



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

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/0006  
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.  
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

**Title:**  
Article for The News by Don Dunstan

Please acknowledge the source as:  
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.  
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/0006

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

ARTICLE FOR THE NEWS BY DON DUNSTAN.

The issues South Australians are voting on in this election are serious ones, and we believe the Labor Party has treated them seriously. We have endeavoured to present policies which people want and which the State needs. And because the issues of Government are important we do not believe people want gimmickry, chorus girls and American circus-type electioneering techniques.

~~On the whole the election campaign has been a quiet one, and we believe this is because people have been considering the issues as seriously as Labor has presented them. People realise that a change in Government must occur if intelligence and imagination is to be used in solving the problems that lie ahead for South Australia.~~

For the last twenty years or so a majority of South Australians have consistently voted for Labor Party Governments. But their choice has been denied them by a rigged set of electoral boundaries that kept the LCL in power. Under pressure from the Labor Party, the Hall Government has changed the boundaries, and though they still don't give each person an equal vote, the boundaries are a little better than before. This means that the Party the majority of the people vote for will have a better chance of forming a Government.

~~The Labor Party has fought the election on five fronts - development, education, environment, protection and freedom. They are the five areas in which we believe the LCL Government has failed disastrously and is now in retreat. Our policies are therefore designed for change and growth, so that South Australians can have the security, the services, and the protections they are entitled to and which a Government concerned with people's welfare should give them.~~

2.

~~Let me briefly sum up some of the main election issues.~~

All the signs at the moment point to a coming recession in Australia owing to a Federal Government induced credit squeeze. In This South Australia will be particularly vulnerable, ~~because~~ ~~71% of our industries are concerned with producing motor cars and home appliances, and 85% of their products are sold on interstate markets. It's South Australia that feels the pinch when Victorians and New South Welshmen stop buying.~~

The Hall Government did nothing during its term of office to diversify South Australia's industries, and in addition it even reduced the effectiveness of the Industrial Development Department the last Labor Government set up. These are wrongs the Labor Party intends to set right immediately. Our programme in the industrial field includes an economic resources survey, market research, an Industrial Research Institute at Flinders University, and Government help in support of under-capitalised country industries or industries which could help the State generally.

With water, we believe here again that Hall Government is in retreat. Labor will build the Dartmouth Dam, but in doing so we won't sell our legal right to Chowilla. But we do not intend to stop there. We intend to plan ALL the State's water services, not just one. We will have a complete scientific investigation of all our potential water resources ~~including the development of ground waters for use in the South East, the possibilities of desalination of water, and the reuse of metropolitan water.~~

~~Throughout this election the LCL Government has endeavoured to induce a panic vote over the State's future water supplies.~~

~~and it hasn't worked. But in doing so, they have in fact insulted the intelligence of voters everywhere. This has been one of the most consistent reports Labor Party candidates and canvassers have brought back from the electorates.~~

~~But another reason why the LCL wanted to induce a panic vote also was that only by running a one-issue campaign that effectively confused this issue could they direct attention away from the other areas in which they have failed. Take price rises, for instance. During the last two years the cost of living in South Australia has risen astronomically, and every family pocket has suffered. There were seven new taxes imposed on families under the Hall Government, and price control was taken off such important items as clothing, food and building materials. The Labor Party has attacked the Government repeatedly on this, but the only defence the Premier has been able to put forward is that by abolishing the Prices Commissioner's office, "natural control" of prices will be established, which in fact means that prices will go out of control altogether.~~

[UNLIKE THE L.C.L.

Labor will not abolish the office of the Prices Commissioner. We intend to strengthen it. We will give the Commissioner powers to prevent unfair and improper selling practices. And in addition, we intend to act on ~~the matter of~~ Consumer Protection to give new Hire Purchase laws, to ~~ensure~~ truth in advertising, ~~to give~~ protections against door-to-door sales, and to help people save money in used car transactions.

Another main issue in this election has been education. ~~We have recently had the spectacle of the Premier saying that there is no crisis in education. But on the same day the Minister of Education said that \$4,000,000 was needed for urgent school improvements?~~ The LCL Government's record with education is appalling, as every teacher and parent knows, and one of the main reasons for this is because it refused to spend

4.

all the money it could have spent on education. ~~It preferred to have a budget surplus even 'though children were shivering or sweating, crowded in temporary classrooms.~~

Labor will spend all available monies on education, and in addition will provide a whole range of other important educational improvements. ~~Furthermore, Labor won't be afraid to rock the Canberra boat.~~ We will demand additional educational money from the Gorton Government.

~~There is no space here to outline even briefly every aspect of~~ the Labor Party's <sup>FULL</sup> policy. ~~Our full policy~~ covers ~~problems in~~ our agricultural industries, the complete reorganization of public transport ~~systems~~, and a complete revision of the MATS plan. It proposes the development of tourism as a major industry, an Environment Act and permanent administration <sup>WILL</sup> ~~to act immediately on pollution, and important items like~~ <sup>ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON</sup> town and country planning, law reform, hospitals and nurses conditions, local government, adult suffrage and compulsory voting for Upper House elections, workers compensation and fair succession duties.

The fact is that what the Labor Party is proposing - what it believes the people of South Australia will support with their votes - is a plan for a new and exciting State in which community services, job security and personal protections will be guaranteed by a Government which has the welfare of people at heart.

We believe that for South Australia's sake, people will vote Labor on Saturday.