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State's economy, Employment - 5KA broadcast

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A.L.P. BROADCAST BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.,  
FRIDAY, 19/1/68. 5-K.A. 6.55 P.M.

GOOD EVENING :

IT HAS BEEN THE CASE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA OVER SOME PERIOD NOW THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE PROMINENT IN THE PUBLIC LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, AND INCLUDING SOME LEADING MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION, HAVE FELT THAT IT IS PREFERABLE FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES TO RUN DOWN THE ECONOMY OF THIS STATE THAN TO PROMOTE IT. IT APPEARS THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT IF THEY CAN REPRESENT TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND PEOPLE ELSEWHERE, THAT THE ECONOMY IS DOING BADLY THAT THIS WILL REFLECT UPON THE GOVERNMENT AND THEY PUT THIS AS BEING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ENGENDERING OF CONFIDENCE IN THE STATE AND FACTUAL REPORTING AS TO THE STATE'S ECONOMIC POSITION. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS A REPORT IN "THE ADVERTISER" ON 10TH JANUARY, 1968. THE COMPANY, COMMONWEALTH INDUSTRIAL GASES LIMITED, HAD DEFERRED ITS DECISION TO INCREASE ITS LIQUID OXYGEN PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF THE

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"LIMITED GROWTH PROSPECTS OF THE STATE." THE PLANT ALREADY PROCURED WOULD NOW BE ALLOCATED TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

IN FACT, OF COURSE, THIS REMARK OF THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMONWEALTH INDUSTRIAL GASES WAS TAKEN QUITE OUT OF CONTEXT. IN HIS 1965/66 ADDRESS, THE CHAIRMAN HAD ANNOUNCED THAT CERTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF LIQUID OXYGEN WAS TO BE PLACED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. SUBSEQUENTLY, A RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN THE TYPE OF FACTORY THAT NEEDED LIQUID OXYGEN AS COMPARED WITH GASEOUS OXYGEN, SHOWED THAT THIS PARTICULAR TYPE OF FACTORY WAS LIKELY TO GROW MORE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA THAN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH-WEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ARISING FROM MINING DISCOVERIES THERE.

WHILE THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN GENERAL GROWTH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE KIND OF FACTORY BEING ESTABLISHED HERE DOES

NOT CALL FOR SUCH AN EXPANSION IN LIQUID OXYGEN AS COMPARED WITH GASEOUS OXYGEN. THEREFORE THE STATEMENT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE REFERRED ONLY TO THE MARKET FOR A PARTICULAR PROJECT ARISING FROM THE BACKGROUND OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN THE STATES CONCERNED.

WHEN TALKING ABOUT LIMITED GROWTH PROSPECTS, THESE DO NOT REFER TO THE GROWTH PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRY GENERALLY AT ALL, AND YET IT WAS REPORTED IN THAT WAY IN "THE ADVERTISER", AND "THE ADVERTISER" HAS ALLOWED A CORRESPONDENT TO ITS COLUMN TO REPEAT THIS CHARGE IN THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER. NOW, WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA - A SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE AND ALL INVESTORS ELSEWHERE IN OUR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (AND OUR POTENTIALITIES ARE ENORMOUS), OR THE SLANTING OF REPORTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES REGARDLESS OF HOW THE RESULT HARMS THE STATE?

IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO SAY THAT THE KIND OF KNOCKING OF THIS STATE'S ECONOMY WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY SOME PEOPLE IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN THIS STATE IS LITTLE LESS THAN TREACHERY. I BELIEVE THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF CITIZENS OF THIS STATE ARE CONCERNED TO SEE INDUSTRIAL ADVANCES REGARDLESS OF WHO HAPPENS TO BE IN POLITICAL POWER, AND I BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE ONLY PROPER ATTITUDE TO TAKE. CERTAINLY IT IS THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALISTS OF THIS STATE WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH OPPORTUNITIES AND PROFITS FOR THEIR SHAREHOLDERS AND NOT WITH THE PLAYING OF PETTY POLITICAL GAMES WHICH HARM THE STATE'S FUTURE.

A GREAT DEAL OF NONSENSE HAS BEEN TALKED IN ORDER TO HIT AT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY BY THOSE WHO ARE PLAYING IT FOR POLITICS ABOUT THE RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA UNDER THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. I HAVE TAKEN OUT THE FIGURES FOR THE AVERAGE MONTHLY PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK FORCE UNEMPLOYED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS OF THE PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT. I HAVE TAKEN THE LONG-TERM SO THAT NOBODY CAN SAY THAT I AM GETTING AN UNREPRESENTATIVE PERIOD, AND THE FIGURES VARIED FROM .7% TO 3.1%. OVER THE WHOLE OF THE PERIOD, THE AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK FORCE UNEMPLOYED WAS 1.4%.

NOW, TAKING THE PERIOD OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT, THE LAST THREE YEARS THE PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK FORCE UNEMPLOYED HAS VARIED FROM .8% TO 2.4%, BUT IN NO CASE HAS IT BEEN AS HIGH AS SOME PERIODS UNDER THE PLAYFORD GOVERNMENT. OVER THE WHOLE PERIOD OF THE THREE YEARS, THE PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK FORCE

UNEMPLOYED HAS BEEN 1.5%. IN OTHER WORDS, THE DIFFERENCE IN RECORD BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN .1% OF THE WORK FORCE.