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Radio Broadcast - Decentralization of Industry

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GOOD EVENING :

THE PRESENT LABOR GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS ALWAYS EMPHASIZED ITS INTEREST NOT ONLY IN THE FURTHER RAPID INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS STATE, BUT ALSO IN THE DECENTRALIZATION OF INDUSTRY IN SUITABLE COUNTRY AREAS.

IN THE CAUSE OF PROMOTING NEW INDUSTRY AND ASSISTING SUCH INDUSTRY AS ALREADY EXISTS IN COUNTRY AREAS, IT IS NECESSARY TO LOOK AT EACH TOWN AND REGIONAL AREA INDIVIDUALLY IN ORDER TO ASSESS WHAT CAN BEST BE DONE TO FULFIL ITS NEEDS. TO THIS END, I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY GIVING ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TO WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STIMULATE INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE WALLAROO, KADINA AND MOONTA AREAS. THIS OLD CORNISH MINING AREA, RICH IN RESERVES OF FEMALE LABOUR, HAS LONG BEEN FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF ITS YOUNG POPULATION LEAVING THOSE TOWNS AND COMING TO ADELAIDE IN ORDER TO FIND EMPLOYMENT UNLESS

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POSITIVE ACTION IS TAKEN TO STIMULATE INDUSTRY IN THE AREA. THE GOVERNMENT IS NATURALLY MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING THESE TOWNS ONCE AGAIN THRIVE, THEREBY PRESERVING THE RICH HERITAGE WHICH IS THEIRS. ACCORDINGLY, AN OFFICER OF THE PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY VISITING THE AREA IN ORDER TO STUDY IT IN DEPTH WITH A VIEW TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO WITH THIS END IN VIEW. THIS IS PROBABLY A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT IN ASSISTING DECENTRALIZATION. IN HANDLING ENQUIRIES FROM FIRMS WISHING TO ESTABLISH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE DEPARTMENT GIVES ADVICE REGARDING THE ADVANTAGES OF LOCATING IN COUNTRY CENTRES - ESPECIALLY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE APPEAR TO BE LOGICAL REASONS FOR THIS TO OCCUR. WE SUPPLY INTENDING FIRMS WITH WHAT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE REGARDING LABOR SUPPLY, HOUSING, AVAILABILITY OF BUILDINGS, TRANSPORT

FACILITIES, ETC. BECAUSE MUCH OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE AVAILABLE DEPENDS ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA CONCERNED, WE MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SUCH AREAS.

ALSO, IN COUNTRY AREAS, THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOUSING TRUST MAY PROVIDE SUITABLE PREMISES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES AFTER NECESSARY APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN BY ME AS TREASURER. NORMALLY, PREMISES ARE EITHER DESIGNED OR CONSTRUCTED AT A COMPANY'S EXPENSE OR LEASED TO A COMPANY AT AN ANNUAL RENTAL WITH AN OPTION TO PURCHASE. ALSO, SHOULD HOUSING BE NECESSARY FOR AN INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY AREA CONCERNED, THE HOUSING TRUST WILL PROVIDE SUCH HOUSING. TO THIS END, OUR RECORD HAS BEEN THAT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PROPORTION OF THE TRUST'S PROGRAMME HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN COUNTRY AREAS THAN HITHERTO.

FINALLY, THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BRANCH OF THE PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT SET UP TO ASSIST INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE, OFFERS ITS SERVICES TO EXISTING FIRMS AND THOSE WISHING TO ESTABLISH HERE TO HELP THEM OVERCOME PROBLEMS OF A TECHNICAL OR MANAGERIAL NATURE. THE SERVICES OF THIS BRANCH INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF CURRENT INFORMATION TO SELECTED FIRMS TO ASSIST THEM TO IMPROVE FACTORY EFFICIENCY AND TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES; PERSONAL VISITS BY ENGINEERS AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS TO ASSIST MANAGEMENT IN SOLVING PRODUCTION AND ENGINEERING PROBLEMS; AND THE SUPPLY OF CONDENSED REPORTS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE TO INDUSTRY. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT 70% OF THE WORK OF THIS BRANCH IS NOW BEING CONCENTRATED ON INDUSTRY IN COUNTRY AREAS SO THAT NO LONGER NEED COUNTRY FIRMS FEEL THAT THEY ARE ENTIRELY REMOVED FROM THE WEALTH OF TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND EXPERIENCE THAT IS AVAILABLE IN THE CITY.

GOOD NIGHT.