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**Title:**

Handwritten radio script regarding 'needs of reform of institutions for juvenile offenders',  
with particular reference to Magill.

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Don Dunstan  
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Good evening.

The talk yesterday at Mayhem Church by Professor Norval Morris - an international authority on criminology whom we are fortunate to have heading the faculty of law at the University of Adelaide, ~~to~~ was a timely reminder to us of the needs of reform of institutions for juvenile offenders. Magill Reformatory is antiquated, hopelessly inadequate, not achieving its object of successful reformation of young offenders as it should.

This is not the first occasion when something has been said about Magill. There were public outcries about the situation there in 1954 & 1955. I raised the matter in questions in the house then. In 1956 Hansard shows I said this on the address in reply debate: -  
1956. p. 204-5.

Sir L. McEwin went overseas, & when he returned, he gave us the benefit of his enquiries. He said that the Children's Welfare Dept. was operating its institutions on the lines of the English Borstal system. That statement was so very far from the truth that one may be pardoned for wondering just what Sir Lyle was doing & how much he found out about Borstal institutions. By this time it was some two years since the Government had said the new reformatory was being planned.

In 1958 the Govt, after much laboriousness on the subject of the reformatory, announced a grand plan. Beautiful pictures were painted. And so I asked a question in the house. 1958 Hansard p. 120. p. 240. p. 626. p. 790. - now it was well over 2 1/2 years. p. 820

In fact it was not until the next year that a plan was referred to the Public Works Standing Committee. It was a plan for a sort of super-buxing yard. It was not a plan for a Borstal type institution, there was still not adequate segregation of different types of offenders or different age groups proposed. The Public Works Standing Committee has been conducting its investigation since. It has not yet reported its findings to Parliament, but it seems clear that it will report against the plan by the Govt.

What is needed ~~is~~ is a number of small institutions - some of them of the open-colleges type which has already proved successful in other States. Heaven knows when we will get ~~it~~ a reform system which is adequate - the whole story of staged reformatory is of a dilatory government which has become tired & lazy through a too-long period of office.