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GOOD EVENING :

JUST TWO WEEKS AGO I MENTIONED TO YOU THE HARM DONE BY IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS. I WAS REFERRING TO REMARKS BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF HEALTH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE L.C.L. WE HAVE SINCE WITNESSED ANOTHER STEP IN THIS PROGRAMME BY THE L.C.L. TO TRY TO DISCREDIT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STATE LABOR GOVERNMENT. THE MEMBER FOR ADELAIDE IN THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT MADE A SPEECH CONCERNING THE STATE'S ECONOMY WHEN HE STATED THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAD A "LEVEL OF ECONOMIC UNPROSPERITY PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN" AND THAT THE "DISGUST, CONTEMPT, OUTRIGHT DISILLUSIONMENT AND DESPAIR THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAD NEVER BEEN EQUALLED." HE THEN USED FIGURES ALLEGED TO RELATE TO MIGRATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE TRUE FACTS OF THE MATTER ARE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AT THE MOMENT IS LARGELY ATTRIBUTED TO THE LOW DEMAND FOR CONSUMER DURABLES. THIS HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY TWO FACTORS.

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NAMELY THE 1965 DROUGHT AFFECTING OUR MARKETS IN THE EASTERN STATES AND THE ACTION BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO WORKS AND LOANS UNDERTAKINGS. THE UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTERED IN THE STATE WAS STATED BY THE MEMBER TO INDICATE UNPROSPERITY HITHERTO UNKNOWN. HOWEVER, IN THE SEPTEMBER QUARTER OF 1961, THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA REACHED 12,148 PERSONS OR 150% ABOVE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THIS STATE. THE COMMONWEALTH MEMBER DID NOT TURN TO THE BASIC INDICATOR OF PROSPERITY IN THIS STATE, THAT IS THE NET VALUE OF PRODUCTION AND ITS INCREASE. HE SAID THE STATE WAS STAGNANT BUT IN 1965/66, THE LATEST YEAR FOR AVAILABLE STATISTICS, THE NET VALUE OF PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS \$862,800,000 - AN ALL-TIME RECORD, AND FACTORY PRODUCTION HAS INCREASED AT THE AVERAGE RATE OF 9% A YEAR, WHICH IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE AVERAGE AUSTRALIAN GROSS RATE. I ASK YOU : DO THESE FIGURES INDICATE STAGNATION FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA? WITH AN L.C.L. GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE IN 1961, THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT. IT WAS CLEARLY THE RESULT OF

COMMONWEALTH POLICY AND THE STATE LABOR OPPOSITION AT THAT TIME CLEARLY STATED WHAT IT MEANT TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA THAT THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE NEEDS IN THIS STATE. THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE CLAIMS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, YET WE FIND MEMBERS OF THE L.C.L. TRYING TO BLAME THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH HAS ARISEN AS THE DIRECT RESULT OF COMMONWEALTH POLICY. WE HAVE HAD UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY. PREVIOUSLY THE COMBINED COMMONWEALTH AND STATE GOVERNMENTS' WORKS PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WERE HIGHER PER CAPITA UNTIL 1965 THAN THOSE IN ANY OTHER MAINLAND STATE. IN ADDITION, THE COMBINED WORKS PROGRAMMES WERE GROWING AT A RATE OF 7 OR 8 PER CENT. A YEAR TO ALLOW FOR GROWTH IN POPULATION AND DEPRECIATION IN THE VALUE OF MONEY. HOWEVER, AT THE LOAN COUNCIL MEETING IN JUNE, 1965, THE COMMONWEALTH ARRESTED THE GROWTH IN TOTAL WORKS PROGRAMMES WITH DIRE EFFECT ON OUR STATE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

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THE STATE KEPT ITS EXPENDITURE HIGH AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN RECORD ONES THROUGHOUT THE TERM OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE COMMONWEALTH STOPPED THE GROWTH IN ITS PROGRAMME.

IN MIGRATION, ALTHOUGH SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS ONLY 9% OF AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION, WE HAVE ATTRACTED AND ABSORBED 15% OF ALL MIGRANTS COMING TO THIS COUNTRY, INCLUDING NEARLY ONE-QUARTER OF THE BRITISH MIGRANTS. THIS IS A PROUD RECORD AND GIVES THE LIE TO STATEMENTS SUCH AS WERE MADE BY THE COMMONWEALTH MEMBER AND SUPPORTED BY A COMMONWEALTH MINISTER.

THE GREATEST HARM THAT IS DONE AS THE RESULT OF PUBLICITY OF THESE IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS IS THAT INDUSTRIALISTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS WITH WHOM WE ARE NEGOTIATING TO ESTABLISH INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, <sup>could</sup> NOT UNNATURALLY GIVE CREDENCE TO THESE REMARKS. WE ARE THEN FACED WITH THE DISTASTEFUL TASK OF PROVING THEM TO BE FALSE BEFORE WE CAN PRESENT THE TRUE FACTS REGARDING FUTURE PROSPECTS IN OUR STATE.

GOOD NIGHT.