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Title:

ALP broadcast regarding 'possibilities of a second University in a country area'.

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Good Evening,

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} give 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 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 and not country dwellers. There are 361 students from overseas and interstate.

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 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, who, if they lived in Adelaide would give their children a University education; and thirdly, as those who have canvassed country 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 migration to Adelaide of whole families faced with the fact that they cannot ~~get~~ ^{get} adequate education for their children in the country.

The plain fact is that these days there are no Leaving Honors classes operating in Education Department schools outside Adelaide. There used to be of course - the Department did have some Leaving Honors subjects taught in country schools at one time - but the position of country schools in this regard has not got better - its 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 proportionately - 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, and a smaller proportion of its revenue on education than any other State.

At a time when the bulge in school enrolments - a 43% increase - was about to enter the secondary schools, there were still fewer secondary school teachers graduating from the teachers' college than would replace the normal teacher loss from secondary schools by illness, death or retirement.

The schools which suffered most were the country 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 certain subjects at University first year standard with only a pass at the Leaving stage can face students with grave difficulties - and this has shown up in the 1st year

failure rate at the University.

The only way to do the fair thing by country 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 South Australia and has been in power ever since. In 1933 the metropolitan area contained about 52% of the people of South Australia, the country about 48%. Now Adelaide has about 63% of the people, - more if you include Elizabeth - and the country 37% or a little less if you put Elizabeth in the metropolitan area.

Yet the L.C.L. calls itself the Liberal & Country League. It would be more accurate to call it "Make 'em Leave the Country League".

Good Night.