching hospital can only be erected after consultation at length with the medical and teaching staff. The plans must be approved by the Public Works Committee before tenders can be called or contracts let. The Playford Government however, has no teaching hospital even in the sketchiest of plans.

So far from proposing to put a teaching hospital at Bedford Park so that a new medical school could be established at the University College there, the Premier vaguely threw out the suggestion in a telecast last December that a teaching hospital would have to be built at Tea Tree Gully connected with a third University institution in that area. Well, it takes ten years to plan build staff and provide a library for a new University. No one, except the Premier, has even started talking about plans for a third University institution in the metropolitan area. But taking a minimum timetable 10 years for the University to open, 6 more years before the first medical graduates emerge, 1 year more before they go into general practice - on the Premier's proposals the output of doctors will not increase until 1982! What will happen to the hundreds of young men and women - it will be well over 1,000 and possibly closer to 2,000 by that time - who have been qualified to do medicine, not their careers for it, but been refused the chance to become doctors because we have so small a medical school here? What will happen to the community already under-supplied with doctors - but destined to be starved of them at the rate we are going.

Sir Thomas blandly does not answer these questions. They are questions which must worry many voters. They don't worry Sir Thomas as he doesn't believe Parliament should be elected by people anyway. He thinks he's safe under his rigged electoral system.. Let's show him he's not.

Goodnight.