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Title:

Handwritten radio script regarding 'report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission for 1960'.

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AHP 3441
Don Dunstan
11/4/60

Good evening

RECORDED

The report of the Commonwealth Commission for 1960, which has just come to hand, once again reveals an alarming situation in this State's expenditure on State social services - i.e. on education, health hospitals & charities, law order & public safety.

In education - most people are now aware of the fact that we have had in recent years a far larger increase in school enrolments than any where else in Australia, or indeed in most parts of the British Commonwealth. As a result, we needed to spend more on education than any other State, in order to give a comparable service. For years we in fact spent less per head of population on education than any State except Queensland, & as a result had a higher proportion of inadequately trained teachers than any other State, overcrowded classes, insufficient school buildings, & have not as yet proclaimed the Act of Parliament passed in 1946 to raise the school leaving age to 15.

The Grants Commission reveals that we have now increased education expenditure to more than the Australian average - but we are still spending £1-17' per head less than W.A., & £1-13/6' per head per year less than Tas. This is not nearly good enough. What is more, a breakdown of the figures is revealing. On teacher training - and we need teachers more desperately - than any other State - S.A. spent less per head than the Australian average. On primary education we spent 3" per head more than the

Australian average, and on secondary education we spent £1.19.8 per head as compared with an Australian average of £2/5/2.

Now as our increase in government has been at least twice the Australian average over a period of years - we are ~~not~~ clearly not spending proportionately in relation to ~~public~~ education need.

On health, hospitals & charities ~~we~~ we have consistently spent less than any other State in the Commonwealth. The Commission reports that we are continuing to do so. The amount per head per year spent by State was:

N.S.W.	Vic.	Q.	W.A.	Tas.	Av.
131 4	148 1	169 5	171 7	165 6	145 8
S.A.					
131 4.					

The result has been that we have fewer public & subsidised hospital beds in proportion to population than any other State, fewer trained nurses, & the highest public hospital charges.

On mental hospitals, particularly, the Government has ignored the report prepared for it by Dr. Const, the superintendent of Enfield Receiving Home, & has spent less per head of population on these hospitals than did any other State.

On child welfare the average Australian expenditure was £7/8 per head per year - S.A. spent 5/3. On institutions for the relief of the aged the average Australian expenditure was 9/10 per head per year. S.A. spent 7/5 - the lowest in the Commonwealth.

On law order and public safety the Australian average was £2/16/9 per head per year, S.A. spent £2/9/3 per head per year - the lowest in the Commonwealth. Indeed on the total of the State Social Service heads S.A. spent less than any other State, nearly £4/1/- per head per year less than W.A., & nearly £5/1/- per head per year less than Tasmania.

Now I know that this excuse is sometimes used that the money which has not been spent on social services in S.A. has been spent on development. But that's not true either. We haven't had any phenomenal rate of development. I have quoted the figures recently on this program - figures presented by the employees federation to the Arbitration Commission - which show that since 1950 this State's rate of industrial growth has been the worst in Australia.

In fact it has not been the case that the money which might have been spent on social services has been spent on other things - it has not been spent, & it has not been spent because it has not been raised.

Not only has the Playford Government refused to spend to the level of other States on State services and get reimbursed through the Grants Commission - and so deprived S.A. of millions of pounds it could have had in Commonwealth assistance - but it has not obtained in State revenues what the same rate as other States have. Whereas on average the Australian States raised

£10/10/1 per head in State revenues, ~~£10~~
 and paid it into their consolidated revenue
 fund. S. A.'s figure was £8/3/3 - the
 lowest in the Commonwealth. And the
 people who are benefiting from that low
 tax policy are not the ordinary citizens
 - they are the wealthy people, whom the
 Government protects at the expense of
 the children, the aged, the sick, & the needy.
 Goodnight.