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5KA TALK - 20TH MAY 1970.

DON DUNSTAN

STANDARD INTRO - PEPPER

Here is Don Dunstan, speaking on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

Good evening. It is urgent that our Australian State Governments spend all their available education monies. They must do so, because it is clear that nationally the education available to our children is below the quality it should be. Parents, children, and teachers know this because they're the ones most closely involved. Their problem has been to make sure politicians understand the position clearly so that they can act responsibly.

But of course it is unfortunately true that no State Government has enough money to adequately service the whole education area. And the simple reason is that the Commonwealth Government for the last twenty years has consistently refused to face its national education responsibilities. They have not provided sufficient monies. And in South Australia, with the present LCL Government, the position has been made doubly bad because the government has refused to spend on education even the money it did have available for that purpose.

But when Labor has tackled the Government about this there has been no reply. They have not and cannot answer the charge because they know that to do so would simply prove the case against them. Instead, however, they set about proclaiming a completely untrue and deliberately misleading story about comparative education spending in South Australia under Labor and LCL Governments.

In the last year of the Labor Government we provided for \$10, 650, 000 dollars of loan money for new school buildings. But then the LCL Government came to office, before the end of the 1967-68 financial year, and did not pay out the whole of that money before June 30th. In fact, they spent \$1, 971, 000 dollars less - even though new school building work had been commenced under Labor that needed the whole of the \$10, 650, 000 dollars provided under the Labor budget.

The LCL Government in fact simply played a little financial game with these funds. They carried the \$1, 971, 000, 000 dollars over into the next budget year, and spent in that year \$11, 759, 000 of which nearly \$2, 000, 000 dollars was money provided by the Labor Government. They then blithely announced that they had provided a 20% increase in spending. And in doing so they were not only

being openly dishonest - but were also treating the people of South Australia with contempt.

The figures the LCL Government are now citing as evidence of a supposed increase in education spending during their term of office are not only such juggled loan fund figures. They also include very inflated accounts of spending generally in education. The LCL's figures include the Commonwealth Government's expenditure on teachers colleges, and by doing so they have concealed an actual reduction in the amount of State loan money spent on school construction.

What the LCL Government will not talk about and will not answer is the charge that it has put into the Treasury as a surplus loan-money that is available for schools now. Even though, as every parent and teacher knows, there is a crisis in education. Even though there has been unparalleled criticism of LCL education policies by parents and teachers.

The future Labor Government will spend all available monies on education. We are pledged to do this. We will not budget for surpluses while the essential services of the State are so desperately in need of expansion.

But clearly with education one of the main faults in the Government's plan is the result of the utter failure of Liberal Governments everywhere to solve the problems of Commonwealth-State financial relationships. In South Australia this has been most apparent in the LCL's refusal over the past two years to rock the Canberra boat. The LCL even condemned the teachers' campaign for more money from Canberra. In addition to spending all South Australia's education funds, Labor will support and participate in a campaign to secure Federal Government grants to Government primary and secondary schools.

The new Labor Government will provide for more and better qualified teachers, reduced class sizes, greater freedom of subject choice for students, and will end the discrimination against country education. Further, we will work to see that temporary classrooms are steadily replaced.

Then again, in the very extensive section in our Policy Speech devoted to education, we have outlined a very great variety of other measures to ensure that the educational opportunities of our children are improved as quickly as possible. They include expanding the work and improving the staff conditions of the

Institute of Technology and making both academic and technical courses available freely at High Schools. Unsatisfactory facilities at the Wattle Park and Western Teachers Colleges will be replaced. We intend to increase assistance for pre-school education, and expand post-school and adult education. We will enable parent-bodies in all schools to establish co-operatives so that they can use bank loans to finance projects such as assembly halls and swimming pools, and greater clerical assistance in schools and more relieving staffs will also be provided.

Among our other education proposals, Labor intends to provide increased book allowances amounting to \$32 for fifth year, \$28 for fourth year, and \$22 for First, Second and Third years. We further more intend to rationalise present book arrangements to avoid excessive costs for parents and unnecessary delays; provide subsidies for learner pools at all primary schools; and to investigate the needs of non-government schools so that additional assistance beyond the present per capita grants can be given in cases of need.

The Labor Party's policy on education is a very comprehensive one. It covers all the urgent areas of need and provides also for significant advances in services. We believe it is our duty to do this - and to spend all available education monies to achieve this - because the children and students of South Australia are a vitally important sector in our community that has for the last two years been shamefully treated by the LCL Government. We intend to see that the disastrous policies of the past end now, and that a new deal is given to our children and teachers. For this reason we urge you - for South Australia's sake - vote Labor.

C.O. EFFECT/ PEPPER

ANN: You have been listening to Don Dunstan broadcasting on behalf of the Australian Labor Party. Mr. Dunstan's address is Parliament House, Adelaide.