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Title:

Radio Broadcast - Criticism of Budget by Leader of Opposition

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A.L.P. BROADCAST BY THE HON. THE PREMIER, MR. D.A. DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.,
FRIDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1967, STATION 5-K.A., 6.55 P.M.

GOOD EVENING :

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION HAS TODAY DELIVERED HIMSELF OF VARIOUS CRITICISMS OF THE BUDGET OF THE STATE WHICH I PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY. NATURALLY ENOUGH WE EXPECT FROM MR. HALL SOME CRITICISM, BUT HIS CRITICISM ON THIS OCCASION SEEMS TO BE OF A PATTERN WITH THAT IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN INDULGING EVER SINCE HE BECAME LEADER - THAT IS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HE SAYS AS LONG AS IT IS CRITICAL. WHETHER IT IS CONSISTENT, EXPLICABLE, TO BE UNDERSTOOD, DOESN'T MATTER, AS LONG AS HE SAYS SOMETHING THAT CARPS AT THE PRESENT SITUATION. WELL, READ WHAT HE HAS TO SAY. IF YOU CAN MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OF THE GOBBLEDIGOOK AND JARGON WHICH HE USES, YOU ARE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM, BUT I HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO DISTIL FROM WHAT HE HAD TO SAY, SOME KIND OF MEANING.

NOW, WHAT HE SAYS IS THAT WE HAVE SPENT \$22.5M. ON BUILDING HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS AND EXTENDING SERVICES. THIS, HE SAYS, IS BAD. WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE IT AND AT THE SAME TIME

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HE SAYS THAT WE OUGHT TO CREATE CONFIDENCE, EXPAND THE ECONOMY, AND GIVE A STIMULUS TO INDUSTRY. BUT HOW? THE OPPOSITION, DURING THE WHOLE TERM OF THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT HAS PROCEEDED TO SAY WE OUGHT TO SPEND MORE THAN WE ARE DOING. WE HAVE A WHOLE LIST OF THINGS THAT THE OPPOSITION SAYS WE OUGHT TO HAVE SPENT MORE MONEY ON. WE SHOULD SPEND MORE MONEY ON HARBOURS. WE SHOULD SPEND MORE ON FISHING HAVENS. WE SHOULD HAVE SPENT MORE ON SCHOOLS. WE SHOULD HAVE SPENT MORE ON UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. WE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN CONCESSION FARES TO OLD PEOPLE. WE SHOULD HAVE REDUCED RATES ON CHURCH PROPERTIES. WE SHOULD HAVE ALTERED LAND TAX. A WHOLE SERIES OF THINGS - I COULD GO ON AND ON FOR THE REST OF THIS FIVE MINUTES TO TELL YOU OF THE THINGS THAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE SPENT MORE MONEY ON. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY SAY WE SHOULD NOT HAVE RAISED SO MUCH MONEY. THEY HAVE SENT OUT NOTICES. NO DOUBT YOU HAVE HAD ONE IN YOUR LETTER-BOX SAYING THAT WE HAVE INCREASED

STATE TAXES AND CHARGES. THEY DON'T TELL YOU, OF COURSE, THAT UNDER OUR GOVERNMENT, STATE TAXES AND CHARGES ARE FAR LESS PER HEAD OF POPULATION THAN UNDER ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA INCLUDING THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENTS IN OTHER STATES. SO THEY SAY WE OUGHT TO HAVE SPENT MUCH MORE; WE OUGHT TO HAVE RAISED MUCH LESS, AND SOMEHOW OR OTHER, IN BETWEEN, WE SHOULD HAVE BALANCED THE BUDGET - AND THIS THEY CALL RESPONSIBLE CRITICISM AND FINANCING.

NOW JUST WHERE DO THEY THINK THEY ARE FOOLING THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA? THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT THE PRESENT BUDGET PRESENTED TO THE STATE PARLIAMENT PROVIDES FOR A PROPER EXPANSION OF STATE SERVICES, DOES NOT RUN US INTO ANY DIFFICULTIES FINANCIALLY, AND DOES NOT INCREASE STATE TAXES AND CHARGES, SO THAT WE HAVE THE STIMULUS FROM STATE EXPENDITURE TO INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WE DON'T HAVE ANY MEANS OF

STRANGLING OR INHIBITING THE EXPANSION WE ARE SEEKING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA - THIS CAN ENCOURAGE EMPLOYMENT IN THE FUTURE AND SEE TO IT THAT WE HAVE A SOUND BASIS OF STATE FINANCES SO THAT PEOPLE CAN RELY UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS STATE.

MR. HALL DOESN'T LIKE THAT, BUT I THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL.

GOOD NIGHT.