



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/3437  
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.  
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

**Title:**

Handwritten radio script regarding 'electioneering tactics' giving the Frome by-election as an example.

Please acknowledge the source as:  
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.  
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/3437

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

Don Dunstan

3437

Good evening

the Light by election we are being treated to some of the Premier's usual electioneering tactics, & it is not surprising to find that they are beginning to pall on some of the electors.

The Playford Govt. has been in office 22 years & the LCL for 27 years - in this State. The things which the Premier has now hurriedly discovered ought to be done in the Frome district he has had ample opportunity to do already - one may pardonably ask why the delay - why wait till now for a burst of promises as to what he'll do for the area.

I'm fairly forcibly reminded of the occasions when just before elections he announced a deep-sea port in the S.E., a meat works at Kadina, an atomic power plant at Lake Latta, or marched off discovering non-existent oil wells. This time the Premier has been careful to be less explicit. We are told of two great new industries negotiating to establish here. We are left with bright but rather vague nebulous visions of development & employment opportunities. But hush - the negotiations are so important & secret that we don't know what's inside the Premier's carefully wrapped parcel.

Again, pardonably, sceptical way, on part performance, conjecture that the parcel is empty - we're only being shown some pretty wrapping because there is a rat in the office.

What the Premier, with this sort of airy fairy proposal, cannot get away from are these facts:-

1. At the larger centres in the Frome electorate there is clearly a need for adequate higher education. At Leigh Creek children are being sent to the city, because the higher primary classes are only kept going by the assistance of an overworked teacher who is filling in the gaps under considerable strain. The temporary teacher cannot cope with the work.

At Radium Hill also education facilities are only provided under considerable strain. In Retherbury too, and in dozens of the smaller centres, children who want higher education have to be sent away from home - that is not a Leving House class outside Adelaide. Yet the Plympton Road has consistently underperformed an education - has per head of population 2 per child enrolled than any State except Queensland, despite the fact that this State has had a much larger increase in number of school children than any other State. Why hasn't the Government done better in education for country people - the Commonwealth Grants Commission has pointed out that more money has been available & that we have not raised money to pay for other things to the same extent as all other States. What likelihood is there that the Government will suddenly alter its course & start to do something for country people in education?

2. Certain of our centres, particularly Leigh Creek & Radium Hill, have lacked adequate medical services - the Government has not made conditions sufficiently attractive to get a medical practitioner there in the past. Why not, - this State spends less on health? Hospitals than any other State in Australia. Again, what indication is there that the Govt. will reverse its course and spend money which it has previously had ample opportunity to spend - but has refused to the considerable detriment of other country people?

3. The people in country areas have been crying out for Govt assistance to get decentralisation of industry & facilities. Year after year Mick O'Halloran moved in the House of Assembly for a public enquiry into decentralisation measures. Year after year the Government ~~and~~ voted it out - they don't do decentralisation.

because decentralisation would take <sup>labor votes</sup> ~~people~~ into county districts and upset their rigged electoral system, by means of which they remain in power on a minority vote.

At last, last month, they capitulated on the motion again moved by Mick O'Halloran, because of the effect on the LCL of our telling county voters what they had done - there was a drift of voters from the LCL at a series of by-elections.

An enquiry into decentralisation measures will now take place, but so far there is no sign that the Plyford Board is likely to do anything positive when it has been completed - unless of course electoral pressure is kept on the Government. The Plyford Board has said it will not save a tin can to industries which are proposed to start up in the county - but clearly that is not enough. The Smith-East timber enterprise, a public enterprise started by the Bureau Labor Government, has been the centre of S. E. development & is making excellent profits for the people of this State today. It is almost certainly essential, if decentralisation is to be effected, to commence ~~or~~ industries by public initiative, instead of waiting for somebody else for something to turn up.

4. Sir Thomas is having a hard time explaining his move in the hearing on the basic wage case before the Arbitration Commission. Why did he send his advocate into the Court to support a reduction in the S.A. basic wage, & to support also a ~~reduction~~ further reduction in the country basic wage. The latter support was formally withdrawn after the Labor Party had made a row in Parli. about it, but as it came to the employer's case was still rendered by the Court. If successful, the wave would drain county workers

to the city, I suppose the Frank area of workers  
 & of shopkeepers & workers.

All these things the Premier has no answer  
 to — but Labor stands for greater spending  
 on education & hospitals, for decentralisation  
 for maintaining wages levels. Only Labor  
 has a policy for the people of Frank.

• A.L.P. Club for  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.