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Title:

Handwritten radio script regarding 'possibilities of a second University in a country area'.

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~~Inter-Regional Council~~
 Redressing.

Discussion of the possibilities of a second University in a country area have produced some startling figures which show clearly how country people under the Playford regime are being deprived of the necessary facilities to bring up their children given their children the educational advantages enjoyed by people who live in the metropolitan area.

There are at the moment some 5,112 students at the University of Adelaide. Of these 3,931 ~~come from~~ have their home address in Adelaide, and 317 come from the country area so close to the presently defined metropolitan area that they can truthfully be said to be metropolitan & not country dwellers. There are 361 ~~from~~ overseas and interstate students.

This means that there are in all only 503 University students in this State who really come from the country areas in South Australia - less than 10% of the University students enrolled at Adelaide University.

Of our total population about 37% lives in the country. That 37% provides less than 10% of our University students. That of course is quite shocking. Does it mean that country people aren't interested in higher education? Of course not. What it does mean is ~~that~~ firstly that country schools in many places do not provide a sufficient educational basis or encouragement to further study; secondly, that the cost of sending students to the metropolitan area to board has proved

Too great for families ~~which~~ who, ~~if~~ if they lived in Adelaide would give their children a University education; & thirdly, as those who have canvassed county areas know only too well, that one of the main factors leading to the centralisation of population which has been a striking feature of the development of this State under Playford, has been the ~~subsequent~~ migration to Adelaide of whole families, forced with the fact that they cannot get adequate education for their children in the county.

The plain fact is that these days there are no Leaving Honor classes operating in Education Dept. schools around Adelaide. There used to be, of course — the Department did have some Leaving Honor subjects taught in county schools, at one time — but the position of county schools in this regard has not got better — it's got worse.

Why was it allowed to do so?
I have given the figures on Spending for Education per head of population on this program many times before. This State, when it was known that we would have the biggest post-war increase in school enrolments of any State population — more than twice the Australian average — has continued to spend less per head of population on education than any other State in Australia except Queensland, & a small proportion of its revenue on education than any other State.

At a time when the bulge in school

enrollment - a 43% increase - was about to enter
the secondary schools, there were still fewer
secondary school teachers graduating from the
teacher's college than would replace the normal
teacher ~~loss~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~education~~ ~~system~~. secondary
schools by illness, death, or retirement.

The schools which suffered most were
the county schools - the Playford Government
doesn't want population in the country -
it would upset the rigged electoral
system too much - and so they care
little that the education system forces
people into the metropolitan area - it
helps them electorally to continue to
govern on a minority vote.

Now the University has had to stress
for some time that it is inadvisable for
students to come to the University in many
faculties without doing a year of leaving
Honors study. To come straight to
doing ~~the~~ certain subjects at
University first year standard with
only a pass at the leaving stage can
~~be disastrous~~ for students with great
difficulties - and ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~shown~~ ~~up~~
in the 1st year failure rate at the
University.

The only way to do the fair thing
by county people is to provide leaving
Honors classes at major country high
schools. But this does not look
like happening for some years under the
policy of the present Government -
indeed in view of their present policy
of concentrating people and facilities in
and around Adelaide, one may question

whether it ever will.

For let's examine the position. The L.C.L. took office in 1933 in S.A. and has been in power ever since. In 1933 the metropolitan area contained ~~over~~ about 52% of the people of S.A., the county about 48%. Now Adelaide has about 63% of the people, — more if you include Elizabeth — and the county 37% or ~~at~~ a little less if you put Elizabeth in the metropolitan area.

Yet the L.C.L. calls itself the Liberal & County League. It would be more accurate to call it 'Make 'em ~~an~~ Leave the County League.'
 Brooking, Esq.