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**Title:**

Press statement from the Acting Leader of the Opposition, Des Corcoran - Twelve Months of Hall Government

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PRESS STATEMENT

FROM : THE ACTING LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. DES CORCORAN, M.P.

SUBJECT: 5-K.A. BROADCAST. TWELVE MONTHS OF HALL GOVERNMENT.

TWELVE MONTHS AGO TODAY, THE HALL GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE AFTER THE NOW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, MR. DUNSTAN, WAS FORCED TO RESIGN AS PREMIER OF THIS STATE, -- EVEN 'THOUGH THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY HAD CONVINCINGLY WON THE 1968 ELECTION.

IF YOU CAST YOUR MINDS BACK, YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT AT THAT TIME, THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY POLLED 52% OF THE TOTAL VOTE WHILST THE LIBERALS MANAGED ONLY 42%. EACH PARTY WON NINETEEN SEATS AND THE BALANCE OF POWER WAS LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR RIDLEY, MR. STOTT, WHO SCRAPED IN ON LABOR PARTY PREFERENCES AND FORMED A COALITION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE HALL ADMINISTRATION. YOU SEE, ALTHOUGH WE SOUNDLY DEFEATED MR. HALL'S PARTY, WE WERE VICTIMS OF AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM WHICH PERMITS TWO-THIRDS OF THE STATE'S VOTERS TO ELECT ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

IT IS INTERESTING TO RECALL WHAT MR. HALL PROMISED BEFORE HE TOOK OFFICE. HE SAID THAT IF HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED, IT WOULD IMPROVE THE STATE'S WATER SUPPLY BY COMPLETING THE CHOWILLA DAM. HOWEVER, SINCE THEN HE HAS THROWN THE CHOWILLA DAM AWAY IN FAVOUR OF THE DARTMOUTH SCHEME IN VICTORIA. IF HIS PLANS REACH FRUITION WE IN THIS STATE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON A WATER STORAGE HUNDREDS OF RIVER MILES AWAY THAT WILL TAKE MANY WEEKS TO REACH US, AND IN DRY YEARS THIS WATER MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE ANYWAY.

MR. HALL SAID THAT HE WOULD STIMULATE THE BUILDING INDUSTRY, BUT AT PRESENT THIS IMPORTANT INDUSTRY IS SUFFERING ITS WORST SLUMP FOR YEARS. BUILDING APPROVALS OTHER THAN FOR HOUSES FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1969, WERE \$9½M. LESS THAN FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY, 1968. DURING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY, 1969, THE NUMBER OF HOUSES AND FLATS APPROVED DECREASED BY 229 ON THE FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS THREE

MONTHS, YET MR. HALL STILL CLAIMS THAT THE BUILDING INDUSTRY PICTURE IS BRIGHT AND ROSY. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ENCOURAGE IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES TO SET UP IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND THEN PROCEEDED TO WRECK THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SET UP BY MR. DUNSTAN BY FORCING MR. DONALD CURRIE, THE DIRECTOR, TO RESIGN AND RETURN TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, AND REPLACING HIM WITH A PART-TIME DIRECTOR, MR. RAMSAY. CONSEQUENTLY, THIS STATE HAS SEEN NO IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS. I WISH WE HAD.

MR. HALL SAID, PRIOR TO THE STATE ELECTION IN 1968, THAT STATE TAXATION WAS TOO HIGH AND YET SINCE HE HAS BEEN IN OFFICE, THERE HAS BEEN A 20% INCREASE IN STATE TAXATION, THE HIGHEST INCREASE IN ANY SINGLE YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THIS STATE. INCLUDED, OF COURSE, IN THIS IS THE NOTORIOUS RECEIPTS DUTY OF ONE CENT IN TEN DOLLARS ON EVERY MONEY TRANSACTION. IT COULD WELL BE THAT IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, THIS TAX WILL BE EXTENDED TO WAGES AND SALARIES.

WE HAVE SEEN A TWO-DOLLAR STAMP DUTY ON EVERY CERTIFICATE OF COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE.

THESE, OF COURSE, ARE ONLY TWO OF THE SEVEN ITEMS WHICH WERE INTRODUCED IN THE FIRST BUDGET UNDER THE HALL GOVERNMENT.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, A NUMBER OF ARTICLES SUCH AS ICE CREAM, SOFT DRINKS, SHOES, HAIRCUTS, HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRICE CONTROL AND INCREASES IN CHARGES FOR THESE ITEMS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. 'BUS AND RAIL FARES HAVE RISEN. THE PRICE OF BEER, THE PRICE OF BREAD, THE PRICE OF MILK HAS INCREASED, AND THESE ARE BUT A FEW.

MR. HALL SAID THE L.C.L. WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO BUY HOUSES. HE HAS CERTAINLY INCREASED THE AVAILABLE HOUSING LOAN BY \$1,000 BUT DID THIS WITHOUT MAKING ANY PROPORTIONAL INCREASE IN THE MONIES AVAILABLE FOR THESE LOANS. THIS MEANS THAT LESS LOANS CAN BE MADE.

THE L.C.L. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO APPROVED OF THE HOUSING TRUST'S ACTION IN SWEEPING RENTAL INCREASES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND HAS INCREASED RENTAL ON DEPARTMENTAL HOMES OCCUPIED BY CIVIL SERVANTS.

THE HANDLING OF THE METROPOLITAN ADELAIDE TRANSPORTATION STUDY BY MR. HALL'S GOVERNMENT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE L.C.L. GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE SINCE IT HAS TAKEN OFFICE. THIS MATTER WAS FOISTED UPON THE PUBLIC BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE ANY DECISIONS AS TO WHETHER IT WAS FEASIBLE BOTH FROM A PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW. THIS HAS LED TO GREAT INCONVENIENCE AND HARDSHIP TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF ADELAIDE.

I HAVE MENTIONED ONLY A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT THE HALL L.C.L. GOVERNMENT, IN ITS FIRST TWELVE MONTHS OF OFFICE HAS FORCED UPON THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. NOT MUCH OF A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

GOOD NIGHT.