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LICENSING LAWS.

GOOD EVENING :

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN SOME EXTRAORDINARY PUBLICITY REGARDING THE ORIGINS OF REFORMS IN LIQUOR LICENSING LAWS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. TWO GENTLEMEN LIVING IN THE DISTRICT OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION HAVE LAID CLAIMS TO BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL, AND THEIR STATEMENTS HAVE RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY. I DON'T WANT TO DECRY THE EFFORTS OF THESE PARTICULAR GENTLEMEN. WHAT THEY DID MUST HAVE HELPED TO CREATE THE NECESSARY CLIMATE FOR CHANGES WHICH CAME, BUT I THINK THAT WE SHOULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. IN 1965, THE SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN THE CASE ABOUT THE BROADWAY MOTEL, MADE A NUMBER OF DECISIONS WHICH MADE A CONTINUANCE OF THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING FORM OF LICENSING ADMINISTRATION WELL NIGH IMPOSSIBLE. THE CASE WAS REPORTED ON TO ME BY THE SENIOR OF THE LICENSING MAGISTRATES AND BY THE

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SUPERINTENDENT OF LICENSED PREMISES, AND AS A RESULT I ASKED THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE DIFFICULTIES CONTAINED IN THE LICENSING ACT. HE GAVE ME SOME FIVE FOOLSCAP PAGES OF ANOMALIES, CONTRADICTIONS, AND SECTIONS OF IMPOSSIBLE ADMINISTRATION. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE THEN PREMIER, I DECIDED THAT THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH WE COULD PROCEED WOULD BE THE COMPLETE REFORM OF THE LICENSING ACT. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TACKLE THE MATTER PIECEMEAL. QUESTIONS OF THE FORMS OF LICENCES, THE HOURS OF TRADING, CONDITIONS FOR CLUBS AND RESTAURANTS, WHAT FACILITIES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MOTELS, AND THE LIKE, MUST ALL BE EXAMINED. I THEN PRIVATELY APPROACHED MR. SANGSTER, Q.C. AND ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE TASK OF UNDERTAKING AN ENQUIRY INTO THE LICENSING ACT. HE AGREED, AND AFTER A PRELIMINARY DRAFT HAD BEEN PREPARED, I UNDERTOOK A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AS TO WHAT TERMS OF REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE FOR THE ENQUIRY.

EVERY BIT OF THIS OCCURRED BEFORE THERE WAS ANY PROPOSAL IN PARLIAMENT OR ANY PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE PETITION TO MR. HALL FROM PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT.

THE PRESENT LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION BECAME AWARE, AS I WAS INFORMED AT THE TIME, OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH I WAS HAVING AND THEN GAVE NOTICE IN THE HOUSE OF A BILL RELATING ONLY TO THE QUESTION OF 10 O'CLOCK CLOSING OF HOTELS. VERY SHORTLY AFTER THIS, THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LIQUOR WAS APPOINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS WHICH WERE ALREADY UNDER DISCUSSION. THE COMMISSION THEN SAT AND I WAS IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER ABOUT THE TIMING AND MANNER OF ITS PROCEEDINGS. WHEN THE COMMISSION REPORTED, I UNDERTOOK WITH THE COMMISSIONER TO PUBLICISE THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT AND MANY OF YOU WILL REMEMBER THE TELEVISION PROGRAMMES AND RADIO PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN FOR THAT PURPOSE. A BILL WAS THEN INTRODUCED TO THE HOUSE WHICH HAS TAKEN SEVEN MONTHS TO GO THROUGH PARLIAMENT. DURING ITS PASSAGE, THERE WERE MANY

REDRAFTS PREPARED OF MANY SECTIONS, AND NEGOTIATIONS UNDERTAKEN WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT AS RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT, I SHOULD UNDERTAKE THESE DUTIES, AND WE HAVE NOW ACHIEVED OUR LIQUOR REFORM. MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN LONG HOURS OF WORK, NOT THE LEAST OF THEM THE OFFICERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION, AND MR. JACOBS, Q.C., WHO APPEARED DURING THE ENQUIRY FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BREWING COMPANY. THE WORK BY THE COMMISSIONER, THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION, AND BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF LICENSED PREMISES AND THE CLERK OF THE LICENSING COURT, AND THE DRAFTSMEN, HAS BEEN STEADY, ASSIDUOUS, AND TIME-CONSUMING. I WANT TO THANK THEM ALL FOR THEIR PART. AS THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE, I AM VERY THANKFUL TO EVERYONE WHO HAS ASSISTED ME IN GETTING THIS MOST DIFFICULT MEASURE THROUGH,

AND ^y ~~TO~~ GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE TO THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHAT HAS OCCURRED.

GOOD NIGHT.