



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

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/3519
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:
Radio broadcast by Don Dunstan - General election

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/3519

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

RADIO BROADCAST BY DON DUNSTAN. GENERAL ELECTION.

Every citizen in our community should have the right to an effective voice in the laws which govern him since he has to live subject to and is affected by those laws. In South Australia, of course, that has never been so. A majority of citizens has on most occasions not been able to elect a Government. But in addition to this, in order to pass laws through Parliament, Bills have to go through two Houses, and the Upper House, the Legislative Council, is elected not by all the citizens of the State, but only by a few of them, mainly upon a property-owning basis.

The Labor Party believes that every citizen should have a say with every other citizen in what the law should be. And that means that electoral districts should contain substantially the same number of voters to elect each member to Parliament, and that every citizen should vote for both Houses of Parliament.

The present Government has its clearest policy set completely against this. The Liberal Party's stated policy is maintenance of the present suffrage for the Legislative Council - and in that Council, time and again, policies voted for by the majority of citizens have been refused into law. Let me just give you a few examples:-

- * The Government Insurance Office was refused.
- * Provision that every worker in the State should have the right to go to an industrial tribunal for fair wages and conditions to be ordered was refused.
- * Truth in advertising was thrown out.
- * Reform of the South Australian Constitution including the Constitution of the Upper House was rejected.

* Laws prohibiting discrimination against aborigines
Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.

were thrown out. The Legislative Councillors refused to give aborigines on their lands the same mineral rights that the majority of the rest of us enjoy.

The Legislative Council creaks to attention whenever some matter of privilege or pelf is affected. In the words of its Chief Minister, it considers that it knows regardless of how people vote, the general will of the people, and when the general will is expressed, then it says it knows what is best for the people. It has even called itself "the permanent will of the people".

The Labor Party states clearly as its policy that one vote-one value and adult suffrage for both Houses of Parliament will be in the forefront of its legislative programme. Labor will also set out to remove other restrictions upon your freedom to act as citizens. We started to do so when we were last in office when we changed laws relating to licensing of liquor and gambling. At the moment, raffles are very widespread in South Australia, but every so often somebody gets hauled before the Court for running one for a sporting or charitable body. This is a ridiculous situation. The Labor Party proposes to remove from any restriction such raffles as are now peddled at church bazaars and even on occasion by police officers. For the other major raffles, we will provide a licensing system to ensure that the proposed beneficiaries get the money.

Labor, in a further democratic move, will remove restrictions upon 18-year olds who ought to be able to vote and make contracts and to do all the other things which adult people can now do. Our Bill to give effect to this measure was rejected by the present Liberal Government, but it will be an early legislative measure by a Labor Government when it takes office.

The citizens of the community are entitled to the protection of their person and property by an efficient police force. It is the Police Force's duty to concentrate on this protection. But at the moment, the police force is weighted down with all sorts of activities which prevent it from carrying this out. Therefore the Labor Party proposes to set up an enquiry by a world-famous criminologist to recommend the removal from the law of various outmoded provisions in the criminal law under which police officers are now required to enforce matters which should be purely social welfare matters or matters of private morality. Further we will streamline the criminal law in its administration in order to get rid of a whole series of time-wasting procedures which now put the average citizen and the State to great cost.

Finally, the Labor Government will ensure that people have rights to privacy and not be introduced upon improperly by private persons or by Government agencies.

In all these ways we in the new Labor Government will enlarge the areas of freedom of citizens in this community. We intend to set the pace in the Commonwealth for such social changes.

We urge you for South Australia's sake to vote Labor.
